Network Security: Buffer Overflow Attacks

Joe McCarthy

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
TACOMA

Today's Agenda

- What is Network Security?
- Why should you care?
- What is a network security attack?
- What is a buffer overflow attack?
- Where can you learn more?

All in 30 minutes …

What is Network Security?

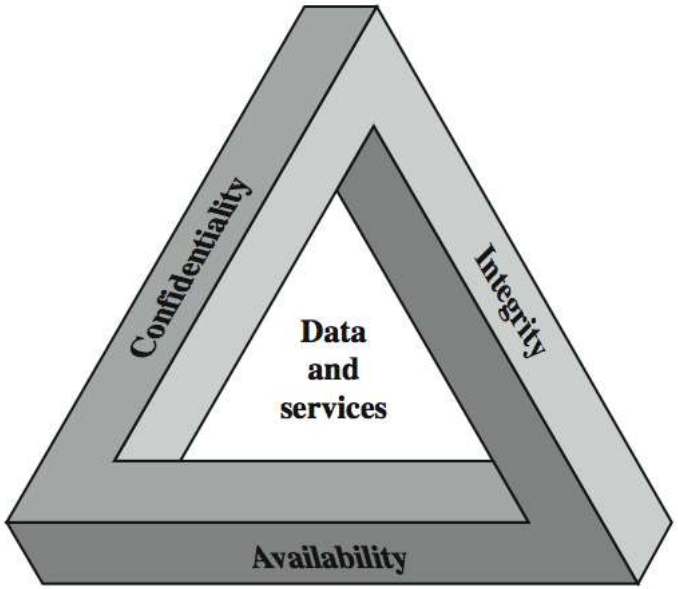
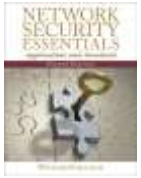


Figure 1.1 The Security Requirements Triad



Network Security Essentials, 4/E
William Stallings
Prentice Hall, 2011

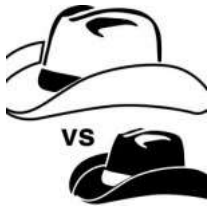
NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

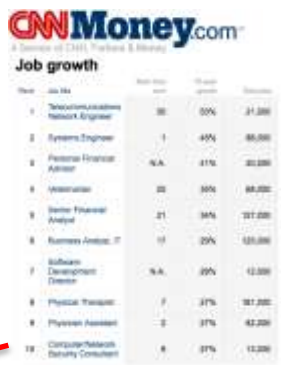
Computer Security
The protection afforded to an automated information system in order to attain the applicable objectives of preserving the ***integrity***, ***availability*** and ***confidentiality*** of information system resources (includes hardware, software, firmware, information/data, and telecommunications)

February 2004
http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips199/FIPS-PUB-199-final.pdf

Why study Network Security?

- Multi-disciplinary
  - Computer science, mathematics, psychology, sociology, politics, ethics, economics, forensics, …
- New way of thinking: security mind set
  - Preventing undesirable behavior vs. enabling desirable behavior
- Personal relevance
  - Keeping your personal data & devices safe
- Professional relevance





10	Computer/Network Security Consultant	8	27%	13,000

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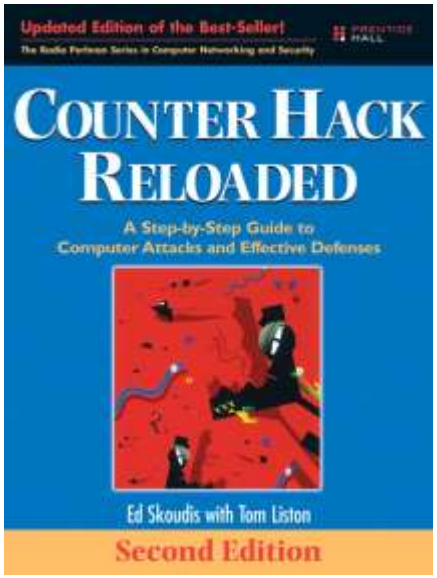
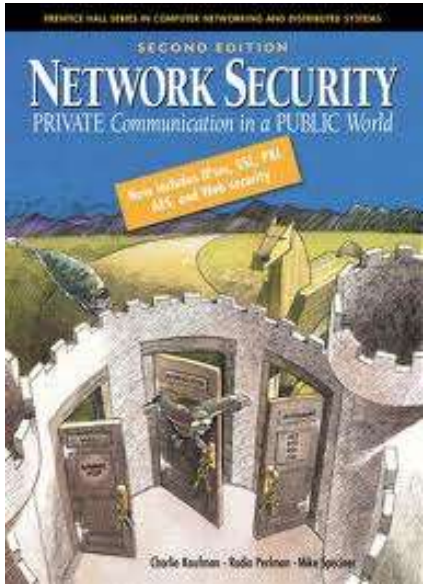
TCSS 431: Network Security

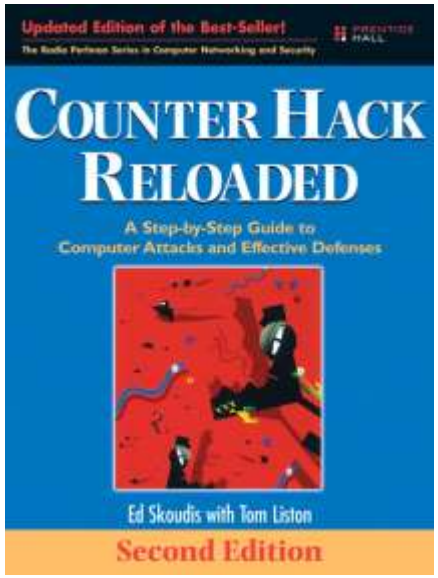


Counter Hack Reloaded: A Step-by-Step Guide to Computer Attacks and Effective Defenses, 2/E
Ed Skoudis
Tom Liston
Prentice Hall, 2006



Network Security: Private Communication in a Public World, 2/E
Charlie Kaufman
Radia Perlman
Mike Speciner
Prentice Hall, 2002

Today's Agenda



Counter Hack Reloaded: A Step-by-Step Guide to Computer Attacks and Effective Defenses, 2/E
Skoudis& Liston
Prentice Hall, 2006

1. Introduction
2. Networking Overview
3. Linux and UNIX Overview
4. Windows NT/000/XP/00 Overview
5. Phase 1: Reconnaissance
6. Phase 2: Scanning
7. **Phase 3: Gaining Access Using Application& OS Attacks**
   - Script Kiddie Exploit Trolling
   - Pragmatism for More Sophisticated Attackers
   - ***Buffer Overflow Exploits***
   - Password Attacks
   - Web Application Attacks
   - Exploiting Browser Flaws
8. Phase 4: Gaining Access Using Network Attacks
9. Phase 4: Denial-of-Service Attacks
10. Phase 4: Maintaining Access: Trojans, Backdoors&Rootkits
11. Phase 5: Covering Tracks& Hiding
12. Putting It All Together: Anatomy of an Attack
13. The Future, References & Conclusions

Anatomy of an Attack

- Reconnaissance
  - "casing the joint"
  - Discovery of physical & online sensitive information
    - Names, contact info (phone, email), IP addresses
  - Social engineering, dumpster diving, Google
- Scanning
  - "trying doorknobs & windows"
  - Search for openings, network topology, OS type(s)
    - Wireless access points, TCP ports, routers, gateways
  - Inventory of target system& possible vulnerabilities
- Gaining access
  - "breaking in"
  - Application & OS attacks (Chapter 7)
    - Stack-based & Heap-based Buffer Overflow Attacks

Network Security Class Student Agreement

- I understand that I am taking the TCSS431 Network Security class at the University of Washington, Tacoma (UWT) in which I will learn about computer access techniques that can be used to break in to, damage or otherwise alter ("hack") computer systems. I also understand that it is the purpose of the class that this knowledge be used to protect information resources and not to compromise or destroy them or otherwise break any laws or disrupt educational, commercial or other activities. Any access to a system without the administrator or owner's permission is illegal.

- The following actions are clearly not ethical:
  - Breaking into a computer system without the permission of the owner or administrator of that computer system.
  - Doing anything that substantially interferes with other user's access to computer-based services (i. e., denial of service attacks).
  - Accessing computer-based information without appropriate authorization.
  - Accessing any computer-based service without appropriate authorization.
  - Unauthorized monitoring of electronic communication.

- I agree that I will not access, damage or disrupt any computer systems or other students' work during this class. I also understand that I will be expected to work with other students to test security, but I agree that it will always be done with their knowledge. In addition I will not destroy or damage their work and will let them know what I have accessed on their computer system. I will cease accessing their system when asked.

- When in doubt, ask your instructor.

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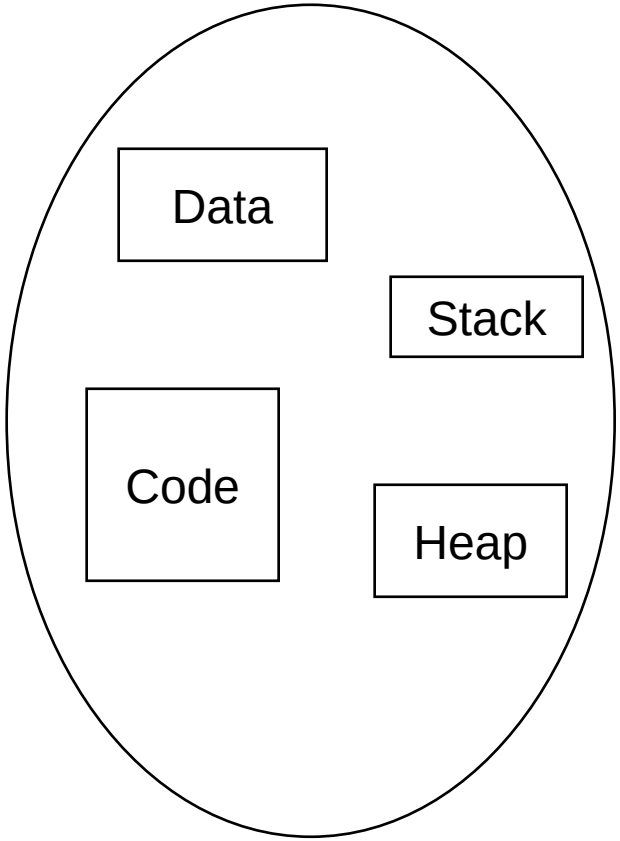
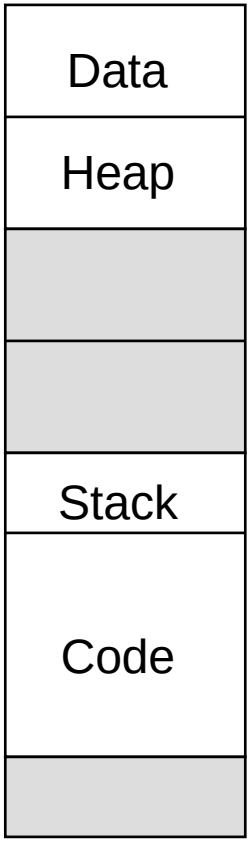
Brief review of Main Memory



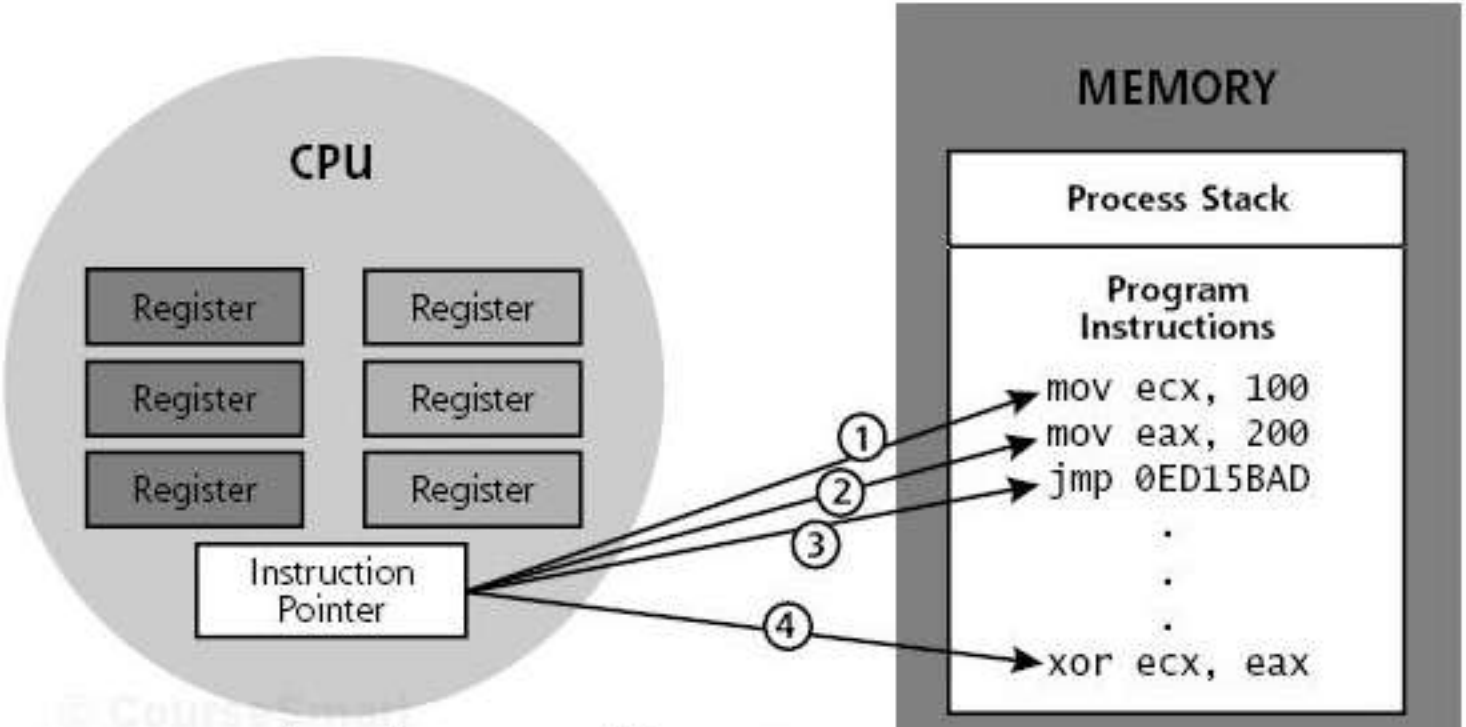
user view of memory



logical memory space

- Each page is only a piece of memory but has no meaning.
- A program is a collection of segments such as:
  - main program,
  - procedure,
  - function,
  - global variables,
  - common block,
  - stack,
  - symbol table

Stack-based Buffer Overflow Attacks



Fetch and execute instructions, sequentially one by one.
Instruction Pointer is incremented.
At Jump, Instruction Pointer is altered to begin fetching instructions in a different location.

Figure 7.2 How programs run.

Stack-based Buffer Overflow Attacks

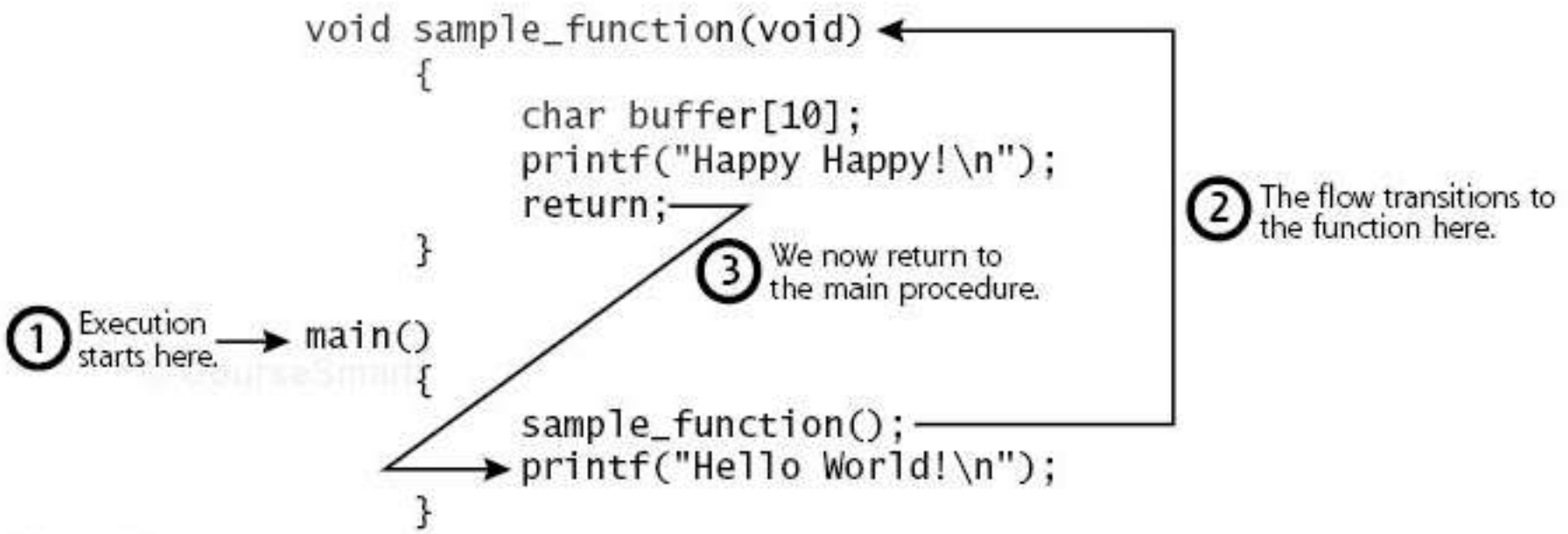
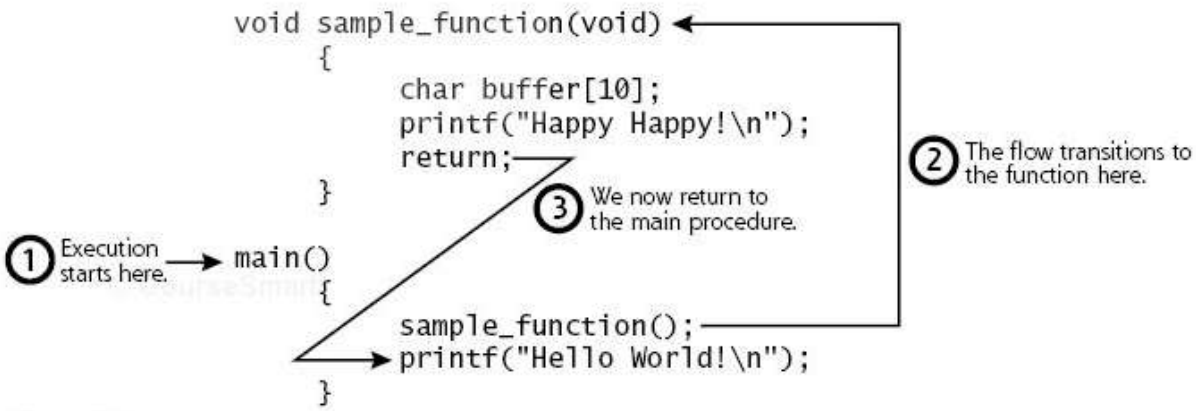


Figure 7.3 Some C code.

Stack-based Buffer Overflow Attacks



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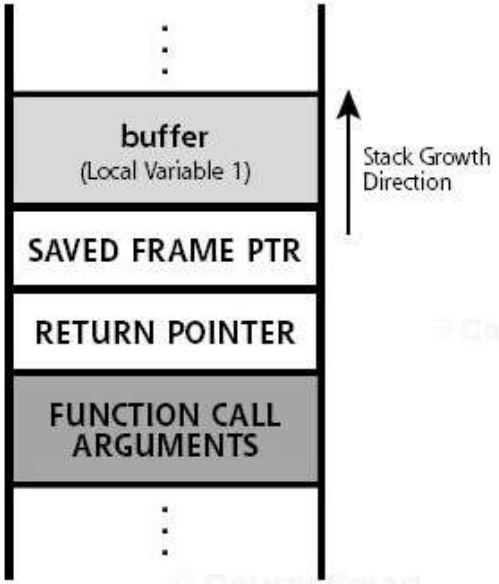


Figure 7.4 A normal stack.

Stack-based Buffer Overflow Attacks

```
void sample_function()
{
        char bufferA[50];
        char bufferB[16];

        printf("Where do you live?\n");

        gets(bufferA);

        strcpy(bufferB, bufferA);

        return;
}

main()
{
        printf("Hell World!\n ");
        sample_function();
        printf("All Done!\n ");
}
```

3 Execution begins in the sample_function.

4 Create two strings. bufferA can hold 50 characters, while bufferB can hold 16 characters.

5 Ask the user where he or she lives.

6 Get input from the user. Note that gets puts no restrictions on the amount of data that can be entered!

7 Copy the contents of bufferA to bufferB.

8 Return (intended to go back to the main program that called the function!)

1 Print "Hello World!"

2 Call the sample_function.

Figure 7.5 Some very vulnerable C code.

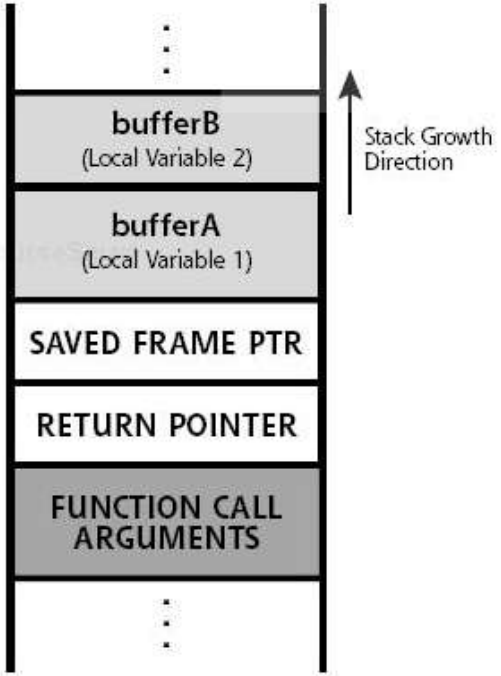
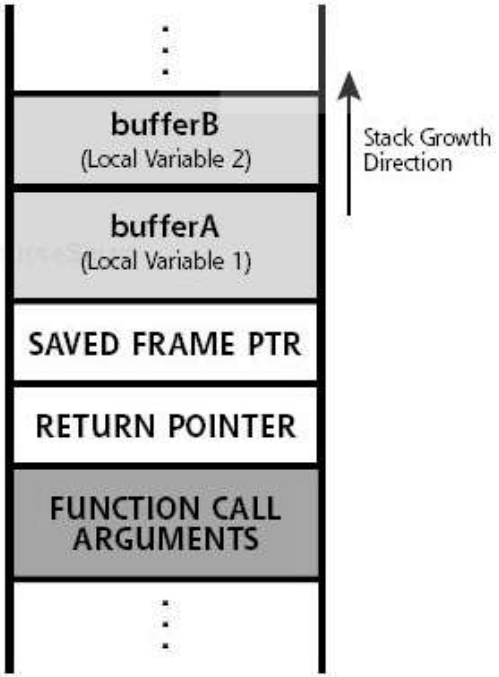


Figure 7.6 A view of the stack of the vulnerable program.

Stack-based Buffer Overflow Attacks



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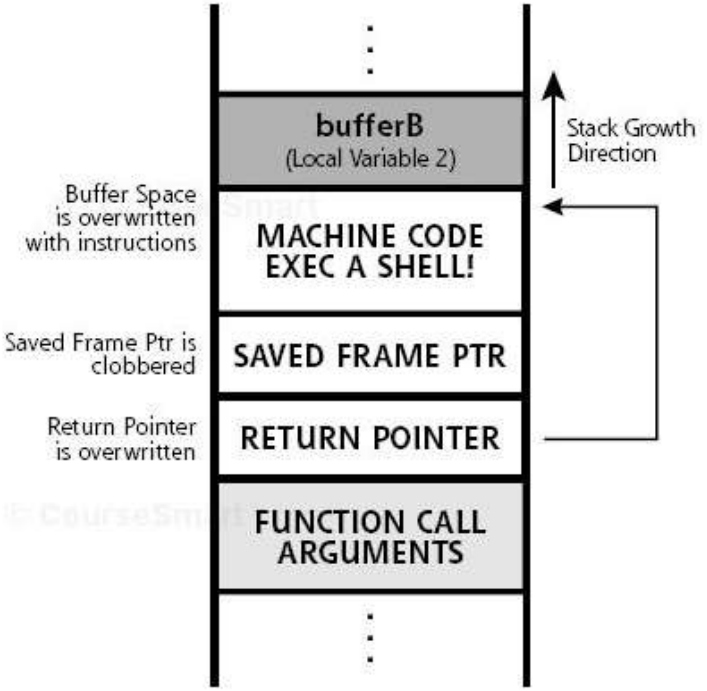

Figure 7.7 A smashed stack.

C library functions considered harmful

- fgets
- gets
- getws
- sprintf
- strcat
- strcpy
- strncpy
- scanf
- memcpy
- memmove

C library functions considered harmful

- fgets
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- memmove

Go To Statement Considered Harmful
Edsger W. Dijkstra

Reprinted from *Communications of the ACM*, Vol. 11, No. 3, March 1968, pp. 147-148.

"GOTO Considered Harmful" Considered Harmful

Frank Rubin.
(March 1987)
Communications of the ACM
30 (3): 195–196.

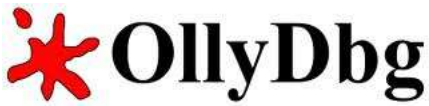
" 'GOTO Considered Harmful' Considered Harmful" Considered Harmful?

Donald Moore, Chuck Musciano, Michael J. Liebhaber, Steven F. Lott and Lee Starr.
(May 1987)
Communications of the ACM
30 (5): 351–355.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Considered_harmful

Finding stack-based buffer overflow vulnerabilities

- Examine source code (if available)
- Use debugger on executable to find exploitable library

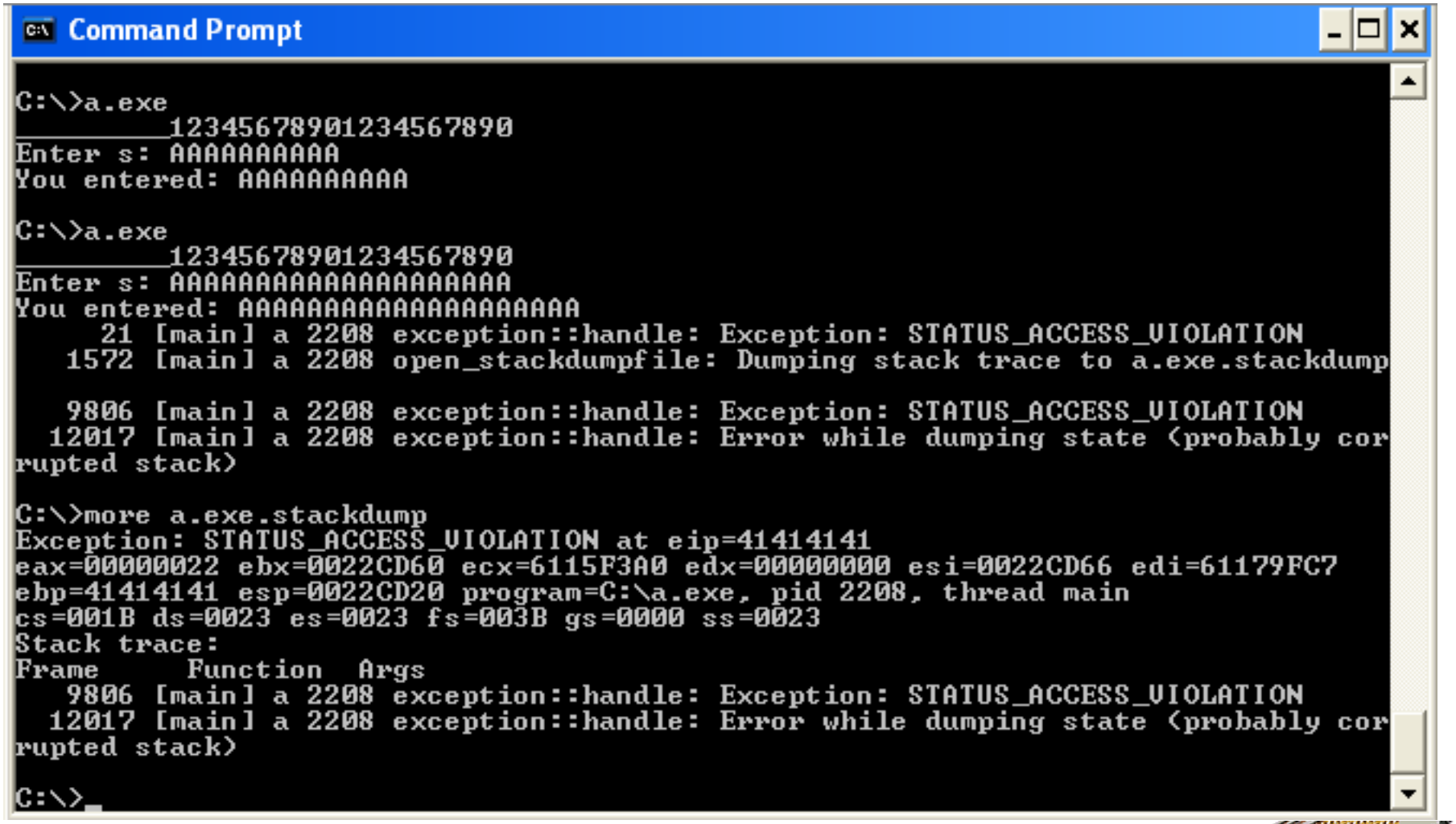


- Apply brute force
  - Inundate application with input data
  - Examine stack traces after crashes
  - But what would you input … & what would you look for?

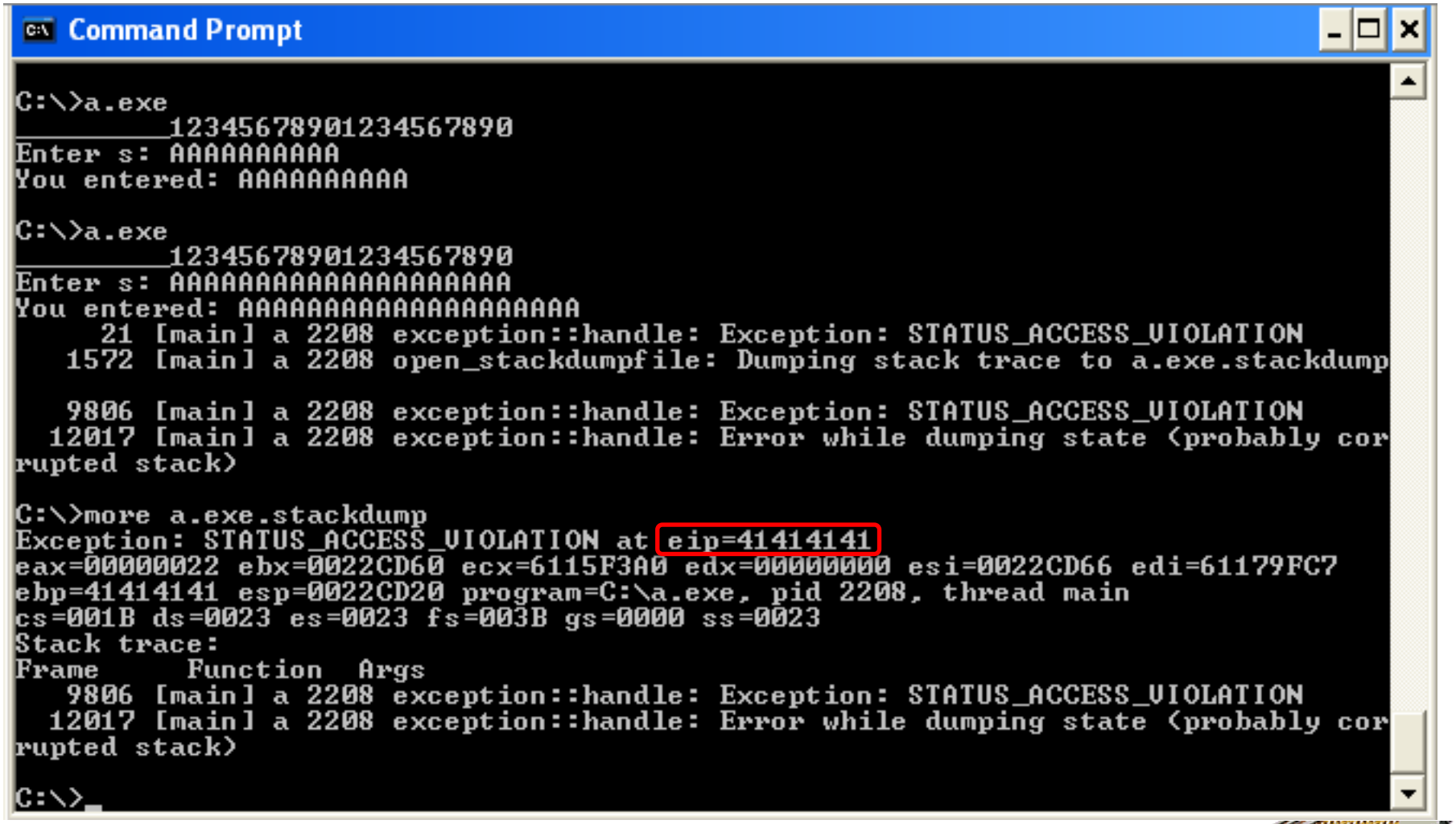
Sample program

```
#include <stdio.h>

void f() {
  char s[9];
printf( "__________12345678901234567890\n" );
printf( "Enter s: " );
  gets( s );
printf( "You entered: %s\n", s );
  return;
}

main() {
f();
}
```

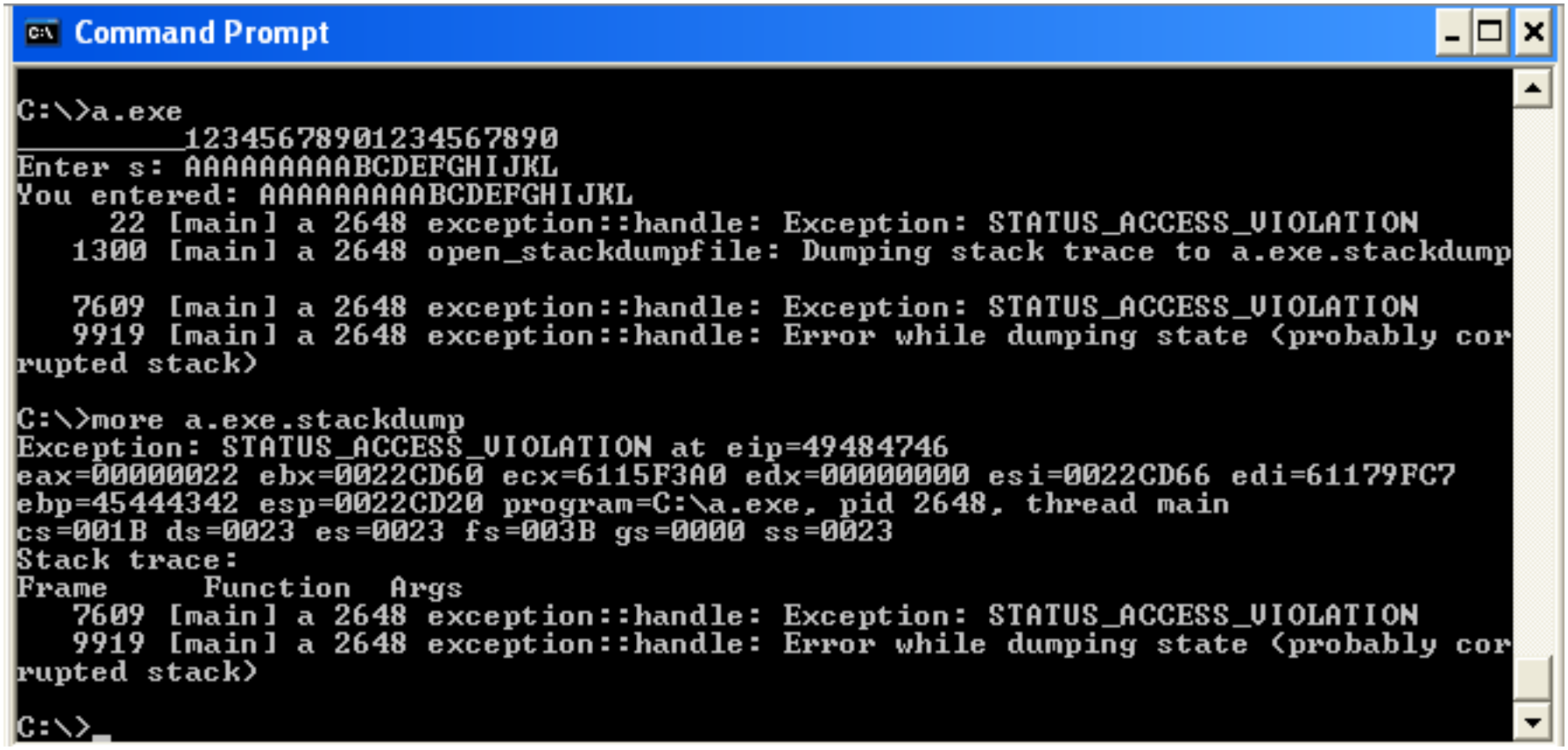

Running the program



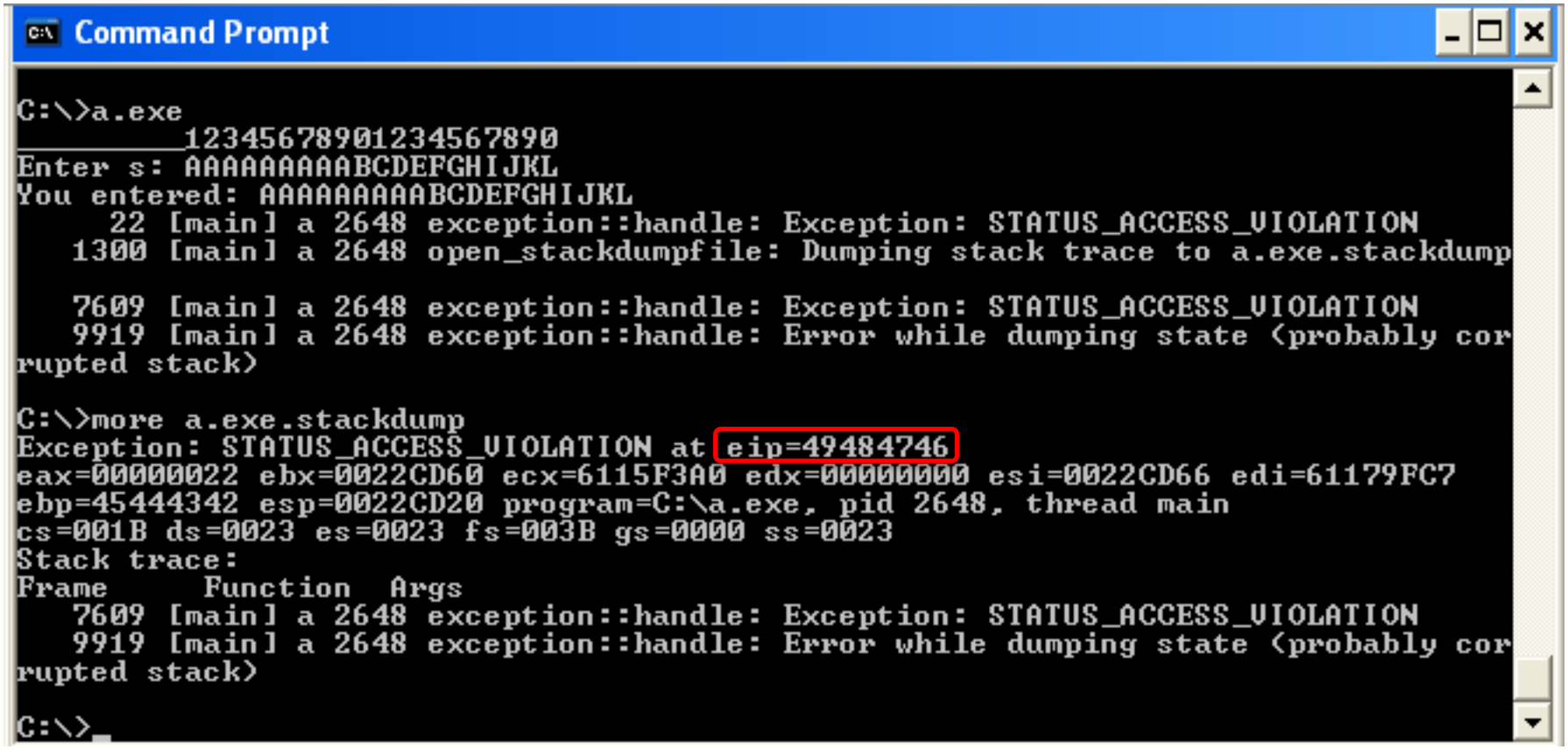
Running the program



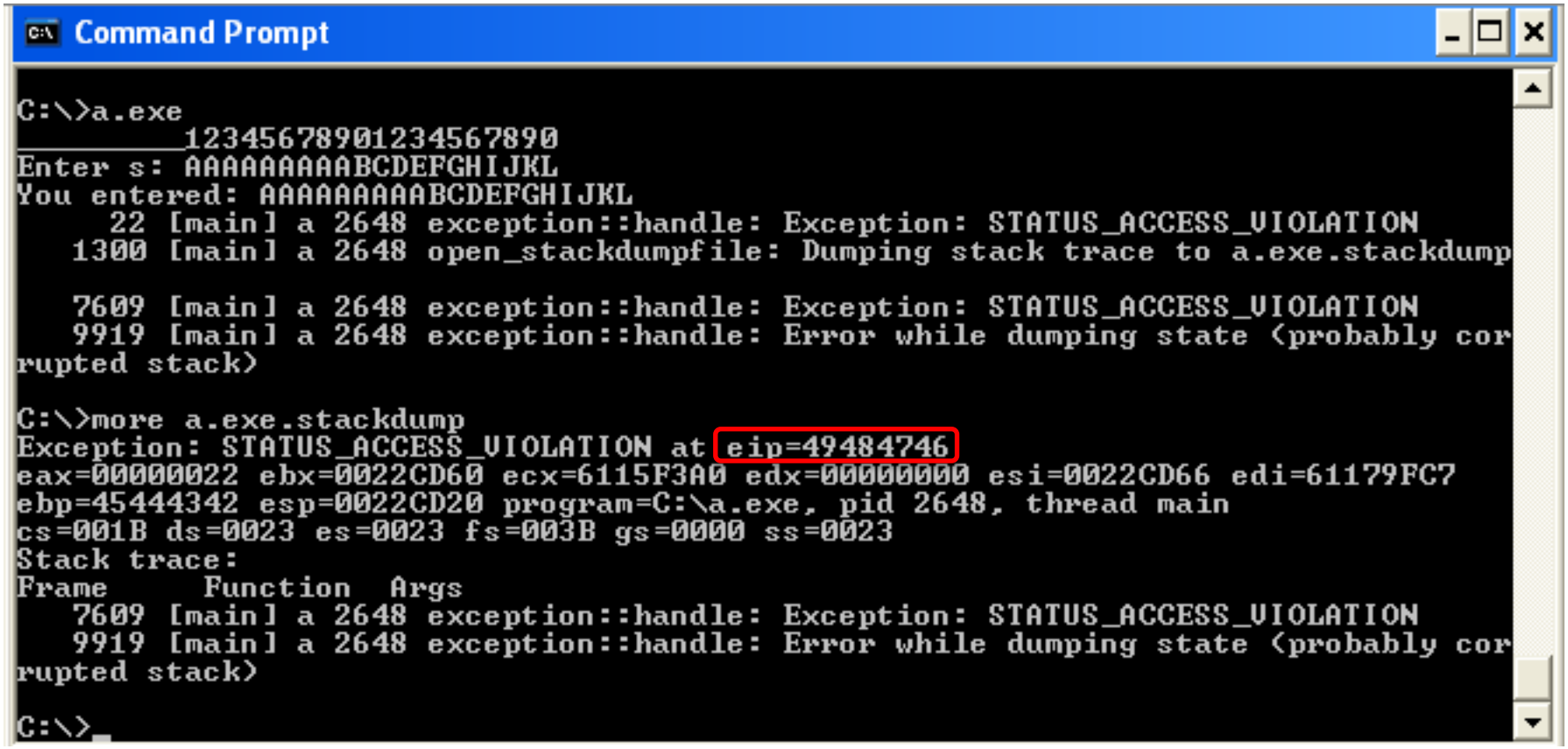
Running the program



Running the program

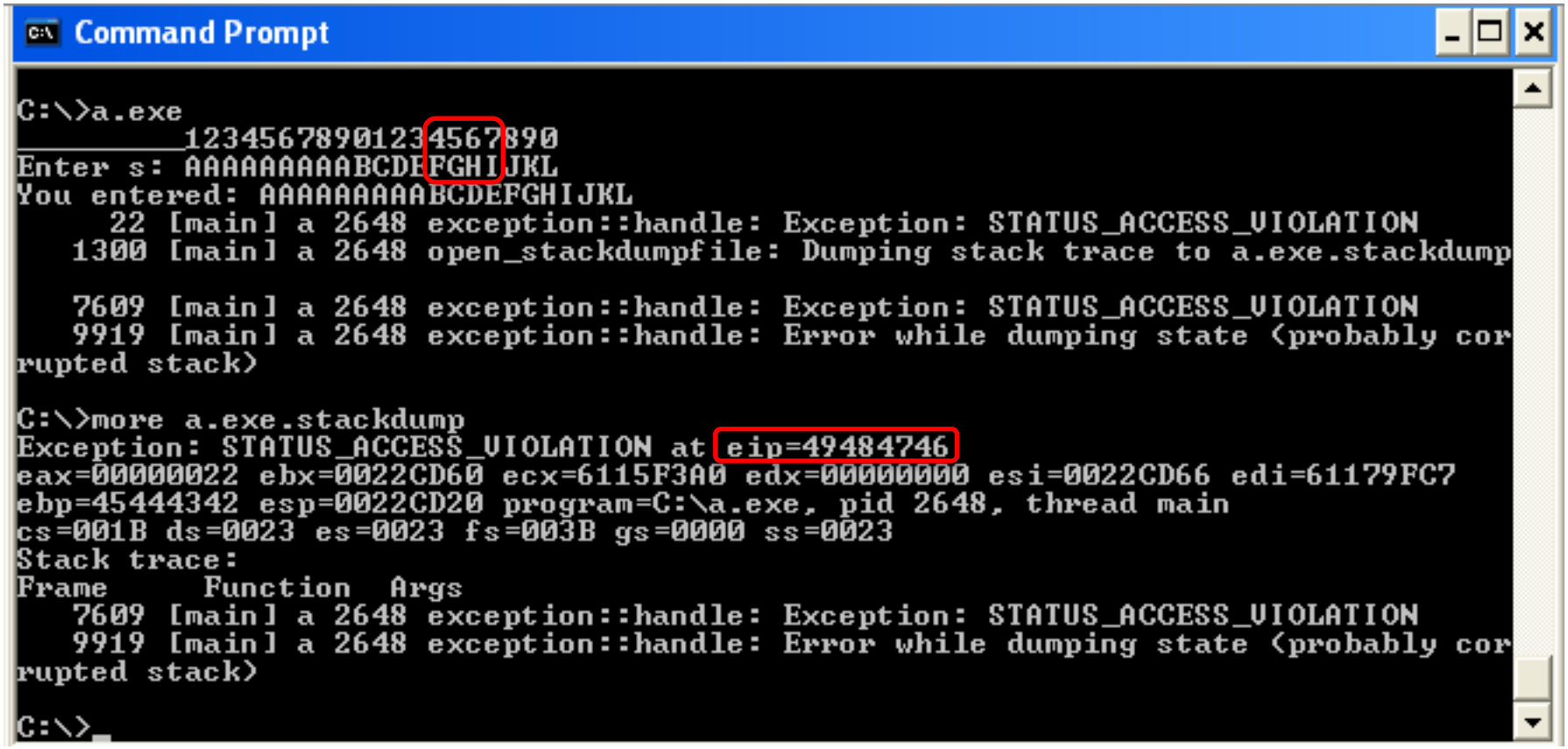


Running the program



0x49 = “I”, 0x48 = “H”, 0x47 = “G”, 0x46 = “F”

Running the program



0x49 = “I”, 0x48 = “H”, 0x47 = “G”, 0x46 = “F”

Strategy & Structure of a "Sploit"

- "Fuzzing"
  - Repeated input patterns
  - AAAA… ("A" = 0x41)
  - ABCDEFG…
  - DEF1, DEF2, DEF3, …
- NOP (No Operation)
  - 0x90 on x86
  - Also:
    - Add 0
    - Multiply by 1
    - Jump to next instruction
    - …

```
EAX = 00F7FCC8 EBX = 00F41130
ECX = 41414141 EDX = 77F9485A
ESI = 00F7FCC0 EDI = 00F7FCC0
EIP = 41414141 ESP = 00F4106C
EBP = 00F4108C EFL = 00000246
```

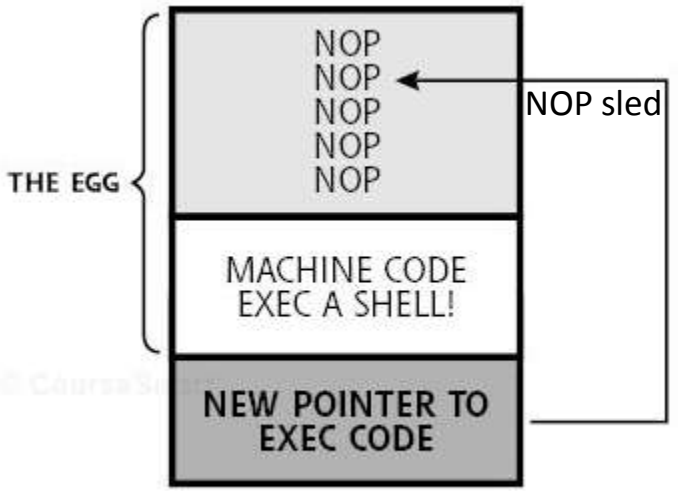


Figure 7.8 The structure of an exploit (also known as a sploit)

Heap-based Buffer Overflow Attacks

```
main()
{
        char *color_pref;
        char *user_name;

        color_pref=malloc(10);
        user_name=malloc(10);

        strncpy(user_name, "fred", 4);

        printf("What is your fav color?\n");

        gets(color_pref);

        printf("color_pref: %s\n", color_pref);
        printf("user_name: %s\n", user_name);
}
```

1. We create variables that will point to the place where we'll store a user's color preference and name.
2. The program uses malloc to allocate ten characters each in the heap for the color_pref and user_name.
3. The strncpy call copies the four characters "fred" to the user_name. This hard-coded value should NOT be alterable by the user, right?
4. The pogram asks the user for a favorite color.
5. The gets function (uh-oh!) is used to pull the user input into color_pref.
6. Finally, we print out the two variables, the color_pref and the user's name.

Figure 7.9 A program with a heap-based buffer overflow vulnerability.

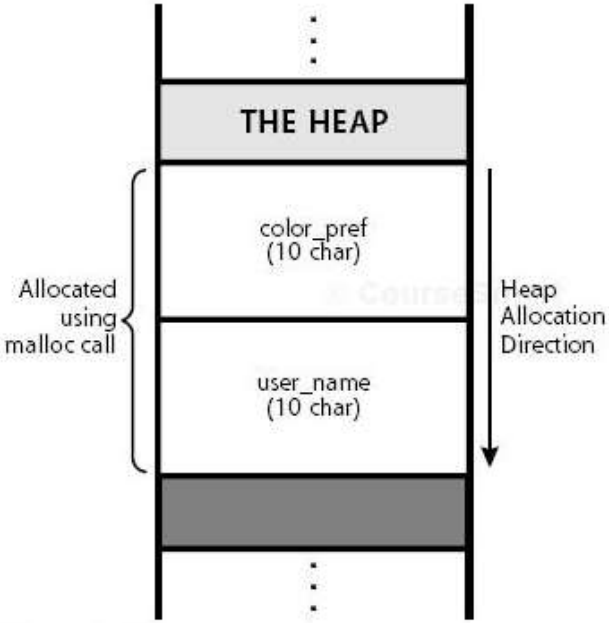


Figure 7.10 The heap holds the memory we malloc'ed.

Heap-based Buffer Overflow Attacks

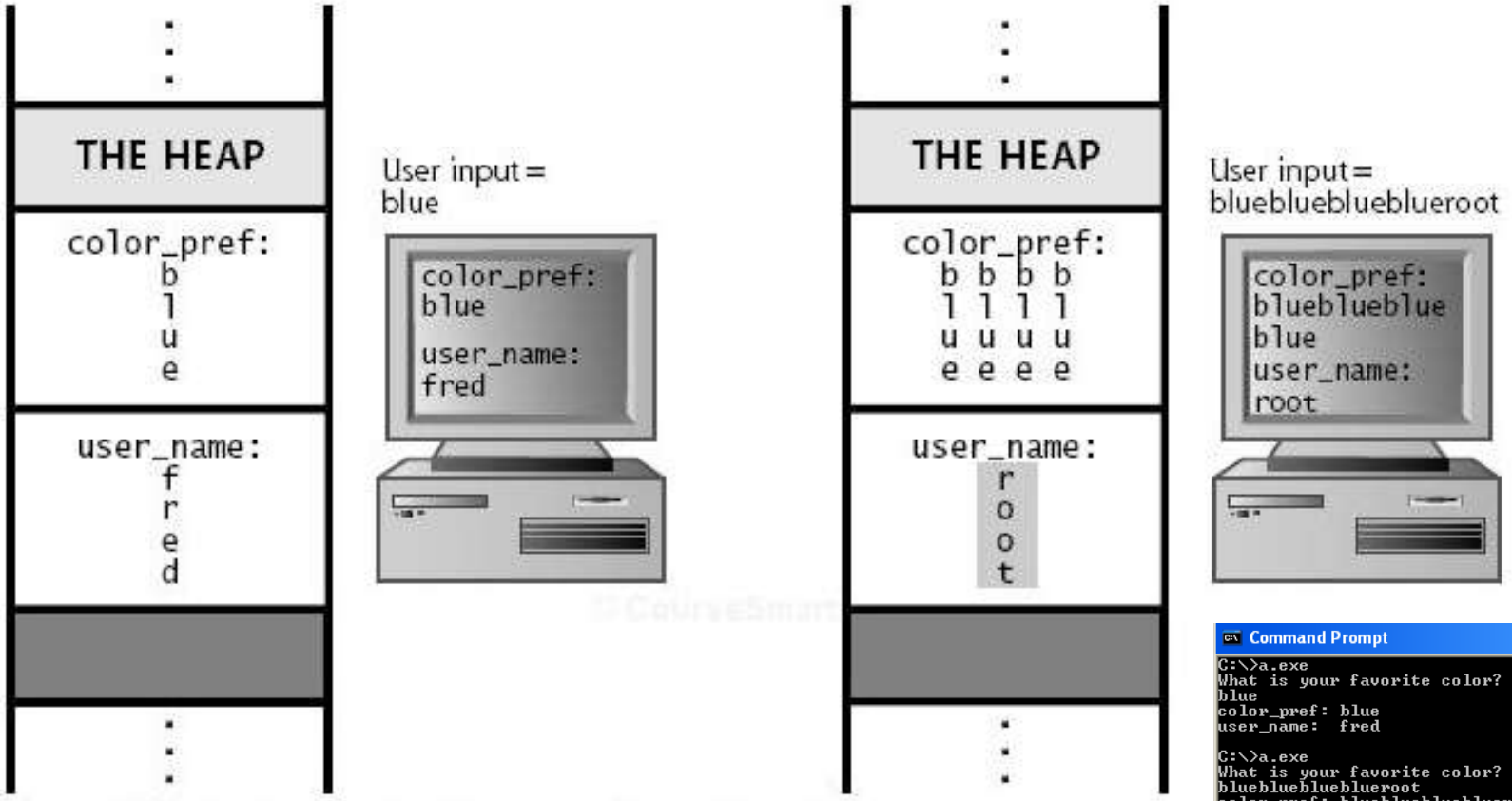
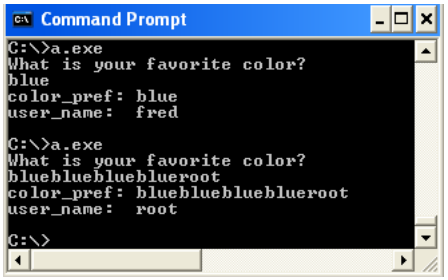


Figure 7.11 Running the vulnerable program with two different inputs.



Script Kiddies & Exploit Collections

- Attacks (exploits) are widely available
  - French Security Response Team (FrSIRT)
    - http://www.vupen.com/english/
    - "Only available to trusted organizations"
  - Packet Storm Security
    - http://packetstormsecurity.org/
  - Security Focus Bugtraq Archives
    - http://www.securityfocus.com/bid
  - Metasploit Project
    - http://www.metasploit.com
- Little or no knowledge required

Exploitation Engines

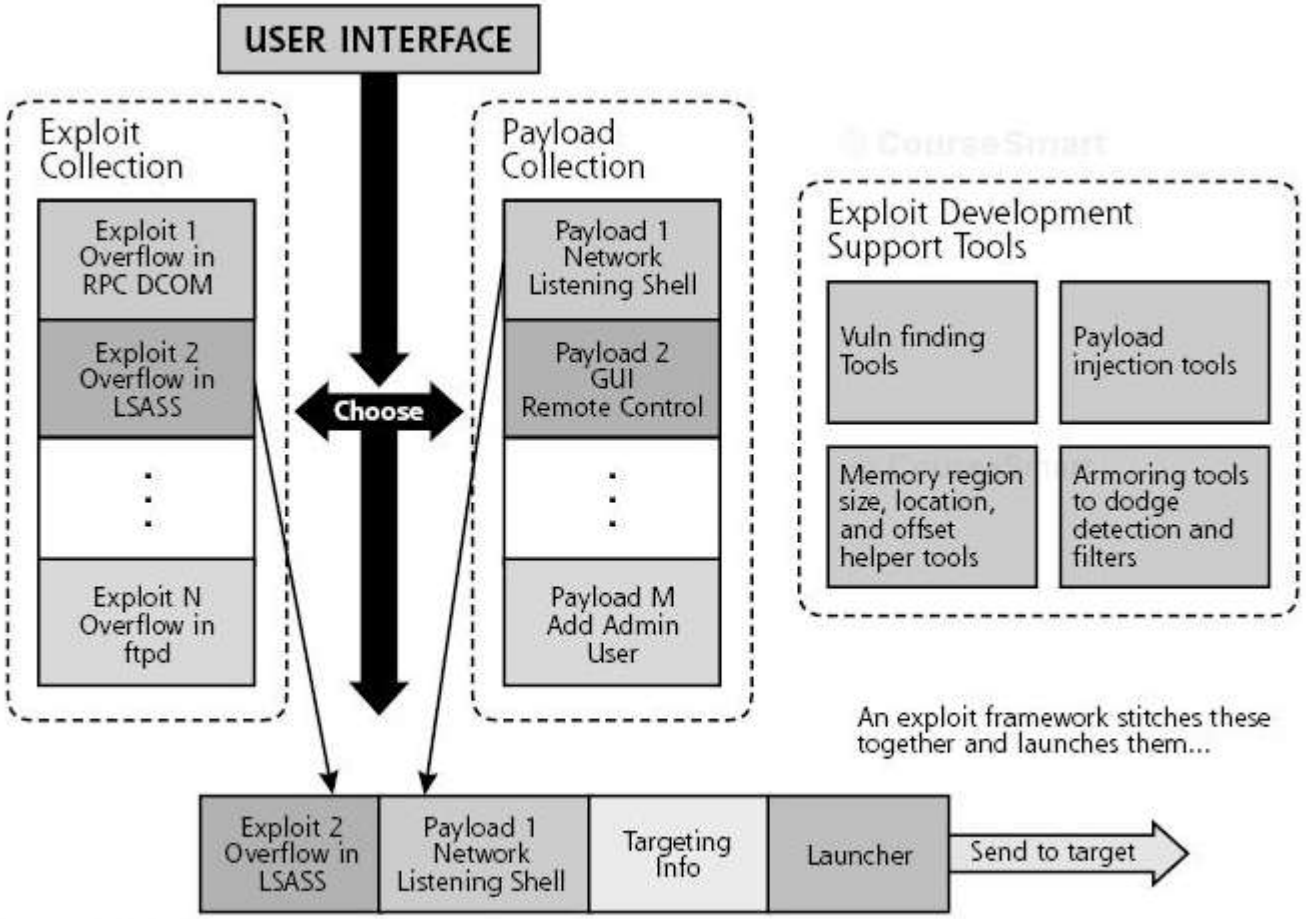
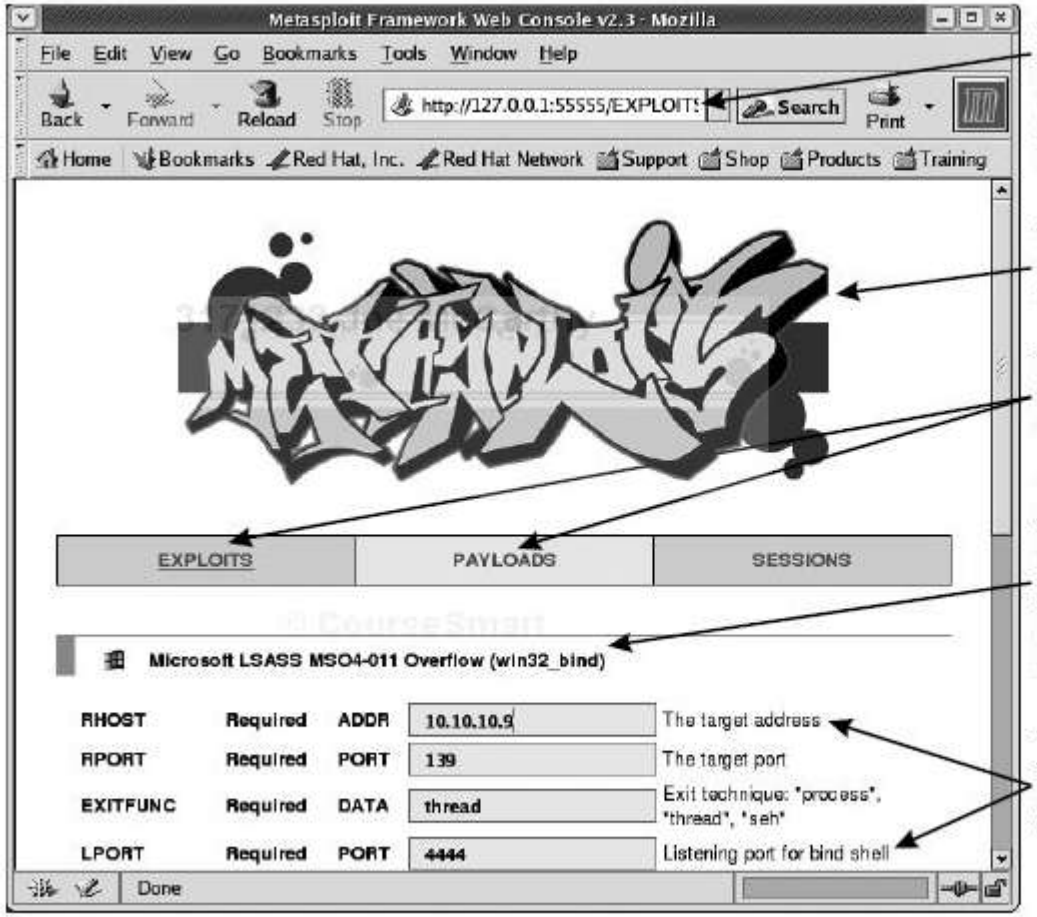


Figure 7.12 The components of Metasploit.

Sample Payloads

- Bind shell to current port
- Bind shell to arbitrary port
- Reverse shell
- Windows VNC Server DLL
- Reverse VNC DLL Inject
- Inject DLL into running application
- Create local admin user
- The Meterpreter (Metasploit Interpreter)

Metasploit - GUI



The attacker invokes the Metasploit Web interface and surfs there from a browser on the local machine to 127.0.0.1:55555.

This text says "Metasploit", in a very nonstandard font.

The attacker chooses from a list of exploits and payloads.

Here, we've chosen the LSASS buffer overflow exploit (LSASS MS04-011), with a Windows command shell bound to a TCP port (win32_bind).

The attacker configures the target address, and a port to have a target shell listen on.

Figure 7.13 Metasploit's Web-based interface.

Metasploit – command line

```
                  o                         8         o   o
                  8                         8             8
ooYoYo. .oPYo.  o8P .oPYo. .oPYo. .oPYo. 8 .oPYo. o8  o8P
8' 8  8 8oooo8   8  .oooo8 Yb..   8    8 8 8    8  8   8
8  8  8 8.       8  8    8   'Yb. 8    8 8 8    8  8   8
8  8  8 'Yooo'   8  'YooP8 'YooP' 8YooP' 8 'YooP'  8   8
..:..:..:.....:::..::.....::.....:8.....:..:.....::..::..:
::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::8::::::::::::::::::::::
::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::


       =[ msf v3.0
+ -- --=[ 5 exploits - 72 payloads
       =[ 2 encoders - 2 nops

msf exploit(test/multi/aggressive) > exploit -h
Usage: exploit [options]

Launches an exploitation attempt.

OPTIONS:

    -e <opt>  The payload encoder to use.  If none is specified, ENCODER is used.
    -h        Help banner.
    -j        Run in the context of a job.
    -n <opt>  The NOP generator to use.  If none is specified, NOP is used.
    -o <opt>  A comma separated list of options in VAR=VAL format.
    -p <opt>  The payload to use.  If none is specified, PAYLOAD is used.
    -t <opt>  The target index to use.  If none is specified, TARGET is used.
    -z        Do not interact with the session after successful exploitation.

msf exploit(test/multi/aggressive) > exploit -z
[*] Sending 124 byte payload...
[*] Sending stage (2838 bytes)
[*] Sleeping before handling stage...
[*] Uploading DLL (73739 bytes)...
[*] Upload completed.
[*] Trying to use connection...
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (10.254.0.4:59360 -> 10.254.0.4:12345)
[*] Started logging session interaction.
[*] Session 1 created in the background.
msf exploit(test/multi/aggressive) > session -l

Active sessions
===============

    Id  Description  Tunnel
    --  -----------  ------
    1   Meterpreter  10.254.0.4:59360 -> 10.254.0.4:12345

msf exploit(test/multi/aggressive) > session -i 1
[*] Starting interaction with 1...

meterpreter > use stdapi
Loading extension stdapi...success.
meterpreter >
```

Pros & Cons of Exploit Frameworks

Pros & Cons of Exploit Frameworks

- Advantages for Attackers
  - Reduced time
  - Increased quality
- Advantages for Defenders
  - Increased accuracy of security assessments
    - Vulnerability scans yield many false positives (30-50%)
    - Scan, then sploit to find “real” problems
  - Verify IDS / IPS functionality
    - Malfunctions, misconfiguration, pre-emptive attacks
  - Improving management awareness
    - “Please don’t steal this file!”

Defenses against Buffer Overflow Attacks

- Safer programming
  - StackGuard, Stack Shield
- Security reviews
  - ITS4 ("It's the Software, Stupid - Security Scanner")
  - RATS (Rough Auditing Tool for Security)
  - Flawfinder

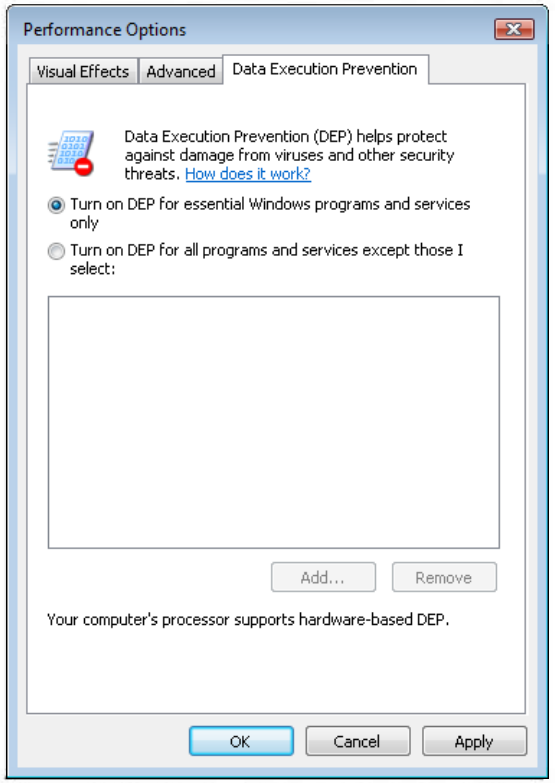


Figure 7.14 Windows XP Service Pack 2 and Windows 2003 Service Pack 1

For more information

- "Smashing the Stack for Fun and Profit"
  - Aleph One, aleph1@underground.org
  - http://www.phrack.org/issues.html?id=14&issue=49
- Common Vulnerabilities & Exposures
  - http://cve.mitre.org/cve/
  - Total CVEs: 45,149
  - Stack-based overflow vulnerabilities
    - 1200+:
      IE, Safari, Firefox, Opera, RealPlayer, QuickTime, WMP, WinAmp, DB2, Excel, Access, Word, PowerPoint, OpenOffice, Eudora, Acrobat, Reader, JDK, JRE, Norton, McAfee, eTrust, RAZR
  - Heap-based overflow vulnerabilities
    - 900+:
      IE, Opera, Firefox, Thunderbird, Apache, VB, ColdFusion, Skype, PHP, Oracle, PostgreSQL, AIM, Windows Live Messenger, WordPerfect, Outlook Express, PageMaker, PowerPoint, Excel, Netscape, McAfee, DirectX, Shockwave, Subversion, QuickTime, Norton, Sophos, Kaspersky, RSA SecurID, PuTTY, iTunes, RealPlayer, WinAmp, OpenOffice, JRE, Facebook Photo Uploader ActiveX, Blackberry