

## Demonstration of unsafe string concatenation in C using **strcat()**

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main() {
    char s1[] = "security";
    char s2[15] = "software";
    char s3[10] = "";

    printf("Before strcat operations...\n");
    printf("s1: \"%s\" size: %zu length: %zu\n", s1, sizeof(s1), strlen(s1));
    printf("s2: \"%s\" size: %zu length: %zu\n", s2, sizeof(s2), strlen(s2));
    printf("s3: \"%s\" size: %zu length: %zu\n", s3, sizeof(s3), strlen(s3));

    strcat(s2,s1);           // append s1 to s2
    strcat(s3,s1);           // append s1 to s3
    strcat(s3,s2);           // append s2 to s3

    printf("After strcat() operations...\n");
    printf("s1: \"%s\" size: %zu length: %zu\n", s1, sizeof(s1), strlen(s1));
    printf("s2: \"%s\" size: %zu length: %zu\n", s2, sizeof(s2), strlen(s2));
    printf("s3: \"%s\" size: %zu length: %zu\n", s3, sizeof(s3), strlen(s3));
}
```

Let's assume the storage for arrays **s1**, **s2**, and **s3** is allocated in the order of declarations in the source code (high memory address to low memory address).

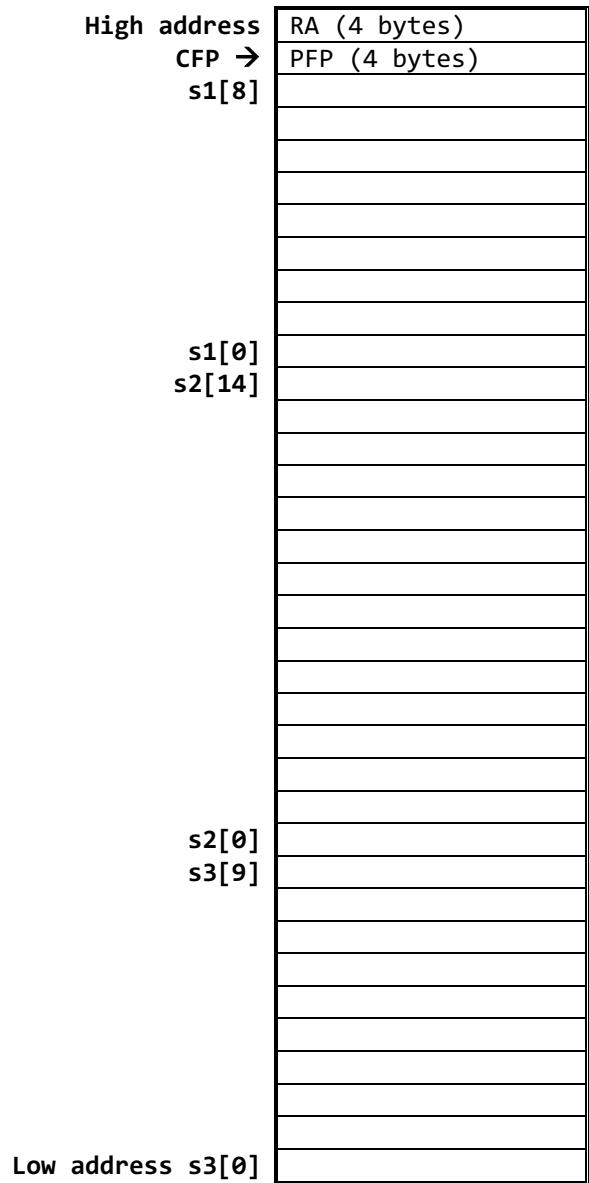
**Step 1:** Show the stack frame contents BEFORE call to **strcat** function (left table on next page)

**Step 2:** Use the before call stack frame contents to determine the output produced by the first three print statements.

**Step 3:** Show the stack frame contents AFTER call to **strcat** function (right table on next page)

**Step 4:** Use the after call stack frame contents to determine the output produced by the last three print statements.

## Stack frame (before call to `strcat`)



## Stack frame (after call to `strcat`)

