



# CLOUDBURST


## A VMware Guest to Host Escape Story

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Immunity, Inc.

主要是说怎么样通过设备模拟进行虚拟机逃逸

BlackHat USA 2009, Las Vegas

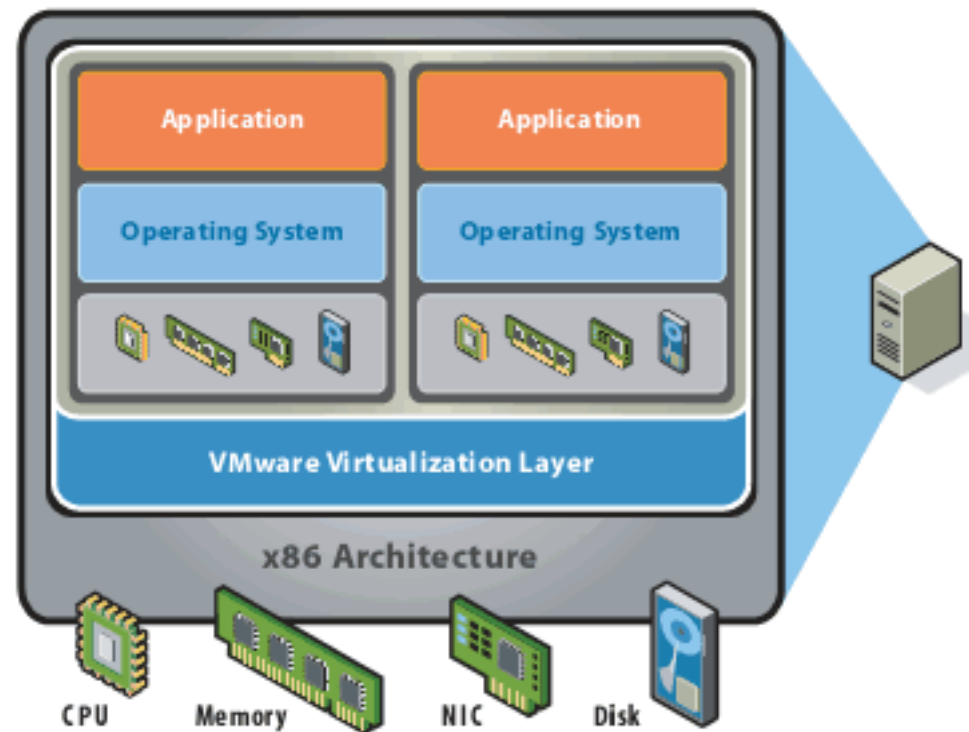


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# Introduction

# VMware Architecture

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Devices are emulated on the Host



# Why devices?

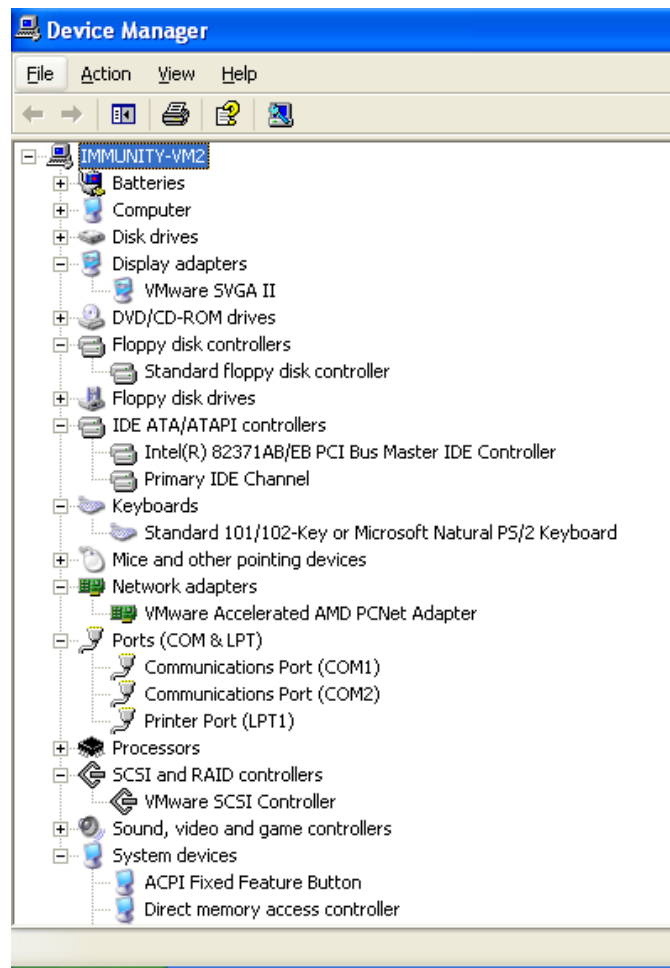
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- I don't have enough low-level system Mojo ☹
- They are common to all VMware products
- They “run” on the Host
  - vmware-vmx process 设备的模拟在vmware-vmx进程上
- They can be accessed from the guest
  - Through Port I/O or memory-mapped I/O
- They are written in C/C++
- They sometimes parse some complex data!



# Devices on a VM

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1. Video adapter
2. Floppy controller
3. IDE controller
4. Keyboard controller
5. Network Adapter
6. COM/LPT controller
7. SCSI controller(s)
8. DMA controller
9. ~~USB controller (WKS)~~
10. ~~Audio adapter (WKS)~~

Windows XP SP3 (ESX)



- Combination of 3/4 bugs in the VMware emulated video device
  - Host memory leak into the Guest
  - Host arbitrary memory write from the Guest
    - Relative
    - Absolute
  - And some additional DEP friendly goodness
- Reliable Guest to Host escape on recent VMware products: Workstation, Fusion?, ESX Server (4.0 RC Hardfreeze)



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# VMware SVGA II



# VMware Publications

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- GPU Virtualization on VMware's Hosted I/O Architecture by Micah Dowty, Jeremy Sugerman
  - We were not aware of this paper during our research
  - Good insight on the technology
- Previous VMware security announcements have included device driver guest->host vulnerabilities, as have Microsoft VirtualServer and Xen
- I am not a virtualization specialist

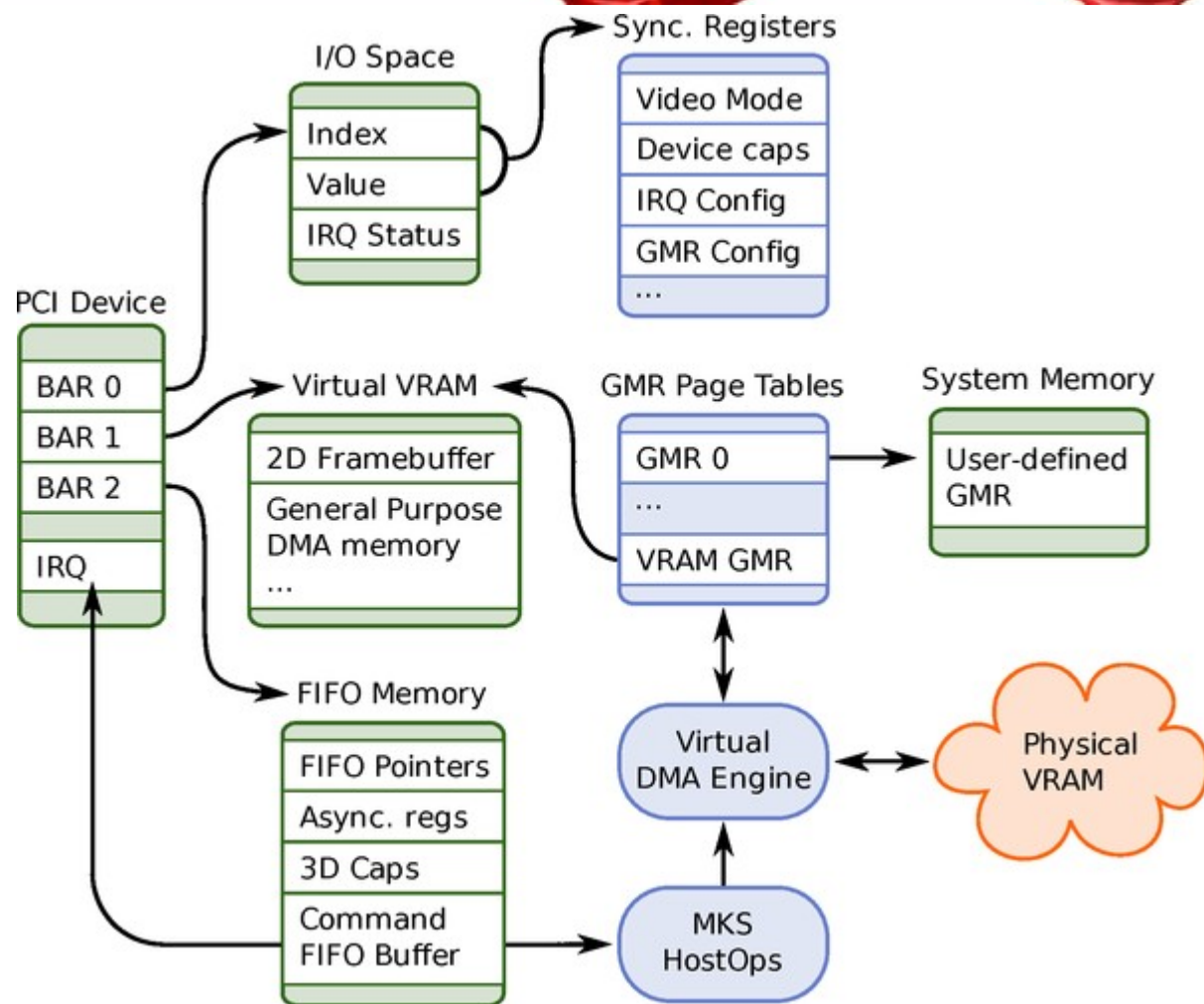




- VMware virtual GPU takes the form of an emulated PCI device
  - VMware SVGA II
  - No physical instance of the card exists
- A device driver is provided for common Guests
  - Windows ones support 3D acceleration
- A user-level device emulation process is responsible for handling accesses to the PCI configuration and I/O space of the SVGA device

# SVGA Device Architecture

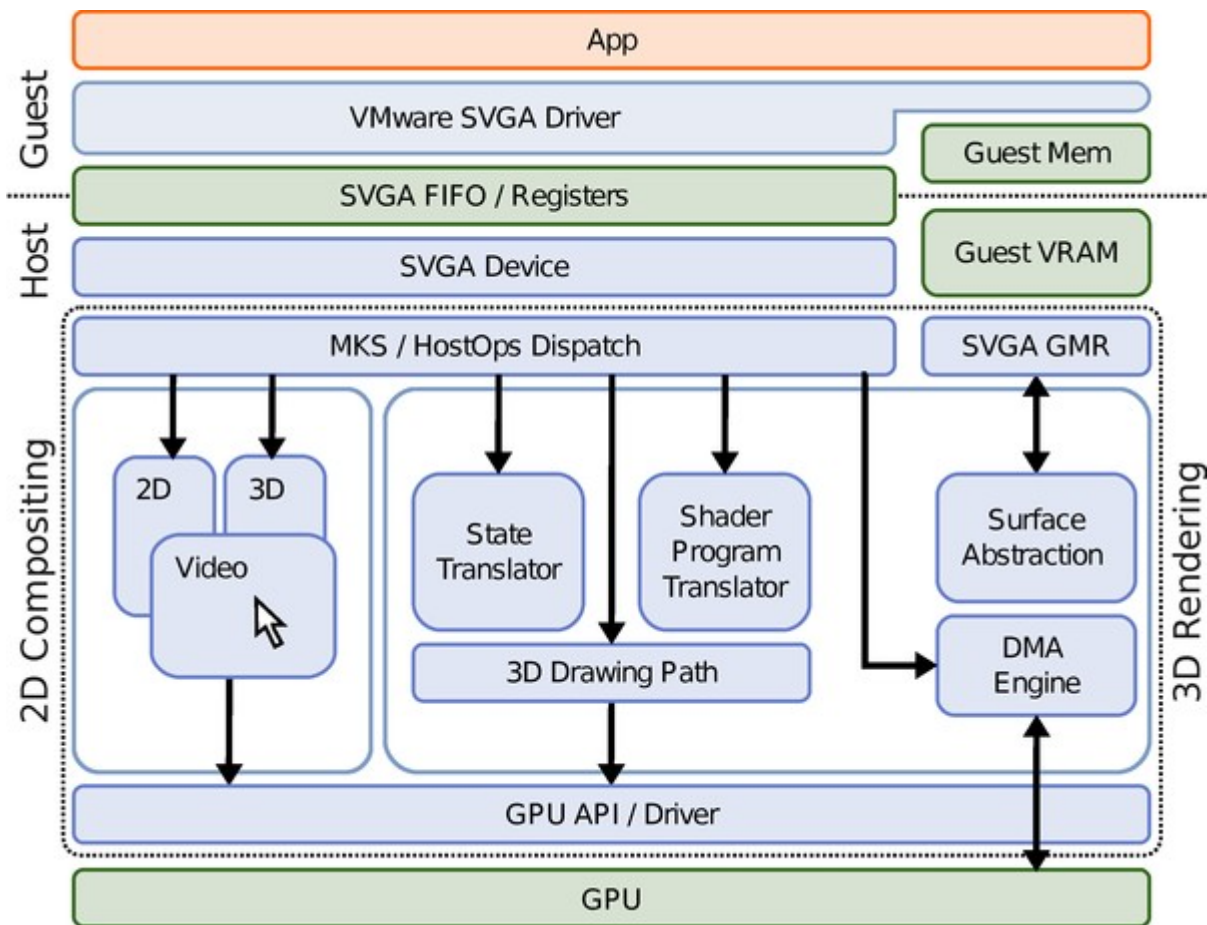
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[http://www.usenix.org/event/wiov08/tech/full\\_papers/dowty/dowty.pdf](http://www.usenix.org/event/wiov08/tech/full_papers/dowty/dowty.pdf)

# The Virtual Graphic Stacks

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[http://www.usenix.org/event/wiov08/tech/full\\_papers/dowty/dowty.pdf](http://www.usenix.org/event/wiov08/tech/full_papers/dowty/dowty.pdf)



# Memory-mapped I/O

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(from Wikipedia)

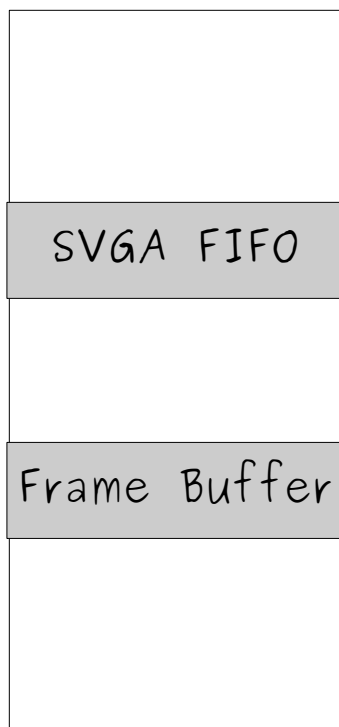
- *Memory-mapped I/O* (MMIO) and *port I/O* (also called port-mapped I/O or PMIO) are two complementary methods of performing input/output between the CPU and peripheral devices in a computer
  - Each I/O device monitors the CPU's address bus and responds to any CPU's access of device-assigned address space
  - Port-mapped I/O uses a special class of CPU instructions specifically for performing I/O



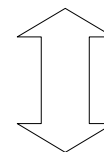
# My Simplified Version

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Host  
vmware-vmx Process



Guest  
Virtual Machine



- I/O Ports
- I/O Memory Mappings

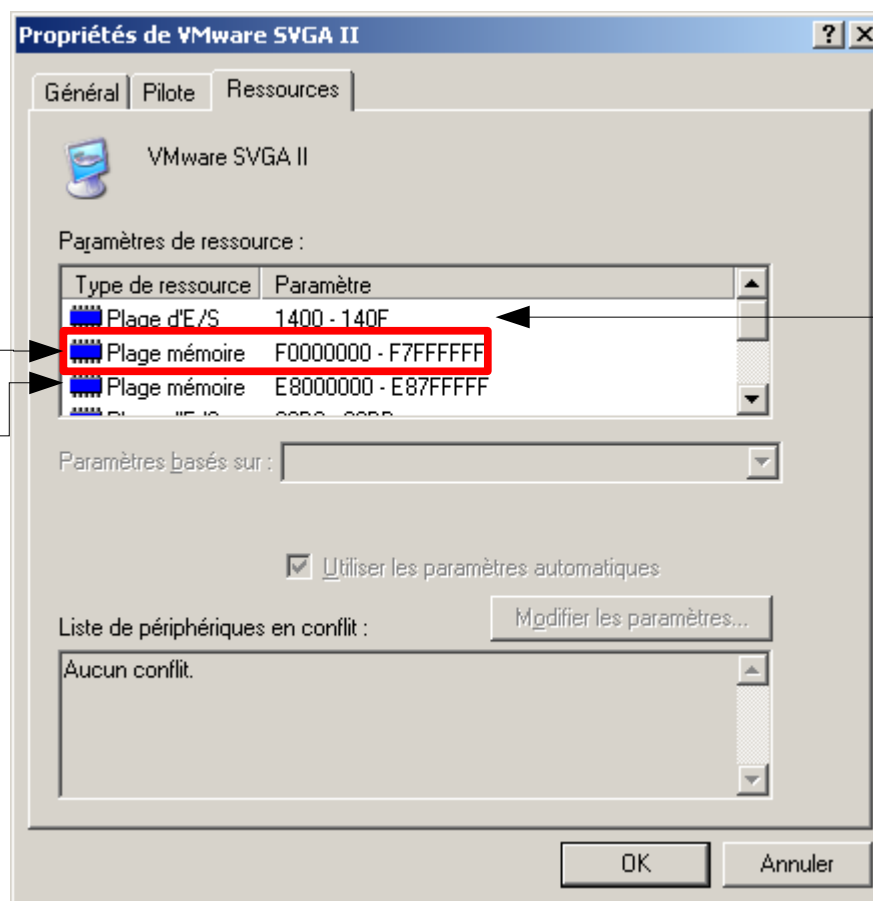


Virtual Video Card

# VMware SVGA I/O

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Frame Buffer  
SVGA FIFO



I/O Ports

Windows 2003 SP1 (WKS)



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SVGA FIFO



- The SVGA device processes commands asynchronously via a lockless FIFO queue
  - This queue (several MB) occupies the bulk of the FIFO Memory region
- During unaccelerated **2D** rendering: FIFO commands are used to mark changed regions in the frame buffer
- During **3D** rendering: the FIFO acts as a transport layer for an architecture independent SVGA3D rendering protocol





# 2D FIFO Operations

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- They can be found in [xf86-video-vmware](#)
- Sample 2D operations:
  - SVGA\_CMD\_UPDATE (1)
    - FIFO layout: X, Y, Width, Height
  - SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_FILL (2)
    - FIFO layout: Color, X, Y, Width, Height
  - SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_COPY (3)
    - FIFO layout: Source X, Source Y, Dest X, Dest Y, Width, Height
  - ...

# SVGA FIFO 2D Operations

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~~SVGA\_CMD\_INVALID\_CMD~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_UPDATE~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_FILL~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_COPY~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DEFINE\_BITMAP~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DEFINE\_BITMAP\_SCANLINE~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DEFINE\_PIXMAP~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DEFINE\_PIXMAP\_SCANLINE~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_BITMAP\_FILL~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_PIXMAP\_FILL~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_BITMAP\_COPY~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_PIXMAP\_COPY~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_FREE\_OBJECT~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_ROP\_FILL~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_ROP\_COPY~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_ROP\_BITMAP\_FILL~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_ROP\_PIXMAP\_FILL~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_ROP\_BITMAP\_COPY~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_ROP\_PIXMAP\_COPY~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DEFINE\_CURSOR~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DISPLAY\_CURSOR~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_MOVE\_CURSOR~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DEFINE\_ALPHA\_CURSOR~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DRAW\_GLYPH~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_DRAW\_GLYPH\_CLIPPED~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_UPDATE\_VERBOSE~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_SURFACE\_FILL~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_SURFACE\_COPY~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_SURFACE\_ALPHA\_BLEND~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_FRONT\_ROP\_FILL~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_FENCE~~

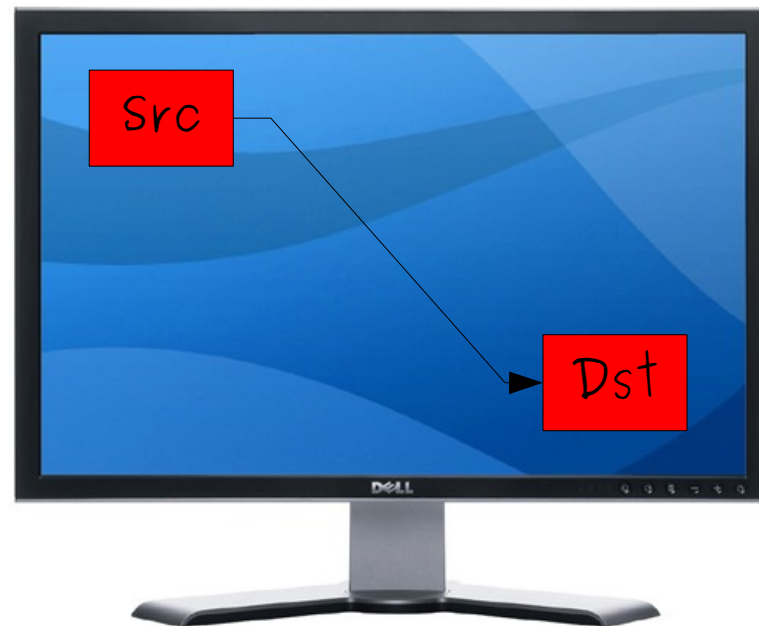
~~SVGA\_CMD\_VIDEO\_PLAY\_OBSOLETE~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_VIDEO\_END\_OBSOLETE~~

~~SVGA\_CMD\_ESCAPE~~



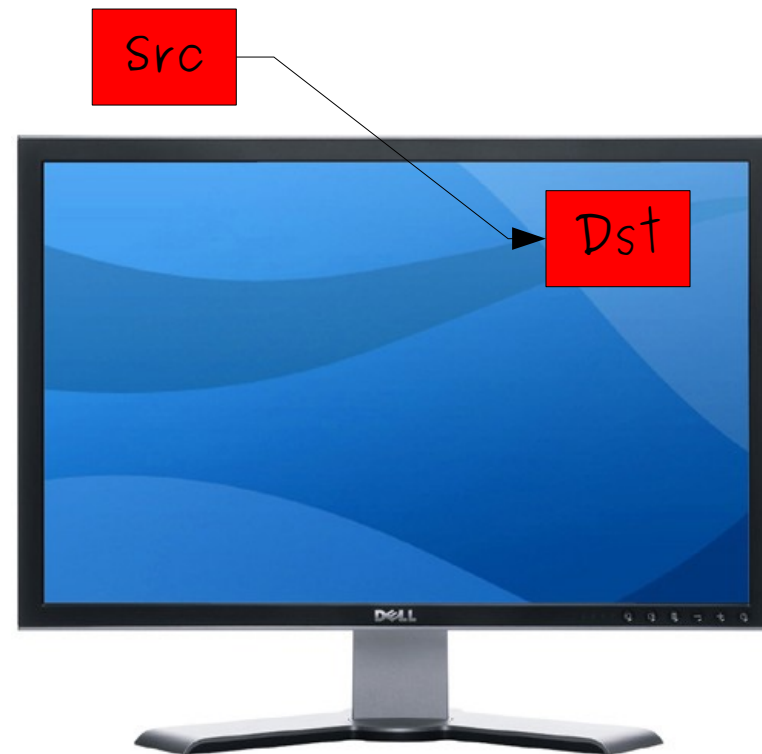
- Copies a rectangle in the Frame Buffer from a source X, Y to a destination X, Y



Frame Buffer



- Boundaries checks on the source location can be bypassed

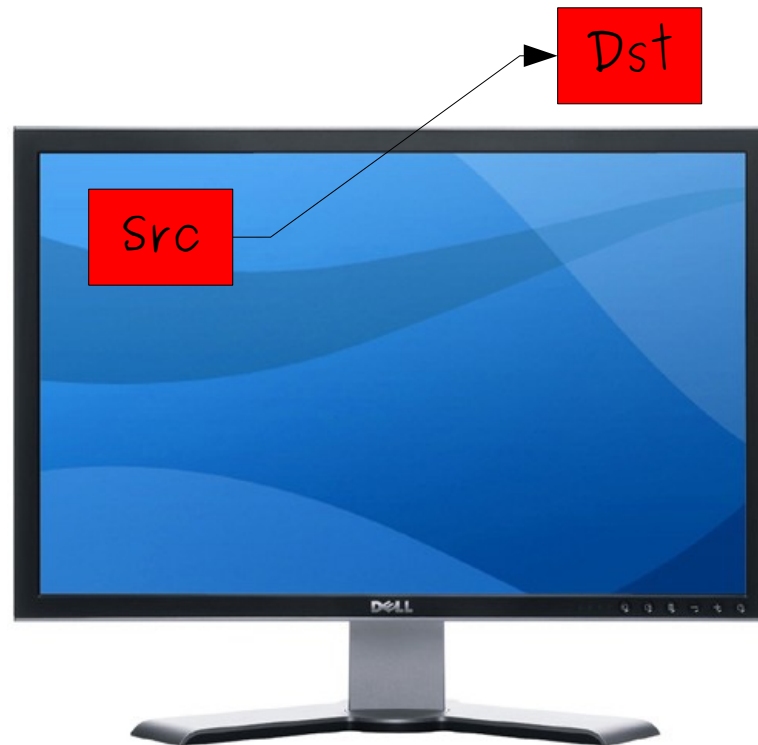


Frame Buffer





- Boundaries checks on the destination location can be bypassed (to a lower extent than source)



Frame Buffer



# SVGA Arbitrary Read&Write

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- Guest can *read* and *write* in the frame buffer
- Frame buffer is mapped in the host memory
- SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_COPY bugs mean:
  - One can copy host process memory into the frame buffer and read it
    - **Default unlimited arbitrary read**
  - One can write data into the frame buffer and copy it into the host process memory
    - **Default limited arbitrary write**
      - Only into the page preceding the frame buffer
      - *Might* be exploitable in some cases
        - Depends on what is mapped before the frame buffer

# SVGA\_CMD\_DRAW\_GLYPH

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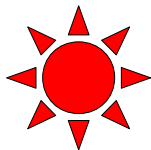
- Draws a glyph into the frame buffer
- Requires `svga.yesGlyphs="TRUE"`



Virtual screen



- There is no check on the X, Y where the glyph is to be copied



Virtual screen





- Frame buffer is mapped in the host memory
- SVGA\_CMD\_DRAW\_GLYPH bug means:
  - One can write any data, anywhere in the host process memory
    - Write address is relative to the base of the frame buffer
      - Pretty steady in ESX
      - Can be leaked with SVGA\_CMD\_RECT\_COPY bug
  - **Non-default arbitrary write**
    - Fully exploitable



- Experimental 3D support appeared in VMware Workstation 5.0 (April 2005)
  - Disabled by default
  - Option had to be added to the config file of the VM
- It became **default** with Wks 6.5 (and Fusion?)
  - “*Accelerate 3D Graphics*” checkbox under Display
    - Code is reachable regardless of checkbox
- 3D operations are default and parsed under ESX 4.0 RC Hardfreeze



- The SVGA3D protocol is a simplified and idealized adaptation of the Direct3D API
- It has a minimal number of distinct commands
- It is not publicly documented (AFAIK)
  - [xf86-video-vmware](#) has definitions for some constants but no prototypes of functions
- It uses “contexts” like Direct3D
  - Stored on the Host
  - Hold render states, light data, etc.

# SVGA FIFO 3D Operations

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SVGA_CMD_SURFACE_DEFINE	SVGA_CMD_SETTEXTURESTATE
SVGA_CMD_SURFACE_DESTROY	SVGA_CMD_SETMATERIAL
SVGA_CMD_SURFACE_COPY	SVGA_CMD_SETLIGHTDATA
SVGA_CMD_SURFACE_DOWNLOAD	SVGA_CMD_SETLIGHTENABLED
SVGA_CMD_SURFACE_UPLOAD	SVGA_CMD_SETVIEWPORT
SVGA_CMD_INDEX_BUFFER_DEFINE	SVGA_CMD_SETCLIPPLANE
SVGA_CMD_INDEX_BUFFER_DESTROY	SVGA_CMD_CLEAR
SVGA_CMD_INDEX_BUFFER_UPLOAD	SVGA_CMD_PRESENT
SVGA_CMD_VERTEX_BUFFER_DEFINE	SVGA_CMD_DRAWPRIMITIVES
SVGA_CMD_VERTEX_BUFFER_DESTROY	SVGA_CMD_DRAWINDEXEDPRIMITIVES
SVGA_CMD_VERTEX_BUFFER_UPLOAD	SVGA_CMD_SHADER_DEFINE
SVGA_CMD_CONTEXT_DEFINE	SVGA_CMD_SHADER_DESTROY
SVGA_CMD_CONTEXT_DESTROY	SVGA_CMD_SET_VERTEXSHADER
SVGA_CMD_SETTRANSFORM	SVGA_CMD_SET_PIXELSHADER
SVGA_CMD_SETZRANGE	SVGA_CMD_SET_SHADER_CONST
SVGA_CMD_SETRENDERSTATE	SVGA_CMD_DRAWPRIMITIVES2
SVGA_CMD_SETRENDERTARGET	SVGA_CMD_DRAWINDEXEDPRIMITIVES2





- Many SET commands are flawed
- SETRENDERSTATE

– The code:

```
.text:0065EE25  
.text:0065EE25 loc_65EE25: ; CODE XREF: SetRenderStateInContext+25j  
.text:0065EE25 mov edi, [ecx+eax*8] ; Offset @ InputData[i]  
.text:0065EE28 mov ebx, [ecx+eax*8+4] ; Data @ InputData[i+1]  
.text:0065EE2C add eax, 1 ; i++  
.text:0065EE2F cmp eax, edx  
.text:0065EE31 mov [esi+edi*4+50h], ebx  
.text:0065EE35 jb short loc_65EE25
```

– Write primitive relative to **esi**

- It's the context address in the host memory
- It can be **leaked** in the guest thanks to the COPY bug!

# Relative to Absolute

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- SETLIGHTENABLED


- The code:

```
.text:0065EF33 mov ecx, [ebp+arg_4]
.text:0065EF36 mov eax, [ecx+4]
.text:0065EF39 mov ecx, [ecx+8]
.text:0065EF3C mov edx, eax
.text:0065EF3E shl edx, 4
.text:0065EF41 sub edx, eax
.text:0065EF43 mov eax, [ebp+arg_0]
.text:0065EF46 mov eax, [eax+648h]
.text:0065EF4C mov [eax+edx*8], ecx
```

- By overwriting Context+648h with the relative write, we get an absolute write primitive
    - Also works with SETLIGHTDATA for 29\*4 bytes



- Additional bugs in:
  - SETRENDERTARGET
    - Signed bounds checking
  - SETCLIPPLANE
    - No bounds checking
  - SETTRANSFORM
    - No bounds checking



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# Exploitation





# Requirements

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- We have to be able to read/write directly into the framebuffer and the FIFO
  - Direct3D has some APIs for that
    - Everything is checked and sanitized on the Guest side
  - The solution is to write our own driver
    - Sits on top of VMware video driver
      - It can be standalone though
      - Less coding to do this way
    - Maps the framebuffer and FIFO for direct, unrestricted access
- Requires Admin rights in the VM

# Exploitation Process

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- **Step #1**: leak the base address of the framebuffer in the Host
  - All further leaks are relative to this address
- Some methods:
  - Windows Vista: relative memory leak
    - The page before the FB contains the address of the FB
  - Ubuntu: relative leak bruteforce
    - Keep leaking until your find the ELF header
  - Windows XP/Vista: absolute memory write
    - Then scan the FB for the data written
    - The FB is big enough to not trigger an access violation



# Exploitation Process

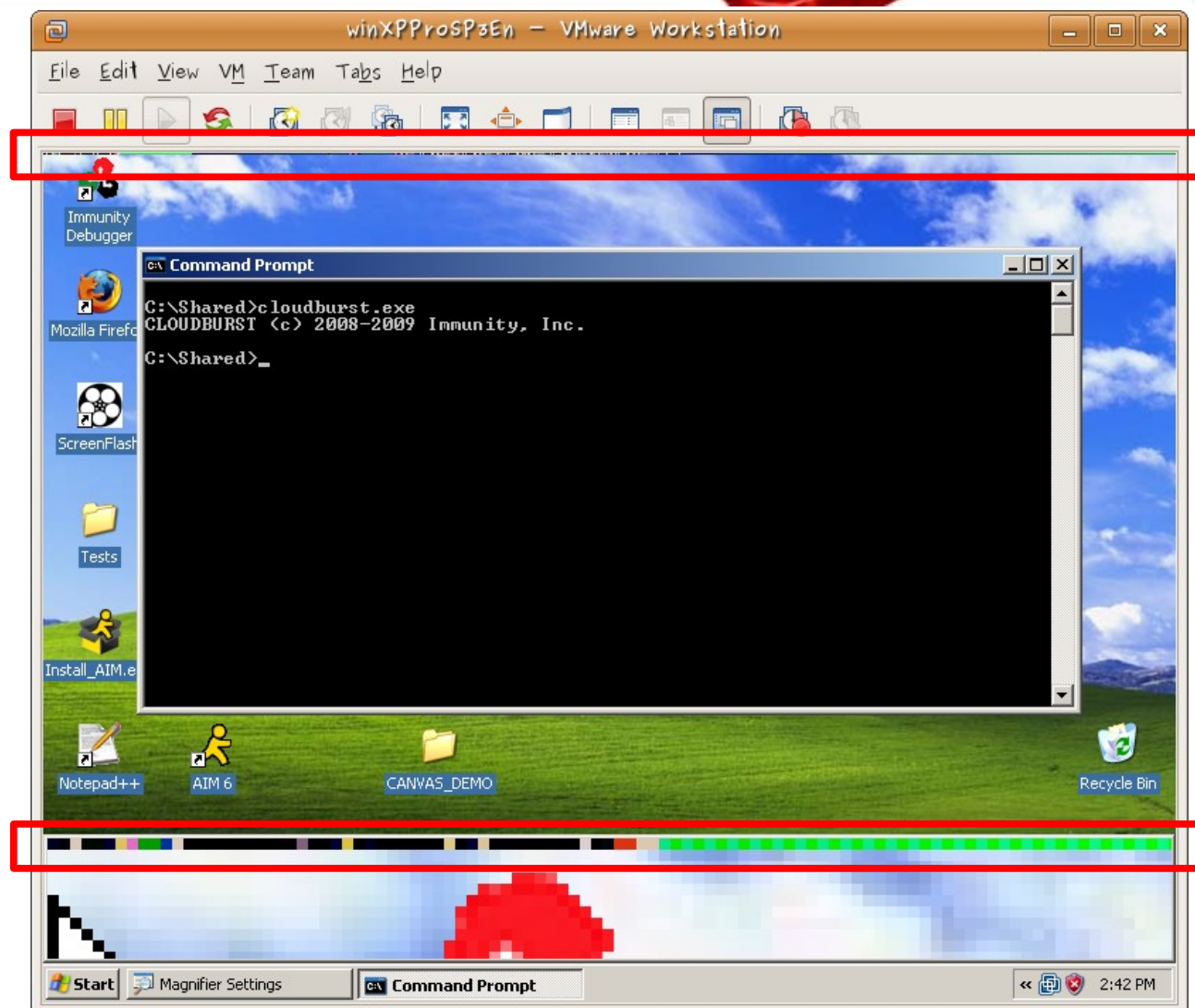
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- **Step #2:** fingerprint VMware version
  - We leak the PE/ELF header for that
    - They tend to be always at the same address
- **Step #3 to #n:** exploit 😊
  - Leak/Overwrite/Trigger/Leak/Overwrite/Trigger – Done!



# Leak Example

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We leak some data on the first line of the framebuffer (more visual)

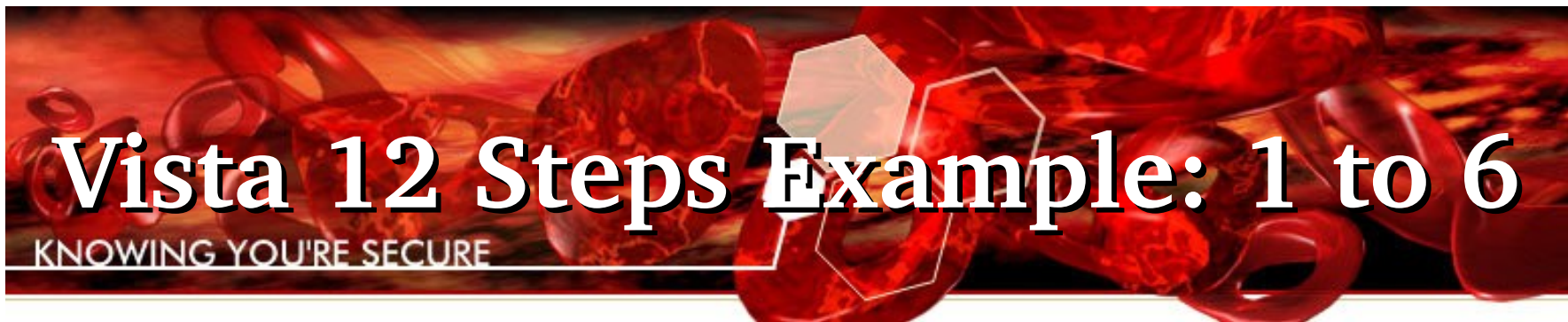




# Dealing with DEP

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- When dealing with XP/Vista DEP AlwaysOn, or ESX 4.0 as a Host, we have to care about NX
- vmware-vmx provides VirtualProtect wrappers
  - One for RE, one for RW
  - They take their parameters in the .data section!
    - Easily abusable with the absolute write primitive
  - Also available for mprotect under Linux/ESX



- 1) **Leak** the Frame Buffer Base address in the Host
- 2) **Leak** the PE Header of the vmware-vmx.exe binary
- 3) Based on the Timestamp in the PE Header, set the correct addresses needed
- 4) **Leak** the 1st pointer of the theSVGAUser structure
- 5) **Leak** the memory pointed by the leaked pointer to retrieve the address of the Context
- 6) **Overwrite** the VirtualProtect parameters so that the address is the one of the PE header and the size is 1000h.  
**Overwrite** as well the function pointer for the ESCAPE command with the address of the RW VirtualAlloc wrapper

# Vista 12 Steps Example: 7 to 12

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- 1) **Trigger** the ESCAPE command: the PE Header is now RW
- 2) **Write** the shellcode into the PE Header
- 3) Same as 6), except that we overwrite the ESCAPE function pointer with the RE VirtualAlloc wrapper
- 4) **Trigger** the ESCAPE command: the PE Header (and our shellcode) is now RE
- 5) **Overwrite** the ESCAPE function pointer with a pointer to our shellcode.
- 6) **Trigger** the ESCAPE command



# MOSDEF Over Direct3D

(or how to tunnel a shell over BMP images)





- MOSDEF (mose-def) is short for “Most Definately”
- MOSDEF is a retargetable, position independent code, C compiler that supports dynamic remote code linking written in pure Python
- In short, after you've overflowed a process you can compile programs to run inside that process and report back to you



- Ensure Host  $\Leftrightarrow$  Guest communication post exploitation, while not relying on extra features such as:
  - Network: Host can be unreachable from Guest
  - VMCI: not enabled by default
  - VMRPC: can be disabled
- Idea: tunnel the shell over the framebuffer
  - And in Ring3 to add some excitement



# Guest Side: Direct3D API

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- Create and manipulate objects (surfaces) in the video card memory, off screen
  - CreateOffscreenPlainSurface
    - Format being D3DFMT\_A8R8G8B8 (32 bits per pixel)
  - D3DXLoadSurfaceFromMemory
  - D3DXSaveSurfaceToFileInMemory
    - No “raw” format, use D3DXIFF\_BMP
    - We parse the BMP to recover our data

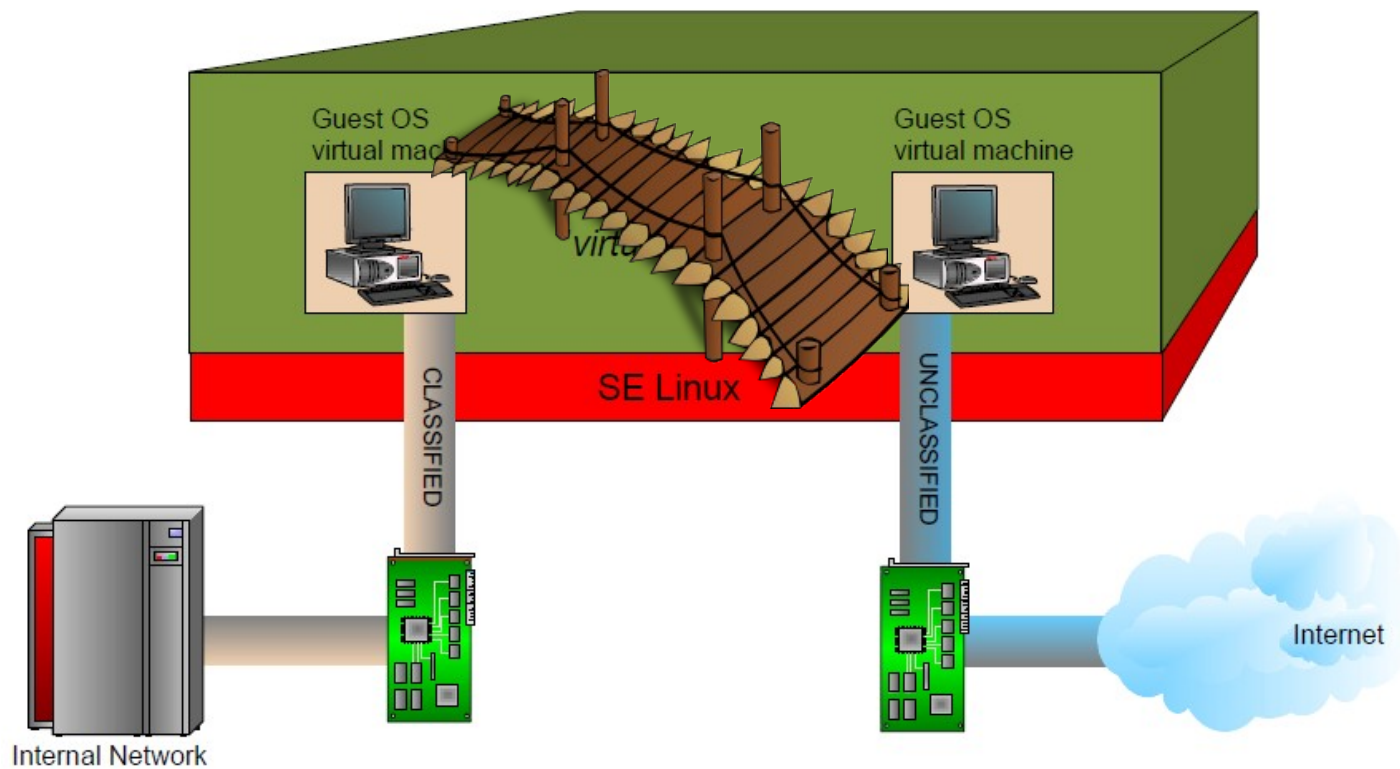


- Bind a MOSDEF listener on localhost
- Scan the video card memory for a “signature”
  - Extract and parse the data
  - Send it to the locally bound MOSDEF
  - Receive the result
  - Write it back to the framebuffer
- MOSDEF acting sequentially, we should not have any concurrent access issue
  - We implement a lousy “semaphore” to be sure




# The Result

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**“Virtual Wooden Bridge”**  
over the  
**“Virtual Air Gap”**



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# Conclusion

# VMs, Security and You

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## Who am I



- Title
  - Sr. Director VRT
- Industry Experience
  - 13+ Years
- Previous Companies
  - Farm9, Hiverworld (nCircle), IBM
- Certifications
  - I'll send you a PDF with all my credits, certs, and previous work. I'd open it in a VM.



4

**SOURCEfire**  
Security for the real world.



- VMware isn't an additional security layer
  - It's just another layer to find bugs in
- Given the correct bug primitives (memory leak, memory write), everything can be defeated
  - ASLR, NX
- Trying to patch silently in 2009 is ridiculous
- If a feature is not needed for a branch, the code shouldn't be included in it
  - Why would ESX ever need 3D support ...