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gets() is risky to use!

Asked by [geek4u](#)

Consider the below program.

```
void read()
{
    char str[20];
    gets(str);
    printf("%s", str);
    return;
}
```

Run on IDE

The code looks simple, it reads string from standard input and prints the entered string, but it suffers from **Buffer Overflow** as gets() doesn't do any array bound testing. gets() keeps on reading until it sees a newline character.

To avoid Buffer Overflow, fgets() should be used instead of gets() as fgets() makes sure that not more than MAX_LIMIT characters are read.

```
#define MAX_LIMIT 20
void read()
{
    char str[MAX_LIMIT];
    fgets(str, MAX_LIMIT, stdin);
    printf("%s", str);

    getchar();
    return;
}
```

Run on IDE

Please write comments if you find anything incorrect in the above article, or you want to share more information about the topic discussed above.



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2.5

Average Difficulty : **2.5/5.0**
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