

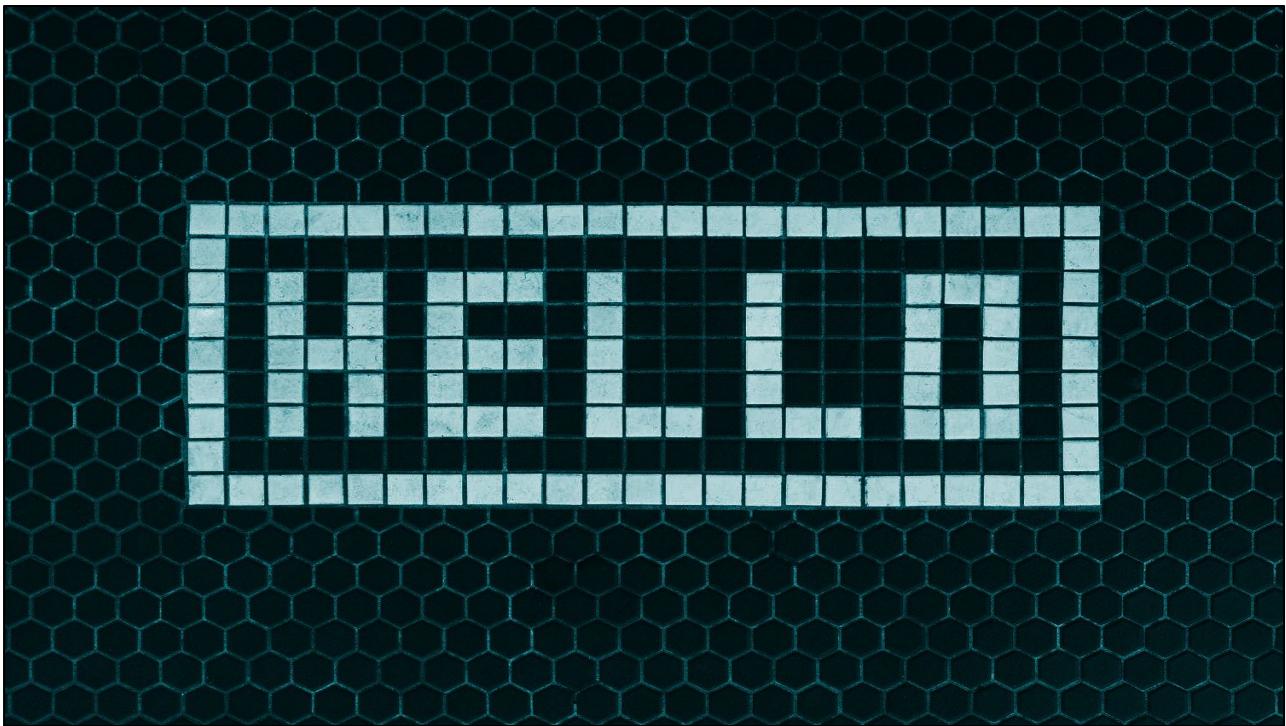
Go: Security Considerations

SUMMERCON 2021



**Brandon Edwards @drraid
Pete Markowsky @PeteMarkowsky**

Welcome to our talk, Some Security Considerations on Go



Brandon: Thank you for joining us here today. My name is Brandon Edwards, also known as "drraid", and I am honored and excited to be speaking at Summercon.

Pete: I've worked with Brandon and I'm mostly here for the drinks



What is this talk about? Well, first, as a preface, after like eleventy million drinks at a friend's birthday party, during the first social event I attended after the pandemic, I promised John Terrill I would give a talk at summercon, but then promptly forgot that promise. I am a little less organized than the level to which I would normally aspire being, and I would like to give you my apologies in advance.



I wanted to do this talk because Go, Rust, and other “safer” languages first worried me that there was an existential threat to the busicati, that first these languages would eliminate memory safety bugs, and with all the fancy tooling and compiler checks they would eliminate most logic bugs, hacking dies forever, and I’d have to shift careers to some multilevel marketing scheme selling shifty weightloss products to my friends and family on Facebook.

Then I remembered that the root cause of security issues is that computers were a mistake, logic bugs are here forever, and human ineptitude wins every time. And, not only does Go not eliminate many bug classes, it actually provides novel ways that people might unexpectedly introduce bugs. Though before I go any further let me stop here to say I actually love Go, and appreciate what the whole Go team has done and built, it’s truly incredible technology.

How it started

setuid(1000)

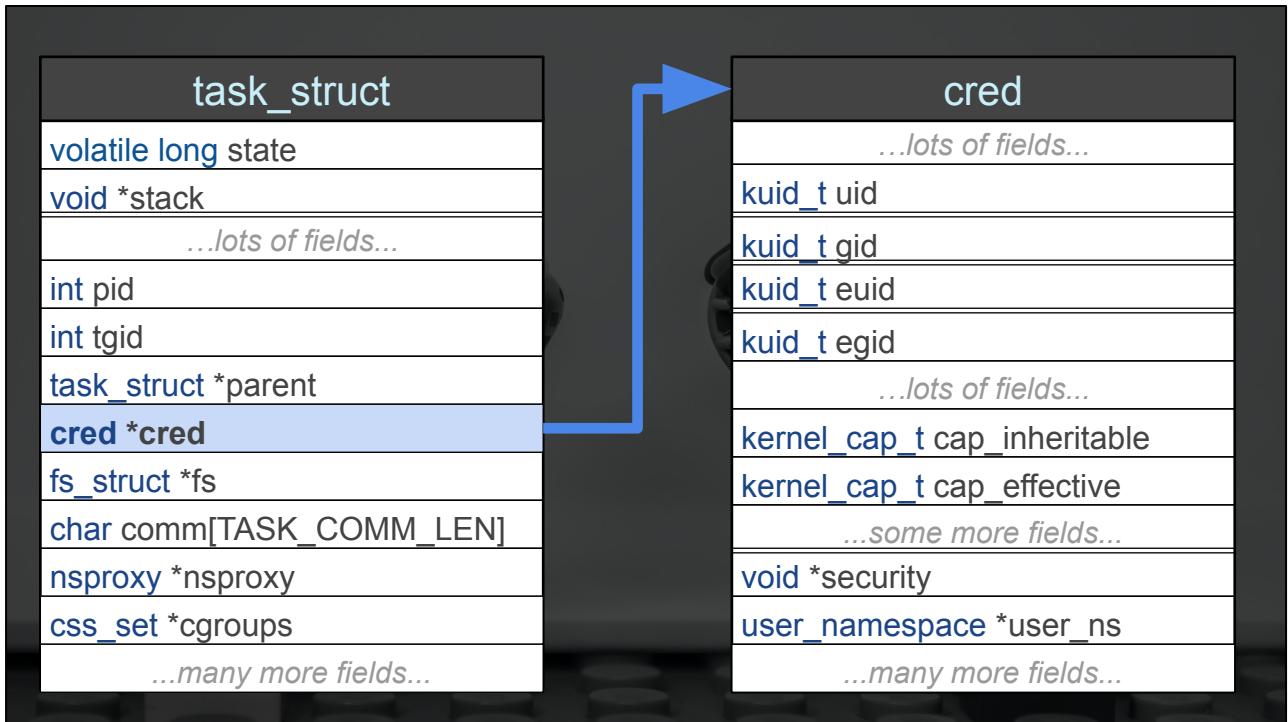
There are actually a couple more reasons I wanted to give this talk. Part of the inspiration began back in 2016 when I first experienced an oddity in looking at how one might drop privileges in go. Like say I wanted to drop privileges before accessing some files or doing other sensitive stuff on behalf of a user request.

How it started

```
setuid(1000)
```

```
sensitive_stuff()
```

Like say I wanted to drop privileges before accessing some files or doing other sensitive stuff on behalf of a user request.



Credentials are stored in a structure called `cred` in the kernel, where each task points to a `cred` struct

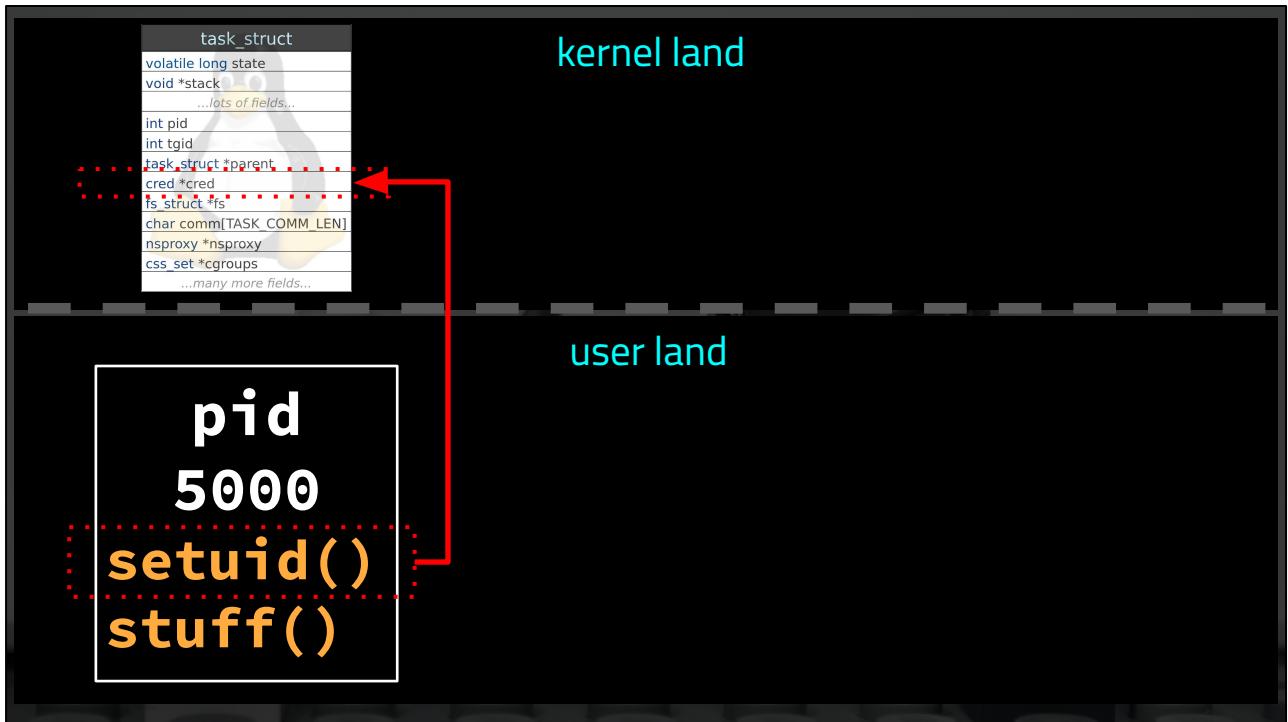
```
task_struct  
volatile long state  
void *stack  
...lots of fields...  
int pid  
int tgid  
task_struct *parent  
cred *cred  
fs_struct *fs  
char comm[TASK_COMM_LEN]  
nsproxy *nsproxy  
css_set *cgroups  
...many more fields...
```

kernel land

user land

```
pid  
5000  
setuid()  
stuff()
```

So you think



kernel land

```
task_struct  
volatile long state  
void *stack  
...lots of fields...  
int pid  
int tgid  
task_struct *parent  
cred *cred  
fs_struct *fs  
char comm[TASK_COMM_LEN]  
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nsproxy *nsproxy  
css_set *cgroups  
...many more fields...
```

user land

pid
5000

pid
5002

kernel land

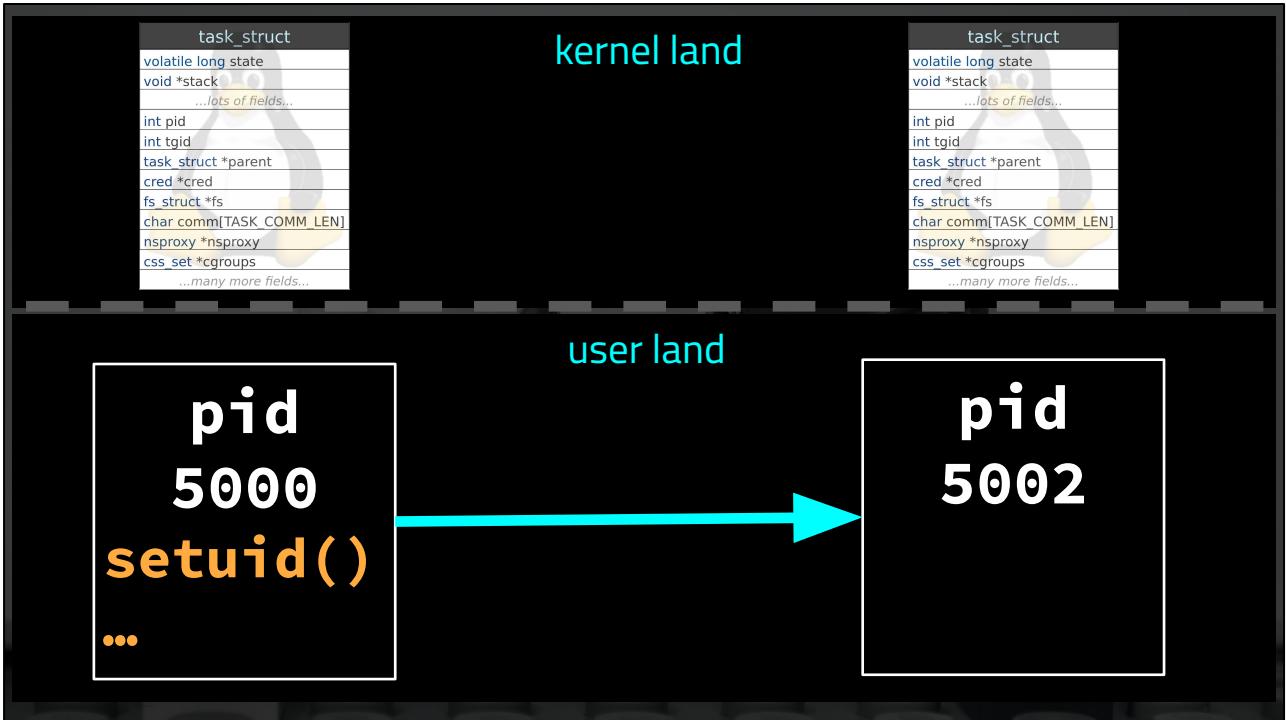
```
task_struct  
volatile long state  
void *stack  
...lots of fields...  
int pid  
int tgid  
task_struct *parent  
cred *cred  
fs_struct *fs  
char comm[TASK_COMM_LEN]  
nsproxy *nsproxy  
css_set *cgroups  
...many more fields...
```

```
task_struct  
volatile long state  
void *stack  
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nsproxy *nsproxy  
css_set *cgroups  
...many more fields...
```

user land

```
pid  
5000  
setuid()  
...  
...
```

```
pid  
5002
```



kernel land

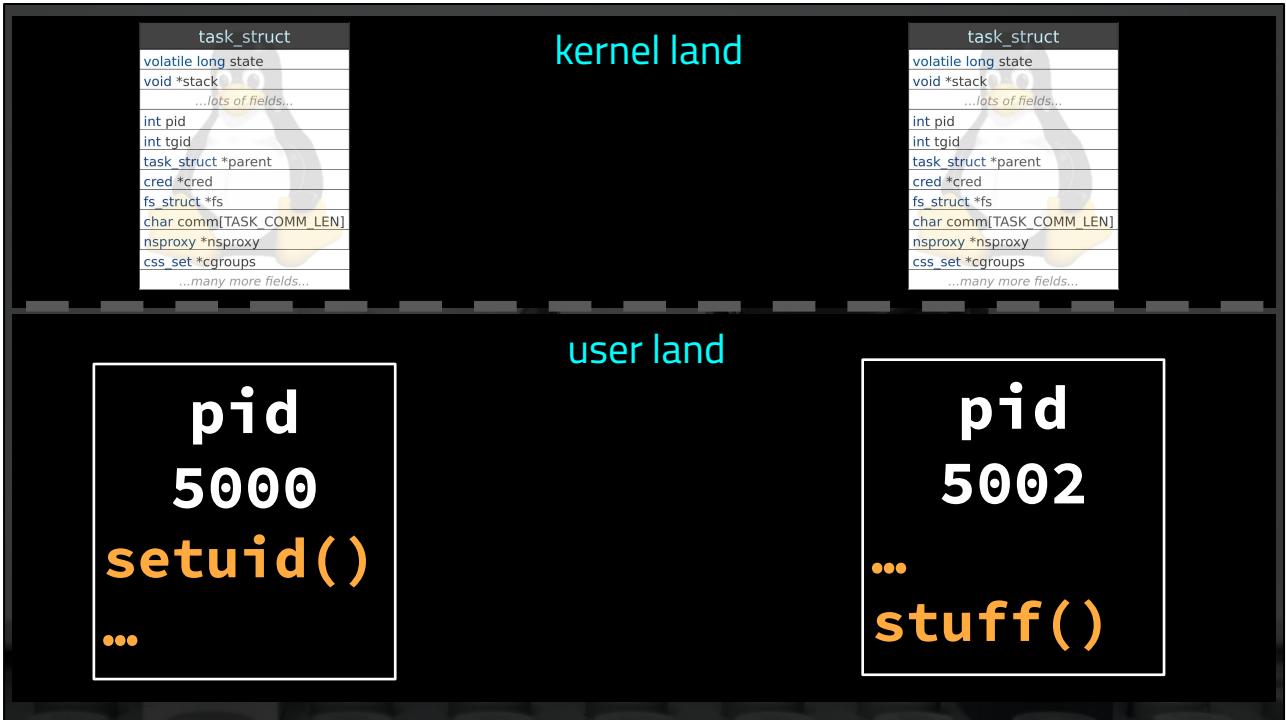
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...many more fields...
```

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task_struct  
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cred *cred  
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...many more fields...
```

user land

```
pid  
5000  
setuid()  
...  
...
```

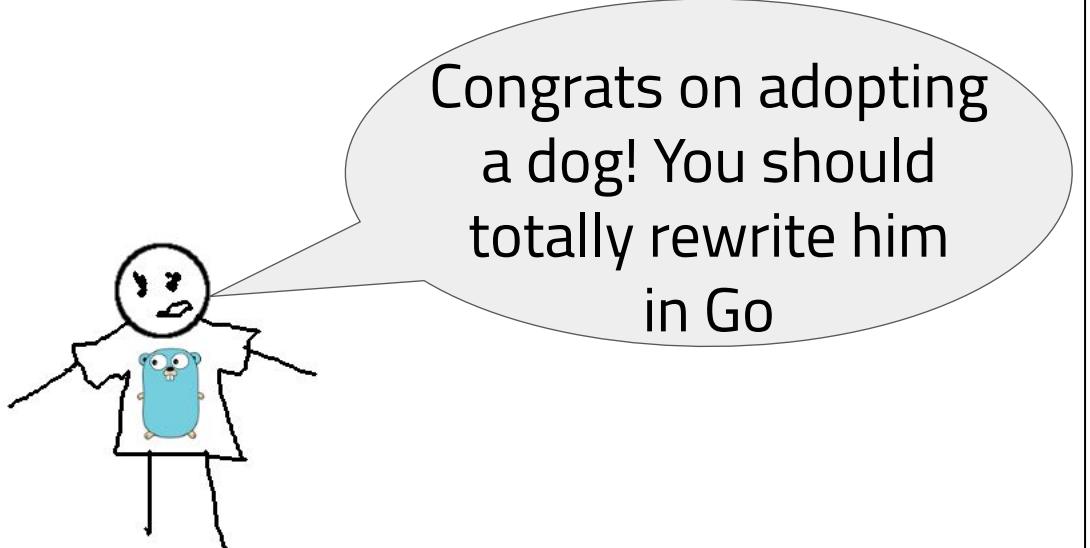
```
pid  
5002  
...  
stuff()
```



It's worth noting that this behavior in C programs is handled by libc suspending all threads in the process, and then calling setuid on their behalf. So it wasn't a lack of intuition that calling setuid in one task wouldn't change the privs in an adjacent task in the same thread group. The surprise for me was the scheduler: so like, if you did a raw syscall in C to set the UID, and bypassed the convenience libc gives you in applying it to all the other threads, you would still have confidence that the execution of your thread moving forward would be with the new UID, so any of the following code executed with that newly set user's privileges. The ability to be scheduled on to another thread without knowing it is what threw me for a loop



The last reason I wanted to do this talk was because language zealots are sooo annoying. How can you tell if someone writes in Go, or Rust for that matter?



You don't have to, they tell you, in literally every interaction you have.



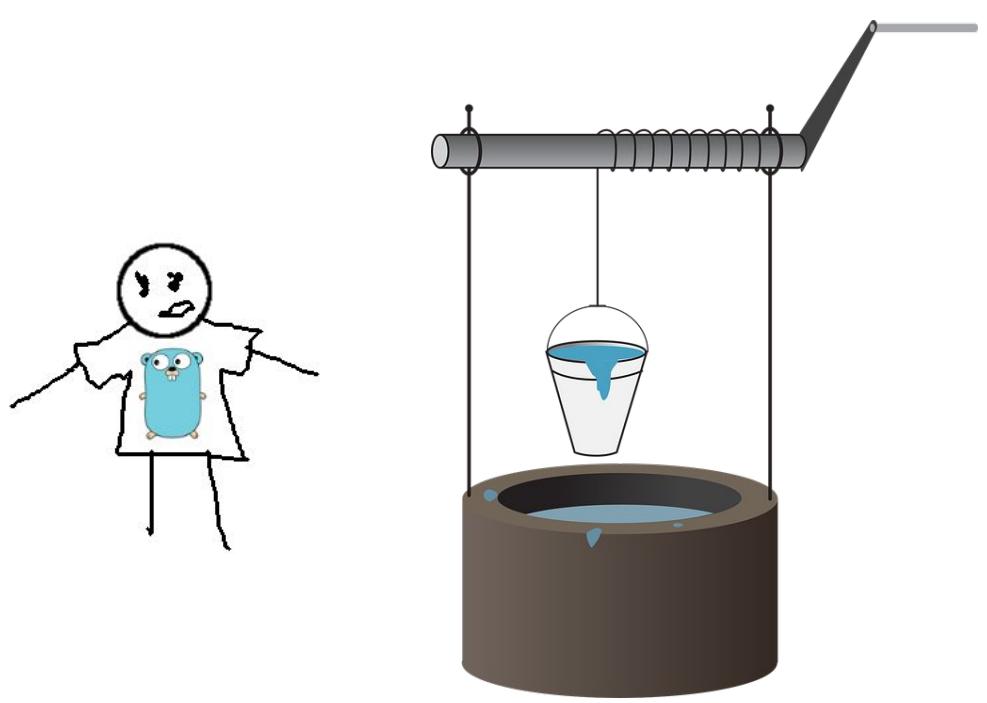
You know where this pretentious little shit gets his water supply?



Water Supply?

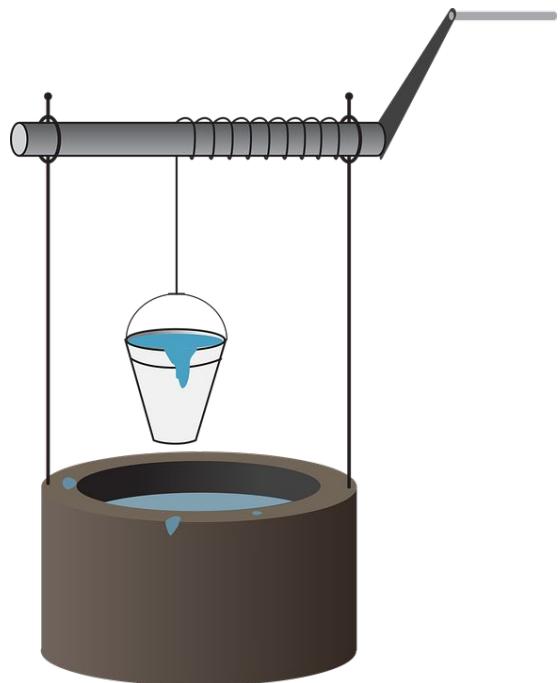






That's right

Well, Actually...



He gets his water from a Well, Actually. This cult of annoyance inspired me to give this talk. So being that Summercon is in summer time, and summer time is hot, we're going to use this talk on Go to shave this neckbeard down to a bro-tee, or maybe an elon muskashe



So here we go. In the style of Morty's Mindblowers, this isn't some freeform anthology, but instead just a handful of observations on Go, some of which are obvious, but maybe there are some ideas that you've never seen before-- Oooo spooky. It also has ideas and speculation of stuff I haven't had time to fully flesh out, hopefully people find it inspiring or insightful.



Section 1

Section one



Section 1

Go, ASLR, and the elephant in the room

Go, ASLR, and the elephant in the room

Go is type-safe..ish



Go is a type-safe-ish language, and so there is an assumption that ASLR is not only unnecessary, but that it introduces unnecessary complexity, and might frustrate debugging. Which is hilarious because Go already does a great job of being unnecessarily complex and incredibly frustrating to debug.

Go is type-safe..ish



`import "unsafe"`

The most obvious observation on the lack of ASLR is that using the unsafe library can introduce traditional memory safety bugs, because it allows the programmer to side step all the guarantees made by the language, and suddenly textbook overflows are available to the programmer. Plenty of CTF challenges showcase this, so I won't belabor it.

Go is type-safe..ish



import "cgo"

CGO is another well known issue, but it deserves to be mentioned. Incorporating C code into your Go code obviously has the potential to introduce classic memory safety issues, which has also been shown time and again in CTFs, blog posts, twitter rants, etc. so it requires no further elaboration.

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()



Moving away from the most obvious issues which make the lack of ASLR problematic, let's talk about race conditions. Race conditions really deserve their own section in this talk, and they have their own section, which we will get into later on. I'm.. I'm lying, they were totally going to have their own section but this talk was put together kinda last minute, so you this is what you get. Anyway in Go it's possible to have memory corruption result from race conditions, however the programming patterns required are usually rare and the bugs can be difficult to trigger. I think the canon work on this topic is a Russ Cox blog post from 2010 called "Off to the Races", showing how an interface is being accessed while simultaneously being assigned presents a race condition resulting in type confusion.

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()

iface = instanceA

When an interface is assigned, it is not as simple as setting a pointer. The interface is itself a structure, spanning multiple words in memory

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()

iface = instanceA

type

data

The structure involves two pointers, one for the type which implements the interface, and another for the data which backs that instance of that type. Being that these are two different pointers, they cannot be set atomically.

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()

iface = instanceA

type

data

During assignment, such as shown here, the pointers for the interface are set one at a time, across multiple instructions

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()

iface = instanceA

type

data

This presents a race condition between when the interface's type is assigned, and when the data backing that type is assigned.

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()

iface = instanceA

type

data

So say an interface variable was first assigned to one implementer, in this case Implementer A

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()

iface = instanceB

type

data

And that interface is then assigned to another implementer, such as an instance of implementer B

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()

iface = instanceB

type

data

Winning the race would present this inconsistent state, where the interface type and its backing data are disjoint.

Racy Type Confusion

Implementer A

Count *int

Implementer B

Calc func()

iface = instanceB

type

data

During which, if the example “Calc” function, for example, is called in the instance of implementer B, the pointer for that function will actually be based on the Count integer pointer in implementer A, yielding classic type confusion with control of execution flow, violating the type safety assumed by Go programmers. The time window to win this race can actually be bigger than I would have assumed.

Racy Type Confusion

```
mov [rcx], rdx
```

```
mov [rcx+8], rbx
```

Let's look at the machine code for this race condition. Here is an example of what we might assume is a representation of possible instructions for this assignment to the interface variable, showing the assignment to the interface spans multiple instructions. The pointer to the type being written to rcx, and the pointer to the data backing that type being written to offset 8 of rcx.

Racy Type Confusion

```
mov [rcx], rdx  
<RACY AF HERE>  
mov [rcx+8], rbx
```

The time between these instructions is where the race condition lives, and this is exacerbated by any other instructions in between. You might think “but if the assignment is already racy, why would there be instructions in between? Doesn’t Go want this interface assignment to be as close to atomic as possible?”

Racy Type Confusion

```
mov  QWORD PTR [rbx],rdx  
lea   rdi,[rbx+0x8]  
mov  QWORD PTR [rsp+0x8],rdi  
cmp  DWORD PTR [rip+0xef8c6],0x0  
jne  0x490360  
mov  QWORD PTR [rbx+0x8],rax
```

Here's the actual disassembly from a proof-of-concept program based on source from the github of a security researcher named StalkR, the code for which is meant to exercise this interface assignment race condition. The highlighted instructions at the top and bottom are from the assignment to the interface variable, in between which Go has inserted instructions related to the runtime's write barrier, and which are probably related to the garbage collector. These additional instructions greatly widen the time window for the racy variable assignment, and increase the chance of winning the race.

Racy Type Confusion

```
mov  QWORD PTR [rbx],rdx
lea   rdi,[rbx+0x8]
mov  QWORD PTR [rsp+0x8],rdi
cmp  DWORD PTR [rip+0xef8c6],0x0
jne  0x490360
mov  QWORD PTR [rbx+0x8],rax
```

Highlighted in red is a conditional branch, which I'm sure doesn't help the racy time window

Racy Type Confusion

```
mov  QWORD PTR [rbx],rdx  
lea   rdi,[rbx+0x8]  
mov  QWORD PTR [rsp+0x8],rdi  
cmp  DWORD PTR [rip+0xef8c6],0x0  
jne  0x490360  
mov  QWORD PTR [rbx+0x8],rax
```

There's probably room for additional research on if, or how often, the space between these two instructions can span a cache line, which has the potential to even further excite the opportunity-- perhaps someone can research this, I'll leave that up to the audience. Anyway the point is that while it may be a rare scenario to have an assignment to an interface race with an access in another Go routine, if such a scenario presents itself, there is a real chance that someone could win the race.

Racy Types

slice string map



It's also worth noting that this type of race is not limited to interfaces, and can also happen with array slices and strings, though strings are immutable so they only present potential for out-of-bounds reads, but that may still prove quite useful to an attacker. Array Slices however can result in either memory corruption, or a panic from a perceived out of bounds access, depending on if the race results in too big or too small of an array size racing with the simultaneous slice access. In practice, I suspect the scenario of an array slice being raced by two go routines is more likely than the interface example, but it's also probably a tougher situation to reliably exploit.

Map Race

map[type]type

On the previous slide I had map listed as a racy type. This is one I examined a little bit back in 2016, and then reproduced the race for it yesterday while putting these slides together. It's interesting to me because it appears that it can result in memory corruption, however extremely unlikely, and honestly it's not something I've confirmed so much as am guessing from the output from a handful of experiments

Map Race

```
func funcy(m map[uintptr]string) {  
    var i int  
    str := fmt.Sprintf("%p", m)  
    ptr, _:=strconv.ParseUint(str, 0, 0)  
    for i = 0; i < 10000; i++ {  
        m[uintptr(ptr)*uintptr(i)] = str  
    }  
}
```

Map Race

fatal error: concurrent map writes

Map Race

```
signal SIGSEGV:  
code=0x2  
addr=0x4c58f2  
pc=0x40fdfb
```

Map Race

```
signal SIGSEGV:  
code=0x2  
addr=0x4c58f2  
pc=0x40fdfb
```



Map Race

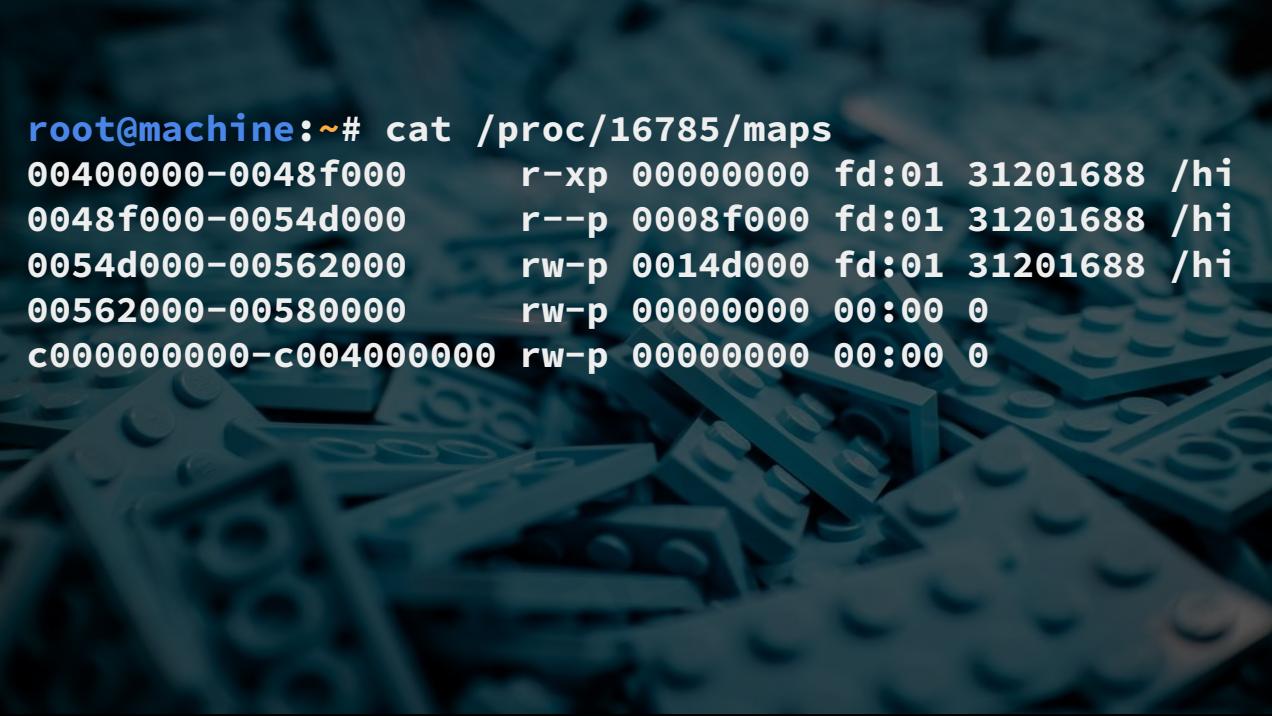
src/runtime/map_fast64.go:

```
if h.flags & hashWriting != 0 {  
    throw("concurrent map writes")  
}
```

Map Race

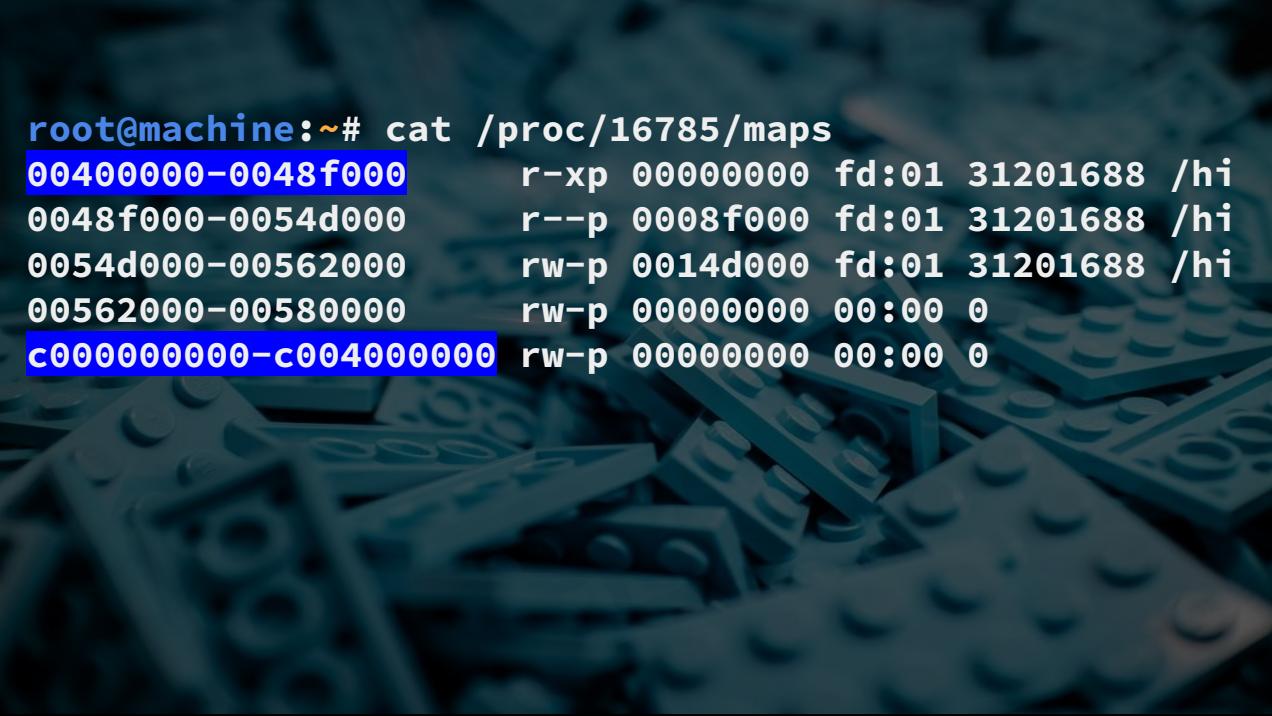
src/runtime/map_fast64.go:

h.flags ^= hashWriting



```
root@machine:~# cat /proc/16785/maps
00400000-0048f000      r-xp 00000000 fd:01 31201688 /hi
0048f000-0054d000      r--p 0008f000 fd:01 31201688 /hi
0054d000-00562000      rw-p 0014d000 fd:01 31201688 /hi
00562000-00580000      rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
c000000000-c004000000  rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
```

The important part is that in any of the scenarios of Unsafe, CGO, or a data race resulting in memory safety issues, the lack of ASLR doesn't just make the vulnerabilities more likely to be exploitable, it can make them astonishingly easy to exploit.



```
root@machine:~# cat /proc/16785/maps
00400000-0048f000      r-xp 00000000 fd:01 31201688 /hi
0048f000-0054d000      r--p 0008f000 fd:01 31201688 /hi
0054d000-00562000      rw-p 0014d000 fd:01 31201688 /hi
00562000-00580000      rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
c000000000-c004000000  rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
```

This is in part because Go doesn't just "not use ASLR", but actively uses fixed addresses for the base memory mappings. This is true for both the executable binary mapping, and the region Go uses for its heap.

```
root@machine:~# objdump -d ./hi|grep "sysc"|grep "0f 05"

454e09: 0f 05          syscall
454e25: 0f 05          syscall
...
455636: 0f 05          syscall
45565e: 0f 05          syscall
455687: 0f 05          syscall
480e7e: 0f 05          syscall
480ef8: 0f 05          syscall

root@machine:~# !! | wc -l
36
```

But another element is that the compiled Go code statically links in its runtime to the resulting binary, which thus produces a massive monolithic blob program, with an oasis of ROP gadgets, and useful toys like inlined syscall instructions, just waiting to be exercised by the newly graduated controller of execution flow. In this regard the language's philosophy of enabling programmers to "just Go" translates quite nicely to the experience of the exploit writer. Here is the output of grepping for syscall instructions in what is just a tiny bit more than a "hello world" program, and we can see 36 unique syscall instruction locations identified.

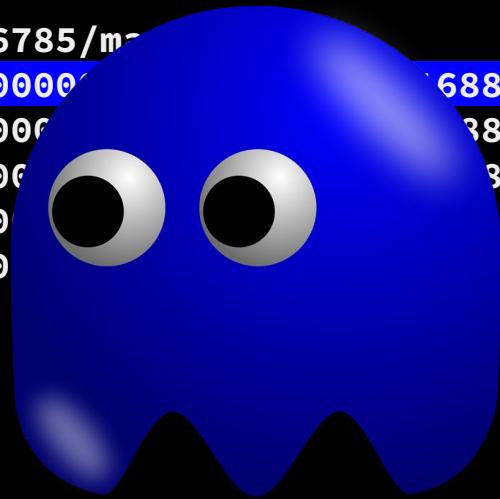
```
package main
import (
    "fmt"
    "bufio"
    "os"
)
func main() {
    scanner := bufio.NewScanner(os.Stdin)
    for scanner.Scan() {
        fmt.Println(scanner.Text())
    }
}
```

Just to be clear, here is the source code for that example program we just disassembled and piped through grep on the previous slide. This program is a read-and-echo loop, nothing more. Which, when compiled using “Go build”, resulted in a 2 megabyte binary, with 500k of executable code mapped during actual execution time, including 36 unique syscall instructions among other juicy gadgets and primitives, all mapped at fixed addresses. Grepping the same disassembly for legitimate return instructions yields over 2400 results, and again that’s just the “legit” return instructions, that doesn’t even count “real” ROP ret gadgets occurring on misaligned instructions in the way to which x86 lends itself.

Spooky

```
root@machine:~# cat /proc/16785/mem
```

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----|
| 00400000-0048f000 | r-xp 00000000 0 688 | /hi |
| 0048f000-0054d000 | r--p 00000000 0 38 | /hi |
| 0054d000-00562000 | rwp 00000000 0 3 | /hi |
| 00562000-00580000 | rwp 00000000 0 0 | |
| c000000000-c004000000 | rw-p 00000000 0 0 | |



The final thing I want to cover in this section on Go, ASLR, and the elephant in the room, is really just a hypothesis, or a theoretical attack based on the operation of its constituent components. I haven't tested any of this next bit, or even googled enough to see what others maybe have done, because I wrote most of this talk during my subway ride in today, but my hypothesis is that the lack of ASLR creates potential for Go programs to be more susceptible to microarchitectural side channel attacks. Specifically any sort of cross-process branch-target-prediction side-channel attack, like Spectre variant two.



Spooky containers?

OPDU 205271 4
22G1

MAX. GROSS 30,480 KG
TARE 67,200 LB
2,200 KG
4,850 LB

COR-TEN STEEL
CONTAINER

Spooky

Compromised Container



Target Container





Spooky

FIXME resume here

Remember to mention since Go 1.15 that there is a spectre flag, but incurs a performance cost and is mostly to avoid the out-of-bounds speculative execution by forcing speculative index of 0

The fixed addresses of code and heap, and use of indirect branches mean there's possibly room

Something something spectre gadgets

Section 2

Section one



Section 2

Section one

Import “unsafe”

The `unsafe` package bypasses Go's type safety

Provides a `Pointer` type to access types directly
and helper functions

```
u := uintptr(p); p = unsafe.Pointer(u + offset)
```

While

It's in your deps

2020 study found 24% of 3000 popular GitHub repos used unsafe

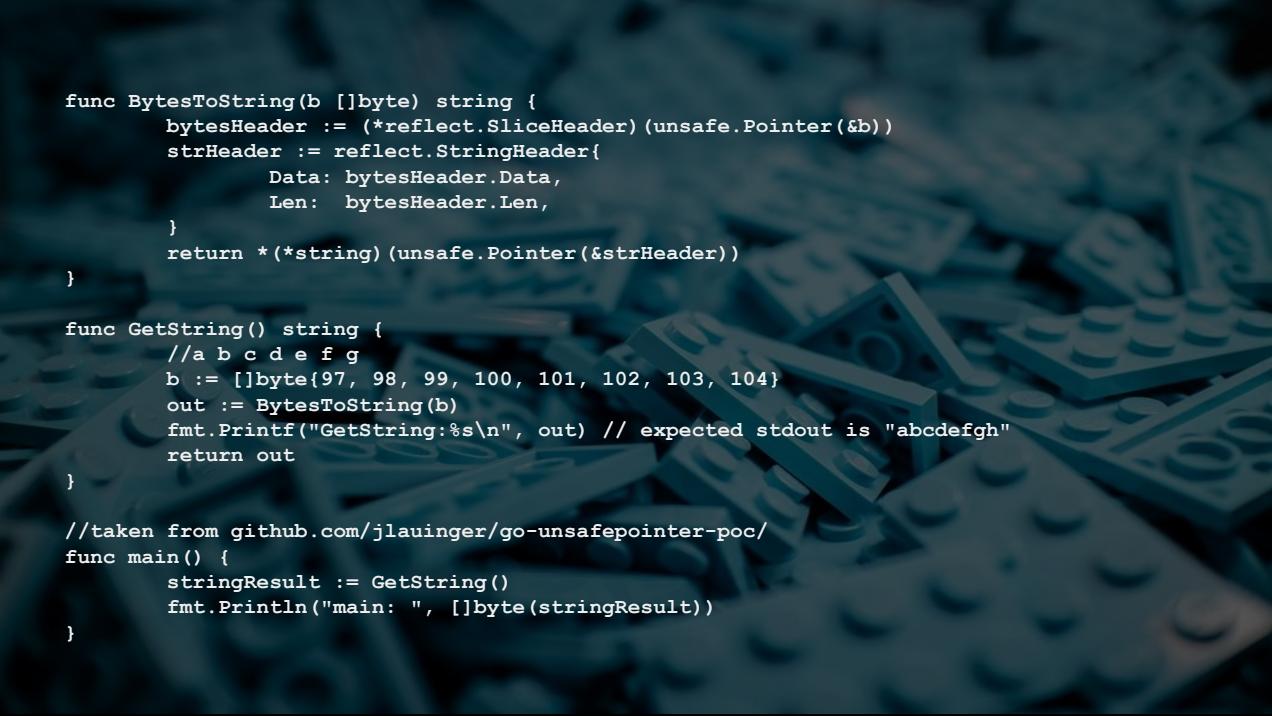
- 6% using them in obviously dangerous ways
- Life cycle analysis showed it's long lived too

Breaking Type Safety in Go: An Empirical Study on the Usage of the `unsafe` Package

Diego Elias Costa, Suhaib Mujahid, Rabe Abdalkareem, and Emad Shihab *Senior Member, IEEE*

While Brandon may not want to talk about unsafe, I do. Mostly because it has a nasty way of sneaking up on you. Want to get a super-performant package to do something, probably touches unsafe. Want to interface with the operating system or other third party thing, probably unsafe is in there. Want to see how a lot of people are clever with hash keys it's there again.

So while you're not using unsafe, you might be accidentally using it through your dependencies. The study from 2020 checked 3000 popular GitHub repos and found that almost a quarter of them were using unsafe and did across a lot of commits. What's worse is that 6% of them were using it in an obviously dangerous way (e.g. updating a pointer past its bounds).



```
func BytesToString(b []byte) string {
    bytesHeader := (*reflect.SliceHeader)(unsafe.Pointer(&b))
    strHeader := reflect.StringHeader{
        Data: bytesHeader.Data,
        Len:  bytesHeader.Len,
    }
    return *(*string)(unsafe.Pointer(&strHeader))
}

func GetString() string {
    //a b c d e f g
    b := []byte{97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104}
    out := BytesToString(b)
    fmt.Printf("GetString:%s\n", out) // expected stdout is "abcdefg"
    return out
}

//taken from github.com/jlauinger/go-unsafepointer-poc/
func main() {
    stringResult := GetString()
    fmt.Println("main: ", []byte(stringResult))
}
```

Note: check how many people are familiar with escape analysis

Unsafe is often used in packages to create hashes or interface with legacy C / operating system code. Often this can lead to issues such as stale pointers, incorrect casts and possible code execution. One of the more interesting examples from Johannes Lauinger's repo shows when unsafe / reflect is used to break goes escape analysis.

Unfortunately this pattern shows up in a few places, if you search GitHub.

```
(venv) peterm@summercon:~/plugin$ go build -gcflags '-m -N -l' -o escape ./escape.go
# command-line-arguments
./escape.go:10:20: b does not escape
./escape.go:22:13: []byte{...} does not escape
./escape.go:24:12: ... argument does not escape
./escape.go:24:13: out escapes to heap
./escape.go:31:13: ... argument does not escape
./escape.go:31:14: "main: " escapes to heap
./escape.go:31:14: stringResult escapes to heap
(venv) peterm@summercon:~/plugin$
```

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}

func GetString() string {
    //a b c d e f g
    b := []byte{97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104}
    out := BytesToString(b) ←
    fmt.Printf("GetString:%s\n", out) // expected stdout is "abcdefg"
    return out
}

//taken from github.com/jlauinger/go-unsafepointer-poc/
func main() {
    stringResult := GetString()
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}
```

Escape analysis loses that
out and b are the same
here due to unsafe. Go
allocates b on the stack

Note: check how many people are familiar with escape analysis

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    return out
}

//taken from github.com/jlauinger/go-unsafepointer-poc/
func main() {
    stringResult := GetString()
    fmt.Println("main: ", []byte(stringResult))
}
```

Here we manually
“construct” a string using
reflect and unsafe

Note: check how many people are familiar with escape analysis

Unsafe is often used in packages to create hashes or interface with legacy C / operating system code. Often this can lead to issues such as stale pointers, incorrect casts and possible code execution. One of the more interesting examples from Johannes Lauinger's repo shows when unsafe / reflect is used to break goes escape analysis.

Unfortunately this pattern shows up in a few places, if you search GitHub.

```
func BytesToString(b []byte) string {
    bytesHeader := (*reflect.SliceHeader)(unsafe.Pointer(&b))
    strHeader := reflect.StringHeader{
        Data: bytesHeader.Data,
        Len:  bytesHeader.Len,
    }
    return *(*string)(unsafe.Pointer(&strHeader))
}

func GetString() string {
    //a b c d e f g
    b := []byte{97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104}
    out := BytesToString(b)
    fmt.Printf("GetString:%s\n", out) // expected stdout is "abcdefg"
    return out
}

//taken from github.com/jlauinger/go-unsafepointer-poc/
func main() {
    stringResult := GetString()
    fmt.Println("main: ", []byte(stringResult))
}
```

Returns a string with a stale
Data pointer pointing to the
stack

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func BytesToString(b []byte) string {
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        Data: bytesHeader.Data,
        Len:  bytesHeader.Len,
    }
    return *(*string)(unsafe.Pointer(&strHeader))
}

func GetString() string {
    //a b c d e f g
    b := []byte{97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104}
    out := BytesToString(b)
    fmt.Printf("GetString:%s\n", out) // expected stdout is "abcdefg"
    return out
}

//taken from github.com/jlauinger/go-unsafepointer-poc/
func main() {
    stringResult := GetString() ←
    fmt.Println("main: ", []byte(stringResult))
}
```

stringResult now
contains the stale pointer to
the stack

At this point our string's Data pointer is now pointing to left out stake space from GetString's stack frame and we have a .

Call me

```
0x000000000000497780 <+0>:    mov    rcx,QWORD PTR fs:0xfffffffffffffff8
0x000000000000497789 <+9>:   cmp    rsp,QWORD PTR [rcx+0x10]
0x00000000000049778d <+13>:  jbe    0x4977d0 <main.CallDoAdd+80>
0x00000000000049778f <+15>:  sub    rsp,0x28
0x000000000000497793 <+19>:  mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+0x20],rbp
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0x0000000000004977ae <+46>:  mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+0x10],0x3
0x0000000000004977b7 <+55>:  call   0x497760 <main.DoAdd>
0x0000000000004977bc <+60>:  mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rsp+0x18]
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0x0000000000004977c6 <+70>:  mov    rbp,QWORD PTR [rsp+0x20]
0x0000000000004977cb <+75>:  add    rsp,0x28
0x0000000000004977cf <+79>:  ret
0x0000000000004977d0 <+80>:  call   0x4626c0 <runtime.morestack_noctxt>
0x0000000000004977d5 <+85>:  jmp    0x497780 <main.CallDoAdd>
```

Pre go1.17 go's calling convention is based on plan9's all stack based calling convention. As we talked about earlier preamble checks to see if there's enough stack space for the goroutine. Then it allocates space for the return address and after that it allocates space for the arguments all of this happens in the caller's stack frame. All registers are considered scratch space.

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```

Allocate space for 3
argos, ret addr and
saved Frame pointer

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0x00000000000497793 <+19>:  mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+0x20],rbp ← Save frame pointer
0x00000000000497798 <+24>:  lea    rbp,[rsp+0x20] to guarantee unwinding
0x0000000000049779d <+29>:  mov    QWORD PTR [rsp],0x1 from rsp+0x20 always
0x000000000004977a5 <+37>:  mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+0x8],0x2 works
0x000000000004977ae <+46>:  mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+0x10],0x3
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```

Copy args to
the stack

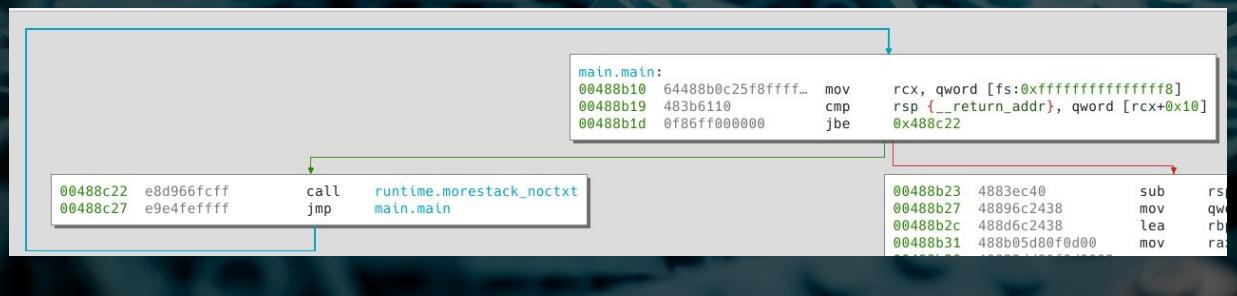
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0x000000000004977ae <+46>:  mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+0x10],0x3      Copy ret value from
0x000000000004977b7 <+55>:  call   0x497760 <main.DoAdd>   stack to rax
0x000000000004977bc <+60>:  mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rsp+0x18]
0x000000000004977c1 <+65>:  mov    QWORD PTR [rsp+0x30],rax
0x000000000004977c6 <+70>:  mov    rbp,QWORD PTR [rsp+0x20]
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Move Your Stack for Great Justice

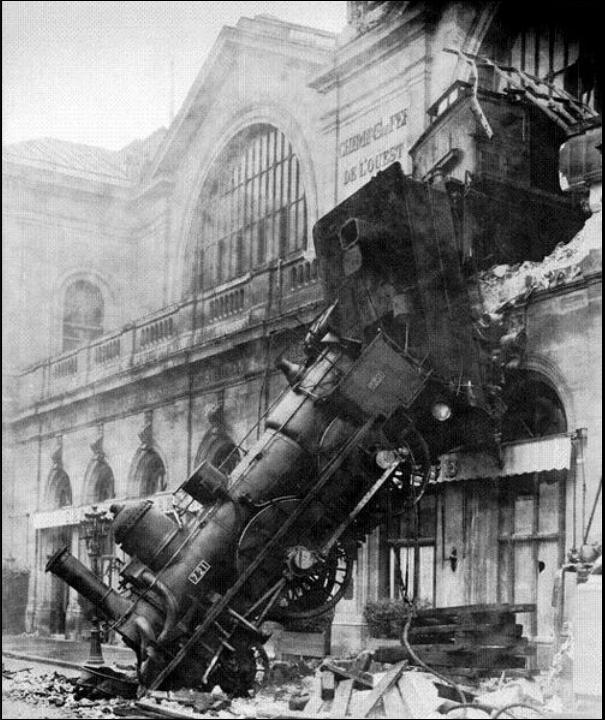


From <https://blog.osiris.cyber.nyu.edu/2019/12/19/go-deepdive/>

So one thing that's new for a lot of folks is that goroutine's stack frames move. If you look at the preamble to the calling convention it always checks if the goroutine needs more stack space and if so it moves the goroutines stack. Similarly when you trigger garbage collection, the stack size shrinks. In theory with these mechanisms, it could be possible to see if you could abuse this stale pointer relationship to point across goroutine stacks.

Section 3

- Lots of work in this space:
 - Reversing GO binaries like a pro by Tim Strazzere
 - Reversing Golang by George Zaytsev
 - NYUPoly OSirus
 - Lots of tools:
 - Redress / GORE
 - Lots of golang idapython scripts



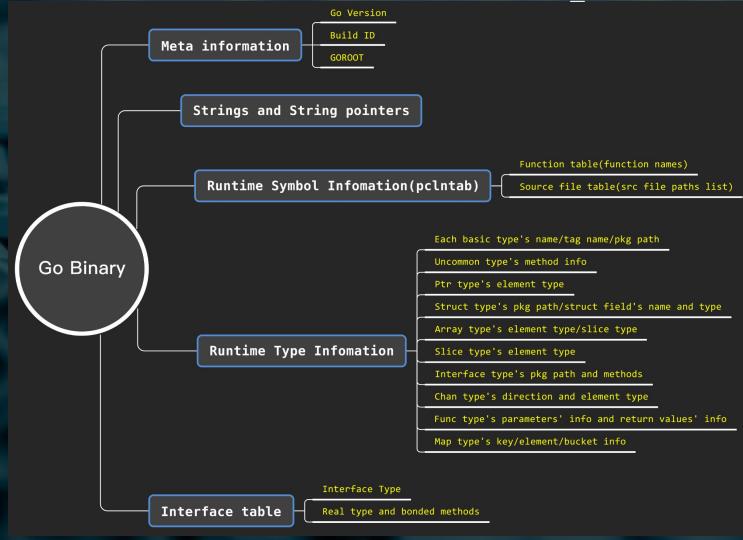
Section 3

Reversing go

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Sources of Type Info

From https://github.com/0xjiayu/go_parser



A typical go binary has multiple sources of type information compiled in:

- Symbol table (even internal variables)
- Dwarf debugging (by default)
- Go specific
 - PClnTab and Moduledata
 - Functions tables
 - Interface tables

Moduledata

```
385 // moduledata records information about the layout of the executable
386 // image. It is written by the linker. Any changes here must be
387 // matched changes to the code in cmd/internal/ld/symtab.go:symtab.
388 // moduledata is stored in statically allocated non-pointer memory;
389 // none of the pointers here are visible to the garbage collector.
390 type moduledata struct {
391     pcHeader    *pcheader
392     funcnametab []byte
393     cutab       []uint32
394     filetab     []byte
395     pctab       []byte
396     pcintable   []byte
397     ftab        []functab
398     findfunctab uintptr
399     minpc, maxpc uintptr
400
401     text, etext      uintptr
402     noptrdata, enoptrdata uintptr
403     data, edata      uintptr
404     bss, ebss        uintptr
405     noptrbss, enoptrbss uintptr
406     end, gcdatas, gcbs  uintptr
407     types, etypes    uintptr
408
409     textsectmap []textsect
410     typelinks   []int32 // offsets from types
411     itablinks   []*itab
412
413     ptab []ptabEntry
414
415     pluginpath string
416     pkghashes  []modulehash
417
418     modulename  string
419     modulehashes []modulehash
420
421     hasmain uint8 // 1 if module contains the main function, 0 otherwise
422
423     gcdatamask, gcbsmask bitvector
424
425     typemap map[typeOff]*_type // offset to *_rtype in previous module
426
427     bad bool // module failed to load and should be ignored
428
429     next *moduledata
430 }
```

Go specific section added by the golinker. It's used to describe the layout of the image. Has lots of important information. Function name table. Interface table. Bound for the text section. Type information and more. A lot of reversing go binaries boils down to this.

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393     cutab       []uint32
394     filetab     []byte
395     pctab       []byte
396     pclntable   []byte
397     ftab        []functab
398     findfunctab uintptr
399     minpc, maxpc uintptr
400
401     text, etext      uintptr
402     noptrdata, enoptrdata uintptr
403     data, edata      uintptr
404     bss, ebss        uintptr
405     noptrbss, enoptrbss uintptr
406     end, gcdata, gcbs  uintptr
407     types, etypes    uintptr
408
409     textsectmap []textsect
410     typelinks   []int32 // offsets from types
411     itablinks   []*itab
412 }
```

```
370 // pcHeader holds data used by the pclntab lookups.
371 type pcHeader struct {
372     magic          uint32 // 0xFFFFFFFF
373     pad1, pad2     uint8 // 0,0
374     minIC         uint8 // min instruction size
375     ptrSize        uint8 // size of a ptr in bytes
376     nfunc          int   // number of functions in the module
377     nfiles         uint  // number of entries in the file tab,
378     funcnameOffset uintptr // offset to the funcnametab variable from pcHeader
379     cuOffset        uintptr // offset to the cutab variable from pcHeader
380     filetabOffset  uintptr // offset to the filetab variable from pcHeader
381     pctabOffset    uintptr // offset to the pctab variable from pcHeader
382     pclnOffset    uintptr // offset to the pclntab variable from pcHeader
383 }
384 }
```

The moduledata struct can be pretty easy to find in memory because of the magic number and pcHeader, additionally you can check by simply.

Moduledata

runtime.firstmoduledata points to the first module data

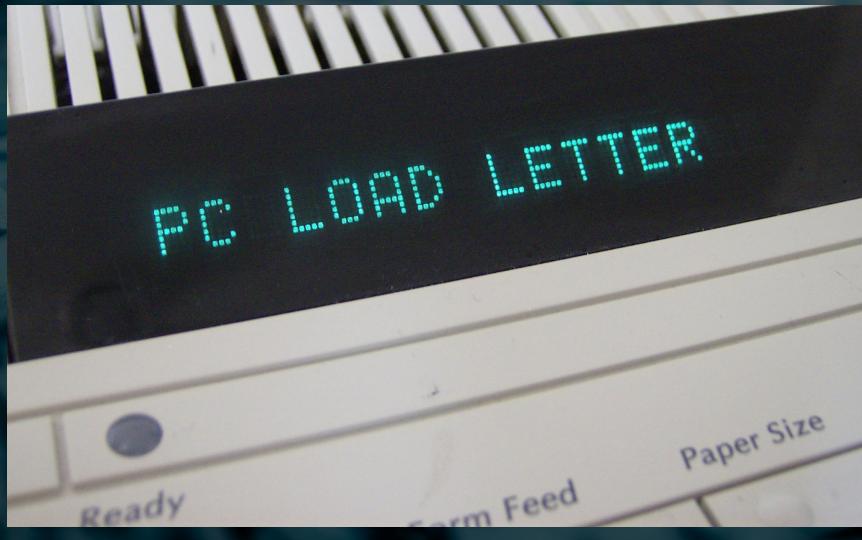
```
413     ptab []ptabEntry
414
415     pluginpath string
416     pkghashes []modulehash
417
418     modulename string
419     modulehashes []modulehash
420
421     hasmain uint8 // 1 if module contains the main function, 0 otherwise
422
423     gcodatamask, gcbssmask bitvector
424
425     typeemap map[typeOff]*_type // offset to *_rtype in previous module
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427     bad bool // module failed to load and should be ignored
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PCLntab (pre-1.16)

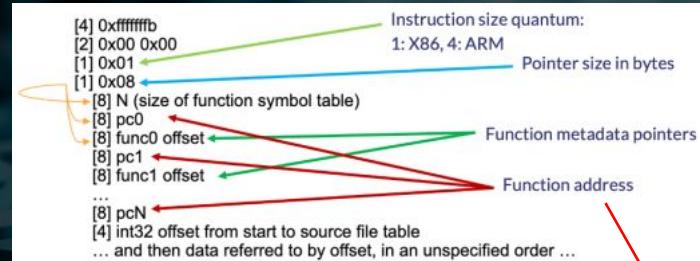
Types, types everywhere.

PCLntab (pre-1.16)



Types, types everywhere.

PCLntab (pre-1.16)



```
struct Func
{
    uintptr entry; // start pc
    int32 name; // name (offset to C string)
    int32 args; // size of arguments passed to function
    int32 frame; // size of function frame, including saved caller PC
    int32 pcsp; // pcsp table (offset to pcvalue table)
    int32 pcfle; // pcfle table (offset to pcvalue table)
    int32 pcln; // pcln table (offset to pcvalue table)
    int32 nfuncdata; // number of entries in funcdata list
    int32 npcdata; // number of entries in pcdata list
};
```

From
<https://movaxbx.ru/2020/10/11/reversing-go-binaries-with-ghidra>

The Line table PC to line table, is how Go is able to provide meaningful stacktraces. It contains all the information you need to both symbolize the stack and also tell you exactly which line you were on. This of course is a treasure trove of type information and if you look at most of the IDA python plugins for handling Go they all use this.

Stdlib / runtime

(src/reflect/type.go) has all the types and kinds

```
// A Kind represents the specific kind of type that a Type represents.  
// The zero Kind is not a valid kind.  
type Kind uint  
  
const (  
    Invalid Kind = iota  
    Bool  
    Int  
    Int8  
    Int16  
    Int32  
    Int64  
    UInt  
    Uint8  
    Uint16
```

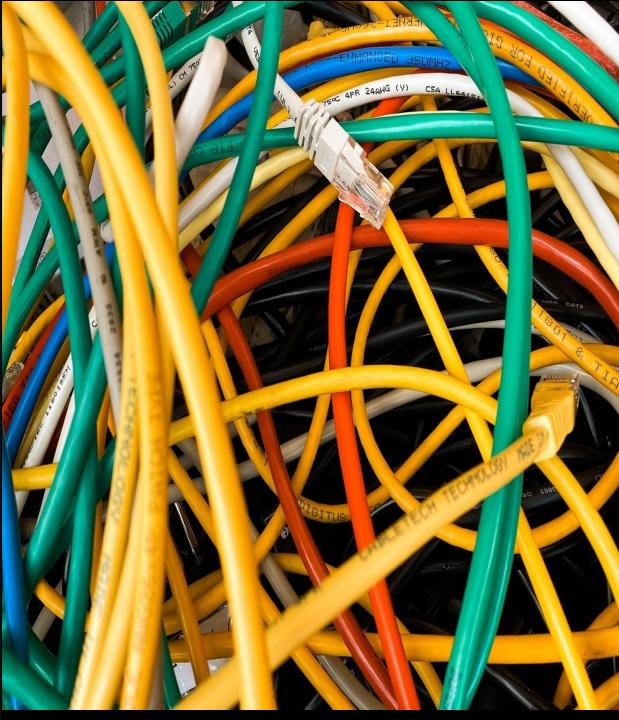
- many standard packages are also filed with things to help you find type information
 - Reflect has type information enums
 - runtime.schedinit has version string
 - Used by Gore / redress
 - runtime.Firstmoduledata
 - Go linker struct that contains linked Moduledata structures

Stdlib / runtime

`runtime.schedinit` has the version string

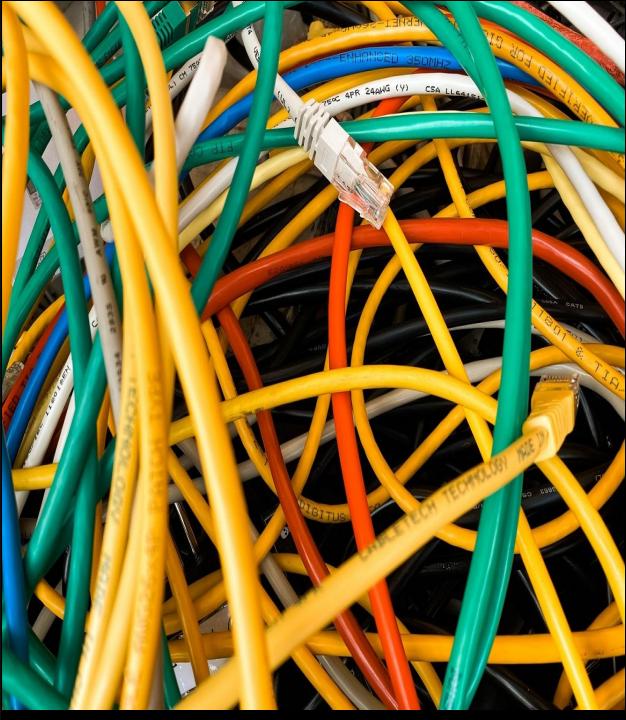
```
735
736     if buildVersion == "" {
737         // Condition should never trigger. This code just serves
738         // to ensure runtime·buildVersion is kept in the resulting binary.
739         buildVersion = "unknown"
740     }
```

- many standard packages are also filed with things to help you find type information
 - Reflect has type information enums
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Section 4

Section one



Section 4

Go's other
Execution
modes

Section one

Shared Libs

Since 1.5 you can make shared libs

Lets you add multi-threading functionality to
single threaded programs.

Types, types everywhere.

Plugins

Shares a runtime with the binary

Must match the ABI and runtime exactly
(`pkghashes`)

Allows for dynamic extension of go binaries

Under the hood `dlopen`, `dlsym` plus `moduledata`
linkage (forces `cgo`)

Never meant to be unloaded

Types, types everywhere.

```
package main

import "fmt"

var V int

func Hello() { fmt.Printf("Hello, number %d\n", V)
}
```

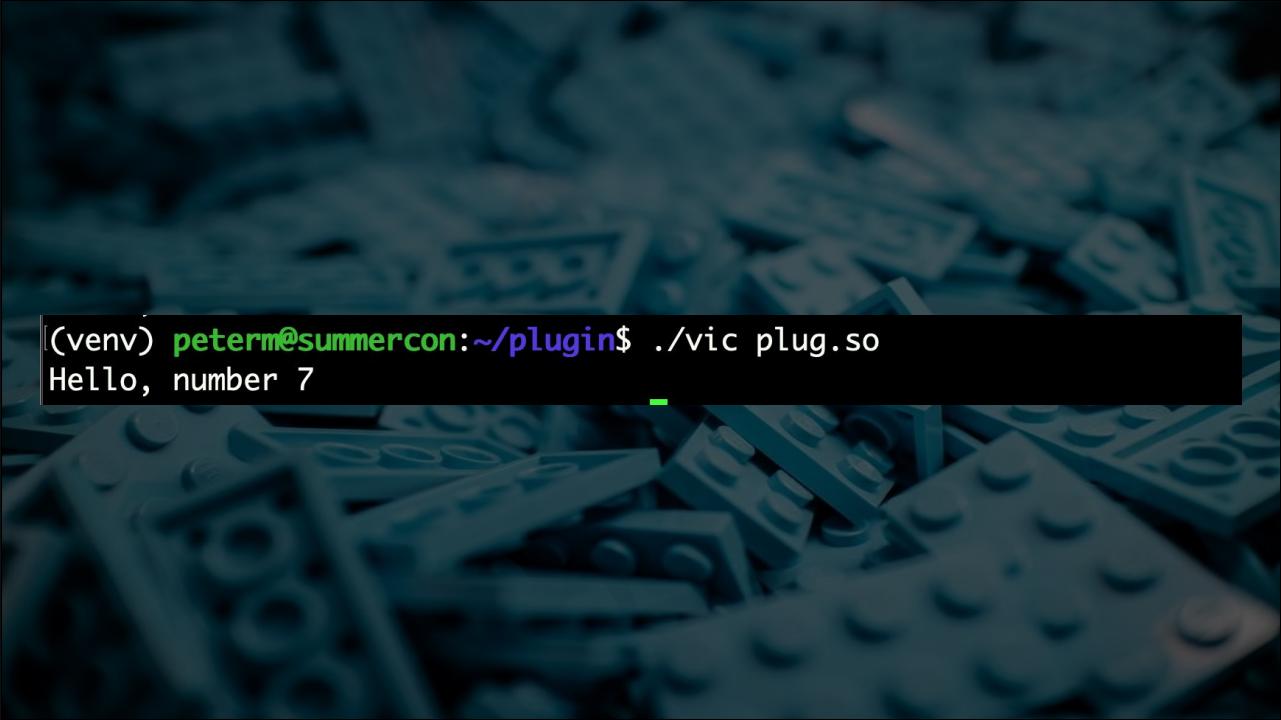
Go's had a plugin system since 1.8, they can be difficult to use however they bring all the fun of dynamic libraries to a language that's known for static only builds.

```
func main() {
    //snipped.
    p, err := plugin.Open(path)

    if err != nil {
        log.Fatal(err)
    }

    v, _ := p.Lookup("V")
    *v.(*int) = 7
    f, err := p.Lookup("Hello")
    f.(func())() // prints "Hello, number 7"
}
```

Go's had a plugin system since 1.8, they can be difficult to use however they bring all the fun of dynamic libraries to a language that's known for static only builds. This brings back all the func of loadLibrary. Obviously if you can control the path you can cause something to get loaded. If an incomplete path is loaded then the library path will be checked. But what can we load.



```
(venv) peterm@summercon:~/plugin$ ./vic plug.so
Hello, number 7
```

.so's with a constructors load before any validation so your library will load and you'll have execution .but then the system will panic..

1. Binary calls `plugin.Open("plug.so")`
2. `plugin.Open` calls `C.pluginOpen` (`dlopen` wrapper)
3. Loader executes `_go.link.addmoduledatainit` links in `plugin moduledata` into `runtime.firstmoduledata`
4. Calls `plugin.lastmoduleinit` checks that `moduledata` is well-formed and that `pkghashes` match binary
5. Updates go's internal Plugin structure map of sym names to address via `dlsym`
6. Looks up plugins' `..inittask` symbol and passes it to `runtime.doInit` calling initializer and returns the plugin object

It's just `dlopen` and `dlsym` under the hood, followed by checks to ensure binary compatibility. Plugins expose their which version of go and packages they were built with in the `moduledata` structure which is linked in as a `.init_array` function.

.so's sorta work

```
(venv) peterm@summercon:~/plugin$ ./vic bad_plug.so
HELLO FROM THE BAD PLUGIN
fatal error: runtime: no plugin module data

goroutine 1 [running]:
runtime.throw(0x579074, 0x1e)
    /usr/local/go/src/runtime/panic.go:1117 +0x72 fp=0xc0000ada80 sp=0xc0000ada50 pc=0x494f52
plugin.lastmoduleinit(0xc000094150, 0x1001, 0x1001, 0xc0000b8018, 0x999880)
    /usr/local/go/src/runtime/plugin.go:20 +0xb50 fp=0xc0000adb78 sp=0xc0000ada80 pc=0x4c4590
plugin.open(0x7ffd4543f67d, 0x8, 0x1, 0x1, 0x0)
    /usr/local/go/src/plugin/plugin_dlopen.go:77 +0x4ef fp=0xc0000addf0 sp=0xc0000adb78 pc=0x54212f
plugin.Open(...)
    /usr/local/go/src/plugin/plugin.go:32
main.main()
    /home/peterm/plugin/victim.go:15 +0xb9 fp=0xc0000adf88 sp=0xc0000addf0 pc=0x542f59
runtime.main()
    /usr/local/go/src/runtime/proc.go:225 +0x256 fp=0xc0000adfe0 sp=0xc0000adf88 pc=0x4979d6
runtime.goexit()
    /usr/local/go/src/runtime/asm_amd64.s:1371 +0x1 fp=0xc0000adfe8 sp=0xc0000adfe0 pc=0x4c8681
(venv) peterm@summercon:~/plugin$
```

.so's with a constructors load before any validation so your library will load and you'll have execution .but then the system will panic..

Options

Just add a .so dependency to the lib

Infect code caves

Forge your own moduledata structs, symbols and link it in yourself.

It's just dlopen and dlsym under the hood, followed by checks to ensure binary compatibility. Plugins expose their which version of go and packages they were built with in the moduledata structure which is linked in as a .init_array function.

Code caves

- Go .text sections have lots of caves of 0xcc 0xcc (~12k for hello world on go1.16)
 - Modify ..inittask symbol to redirect execution (you can do this by simply modifying the relocation and then bouncing to the correct).

```
6435 // An initTask represents the set of initializations that need to be done for a package.  
6436 // Keep in sync with ../../test/initempty.go:initTask  
6437 type initTask struct {  
6438     // TODO: pack the first 3 fields more tightly?  
6439     state uintptr // 0 = uninitialized, 1 = in progress, 2 = done  
6440     ndeps uintptr  
6441     nfps uintptr  
6442     // followed by ndeps instances of an *initTask, one per package depended on  
6443     // followed by nfps pcs, one per init function to run  
6444 }
```

```
6488         firstFunc := add(unsafe.Pointer(t), (3+t.ndeps)*sys.PtrSize)  
6489         for i := uintptr(0); i < t.nfps; i++ {  
6490             p := add(firstFunc, i*sys.PtrSize)  
6491             f := (*func())(unsafe.Pointer(&p))  
6492             f()  
6493     }
```

It's just dlopen and dlsym under the hood, followed by checks to ensure binary compatibility. Plugins expose their which which version of go and packages they were built with in the moduledata structure which is linked in as a .init_array function.

```
6435 // An initTask represents the set of initializations that need to be done for a package.  
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```

Function pointer array for initialization functions

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Questions?

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