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Last Words on Buffer Overflows...
ASLR: Address Space Randomization

• Randomly arrange address space of key data areas for a process
  – Base of executable region
  – Position of stack
  – Position of heap
  – Position of libraries

• Introduced by Linux PaX project in 2001
• Adopted by OpenBSD in 2003
• Adopted by Linux in 2005
ASLR: Address Space Randomization

• Deployment (examples)
  – Linux kernel since 2.6.12 (2005+)
  – Android 4.0+
  – iOS 4.3+ ; OS X 10.5+
  – Microsoft since Windows Vista (2007)

• Attacker goal: Guess or figure out target address (or addresses)

• ASLR more effective on 64-bit architectures
Attacking ASLR

- **NOP slides and heap spraying** to increase likelihood for custom code (e.g., on heap)
- **Brute force attacks or memory disclosures** to map out memory on the fly
  - Disclosing a single address can reveal the location of all code within a library, depending on the ASLR implementation
Other Possible Solutions

• Use safe programming languages, e.g., Java
  – What about legacy C code?
  – (Though Java doesn’t magically fix all security issues 😊)
• Static analysis of source code to find overflows
• Dynamic testing: “fuzzing”
Other Common Software Security Issues...
Another Type of Vulnerability

• Consider this code:

```c
char buf[80];
void vulnerable() {
    int len = read_int_from_network();
    char *p = read_string_from_network();
    if (len > sizeof buf) {
        error("length too large, nice try!");
        return;
    }
    memcpy(buf, p, len);
}
```

```c
void *memcpy(void *dst, const void * src, size_t n);
typedef unsigned int size_t;
```
Another Example

```c
size_t len = read_int_from_network();
char *buf;
buf = malloc(len+5);
read(fd, buf, len);
```

Breakout Groups: Questions 1+2 on Canvas

(from [www-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu—implflaws.pdf](http://www-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu—implflaws.pdf))
Implicit Cast

• Consider this code:

```c
char buf[80];
void vulnerable() {
    int len = read_int_from_network();
    char *p = read_string_from_network();
    if (len > sizeof buf) {
        error("length too large, nice try!");
        return;
    }
    memcpy(buf, p, len);
}
```

If `len` is negative, may copy huge amounts of input into `buf`.

```c
void *memcpy(void *dst, const void * src, size_t n);
typedef unsigned int size_t;
```
Integer Overflow

What if `len` is large (e.g., `len = 0xFFFFFFFF`)?
Then `len + 5 = 4` (on many platforms)
Result: Allocate a 4-byte buffer, then read a lot of data into that buffer.

```
size_t len = read_int_from_network();
char *buf;
buf = malloc(len+5);
read(fd, buf, len);
```

(from [www-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu—implflaws.pdf](http://www-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu—implflaws.pdf))
Another Type of Vulnerability

• Consider this code:

```c
if (access("file", W_OK) != 0) {
    exit(1); // user not allowed to write to file
}

fd = open("file", O_WRONLY);
write(fd, buffer, sizeof(buffer));
```

• **Goal:** Write to file only with permission
• **What can go wrong?**
TOCTOU (Race Condition)

• TOCTOU = “Time of Check to Tile of Use”

```c
if (access("file", W_OK) != 0) {
    exit(1); // user not allowed to write to file
}

fd = open("file", O_WRONLY);
write(fd, buffer, sizeof(buffer));
```

• **Goal:** Write to file only with permission
• Attacker (in another program) can change meaning of “file” between access and open:
  symlink("/etc/passwd", "file");
Password Checker

• Functional requirements
  – PwdCheck(RealPwd, CandidatePwd) should:
    • Return TRUE if RealPwd matches CandidatePwd
    • Return FALSE otherwise
  – RealPwd and CandidatePwd are both 8 characters long

• Implementation (like TENEX system)

```plaintext
PwdCheck(RealPwd, CandidatePwd)  // both 8 chars
for i = 1 to 8 do
  if (RealPwd[i] != CandidatePwd[i]) then
    return FALSE
return TRUE
```

• Clearly meets functional description
Attacker Model

- Attacker can guess CandidatePwds through some standard interface
- Naive: Try all $256^8 = 18,446,744,073,709,551,616$ possibilities
- Better: Time how long it takes to reject a CandidatePasswd. Then try all possibilities for first character, then second, then third, ...
  - Total tries: $256 \times 8 = 2048$

```c
PwdCheck(RealPwd, CandidatePwd) // both 8 chars
for i = 1 to 8 do
  if (RealPwd[i] != CandidatePwd[i]) then
    return FALSE
  return TRUE
```
Timing Attacks

• Assume there are no “typical” bugs in the software
  – No buffer overflow bugs
  – No format string vulnerabilities
  – Good choice of randomness
  – Good design

• The software may still be vulnerable to timing attacks
  – Software exhibits input-dependent timings

• Complex and hard to fully protect against
Other Examples

• Plenty of other examples of timings attacks
  – Timing cache misses
    • Extract cryptographic keys...
    • Recent Spectre/Meltdown attacks

• Also many other side channels
  – Power analysis
  – Other sensors
    • Example: Accelerometer to extract phone passcode
Software Security: 
So what do we do?
Fuzz Testing

• Generate “random” inputs to program
  – Sometimes conforming to input structures (file formats, etc.)
• See if program crashes
  – If crashes, found a bug
  – Bug may be exploitable
• Surprisingly effective

• Now standard part of development lifecycle
General Principles

• Check inputs
• Check all return values
• Least privilege
• Securely clear memory (passwords, keys, etc.)
• Failsafe defaults
• Defense in depth
  – Also: prevent, detect, respond

• NOT: security through obscurity
General Principles

• Reduce size of trusted computing base (TCB)
• Simplicity, modularity
  – But: Be careful at interface boundaries!
• Minimize attack surface
• Use vetted components
• Security by design
  – But: tension between security and other goals
• Open design? Open source? Closed source?
  – Different perspectives
Does Open Source Help?

• Different perspectives...

• Happy example?
    (http://www.freedom-to-tinker.com/?p=472)

• Sad example?
  – Heartbleed (2014)
    • Vulnerability in OpenSSL that allowed attackers to read arbitrary memory from vulnerable servers (including private keys)
Vulnerability Analysis and Disclosure

• What do you do if you’ve found a security problem in a real system?
• Say
  – A commercial website?
  – UW grade database?
  – Boeing 787?
  – TSA procedures?