

When ROP meets Turing: Automatic Generation of ROP Chains using Turing-Complete Instruction Sets

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© All wrongs reversed



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Madrid, Spain



Teruel existe!



- Graduado en Informática (2016)
- Analista de malware en Grupo S21sec
- :D

- Miembro de CLS (2001)
- Ph.D. en Informática (2013)
- Profesor en Centro Universitario de la Defensa, AGM (Zaragoza)
- Líneas de investigación
 - Security-driven engineering
 - Análisis de malware
 - Seguridad RFID/NFC

Agenda

- 1** Introduction
- 2** EasyROP: Description of the tool
- 3** Executional Adversary Power in Windows OSes
- 4** Case Study: CVE-2010-3333
- 5** Related Work
- 6** Conclusions

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Introduction

mov is Turing-complete

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7. Discussion

Finding Turing-completeness in unlikely places has long been a pastime of bored computer scientists. The number of bizarre machines that have been shown Turing-complete is far too great to describe them here, but a few resemble what this paper describes.

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CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

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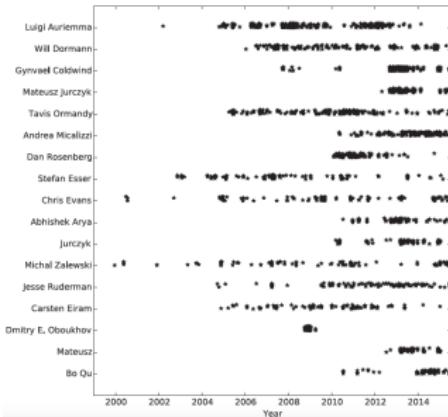


Table 2 – Scale factor, θ , mean expert analyst time between vulnerability disclosure (mTBVD), mean time to the next disclosure (mTTVD), and sample sizes for common software products.

Vendor	Product	θ	mTBVD	mTTVD	Samples
Linux	Linux	198	22 days	220 days	504
Microsoft	Office	145	16 days	161 days	209
Apple	Safari	135	14 days	150 days	92
Apple	iPhone OS	109	11 days	121 days	78
Apple	Mac OS X	102	11 days	113 days	240
Mozilla	Firefox	97	11 days	108 days	904
Microsoft	Windows 2003	83	9 days	92 days	382
PHP Group	PHP	78	9 days	87 days	94
Microsoft	Windows XP	76	8 days	84 days	366
Microsoft	Windows 2008	67	7 days	74 days	350
Google	Chrome	62	7 days	69 days	179
Microsoft	Vista	60	7 days	67 days	345
Oracle	Java RE	59	7 days	65 days	76
Microsoft	Internet Explorer	56	6 days	62 days	288
Adobe	Acrobat	55	6 days	61 days	312
Adobe	Flash Player	50	5 days	56 days	433
Microsoft	Windows 7	38	4 days	42 days	287

Johnson, P.; Gorton, D.; Lagerström, R. & Ekstedt, M. **Time between vulnerability disclosures: A measure of software product vulnerability.** *Computers & Security*, 2016, 62, 278-295. doi: 10.1016/j.cose.2016.08.004

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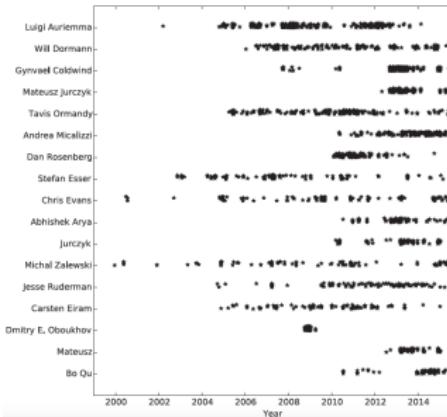


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* Past performance is not guarantee of future results

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Introduction



- **Software systems are large and complex**
- Fixed time-to-market urges developers to finish as soon as possible
 - Who cares of software quality? (or other attributes)
- **Consequence: software vulnerabilities on the rise**
 - 6 to 16 software bugs per 1,000 lines of code (approximately)

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Presence of software memory errors → control-flow hijacking attacks

- Legitimate control-flow of the program is hijacked
- **Arbitrary code inserted AND executed by the adversary**

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Different defense approaches

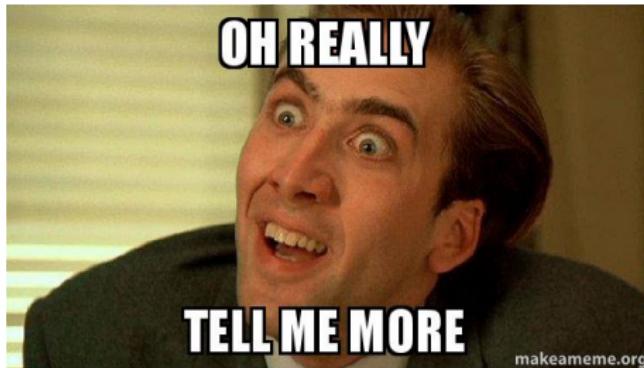
- Control-flow integrity approaches (e.g., type-safe languages, stack cookies, inline software guards)
- **Isolate malicious code prior execution** (e.g., tainting, run-time elimination, W \oplus X)

Further reading:

van der Veen, V.; dutt Sharma, N.; Cavallaro, L. & Bos, H. Memory Errors: The Past, the Present, and the Future. Proceedings of the 15th International Symposium on Research in Attacks, Intrusions, and Defenses (RAID), Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2012, 86-106. doi: 10.1007/978-3-642-33338-5_5

Introduction

W⊕X – Write-xor-Execute memory pages



- Widely used defense mechanism against **control-flow hijacking attacks**
 - Almost every current OS incorporates it natively

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W⊕X – Write-xor-Execute memory pages



- Widely used defense mechanism against **control-flow hijacking attacks**
 - Almost every current OS incorporates it natively
- **Concept:** memory pages are either writable or executable, but not both
 - That is, the adversary may still inject code. **However, execution is prevented**

Introduction

W⊕X – Write-xor-Execute memory pages



Hardware support

- NX-bit on AMD Athlon 64
- XD-bit on Intel P4 Prescott

Software support

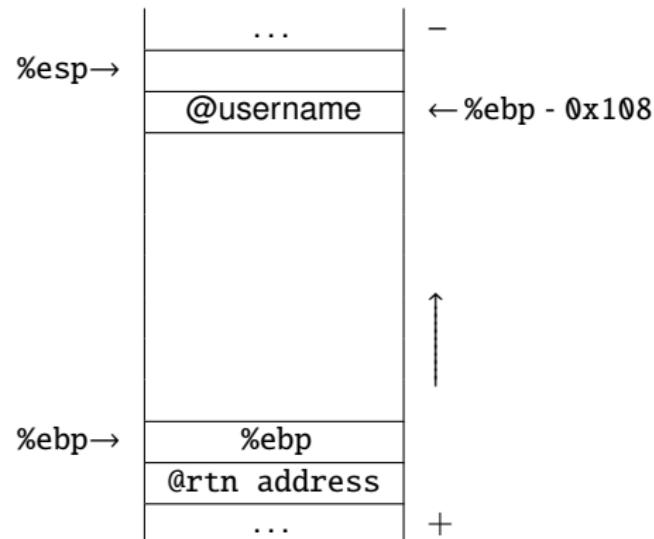
- Linux (via PaX project); OpenBSD
- Windows, since XP SP2 (aka Data Execution Prevention, DEP)
 - Windows ❤️ to rename every f***ing single thing

Introduction

Recap on stack-based buffer overflows

```
1 void readName(){  
2     char username[256];  
3     printf("Type user name: ");  
4     scanf("%s", username);  
5 }
```

```
readName:  
    push    ebp  
    mov     ebp, esp  
    sub     esp, 264  
    sub     esp, 12  
    push    OFFSET FLAT:.LC0  
    call    printf  
    add    esp, 16  
    sub    esp, 8  
    lea     eax, [ebp-264]  
    push    eax  
    push    OFFSET FLAT:.LC1  
    call    __isoc99_sccanf  
    add    esp, 16  
    leave  
    ret
```

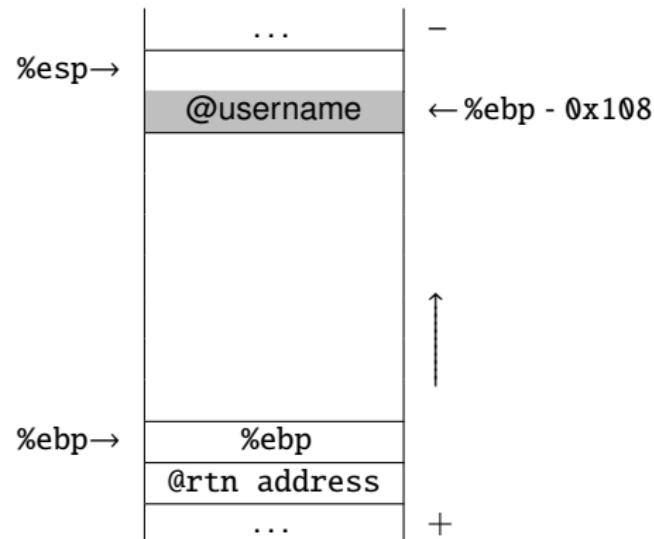


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- What if *username* is > 0x108 bytes long?

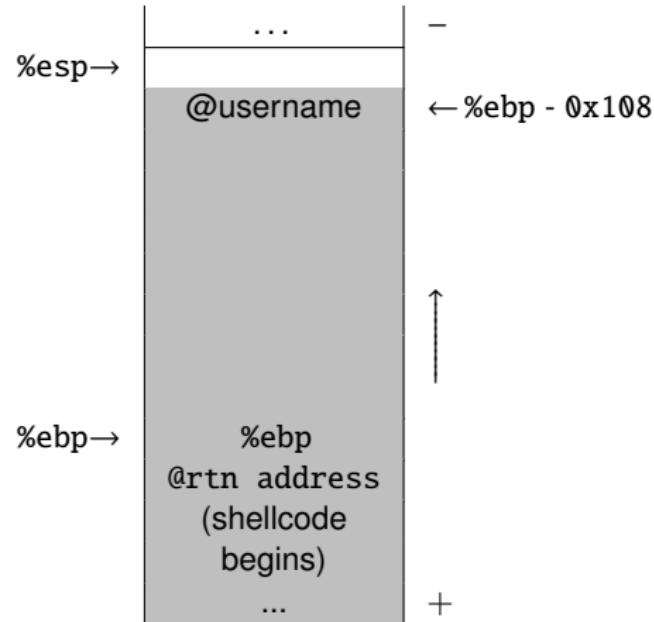
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```



- What if `username` is > 0x108 bytes long?

- **Adjacent memory to `username` is overwritten**
- **Arbitrary code execution:** `ret` pops the value from stack when function returns and set it in `%eip`!

Introduction

Defeating W⊕X protection

Control-flow is redirected to the stack

- W⊕X prevents execution. Roughly speaking, you're fucked

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IDEA

Since we can write the stack... **write memory addresses that point to ALREADY EXISTING code** → Return-Oriented Programming (ROP)

- Namely, to memory pages that already have execution privileges
- Since they can execute, **they are not detected by W⊕X protection**

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ROP enables an adversary to induce arbitrary execution behavior while injecting no code (just addresses to existing code!)

Introduction

Return-Oriented-Programming attacks

ROP attacks

- Hijack control-flow **without** executing new code
- **Redirect control-flow to chunks of code already available in the memory space of the process**
 - Recall x86 ISA has variable size!
 - ROP gadget: set of instructions that ends with `ret`

b8 89 41 08 c3 mov eax, 0xc3084189

esp →

...	→ xor ecx, ecx; ret
0x7c37638d	→ neg ecx; ret
0x7c341591	→ adc eax, ebx; ret
0x7c367042	→ pop ecx; ret
0x7c34779f	→ mov [ecx], eax; ret
0x5d345e7f	
0x7c347f97	
...	

89 41 08 mov [ecx+8], eax
c3 ret

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 - Build a ROP chain to deactivate the protection! First, set CPU registers to specific values. Then,
 - Execute `memprot()` syscall in GNU/Linux
 - Execute `SetDEPProcessPolicy()` in Windows
 - ...

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 - ...

Executional adversary power

- **Depends on the already existing code in the process's memory space**

Introduction



Church-Turing hypothesis

Any real world computation can be translated into an equivalent computation involving a Turing machine

Introduction



Church-Turing hypothesis

Any real world computation can be translated into an equivalent computation involving a Turing machine

Under this hypothesis, we can build a Turing-machine that performs equivalent computations as the ones performed by a ROP chain

Introduction

Turing-machine operations

- Load a constant into a register (`lc`)
- Move a register to another register (`move`)
- Load a value from memory (`load`)
- Store a value into memory (`store`)
- Add and subtract a value from memory (`add` and `sub`, respectively)
- Perform logic operations (`xor`, `and`, `or`, `not`)
 - Simplification by De Morgan's Laws: `and/or + xor/not`
- Perform conditional jumps (`cond1`, `cond2`)
 - First, transfer the value of a conditional flag to a general purpose register
 - Then, use such a register as an offset to modify the stack pointer register

Introduction

Turing-machine operations defined as ROP gadgets

xchg dst, src; ret;	push src; pop dst; ret;	xor dst, dst; ret; add dst, src; ret;	xor dst, dst; ret; neg src; ret; sub dst, src; ret;
------------------------	-------------------------------	--	--

Examples of *Move a register to another register* (`move`) operation

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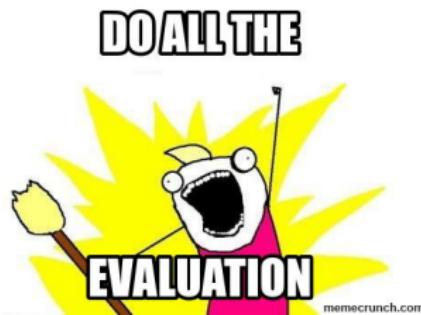
Examples of *Move a register to another register* (`move`) operation

WORK HYPOTHESIS

If we find at least a single gadget that allow to perform each of those Turing-machine operations, we can solve any computational problem

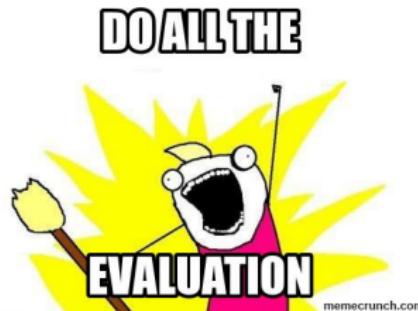
Introduction

Goal: evaluate (easily) the executional adversary power



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Main contributions

- EasyROP tool
 - Input: binary + ROP chain (specified as Turing operations)
 - Output: set of ROP gadgets to implement such a chain
- Evaluation of the executional adversary power in Windows OSes
 - Still the predominant platform of attacks
 - 32-bits and 64-bits versions
- Example of ROP chain generation with a real vulnerability
 - Namely, CVE-2010-3333

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EasyROP: Tool Description

Analysis

- **Multi-platform**
- **Automate building of ROP chains using sequences of Turing operations**
- **Allow extension** (other architectures, user-defined operations)

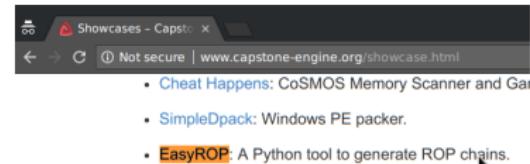
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External tools used

- Python3 + `pefile`
- **Capstone Disassembly Framework**
 - Our tool is part of the Capstone's showcases!
- XML



EasyROP: Description of the tool

Features

Automate the creation of ROP chains

```
add(reg2, reg1)
lc(reg3)
store(reg3, reg2)
```

EasyROP: Description of the tool

Features

Automate the creation of ROP chains

add(reg2, reg1) lc(reg3) store(reg3, reg2)	\rightarrow	xor ecx, ecx; ret neg ecx; ret adc eax, ebx; ret pop ecx; ret mov [ecx], eax; ret
--	---------------	---

EasyROP: Description of the tool

Features

Creation of user-specified operation using XML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE operations [
    <!ELEMENT operations (operation)+>
    <!ELEMENT operation (set)+>
    <!ATTLIST operation
        name CDATA #REQUIRED>
    <!ELEMENT set (ins)+>
    <!ELEMENT ins (reg1|reg2)*>
    <!ATTLIST ins
        mnemonic CDATA #REQUIRED>
    <!ELEMENT reg1 (#PCDATA)>
    <!ATTLIST reg1
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    <!ELEMENT reg2 (#PCDATA)>
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]>
```

```
<operations>
    <operation name="move">
        <set>
            <ins mnemonic="xor">
                <reg1>dst</reg1>
                <reg2>dst</reg2>
            </ins>
            <ins mnemonic="add">
                <reg1>dst</reg1>
                <reg2>src</reg2>
            </ins>
        </set>
    </operation>
</operations>
```

EasyROP: Description of the tool

Release notes

Released under GNU GPLv3 license, hosted on GitHub:

<https://github.com/uZetta27/EasyROP>



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Execution Adversary Power in Windows OSes

Experimental test-bed

Search for all Turing-machine operations on Windows

■ Subset of KnownDLLs **Windows object** (+ ntdll.dll)

- Contains most used system DLLs: advapi32.dll, comdlg32.dll, gdi32.dll, kernel32.dll, ole32.dll, rpcrt4.dll, shell32.dll, user32.dll, wldap32.dll
- ntdll.dll is part of Windows PE loader (always in memory!)

■ Test environment

- Intel Core i7, 8GB RAM, 256 GB SSD
- Oracle VirtualBox: 4GB RAM, 32GB HDD

■ Operating Systems (32/64 bits)

- Windows XP Professional
- Windows 7 Professional
- Windows 8.1 Pro
- Windows 10 Education

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Execution Adversary Power in Windows OSes

Evaluation

Version	32-bit	64-bit
Windows XP	✗	✗
Windows 7	✗	✗
Windows 8.1	✓	✗
Windows 10	✓	✗

Summary of results

- shell32.dll + {ntdll.dll, kernel32.dll}: **enough gadgets to conform all Turing-machine operations**

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Summary of results

- `shell32.dll + {ntdll.dll, kernel32.dll}`: **enough gadgets to conform all Turing-machine operations**
- **All operations but conditional jumps → 100 % in all OSes with just `ntdll.dll`!!!**
 - Conditional jumps are unusual operations when exploiting

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Case Study: CVE-2010-3333

- **Microsoft Office vulnerability**

- Affected versions: Microsoft Office XP SP3, Office 2003 SP3, Office 2007 SP2, Office 2010, Office 2004 and 2008 for Mac, and Office for Mac 2011

- **Disclosed in September 2010**

- Subsequently patched in MS10-087 (published in November 09, 2010)

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- November 2012: attack to NATO's Special Operations Headquarters
 - Attack was delivered via **spear phishing attaching a specially crafted Rich Text Format (RTF) document exploiting CVE-2010-333**
 - RTF file starts with the tag “{rtf1” and consists of unformatted text, control words, control symbols, and groups enclosed in braces

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{\rtf1{  
....  
\shp{\sp{\sn pFragments}{\sv value}}}  
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Case Study: CVE-2010-3333

- Stack-based BOF in function in charge of parsing RTF file
- Example: MSO.DLL 11.0.5606

- MD5 251C11444F614DE5FA47ECF7275E7BF1
- Microsoft Office 2003 suite

```
1 0x30f4cc5d push ebp
2 0x30f4cc5e mov ebp, esp
3 0x30f4cc60 sub esp, 0x14
4 (...)

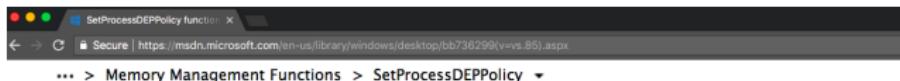
5 0x30f4cc93 call dword [eax + 0x1c] ; calls to MSO.30e9eb62
6 0x30f4cc96 mov eax, dword [ebp + 0x14]
7 0x30f4cc99 push dword [ebp + 0x18]
8 0x30f4cc9c mov edx, dword [ebp - 0x10]
9 0x30f4cc9f neg eax
10 0x30f4cca1 sbb eax, eax
11 0x30f4cca3 lea ecx, [ebp - 8]
12 0x30f4cca6 and eax, ecx
13 0x30f4cca8 push eax
14 0x30f4cca9 push dword [ebp + 8]
15 0x30f4ccac call 0x30f4cb1d
16 0x30f4ccb1 test al, al
17 0x30f4ccb3 je 0x30f4cd51
18 (...)

19 0x30f4cd51 pop esi
20 0x30f4cd52 pop ebx
21 0x30f4cd53 pop edi
22 0x30f4cd54 leave
23 0x30f4cd55 ret 0x14

1 0x30e9eb62 push edi
2 0x30e9eb63 mov edi, dword [esp + 0xc]
3 0x30e9eb67 test edi, edi
4 0x30e9eb69 je 0x30e9eb92
5 0x30e9eb6b mov eax, dword [esp + 8]
6 0x30e9eb6f mov ecx, dword [eax + 8]
7 0x30e9eb72 and ecx, 0xffff
8 0x30e9eb78 push esi
9 0x30e9eb79 mov esi, ecx
10 0x30e9eb7b imul esi, dword [esp + 0x14]
11 0x30e9eb80 add esi, dword [eax + 0x10]
12 0x30e9eb83 mov eax, ecx
13 0x30e9eb85 shr ecx, 2
14 0x30e9eb88 rep movsd es:[edi], dword ptr [esi]
15 0x30e9eb8a mov ecx, eax
16 0x30e9eb8c and ecx, 3
17 0x30e9eb8f rep movsb es:[edi], byte ptr [esi]
18 0x30e9eb91 pop esi
19 0x30e9eb92 pop edi
20 0x30e9eb93 ret 0xc
```

Case Study: CVE-2010-3333

Building the ROP chain



SetProcessDEPPolicy function

Changes data execution prevention (DEP) and DEP-ATL thunk emulation settings for a 32-bit process.

Syntax

 C++

```
BOOL WINAPI SetProcessDEPPolicy(
    _In_ DWORD dwFlags
);
```

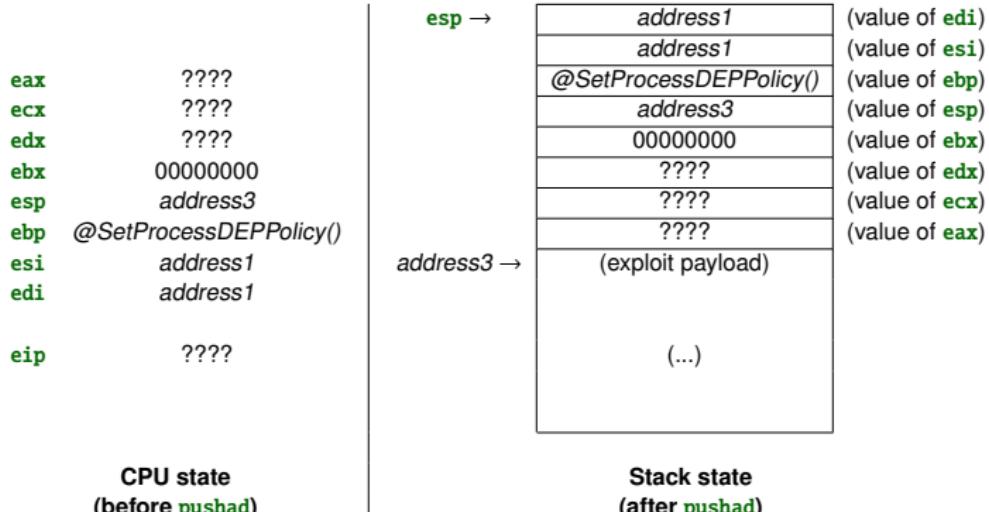
- We only need to pass to this function a zero value 😊
 - Assume that the function address is known
- After executing it, we can directly jump to our shellcode at the stack
 - We need to know the address of **esp** value
 - We could also jump to a ROP gadget containing a divert to the stack...

Case Study: CVE-2010-3333

INSTRUCTION SET REFERENCE, N-Z

PUSHA/PUSHAD—Push All General-Purpose Registers

Opcode	Instruction	Op/ En	64-Bit Mode	Compat/ Leg Mode	Description
60	PUSHA	A	Invalid	Valid	Push AX, CX, DX, BX, original SP, BP, SI, and DI.
60	PUSHAD	A	Invalid	Valid	Push EAX, ECX, EDX, EBX, original ESP, EBP, ESI, and EDI.



Case Study: CVE-2010-3333

```
nop()
lc(edi)
lc(esi)
lc(ebx)
lc(epb)
pushad()
```

Case Study: CVE-2010-3333

`nop()`
`lc(edi)`
`lc(esi)`
`lc(ebx)`
`lc(epb)`
`pushad()`

- MSO.DLL file as input
- No ASLR compatible ☺
- Execution parameter -depth 2
- ~ 72 seconds

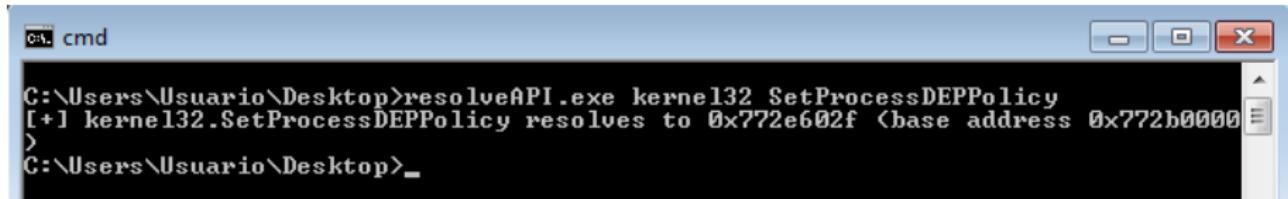
P /SafeSEH Module Scanner						
SEH mode	Base	Limit	Module version	ASLR enable	NX ena	Module Name
/SafeSEH ON	0x77390000	0x773d5000	6.1.7600.16381	On	On	C:\Windows\System32\ldap32.dll
/SafeSEH OFF	0x39700000	0x397e0000	5.50.30.2002	Off	Off	C:\Program Files\Common Files\microsoft shared\OFFICE11\RICHED20.DLL
/SafeSEH OFF	0x3f373000	0x3f410000	11.0.5510.0	Off	Off	C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office11\WINWORD.EXE
/SafeSEH OFF	0x3f400000	0x3f500000	11.0.5506.0	Off	Off	C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office11\WINWORD.EXE
/SafeSEH OFF	0x39000000	0x39ba0000	11.0.5604	Off	Off	C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office11\MSO.DLL
/SafeSEH OFF	0x3f400000	0x400b0000	11.3.1897.0	Off	Off	C:\Windows\System32\spool\dri\vers\w32k\B\ndigraph.dll
/SafeSEH OFF	0x2f40000	0x2fac000	11.3.1897.0	Off	Off	C:\Windows\System32\spool\dri\vers\w32k\B\ndiui.dll
/SafeSEH OFF	0x2f00000	0x2fd7000	11.0.5315	Off	Off	C:\PROGRAM\COMMON\1\MICROS\1\SMARTT\1\INTLNAME.DLL

Case Study: CVE-2010-3333

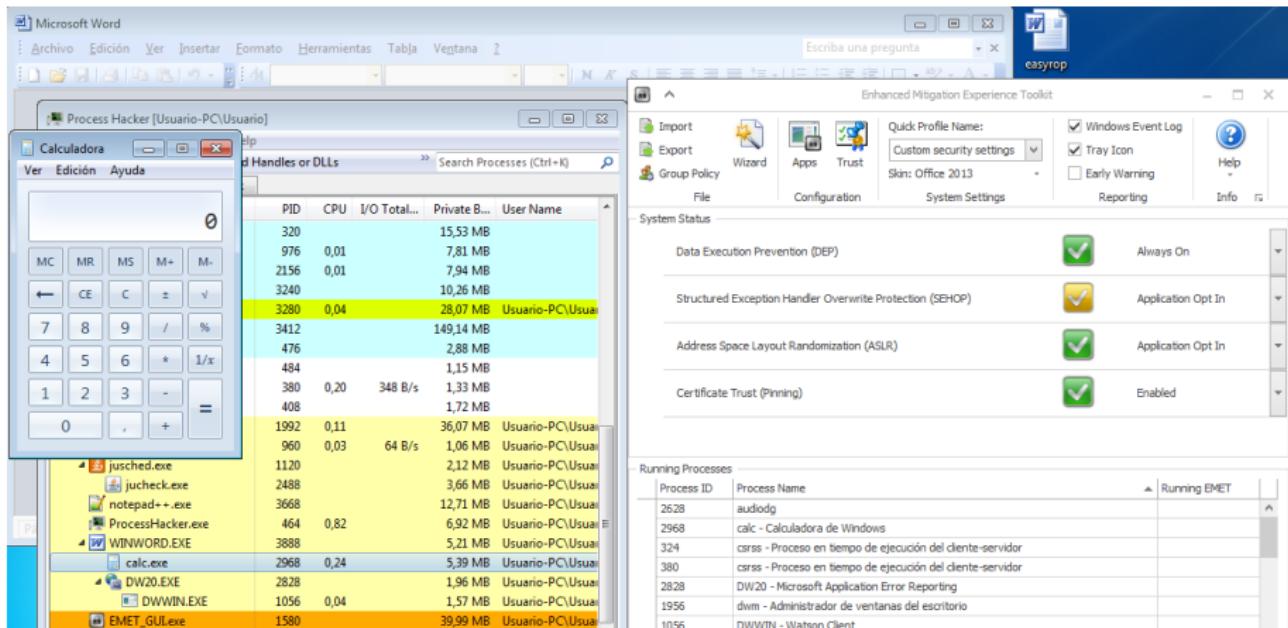
```
nop()  
...  
0x30c92448: ret  
lc(edi)  
...  
0x30cae25c: pop edi ; ret  
lc(esi)  
...  
0x30ca32fd: pop esi ; ret  
lc(ebx)  
...  
0x30ca3654: pop ebx ; ret  
lc(epb)  
...  
0x30ca32d1: pop ebp ; ret  
pushad()  
...  
0x30ce03b5: pushal ; ret
```

P /SafeSEH Module Scanner						
SEH mode	Base	Limit	Module version	RSLR enable	NX enabled	Module Name
/SafeSEH ON	0x77390000	0x773d5000	6.1.7600.16381	On	Off	C:\Windows\System32\Wldap32.dll
/SafeSEH OFF	0x39700000	0x397e3000	5.50.30.2002	Off	Off	C:\Program Files\Common Files\microsoft shared\OFFICE11\RICHED20.DLL
/SafeSEH OFF	0x37320000	0x37341000	11.0.5510	Off	Off	C:\PROGRAM\1\COMMON\1\MICROS\1\SMARTT\1\FNAME.DLL
/SafeSEH OFF	0x37320000	0x37341000	11.0.5510	Off	Off	C:\PROGRAM\1\COMMON\1\MICROS\1\SMARTT\1\FNAME.DLL
/SafeSEH OFF	0x30000000	0x3005a000	11.0.5664	Off	Off	C:\Program Files\Microsoft\Office\11\OFFICE\11\MSWORD.DLL
/SafeSEH OFF	0x3410000	0x400b000	11.0.1997.0	Off	Off	C:\Windows\System32\spool\drivers\w32k\9\midqash.dll
/SafeSEH OFF	0x24a0000	0x2fc0000	11.0.1997.0	Off	Off	C:\Windows\System32\spool\drivers\w32k\9\midui1.dll
/SafeSEH OFF	0x2f00000	0x2f7d000	11.0.5315	Off	Off	C:\PROGRAM\1\COMMON\1\MICROS\1\SMARTT\1\INTLNAME.DLL

Case Study: CVE-2010-3333



Case Study: CVE-2010-3333



Agenda

- 1** Introduction
- 2** EasyROP: Description of the tool
- 3** Executional Adversary Power in Windows OSes
- 4** Case Study: CVE-2010-3333
- 5** Related Work
- 6** Conclusions

Related Work

ROP and Turing theory contributions (ask us for full references)

- **S-CCS-07** thesis: *In any sufficiently large body of x86 executable code, there will exist sufficiently many useful code sequences that an attacker [may] undertake [any] arbitrary computation*
shell32.dll: **21MB** on Windows 10 (x86-64) – fair enough ☺
- **M-TechReport-08** Classification of ROP gadgets, according to where you return (ret2text, ret2bss, ret2data, ret2heap)
- **CDDSSW-CCS-10** No need of `retn` instructions
Jump-Oriented Programming (JOP): `pop reg; jmp *reg`
- **RBSS-TIIS-12** Set of Turing-complete gadgets for Linux/x86 and Solaris/SPARC
- **BB-SP-14** Sigreturn-Oriented Programming (SROP). Turing-complete

Related Work

Solutions against ROP attacks (ask us for full references)

- Dynamic Binary Instrumentation (DBI)
 - **ROPDefender** shadow stack
 - **DROP** monitor of `retn` instructions (detects ROP gadgets ≤ 5 instructions)
- **/ROP** whitelisting legitimate return addresses
- **ROPGuard** monitoring Windows functions (`CreateProcess`, `VirtualProtect`, `VirtualAlloc`, `LoadLibrary`)
- **kBouncer** use of Intel LBR records
- **Disjoint Code Layouts (DLC)** execution and replication of multiple run-time variants of the same application under the control of a monitor

Ask us for full references, if interested

Related Work

Other ROP-related tools (ask us for full references)

- **Q**: automatically generates ROP payloads in Linux (not Turing-complete)
- **Braille** (Ruby): creates automatically a shellcode for a particular target (namely, a Linux server)
 - Defeats ASLR + stack cookies defenses

Related Work

Other ROP-related tools (ask us for full references)

- **Q**: automatically generates ROP payloads in Linux (not Turing-complete)
- **Braille** (Ruby): creates automatically a shellcode for a particular target (namely, a Linux server)
 - Defeats ASLR + stack cookies defenses
- **ROPgadget** (Python): search for ROP gadgets in a given binary
- **Ropper**: similar to ROPgadget, allows to create predefined shellcodes

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Conclusions

- EasyROP **tool** (<https://github.com/uZetta27/EasyROP>)
 - Automates the construction of a ROP chain specified as Turing machine operations
 - Allows user-defined operations using XML
- Existence of ROP gadgets determines the *executional adversary power*
 - Roughly speaking, *what can an adversary perform using ROP attacks?*
- Evaluation of executional adversary power in different OSes
 - More in 32-bit than in 64-bit systems
 - **Enough gadgets to conform all Turing-machine operations** (shell32.dll + {ntdll.dll, kernel32.dll})
 - **All operations but conditional jumps** (ntdll.dll)
 - Conditional jumps are unusual operations when exploiting

Conclusions



memegen.com

When ROP meets Turing: Automatic Generation of ROP Chains using Turing-Complete Instruction Sets

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