



Lecture 2
Program Analysis

Computer and Network Security
October 7, 2019
Computer Science and Engineering Department



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Program Analysis

└ Program Analysis

- ▶ automatic analysis of programs
- ▶ property verification
- ▶ optimization (performance) or correctness
- ▶ static analysis or dynamic analysis

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└ Program Model

- ▶ automaton
- ▶ control flow graph (CFG) (set of states and transitions)
- ▶ coverage: how much of the CFG can the analysis cover to ensure property validation

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└─ Static and Dynamic Analysis

- ▶ do not execute or execute the program
- ▶ static analysis on source code or on binary program (executable)
- ▶ dynamic analysis on resource usage and behavior (process)
- ▶ symbolic execution is static analysis
- ▶ fuzzing is dynamic analysis
- ▶ static analysis: broad, may go into path explosion
- ▶ dynamic analysis: depth, may miss certain cases

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└ Challenges of Static Binary Analysis

- ▶ more difficult to understand: requires reverse engineering
- ▶ may be subject to obfuscation, encryption, packing
- ▶ typically doubled by dynamic analysis

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CNSO
CTF crunch

Outline

From Source Code to Process

The ELF Format

Linking

Tools of the Trade for Binary Static Analysis

Dynamic Analysis

Tools for Dynamic Analysis

GDB

Dynamic Linking and Loading

Conclusion

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- ▶ provide functionality
- ▶ dynamic / run time
- ▶ allocate and use memory and other resources

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2. link object files into executable
3. load executable (disk image file) into process (memory + CPU)

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- ▶ binary files
- ▶ headers and binary code
- ▶ may be disassembled
- ▶ data and code
- ▶ sections

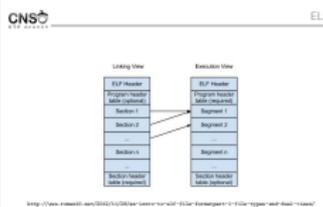
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- ▶ archive/collection of object files
- ▶ modularity
- ▶ static-linking and dynamic linking libraries
 - ▶ linking happens at link time
 - ▶ linking happens at load time

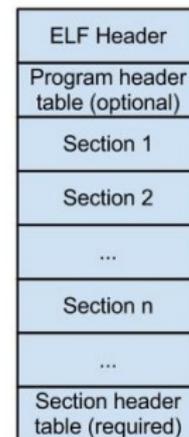
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- ▶ similar to object files, consist of object code
- ▶ may be disassembled
- ▶ created from object files
- ▶ static and dynamic executables
 - ▶ static: all object code is part of the executable
 - ▶ dynamic: library stubs to library functions

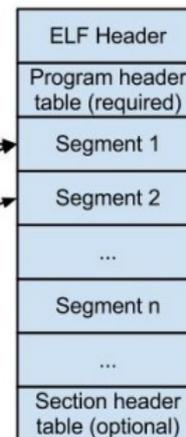
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Linking View



Execution View



<http://www.roman10.net/2012/11/28/an-intro-to-elf-file-formatpart-1-file-types-and-dual-views/>

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From Source Code to Process

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- ▶ format of a file that contains object code: object file, executable files, dynamic-linking library files
- ▶ headers, sections
- ▶ data and code
- ▶ may be disassembled
- ▶ PE (Portable Executable) on Windows
- ▶ COFF (Common Object File Format) on Unix
- ▶ ELF (Executable and Linking Format) on Linux

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- ▶ section sizes
- ▶ symbols (names and addresses)
- ▶ permissions

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- ▶ header
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- ▶ sections
- ▶ segments
- ▶ symbols
- ▶ readelf, objdump, nm

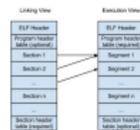
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- ▶ sections
- ▶ segments
- ▶ symbols
- ▶ readelf, objdump, nm

- ▶ storing data or code
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- ▶ .text, .data, .bss
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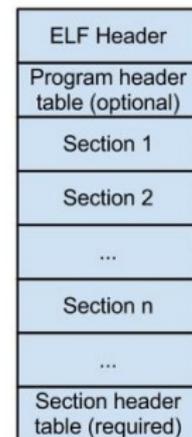
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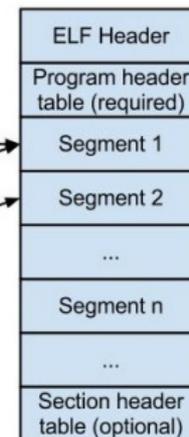


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Linking View



Execution View



<http://www.roman10.net/2012/11/28/an-intro-to-elf-file-formatpart-1-file-types-and-dual-views/>

```
► readelf -a program  
► .dynsym and .symtab  
► name, value, type, bind, size
```

- ▶ `readelf -s program`
- ▶ `.dynsym` and `.symtab`
- ▶ name, value, type, bind, size

- ▶ Map Assembly instructions to variable, function or line in the source code
- ▶ Help mapping stack values with function parameters
- ▶ Optimize data flow analysis
- ▶ Optimize static and dynamic analysis
- ▶ On Linux, symbol table is embedded in the ELF file. PE files use an external symbols file

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- ▶ Complicates reverse engineering
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- ▶ All object files are linked together to produce an executable file
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- ▶ Output: Executable image
- ▶ The linker resolved external references from each object file

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- ▶ Linker copies library routines directly into executables image
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- ▶ Faster execution because imports are not resolved at runtime
- ▶ Uses more space

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- ▶ building machine code files
- ▶ inspecting machine code files
- ▶ disassembling machine code files

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```
► gcc, gas, nasm, ar, ld
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```
> strings  
> xxd  
> readelf  
> nm
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- ▶ strings
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- ▶ readelf
- ▶ nm

- ▶ **IDA**
- ▶ objdump
- ▶ radare2

- ▶ pmap
- ▶ lsof
- ▶ ltrace
- ▶ strace
- ▶ GDB

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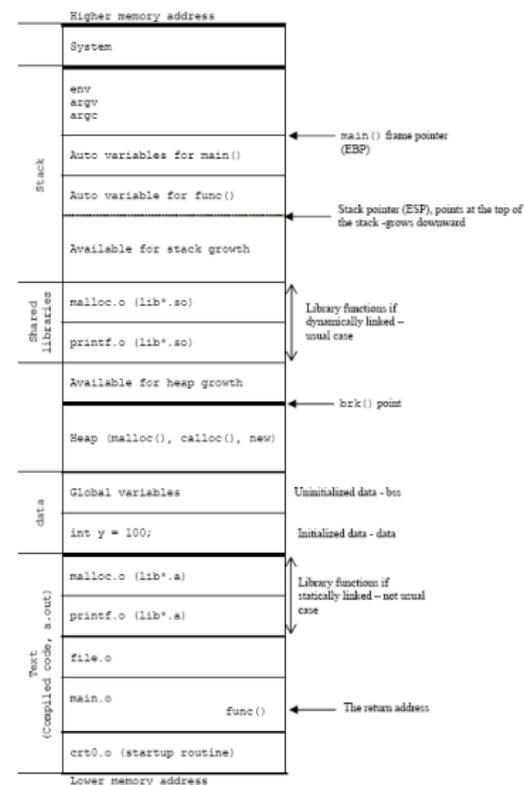
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- ▶ investigate processes
- ▶ requires process to run
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- ▶ blackbox analysis

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http://www.tenouk.com/Bufferoverflow/Bufferoverflow1_files/image022.png

- ▶ the process memory map (virtual memory areas)
- ▶ memory addresses: code, variables
- ▶ memory region access rights
- ▶ machine code (to be disassembled)
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- ▶ code: system calls, library calls, function calls, step-by-step code
- ▶ state: thread information, process maps, open files, resources
- ▶ data: registers, variables, raw memory data

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- ▶ variables: global (data) and local (stack)
- ▶ runtime metadata: return addresses, function arguments, command line arguments, GOT and PLT (to be discussed later)
- ▶ registers
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- ▶ blackbox inspection: function call tracers (strace, ltrace, dtrace/dtruss), fuzzers
- ▶ profilers: most often for performance: perf, callgrind, vTune
- ▶ debugging: GDB, LLDB, valgrind

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- ▶ generate "random" input and detect program flaws
- ▶ program is run
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▶ strace -e read,write ./a.out
▶ strace -e file ./a.out
▶ strace -e file -f ./a.out
▶ strace -e file -s 512 -f ./a.out
▶ similar options for ltrace
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► PID as argument  
► lsof -p 12345  
► pmap 12345
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CNSO perf
> default profiler on Linux
> sampling profiler, doesn't instrument the code
> uses events sampling
> perf stat -e cache-misses -a ./mem-walk
> sudo perf list
> some actions and events may require privileged access
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- ▶ default debugger on GNU/Linux distributions
- ▶ command line; there are some GUI front-ends
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 - ▶ uses dedicated debug port
- ▶ Lauterbach Trace32: in circuit debugger (device using JTAG)

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- ▶ follow what a process does (step instructions)
- ▶ inspect data (memory, registers)

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- ▶ register inspection
- ▶ (machine) code inspection
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- ▶ memory alteration
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- ▶ starting a process
- ▶ stepping instructions
- ▶ breakpoints
- ▶ disassemble
- ▶ show registers
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CNSO Starting a Process

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▶ run
▶ run < input file
▶ run arg1 arg2 arg3
▶ set args arg1 arg2 arg3 and then issue run
▶ start: breakpoint at main / starting point
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▶ b symbol-name  
▶ b *address: b *0x80123456  
▶ continue: continue until the next breakpoint  
▶ help breakpoints
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> during runtime
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```
CNSO      Displaying Data
> show memory data or registers
> info registers
> p $eax
> p *0x80123456
> x/10x 0x12345678: examine memory and display in hex
> x/10s 0x12345678: examine memory and display in string
> x/10i 0x12345678: examine memory and display in
instructions
> help p
> help x
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```
> find "sh"  
> find 0x01020304  
> find 0x400000, 100000, "sh"
```

- ▶ `find "sh"`
- ▶ `find 0x01020304`
- ▶ `find 0x400000, 100000, "sh"`

```
▶ backtrace: show function trace
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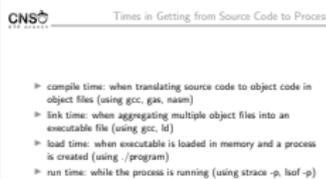
```
▶ set variable num = 10  
▶ set {int}0x8038290 = 10  
▶ set $eax = 0x12345678
```

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- » Python Exploit Development Assistance
- » enhancement for GDB
- » create cyclic patterns
- » Return Oriented Programming features
- » custom view: code, registers, stack
- » shellcode features
- » telescope an address (follow pointers)

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- ▶ compile time: when translating source code to object code in object files (using gcc, gas, nasm)
- ▶ link time: when aggregating multiple object files into an executable file (using gcc, ld)
- ▶ load time: when executable is loaded in memory and a process is created (using ./program)
- ▶ run time: while the process is running (using strace -p, lsof -p)

- ▶ linking is getting object files together into an executable or dynamic-linking file
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- ▶ postpone linking of a symbol until it is called
- ▶ usually done for functions through the use of a trampoline section (PLT for ELF)
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```
CNSO Locating Libraries
> for static linking, use the -L argument to gcc
> for dynamic linking, the dynamic linker/loader is used:
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- ▶ [https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ee416588\(v=vs.85\).aspx](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ee416588(v=vs.85).aspx)
- ▶ <https://www.technovelty.org/linux/plt-and-got-the-key-to-code-sharing-and-dynamic-libraries.html>

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