

Whoami

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- Specializes in vulnerability research, exploit development, and developing automating tools.
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Agenda

- User Mode Attack Techniques and Security Mechanisms.
- Transition from User Mode to Kernel Mode.
- Kernel Mode Attacks and Security Mechanisms.
- Modern Privilege Escalation Techniques.
- Current State and Future Prospects.

• Linux Focus: Not Windows - intel implementations.

History

- Linux 0.01 Released: September 17, 1991.
- Memory Regions: Readable, Writable, Executable (RWX).
- Memory Addresses: Hardcoded (**Static**).
- Simpler Attacks in Early Days.



Exploiting Memory Vulnerabilities

- Exploiting a vulnerability requires 3 tasks:
 - Find a vulnerability.
 - **Redirect**: Manipulating program control flow.
 - **Execute** malicious code.











- **RWX** stack.
- Static memory addresses.

NX (AKA - DEP, XN, XD)



- Introduced in Linux kernel 2.6.8 in 2004.
- Prevents execution by marking memory pages as 'Non-eXecutable' (e.g., heap, stack).
- Memory regions governed by access flags:
 - RO+NX (.rodata).
 - RW+NX (.data).
 - RO+X (.text).
- Implements W^A prevents injecting shellcodes.

readelf -l <ELF file>

Program Headers: **Offset** VirtAddr PhysAddr Type FileSiz MemSiz Flags Align PHDR Read Only + Non Executable 0x0000000000002d8 0x0000000000002d8 R 0x8 INTERP 0x000000000000318 0x000000000000318 0x00000000318 0x00000000000001c 0x0000000000000001c 0x1 [Requesting program interpreter: /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2] LOAD 0x000000000001478 0x0000000000001478 R 0x1000 LOAD 0x000000000003c36 0x000000000003c36 0x1000 RΕ Read Only + Executable LOAD 0x0000000000000000000 0x0000000000012c0 0x00000000000012c0 0x1000 LOAD 0x0000000000007ae0 0x0000000000008ae0 0x0000000000008ae0 0x000000000000588 0x0000000000006d8 0x1000 RW DYNAMIC 0x0000000000007c40 0x000000000008c40 0x000000000008c40 0x0000000000001b0 0x00000000000001b0 RW 0x8 NOTE 0x000000000000338 0x00000000000338 0x00000000338 0x000000000000030 0x000000000000000 0x8 NOTE 0x000000000000368 0x00000000000368 0x00000000368 0x000000000000044 0x0000000000000044 0x4 GNU_PROPERTY 0x000000000000338 0x000000000000338 0x00<u>0000000000338</u> 0x000000000000030 0x000000000000000 R 0x8 GNU_EH_FRAME 0x000000000006db0 0x000000000006db0 0x000000006db0 0x0000000000000b4 0x00000000000000000b4 0x4 GNU_STACK RW 0x10 Read Write + Non Executable GNU_RELRO 0x0000000000007ae0 0x0000000000008ae0 0x000000000008ae0 0x000000000000520 0x000000000000520 R 0x1

Code Reuse Attacks

- v2.2 v2.6.8 26.01.1999 14.08.2004 Capabilities SELinux SELinux NX ASLR v2.6.0-test3 08.08.2003 12.6.12 17.06.2005
- Result of W^X: Shellcode injection not feasible.
- Utilize existing code in memory for malicious actions.
- Return to existing code.
 - Return to libraries (e.g., RET2LIBC).

RET2LIBC



- system("/bin/sh")
- Locate memory addresses of system() and pointer to "/bin/sh".
- Vulnerability -> Redirect execution to system() -> Execute "/bin/sh".



ASLR Evolution



- Introduced in Linux kernel 2.6.12 in 2005.
- Prevents attackers from predicting memory locations in User Space using a random offset.
- Limitations:
 - Low entropy (32bit).
 - Initially randomized only the stack and the libraries.
- Bypass techniques:



Code Reuse Attacks

- v2.2 v2.6.8 26.01.1999 14.08.2004 Capabilities SELinux V2.6.0-test3 08.08.2003 2023
- Result of W^A: Shellcode injection not feasible.
- Utilize existing code in memory for malicious actions.
- Return to existing code.
 - Return to libraries (e.g. RET2LIBC).
 - Return to non-randomized locations (e.g. RET2TEXT).
- Oriented Programming.

Oriented Programming

- Chain executable gadgets to perform malicious actions.
- Gadgets consist of one or more assembly instructions that end with execution redirection.
- Backward edge gadgets ending with "ret" (AKA ROP).
- Forward edge gadgets ending with indirect "**jmp**" or "**call**" (AKA JOP, PCOP).

CVE-2016-2384 - ROP and JOP gadgets used for an exploit.

			<pre>#define CHAIN_SAVE_EAX</pre>	\
<pre>#define</pre>	XCHG EAX ESP RET	0xffffffff8100008aL	<pre>*stack++ = POP_RDI_RET;</pre>	١
			<pre>*stack++ = (uint64_t)&saved_eax;</pre>	١
			<pre>*stack++ = MOV_DWORD_PTR_RDI_EAX_RET;</pre>	
#define	POP RDI RET	0xffffffff8118991dL		
"del Inc		oxi i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	#define CHAIN_SEI_CR4	1
#define	MOV DWORD PTR RDT FAX RET	0xffffffff810fff17I	<pre>*stack++ = POP_RDI_RET;</pre>	\
#uci file		0,111111101011117	<pre>*stack++ = CR4_DESIRED_VALUE;</pre>	\
<pre>#define</pre>	MOV_CR4_RDI_ <mark>RET</mark>	0xffffffff8105b8f0L	<pre>*stack++ = MOV_CR4_RDI_RET;</pre>	١
#define	POP RCX RET	0xffffffff810053bcL	#define CHAIN JMP PAYLOAD	\
			*stack++ = POP RCX RET:	1
#define	JMP RCX	0xffffffff81040a90L	$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}$,
		5	ASCACKTT = (uinco4_c)@paytoau;	`
			*stack++ = JMP RCX;	\

v2.2 26.01.1999 v2.6.8 14.08.2004 (Capabilities SELinux V2.6.0-test3 V2.6.0-test3 V2.6.0-test3 V2.6.8 v2.6.0-test3 V2.6.0-test3 V2.6.0-test3 V2.6.8 v2.6.8 v2.6.8 14.08.2004

(Taken From: https://github.com/xairy/kernel-exploits/blob/master/CVE-2016-2384/poc.c)



RET2USR



- Return to User space from Kernel space.
- The Kernel had **RWX** access to User Space.
- Unlikely to find ways to elevate privileges in the Kernel.
- Attackers have control in the User Space.
- Kernel Space vulnerability -> Redirect execution to User Space -> Execute a Payload.
 CVE-2010-3437 Exploit Integer Underflow in Kernel -> Redirect execution to a fake structure in User Space -> Copy data from Kernel Space to User Space.

SMEP and SMAP



- SMAP (Supervisor Mode Access Prevention) Linux Kernel 3.7 (2012).
- Controlled via CR4 20th bit (SMEP) and 21st bit (SMAP).

CVE-2017-11176 - disables SMEP using move instructions.

#define DISABLE_SMEP() \

```
CR4_T0_RAX(); \setminus
*stack++ = POP RDI ADDR; \
*stack++ = SMEP MASK: \
*stack++ = MOV_EDX_EDI_ADDR; \
*stack++ = AND RAX RDX ADDR; \
*stack++ = MOV EDI EAX ADDR; \
RDI_TO_CR4();
```

(Taken from: https://github.com/lexfo/cve-2017-11176/blob/master/cve-2017-11176.c)

KASLR Evolution



- Enabled by default in Linux Kernel 4.12 (2017).
- Aims to increase the difficulty of code reuse attacks in kernel mode.
- Prevents attackers from predicting memory locations within the Kernel Space.
- Limitations:
 - Utilized a single random offset in the kernel text.
 - Randomized only once at boot.
- Bypass techniques:
 - Memory leak attacks.



Memory Leak Attacks

CVE-2017-1000112 CVE-2018-5333

Spender's /proc/kallsyms Read kernel pointers



```
fscanf(f, "%s\n", sname);
```

continue;

}

dprintf("[-] kernel base not found in %s\n", path); return 0: #endif

(Taken From: https://github.com/bcoles/kernel-exploits/blob/6ba53ba024db2413cfe4843a482a8b532a6619b7/CVE-2018-5333/cve-2018-5333.c)



v3.0

21.07.2011

SMEF

v3.7 10.12.2012

KASLR

v3.14 30.03.2014

KPTR_RESTRICT - Prevent unprivileged users from reading kallsyms. **ubuntu@ip-172-31-26-252:~**\$ cat /proc/sys/kernel/kptr_restrict

KPTR_RESTRICT = 1 - Unprivileged users will see function pointers as 0's.

ubuntu@ip-172-31-26-252:~\$ cat /proc/kallsyms | grep -i commit_creds

Read /proc/kallsyms with privileged user.

Iroot@ip-172-31-26-252:/home/ubuntu# cat /proc/kallsyms | grep -i commit_creds
fffffffb90fde20 T commit_creds
fffffffba97b3a4 r __ksymtab_commit_creds
fffffffba9aaccc r __kstrtab_commit_creds
fffffffba9afc41 r __kstrtabns_commit_creds



Memory Leak Attacks

CVE-2017-1000112 CVE-2018-5333

Spender's /proc/kallsyms Read kernel pointers

Xairy's syslog Read the dmesg



(Taken From: https://github.com/bcoles/kernel-exploits/blob/6ba53ba024db2413cfe4843a482a8b532a6619b7/CVE-2018-5333/cve-2018-5333.c)

Is SYSLOG Still Possible?

DMESG_RESTRICT - Prevent unprivileged users from reading dmesg. **ubuntu@ip-172-31-26-252:~\$** cat /proc/sys/kernel/dmesg_restrict 1 v3.0

21.07.2011

SMF

v3.7 10.12.2012

KASLR

v3.14 30.03.2014

v2.6.8

14.08.2004

ASLR

v2.6.12 17.06.2005

DMESG_RESTRICT = 1 - Unprivileged users could not read dmesg. **ubuntu@ip-172-31-26-252:~\$** dmesg | grep -i Freeing dmesg: read kernel buffer failed: Operation not permitted

Read dmesg with a privileged user. [root@ip-172-31-26-252:/home/ubuntu# dmesg | grep -i Freeing [0.219112] Freeing SMP alternatives memory: 44K [0.439089] Freeing initrd memory: 7108K [0.725060] Freeing unused decrypted memory: 2036K [0.726628] Freeing unused kernel image (initmem) memory: 4856K [0.739722] Freeing unused kernel image (rodata/data gap) memory: 1560K



Memory Leak Attacks

CVE-2017-1000112 CVE-2018-5333

Spender's /proc/kallsyms Read kernel pointers

Xairy's syslog Read the dmesg Jann Horn's mincore Heap page disclosure (CVE-2017-16994)



(Taken From: https://github.com/bcoles/kernel-exploits/blob/6ba53ba024db2413cfe4843a482a8b532a6619b7/CVE-2018-5333/cve-2018-5333.c)



perf_event_open

uint64 t ip;

} else {

break:



(Taken From: https://github.com/bcoles/kernel-exploits/blob/6ba53ba024db2413cfe4843a482a8b532a6619b7/CVE-2018-5333/cve-2018-5333.c)

Is perf_event Still Possible?

- perf_event_paranoid Controls the use of the performance events.
- perf_event_paranoid > 1 Unprivileged users cannot use PERF_SAMPLE_IP.

v2.6.8

14.08.2004

ASLR

v2.6.12 17.06.2005 v3.0

21.07.2011

SMEF

v3.7 10.12.2012

v3.14 30.03.2014

- Linux kernel > 4.6 /proc/sys/kernel/perf_event_paranoid > 1.
- perf_event_paranoid = 4

ubuntu@ip-172-31-26-252:~\$ cat /proc/sys/kernel/perf_event_paranoid
4



 \bigcirc CVE-2019-18683 - Use race condition to extract information (kmsg)



30.03.2014

CVE-2019-18683

- A race condition in 'kmsg' exposed the following:
 - RSP Calculate kernel stack top address.
 - R11 Calculate KASLR offset.

```
#define R11_COMPONENT_TO_KASLR_OFFSET 0x195d80d
#define KERNEL_TEXT_BASE 0xfffffff81000000
kaslr_offset = strtoul(r11, NULL, 16);
kaslr_offset -= R11_COMPONENT_TO_KASLR_OFFSET;
if (kaslr_offset < KERNEL_TEXT_BASE) {
    printf("bad kernel text base 0x%lx\n", kaslr_offset);
    err_exit("[-] kmsg parsing for r11");
}
kaslr_offset -= KERNEL_TEXT_BASE;</pre>
```



Change Credentials

- prepare_kernel_cred(0)
 - Send '0' value (root ID).
 - Allocated a cred structure with root user privileges.
- commit_creds(prepare_kernel_cred(0))
 - Send prepare_kernel_cred(0).
 - Applies the root privileges.

CVE-2023-35001

- Locate memory addresses of 'prepare_kernel_cred' and 'commit_creds' functions.

// Offset to 'prepare_kernel_cred' function in the kernel
prepare_kernel_cred uint64
// Offset to 'commit_creds' function in the kernel
commit_creds uint64

- Call the functions:

(Taken From: https://github.com/synacktiv/CVE-2023-35001/blob/master/main.go)

Modprobe

- Modprobe manages kernel modules.
- The modprobe command path is:
 [ubuntu@ip-172-31-26-252:~\$ cat /proc/sys/kernel/modprobe /sbin/modprobe
- modprobe_path kernel symbol is writable.
- Steps to execute the attack:
 - 1. Locate modprobe_path.
 - 2. Create a malicious User mode script.
 - 3. Overwrite modprobe_path with a path to User mode script.
 - 4. Trigger call_modprobe()
 - Create a trigger file with an unknown signature.
 - Execute the trigger file.
 - 5. call_modprobe() executes the path stored in modprobe_path.



Modprobe



```
uint64_t cfg_modprobe_path = 0xfffffffa688b900 - 0xfffffffa3e00000;
```

```
pwn_write_new_obj(nl, kernel_va + cfg_modprobe_path + 1);
```

```
char sbin[0x8000];
memcpy(sbin, uaf_obj_userdata + 0x14, 0x34);
```

```
/* "/tmp" - "sbin" */
int sbin_count = 33821116;
while (sbin_count != 0) {
    sbin_count -= 0x1c;
    size_t send_size = sbin_count;
    if (send_size > sizeof(sbin))
        send_size = sizeof(sbin) - 0x1c;
    sbin_count -= send_size;
    res = sendto(sock, sbin, send_size, 0, (struct sockaddr *) &addr, sizeof(addr));
    if (res != send_size) {
        err(1, "Cannot into sendto()");
    }
```

(Taken From: https://github.com/oferchen/POC-CVE-2023-32233/blob/main/exploit.c)

Modprobe

```
printf("[*] Creating \"/tmp/modprobe\"...\n");
char *modprobe_content;
res = asprintf(&modprobe_content, "#!/bin/sh\n\nchown 0:0 \"%s\"\nchmod 4555 \"%s\"\n",
    target_path, target_path);
file_write("/tmp/modprobe", 0_CREAT | 0_WRONLY, 0755,
    modprobe_content, res);
printf("[*] Creating \"/tmp/trigger\"...\n");
char trigger_content[4] = { 0xff, 0xff, 0xff, 0xff, };
```

```
file_write("/tmp/trigger", 0_CREAT | 0_WRONLY, 0755,
    trigger_content, sizeof(trigger_content));
```

system("/tmp/trigger");

(Taken From: https://github.com/oferchen/POC-CVE-2023-32233/blob/main/exploit.c)



Control Flow Enforcement (CET)

- Indirect Branch Tracking (IBT)
 - Forward edge (e.g., JOP, PCOP).
 - Compiler inserts 'endbr' instructions.
 - Processor enforces presence of 'endbr'.
 - #CP (Control Protection) exception.
 - Shadow Stack (SS)
 - Backward edge (e.g., ROP).
 - Isolated shadow stack.
 - Stores return addresses.
 - Compares return addresses.
 - #CP (Control Protection) exception.





User Mode CET

readelf -n <ELF file>

root@ip-172-31-26-252:/home/ubuntu/test# readelf -n /bin/sh

Displaying notes found in: .note.gnu.property Owner Data size Description GNU 0x00000020 NT_GNU_PROPERTY_TYPE_0 Properties: x86 feature: IBT, SHSTK

gdb <ELF file> | disas <function>

gdb-peda\$ disas fgets Dump of assembler code for function fgets@plt: 0x0000000000001090 <+0>: endbr64 0x00000000000000001094 <+4>: bnd jmp QWORD PTR [rip+0x2f35] # 0x3fd0 <faets@aot.plt> 0x00000000000109b <+11>: DWORD PTR [rax+rax*1+0x0] nop End of assembler dump. adb-peda\$ disas printf Dump of assembler code for function printf@plt: 0x000000000001080 <+0>: endbr64 0x00000000000001084 <+4>: bnd jmp QWORD PTR [rip+0x2f3d] # 0x3fc8 <printf@got.plt> 0x0000000000000108b <+11>: nop DWORD PTR [rax+rax*1+0x0] End of assembler dump. gdb-peda\$ disas __stack_chk_fail Dump of assembler code for function __stack_chk_fail@plt: 0x000000000001070 <+0>: endbr64 0x0000000000000001074 <+4>: bnd jmp QWORD PTR [rip+0x2f45] # 0x3fc0 <__stack_chk_fail@got.plt> 0x00000000000107b <+11>: DWORD PTR [rax+rax*1+0x0] nop End of assembler dump.

Kernel Mode CET





HardeningMeter

Assess the security hardening of binaries and systems. python3 HardeningMeter.py -f /bin/cp -s

root@ofr Binaries	ri:/home/ofri/	/exploitd	ation/Ha	rdeningMeter#	python3 Harde	ningMeter.py -f /b	in/cp -s			
Path	File Type	PIE/PI(C REL	RO NOT Stac	ck Exec BIN	D NOW Stack Can	ary Fortify Functions	Shad	low Stack	IBT
/bin/cp	Dynamic PIE	v	V	v	V	v	v 5/15	V		V
System NX	ASLR	SMEP	SMAP	KASLR BASE	KASLR MEMOR	Y KASLR KSTACK	KASLR KSTACK DEFAULT	IBT	PTI	
active	Full Enabled	V	V	V	V	V	V	X	V	
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