

PA193 - Secure coding principles and practices

**LABS: Language level vulnerabilities:
Buffer overflow, type overflow, strings**



Petr Švenda svenda@fi.muni.cz

CRCS
Centre for Research on
Cryptography and Security

www.fi.muni.cz/crocs

```
// Note: GCC and MSVC uses different memory alignment
// Try "12345678DevilEvecosia" as a password for gcc build
// Try "1234567812345678Devil I am. Ha Ha" as a password for MSVC debug build

void demoBufferOverflowData() {
    int unused_variable = 30;
#define NORMAL_USER          'n'
#define ADMIN_USER           'a'
    int userRights = NORMAL_USER;
#define USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH 8
    char   userName[USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH];
    char   passwd[USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH];

    // print some info about variables
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "userName", userName);
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "passwd", passwd);
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "unused_variable", &unused_variable);
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "userRights", &userRights);
    printf("\n");

    // Get user name
    memset(userName, 1, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
    memset(passwd, 2, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
    printf("login as: ");
    fflush(stdout);
    gets(userName);

    // Get password
    printf("%s@vulnerable.machine.com: ", userName);
    fflush(stdout);
    gets(passwd);

    // Check user rights (set to NORMAL_USER and not changed in code)
    if (userRights == NORMAL_USER) {
        printf("\nWelcome, normal user '%s', your rights are limited.\n\n", userName);
        fflush(stdout);
    }
    if (userRights == ADMIN_USER) {
        printf("\nWelcome, all mighty admin user '%s'!\n", userName);
        fflush(stdout);
    }

    // How to FIX:
    //memset(userName, 0, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
    //fgets(userName, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH - 1, stdin);
    //memset(passwd, 0, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
    //fgets(passwd, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH - 1, stdin);
}
```

```

void demoBufferOverflowData() {
    int unused_variable = 30;
#define NORMAL_USER      'n'
#define ADMIN_USER       'a'
    int userRights = NORMAL_USER;
#define USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH 8
    char   userName[USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH];
    char   passwd[USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH];

    // print some info about variables
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "userName", userName);
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "passwd", passwd);
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "unused_variable", &unused_variable);
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "userRights", &userRights);
    printf("\n");

    // Get user name
    printf("login as: ");
    gets(userName);

    // Get password
    printf("%s@vulnerable.machine.com: ", userName);
    gets(passwd);

    // Check user rights (set to NORMAL_USER and not changed in code)
    if (userRights == NORMAL_USER) {
        printf("\nWelcome, normal user '%s', your rights are limited.\n\n", userName);
    }
    if (userRights == ADMIN_USER) {
        printf("\nWelcome, all mighty admin user '%s'!\n", userName);
    }
}

```

Variable containing current access rights

Array with fixed length (will be overwritten)

Help output of address of local variables stored on the stack

Reading username and password (no length checking)

Print information about current user rights

Data in memory

```
void demoBufferOverflowData() {
    int      unused_variable = 30;
#define NORMAL_USER      'n'
#define ADMIN_USER       'a'
    int      userRights = NORMAL_USER;
#define USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH 8
    char    userName[USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH];
    char    passwd[USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH];

    // print some info about variables
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "userName", userName);
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "passwd", passwd);
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "unused_variable", &unus
    printf("%-20s: %p\n", "userRights", &userRigh
    printf("\n");

    // Get user name
    memset(userName, 1, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
    memset(passwd, 2, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
    printf("login as: ");
    fflush(stdout);
```

unused variable

Running without malicious input

The screenshot shows a debugger interface with the following components:

- Global Scope:** Shows the C code for `demoBufferOverflowData()`. The code includes:
 - Setting `userNames` and `passwd` to null.
 - Printing "login as:" and flushing stdout.
 - Reading `userNames` from user input.
 - Getting `password` from user input.
 - Checking user rights:
 - If `userRights == N`, prints "Welcome" and flushes stdout.
 - If `userRights == A`, prints "Welcome Admin" and flushes stdout.
- Memory1:** A memory dump window showing the state of memory at address `0x0013FA03`. It displays a sequence of characters starting with "cc" followed by "test....", then "petr....", and finally a series of question marks "?".
- Output Window:** Displays the application's standard output:

```
##### demoBufferOverflowData #####
userNames      : 0013FA58
passwd        : 0013FA48
unused_variable : 0013FA74
userRights     : 0013FA68

login as: petr
petr@vulnerable.machine.com: test

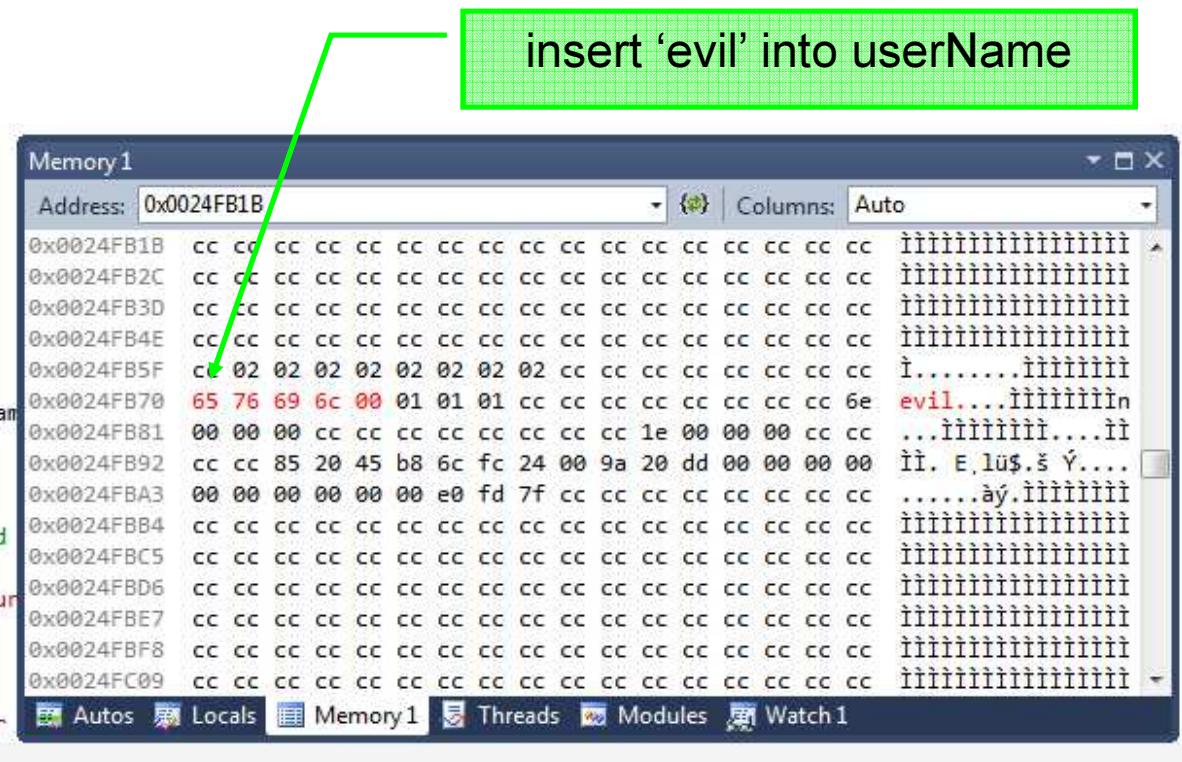
Welcome, normal user 'petr', your rights are limited.
```
- Data Labels:** Two memory locations are highlighted with green boxes:
 - `userNames` (Address `0013FA58`)
 - `passwd` (Address `0013FA48`)Green arrows point from these labels to their respective memory dump entries.

Running with malicious input – userName

```
// Get user name
memset(userName, 1, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
memset(passwd, 2, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
printf("login as: ");
fflush(stdout);
gets(userName);

// Get password
printf("%s@vulnerable.machine.com: ", userName);
fflush(stdout);
gets(passwd);

// Check user rights (set to NORMAL_USER and
if (userRights == NORMAL_USER) {
    printf("\nWelcome, normal user '%s', you",
        fflush(stdout));
}
if (userRights == ADMIN_USER) {
    printf("\nWelcome, all mighty admin user",
        fflush(stdout));
}
```



Running with malicious input - passwd

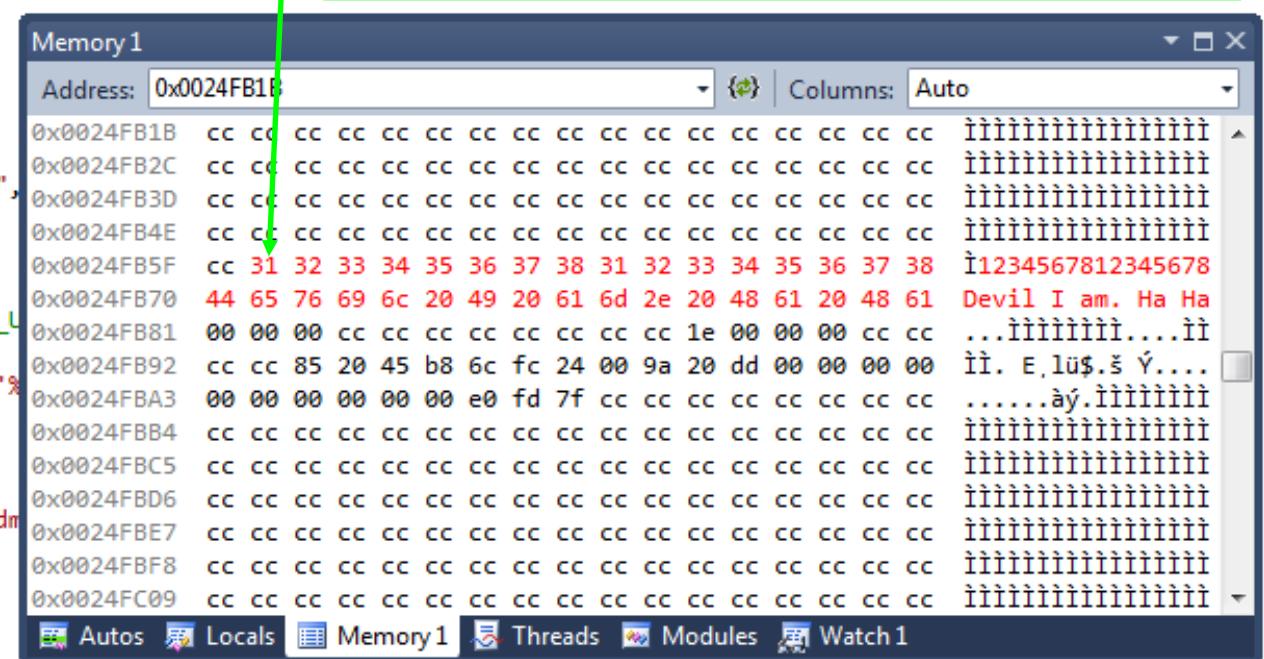
```
printf("login as: ");
fflush(stdout);
gets(userName);

// Get password
printf("%s@vulnerable.machine.com: ",
fflush(stdout);
gets(passwd);

// Check user rights (set to NORMAL_USER)
if (userRights == NORMAL_USER) {
    printf("\nWelcome, normal user '%s'\n",
fflush(stdout);
}

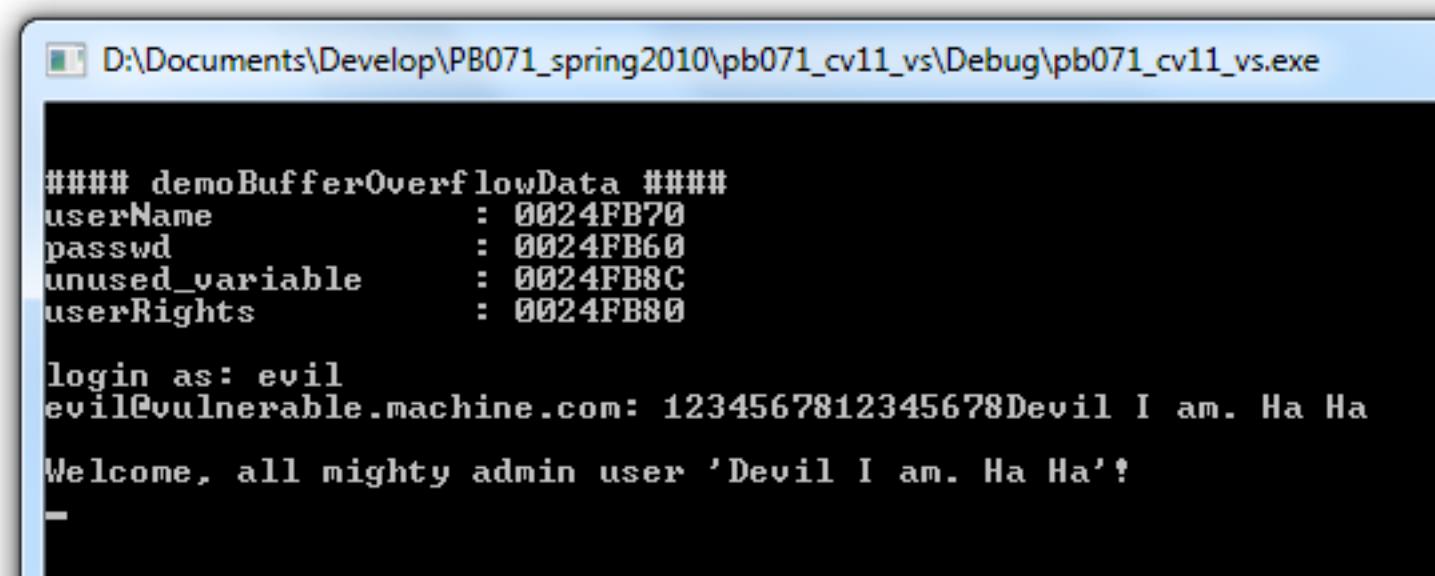
if (userRights == ADMIN_USER) {
    printf("\nWelcome, all mighty admin '%s'\n",
fflush(stdout);
}

// How to FIX:
```



- Too long password overflow `userName` and `userRights`

Running with attacker input - result



D:\Documents\Develop\PB071_spring2010\pb071_cv11_vs\Debug\pb071_cv11_vs.exe

```
##### demoBufferOverflowData #####
userName      : 0024FB70
passwd        : 0024FB60
unused_variable : 0024FB8C
userRights    : 0024FB80

login as: evil
evil@vulnerable.machine.com: 1234567812345678Devil I am. Ha Ha
Welcome, all mighty admin user 'Devil I am. Ha Ha'!
-
```

Questions

- How you will find memory location (address) of *userRights* variable?
- How many bytes you need to write into *userName* variable to change *userRights* ?
- Can you get admin right by changing *userName/passwd* only?
- Why is program throwing debugger exception when finishing function *demoBufferOverflowData()*?
- How program was able to detect memory corruption?
- Why 0xcc bytes are here?
- Can you get admin rights without raising runtime exception (*memory around userName variable corrupted*) when leaving *demoBufferOverflowData()*?

Questions

- What is the influence of /GS disabled?
- Where you can find return address?
- What should be the return address value?
- What is the value of canary word?
- Is it influenced by /GS flag?
- Try to compile in Release mode
 - What is the impact on addresses?
 - Can you still execute buffer overflow and change userRights?
 - If not directly, how you can?
 - Can you find canary?

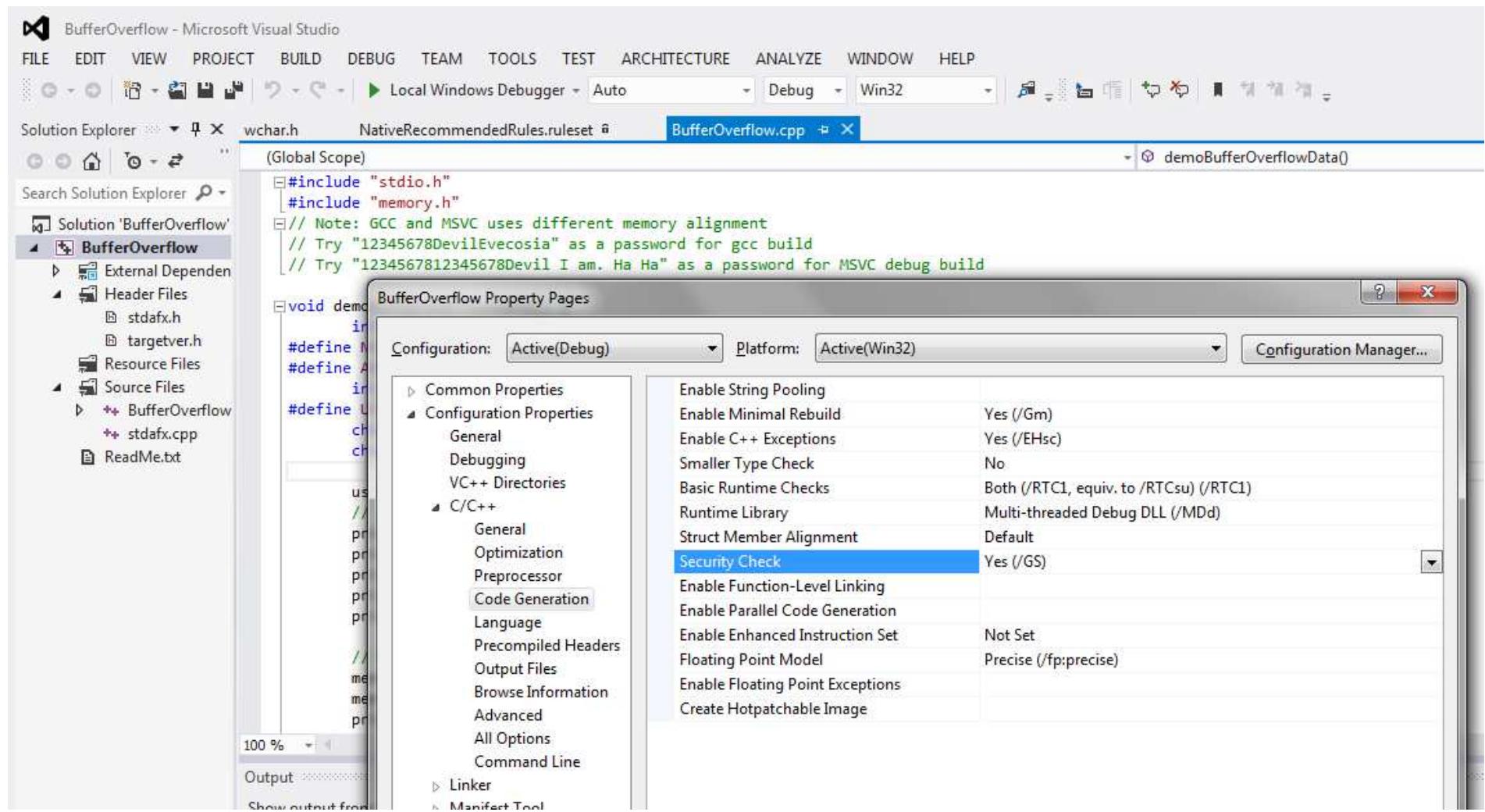
Lab – compiler protections

- GCC (e.g., QT Creator) & MSVC (Visual Studio)
 - list of compiler flags, release mode
- Compile program with/without compiler protection
 - bufferoverflowdemo.cpp::demoBufferOverflowData()
 - download from IS materials
 - return pointer smash behavior (crash, exception)
- Disassembly display of resulting binary
 - instruction-wise mode in IDE (Visual Studio), OllyDbg
 - existence of canary word (function with/without GS buffer)
- Display address of variable, function...,
 - run program multiple times – memory randomization (ASLR)

Compiler flags

- Locate all flags discussed during lecture
- Visual Studio Projects Settings
- Observe memory layout for stack frame with and without the flag
 - what is changing?
 - what is missing?

Compiler settings for /DEP and /ASLR



Deeper look into disassembly

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Visual Studio interface during a debugging session of a Buffer Overflow application.

Solution Explorer: Shows the project 'BufferOverflow' with files like BufferOverflow.cpp, stdafx.h, targetver.h, and ReadMe.txt.

Disassembly View: Displays assembly code for the function demoBufferOverflowData. The assembly code corresponds to the following C/C++ source code:

```
// Get user name
memset(userName, 1, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
memset(passwd, 2, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
printf("login as: ");
fflush(stdout);
gets(userName);

// Get password
printf("%s@vulnerable.machine.com: ", userName);
fflush(stdout);
gets(passwd);

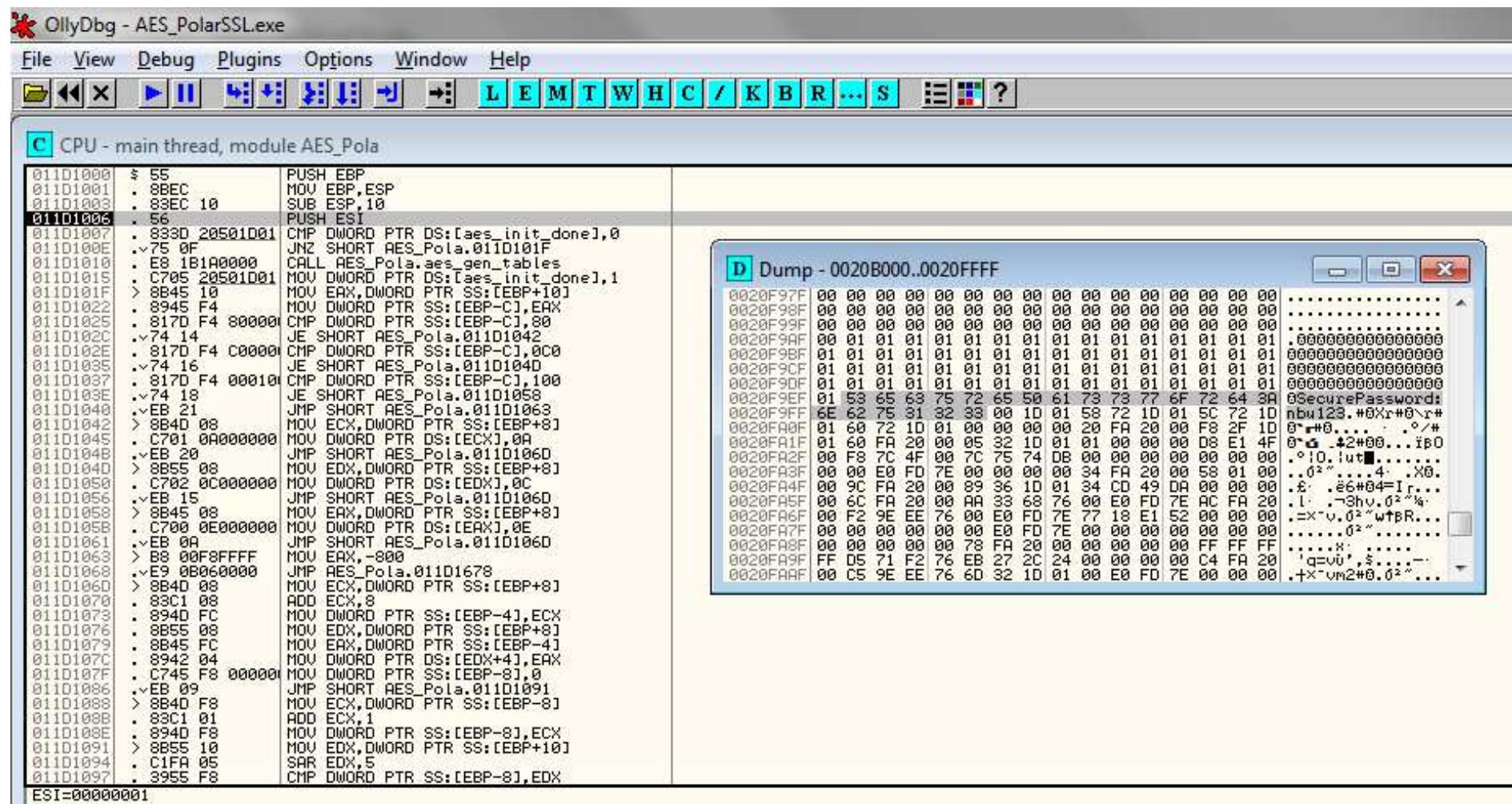
// Check user rights (set to NORMAL_USER and not changed in code)
if (userRights == NORMAL_USER) {
    printf("\nWelcome, normal user '%s', your rights are limited.\n\n", userName);
    fflush(stdout);
```

Memory View: Shows memory starting at address 0x0019FC54 filled with the character 'c'.

Call Stack: Shows the call stack from the debugger:

```
Call Stack
Name
BufferOverflow.exe!demoBufferOverflowData() Line 25
BufferOverflow.exe!main() Line 56
BufferOverflow.exe!_tmainCRTStartup() Line 536
BufferOverflow.exe!mainCRTStartup() Line 377
kernel32.dll!754833aa()
[Frames below may be incorrect and/or missing, no symbols loaded for kernel32.dll]
ntdll.dll!77139f72()
ntdll.dll!77139f45()
```

Deeper look into disassembly (cont.)



BinScope Binary Analyzer

- Download Microsoft SDL's Binscope
 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=11910>
- Run BinScope Binary Analyzer (cmd or GUI)
 - `binscope.exe`
 - `binscope.exe /o results.xml targetApp.exe`
- Run on the binaries produced with different compiler settings
 - `/GS...`

Lab – exploiting exercises

- Prostostar image (<http://exploit-exercises.com>)
 - pre-prepared virtual machine
 - <http://exploit-exercises.com/protostar> (task description)
 - finish given stack/format/heap levels
- Login credentials: user / user; root / godmode
- Challenges stored in /opt/protostar/bin/ directory
 - stack0-7
- Run it, supply malformed input leading to crash
- Think about how to fix the source code

Protostar virtual image with exercises

exploit-exercises.com News Blog Download Exercises ▾

Follow us on twitter
Follow @exploitexercise

STACK LEVELS

- Stack 0
- Stack 1
- Stack 2
- Stack 3
- Stack 4
- Stack 5
- Stack 6
- Stack 7

FORMAT STRING LEVELS

- Format 0
- Format 1
- Format 2
- Format 3
- Format 4

HEAP LEVELS

- Heap 0
- Heap 1

Protostar stack0

About

This level introduces the concept that memory can modify program execution.

This level is at /opt/protostar/bin/stack0

Source code

```
1#include <stdlib.h>
2#include <unistd.h>
3#include <stdio.h>
4
5int main(int argc, char **argv)
6{
7    volatile int modified;
8    char buffer[64];
9
10   modified = 0;
11   gets(buffer);
12
13   if(modified != 0) {
14       printf("you have changed the 'modified' variable\n");
15   } else {
16       printf("Try again?\n");
17   }
18}
```

Discussion

5 comments

The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "EE - protostar 2 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox". The terminal output includes:

- Linux (none) 2.6.32-5-686 #1 SMP Mon Oct 3 04:15:24 UTC 2011 i686
- The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software; the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/*copyright.
- Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by applicable law.
- \$ cd /opt/protostar/bin
- \$./stack0 AAA
- Try again?
- \$./stack0 AAA
- AA
- Try again?
- \$./stack0
- AA
- AA
- you have changed the 'modified' variable
- Segmentation fault
- \$ _

Lab - Homework

- Finish exploit exercises (Protostar, stack0-4)
 - submit txt file with inputs causing corruption
- Fix problems from these exercises (stack0-4)
 - submit corrected code that will not contain vulnerable constructions
(safe functions, proper arguments checking...)
- Bonus (+3 points):
 - Finish exploit exercise (Protostar, stack5-7)
- Upload your solution to IS repository
 - (homework vaults)
- Deadline: 5.10.2014 23:59

