

# *PA193 - Secure coding principles and practices*

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



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```
// 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);
}
```

# Setup

- Create new Visual Studio 2013 Project
  - File->New->Project->VisualC++->Win32 Console app
  - Turn off ‘Precompiled header’ and ‘SDL checks’
- Copy content of BufferOverflow.cpp from IS instead of generated main file
- Try to compile (disable warning on gets() function)
  - `#define _CRT_SECURE_NO_WARNINGS`
- Insert breakpoint (begin of demoBufferOverflowData()) – F9
- Run program in debug mode – F5
- Execute next step of program – F10
- Display memory (must be in debugging session), Debug → Windows → 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", &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)

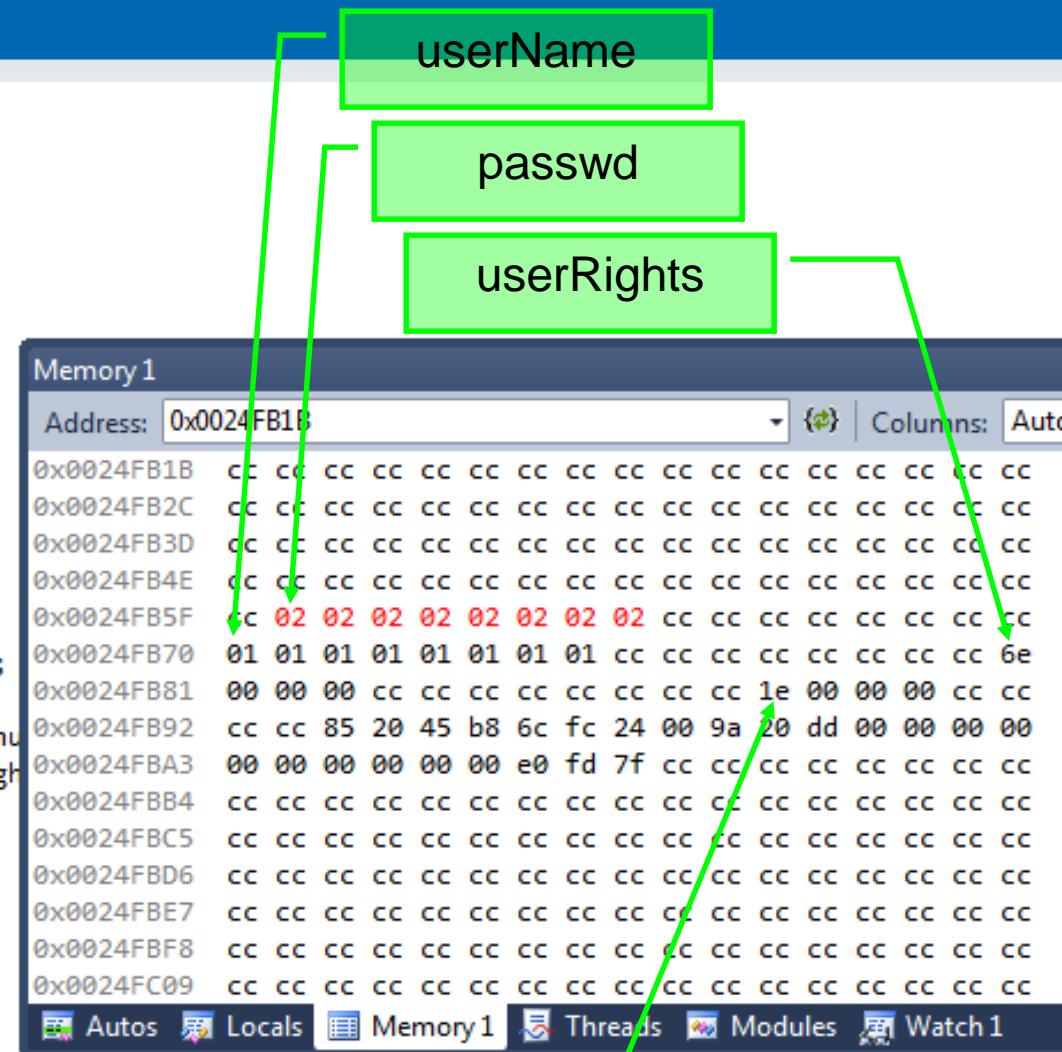
Print information about current user rights

# 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", &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);
```



## unused variable

# Running without malicious input

The screenshot shows a debugger interface with several windows:

- Global Scope**: Shows the C code for `demoBufferOverflowData()`. It includes memory allocations for `userName` and `passwd`, and variable declarations for `unused_variable` and `userRights`.
- Memory1**: A hex dump window showing memory starting at address `0x0013FA03`. The dump reveals the user input "petr...." followed by a large amount of null bytes (cc). A green arrow points from the `userRights` variable in the Global Scope to the null byte region in the memory dump.
- Output**: A terminal-like window showing the program's execution. It prints the welcome message, the user input "petr....", and the password "petr@vulnerable.machine.com: test".
- Registers**: A window showing CPU registers.
- Stack**: A window showing the current state of the stack.

Annotations:

- A green box highlights the `userRights` variable in the Global Scope.
- A green arrow points from this highlighted variable to the null byte region in the Memory dump window.
- Below the Global Scope, two green boxes highlight the `userRights` variable and the `passwd` variable.

# 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', your",
        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'!",
fflush(stdout);
}

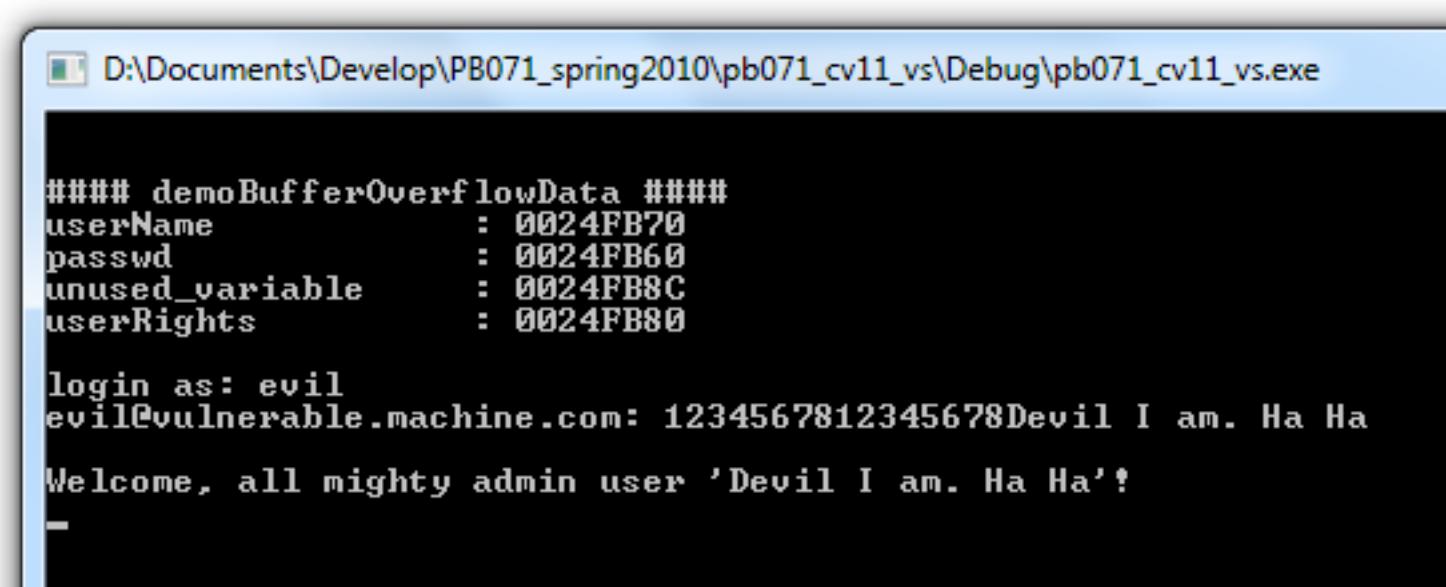
if (userRights == ADMIN_USER) {
    printf("\nWelcome, all mighty admin '%s'!",
fflush(stdout);
}

// How to FIX:
```

The screenshot shows the Immunity Debugger's memory dump window. The address bar at the top shows 0x0024FB1B. The memory dump table lists addresses from 0x0024FB1B to 0x0024FC09. The data column shows the memory content as pairs of hex digits. A green arrow points to the byte at address 0x0024FB5F, which is highlighted in red and contains the value 31. The string "Devil I am. Ha Ha" is visible in the memory dump, starting at address 0x0024FB70. The Immunity Debugger interface includes tabs for Autos, Locals, Memory 1, Threads, Modules, and Watch 1.

- 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 (debug mode)

- How are `userName`, `password` and `userRights` positioned in memory?
- 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 rights by changing `userName` only?

# Questions (debug mode)

- Why is program throwing debugger exception when finishing function demoBufferOverflowData()?
- How program was able to detect memory corruption?
- Why 0xcc bytes are here? How you can type 0xcc into terminal?
- Can you get admin rights without raising runtime exception (*memory around userName variable corrupted*) when leaving demoBufferOverflowData()?
- Where you can find return address?
- What should be the return address value?
  - Try R-Click -> Go to Disassembly

# Questions (release mode)

- Release mode, /GS on
  - What is memory layout with respect to debug mode?
  - Can you still execute buffer overflow and change userRights?
  - What is the value of canary word?
- Release mode, /GS off
  - What is the influence of /GS disabled?
  - What is the impact on addresses of variables?
  - Can you be admin in Release? Why?

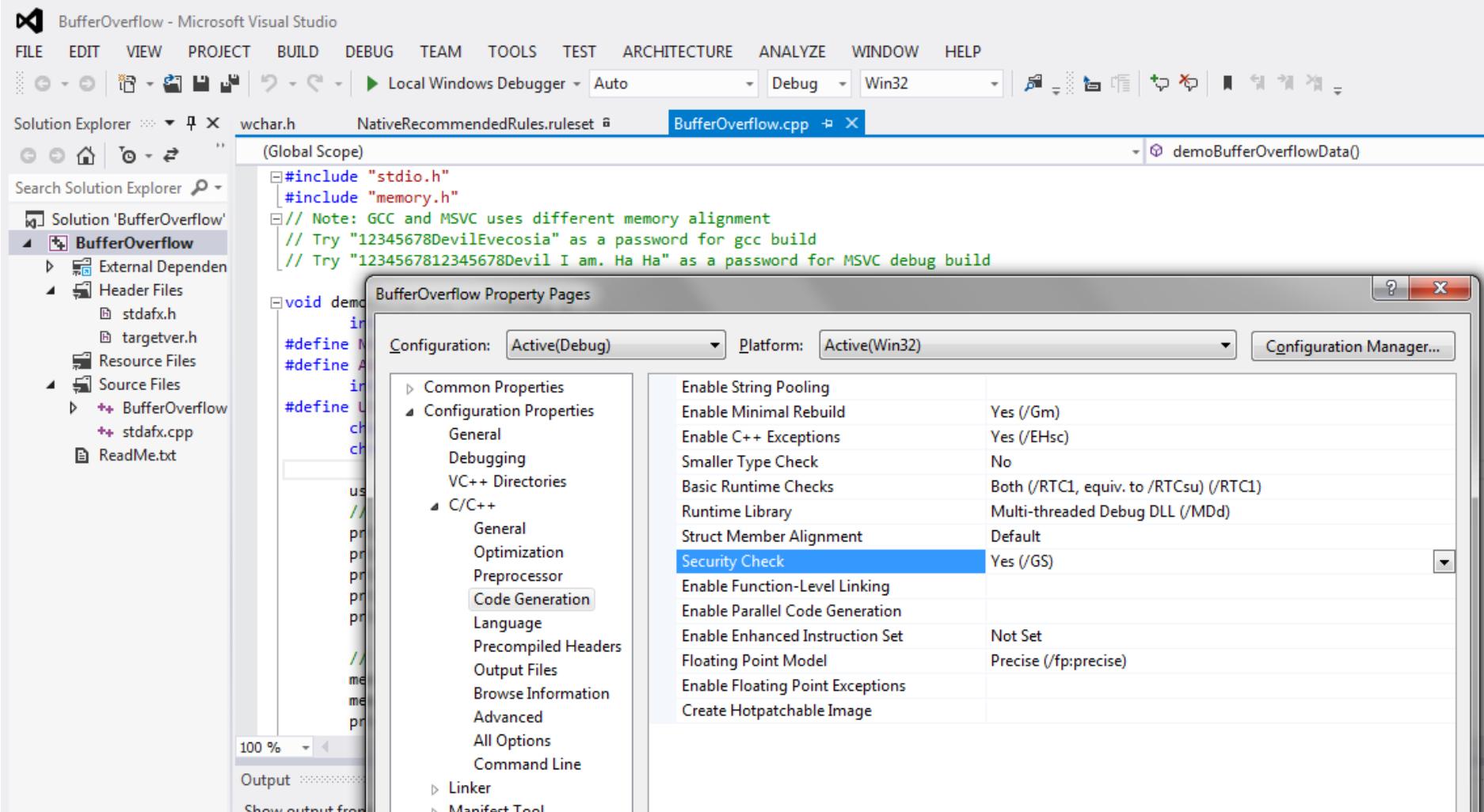
# Lab – compiler protections

- 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 C program named 'BufferOverflow'. The assembly code is displayed in the 'Disassembly' window, and the corresponding C source code is overlaid in a blue box. The assembly code shows the flow of the program, including calls to system functions like `gets`, `printf`, and `fflush`. The source code is annotated with comments explaining the purpose of each section of code.

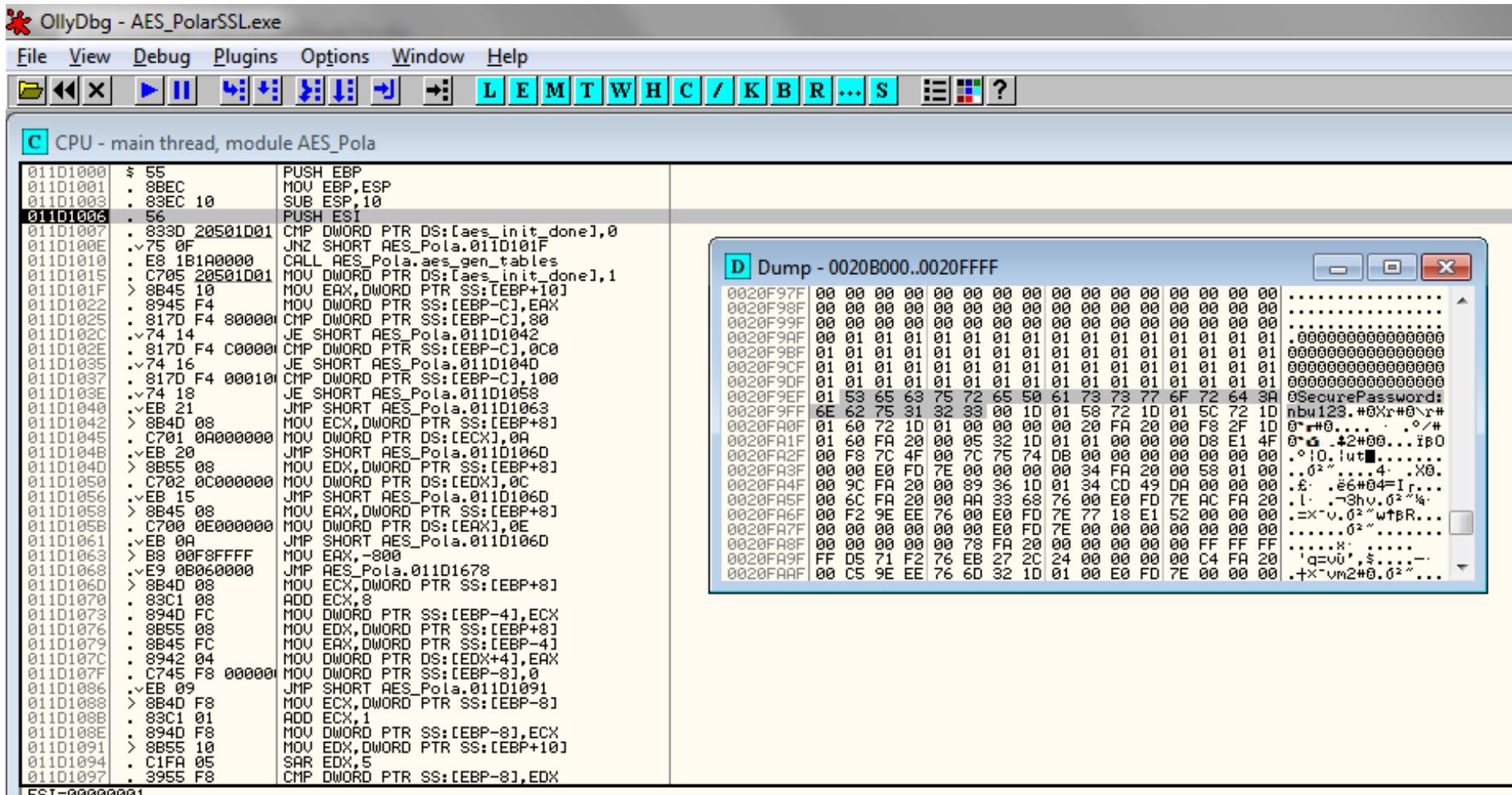
```
// Get user name
memset(userName, 1, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
memset(passwd, 2, USER_INPUT_MAX_LENGTH);
printf("login as: ");
fflush(stdout);
gets(userName);

// 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);
```

The 'Memory1' and 'Call Stack' windows are also visible at the bottom of the interface.

# 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

- Protostar image (<http://exploit-exercises.com>)
  - pre-prepared virtual machine
  - <http://exploit-exercises.com/protostar> (task description)
- **Important:** site now not available, use this link:
  - <https://web.archive.org/web/20140922114755/http://exploit-exercises.com/protostar>
  - Or protostar.zip in IS
- 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

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**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

# 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: one week (22.10.2015 23:59 / 27.10.2015 23:59 depending on your seminar group)

