CS161 Summer 2025

Introduction to Computer Security

Discussion 3

Q1	C Memory	Defenses

(5 points)

Mark the following statements as True or False and justify your solution. Please feel free to discuss with students around you.

Q1.1 (1 point) Stack canaries completely prevent a buffer overflow from overwriting the return instruction pointer.

Q1.2	(1 point) A format-string vulnerability can allow an attacker to overwrite values below the stack pointer.
Q1.3	(1 point) ASLR, stack canaries, and NX bits all combined are insufficient to prevent exploitation of all buffer overflow attacks.

Short answer!

Q1.4	(1 point)	wnat	vulnerabi	lity v	would	arise	if the	stack	canary	was	between	the	return	address	and
	the saved	l frame	pointer?												

_	(1 point) Assume ASLR is enabled. What vulnerability would arise if the instruction jmp ESP exists in memory?

Q2 Robin (4 points)

Consider the following code snippet:

```
1
   void robin(void) {
2
        char buf[16];
3
        int i;
4
5
        if (fread(&i, sizeof(int), 1, stdin) != 1)
6
            return;
7
8
        if (fgets(buf, sizeof(buf), stdin) == NULL)
9
            return;
10
11
12
   }
```

Assume that:

- There is no compiler padding or additional saved registers.
- The provided line of code in each subpart compiles and runs.
- buf is located at memory address 0xffffd8d8
- Stack canaries are enabled, and all other memory safety defenses are disabled.
- The stack canary is four completely random bytes (no null byte).

For each subpart, mark whether it is possible to leak the value of the stack canary. If you put possible, provide an input to Line 5 and an input to Line 8 that would leak the canary. If the line is not needed for the exploit, you must write "Not needed" in the box.

Write your answer in Python syntax.

2.1 (1 point) Line 11 contains gets(buf) ;.	
O Possible	
O Not Possible	
Line 5:	
Line 8:	

	<pre>printf("%c", buf[i]);.</pre> <pre>O Possible</pre>
	O Not Possible
	Line 5:
	Line 8:
Q2.3	(1 point) Line 11 contains printf(buf);.
	O Possible
	O Not Possible
	Line 5:
	Line 8:
Q2.4	(1 point) Line 11 contains printf(i);.
	O Possible
	O Not Possible
	Line 5:
	Line 8:

(Question 2 continued...)

Q3 Hulk Smash! (2 points)

Assume that:

- For your inputs, you may use SHELLCODE as a 16-byte shellcode.
- If needed, you may use standard output as OUTPUT, slicing it using Python syntax.
- All x86 instructions are 4 bytes long.
- For each provided code snippet, you run GDB once, and discover that:
 - ► The address of the RIP of the hulk method is 0xffffcd84.
 - ► The address of a ret instruction is 0x080722d8.

Consider the following function:

```
1
   int hulk(FILE *f, char *eyes) {
2
       void (* green_ptr)(void) = &green; //function pointer
3
       char buf[32];
       char str[28];
4
5
       fread(buf, 1, 32, f);
       printf("%s", buf);
6
7
       fread(buf, 4, 32, stdin);
8
       if (strlen(eyes) > 28) {
9
            return 0;
       }
10
11
       strncpy(str, eyes, sizeof(buf));
12
       return 1;
13
   }
```

The following is the x86 code of void green(void):

```
1 nop
2 nop
3 nop
4 ret
```

Assume that ASLR is enabled including the code section, but all other memory safety defenses are disabled.

(Question	3	continued	.)

Q3.1 (1 point) Fill in the stack diagram below, assuming that execution has entered the call to vulnerable:

	Stack	
3.2 (1 point) Provi	ide an input to each of the boxes below in order to execute SHELLCODE.	
	ng value for eyes (argument to hulk):	
Provide a strir	ng for the contents of the file that is passed in as the f argument of hulk:	

Provide an input to the second fread in hulk: