

Framing Signals

a return to portable shellcode

Erik Bosman and Herbert Bos



stack buffer overflow

stack

return addr

buffer

sp

stack buffer overflow

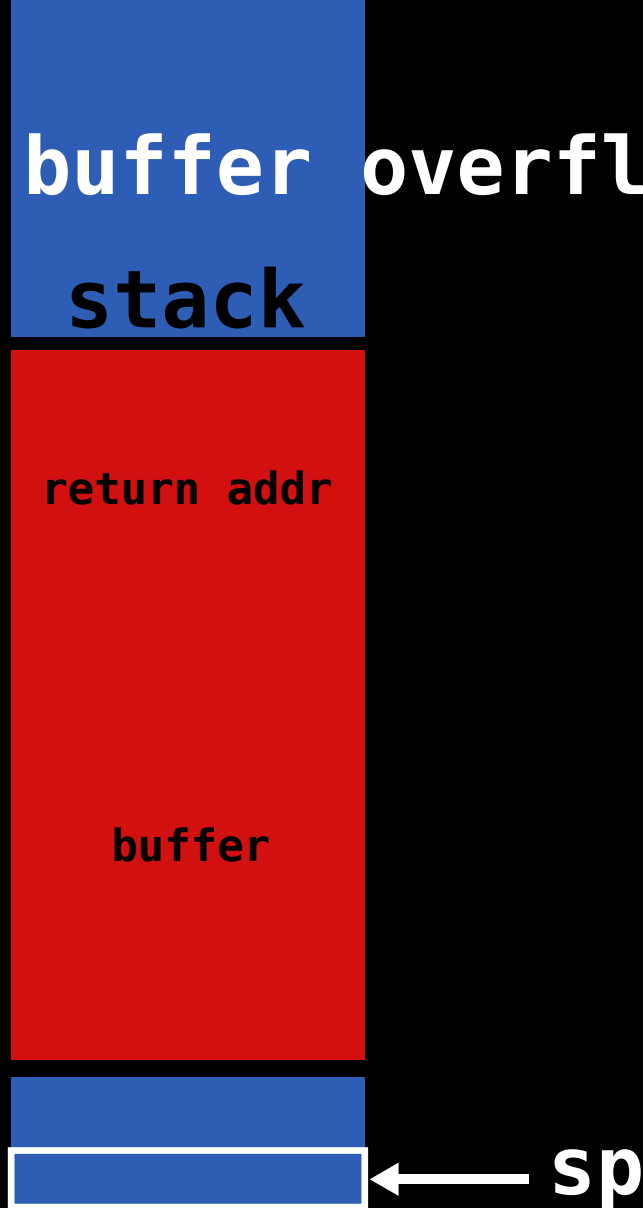
stack

return addr

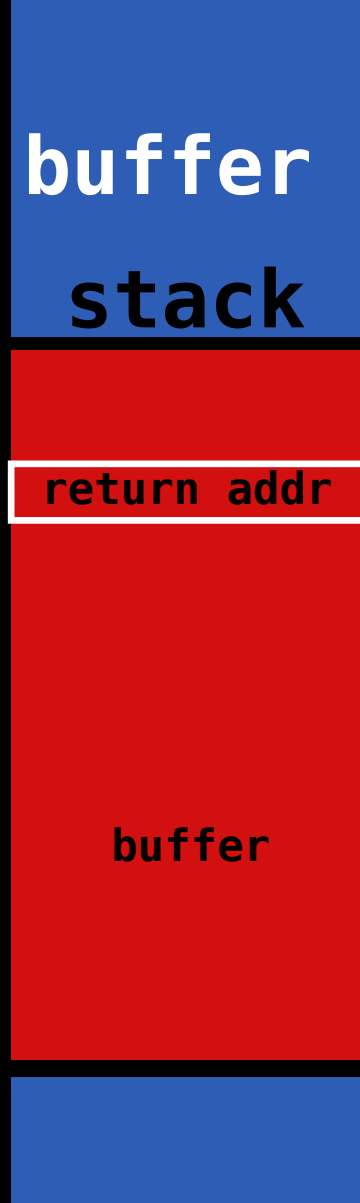
buffer

sp

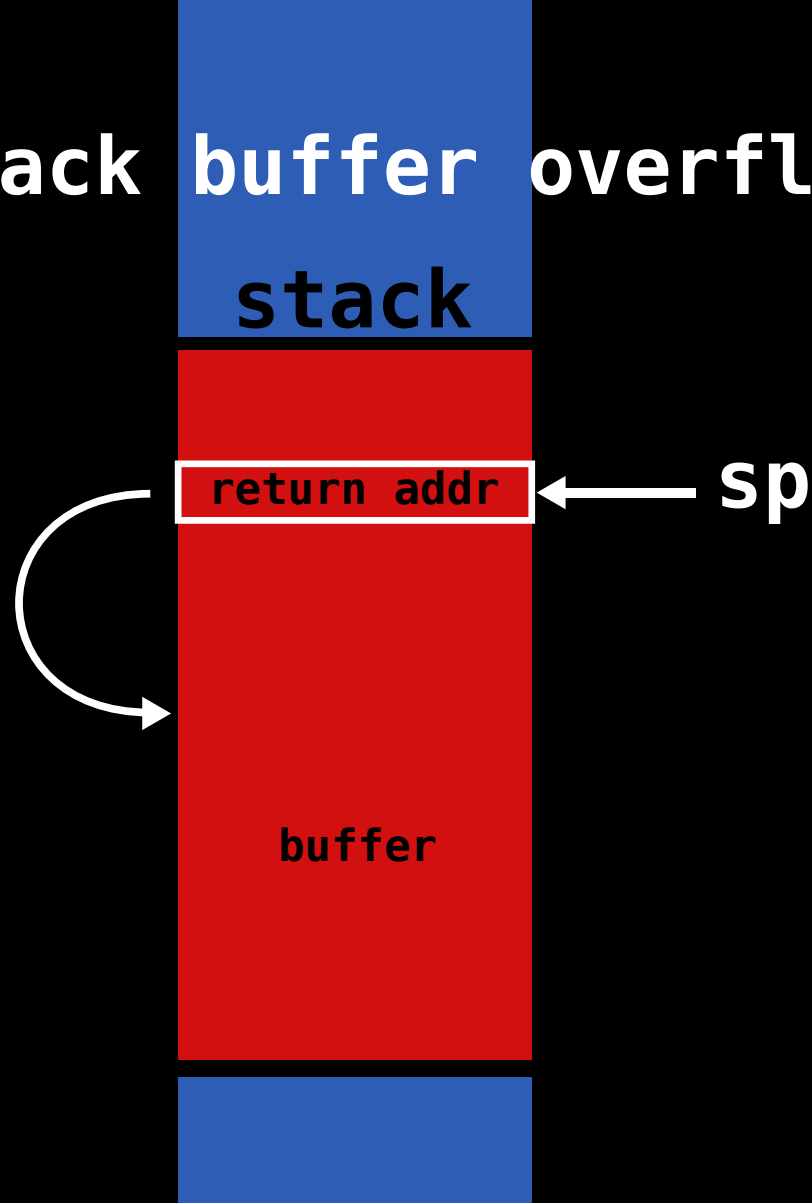
stack buffer overflow



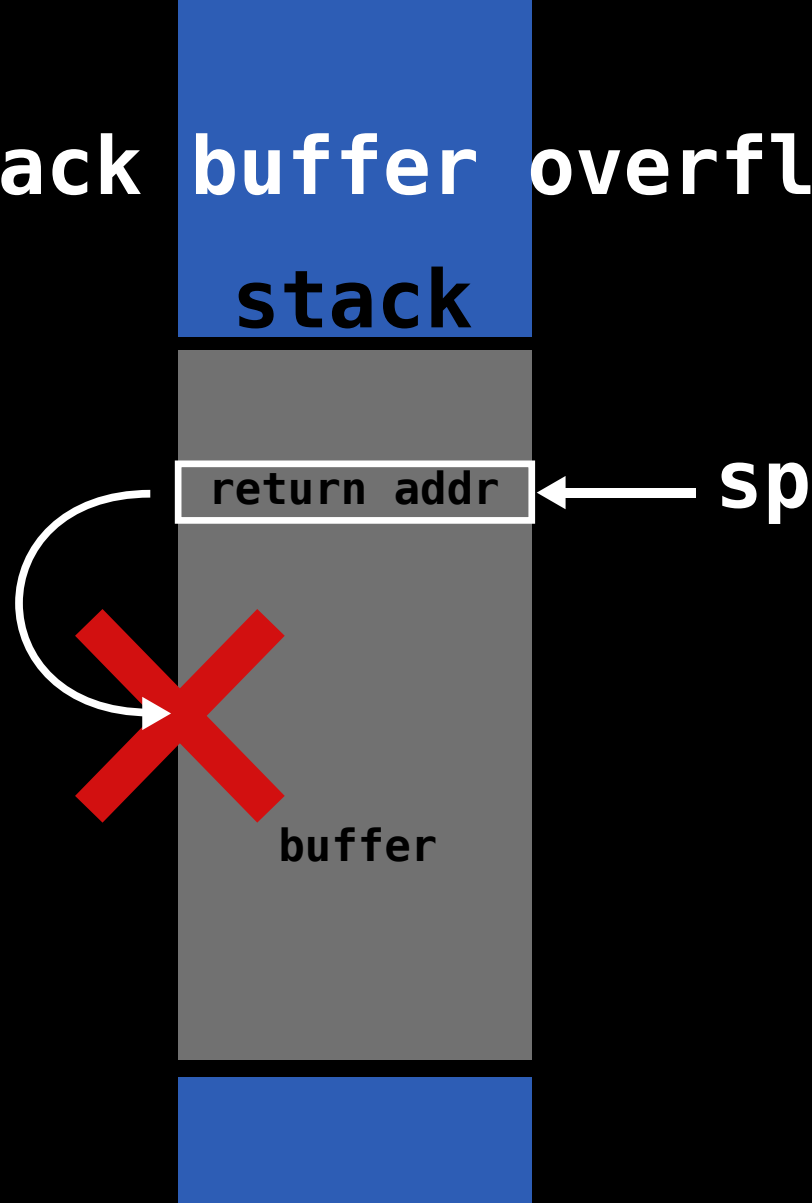
stack buffer overflow

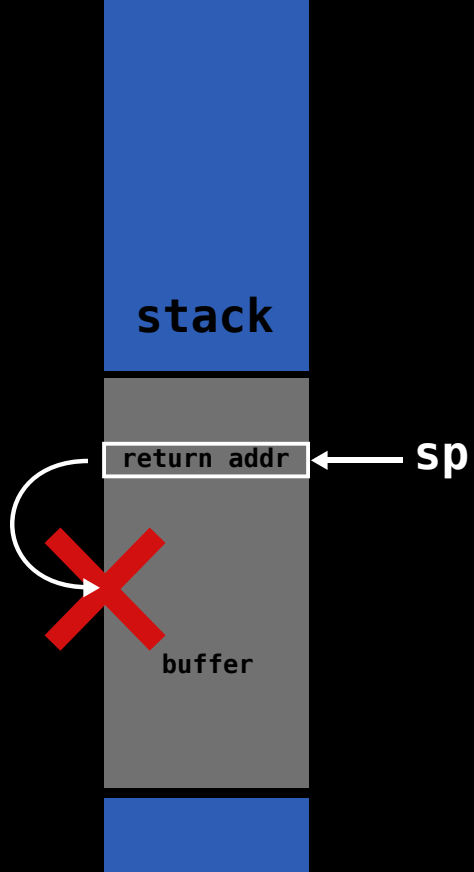


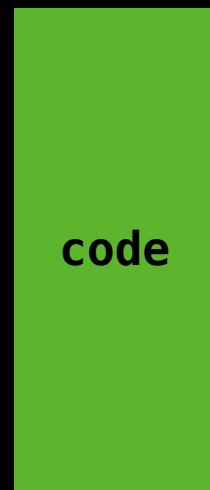
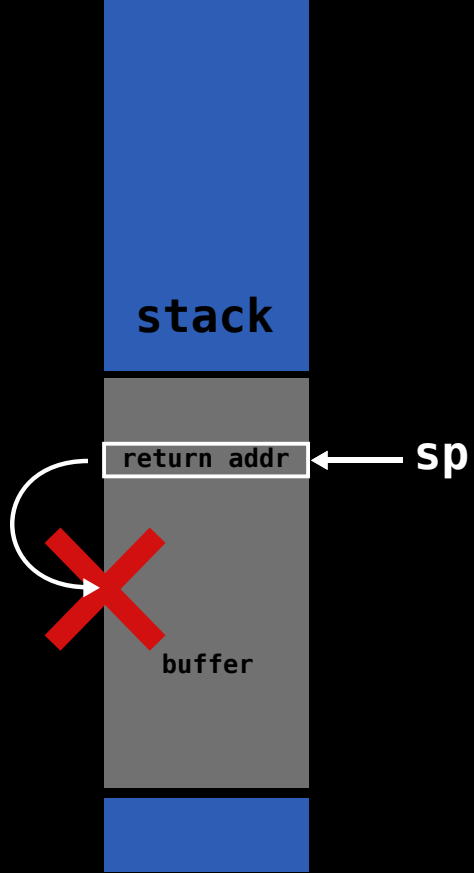
stack buffer overflow



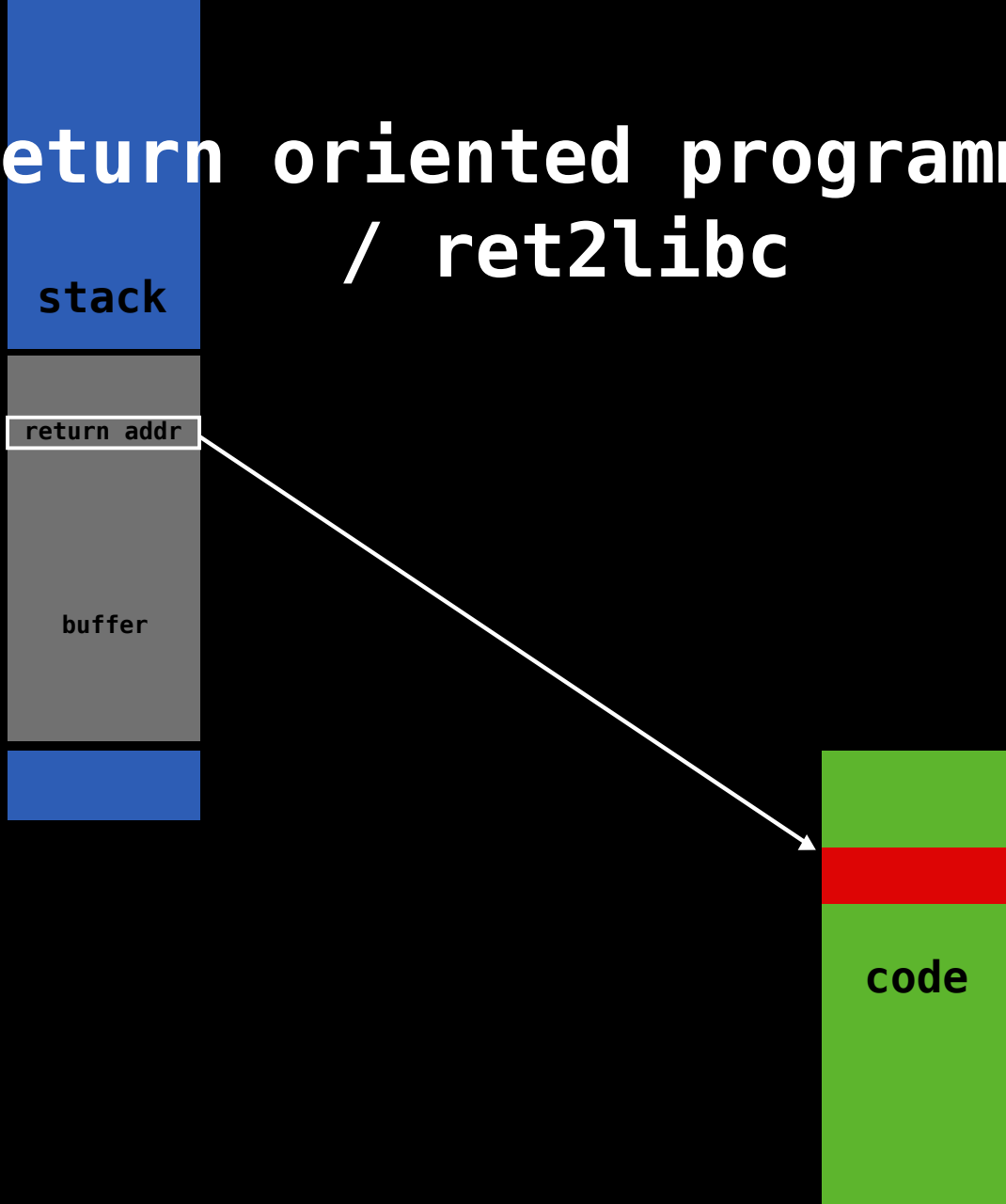
stack buffer overflow



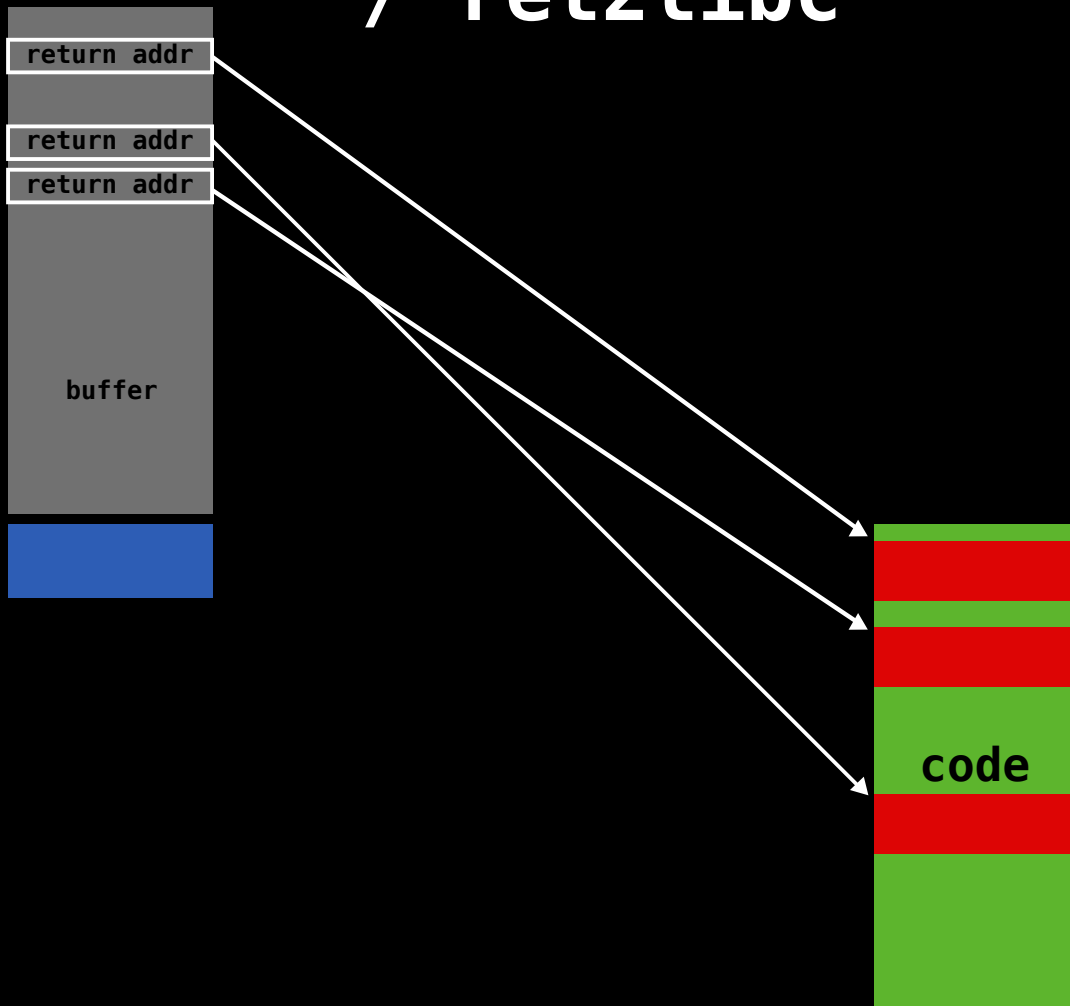




return oriented programming / ret2libc



return oriented programming / ret2libc



Return Oriented Programming

- dependent on available gadgets
- chains may differ greatly between different binaries
- non-trivial to program
- ASLR makes it harder to guess gadgets without an info-leak

Sigreturn Oriented Programming

- minimal number of gadgets
- constructing shellcode by chaining system calls
- easy to change functionality of shellcode
- gadgets are always present

unix signals
stack



unix signals stack



**unix signals
stack**

ucontext

← sp

unix signals stack

ucontext

siginfo



← sp

unix signals stack

ucontext

siginfo

sigreturn

← sp

unix signals stack

good:

kernel agnostic
about signal
handlers



siginfo

sigreturn

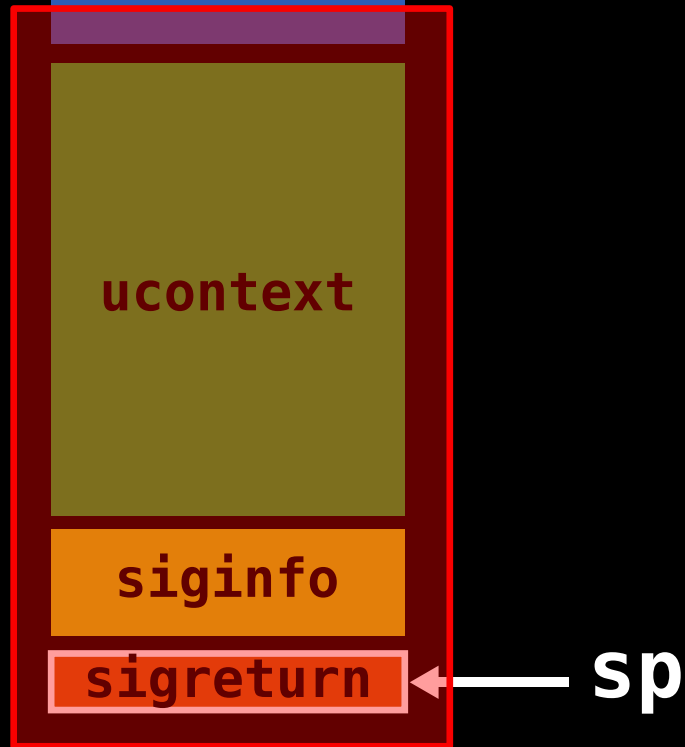
← sp

unix signals stack

bad:

kernel agnostic
about signal
handlers

(we can fake 'em)



two gadgets

- call to sigreturn
- syscall & return

forged signal frame

sigreturn

program counter

forged signal frame

sigreturn

program counter

stack pointer

forged signal frame

sigreturn

program counter

stack pointer

RAX

...

RDI

RSI

RDX

R10

R8

R9

...

sigreturn

program counter

stack pointer

syscall number

...

arg1

arg2

arg3

arg4

arg5

arg6

...

sigreturn

syscall & return

stack pointer

syscall number

...

arg1

arg2

arg3

arg4

arg5

arg6

...

sigreturn

syscall & return

next sigframe

syscall number

...

arg1

arg2

arg3

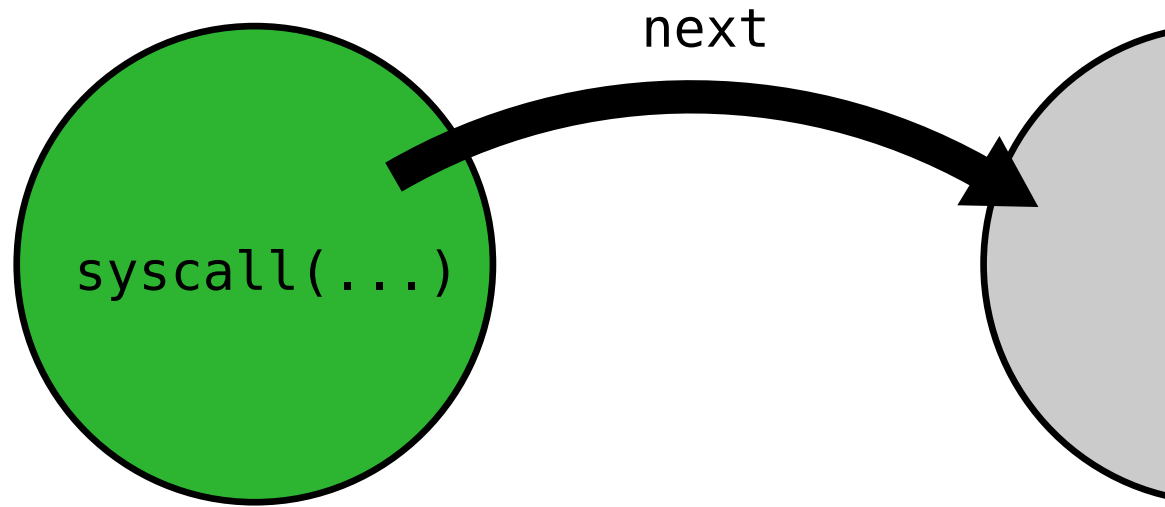
arg4

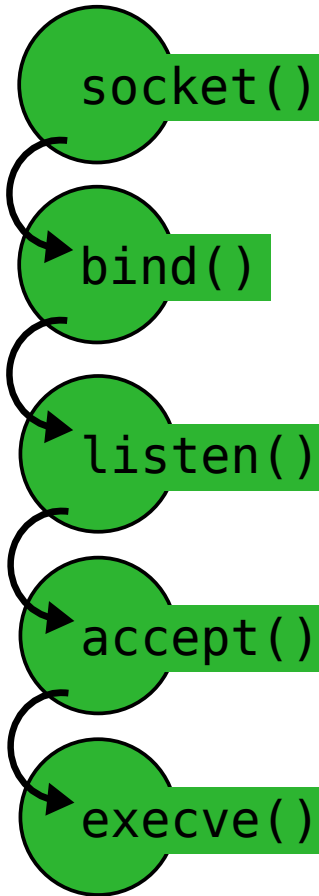
arg5

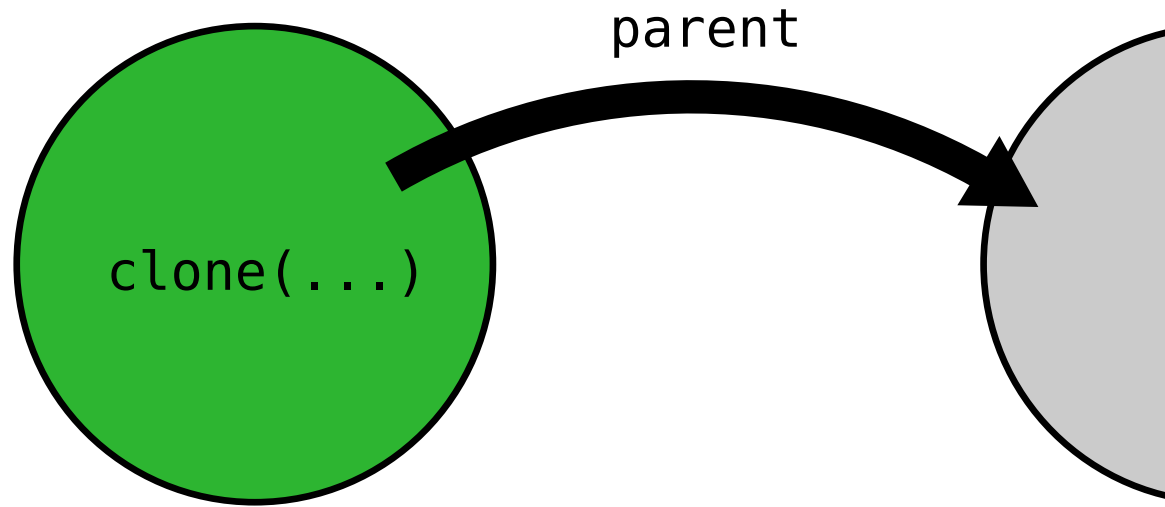
arg6

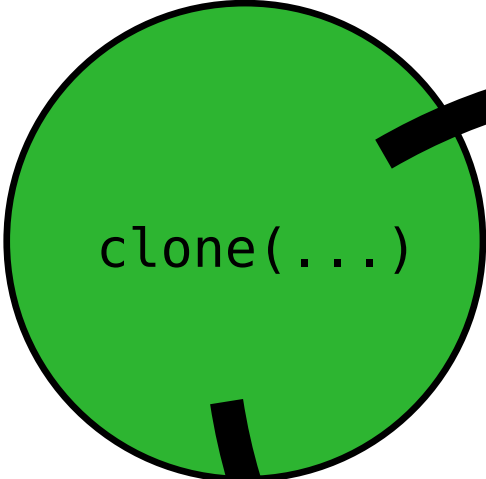
...

sigreturn

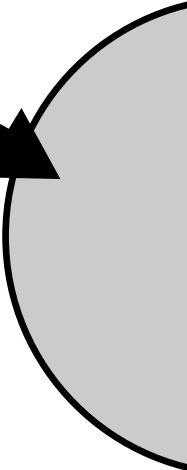




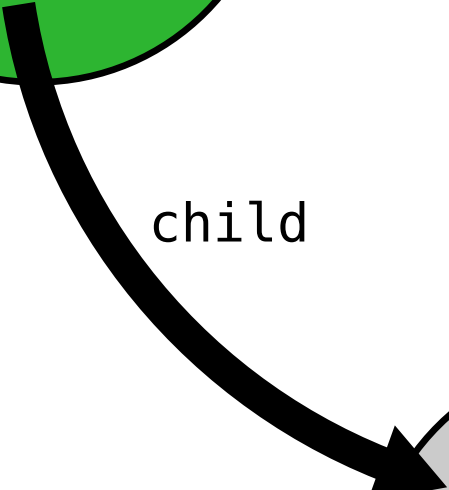




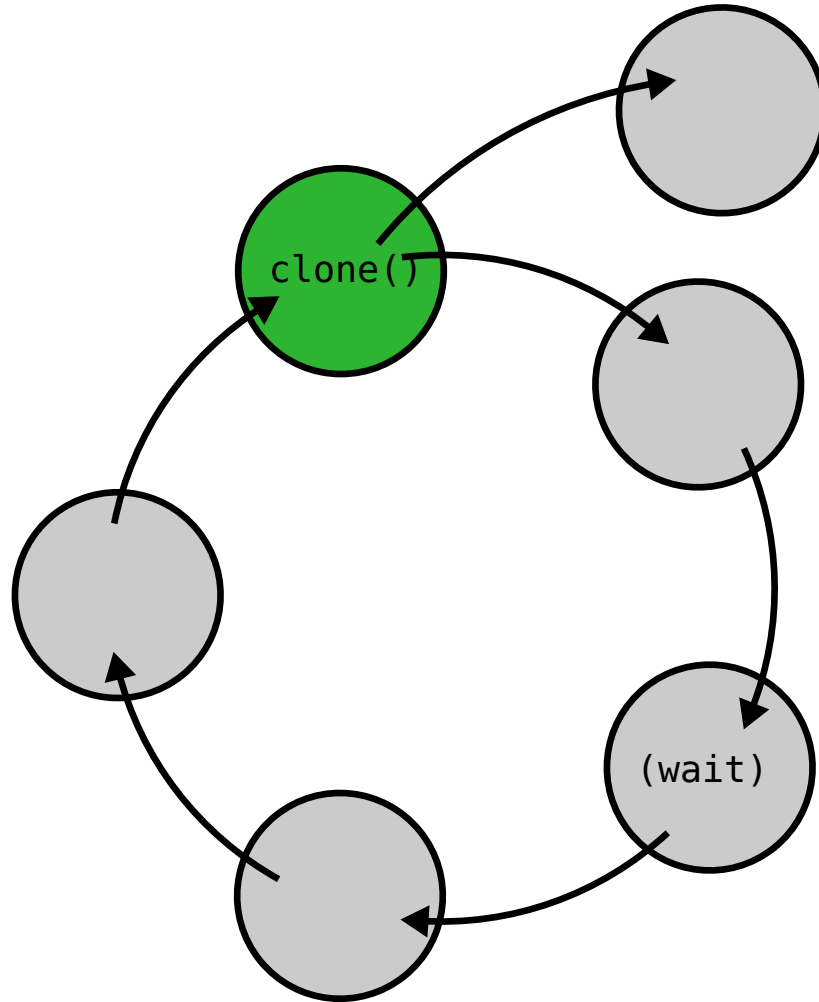
parent



child



10



usage scenarios

- stealthy backdoor
- code signing circumvention
- generic shellcode for exploitation

usage scenarios

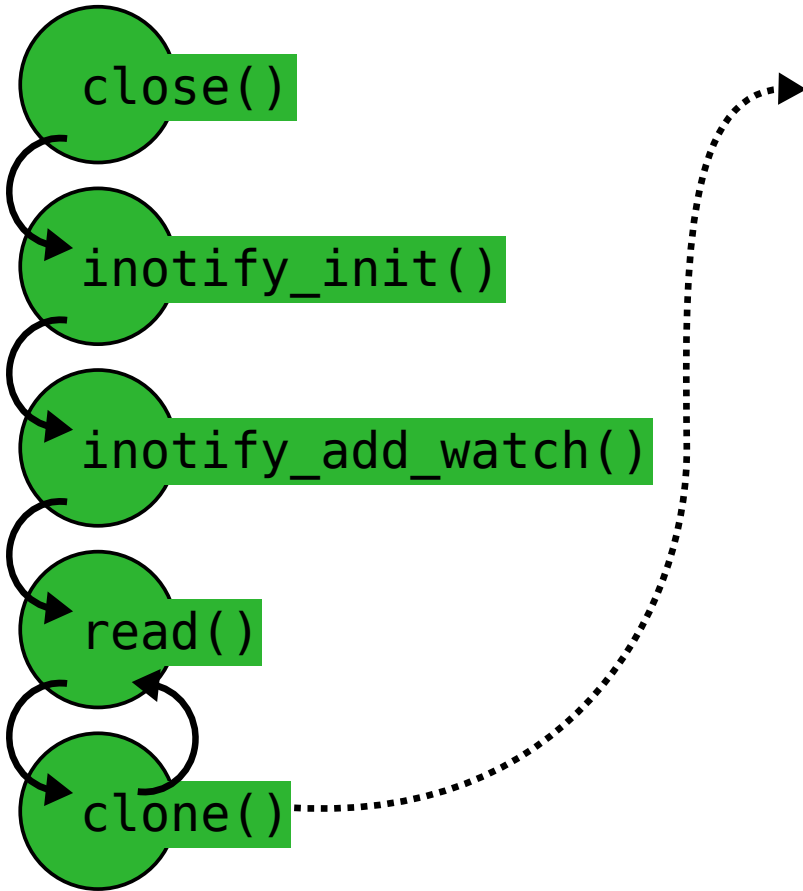
- **stealthy backdoor**
- code signing circumvention
- generic shellcode for exploitation

stealthy backdoor

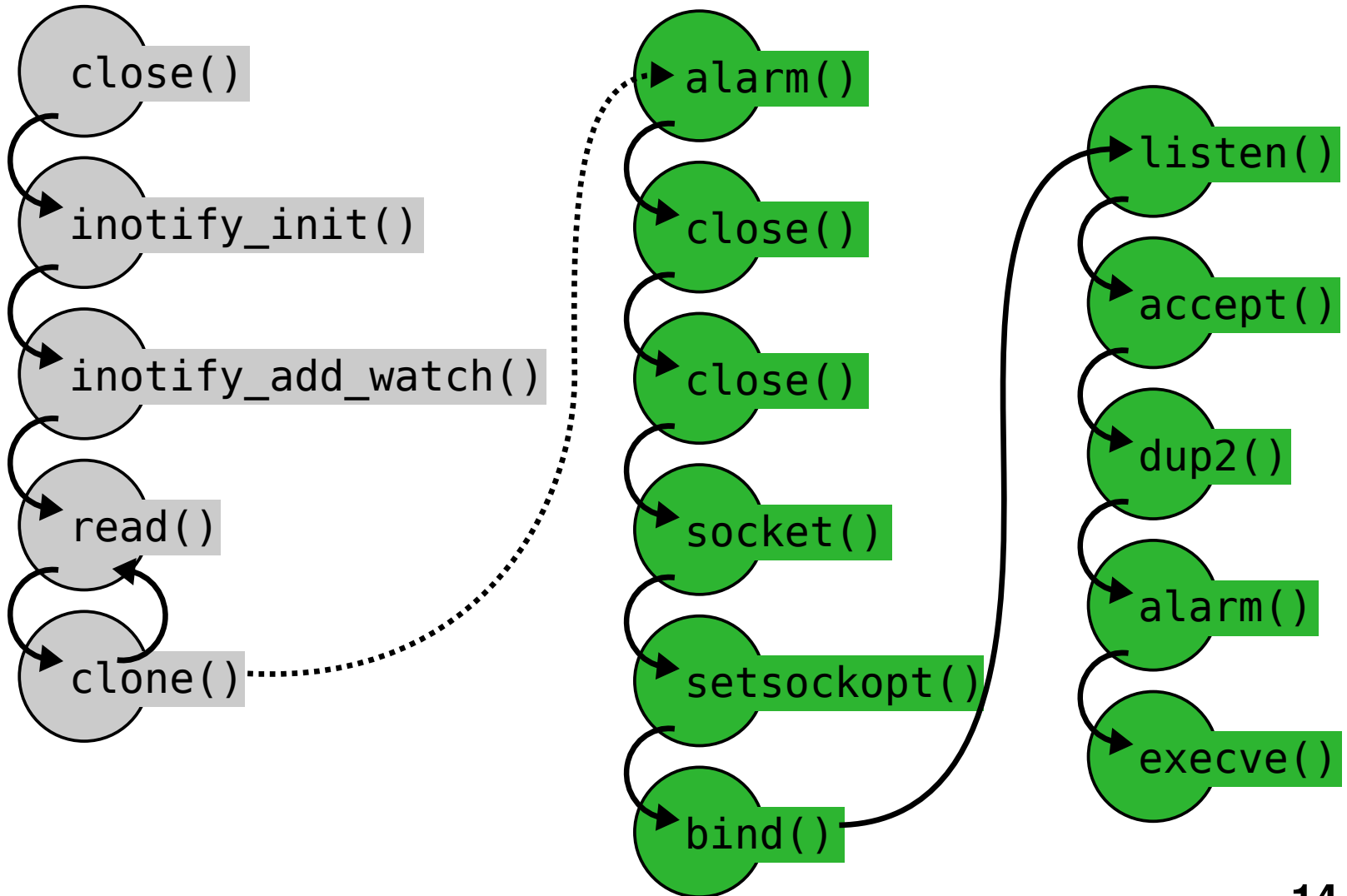
basic idea:

- use the inotify API to wait for a file to be read
- when this file is read: open a listen socket to spawn a shell
- terminate the listening socket quickly if nobody connects

backdoor



backdoor



usage scenarios

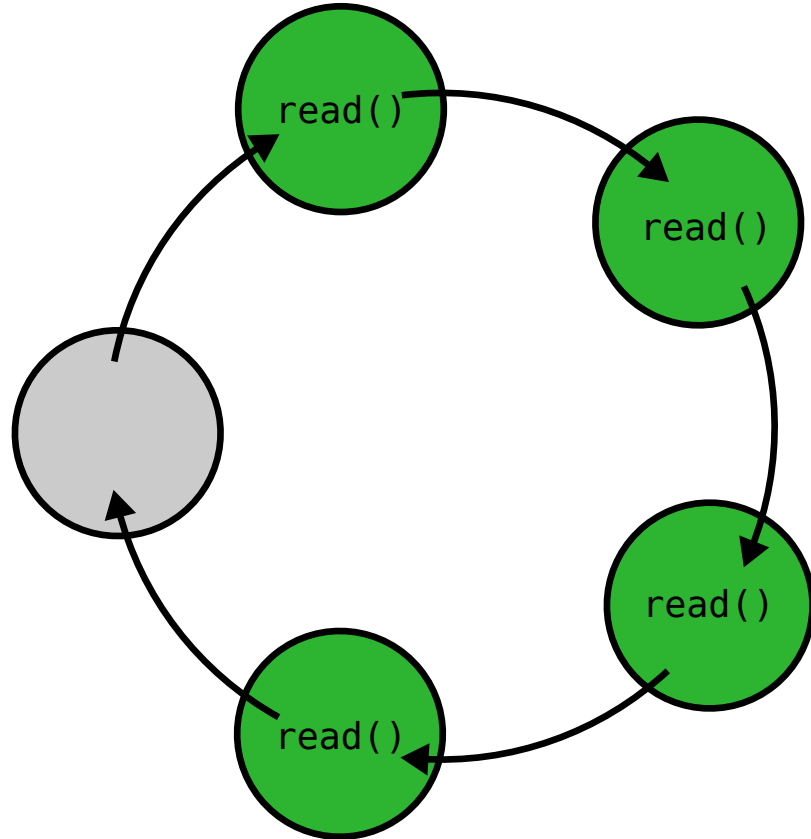
- stealthy backdoor
- **code signing circumvention**
- generic shellcode for exploitation

code signing circumvention

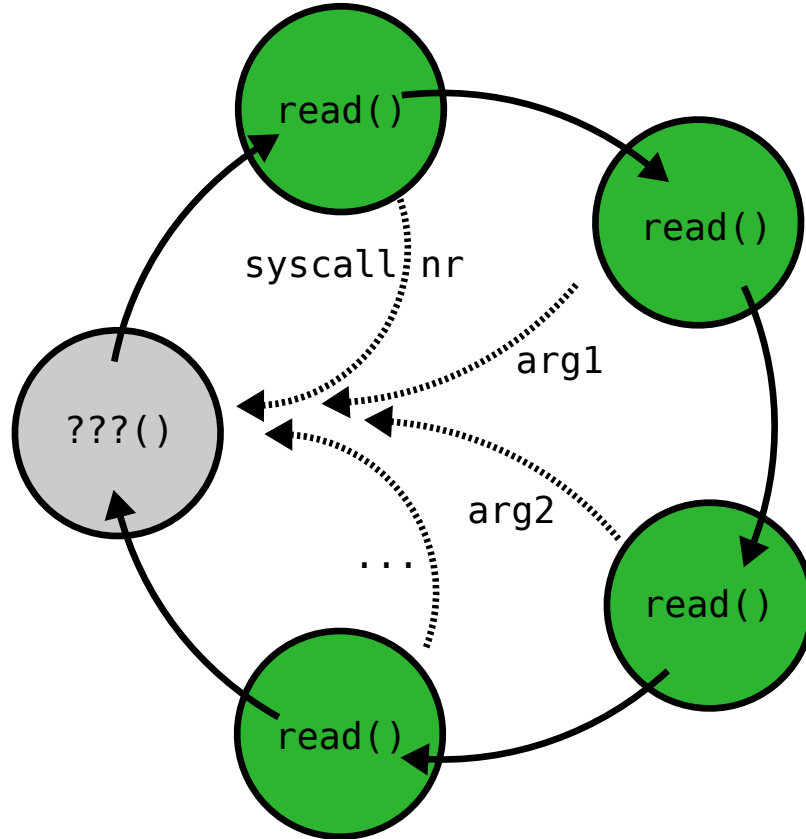
- serialize system calls over a socket
- write into our own signal frames

useful to bypass code-signing restrictions

system call proxy



system call proxy



and... It's turing complete

usage scenarios

- stealthy backdoor
- code signing circumvention
- **generic shellcode for exploitation**

SR0P exploit on x86-64

we have:

- a stack buffer overflow
- not a single gadget from the binary

assumption:

- we can guess/leak the location of a writable address (any address!)
- we have some control over RAX (function's return value)

two gadgets

- call to sigreturn
- syscall & return

two gadgets

- call to sigreturn: RAX = 15 + syscall
- syscall & return

one gadget

- RAX = 15
- syscall & return

[vsyscall]

[vsyscall]

```
ffffffffffff600000 48 c7 c0 60 00 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc gettimeofday()  
ffffffffffff60010  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff600400 48 c7 c0 c9 00 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc cc time()  
ffffffffffff600410  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff600800 48 c7 c0 35 01 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc cc getcpu()  
ffffffffffff600810  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff601000
```

[vsyscall]

```
ffffffffffff600000 48 c7 c0 60 00 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc gettimeofday()  
ffffffffffff60010  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff600400 48 c7 c0 c9 00 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc time()  
ffffffffffff600410  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff600800 48 c7 c0 35 01 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc getcpu()  
ffffffffffff600810  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff601000
```

[vsyscall]

```
ffffffffffff600000 48 c7 c0 60 00 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc gettimeofday()  
ffffffffffff60010  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff600400 48 c7 c0 c9 00 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc time()  
ffffffffffff600410  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff600800 48 c7 c0 35 01 00 00 0f 05 c3 cc cc cc cc cc cc getcpu()  
ffffffffffff600810  cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc cc  
*  
ffffffffffff601000
```

0f05 syscall
c3 return

`syscall(arg1, arg2, arg3, ...) = result`

```
execve("/bin/sh",  
        ["/bin/sh", "-c", "...", NULL],  
        NULL)
```

```
execve("/bin/sh",  
        ["/bin/sh", "-s", "...", NULL],  
        NULL)
```

`syscall(arg1, arg2, arg3, ...) = result`


```
read(fd, addr, ...) = result
```

```
read(fd, stack_addr, ...) = result
```

```
read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306
```

```
read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306
```

```
RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs
```

```
read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306
```

```
RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs
```

```
top of stack points to syscall & return
```

```
read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306
```

```
RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs
```

```
top of stack points to syscall & return
```

```
syncfs(fd) = ...
```

```
read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306
```

```
RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs
```

```
top of stack points to syscall & return
```

```
syncfs(fd) = 0
```

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306`

`RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`syncfs(fd) = 0`

`RAX == 0 == __NR_read`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306`

`RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`syncfs(fd) = 0`

`RAX == 0 == __NR_read`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = ...`

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306`

`RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`syncfs(fd) = 0`

`RAX == 0 == __NR_read`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 15`

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306`

`RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`syncfs(fd) = 0`

`RAX == 0 == __NR_read`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 15`

`RAX == 15 == __NR_rt_sigreturn`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306`

`RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`syncfs(fd) = 0`

`RAX == 0 == __NR_read`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 15`

`RAX == 15 == __NR_rt_sigreturn`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`mprotect(stack_addr, 0x1000,
 PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE|PROT_EXEC)`

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 306`

`RAX == 306 == __NR_syncfs`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`syncfs(fd) = 0`

`RAX == 0 == __NR_read`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`read(fd, stack_addr, 306) = 15`

`RAX == 15 == __NR_rt_sigreturn`

top of stack points to syscall & return

`mprotect(stack_addr, 0x1000,
 PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE|PROT_EXEC)`

top of stack points to our code

CVE-2012-5976 (asterisk)

The screenshot shows a blog post from Exodus Intelligence. At the top left is the Exodus Intelligence logo, which consists of a stylized blue 'X' followed by the text 'EXODUS INTELLIGENCE' in blue. Below the logo is a dark grey navigation bar with the text 'ABOUT EXODUS' and 'THE EXODUS INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM (EIP)'. The main content area has a light grey background. A post by 'exodusintel' is dated 'January 7, 2013'. The title of the post is 'DoS? Then Who Was Phone?'. Below the title, it says 'Posted in: Vulnerabilities. Tagged: AST-2012-014 Asterisk Exploit CVE-2012-5976 9 comments'. The first section of the post is titled 'Introduction' and contains the following text: 'This post presents exploitation notes on a vulnerability we discovered in Asterisk, an open source telephony solution produced by Digium. We reported this bug to Digium on November 27th, 2012, and provided it to customers of the Exodus Intelligence Feed as EIP-2012-0008. Digium released the advisory AST-2012-014 for this vulnerability on January 2nd, 2013, which was picked up shortly'.

On some systems SR0P gadgets are randomised, on others, they are not

Operating system	Gadget	Memory map
Linux i386	sigreturn	[vdso]
Linux < 3.11 ARM	sigreturn	[vectors] 0xffff0000
Linux < 3.3 x86-64	syscall & return	[vsyscall] 0xffffffff600000
Linux ≥ 3.3 x86-64	syscall & return	Libc
Linux x86-64	sigreturn	Libc
FreeBSD 9.2 x86-64	sigreturn	0x7fffffff000
Mac OSX x86-64	sigreturn	Libc
iOS ARM	sigreturn	Libsystem
iOS ARM	syscall & return	Libsystem

On some systems SROP gadgets are randomised, on others, they are not

non-ASLR :- (**android**

Operating system	Gadget	Memory map
Linux i386	sigreturn	[vdso]
Linux < 3.11 ARM	sigreturn	[vectors] 0xffff0000
Linux < 3.3 x86-64	syscall & return	[vsyscall] 0xffffffff600000
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FreeBSD 9.2 x86-64	sigreturn	0x7fffffff000
Mac OSX x86-64	sigreturn	Libc
iOS ARM	sigreturn	Libsystem
iOS ARM	syscall & return	Libsystem

questions?

mitigation:

It may be useful to disable
vsyscall

vsyscall=emulate
(default from Linux 3.3 onward)

or

vsyscall=none

mitigation:

- Signal frame canaries

stack canary
stack

return addr



buffer

sp



stack canary

stack

return addr



buffer



sp

program counter

stack pointer

RAX

...

RDI

RSI

RDX

R10

R8

R9



sigreturn

program counter

stack pointer

RAX

...

RDI

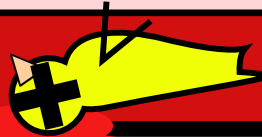
RSI

RDX

R10

R8

R9



sigreturn

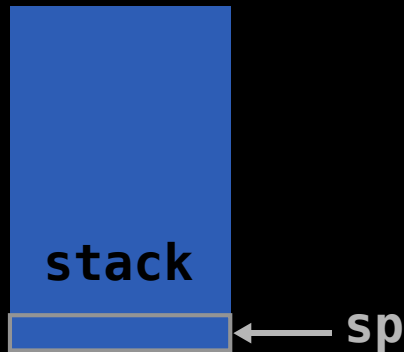
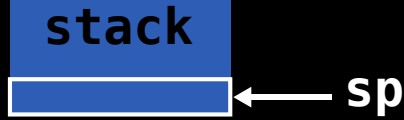
mitigation:

- Signal frame canaries

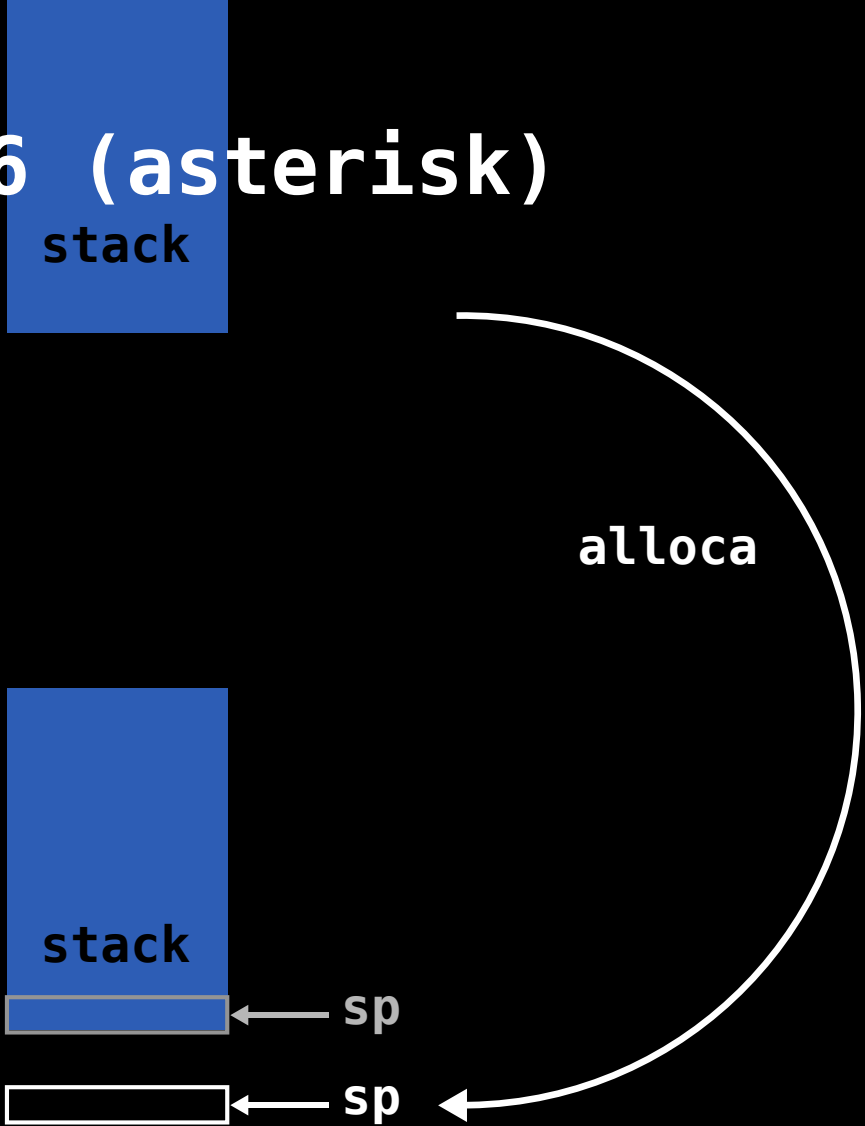
mitigation:

- Signal frame canaries
- Counting signals in progress

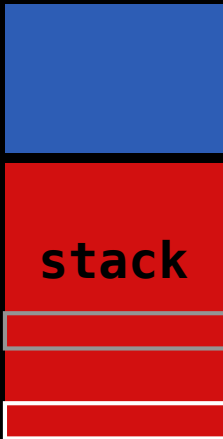
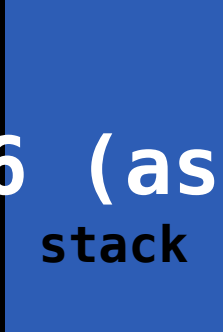
CVE-2012-5976 (asterisk)

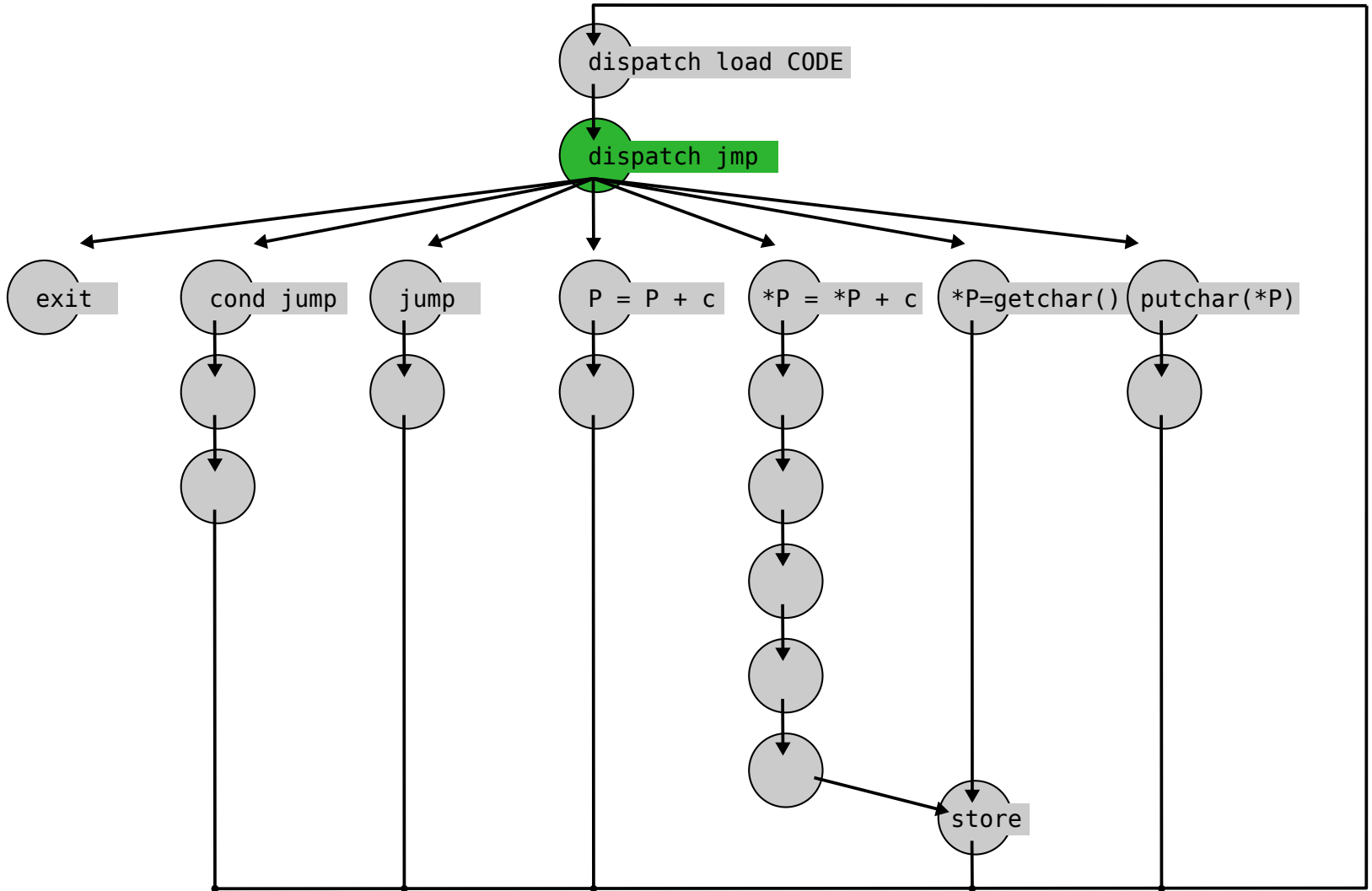


CVE-2012-5976 (asterisk)



CVE-2012-5976 (asterisk)





```
code = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);  
p = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);  
a = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);
```

```
code = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);  
p = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);  
a = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);
```

```
instruction dispatch:  
    read(code, &ucontext.sp, sizeof(long));
```

```
code = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);  
p = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);  
a = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);
```

```
instruction dispatch:  
    read(code, &ucontext.sp, sizeof(long));
```

```
pointer ops:  
    p++ -> lseek(p, 1, SEEK_CUR);
```



```
code = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);  
p = open("/proc/self/mem", O_RDWR);  
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```

instruction dispatch:

```
    read(code, &ucontext.sp, sizeof(long));
```

pointer ops:

```
    p++ -> lseek(p, 1, SEEK_CUR);
```

addition:

```
    lseek(a, &identity_table_x2, SEEK_SET);
```

```
    lseek(a, val1, SEEK_SET);
```

```
    lseek(a, val2, SEEK_SET);
```

```
    read(a, dest, 1);
```