

Using Immunity Debugger to Write Exploits

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IMMUNITY Security Research

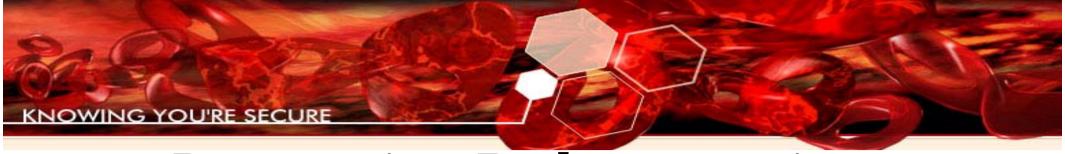
Who am I?

- CTO, Immunity Inc.
- Responsible for new product development
 - Immunity Debugger
 - SILICA
 - Immunity CANVAS



Software companies now understand the value of security

- Over the past few years regular users have become more aware of security problems
- As a result 'security' has become a valuable and marketable asset
- Recognizing this, the computer industry has invested in both hardware and software security improvements



Immunity Debugger is a strategic answer to defensive advances

- ASLR, NX, /gS and high levels of automated and manual code auditing have raised the bar significantly
- Attackers operate at a distinct disadvantage
 - No source code or internal documentation on structures and protocols
 - Vulnerabilities must be created into reliable exploits

But attackers have their own resources

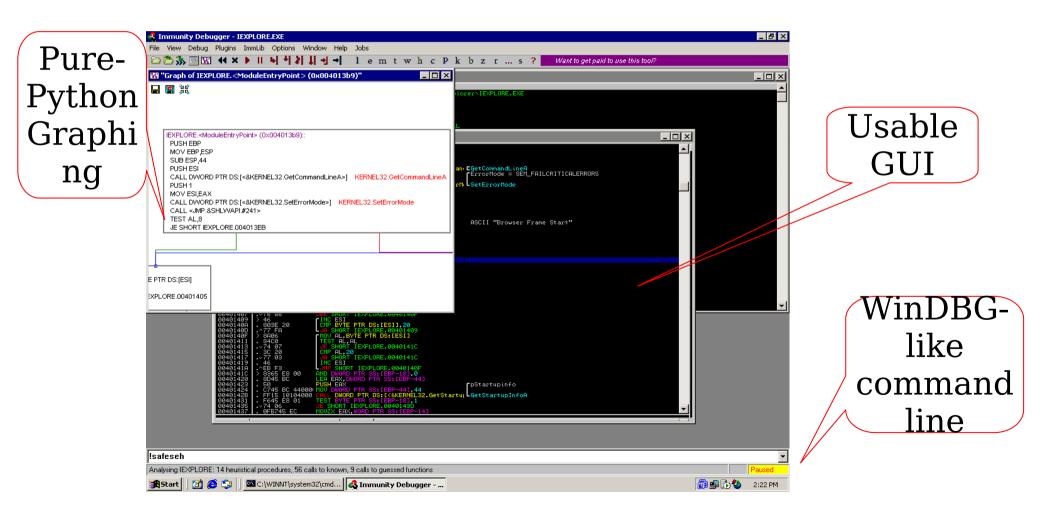
- Used to working in small teams
- Broad range of knowledge (Unix hackers that know Win32, etc)
- Exploit development knowledge is often not fed back to defensive teams, allowing for knowledge leadership over a long time period
 - i.e. new bug classes and attack surfaces

Attackers will defeat the current generation through profound and rapid tool innovation

- Interfaces
- Analysis engines
- Integration into existing tool-sets
- Teamwork and coordination



Better interfaces save valuable time



Python integration offers useful analysis

- safeseh discovery
- stack/heap variable sizing
- most importantly custom automated binary analysis can be written cheaply and easily!
- Static and runtime analysis

Existing toolsets are also in Python

- Python x86 emulators
- Python exploit frameworks
- Python web application analysis
- PEID
- Non-python toolkits can be accessed easily via Sockets or XML-RPC

Hackers already work in teams...

- But their tools don't yet
- Ongoing efforts include
 - SVN + Debugger
 - Portable function fingerprints
 - Global RE database
- While previous efforts have broken ground in team binary analysis, in a year, this will be the default mode of operation

Two examples of how Immunity Debugger changes assessment and exploitation

- File Include/SQL Injection bugs
- Heap Overflows

SQL Injection/File Include

- Traditionally web applications are looked at via code review or remote blind assessment
 - But complexity is rising and closed source modules are common
- With ID's sql_hooker.py and sqllistener.py
 - All SQL Queries get sent to the attacker via XML-RPC
 - Python lets you filter on only interesting results at server side

Heap overflows are dead, long live heap overflows

• Common technique for reliable exploitation of heap overflows is the write4 primitive

OS Vendors are well aware of this

And so... heap protection has been introduced

- Windows XP SP2, Windows 2003 SP1 and Vista introduced different heap validity checks to prevent unlink() write4 primitives
- Similar technologies are in place in glibc in Linux
- There are no generic ways to bypass the new heap protection mechanisms
 - The current approaches have a lot of requirements: How do we meet these requirements?

XP SP2 makes our work hard

- Windows XP SP2 introduced the first obvious protection mechanism
 - unlinking checks:

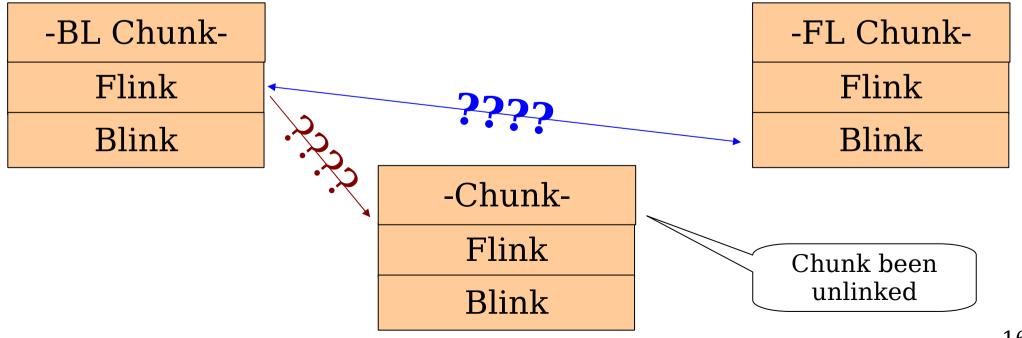
```
blink = chunk->blink
flink = chunk->flink

if blink->flink == flink->blink
  and blink->flink == chunk
```



and harder...

- Windows XP SP2 introduced the first obvious protection mechanism
 - unlinking checks:



XP SP2 (and Vista) introduced more heap protections

 Low Fragmentation Heap Chunks: metadata semi-encryption

```
subsegment = chunk->subsegmentcode
subsegment ^= RtlpLFHKey
subsegment ^= Heap
subsegment ^= chunk >> 3
```

Vista heap algorithm changes make unlink() unlikely

- Vista Heap Chunks:

metadata semi-encryption and integrity check

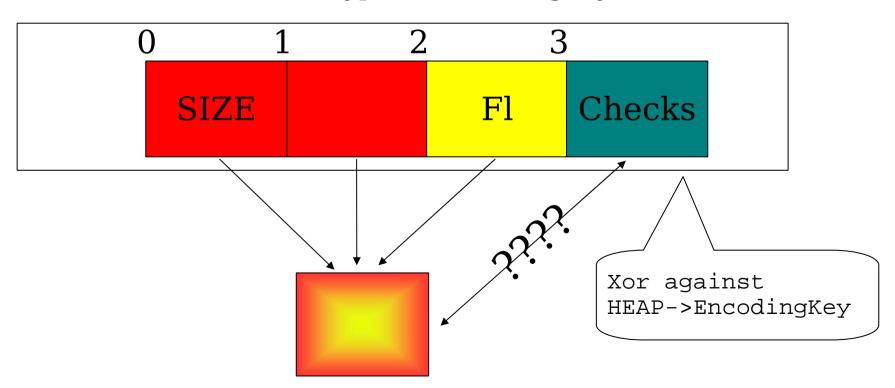
```
*(chunk)    ^= HEAP->EncodingKey
checksum    = (char) *(chunk + 1)
checksum    ^= (char) *(chunk )
checksum    ^= (char) *(chunk + 2)

if checksum == chunk->Checksum
```

Checksum makes it hard to predict and control the header

- Vista Heap Chunks:

metadata semi-encryption and integrity check



Other protections in Vista are not heap specific

- Other protection mechanisms:
 - ASLR of pages
 - DEP (Hardware NX)
 - Safe Pointers
 - SafeSEH (stack)
 - etc.

A lot of excellent work has been done to bypass heap protections

- Taking advantage of Freelist[0] split mechanism ("Exploiting Freelist[0] on XP SP2" by Brett Moore)
- Taking advantage of Single Linked List unlink on the Lookaside (Oded Horovitz and Matt Connover)
- Heap Feng Shui in Javascript (Alexander Sotirov)

We no longer use heap algorithms to get write4 primitives

- Generic heap exploitation approaches are obsolete. There is no more easy write4.
 - Sinan: "I can make a strawberry pudding with so many prerequisites"
- Application specific techniques are needed
 - We use a methodology based on understanding and controlling the algorithm to position data carefully on the heap

We have been working on this methodology for years

- All good heap overflow exploits have been in careful control of the heap for years to reach the maximum amount of reliability
- We now also attack not the heap metadata, but the heap data itself
 - Because our technique is specific to each program, generic heap protections can not prevent it
- Immunity Debugger contains powerful new tools to aid this process

Previous exploits already carefully crafted the heap

- Spooler Exploit:
 - Multiple Write4 with a combination of the Lookaside and the FreeList
- MS05_025:
 - Softmemleaks to craft the proper layout for two Write4 in a row
- Any other reliable heap overflow
- These still used write4s from the heap algorithms themselves!

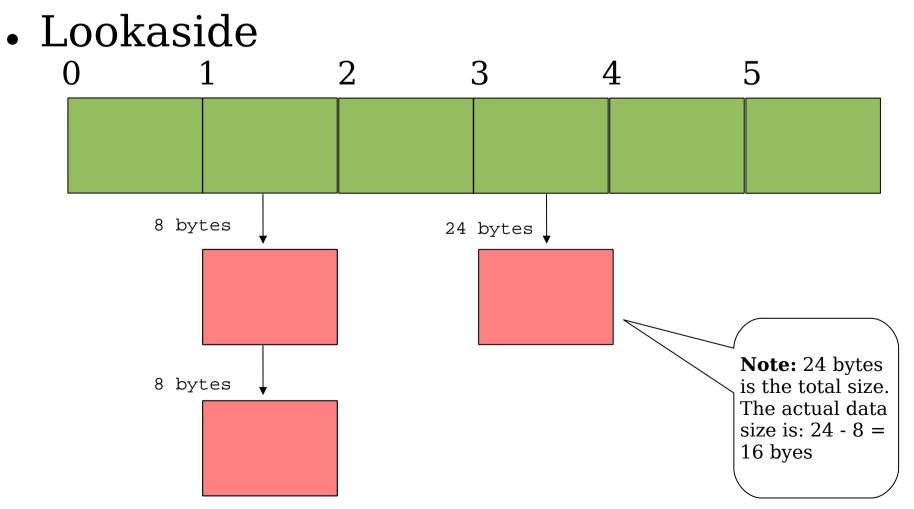
To establish deterministic control over the Heap you need

- Understanding of the allocation algorithm
- Understanding of the layout you are exploiting
- A methodology to control the layout
- The proper tools to understand and control the allocation pattern of a process

The heap, piece by piece

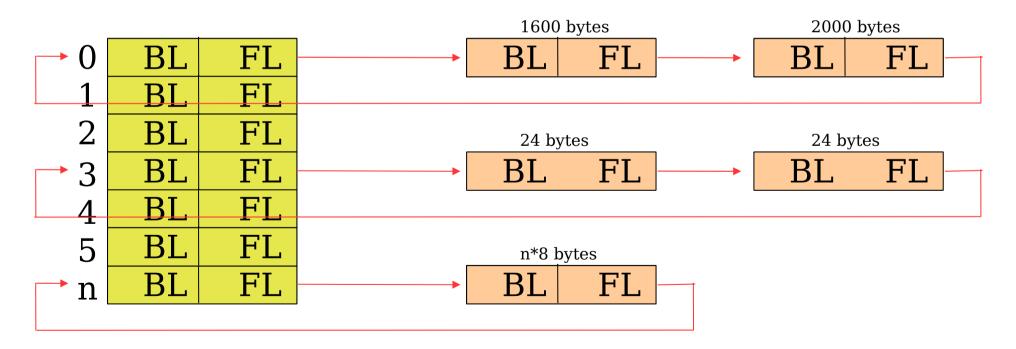
- Understanding the algorithm
 - Structures where chunks are held:
 - Lookaside
 - FreeList
- Understanding Chunk Behaviour
 - Coalescing of Chunks
 - Splitting of Chunks

A quick look at the lookaside



A quick look at the FreeList data structure

FreeList





Chunk coalescing: contiguous free chunks are joined to minimize fragmentation

Back_chunk

ptr

Size

PrevSize

Flink/Blin

k

Size

PrevSize

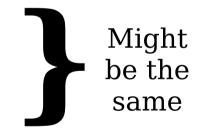
PSize= *(ptr+2)
Back_chunk = ptr-(PSize*8)
if Back_chunk is not BUSY:
unlink(Back_chunk)

Chunks are split into two chunks when necessary

- Chunk splitting happens when a chunk of a specific size is requested and only larger chunks are available
- After a chunk is split, part of the chunk is returned to the process and part is inserted back into the FreeList

The life-cycle of a heap overflow

- There are four distinct segments in a heap exploit's life that you need to understand and control:
 - Before the overflow
 - Between the overflow and a "Write4"
 - Between the "Write4" and the function pointer trigger
 - Hitting payload and onward (surviving)



Heaps do not all start in the same layout

- With heap overflows it is not always easy to control how an overwritten chunk will affect the operation of the heap algorithm
- Understanding how the allocation algorithm works, it becomes apparent that doing three allocations in a row does not mean it will return three bordering chunks
- Typically this problem is because of "Heap Holes"

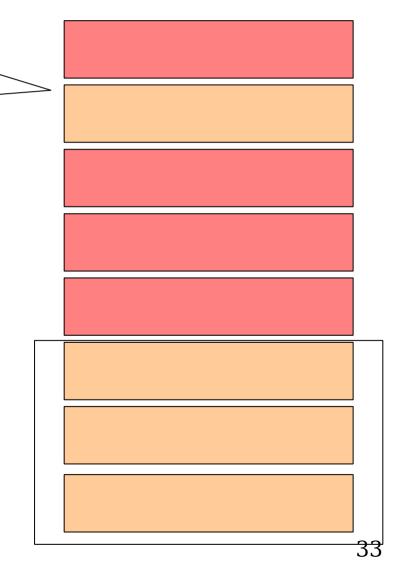


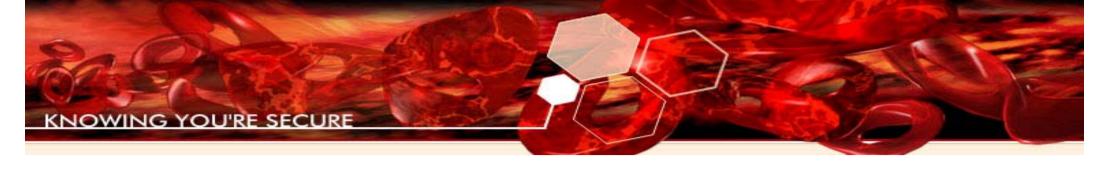
Assume

Chunk is part of the FreeList[97]

Vulnerable(function)

```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn_ptr("hello world");
```

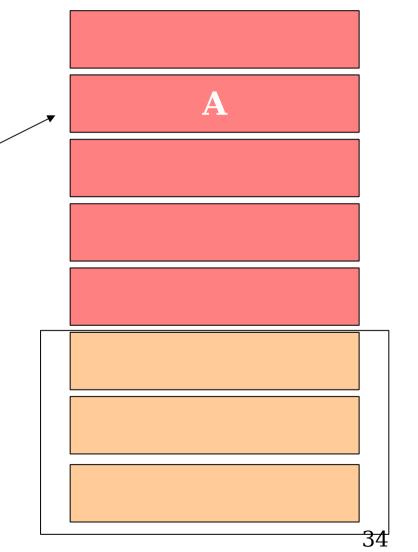


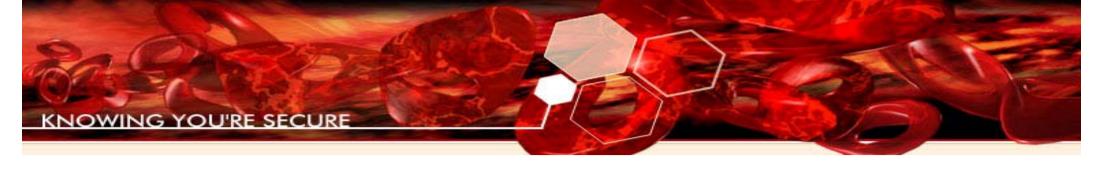


Assuming

Vulnerable(function)

```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn_ptr("hello world");
```





 Suppose Vulnerable(function) A = Allocate(0x300);B = Allocate(0x300);[...] Overwrite(A); fn ptr = B[4]; fn ptr("hello world");

Suppose

Vulnerable(function)

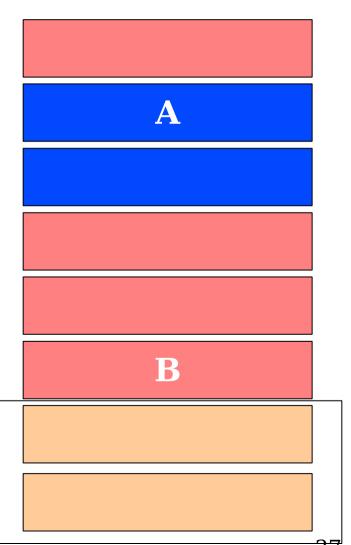
```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn ptr("hello world");
```



Heap Holes

Suppose

```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn ptr("hello world");
```



Two types of memory leaks are used in heap exploitation

- A memleak is a portion of memory that is allocated but not deallocated throughout the life of the target
- There are two types of memleaks:
 - Hard: Memleaks that remain allocated throughout the entire life of the target
 - Soft: Memleaks that remain allocated only for a set period of time (e.g. a memleak based on one connection)

Several bad coding practises lead to hard memleaks

- Allocations within a try-except block that forget to free in the except block
- Use of RaiseException() within a function before freeing locally bound allocations (RPC services do this a lot)
- Losing track of a pointer to the allocated chunk or overwriting the pointer. No sane reference is left behind for a free
- A certain code flow might return without freeing the locally bound allocation

Soft memory leaks are almost as useful to exploit writers

- Soft Memleaks are much easier to find:
 - Every connection to a server that is not disconnected, allocates memory
 - Variables that are set by a command and remain so until they are unset
 - Ex:

X-LINK2STATE CHUNK=A allocates 0x400 bytes.

X-LINK2STATE LAST CHUNK=A free that chunk.

We correct our heap layout with memory leaks

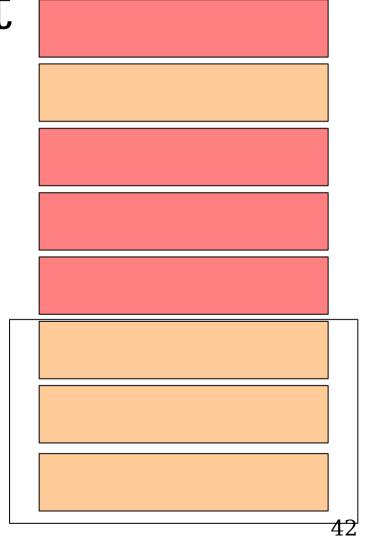
- In summary, memleaks will help us do different things:
 - Empty the Lookaside
 - Empty the FreeList

- Both have the same objective: to allow us to have consecutive chunks
- Leaving Holes for a specific purpose

Assume again

```
Vulnerable(function)
```

```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn_ptr("hello world");
```



memleak(768).

Vulnerable(function)

```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn_ptr("hello world");
```

Calculating size: 768 + 8 = 776 776/8 = **entry 97**

memleak(768)

```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn_ptr("hello world");
```

memleak(768)

```
A = Allocate(0x300);

B = Allocate(0x300);

[...]

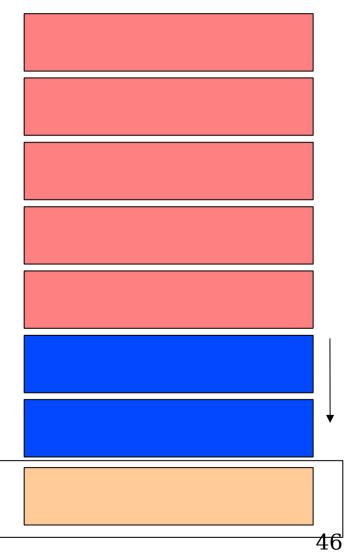
Overwrite(A);

fn_ptr = B[4];

fn ptr("hello world");
```

memleak(768)

```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn_ptr("hello world");
```



memleak(768)

```
A = Allocate(0x300);
B = Allocate(0x300);
[...]
Overwrite(A);
fn_ptr = B[4];
fn ptr("hello world");
```

Good exploits are the result of Intelligent Debugging

- With the new requirements for maximum deterministic control over the algorithm, exploiting the Win32 heap relies on intelligent debugging
- The need for a debugger that will fill these requirements arises

Immunity Debugger is the first debugger specifically for vulnerability development

- Powerful GUI
- WinDBG compatible commandline
- Powerful Python based scripting engine

Immunity Debugger's specialized heap analysis tools

 A series of scripts offering everything needed for modern Win32 Heap exploitation

!heap !searchheap

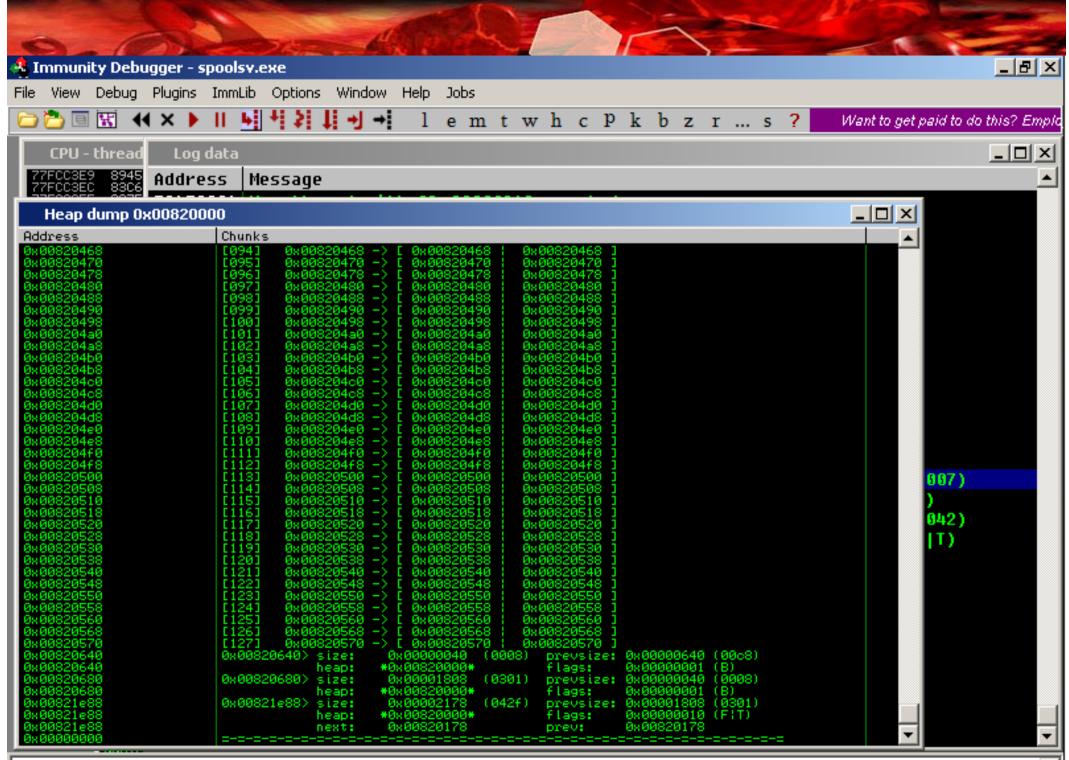
!funsniff !heap analyze chunk

!hippie !modptr

Immunity Debugger

- Dumping the Heap:
 - !heap -h ADDRESS
- Scripting example:

```
pheap = imm.getHeap( heap )
for chunk in pheap.chunks:
   chunk.printchunk()
```



Searching the heap using Immlib

Search the heap

```
- !searchheap
what (size,usize,psize,upsize,flags,address,next,prev)
action (=,>,<,>=,<=,&,not,!=)
value (value to search for)
heap (optional: filter the search by heap)</pre>
```

Scripting example:

SearchHeap(imm, what, action, value, heap = heap)

Comparing a heap before and after you break it

- Dumping a Broken Heap:
 - Save state:
 - !heap -h ADDRESS -s
 - Restore State:
 - !heap -h ADDRESS -r

Heap Fingerprinting

- To craft a correct Heap layout we need a proper understanding of the allocation pattern of different functions in the target process
- This means there is a need for fingerprinting the heap flow of a specific function

Heap Fingerprinting

• !funsniff <address>

- fingerprint the allocation pattern of the given function
- find memleaks
- double free
- memory freed of a chunk not belonging to our current heap flow (Important for soft memleaks)



Function Sniffing		_ X
Address	Data	_
0x77d4178c	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x000a2808)	
0x77d4178c	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x000a6a30)	
0x77d4178c	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x000bf758)	
0x77f8f134	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x000a6950)	
0x77d3c2f7	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x0008d010)	
0x77d3c2f7	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)	
0x77f8f134	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x000a6978)	
0x77d3c2f7	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)	
0x7cdce412	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x0008ec50)	
0x76a94663	Free (0x00c50000, 0x00000000, 0x00c56fe8)	
0x78001532	Alloc(0x00230000, 0x00000000, 0x00000080) -> 0x002373b8	
0x77f8e6b9	Alloc(0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000020) -> 0x000a6978	
0x77f8e6b9	Alloc(0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000020) -> 0x000a6950	
0x7c58dc67	Alloc(0x00070000, 0x00100008, 0x0000001c) -> 0x000a6a30	
0x76b01909	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x000a6a30)	
0x76b01c06	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)	
0x76b01c0b	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)	
0x76b01c10	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)	
0x76b01c15	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)	
0x76b01c1a	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)	
0x77f8f134	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x000a6950)	
0x77f8f134	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x000a6978)	
0x76b01bea	Free (0x00230000, 0x000000000, 0x002373b8)	
0x76a94620	Free (0x00c50000, 0x00000000, 0x00c55098)	
0x76a94620	Free (0x00c50000, 0x00000000, 0x00c56fb0)	
0x76a94620	Free (0x00c50000, 0x000000000, 0x00c56d90)	
0×00000000	Chunk freed but not allocated on this heap flow	
0x76b01c1a	Free (0x00070000, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)	
0x00000000	Memleak detected	
0x78001532	Alloc(0x00230000, 0x00000000, 0x00000110) -> 0x00237440	
0x00237438	0x00237438> size: 0x00000118 (0023) prevsize: 0x00000088 (0011)	
0x00237438	heap: *0x00000000* flags: 0x00000001 (B)	
0x00237440	> String: ', NoCacheCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	-

Automated data type discovery using Immlib

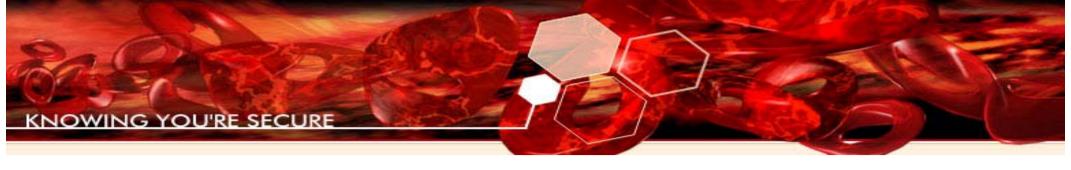
- As we now know overwriting the metadata of chunks to get a unlink primitive is mostly no longer viable
- The next step of heap exploitation is taking advantage of the content of chunks
- We need straightforward runtime recognition of chunk content

Immunity Debugger offers simple runtime analysis of heap data to find data types

- String/Unicode
- Pointers (Function Pointer, Data pointer, Stack Pointer)
- Double Linked lists
 - Important because they have their own unlink() write4 primitives!

Data Discovery

- !heap -h HEAP_ADDRESS -d
 - See next slide for awesome screenshot of this in action!



_ | _ | × Heap dump 0x00c50000 Address Chunks 0x00c56fb8 0x00c56fe4 heap: #0x00c50000# flags: 0x00000001 (B) 0x00c56ff0> size: heap: #0x00c50000# Pointer: 0x00c57218 in 0x00c50000: 0x00c57210> size: heap: #0x00c50000* Pointer: 0x000ab8f0 in 0x00070000; String: 'LMEMh' String: 'LMEMh' Pointer: 0x00c59338 in 0x00c50000; Pointer: 0x00020002 in 0x00020000; Pointer: 0x00c520c8 in 0x00c50000; Pointer: 0x00c59268 in 0x00c50000; Unicode: 'IMM2311' Double Linked List: (0x00c57498, 0x00c50178) 0x00c59260) size: 0x00000020 (0004) prevsize: 0x00000018 (0003) heap: *0x00c50000* flags: 0x00000001 (B) heap: #0x00c50000# > Pointer: 0x000ab8f0 in 0x00070000; > String: 'LMEMh' 0x00c59280> size: 0x0000000b0 (0016) *0x00c50000* prevsize: 0x00000020 (0004) flags: 0x00000001 (B) heap: > Pointer: 0x00c59338 in 0x00c50000; 0x00c59330> size: 0x00000020 (0004) heap: #0x00c50000* > Pointer: 0x00c59268 in 0x00c50000; prevsize: 0x000000b0 (0016) flags: 0x00000001 (B) 0x00c59330> size: Unicode: 'IMM2311' > Double Linked List: (0x00c57498, 0x00c50178) x00c59350> size: 0x00000cb0 (0196) prevsize: 0x00000020 (0004)

Data Discovery can be scripted easily

```
import libdatatype
dt = libdatatype.DataTypes( imm )
ret = dt.Discover( memory, address, what)
memory memory to inspect
address address of the inspected memory
what
          (all, pointers, strings,
 asciistrings, unicodestrings,
 doublelinkedlists, exploitable)
for obj in ret:
    print ret.Print()
```

Heap Fuzzing heaps you discover a way to obtain the correct layout

- Sometimes controlling the layout is not as easy as you think, even though it sounds straightforward in theory
- From this the concept of Fuzzing the Heap arises, to help in discovering the correct layout for your process (manually or automatically)

Heap Fuzzing

- !chunkanalizehook
- Get the status of a given chunk at a specific moment. Answers the common questions:
 - What chunks are bordering your chunk?
 - What is the data in those chunks?

Heap Fuzzing

• Run the script, Fuzz and get result...

• usage:

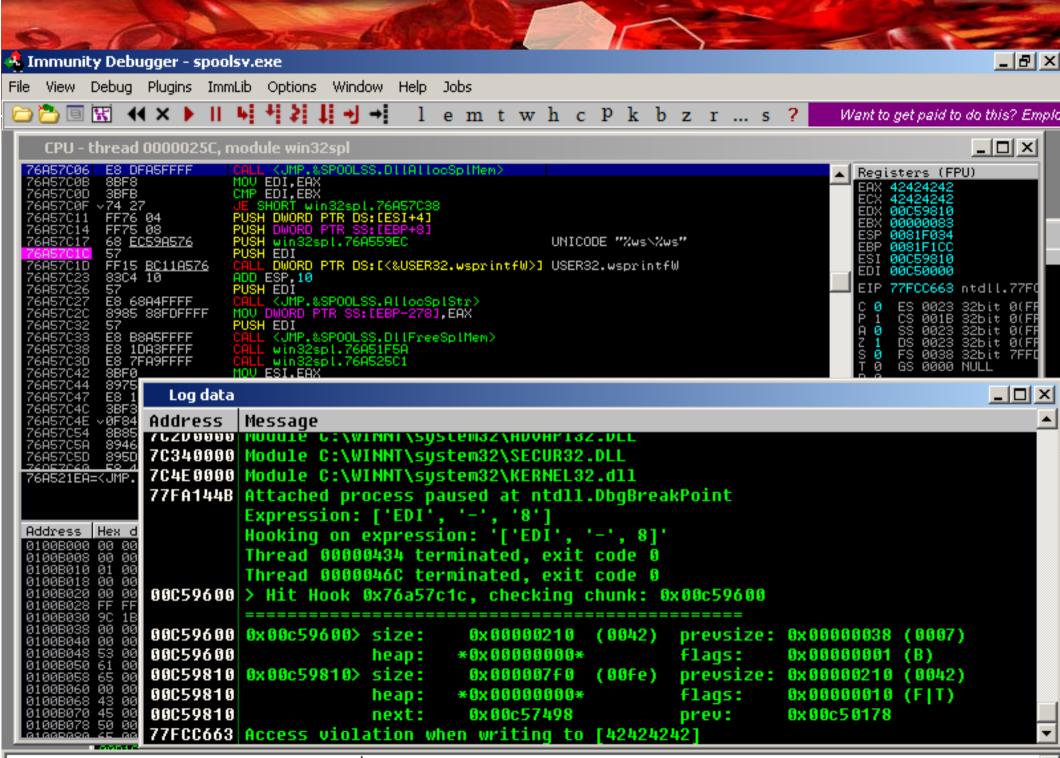
!chunkanalizehook (-d) -a ADDRES <exp>

-a ADDRESS address of the hook

-d find datatypes

<exp> how to find the chunk

ex: !chunkanalizehook -d -a 0x77fcb703 EBX - 8



- One of the biggest problems when hooking an allocation function is speed
- Allocations are so frequent in some processes that a hook ends up slowing down the process and as a result changing the natural heap behaviour (thus changing the layout)
 - lsass
 - iexplorer

Inject Hooks into the target process speeds things up

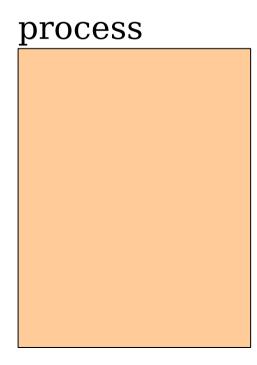
- This means doing function redirection and logging the result in the debugger itself (Avoiding breakpoints, event handling, etc)
- Can be done automatically via Immlib



VirtualAllocEx | mapped mem |



InjectHooks

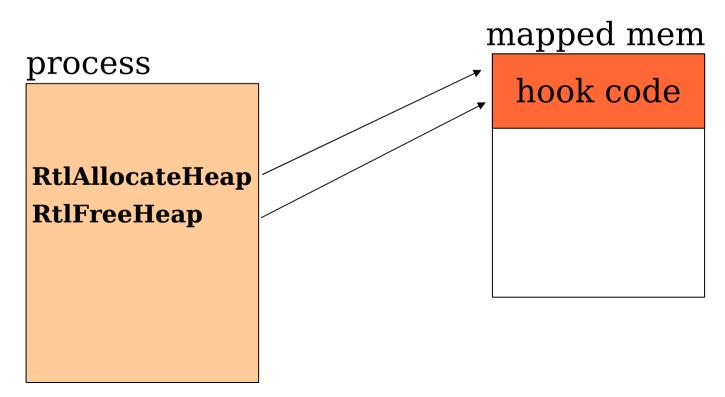




hook code

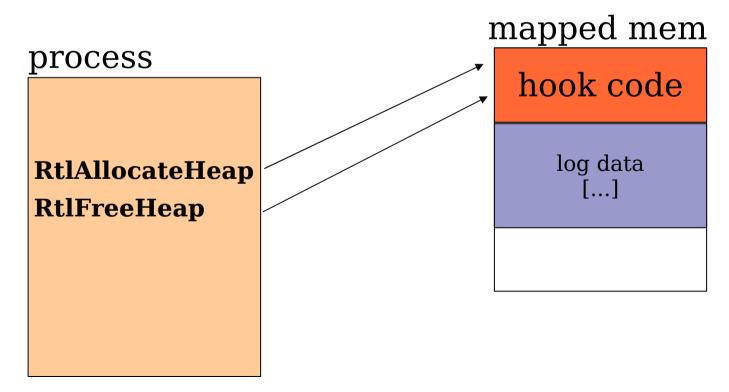


Redirect Function

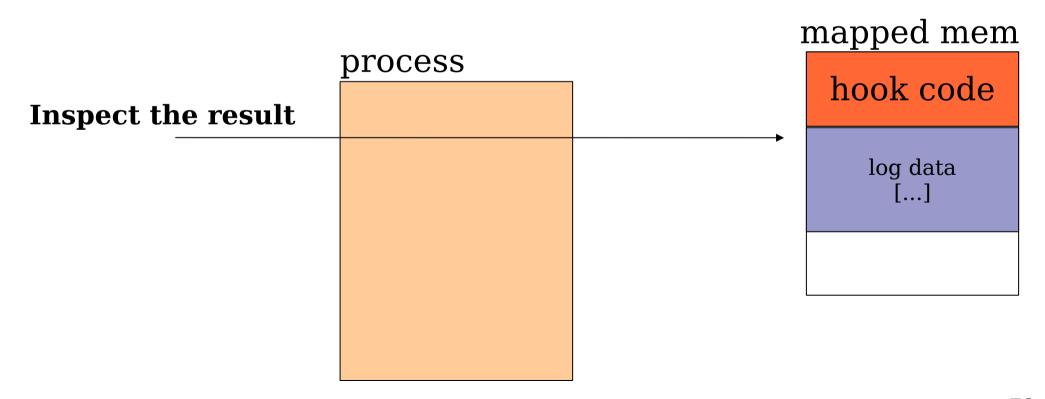




Run the program







- Hooking redirection:
 - !hippie -af -n tag name
- Hooking redirection as script:

```
fast = immlib.STDCALLFastLogHook( imm )
fast.logFunction( rtlallocate, 3)
fast.logRegister( "EAX" )
fast.logFunction( rtlfree, 3 )
fast.Hook()
```

The future

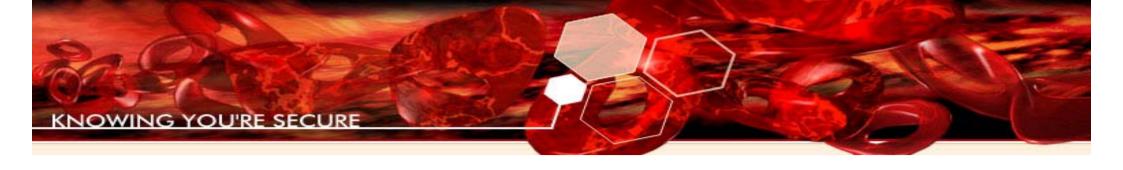
- In the near future ID will have a heap simulator that, when fed with heap flow fingerprints, will tell you which function calls are needed to get the correct heap layout for your target process
- Simple modifications to existing scripts can put memory access breakpoints at the end of every chunk to find out exactly when a heap overflow happens
 - This is great for fuzzers

Automating exploitation

- Stack overflows
 - Automation of simple exploitation techniques
 (bad bytes, etc) will be built into VisualSploit+ID
- Anti-DEP scripts already working!
- Deep protocol analysis and fuzzer integration on its way

Conclusions

- Exploiting heap vulnerabilities has become much more costly
- Immunity Debugger offers tools to drastically reduce the effort needed to write reliable heap overflows
 - On older Windows platforms getting a reliable write4 the traditional way
 - On newer Windows platforms by abusing program-specific data structures



Thank you for your time

Contact us at: dave@immunityinc.com nicolas.waisman@immunityinc.com

