



# LESSONS LEARNED WRITING EXPLOITS

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## Outline

- ▶ Why write exploits?
- ▶ What to look for in an exploit?
- ▶ Lessons learned
- ▶ Conclusions

Outline



Lessons learned writing exploits

**Why write exploits?**

## Why write exploits?

- ▶ To confirm the existence of a vulnerability
- ▶ To confirm the disappearance of a vulnerability
- ▶ To *\*exploit\** a vulnerability
- ▶ To *\*consistently exploit\** a vulnerability  
“Commercial Grade Exploit Code”



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**What to look for in an exploit?**



What to look for in an exploit?

## What to look for in an exploit?

- ▶ Reliability
- ▶ Low maintenance
- ▶ Fail safe
- ▶ Portability
- ▶ Short Development Cycle



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# Lessons Learned



## Lesson 1

- ▶ Use an interpreted language
  - Short Development Cycle
  - Platform portability
  - Easy maintenance
  - Low overhead
  
- ▶ Choice: Python or Perl
  - Object Oriented
  - Readability





## Lesson 2

- ▶ Automatic shell code generation
  - Code reuse
  - Platform independency
  - Modularization
  - Encapsulation
  
- ▶ Decision: build a library
  - LibEgg
  - Egg class



## Lessons learned writing exploits

### LibEgg

- ▶ Basic Egg
  - Win Egg
  - Unix Egg
    - Linux Egg
    - Solaris Egg
  
- ▶ Egg Decorators
  - XOR Egg
  - NOP Egg
  - Transport Egg
  
- ▶ Ancillary functions
  - `setuid()`
  - `GetCodeAddress()`



## Lesson 3

- ▶ Common exploitation procedures!
  - Standardize exploit development
  - Shorten development cycle
  - Reliability?
  - Fail safe?
  
- ▶ Decision: structure the exploit
  - Exploit Class



## Exploit Class

```
class Exploit:  
  
    def initialSetup(self)  
        return 1  
  
    def passSetup(self)  
        return 1  
  
    def tryAttack(self)  
        return 1  
  
    def done(self)  
        return(self._done)
```



## Lessons learned writing exploits

### Exploit Class

```
class Exploit:  
  
    def run(self)  
  
        self.initialSetup()  
        while not self.done()  
            self.passSetup()  
            self.tryAttack()
```



## Lesson 4

- ▶ Address brute forcing issues
  - Reliability
  - Fail safe
  - Code reuse
  
- ▶ Decision: DB for exploit parameters
  - Address Finder
    - Operating System, OS version , Service Packs
    - Distribution specific parameters (kernel versions, libc versions)
    - Exploit method specific parameters (GOT, destructors, libc functions, memchunks, ld.so)



## Address Finder

```
class AddressFinder:
```

```
    def __init__(self, OSVersion = None, ServicePack = None,  
                 ProductVersion = None):
```

```
        self.OSVersion    = OSVersion
```

```
        self.ServicePack  = ServicePack
```

```
        self.ProductVersion = ProductVersion
```

```
        self.dlls = []
```

```
    def findAddressFor(self, opcode = 'CALL EBX', WantedDll  
                       =None):
```



## Address Finder

```
class WindowsAddressFinder(AddressFinder):
```

```
    def __init__(self, OSVersion = None, ServicePack = None, ProductVersion = None):
```

```
        AddressFinder.__init__(self, OSVersion, ServicePack, ProductVersion)
        dll = ProgramInformation('kernel32');
```

```
        self.dlls.append(dll)
        dll.OSVersion    = '4.0';
        dll.ServicePack  = 6;
        dll.ProductVersion = '4.00';
        dll.BaseAddress = 0x77f00000
        dll.Address['JMP ESP']    = 0x77F32836
        dll.Address['JMP EDI']    = 0x77F2D148
        dll.Address['CALL EAX']   = 0x77F1A9DD
        dll.Address['JMP [EBX]']  = 0x77F0174A
        dll.Address['CALL EBX']   = 0x77F01089
        dll.Address['JMP ECX']    = 0x77F05372
        dll.Address['JMP [EAX]']  = 0x77F08070
        dll.Address['GetProcAddress'] = 0x77F1402F
        dll.Address['LoadLibraryA'] = 0x77F1382E
```



## More Lessons

- ▶ Debugging
- ▶ Further exploit factorization
- ▶ Need for a common language
- ▶ Exploit Primitives?
- ▶ Exploit Transforms?



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## **A Few Conclusions**

## Conclusions

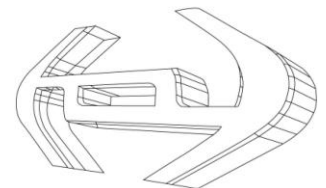
- ▶ Writing “commercial grade exploit code” is quite different and a LOT more difficult than simple PoC exploits
- ▶ Once the process is engaged systematically many new ideas and techniques are discovered. Often leading to a higher level understanding of the process.
- ▶ A common framework and a common language facilitates the process.
- ▶ It is probably the most unexplored territory in the InfoSec field



Lessons learned writing exploits

# Thank You!

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