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# Removing ROP Gadgets from OpenBSD

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# Overview

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- ❖ About Me
- ❖ Return Oriented Programming
- ❖ Polymorphic Gadget Reduction
  - ❖ Register Selection
  - ❖ Alternate Code Generation
- ❖ Aligned Gadget Reduction
  - ❖ Retguard
- ❖ Other architectures - arm64
- ❖ Remaining Work

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# About Me

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- ❖ OpenBSD user since ~2015
- ❖ Randomly approached Theo at BSDCan 2017
  - ❖ I suggested removing ROP gadgets was possible
  - ❖ Theo expressed skepticism
- ❖ Joined project in June 2017
  - ❖ Working on ROP mitigations in clang

# Return Oriented Programming

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# Return Oriented Programming

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- ❖ W^X means attackers cannot just upload shellcode anymore
- ❖ ROP is stitching bits of existing binary together in a new way to get the same effect as shellcode
  - ❖ The bits are called Gadgets
  - ❖ The stitching is called a ROP Chain
- ❖ Attacker
  - ❖ Loads a chain in memory
  - ❖ Redirects execution to return off of the chain

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# ROP Gadgets

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## Aligned Gadget

Terminates on an intended return instruction

```
Gadget: 0xffffffff81820653 : pop rbp ; ret // 5dc3
```

```
ffffffff81820653: 5d      popq   %rbp
```

```
ffffffff81820654: c3      retq
```

## Polymorphic Gadget

Terminates on an unintended return instruction

```
Gadget: 0xffffffff810f72dc : pop rbp ; ret // 5dc3
```

```
ffffffff810f72db: 8a 5d c3  movb   -61(%rbp), %bl
```

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# ROP Gadgets

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## Aligned Gadget

Terminates on an intended return instruction

Gadget:	Address	:	Disassembly	// Bytes
---------	---------	---	-------------	----------

Gadget:	0xffffffff81820653	:	pop rbp ; ret	// 5dc3
---------	--------------------	---	---------------	---------

ffffffff81820653:	5d		popq	%rbp
-------------------	----	--	------	------

ffffffff81820654:	c3		retq	
-------------------	----	--	------	--

What the gadget does
----------------------

## Polymorphic Gadget

Terminates on an unintended return instruction

Gadget:	0xffffffff810f72dc	:	pop rbp ; ret	// 5dc3
---------	--------------------	---	---------------	---------

ffffffff810f72db:	8a	5d c3	movb	-61(%rbp), %bl
-------------------	----	-------	------	----------------

What the gadget does
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# ROP Gadgets

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```

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```
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What the code meant to do

## Polymorphic Gadget

Terminates on an unintended return instruction

```
Gadget: 0xffffffff810f72dc : pop rbp ; ret // 5dc3
```

```
ffffffff810f72db: 8a 5d c3  movb   -61(%rbp), %bl
```

What the code meant to do



# ROP Chains

- ❖ Each gadget ends with *'ret'*
- ❖ *'ret'* pops an address from the stack and jumps to it
- ❖ A ROP Chain strings many gadgets addresses together on the stack
- ❖ Gadgets are executed sequentially

```
0x00000000000905ee # pop rsi ; ret
0x000000000002cd00 # @ .data
0x000000000003b62e # pop rax ; ret
0x2f62696e2f2f7368 # "/bin//sh"
0x000000000001f532 # mov qword ptr [rsi], rax ; pop rbp ; ret
0x4141414141414141 # padding
0x00000000000905ee # pop rsi ; ret
0x000000000002cd08 # @ .data + 8
0x0000000000000fa0 # xor rax, rax ; ret
0x000000000001f532 # mov qword ptr [rsi], rax ; pop rbp ; ret
0x4141414141414141 # padding
0x00000000000004cd # pop rdi ; pop rbp ; ret
0x000000000002cd00 # @ .data
0x4141414141414141 # padding
0x00000000000905ee # pop rsi ; ret
0x000000000002cd08 # @ .data + 8
0x00000000000068f03 # pop rdx ; ret
0x000000000002cd08 # @ .data + 8
0x0000000000000fa0 # xor rax, rax ; ret
0x00000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x00000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x00000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret

[... keep incrementing rax to 59 : SYS_execve]

0x00000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x00000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x00000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x00000000000009c8 # syscall
```

# ROP Chains

## Gadget Addresses

- ❖ Each gadget ends with *'ret'*
- ❖ *'ret'* pops an address from the stack and jumps to it
- ❖ A ROP Chain strings many gadgets addresses together on the stack
- ❖ Gadgets are executed sequentially

```
0x000000000000905e # pop rsi ; ret
0x000000000002cd00 # @ .data
0x0000000000003b62e # pop rax ; ret
0x2f62696e2f2f7368 # "/bin//sh"
0x0000000000001f532 # mov qword ptr [rsi], rax ; pop rbp ; ret
0x4141414141414141 # padding
0x000000000000905e # pop rsi ; ret
0x000000000002cd08 # @ .data + 8
0x0000000000000fa0 # xor rax, rax ; ret
0x0000000000001f532 # mov qword ptr [rsi], rax ; pop rbp ; ret
0x4141414141414141 # padding
0x00000000000004cd # pop rdi ; pop rbp ; ret
0x000000000002cd00 # @ .data
0x4141414141414141 # padding
0x000000000000905e # pop rsi ; ret
0x000000000002cd08 # @ .data + 8
0x00000000000068f03 # pop rdx ; ret
0x000000000002cd08 # @ .data + 8
0x0000000000000fa0 # xor rax, rax ; ret
0x000000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x000000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x000000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
[... keep incrementing rax to 59 : SYS_execve]
0x000000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x000000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x000000000000038fe # inc rax ; ret
0x00000000000009c8 # syscall
```

# ROP Chain Tooling

- ❖ Building ROP Chains by hand is tedious
- ❖ Tools make this easy
  - ❖ ROPGadget.py
  - ❖ ropper
  - ❖ pwntools
  - ❖ *others...*

```
$ ROPgadget.py --ropchain --binary OpenBSD-6.3/libc.so.92.3
```

```
Unique gadgets found: 8468
```

```
ROP chain generation
```

```
- Step 1 -- Write-what-where gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x617a8 mov word ptr [rcx], dr1 ; ret
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0xfa0 xor rax, rax ; ret
```

```
[...]
```

```
- Step 2 -- Init syscall number gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0xfa0 xor rax, rax ; ret
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x62a6 add al, 1 ; ret
```

```
[...]
```

```
- Step 3 -- Init syscall arguments gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x4cd pop rdi ; pop rbp ; ret
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x905ee pop rsi ; ret
```

```
[...]
```

```
- Step 4 -- Syscall gadget
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x9c8 syscall
```

```
[...]
```

```
- Step 5 -- Build the ROP chain
```

```
[...]
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000000905ee) # pop rsi ; ret
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000002cd000) # @ .data
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x000000000003b62e) # pop rax ; ret
```

```
p += '/bin//sh'
```

```
[...]
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000000038fe) # inc rax ; ret
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000000009c8) # syscall
```

# Review - Results

Number of unique gadgets found

```
$ ROPgadget.py --ropchain --binary OpenBSD-6.3/libc.so.92.3
```

```
Unique gadgets found: 8468
```

```
ROP chain generation
```

Identifying different types  
of gadgets needed

```
- Step 1 -- Write-what-where gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x617a8 mov word ptr [rcx], dr1 ; ret  
[+] Gadget found: 0xfa0 xor rax, rax ; ret  
[...]
```

```
- Step 2 -- Init syscall number gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0xfa0 xor rax, rax ; ret  
[+] Gadget found: 0x62a6 add al, 1 ; ret  
[...]
```

```
- Step 3 -- Init syscall arguments gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x4cd pop rdi ; pop rbp ; ret  
[+] Gadget found: 0x905ee pop rsi ; ret  
[...]
```

```
- Step 4 -- Syscall gadget
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x9c8 syscall  
[...]
```

```
- Step 5 -- Build the ROP chain
```

```
[...]  
p += pack('<Q', 0x0000000000905ee) # pop rsi ; ret  
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000002cd000) # @ .data  
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000003b62e) # pop rax ; ret  
p += '/bin//sh'  
[...]  
p += pack('<Q', 0x0000000000038fe) # inc rax ; ret  
p += pack('<Q', 0x0000000000009c8) # syscall
```

Stringing the gadgets together  
to get *exec("/bin/sh")*

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# Removing Gadgets

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- ❖ Aim: Reduce the number and variety of useful gadgets
  - ❖ Compile out unintended returns
  - ❖ Make intended returns hard to use in ROP chains
- ❖ We don't need to get to zero gadgets
  - ❖ Just remove enough to make building useful ROP chains hard / impossible
  - ❖ Use ROP tool output to measure progress

# Polymorphic Gadget Reduction

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# Polymorphic Gadgets

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- ❖ There are 4 return instructions on x86 / amd64

Byte	Instruction
C2	RET imm16 (near)
C3	RET (near)
CA	RET imm16 (far)
CB	RET (far)

# Polymorphic Gadgets

- ❖ There are 4 return instructions on x86 / amd64

Byte	Instruction
C2	RET imm16 (near)
C3	RET (near)
CA	RET imm16 (far)
CB	RET (far)

Most useful form

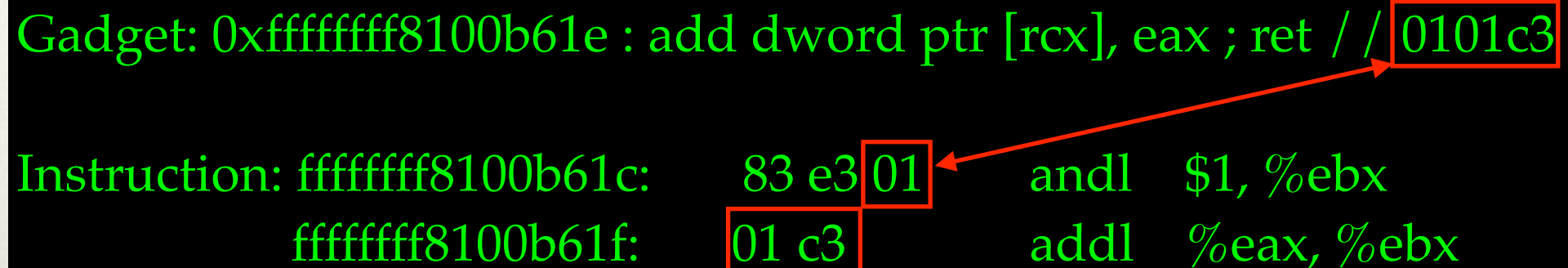


# Polymorphic Gadgets - Sources

## Other Instruction Opcodes

Gadget: 0xffffffff8100b61e : add dword ptr [rcx], eax ; ret // 0101c3

Instruction: ffffffff8100b61c: 83 e3 01 andl \$1, %ebx  
                  fffffff8100b61f: 01 c3 addl %eax, %ebx



# Polymorphic Gadgets - Sources

## Other Instruction Opcodes

```
Gadget: 0xffffffff8100b61e : add dword ptr [rcx], eax ; ret // 0101c3
Instruction: ffffffff8100b61c: 83 e3 01 andl $1, %ebx
            ffffffff8100b61f: 01 c3 addl %eax, %ebx
```

## Constants

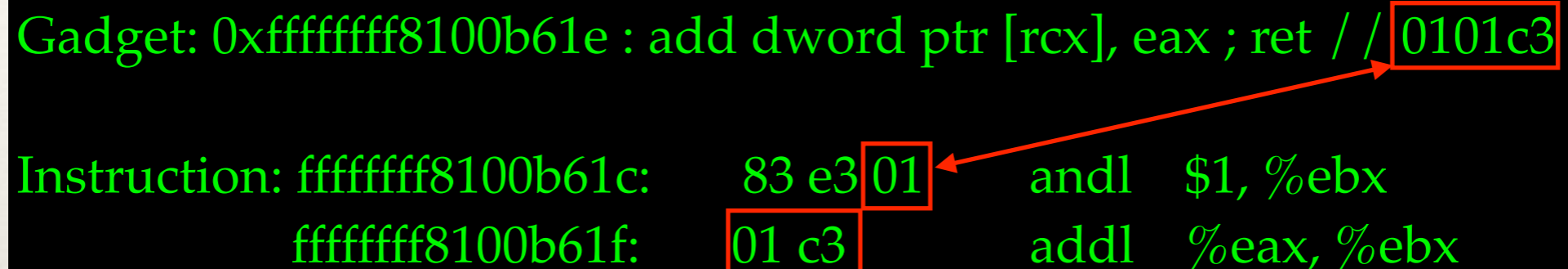
```
Gadget: 0xffffffff81050f8b : movsd dword ptr [rdi], dword ptr [rsi] ; ret // a5c3
Instruction: ffffffff81050f88: 48 c7 c7 a5 c3 84 81 movq $-2122005595, %rdi
```

# Polymorphic Gadgets - Sources

## Other Instruction Opcodes

Gadget: 0xffffffff8100b61e : add dword ptr [rcx], eax ; ret // 0101c3

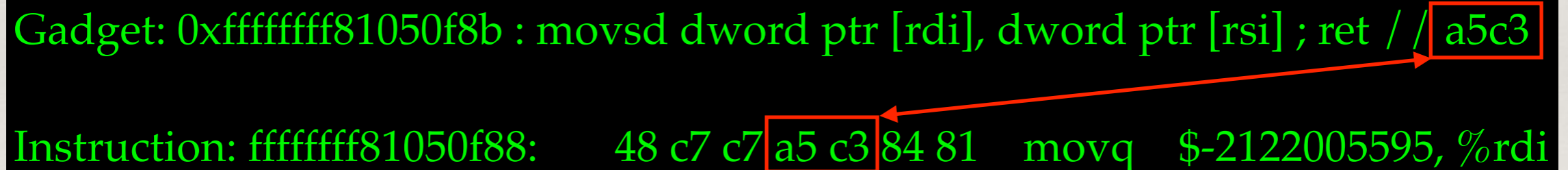
Instruction: ffffffff8100b61c: 83 e3 01 andl \$1, %ebx  
                  fffffff8100b61f: 01 c3 addl %eax, %ebx

A diagram showing a gadget and instructions. The gadget is '0xffffffff8100b61e : add dword ptr [rcx], eax ; ret // 0101c3'. Below it are two instructions: 'fffffff8100b61c: 83 e3 01 andl \$1, %ebx' and 'fffffff8100b61f: 01 c3 addl %eax, %ebx'. Red boxes highlight the opcodes '01' and '01 c3' in the instructions, and '0101c3' in the gadget. Red arrows point from the '01' opcode to the '0101c3' gadget and from the '01 c3' opcode to the '01' opcode.

## Constants

Gadget: 0xffffffff81050f8b : movsd dword ptr [rdi], dword ptr [rsi] ; ret // a5c3

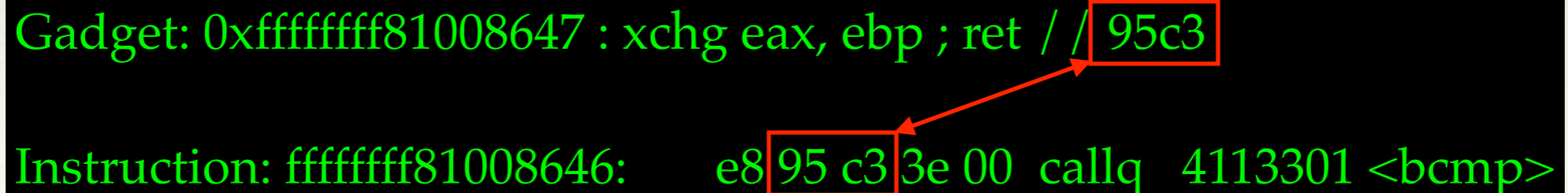
Instruction: ffffffff81050f88: 48 c7 c7 a5 c3 84 81 movq \$-2122005595, %rdi

A diagram showing a gadget and instruction. The gadget is '0xffffffff81050f8b : movsd dword ptr [rdi], dword ptr [rsi] ; ret // a5c3'. Below it is an instruction: 'fffffff81050f88: 48 c7 c7 a5 c3 84 81 movq \$-2122005595, %rdi'. Red boxes highlight the constant 'a5 c3' in the instruction and 'a5c3' in the gadget. A red arrow points from the 'a5 c3' constant in the instruction to the 'a5c3' constant in the gadget.

## Relocs

Gadget: 0xffffffff81008647 : xchg eax, ebp ; ret // 95c3

Instruction: ffffffff81008646: e8 95 c3 3e 00 callq 4113301 <bcmp>

A diagram showing a gadget and instruction. The gadget is '0xffffffff81008647 : xchg eax, ebp ; ret // 95c3'. Below it is an instruction: 'fffffff81008646: e8 95 c3 3e 00 callq 4113301 <bcmp>'. Red boxes highlight the relocation '95 c3' in the instruction and '95c3' in the gadget. A red arrow points from the '95 c3' relocation in the instruction to the '95c3' relocation in the gadget.

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# Register Selection

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- ❖ One common class of gadgets gets C3 return bytes from the *ModR/M* byte of certain instructions
  - ❖ Source register is RAX/EAX/AX/AL
  - ❖ Destination register is RBX/EBX/BX/BL
- ❖ Also operations on RBX / EBX / BX / BL
  - ❖ inc, dec, test, etc.

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# Register Selection

---

Gadget: 0xffffffff8100ca58 : dec dword ptr [rax - 0x77] ; ret // ff4889c3

Instructions:

```
ffffffff8100ca54: e8 f7 f9 ff ff callq -1545 <uvm_pmr_insert_addr>
ffffffff8100ca59: 48 89 c3      movq  %rax, %rbx
```

Gadget: 0xffffffff8100ffcd : mov byte ptr [rax], 0 ; add bh, bh ; ret // c6000000ffc3

Instructions:

```
ffffffff8100ffcb: 0f 84 c6 00 00 00 je 198 <pckbc_attach+0x337>
ffffffff8100ffd1: ff c3      incl %ebx
```

Gadget: 0xffffffff810100f3 : or edi, edi ; ret // 09ffc3

Instructions:

```
ffffffff810100f2: 74 09 je 9 <pckbc_attach+0x39d>
ffffffff810100f4: ff c3 incl %ebx
```

# Register Selection

Gadget: 0xffffffff8100ca58 : dec dword ptr [rax - 0x77] ; ret // ff4889c3

Instructions:

```
ffffffff8100ca54: e8 f7 f9 ff ff callq -1545 <uvm_pmr_insert_addr>
ffffffff8100ca59: 48 89 c3 movq %rax, %rbx
```

Gadget: 0xffffffff8100ffcd : mov byte ptr [rax], 0 ; add

Instructions:

```
ffffffff8100ffcb: 0f 84 c6 00 00 00 je 198 <pckl
ffffffff8100ffd1: ff c3 incl %ebx
```

RBX / EBX / BX / BL

generate a lot of C3 bytes

Gadget: 0xffffffff810100f3 : or edi, edi ; ret // 09ffc3

Instructions:

```
ffffffff810100f2: 74 09 je 9 <pckbc_attach+0x39d>
ffffffff810100f4: ff c3 incl %ebx
```

---

# Register Selection

---

- ❖ **Avoid using RBX/EBX/BX/BL**
- ❖ Clang allocates registers in this order:
  - ❖ RAX, RCX, RDX, RSI, RDI, R8, R9, R10, R11, **RBX**, R14, R15, R12, R13, RBP
- ❖ Move RBX closer to the end of the list:
  - ❖ RAX, RCX, RDX, RSI, RDI, R8, R9, R10, R11, R14, R15, R12, R13, **RBX**, RBP
- ❖ Also change order for EBX

---

# Register Selection

---

- ❖ Performance cost: Zero
- ❖ Code size cost: Negligible
  - ❖ Some REX prefix bytes
- ❖ Results: Removes about 4500 unique gadgets (6%) from the kernel



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# Alternate Code Generation

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- ❖ Sometimes you need to use RBX
- ❖ We know which instructions will have a C3 byte
- ❖ Teach the compiler to emit something else

---

# Fixup Gadgets Pass

---

- ❖ Clang module that identifies instructions with possible gadgets and replaces them with safe alternatives

```
ffffffff81006bd9: 89 c3 mov %eax,%ebx
```



Potential gadget

# Fixup Gadgets Pass

- ❖ Clang module that identifies instructions with possible gadgets and replaces them with safe alternatives

Turn this ...

```
ffffffff81006bd9: 89 c3 mov %eax,%ebx
```

... into this

```
ffffffff81006bd9: 48 87 d8 xchgq %rbx,%rax  
ffffffff81006bdc: 89 d8 movl %ebx,%eax  
ffffffff81006bde: 48 87 d8 xchgq %rbx,%rax
```

---

# Fixup Gadgets Pass

---

- ❖ Performance cost: Negligible
  - ❖ xchg is cheap
- ❖ Code side cost: Small
  - ❖ 6 bytes per fixup
  - ❖ 0.15% larger kernel
- ❖ Results: Removes about 3700 unique gadgets (5%) from the kernel

---

# Fixup Gadgets Pass

---

- ❖ Still more to do
  - ❖ Additional instruction cases to handle
  - ❖ Constants
  - ❖ Relocs

# Aligned Gadget Reduction

---

# Denying Gadgets

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- ❖ Some RETs are impossible to avoid
  - ❖ Functions need to actually return
- ❖ Can we make them hard to use?

---

# Retguard

---

- ❖ Allocate a random cookie for every function
  - ❖ Use `openbsd.randomdata` section to allocate random values
- ❖ On function entry
  - ❖ Compute *cookie*  $\wedge$  *return address*
  - ❖ Store the result in the frame
- ❖ On function return
  - ❖ Compute *saved value*  $\wedge$  *return address*
  - ❖ Compare to cookie
  - ❖ If comparison fails then abort



---

# Retguard - Prologue

---

- ❖ On function entry
  - ❖ Compute *cookie*  $\wedge$  *return address*
  - ❖ Store the result in the frame

```
ffffffff819ff700: 4c 8b 1d 61 21 24 00    mov     2367841(%rip),%r11 # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff819ff707: 4c 33 1c 24            xor     (%rsp),%r11
ffffffff819ff70b: 55                    push   %rbp
ffffffff819ff70c: 48 89 e5              mov     %rsp,%rbp
ffffffff819ff70f: 41 53                 push   %r11
```

# Retguard - Epilogue

- ❖ On function return
  - ❖ Compute *saved value*  $\wedge$  *return address*
  - ❖ Compare to cookie
  - ❖ If comparison fails then abort

```
ffffffff8115a457: 41 5b          pop    %r11
ffffffff8115a459: 5d            pop    %rbp
ffffffff8115a45a: 4c 33 1c 24    xor    (%rsp),%r11
ffffffff8115a45e: 4c 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00  cmp    11432963(%rip),%r11 # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02        je     ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3          retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ The int3 instructions are important
  - ❖ They disrupt gadgets wanting to use the ret

```
ffffffff8115a457: 41 5b          pop     %r11
ffffffff8115a459: 5d            pop     %rbp
ffffffff8115a45a: 4c 33 1c 24    xor     (%rsp),%r11
ffffffff8115a45e: 4c 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00  cmp     11432963(%rip),%r11 # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02         je      ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc           int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc           int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3          retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a459: 5d          pop    %rbp
ffffffff8115a45a: 4c 33 1c 24  xor    (%rsp),%r11
ffffffff8115a45e: 4c 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00  cmp    11432963(%rip),%r11 # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02      je     ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc        int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc        int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3        retq
```

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# Retguard - Epilogue

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- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
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```
ffffffff8115a45a: 4c 33 1c 24      xor    (%rsp),%r11
ffffffff8115a45e: 4c 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00  cmp    11432963(%rip),%r11 # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02          je     ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc           int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc           int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3          retq
```

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# Retguard - Epilogue

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- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45a: 33 1c 24          xor    (%rsp),%ebx
ffffffff8115a45e: 4c 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00  cmp    11432963(%rip),%r11 # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02          je    ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3          retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45a: 1c 24          sbb    al, 0x24
ffffffff8115a45e: 4c 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00  cmp    11432963(%rip),%r11 # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02          je     ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc           int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc           int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3           retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45a:    24                and    al, 0x4c
ffffffff8115a45e:    4c 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00  cmp    11432963(%rip),%ebx # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465:    74 02            je     ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467:    cc              int3
ffffffff8115a468:    cc              int3
ffffffff8115a469:    c3              retq
```



---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45e: 4c 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00    cmp     11432963(%rip),%r11 # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02                  je      ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc                    int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc                    int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3                    retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45e: 3b 1d 03 74 ae 00    cmp     11432963(%rip),%ebx # <__retguard_2759>
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02              je     ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc                int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc                int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3                retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45e: 1d 03 74 ae 00    sbb    $0xae7403, %eax
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02            je     ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc              int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc              int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3              retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45e: 03 74 ae 00    addl  (%rsi, %rbp, 4), %esi
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02         je    ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3         retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45e: 74 ae 00      je     -80
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02      addb  %dh, -0x34(%rdx, %rax)
ffffffff8115a467: cc
ffffffff8115a468: cc      int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3      retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45e: ae 00      scasb (%rdi), %al
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02      addb %dh, -0x34(%rdx, %rax)
ffffffff8115a467: cc        int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc        int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3        retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a45e: 00
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02      addb %dh, -0x34(%rdx, %rax)
ffffffff8115a467: cc
ffffffff8115a468: cc      int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3      retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a465: 74 02          je      ffffffff8115a469
ffffffff8115a467: cc           int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc           int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3           retq
```



---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a465: 02          addb %ah, %cl
ffffffff8115a467: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3          retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a467: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a468: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3          retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a468: cc          int3
ffffffff8115a469: c3          retq
```

---

# Retguard - Epilogue

---

- ❖ Disassemble every offset leading to the *ret*. Every gadget either
  - ❖ Must pass the comparison
  - ❖ Includes an *int3* instruction

```
ffffffff8115a469: c3          retq
```

---

# Retguard

---

- ❖ Performance Cost
  - ❖ Runtime about 2%
  - ❖ Startup cost (filling *.openbsd.randomdata*) is variable
- ❖ Code size cost
  - ❖ 31 bytes per function in binary
  - ❖ 8 bytes per function runtime for random cookies
  - ❖ + ~ 7% for the kernel

---

# Retguard

---

- ❖ Removes from the kernel
  - ❖ ~ 50% of total ROP gadgets
  - ❖ ~ 15 - 25% of unique ROP gadgets
- ❖ Gadget numbers are variable due to Relocs / KARL

---

# Retguard - Bonus

---

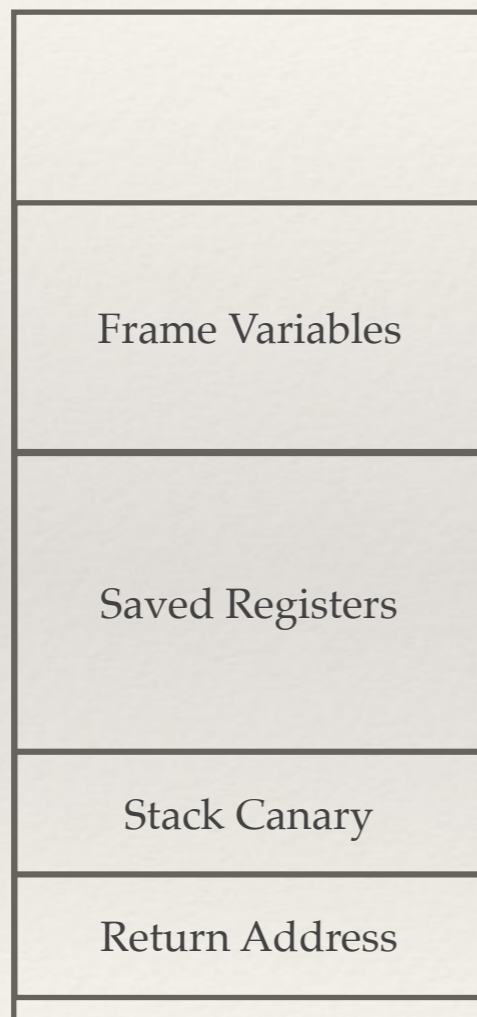
- ❖ Unexpected consequence
  - ❖ Retguard verifies integrity of the return address
  - ❖ Stack protector verifies integrity of the stack cookie
  - ❖ Retguard is a better stack protector
    - ❖ Per-function cookie
    - ❖ Verifies return address directly

---

# Retguard - Bonus

---

## Stack Protector



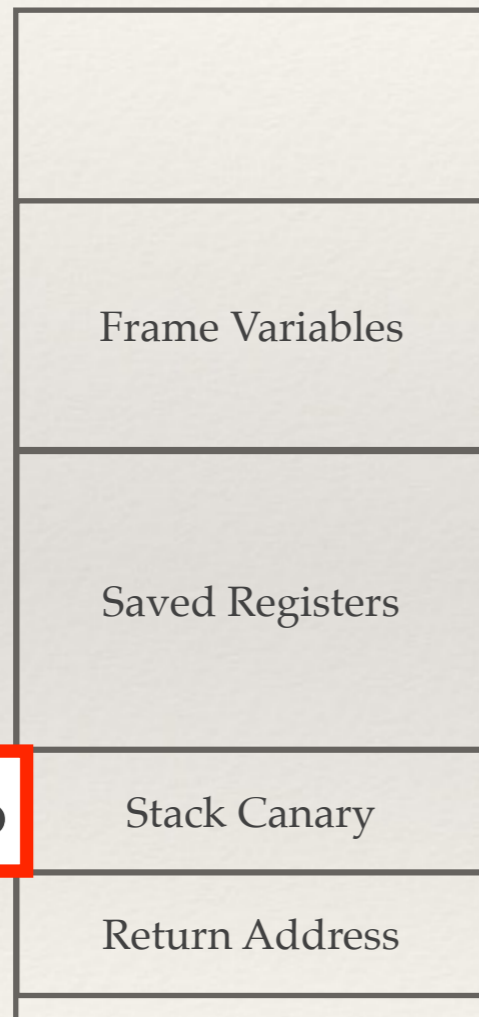
## Retguard





# Retguard - Bonus

## Stack Protector



unique per .o

Verify Stack Canary

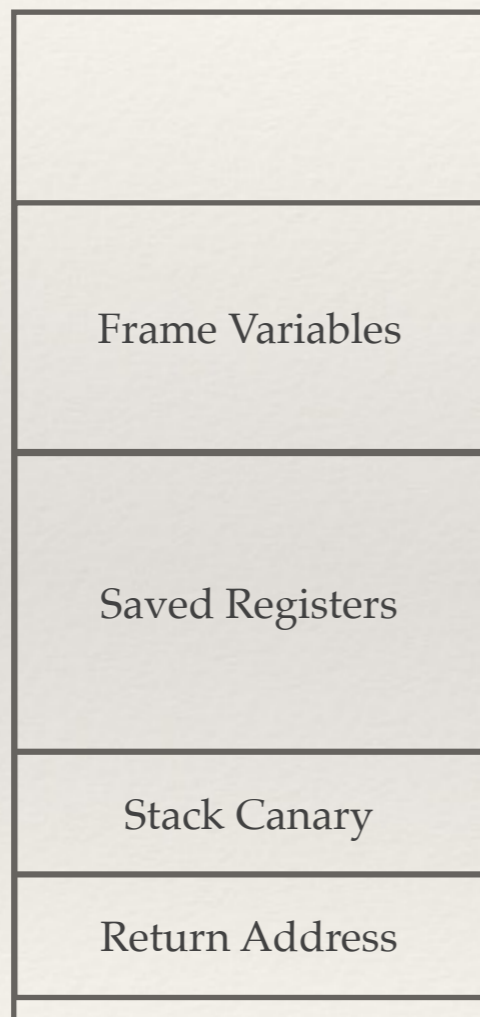
Infer valid Return Address

## Retguard



# Retguard - Bonus

Stack Protector



Retguard



Verify  
Retguard Cookie  
XOR  
Return Address

unique  
per function  
per call

# Other Architectures - Arm64

---

# Arm 64

---

- ❖ arm64 has fixed width instructions
  - ❖ No polymorphic gadgets
    - ❖ No need for register selection or alternate code changes in clang
  - ❖ Aligned gadgets
    - ❖ Retguard can instrument every return

---

# Retguard - Arm 64

---

## Prologue

```
ffffff8000204370:    2f 37 00 f0    adrp    x15, #7237632
ffffff8000204374:    ef 25 43 f9    ldr     x15, [x15, #1608]
ffffff8000204378:    ef 01 1e ca    eor     x15, x15, x30
ffffff800020437c:    ef 0f 1f f8    str     x15, [sp, #-16]!
```

## Epilogue

```
ffffff80002043f8:    ef 07 41 f8    ldr     x15, [sp], #16
ffffff80002043fc:    29 37 00 f0    adrp    x9, #7237632
ffffff8000204400:    29 25 43 f9    ldr     x9, [x9, #1608]
ffffff8000204404:    ef 01 1e ca    eor     x15, x15, x30
ffffff8000204408:    ef 01 09 eb    subs    x15, x15, x9
ffffff800020440c:    4f 00 00 b4    cbz     x15, #8
ffffff8000204410:    20 00 20 d4    brk     #0x1
ffffff8000204414:    c0 03 5f d6    ret
```

---

# Retguard - Arm 64

---

- ❖ Since there are only aligned gadgets on arm64
- ❖ and Retguard can instrument every aligned gadget
  - ❖ We can actually remove all the gadgets

---

# Retguard - Arm 64

---

CVSROOT: /cvs

Module name: src

Changes by: mortimer@cvs.openbsd.org 2018/09/09 10:41:43

Modified files:

sys/arch/arm64/arm64: locore.S

Log message:

Apply retguard to the last asm functions in the arm64 kernel. This completes retguard in the kernel and brings the number of useful ROP gadgets at runtime to zero.

ok kettenis@

---

# Retguard - Arm 64

---

- ❖ Number of ROP gadgets in 6.3-release arm64 kernel
  - ❖ 69935
- ❖ Number of ROP gadgets in 6.4-beta arm64 kernel
  - ❖ 46



---

# Retguard - Arm 64

---

- ❖ Remaining gadgets are assembly functions in the boot code
  - ❖ create\_pagetables
  - ❖ link\_l0\_pagetable
  - ❖ link\_l1\_pagetable
  - ❖ build\_l1\_block\_pagetable
  - ❖ build\_l2\_block\_pagetable
- ❖ OpenBSD unlinks or smashes the boot code after boot
  - ❖ These functions are gone at runtime

---

# Retguard - Arm 64

---

- ❖ Story in userland is much the same
  - ❖ Often zero ROP gadgets
  - ❖ Remaining gadgets are from assembly functions
    - ❖ *crt0, ld.so, etc.*
- ❖ Some work remains to instrument these functions

# Review

---

# Review

---

- ❖ We can remove ROP gadgets
  - ❖ Alternate Register Selection
  - ❖ Alternate Code Generation
  - ❖ Retguard

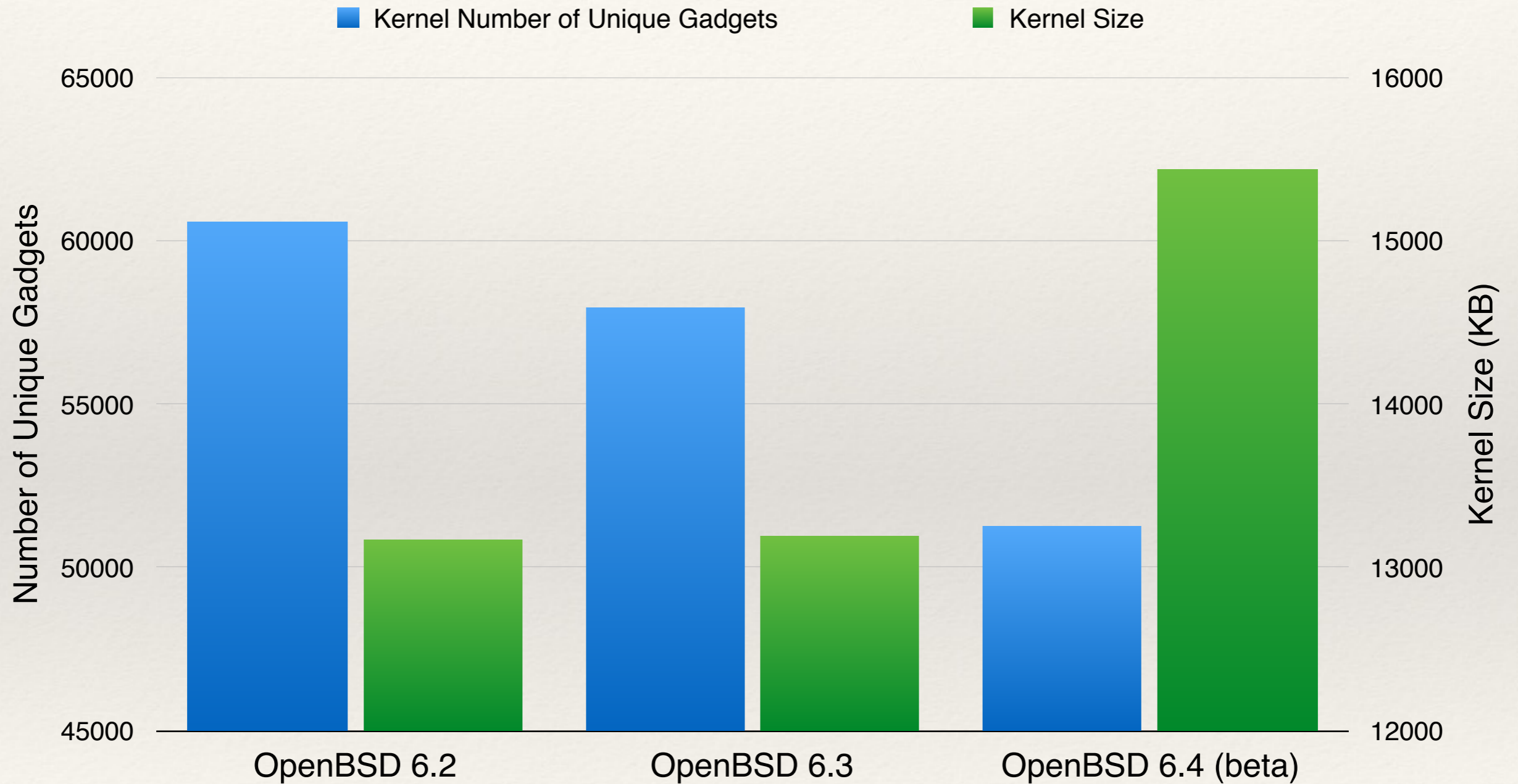
---

# Review - Progress

---

- ❖ In the amd64 kernel we removed unique ROP gadgets:
  - ❖ Alternate Register Selection: ~ 6%
  - ❖ Alternate Code Generation: ~ 5%
  - ❖ Retguard: ~ 15-25%
- ❖ Similar numbers for userland

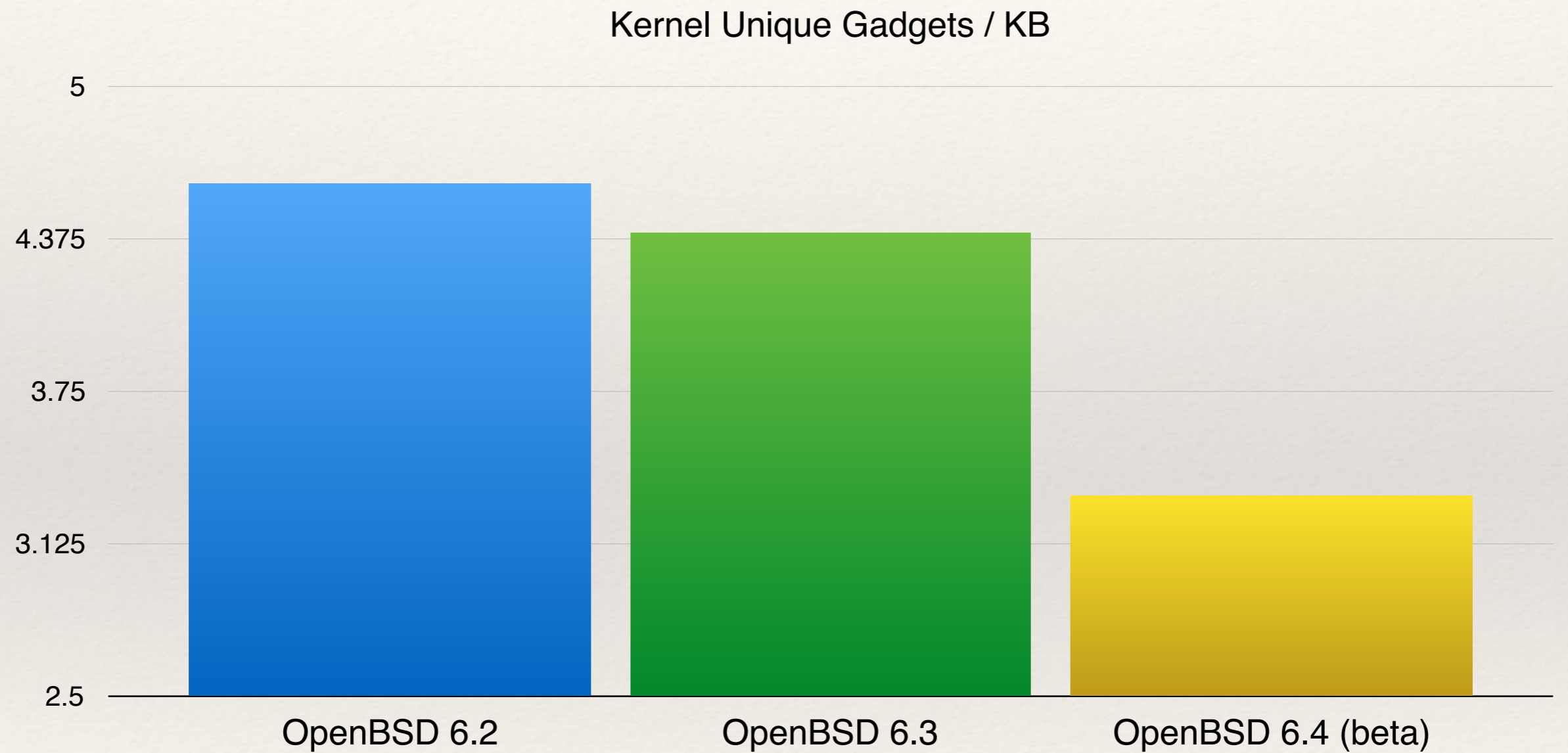
# Review - Progress



---

# Review - Progress

---



Does this really make a difference?



# Review - Results

- ❖ Run ROPGadget.py on OpenBSD 6.3 libc
- ❖ libc is a big juicy target
- ❖ Ask the tool for a ROP chain that pops a shell
- ❖ Tool succeeds and outputs a ROP chain

```
$ ROPgadget.py --ropchain --binary OpenBSD-6.3/libc.so.92.3
```

```
Unique gadgets found: 8468
```

```
ROP chain generation
```

```
- Step 1 -- Write-what-where gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x617a8 mov word ptr [rcx], dr1 ; ret
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0xfa0 xor rax, rax ; ret
```

```
[...]
```

```
- Step 2 -- Init syscall number gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0xfa0 xor rax, rax ; ret
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x62a6 add al, 1 ; ret
```

```
[...]
```

```
- Step 3 -- Init syscall arguments gadgets
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x4cd pop rdi ; pop rbp ; ret
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x905ee pop rsi ; ret
```

```
[...]
```

```
- Step 4 -- Syscall gadget
```

```
[+] Gadget found: 0x9c8 syscall
```

```
[...]
```

```
- Step 5 -- Build the ROP chain
```

```
[...]
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000000905ee) # pop rsi ; ret
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000002cd000) # @ .data
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x000000000003b62e) # pop rax ; ret
```

```
p += '/bin//sh'
```

```
[...]
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000000038fe) # inc rax ; ret
```

```
p += pack('<Q', 0x00000000000009c8) # syscall
```

---

# Review - Results

---

- ❖ Run ROPGadget.py on OpenBSD 6.4-beta libc

```
$ ROPgadget.py --ropchain --binary OpenBSD-6.4-beta/libc.so.92.4
```

# Review - Results

- ❖ Run ROPGadget.py on OpenBSD 6.4-beta libc
- ❖ The tool fails to find a ROP chain that pops a shell
- ❖ Reduced gadget diversity foils this tool
- ❖ ROP attacks on 6.4 are harder to execute

```
$ ROPgadget.py --ropchain --binary OpenBSD-6.4-beta/libc.so.92.4
```

```
Unique gadgets found: 6007
```

Still many gadgets...

```
ROP chain generation
```

```
- Step 1 -- Write-what-where gadgets
```

```
[-] Can't find the 'mov qword ptr [r64], r64' gadget
```

```
$
```

... but not enough diversity

---

# Remaining Work

---

- ❖ There is still more to do!
- ❖ Alternate Code Generation
  - ❖ Additional instruction sequences to fix
  - ❖ Constants
  - ❖ Relocs
- ❖ What about JOP?

Questions?