Software Security Analysis from Automation to Intelligence

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August 4, 2021

Modern System Software

Extremely large and complex but error-prone



More Complex!

Microsoft: 70 percent of all security bugs are memory safety issues

Percentage of memory safety issues has been hovering at 70 percent for the past 12 years.



More Buggy!

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memory leaks massive leaks over 2GB on a single browser tab



buffer overflow 66% websites affected



use-after-free exploit price up to \$100k per bug in Chrome



null pointer denial of service affecting millions of servers worldwide



data race 11 civilians died



uninitialized variables password leakage via *tar* on Solaris OS

Modern System Software

Extremely large and complex but error-prone



Outline

Existing software bugs and vulnerabilities

Automated static analysis and dynamic analysis

- Foundation: SVF value-flow analysis framework
- Key features: sparse and on-demand analysis
- Applications: value-flow analysis to detect memory corruption errors
- Learning-based software security analysis
 - Case 1: Boosting the performance of existing detectors
 - Case 2: Rapid prototyping via code embedding

Memory Leak

- A dynamically allocated object is not freed along some execution path of a program
- A major concern of long running server applications due to gradual loss of available memory.

```
/* CVE_2012_0817 allows remote attackers to cause a denial of service through adversarial connection requests.*/

/* Samba — -libads/ldap.c:ads_leave_realm */.

host = memAlloc(hostname);

...

if (...) {...; return ADS_ERROR_SYSTEM(ENOENT);} // The programmer forgot to release host on error.
```

```
/* A memory leak in Php-5.5.11 */
for (...) {
    char* buf = readBuffer();
    if (condition)
        printf (buf);
    else
        continue; // buf is leaked in else branch
    freeBuf(buf);
}
```

2

3 4

5 6

7

1 2 3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Buffer Overflow

- Attempt to put more data in a buffer than it can hold.
- Program crashes, undefined behavior or zero-day exploit¹.

¹ Heartbleed, a well-known vulnerability in OpenSSL is also caused by buffer overflow (It took more than 2 years to discover and fix it since first patch, and over 500,000 websites were affected). Vulnerability is exploited when more data can be read than should be allowed.

Uninitialized Variable

- Stack variables in C and C++ are not initialized by default.
- Undefined behavior or denial of service via memory corruption

```
/* An uninitialized variable vulnerability simplified from gnuplot (CVE-2017-9670) */
 1
 2
 3
      void load(){
 4
              switch (ctl) {
 5
                     case -1:
                              xN = 0; yN = 0;
 6
 7
                              break;
 8
                     case 0:
 9
                              xN = i: yN = -i:
10
                              break.
11
                     case 1:
12
                              xN = i + NEXT_SZ; yN = i - NEXT_SZ;
13
                              break:
14
                     default :
15
                              xN = -1; xN = -1; // xN is accidentally set twice while vN is uninitialized
16
                              break:
17
18
                     plot(xN, vN):
19
20
21
```

Use-After-Free

- Attempt to access memory after it has been freed.
- Program crashes, undefined behavior or zero-day exploit.

```
/* CVE-2015-6125 and CVE-2018-12377 with similar heap use after free patterns*/
 1
 2
 3
      char* msg = memAlloc(...);
 4
 5
      if (err) {
 6
              abrt = 1:
 7
 8
              free (msg); // the memory is released when an error occurs at server
 9
10
11
      if (abrt) {
12
13
              logError("operation aborted before commit", msg); // try to access released heap variable,
14
                                                               // causing either crash or writing confidential data
15
```

Data Race

- A data race occurs when two threads access the same memory concurrently and at least one of the accesses is for writing.
- Program crashes, undefined behavior and zero-day exploit.

```
typedef std::map<std::string, u32_int> map_t;
 2
 3
      void *balance_Inquire(void *p) {
       map_t& m = *(map_t*)p;
 5
        m["client"] = amount: // map m is written in thread t
 6
        return 0:
 7
 8
 9
      int main() {
10
       map_t m:
11
        pthread_t t:
12
        pthread_create(&t, 0, &balance_Inquire, &m);
13
        printf (" client =%d\n", m["client" ]);
                                                  // map m is read in thread main
14
        pthread_ioin(t, 0):
15
16
```

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What is Software/Program Analysis

- Software Analysis a.k.a Program analysis is the process of automatically analyzing the **behavior of computer programs** such as correctness, robustness, safety and security.
- Program analysis is to develop algorithms and tools which can analyze other programs



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- Software Analysis a.k.a Program analysis is the process of automatically analyzing the **behavior of computer programs** such as correctness, robustness, safety and security.
- Program analysis is to develop algorithms and tools which can analyze other programs
- Applications of program analysis
 - **Compiler optimizations**: transforming the source code to minimize a program's execution time, memory footprint, storage size, and power consumption
 - **Bug finding**: Identify the program or system that cause failure or produce an unexpected result
 - Security vulnerability assessment: Protect private users' data in databases
 - Automatic Parallel Computation: Guarantee the safe execution in different iterations on parallel calculations

Static Analysis

- Analyze a program without actually executing it inspecting source code by examining all possible program paths
 - + Pin-point problems at source code level.
 - + Catch bugs at early the stage of the software development cycle.
 - False alarms due to over-approximation.
 - - Precise analysis has scalability issue for analyzing large size programs.

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Dynamic Analysis

- Analyze a program at runtime inspecting running program by examining some executable paths depending on specific test inputs
 - + Identify bugs at runtime (catch it when you observe it).
 - + Zero or very low false alarm rates.
 - Runtime overhead due to code instrumentation.
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Bug Detection Philosophy



- Soundness : Over-Approximation (Static Analysis)
- Completeness : Under-Approximation (Dynamic Analysis)

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Some Static and Dynamic Analysis Tools



Whole-Program CFG of 300.twolf (20.5KLOC)



#functions: 194 #pointers: 20773 #loads/stores: 8657 Costly to reason about flow of values on CFGs!

Call Graph of 176.gcc (230.5KLOC)



Costly to reason about flow of values on CFGs!



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SVF : Static Value-Flow Analysis

A sparse, selective and on-demand interprocedural program dependence analysis framework for both sequential and multithreaded programs.

- The SVF project
 - Started since early 2014, actively maintained. **Publicly available** at : http://svf-tools.github.io/SVF.
 - Implemented on top of LLVM compiler (the latest version 10.0.0) with over 100KLOC C/C++ code and 600+ stars with 32 contributors and over 1K commits on Github.
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- Value-Flow Analysis: resolves both control and data dependence.
 - Does the information generated at program point *A* flow to another program point *B* along some execution paths?
 - Can function F be called either directly or indirectly from some other function F'?
 - Is there an unsafe memory access that may trigger a bug or security risk?

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 - Can function *F* be called either directly or indirectly from some other function *F*'?
 - Is there an unsafe memory access that may trigger a bug or security risk?
- Key features of SVF
 - Sparse: compute and maintain the data-flow facts where necessary
 - Selective : support mixed analyses for precision and efficiency trade-offs.
 - On-demand : reason about program parts based on user queries.

SVF : <u>Static Value-Flow Analysis</u>

SVF has been used and cited by researchers from leading program analysis and security groups, e.g. Chopped Symbolic Execution (from Imperial College London@ICSE'18 and @FSE'19), PinPoint (from HKUST@PLDI'18), Type-based CFI (from ACSAC'18@MIT and Northeastern University), Kernel Fuzzing (from Purdue@IEEE S&P'18), Directed Fuzzer (from NTU@CCS'18), K-Miner (from TU Darmstadt@NDSS'18), Permission Check Analysis (from Virginia Tech & Zhejiang University @USENIX Security'19), probabilistic analysis (from University of Pennsylvania @PLDI'19), and Hybrid Testing (from Northeastern University @S&P'20), and system call specialization (from NTU @USENIX Security'20), and hot patch generation for kernels (from NTU @USENIX Security'20), and fuzzing for kernel file system (from Georgia Institute of Technology @S&P'20).

SVF: Design Principle



- Serving as an open-source foundation for building practical value-flow analysis
 - Bridge the gap between research and engineering
 - Minimize the efforts of implementing sophisticated analysis (extendable, reusable, and robust via layers of abstractions)
 - Support developing different analysis variants (flow-, context-, heap-, field-sensitive analysis) in a sparse and on-demand manner.

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• Client applications:

- Static bug detection (e.g., memory leaks, null dereferences, use-after-frees and data-races)
- Accelerate dynamic analysis (e.g., Google's Sanitizers and AFL fuzzing)

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Flow-insensitive pointer analysis:

- Ignore program execution order
- A single solution across whole program

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p = & a

*p = & tainted

*p = & safe

q = *p

Flow-insensitive analysis

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*p = & safe
q = *p
false alarm!

Flow-insensitive analysis
Flow-Insensitive v.s. Flow-Sensitive Analysis

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p = & ap = & a $p \rightarrow a$ $p \rightarrow a$ p = & tainted p = & tainted $a \rightarrow tainted$, safe $p \rightarrow a$ $a \rightarrow tainted$ $q \rightarrow tainted, safe$ strona *p = & safe*p = & safe update $p \rightarrow a$ $a \rightarrow safe$ q = pq = pfalse alarm! $p \rightarrow a$ $a \rightarrow safe$ $q \rightarrow safe$ Flow-insensitive analysis

Data-flow-based flow-sensitive analysis

The Data-flow-based Flow-Sensitive Analysis

• Propagates points-to along the control-flow without knowing whether the information will be used there or not.



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Data-flow-based flow-sensitive analysis

Sparse Flow-Sensitive Analysis (TSE'14, CC'16, TSE'18)

Propagate points-to information only along pre-computed def-use chains (a.k.a value-flows) instead of control-flow



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- Research opportunities

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 - context-free reachability problem on sparse value-flow graph
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 - spatio-temporal correlation problem and its context reduction
 - validated with 10 open-source applications (3+ MLOC) with 7 CVE bug found
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- Control-Flow and Type Integrity (ISSTA'17 and ISSRE'19)
 - pointer analysis to identify and remove spurious call targets by class hierarchy analysis to raise the bar against code reuse attacks.
 - reduce the sets of legitimate targets permitted at 20.3% of the virtual callsites in Chrome

Limitations of Conventional Program Analysis

- Performance
 - Hard to balance between precision and scalability
 - **False alarms** when using fast and **imprecise** Andersen's analysis, yielding 126,000 alarms for programs with 2 MLOC.

- Imprecise handling of **complicated program features**, e.g., linked-list, loops and recursions.

• Long running time when using precise flow- and context-sensitive analysis to analyze 2 MLOC for weeks.

-php-5.6.8: **1,391 frees x 244,917 uses = 340 million pairs** with **billions** of calling contexts.

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- Applicability
 - Lack of an unified approach to recognizing a wide variety of vulnerabilities
 - Bugs may behave very differently and often **not simply manifest as memory errors or crashes** (e.g., misuse of APIs and inconsistent business logic).
 - Detecting each type of bugs needs to write their own detectors, which relies on domain experts to define specific detection strategies.
 - Combination knowledge of programming language theories and extensive engineering efforts.

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Static Program Analysis for Bug Detection



Static Program Analysis for Bug Detection



Challenges

1) Developing a static program analyser requires both deep programming theories and extensive engineering efforts

--- Klee (https://klee.github.io/) started from 2008, it took ~10 years from publication, prototype and popular usage.

2) Program analysers for analysing large programs (MLOC) often over- or under- approximations, resulting in

--- false alarms (imprecise)

--- false negative and missing bugs (unsound)

New Paradigm for Software Security Analysis



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Opportunities

1) Our very own code analysis platform SVF (https://github.com/SVF-tools/SVF) with years-long efforts from 2014.

- --- publicly available with over 230 stars and 2k downloads, producing over 10 CORE-A/A* papers,
- --- plenary talk in EuroLLVM 2016, FSE Platinum Artifact Award 2016 and ICSE Distinguished Paper 2018
- --- used, cited and commented by leading research groups, Cambridge, UIUC, UCSB and Oracle.
- 2) New software security paradigm : code representation as "big data"
 - --- control-flow graphs, data-flow graphs and abstract syntax trees

Code Representation

Program dependence graph of source code of OpenCV project (a computer vision library)



New Paradigm for Software Security Analysis



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 - Case study 1: Boost the performance of existing detectors (ACSAC 2017)
 - Machine-learning-guided type-state analysis to detect use-after-free vulnerabilities
 - Case study 2: Rapid prototyping via code embedding (OOPSLA 2020 and TOSEM 2021)
 - Code summarization, and vulnerability detection via code embedding

Temporal Temporal Safety Error: Use-After-Free

- Use-after-free, a.k.a, dangling pointer dereference, i.e., referencing a memory object after it has been released
- One of the most severe memory vulnerabilities
 - Crashes and data corruption
 - Information leakage
 - Control-flow hijacking

US National Vulnerability Database (NVD)



1: typedef void (*func_ptr)();

```
2: void foo() {...}
```

```
3: int main() {
4: func_ptr* p = malloc(4);
5: func_ptr* q = p;
6: *p = &foo;
7: free(p);
8: long int* r = malloc(4);
9: *r = userInput();
10: (*q)(); // UAF bug
}
```

```
Runtime
memory layout
```

```
1. typedef void (*func ptr)();
                                          Runtime
                                          memory layout
 2 \cdot \text{ void foo() } \{\dots\}
 3. int main() {
                                               uninitialized
      func ptr^* p = malloc(4);
 4:
 5:
      func ptr* q = p1;
      *p = &foo;
 6:
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                                     ġ-
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Related Work – Dynamic Approaches

- Detection
 - Full memory safety: e.g., CETS [ISMM'10]
 - Taint tracking: e.g., Undangle [ISSTA'12]
 - Redzone: e.g., AddressSanitizer [Usenix ATC'12]
 - Optimization: e.g., DangSan [EuroSys'17]
- Mitigation
 - *Safe allocator*: e.g., DieHarder [CCS'10], Cling [Security'10], FreeGuard [CCS'17]
 - Safe deallocator: e.g., VTPin [ACSAC'16]
 - Nullification: e.g., DangNull [NDSS'15], FreeSentry [NDSS'15]
 - *Control-flow integrity*: e.g., CFI [CCS'05], PathArmor [CCS'15], ShrinkWrap [ACSAC'15]

Related Work – Static Approaches

Early detection and zero runtime overhead

- Buffer overflow E.g., Archer [FSE'03], Marple [FSE'08], Parfait [FSE'10]
- Memory leak E.g., Saturn [FSE'05], FastCheck [PLDI'07], Saber [ISSTA'12]
- Information flow E.g., TAJ [PLDI'09], Merlin [PLDI'14], DroidSafe [NDSS'15]
- Data race E.g., RacerX [SOSP'03], LockSmith [PLDI'06], DroidRacer [PLDI'14]
- UAF Relatively unexplored

Typestate Analysis for Memory Safety

- A static approach using automata as the specification by capturing spatio-temporal correlations simultaneously.
 - control-flow-reachability (temporal property): free (p) can reach use(q) along control-flows
 - pointer analysis (spatial property): p and q are aliases (pointing to the same object)
- Spatio-temporal correlation is too strong for efficiently analysing large-size program.
 - - php-5.6.8: 1,391 frees x 244,917 uses = 340 million pairs with billions of calling contexts.



Haijun Wang, Xiaofei Xie, Yi Li, Cheng Wen, Yuekang Li, Yang Liu, Shengchao Qin, Hongxu Chen and Yulei Sui. Typestate-Guided Fuzzer for Discovering Use-after-Free Vulnerabilities. (ICSE 2020)

Hua Yan, Yulei Sui, Shiping Chen and Jingling Xue. Spatio-Temporal Context Reduction: A Pointer-Analysis-Based Static Approach for Detecting Use-After-Free Vulnerabilities. (ICSE 2018)

Hua Yan, Yulei Sui, Shiping Chen and Jingling Xue. Machine-Learning-Guided Typestate Analysis for Use-After-Free Detection. 33th Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC 2017)

Insights: Leverage historical bug patterns and programming experience Alike and predictable with some common characteristics



Insights: Leverage historical bug patterns and programming experience

```
1: void foo(Apple* p) {
2: free(p);
    }
...
3: void bar(Orange* q) {
4: use(q);//Likely false UAF
    }
```

```
1: void foo(Apple* p) {
2: free(p);
     }
...
3: void bar(Apple* q) {
4: use(q);//Likely true UAF
     }
```

Insights: Leverage historical bug patterns and programming experience

```
1: void fun() {
                                       1: void fun() {
 2:
                                       2:
      ...
                                            . . .
                                            if (Cnd) {
 3:
      if (Cnd) {
                                       3:
                                           free(p);
 4:
      free(p);
                                       4:
 5:
        p = null;
                                       5:
                                           //p = null;
 6:
      }
                                       6:
                                            }
 7:
                                       7:
                                            ...
      . . .
 8:
      if (p != null) {
                                       8:
                                           //if (p != null) {
 9:
        use(p);//Likely false UAF
                                       9:
                                              use(p);//Likely true UAF
10:
     }
                                      10:
```

Insights: Leverage historical bug patterns and programming experience

```
1: void foo(Apple* p) {
2: free(p);
    . . .
3: void bar(Apple* a) {
4: use(q);//Likely false UAF
      Imprecise static
     over-approximation
 pt(p) = \{o_1, o_2, \dots, o_{100}\}
 pt(q) = \{o_{100}, o_{101}, \dots, o_{200}\}
```

```
1: void foo(Apple* p) {
2: free(p);
    . . .
3: void bar(Apple* q) {
4: use(a);//Likely true UAF
      Precise static
    over-approximation
  pt(p) = \{o_1\}
  pt(q) = \{0_1\}
```

Machine-Learning-Guided Typestate Analysis

Feature Engineering

- 35 Features in 4 groups
- Type information
 - E.g., array, struct, container, global, type compatibility
- Control flow
 - E.g., loop, recursion, distance, dominance, use before free
- Common characteristics
 - E.g., nullification, flags, reallocation, address comparison
- Classification using machine learning
 - E.g., size of points-to set, #UAF@free, #UAF@use, #aliases, points-to cycles

Feature Engineering: Leverage historical bug patterns and programming experience since many use-free patterns are alike and predictable with some common characteristics

Group	ID	Feature	Туре	Description
Type Information	1	Array	Boolean	o is an array or an element of an array
	2	Struct	Boolean	o is a struct or an element of a struct
	3	Container	Boolean	o is a container (e.g., vector or map) or an element of a container
	4	IsLoad	Boolean	use(q) is a load instruction
	5	IsStore	Boolean	use(q) is a store instruction
	6	IsExtCall	Boolean	use(q) is an external call
	7	GlobalFree	Boolean	free(p), where p is a global pointer
	8	GlobalUse	Boolean	use(q), where q is a global pointer
	9	CompatibleType	Boolean	p and q are type-compatible at $free(p)$ and $use(q)$
Control Flow	10	InSameLoop	Boolean	free(p) and use(q) are in the same loop
	11	InSameRecursion	Boolean	free(p) and use(q) are in the same recursion cycle
	12	#FunctionInBetween	Integer	number of functions in the shortest path from free(p) to use(q) in the program's call graph
	13	DiffIteration	Boolean	use(q) appears after free(p) via a loop back-edge
	14	Dom	Boolean	free(p) dominates use(q)
	15	PostDom	Boolean	use(q) post-dominates free(p)
	16	#IndCalls	Integer	number of indirect calls in the shortest path from free(p) to use(q) in the program's call graph
	17	UseBeforeFree	Boolean	a UAF pair, free(p) and use(q), is also a use-before-free
Common Programming Practices	18	NullifyAfterFree	Boolean	p is set to null immediately after free(p)
	19	ReturnConstInt	Boolean	a const integer is returned after free(p)
	20	ReturnBoolean	Boolean	a Boolean value is returned after free(p)
	21	Casting	Boolean	pointer casting is applied to q at $use(q)$
	22	ReAllocAfterFree	Boolean	p is redefined to point to a newly allocated object immediately after free(p)
	23	RefCounting	Boolean	o is an reference-counted object
	24	ValidatedFreePtr	Boolean	null checking for p before free(p)
	25	ValidatedUsePtr	Boolean	null checking for q before $use(q)$
Points-to Information	26	SizeOfPointsToSetAtFree	Integer	number of objects pointed to by p at free(p)
	27	SizeOfPointsToSetAtUse	Integer	number of objects pointed to by q at $use(q)$
	28	#UAFSharingSameFree	Integer	number of UAF pairs sharing the same $free(p)$
	29	#UAFSharingSameUse	Integer	number of UAF pairs sharing the same $use(q)$
	30	#Aliases	Integer	number of pointers pointing to o
	31	AllocInLoop	Boolean	o is allocated in a loop
	32	AllocInRecursion	Boolean	o is allocated in recursion
	33	LinkedList	Boolean	o is in a points-to cycle (signifying its presence in a linked-list)
	34	SamePointer	Boolean	p and q at free(p) and use(q) are the same pointer variable
	35	DefinedBeforeFree	Boolean	a at $use(a)$ is defined before $fre(b)$
Machine-Learning-Guided Typestate Analysis

Support Vector Machine – Two-Class SVM



Figures shamelessly stolen from:

http://blog.hackerearth.com/simple-tutorial-svm-parameter-tuning-python-r















Platform

- Implemented based on our SVF framework [CC '16] and used our demand-driven pointer analysis [FSE '16]
 - Started since early 2014, actively maintained. **Publicly available** at : http://svf-tools.github.io/SVF with over 2K downloads.
 - Implemented on top of LLVM compiler (the latest version 7.0.0) with over 100KLOC C/C++ code and 230+ stars on Github.
 - Invited for a plenary talk in EuroLLVM 2016, FSE Platinum Artifact Award 2016 and ICSE Distinguished Paper 2018.
 - Serves as a foundation for developing other analyses, with participants and contributors from both industry and academia, including UIUC, UCSB, IBM, Google, Qualcomm and Veracode.

• Third-party libraries

- LLVM Compiler IR
- Pointer Analysis [FSE '16]
- SMT-solver z3
- Machine learning libSVM

Machine-Learning-Guided Typestate Analysis Training

	Sam	ples	Results				
Program	#True	#False	Accuracy	Precision	Recall		
rtorrent	46	69	88.6%	81.0%	93.4%		
less	22	237	96.9%	77.0%	91.0%		
bitlbee	52	31	90.4%	86.7%	100.0%		
nghttp2	43	61	82.7%	75.5%	86.0%		
JTS-C	138	138	96.4%	97.8%	94.9%		
JTS-C++	322	322	97.4%	97.2%	97.5%		
Total	623	858	95.0%	92.6%	95.8%		

- True bugs training samples
 - Juliet Test Suite
 - Dynamically verify use-before-free instances
 - Manual injection
- False positive training samples
 - Juliet Test Suite
 - Tac-NML (typestate analysis without machine learning)
 - Manual inspection

Testing

Program	Version	Language	LOC	#Frees	#Uses
rtorrent	0.96	C++	13,036	118	3,039
less	451	С	27,134	86	7,902
bitlbee	4.2	С	68,413	201	5,897
nghttp2	1.6.0	C++	71,387	29	7,566
mupdf	1.2.337	C++	122,481	253	105,911
h2o	1.7.2	C++	517,731	896	150,887
xserver	1.14.3	С	568,964	1,675	90,841
php	5.6.7	С	709,356	1,391	244,917
Total	—	_	2,098,502	4,649	616,960

Machine-Learning-Guided Typestate Analysis

Results

Program	#Cand	W^{NML}	R1	W^{TAC}	R2	Time (s)	#True	FPR	TPR
rtorrent	803	229	71.5%	0	100.0%	90	0	_	_
less	4,628	790	82.9%	3	99.6%	316	1	66.7%	33.3%
bitlbee	529	113	78.6%	16	85.8%	151	9	43.8%	56.3%
nghttp2	975	210	78.5%	16	92.4%	83	7	56.3%	43.8%
mupdf	21,701	1,658	92.4%	50	97.0%	197	19	62.0%	38.0%
h2o	18,143	3,559	80.4%	23	99.4%	6,205	9	60.9%	39.1%
xserver	53,258	6,706	87.4%	102	98.5%	2,053	40	60.8%	39.2%
php	26,306	5,818	77.9%	56	99.0%	5,942	24	57.1%	42.9%
Total	126,343	19,083	-	266	-	15,037	109	Av 58.2%	z. Avg. 41.8%

#Cand: Number of candidate UAF pair by pre-analysis		Known bu	gs	New bugs
$\#W^{NHL}\colon \textsc{Number}$ of warnings by Tac without machine learning	Program	Identifier	Detected	#Detected
#WTAC: Number of warnings by Tac	rtorrent	_	_	0
FPR: False positive rate	less	_	_	1
TPR: True positive rate	bitlbee	CVE-2016-10188	\checkmark	0
$\#Cand - \#W^{NML}$	nghttp2	CVE-2015-8659	\checkmark	0
R1 =	mupdf	BugID-694382	\checkmark	0
$R2 = \frac{\#W^{NML} - \#W^{TAC}}{\#W^{NML}}$	h2o	CVE-2016-4817	\checkmark	5
	xserver	CVE-2013-4396	\checkmark	0
	php	CVE-2015-1351	\checkmark	2

Outline

- Existing software bugs and vulnerabilities
- Automated static analysis and dynamic analysis
 - SVF: Value-flow analysis framework
 - Value-flow analysis to detect memory corruption errors
- Learning-based software security analysis
 - Case study 1: boost the performance of existing detectors
 - Machine-learning-guided type-state analysis to detect use-after-free vulnerabilities
 - Case study 2: rapid prototyping via code embedding
 - · Code summarization, and vulnerability detection via code embedding

- Distributed representation
 - Distributed representation of words (Word2Vec) and documents (Doc2Vec). Unlocking the potential of deep learning and NLP.
 - Local representation (object as a single representational element); distributed representation (object as a feature vector)

	· · ·	/
Object	Local representation	Distributed representation
small apple	1	[-0.2, -0.2, 0.0, 0.1]
big apple	2	[-0.1, -0.2, 0.0, 0.1]
orange	3	[-0.1, 0.5, 0.0, 0.3]
car	4	[0.0, 0.0, 0.5, 0.1]

- An object's meaning is distributed across its vector components. Semantically similar objects are mapped to close vectors.
- Code embedding
 - Learning distributed vector representations for code (e.g., via neural networks).
 - Capture **correlations** between **code snippets** and **code semantics** in a natural and effective manner.

Source Code

Model

Code Property Prediction





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semantic label	🖉 initialize	🖉 swap	Sort	
code snippet	<pre>inte(int[] mpArray, int size) { for (int i = 0; i < size; i++) mpArray[i] = i; return mpArray; }</pre>	<pre>< / > Source code #2</pre>	< / > Source code #3	

Code semantic vector in geometric space



Yulei Sui August 4, 2021

Code semantic vector in geometric space



Code semantic vector in geometric space



Code semantic vector in geometric space





Code semantic vector in geometric space



Structure-oblivious embedding

Source code → A bag of 'sentences'

```
int* ____(int[] myArray, int size)
{
   for (int i = 0; i < size; i++)
      myArray[i] = i;
   return myArray;
}</pre>
```

[1] Distributed representations of words and phrases and their compositionality. In NeurIPS '13

Structure-oblivious embedding



[1] Distributed representations of words and phrases and their compositionality. In NeurIPS '13

Structure-oblivious embedding



[1] Distributed representations of words and phrases and their compositionality. In NeurIPS '13

[2] Distributed representations of sentences and documents. In ICML '14

}

Structure-oblivious embedding

Source code

A bag of 'sentences'

```
int* ____(int[] myArray, int size)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < size; i++)
        myArray[i] = i;
    return myArray;
}</pre>
```

int *	· (int []	myArray	,	int	size)
			-				
for (int i	= 0					
•							
•							
•							

[1] Distributed representations of words and phrases and their compositionality. In NeurIPS '13

Structure-oblivious embedding



[1] Distributed representations of words and phrases and their compositionality. In NeurIPS '13

Structure-oblivious embedding



[1] Distributed representations of words and phrases and their compositionality. In NeurIPS '13

Structure-preserving embedding



[3] code2vec: Learning distributed representations of code. POPL .2019

Structure-preserving embedding



[3] code2vec: Learning distributed representations of code. POPL .2019

Structure-preserving embedding



[3] code2vec: Learning distributed representations of code. POPL .2019

Structure-preserving embedding



(a) Fail to capture asymmetric transitivity

(b) Alias-unaware

(a) Fail to capture asymmetric transitivity



program dependence graph

(b) Alias-unaware

(a) Fail to capture asymmetric transitivity





program dependence graph

(b) Alias-unaware

(a) Fail to capture asymmetric transitivity





 $\begin{array}{ccc} A & \to B & \to C \checkmark \mbox{ Real reachability and correctly preserved} \\ V_A \cdot V_C^{^{T}} > 0 & & \\ & & C & \to B & \to A \bigstar \mbox{ Spurious reachability but imprecisely preserved} \end{array}$

program dependence graph

(b) Alias-unaware
Problems and Limitations

(a) Fail to capture asymmetric transitivity





 $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \sqrt{Real}$ reachability and correctly preserved $C \rightarrow B \rightarrow A \times$ Spurious reachability but imprecisely preserved

program dependence graph

(b) Alias-unaware

A B Memory alias C

(c) Intraprocedural/context-insensitivity



Problems and Limitations

(a) Fail to capture asymmetric transitivity



Memory alias



2D-embedding space

 $V_A \cdot V_C^{^{\intercal}} > 0$ $C \to B \to A \times$ Spurious reachability but imprecisely preserved

program dependence graph

(b) Alias-unaware

 $V_{A} \cdot ~V_{C}^{^{\intercal}} <$ 0 $~A \rightarrow$ B \Rightarrow C \bigstar Real reachability but unsoundly preserved

(c) Intraprocedural/context-insensitivity



Problems and Limitations

(a) Fail to capture asymmetric transitivity





 $V_A \cdot V_C^{^{\intercal}} > 0$ $C \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \checkmark$ Real reachability and correctly preserved $C \rightarrow B \rightarrow A \times$ Spurious reachability but imprecisely preserved

program dependence graph

(b) Alias-unaware

(c) Intraprocedural/context-insensitivity



 $\begin{array}{cccc} A & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & &$

2D-embedding space











Yulei Sui August 4, 2021











```
interprocedural value-flow
graph (IVFG)
```









h-th order reachability







h-th order reachability



























Phase (c) High-order proximity embedding



infeasible dependence relation between `stack` to `q`

Phase (d) Value-Flow Vector and Applications



Phase (d) Value-flow Vectors and Applications


A Motivating Example

Phase (d) Value-flow Vectors and Applications



A Motivating Example

Phase (d) Value-flow Vectors and Applications



A Motivating Example

Phase (d) Value-flow Vectors and Applications



Benchmarks



Total Line of Instructions:4,922,162 Total Methods:17,529 Total Pointers: 2,913,748 Total Objects: 190,157 Total Number of Calls:536,033 Total IVFGNodes: 4,637,301 Total IVFGEdges: 6,531,578

+Conducted machine: Intel Xeon Gold 6132 @ 2.60GHz CPUs and 128GB of RAM (All finish analyzing in 272.5mins)

Comparison with baselines

FLOW2VEC VS CODE2VEC FLOW2VEC VS CODE2SEQ)+16% +20.7% 34.80% 42.50% F1-score F1-score 55.50% 58.50%)+20.1%)+18.8% 34.20% 41.10% Recall Recall 54.30% 59.90%)+21.2% +13.2% 43.90% 35.50% Precision Precision 56.70% 57.10% CODE2VEC FLOW2VEC CODE2SEQ FLOW2VEC

F1-score under different lengths of code



FLOW2VEC VS CODE2VEC & CODE2SEQ

Ablation analysis



A Wide Variety of Vulnerabilities



Vulnerability Detection via Code Embedding (TOSEM '21)



(a) Control and data slicing (b

(b) Code tokens symbolization (c) Deep graph neural networks learning and embedding

Vulnerabilities from Software Assurance Reference Dataset (SARD)

- (1) **CWE119: Improper Restriction of Operations within the Bounds of a Memory Buffer.** The program reads from or writes to a memory location that is outside of the intended boundary of the memory buffer.
- (2) CWE20: Improper Input Validation. The program does not validate or incorrectly validates input that can affect the control-flow or data-flow of a program.
- (3) CWE125: Out-of-bounds Read. The program reads data past the end, or before the beginning, of the intended buffer.
- (4) CWE190: Integer Overflow or Wraparound. The program performs a calculation that can produce an integer overflow or wraparound, when the logic assumes that the resulting value will always be larger than the original value.
- (5) CWE22: Improper Limitation of a Pathname to a Restricted Directory. The program uses external input to construct a pathname that is intended to identify a file or directory that is located underneath a restricted parent directory, but the software does not properly neutralize special elements within the pathname that can cause the pathname to resolve to a location that is outside of the restricted directory.
- (6) CWE399: Resource Management Errors. It is related to improper management of system resources.
- (7) **CWE787: Out-of-bounds Write.** The program writes data past the end, or before the beginning, of the intended buffer.
- (8) CWE254: Security Features. It is related to security related operations, e.g., authentication, access control, confidentiality, cryptography, and privilege management, etc.
- (9) CWE400: Uncontrolled Resource Consumption. The program does not properly control the allocation and maintenance of a limited resource thereby enabling an actor to influence the amount of resources consumed, eventually leading to the exhaustion of available resources.
- (10) CWE78: Improper Neutralization of Special Elements. The vulnerable program constructs all or part of an OS command using externally-influenced input from an upstream component, but it does not neutralize or incorrectly neutralizes special elements that could modify the intended OS command when it is sent to a downstream component.

Results

	IFN	FPR	FNR	MKN	ACC	F1	IFN	FPR	FNR	MKN	ACC	F1	IFN	FPR	FNR	MKN	ACC	F1	IFN	FPR	FNR	MKN	ACC	F1	IFN	FPR	FNR	MKN	ACC	F1	
RATS	0.01	1.00	0.01	0.64	0.66	0.02	0.04	1.00	0.04	0.83	0.57	0.07	0.23	0.99	0.24	0.91	0.66	0.38	0.10	1.00	0.10	0.72	0.73	0.18	0.10	0.86	0.14	0.15	0.49	0.35	
Flawfinder	0.13	0.45	0.68	0.12	0.53	0.50	0.10	0.35	0.75	0.35	0.10	0.48	0.08	0.25	0.83	0.40	0.11	0.54	0.07	0.79	0.28	0.08	0.64	0.31	0.17	0.17	1.00	0.61	0.66	0.78	
Clang Static Analyzer	0.05	0.76	0.29	0.06	0.60	0.34	0.02	0.86	0.16	0.35	0.03	0.22	0.06	0.71	0.35	0.42	0.07	0.38	0.03	0.76	0.27	0.03	0.62	0.29	-0.01	0.98	0.01	-0.17	0.41	0.02	
Infer	0.04	0.63	0.41	0.04	0.56	0.39	0.01	0.58	0.43	0.33	0.01	0.37	0.01	0.56	0.45	0.38	0.01	0.41	0.09	0.76	0.33	0.09	0.63	0.34	-0.07	0.57	0.36	-0.07	0.45	0.43	
Token-based	0.33	0.98	0.35	0.69	0.89	0.48	0.43	0.99	0.45	0.85	0.76	0.58	0.22	1.00	0.22	0.92	0.81	0.35	0.56	0.99	0.57	0.81	0.93	0.68	0.48	1.00	0.48	0.85	0.91	0.64	
VGDETECTOR	0.83	0.93	0.90	0.69	0.92	0.79	0.81	0.95	0.86	0.72	0.70	0.78	0.76	0.93	0.83	0.70	0.67	0.76	0.84	0.93	0.91	0.67	0.93	0.78	0.75	0.92	0.83	0.69	0.90	0.77	
Vuldeepecker	0.41	0.64	0.77	0.42	0.70	0.72	0.47	0.62	0.85	0.69	0.50	0.77	0.25	0.51	0.74	0.60	0.26	0.66	0.24	0.71	0.53	0.25	0.62	0.58	0.90	0.95	0.95	0.90	0.95	0.95	
DeepWukong(k-GNNs)	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.98	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.97	0.96	0.95	0.96	0.97	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.96	0.98	0.95	0.99	0.96	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.99	
	(1) CWE119 (2) CWE20 (3) CWE125 (4) CWE190																(5) CWE22														
RATS	0.12	0.99	0.13	0.63	0.71	0.22	0.05	0.99	0.06	0.34	0.63	0.11	0.02	1.00	0.02	0.44	0.67	0.03	0.26	0.99	0.27	0.71	0.79	0.42	-0.03	0.93	0.04	-0.14	0.50	0.08	The darker the cell (the
Flawfinder	0.00	0.45	0.55	0.00	0.48	0.41	0.10	0.32	0.78	0.12	0.50	0.55	0.12	0.30	0.82	0.14	0.48	0.51	0.22	0.34	0.88	0.21	0.48	0.48	0.13	0.21	0.92	0.26	0.56	0.67	
Clang Static Analyzer	0.23	0.75	0.48	0.23	0.66	0.48	0.01	0.77	0.24	0.01	0.56	0.30	0.03	0.87	0.16	0.06	0.63	0.23	-0.03	0.84	0.13	-0.05	0.65	0.17	0.01	1.00	0.01	0.28	0.52	0.02	
Infer	0.24	0.56	0.68	0.21	0.60	0.52	-0.02	0.63	0.35	-0.02	0.52	0.36	0.02	0.61	0.41	0.02	0.54	0.37	0.20	0.53	0.67	0.16	0.57	0.46	-0.19	0.51	0.30	-0.20	0.41	0.33	
Token-based	0.56	0.99	0.57	0.82	0.94	0.69	0.33	0.99	0.34	0.70	0.88	0.48	0.32	0.98	0.34	0.69	0.88	0.48	0.53	0.99	0.54	0.83	0.94	0.67	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.87	0.92	0.66	
VGDETECTOR	0.56	0.99	0.57	0.84	0.93	0.70	0.70	0.93	0.77	0.68	0.90	0.73	0.74	0.95	0.79	0.70	0.93	0.76	0.70	0.97	0.73	0.73	0.94	0.74	0.84	0.92	0.92	0.67	0.92	0.79	
Vuldeepecker	0.36	0.74	0.62	0.37	0.68	0.66	0.42	0.77	0.65	0.43	0.71	0.69	0.59	0.84	0.75	0.60	0.79	0.78	0.53	0.80	0.73	0.53	0.76	0.75	0.80	0.88	0.92	0.80	0.90	0.91	
DeepWukong(k-GNNs)	0.95	0.98	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.97	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.99	0.96	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.97	0.99	0.98	0.96	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.99	
	(6) CWE399 (7) CWE787 (8) CWE254 (9) CWE400 (10) CWE78																														

higher the value, the better the performance). Note that, for the FPR and FNR, we present their additive inverse here, which represents 1-FPR and 1-FNR separately. MKN denotes Informedness and Markedness. ACC denotes accuracy and F1 denotes the F1 measure score.

Static Detection of Control-Flow-Related Vulnerabilities Using Graph Embedding, 24th International Conference on Engineering of Complex Computer Systems (ICECCS 2019)

Statically Detecting Software Vulnerabilities using Deep Graph Neural Network (TOSEM 2021)

Future Research Opportunities

- A robust, comprehensive and learnable code representation: Introducing path-sensitive analysis into code feature extraction.
- Ultra-fast learning-based bug detection: significantly boosting the performance of conventional program analysis (e.g., data-flow, abstraction interpretation and fuzz testing)
- Automated and Intelligent vulnerability detection for more interesting clients: Fault injection and localization for cyber physical systems (CPS)

Thanks!

Q & A