# Week 14: Lecture A What's Next? Life After CS 4440

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

### **Announcements**

- **Project 4: NetSec** released
  - **Deadline: Thursday** by 11:59PM

#### **Project 4: Network Security**

Deadline: Thursday, December 4 by 11:59PM.

Before you start, review the course syllabus for the Lateness, Collaboration, and Ethical Use policies.

You may optionally work alone, or in teams of at most two and submit one project per team. If you have difficulties forming a team, post on Piazza's Search for Teammates forum. Note that the final exam will cover project material, so you and your partner should collaborate on each part.

The code and other answers your group submits must be entirely your own work, and you are bound by the University's Student Code. You may consult with other students about the conceptualization of the project and the meaning of the questions, but you may not look at any part of someone else's solution or collaborate with anyone outside your group. You may consult published references, provided that you appropriately cite them (e.g., in your code comments). Don't risk your grade and degree by cheating!

Complete your work in the CS 4440 VM - we will use this same environment for grading. You may not use any external dependencies. Use only default Python 3 libraries and/or modules we provide you.

#### **Helpful Resources**

- The CS 4440 Course Wiki
- · VM Setup and Troubleshooting
- Terminal Cheat Sheet

#### **Table of Contents:**

- · Helpful Resources
- Introduction
- Objectives
- · Start by reading this!
- Packet Traces
- Attack Template
- Wireshark
- · Part 1: Defending Networks
- Password Cracking
- Port Scanning
- Anomalous Activity
- What to Submit
- · Part 2: Attacking Networks
- Plaintext Credentials
- Encoded Credentials
- Accessed URLs
- Extra Credit: Transferred Files
- What to Submit
- Submission Instructions



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### **Project 4 Progress**

Working on Part 1 0% Finished Part 1, working on Part 2 0% Finished both Part 1 and Part 2 0% None of the above 0%



### **Final Exam**

- Save the date: 1–3PM on Wednesday, December 10
  - CDA accommodations: schedule exam via CDA Portal
- High-level details (more to come):
  - One exam covering all course material
  - Similar to project/quiz/lecture exercises
- Cheat Sheet
  - One 8.5"x11" paper with handwritten/typed notes on both sides
  - Suggestion: Don't just use someone else's—you'll learn better making your own!
  - Suggestion: Don't just paste lecture slides—you'll learn better by writing/typing it!



### **Practice Exam**

- Practice Exam released
  - See Assignments page on the CS 4440 website
- Final lecture will serve as a review session
  - Solutions discussed in-class only—don't skip!

CS 4440

Introduction to Computer Security

#### Practice Exam

This practice exam is intended to help you prepare for the final exam. It does **not** cover all material that will appear on the final. We recommend that you use this practice exam to supplement your preparation, in addition to going over your lecture notes, quizzes, and programming projects.

This practice exam has no deadline and will not be graded. However, you will get the maximum benefit out of this exam review by treating it as if it were the real exam: you may refer to your two-sided 8.5"×11" cheat sheet, but allow yourself only 2 hours to complete the exam.

The final lecture will serve as an in-class review session covering the solutions to this practice exam.

Solutions to this practice exam will be discussed in-class only—do not skip this lecture!

Cryptography. Alice and Bob, two CS 4440 alumni, have been stranded on a desert island
for several weeks. Alice has built a hut on the beach, while Bob lives high in the forest
branches. They plan to communicate silently by tossing coconuts over the treeline.

Compounding Alice and Bob's misfortune, on this island there also lives an intelligent, literate, and man-eating panther named Mallory. The pair can cooperate to warn each other when they see the animal approaching each others' shelters, but they fear that Mallory will intercept or tamper with their messages in order to make them her next meal. Fortunately, Alice and Bob each have an RSA kev pair, and each knows the other's bublic kev.

(a) Design two protocols that leverage RSA, such that Alice can securely transmit a message to Bob whilst upholding (1) message *confidentiality* and (2) message *integrity*.

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### **Practice Exam**

**Practice Exam** re

See Assignmen

Final lecture wi

Solutions discu

To get the most out of this, treat it

just as you would the Final Exam

Last lecture (Thursday, Dec. 4th) will go over the exam review solutions

### Solutions won't be posted online.

(Reminder: attendance/participation makes up 5% of your course grade)



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- I want your feedback!
  - 3rd time teaching this course
  - Help me improve the class!
- Due by December 15th
  - https://scf.utah.edu
  - Please please please!



- I want your feedback!
  - 3rd time teaching this course
  - Help me improve the class
- Due by Dec
  - https://s
  - Please pl

If 85% of the class (82 of 96 students) submits an eval, we will add 5 points of extra credit to your Participation grades!

HELP ME HELP YOU



### **Response rate**

8.97%







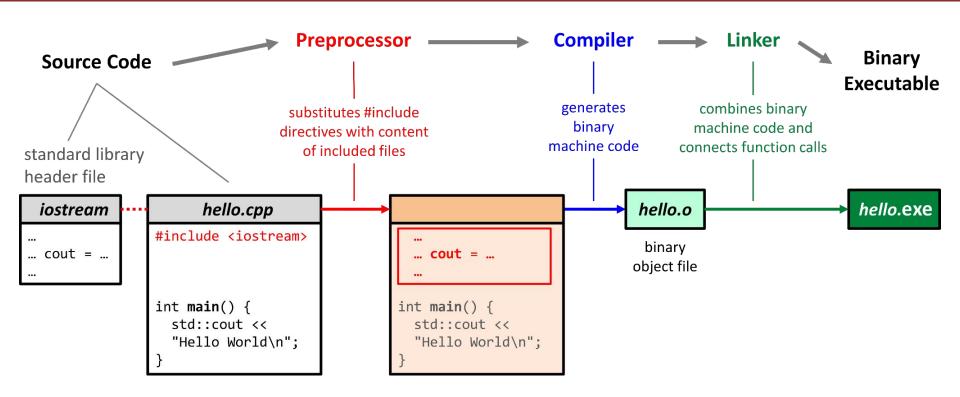
# **Questions?**



# Last time on CS 4440...

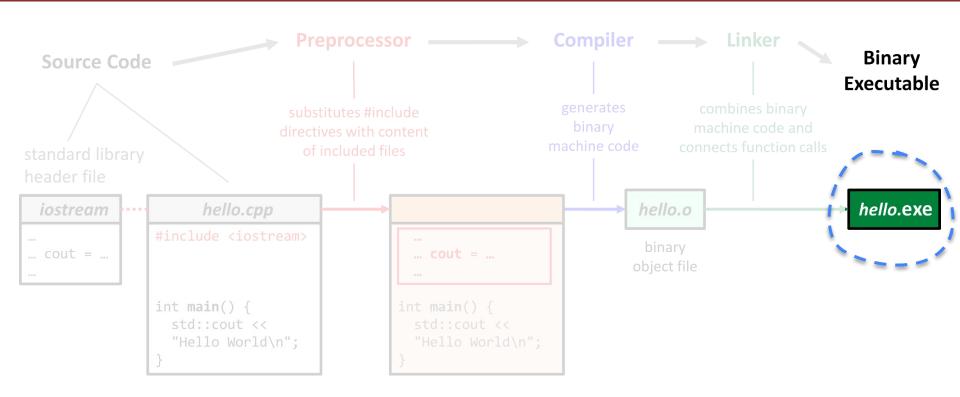
Binary Reverse Engineering
Instruction Recovery
Control Flow Analysis
Structure Recovery
RE Challenges

# **Recap: the Compilation Process**





# **Recap: the Compilation Process**





### **Closed-source Software**

It's everywhere!

























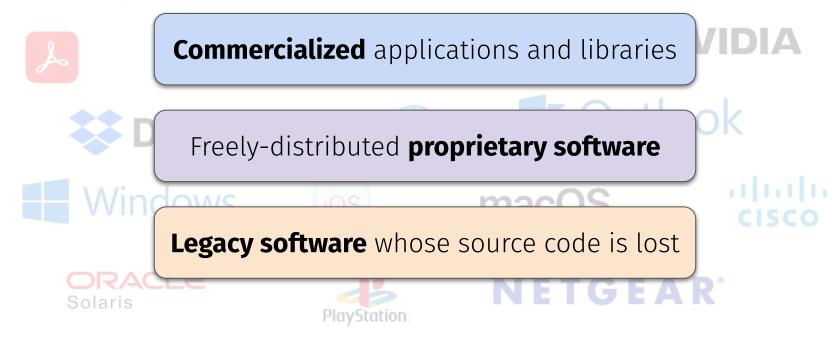






### **Closed-source Software**

It's everywhere!





# **Reverse Engineering (RE)**

#### What is RE?

"A process or method through which one attempts to understand through deductive reasoning how a previously made device, process, system, or piece of software accomplishes a task with very little (if any) insight into exactly how it does so."

# **Three Pillars of RE**

1. ???



# **Three Pillars of RE**

### **1.** Instruction Recovery



# **Pillar #1: Instruction Recovery**

Goal: ???

# **Pillar #1: Instruction Recovery**

- Goal: translate bytes into logical instructions
  - Called instruction decoding
  - Analogous to what CPU does
  - General output: disassembly

#### Instruction stream

B8 22 11 00 FF 01 CA 31 F6 53 8B 5C 24 04 8D 34 48 39 C3 72 EB C3

Read bytes from input executable

#### Machine code bytes

```
B8 22 11 00 FF
01 CA
31 F6 53 8B 5C 24 04
8D 34 48
39 C3
72 EB
```

Group bytes

#### Assembly language statements

```
foo:
movl $0xFF001122, %eax
addl %ecx, %edx
xorl %esi, %esi
pushl %ebx
movl 4(%esp), %ebx
leal (%eax,%ecx,2), %esi
cmpl %eax, %ebx
jnae foo
retl
```

Decode instructions



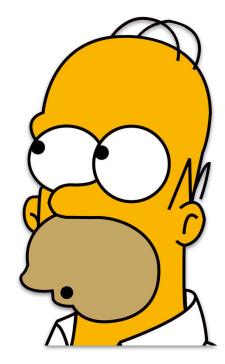
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## **Three Pillars of RE**

### **1.** Instruction Recovery

- Decode bytes to instructions
- Disambiguate code from data

2. ???



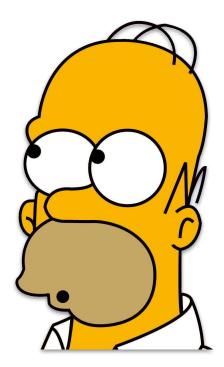
### **Three Pillars of RE**

### **1.** Instruction Recovery

- Decode bytes to instructions
- Disambiguate code from data

### 2. Control Flow Recovery

- Intra-procedural execution flow
- Inter-procedural execution flow



- Direct Edges
  - ???

- Direct Edges
  - Jump/call a function

jmp 0x4001AB3

Target is pre-set **statically** 

- Indirect Edges
  - ????

- Direct Edges
  - Jump/call a function
- Indirect Edges
  - Transfer to a register
  - Function pointers
  - Switch-case tables
- "Pseudo" Edges
  - ???

jmp 0x4001AB3

call %eax; where?

Target is pre-set **statically** 

Target found at **runtime** 

- Direct Edges
  - Jump/call a function
- Indirect Edges
  - Transfer to a register
  - Function pointers
  - Switch-case tables
- "Pseudo" Edges
  - Post-call returns
- Tail Calls
  - ???

jmp 0x4001AB3

Target is pre-set **statically** 

call %eax; where?

Target found at **runtime** 

ret; goes where?

Necessary to recover all paths



- Direct Edges
  - Jump/call a function
- Indirect Edges
  - Transfer to a register
  - Function pointers
  - Switch-case tables
- "Pseudo" Edges
  - Post-call returns
- Tail Calls
  - Call at function's end

jmp 0x4001AB3

-----

call %eax; where?

ret; goes where?

jmp &foo; call?

Target is pre-set **statically** 

Target found at **runtime** 

Necessary to recover all paths

Expressed as **jumps**, not calls

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### **Three Pillars of RE**

### **1.** Instruction Recovery

- Decode bytes to instructions
- Disambiguate code from data

### 2. Control Flow Recovery

- Intra-procedural execution flow
- Inter-procedural execution flow
- 3. ???



### **Three Pillars of RE**

### **1.** Instruction Recovery

- Decode bytes to instructions
- Disambiguate code from data

### 2. Control Flow Recovery

- Intra-procedural execution flow
- Inter-procedural execution flow

### 3. Program Structure Recovery

- Identify program basic blocks
- Higher-level constructs (e.g., loops)



# Pillar #3: Structure Recovery

- Largely **heuristic**-based
  - Construct-specific rules
- **Functions:** 
  - **Start:** 
    - ???

# **Pillar #3: Structure Recovery**

- Largely heuristic-based
  - Construct-specific rules
- Functions:
  - Start:
    - Target of a call
    - Target of a tail call
    - A known prologue
    - A dispatch table entry
  - End:
    - **????**

```
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
sub esp, N
```

Prologue

```
switch(choice) {
    case 0 :
        result = add(first, second);
        break;
    case 1 :
        result = sub(first, second);
        break;
    case 2 :
        result = mult(first, second);
        break;
    case 3 :
        result = divide(first, second);
        break;
}
```

C-level Switch Table

# **Pillar #3: Structure Recovery**

- Largely heuristic-based
  - Construct-specific rules
- Functions:
  - Start:
    - Target of a call
    - Target of a tail call
    - A known prologue
    - A dispatch table entry
  - End:
    - Location of a ret
    - Location of a tail call
    - A known epilogue

```
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
sub esp, N
```

Prologue

```
mov esp, ebp
pop ebp
ret
```

Epilogue

```
switch(choice) {
    case 0 :
        result = add(first, second);
        break;
    case 1 :
        result = sub(first, second);
        break;
    case 2 :
        result = mult(first, second);
        break;
    case 3 :
        result = divide(first, second);
        break;
}
```

C-level Switch Table

# **Challenges to RE**

???



# **Challenges to RE**

### Compiler Craziness

- Data-in-code
- Optimizations

### Haphazard Heuristics

- Weird/esoteric patterns
- E.g., all jump table variants

#### Obtuse Obfuscations

- Control-flow flattening
- Opaque predicates



# **Questions?**



# This time on CS 4440...

The Security Ecosystem
Bug Bounty Programs
Capture-the-Flag
Career Paths

#### Our world depends on software...



Personal Technology



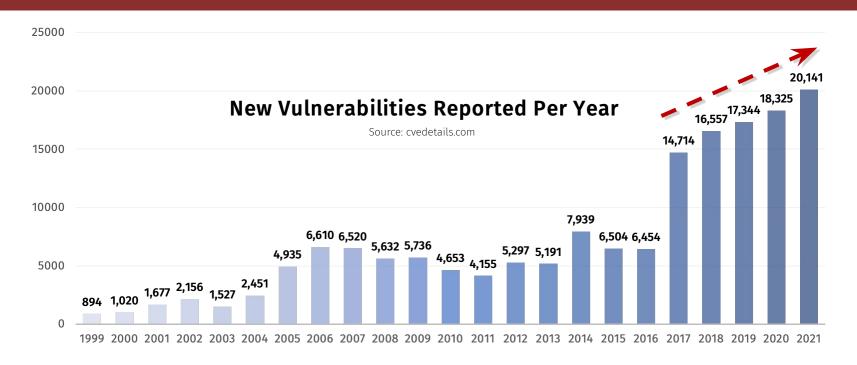
Infrastructure & Industry





Military and Government

#### ... and software security is a nightmare





# ... and software security is a nightmare



Amnesty says NSO's Pegasus used to hack phones of Palestinian rights workers

'A cyber-attack disrupted my cancer treatment'

lities Reported Per Year

Cyber-attack hits UK internet phone providers



4,5 1,677 <sup>2,156</sup> 1,527 <sup>2,451</sup>

Solarwinds hackers are targeting the global IT supply chain, Microsoft says

Janesville s

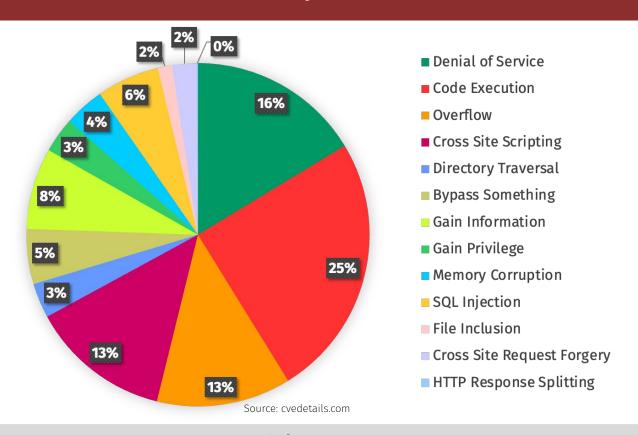
Janesville school district hit by ransomware attack

New York subway hacked in computer breach linked to China





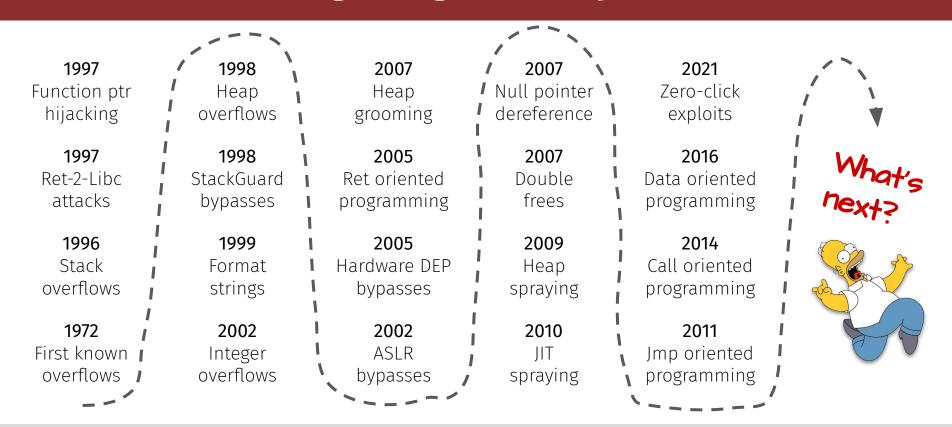
#### **Software Security Vulnerabilities**





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# Attacks are getting more sophisticated...





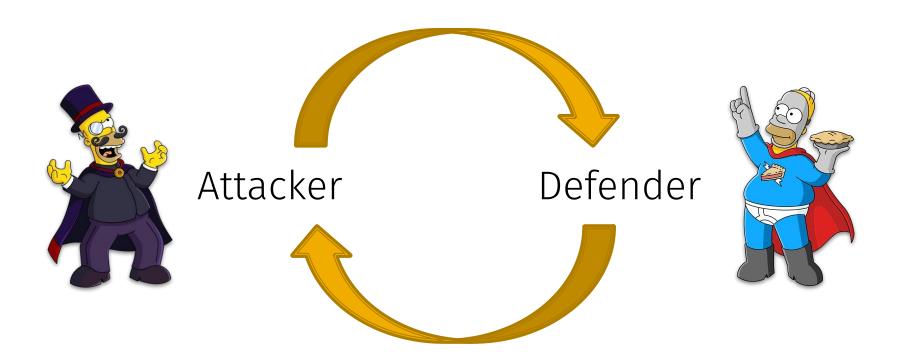
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# Attacks are getting more sophisticated...





# **Choose your side!**





#### **Laws and Ethics**

#### If you perform attacks, do so ethically!

- Federal/state laws criminalize computer intrusion, wiretapping, or other abuse
- Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA)
- You can be sued or go to jail

#### Ethical attacker scenarios:

- Career as a Penetration Tester
- CTF competitions (join UTAHSEC too!)
- Become a Security Researcher



#### How many of you are considering a career in security?

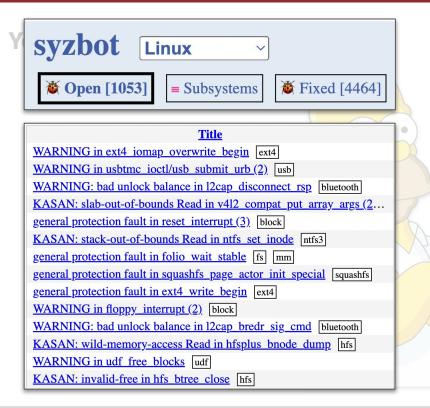
Definitely considering! 0% On the fence... 0% Maybe someday! 0% Not interested (that's ok!) 0%



# **Bug Bounties**

You want to save the world





As of May 2022, ClusterFuzz has found 25,000+ bugs in Google (e.g. <u>Chrome</u>) and <u>36,000+</u> bugs in over <u>550</u> open source projects integrated with <u>OSS-Fuzz</u>.





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You want the notoriety of finding a new bug



#### Who reported Meltdown?

Meltdown was independently discovered and reported by three teams:

- Jann Horn (Google Project Zero),
- Werner Haas, Thomas Prescher (Cyberus Technology),
- Daniel Gruss, Moritz Lipp, Stefan Mangard, Michael Schwarz (Graz University of Technology)

#### new bug



Spectre was independently discovered and reported by two people:

- Jann Horn (Google Project Zero) and
- Paul Kocher in collaboration with, in alphabetical order, Daniel Genkin (University of Pennsylvania and University of Maryland), Mike Hamburg (Rambus), Moritz Lipp (Graz University of Technology), and Yuval Yarom (University of Adelaide and Data6])



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You love the thrill of breaking stuff



#### Smashing The Stack For Fun And Profit

#### **Aleph One**

aleph1@underground.org

`smash the stack` [C programming] n. On many C implementations it is possible to corrupt the execution stack by writing past the end of an array declared auto in a routine. Code that does this is said to smash the stack, and can cause return from the routine to jump to a random address. This can produce some of the most insidious data-dependent bugs known to mankind. Variants include trash the stack, scribble the stack, mangle the stack; the term mung the stack is not used, as this is never done intentionally. See spam; see also alias bug, fandango on core, memory leak, precedence lossage, overrun screw.

#### Hacking GraphQL for Fun and Profit — Part 1 — Understanding GraphQL Basics

# hacking for fun and profit

As terms borrowed from classic American westerns, often inhabited by black-hatted villains and white-hatted heros, a "black hat" cracker describes someone who breaks into a computer system or network with malicious intent; a "white hat" is a cracker who identifies a security weakness in a computer system or network so that the system's owners can fix the breach before it is exploited. White-hat cracking is a hobby for some while others provide their services for a fee. The paid white-hat cracker may work as a consultant or be a permanent employee on a company's payroll.



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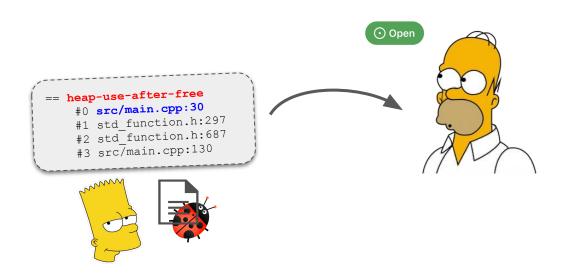
```
== heap-use-after-free

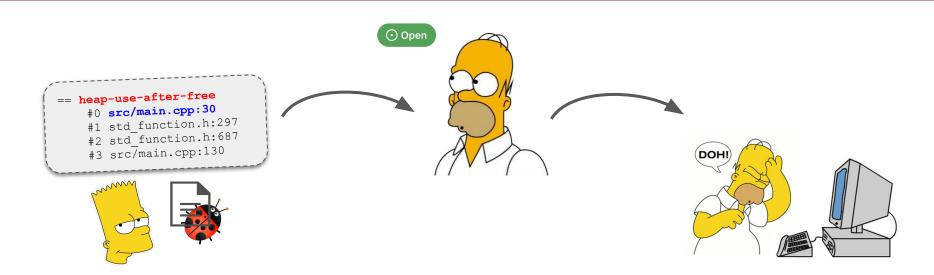
#0 src/main.cpp:30

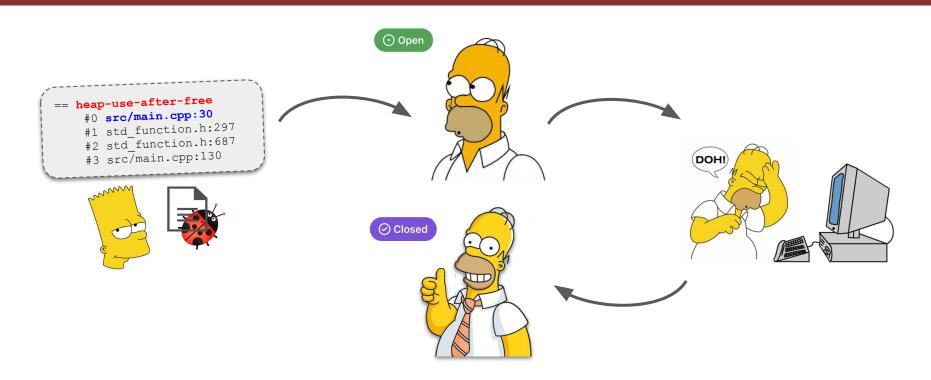
#1 std_function.h:297

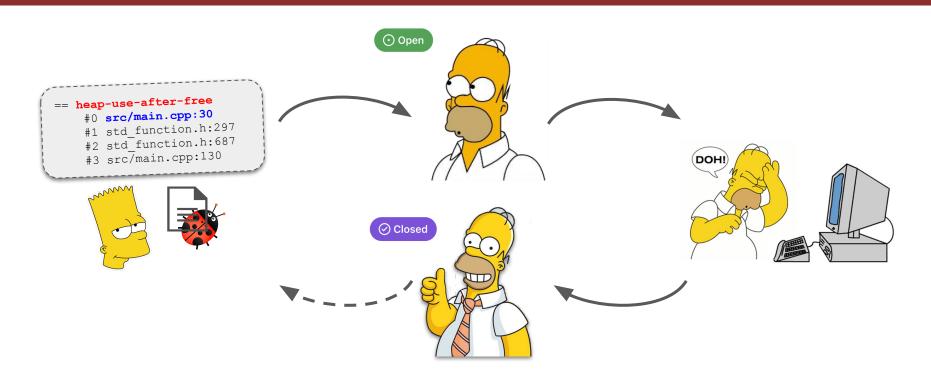
#2 std_function.h:687

#3 src/main.cpp:130
```





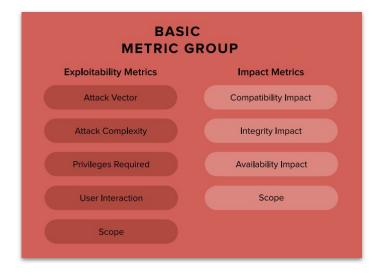




#### What developers love...

#### Proof-of-concept test cases

- Devs need to reproduce your bug
- Perform their own severity analysis
  - Limited time and resources
  - Fix most severe ones first
  - E.g., MS Patch Tuesday
- Help them improve their test suites



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#### What developers love...

#### Actionable insights

- Basic: build information
  - E.g., compiler, version, OS, etc.
  - Only report bugs in the latest version!
- **Good:** crashing source lines, PoCs
- Better: root cause analysis
  - E.g., Missing a check on chunk X
  - You'll need to get your hands dirty
- Best: proposed patches
  - May be a back-and-forth battle



#### What developers love...

#### Follow-up testing

- Initial fixes may be incomplete
- Re-run your fancy fuzzer
- Open-source your fancy fuzzer

Product	Vulnerability exploited in-the-wild	Variant of
Microsoft Internet Explorer	CVE-2020-0674	CVE-2018-8653* CVE- 2019-1367* CVE-2019- 1429*
Mozilla Firefox	CVE-2020-6820	Mozilla Bug 1507180
Google Chrome	CVE-2020-6572	CVE-2019-5870 CVE-2019-13695
Microsoft Windows	CVE-2020-0986	CVE-2019-0880*
Google Chrome/Freetype	CVE-2020-15999	CVE-2014-9665
Apple Safari	CVE-2020-27930	CVE-2015-0093
* vulnerability was also exploited in-the-wild in previous years		

#### Little (or unhelpful) information

- No PoC test cases or stack traces.
- Bugs on obsolete versions
  - E.g., I installed this via apt-get
- Spamming tons of bug reports
  - Duplicate bug reports
  - Already-reported bugs



#### Selfish resumé padding

- Requesting CVE assignment without first asking them
  - Common in academic papers
  - Reviewers are partially to blame



#### Selfish resumé padding

- Requesting CVE assignment without first asking them
  - Common in academic papers
  - Reviewers are partially to blame

#### Developers can (and do) dispute CVEs

CVE-2023-43784	** DISPUTED ** Plesk Onyx 17.8.11 has accessKeyId and secretAccessKey fields that are related to an Amazon AWS Firehose component. NOTE: the vendor's position is that there is no security threat.	
CVE-2023-42261	** DISPUTED ** Mobile Security Framework (MobSF) <=v3.7.8 Beta is vulnerable to Insecure Permissions. NOTE: the vendor's position is that authentication is intentionally not implemented because the product is not intended for an untrusted network environment. Use cases requiring authentication could, for example, use a reverse proxy server.	
CVE-2023-39852	** DISPUTED ** Doctormms v1.0 was discovered to contain a SQL injection vulnerability via the \$userid parameter at myAppoinment.php. NOTE: this is disputed by a third party who claims that the userid is a session variable controlled by the server, and thus cannot be used for exploitation. The original reporter counterclaims that this originates from \$_SESSION["userid"]=\$_POST["userid"] at line 68 in doctors\doctorlogin.php, where userid under POST is not a session variable controlled by the server.	
CVE-2023-39851	** DISPUTED ** webchess v1.0 was discovered to contain a SQL injection vulnerability via the \$playerID parameter at mainmenu.php. NOTE: this is disputed by a third party who indicates that the playerID is a session variable controlled by the server, and thus cannot be used for exploitation.	





- Weaponizing and selling an exploit
  - A huge underground economy
    - Nation-state actors
    - Cyber-criminal gangs



#### Weaponizing and selling an exploit

- A huge underground economy
  - Nation-state actors
  - Cyber-criminal gangs
- Don't do this



#### Weaponizing and selling an exploit

- A huge underground economy
  - Nation-state actors
  - Cyber-criminal gangs
- Don't do this
  - Likely to end up in bad hands regardless of who brokered it



Hacks Raise Fear Over N.S.A.'s Hold on Cyberweapons

#### Weaponizing and selling an exploit

- A huge underground economy
  - Nation-state actors
  - Cyber-criminal gangs

#### Don't do this

- Likely to end up in bad hands regardless of who brokered it
- Authoritarian regimes use these all the time for evil acts
- You are very likely causing people to get hurt (or worse)



Hacks Raise Fear Over N.S.A.'s Hold on Cyberweapons

Pegasus: UAE placed spyware on Khashoggi's wife's phone months before murder

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# **Practice saying NO!**

- Weaponizing and selling an exploit
  - A huge underground economy
    - Nation-state actors
    - Cyber-criminal gangs

end up in bad hands
of who brokered it
an regimes use these
for evil acts
y likely causing people
t (or worse)



# **Practice saying NO!**



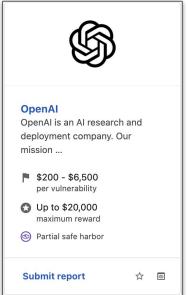
You want that money!

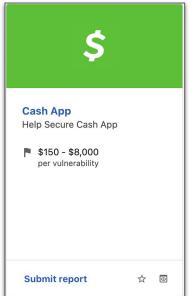


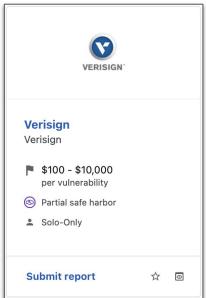
#### **Bug Bounties**

#### Get paid to find bugs!









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#### **Bug Bounty Programs**

#### Where programs are advertised:

- BugCrowd: <a href="https://bugcrowd.com/">https://bugcrowd.com/</a>
- HackerOne: <a href="https://www.hackerone.com/">https://www.hackerone.com/</a>

#### Not all bugs receive a bounty!

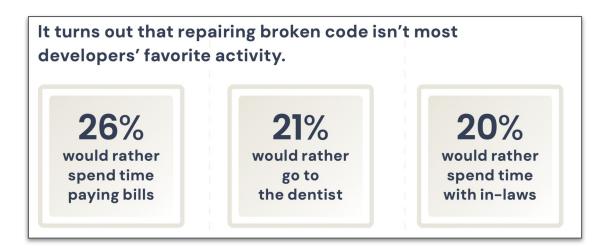
- Must be reproducible by devs
- Higher-severity = more \$\$\$
- Adjudication up to the dev





### Developers are people, too

Data suggests that fixing bugs is a really tough job



Treat developers with courtesy, respect, and patience

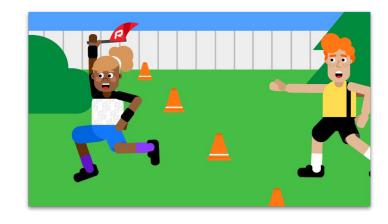


## Capture-the-Flag (CTF)

#### What is CTF?

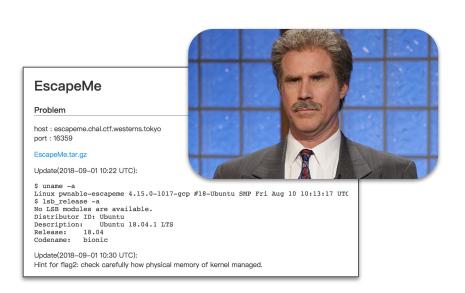
- CTF = "Capture the Flag"
  - Competitive cybersecurity events
  - For educational purposes, prizes, etc.
  - Takes skill to win!





### **Styles of CTF: Jeopardy**

- Jeopardy: solve the most challenges to win
  - Score the most points in allotted time

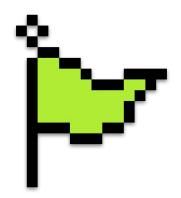




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## **Jeopardy Scoring**

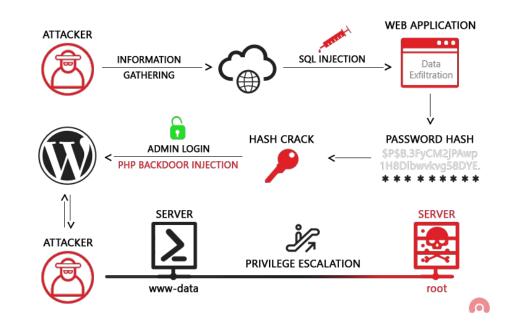
- Maximum points in the beginning
  - Incentivizes "first blood" (i.e., first to solve)
  - Score decreases as more solve it
    - Harder challenges weighted higher
    - Easier challenges weighted lower
  - Submit the flag (when you find it)!
    - Usually an obvious string
    - E.g., ucc {b3\_r34dy\_f0r\_\$pr1ng23}





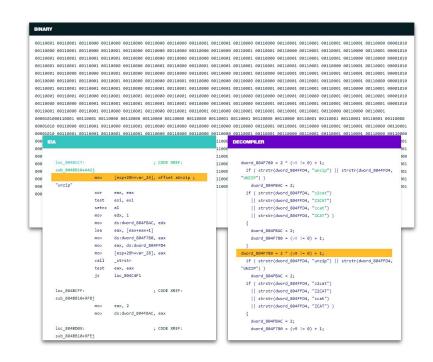
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- Web: web security
  - Examples:
    - SQL injection
    - Cross-site scripting
    - Request forger
    - Password cracking
    - **...**
  - Find the flag!



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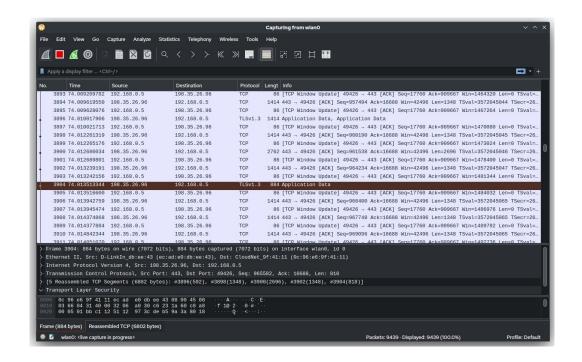
- RE: reverse engineering
  - Figure out what this weird binary executable does
    - Then find the flag!
  - Examples:
    - Windows EXEs
    - Linux ELFs
    - iOS/Android apps
    - Weird/esoteric formats
      - Xbox game files
      - ..



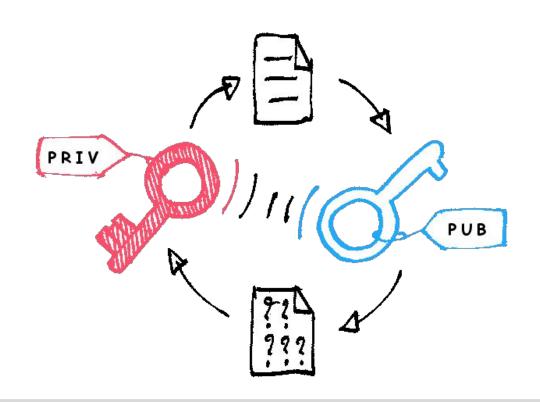
- RE: reverse engineering
  - Figure out what this weird binary executable does
    - Then find the flag!
  - Tools of the trade:
    - Decompilers
      - IDA Pro, Ghidra
    - Disassemblers
      - Objdump, angr
    - Custom tools!



- Net: network security
  - Analyze network traffic
    - Then find the flag!
  - Tools of the trade:
    - Wireshark
    - Others?



- Crypto: cryptography
  - Undo this crypto, find the flag!
  - Examples:
    - Ciphers
    - Public-key crypto
    - Signature forgery
    - **...**
  - Tools of the trade:
    - Usually hand-coded stuff
    - Lots of math!!!



#### • **Forensics:** digital forensics

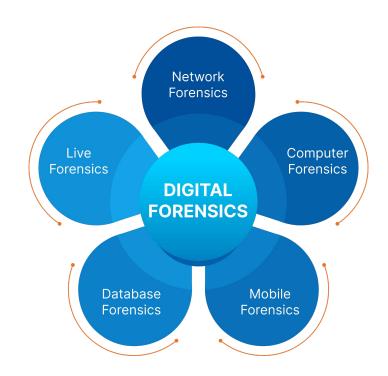
- Find the hidden flag
- Mimics digital CSI investigations

#### Examples:

- File system dumps
- Memory dumps

#### Tools of the trade:

- The Sleuth Kit
- **...**



#### Pwn: exploitation

- Find the program's bug
- Figure out how to exploit (pwn) it!

#### Examples:

- Stack/heap overflows
- Spawning a root shell
- Control-flow redirection

#### Tools of the trade:

- Debuggers (GDB), RE tools
- CS 4440 Project 2 provides a great intro to exploitation

```
0x42424242 ('BBBB'
  P: 0xffffd2fc --> 0xf7de8b41 (< libc start main+241>:
        9491e3 (<main+77>:
                               lea esp,[ecx-0x4])
   AGS: 0x282 (carry parity adjust zero SIGN trap INTERRUPT direction overflow
                                                   Loads ECX - 4 to ESP.
                                                    This is why our value changes.
                                                   To make ESP turn 0x42424242
                             esp,[ecx-0x4]
                                                    we will actually need to send
                                                    0x42424242+4 so when this
                                                    instruction executes, ESP will
                                                   be 0x42424242.
                             41 (< libc start main+241>:
     0xffffd300 --> 0xf7fa8000 --> 0x1d9d6c
     0xffffd304 --> 0xf7fa8000 --> 0xld9d6c
                           8b41 (< libc start main+241>:
     0xffffd310 --> 0x1
     0xffffd314 --> 0xffffd3a4 --> 0xffffd548 ("/tmp/baby")
     0xffffd318 --> 0xffffd3ac --> 0xffffd552 ("LANG=en US.UTF-8")
egend: code, data, rodata, value
Breakpoint 2, 0x080491e3 in main ()
```

- Misc/Trivia: random questions
  - Hackers <u>love</u> their trivia
  - Usually the flag isn't obvious
    - You might have to type it out
  - Examples:
    - Old hacker movies
    - Mr. Robot ARG
  - Tools of the trade:
    - Google, YouTube, etc.

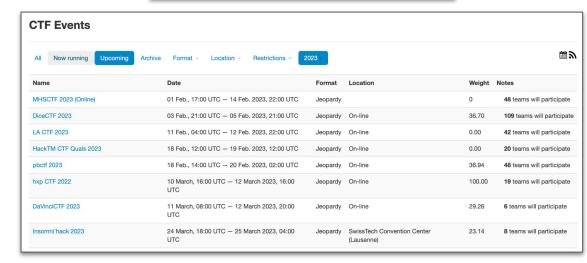




### **Competitions**

- Events happen all the time
  - See CTFTime.org
- Competition weight:
  - How much the event counts to "rankings"
- Team limits:
  - Many have no limits
  - Others cap at n players





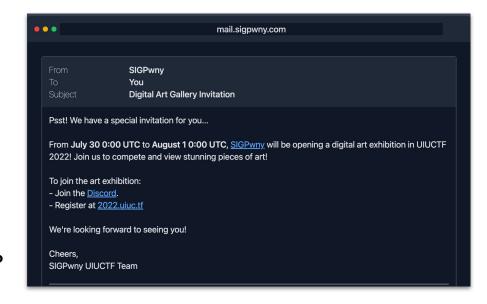


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## Competitions

#### Many schools host their own

- RPI
- Purdue
- OSU
- UIUC
- CMU
- ...
- University of Utah!!! (eventually)
- Who creates and hosts challenges?
  - The event organizers!



## Competitions

#### DEFCON CTF Finals

- The Super Bowl of CTF
  - Happens in Vegas during DEFCON hacker conference
- Only top CTF teams invited
  - Win qualifier tournaments
- Our goal is to make it (and win)!



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## How do I get good at CTF?

#### Attend UtahSec meetings

- "Let's solve this CTF challenge"
   will be a frequent meeting topic
- Read challenge write-ups
  - Detailed solutions
- Practice practice practice!
  - Join the team and come learn!
- Take CS 4440: Intro to Security
  - An overview of many CTF-style topics



## **Careers in Cybersecurity**

## So you've taken CS 4440... what now?

- Do you find cybersecurity interesting?
  - If so, consider a **career** in cybersecurity!

## So you've taken CS 4440... what now?

- Do you find cybersecurity interesting?
  - If so, consider a career in cybersecurity!
- Some possible career paths:
  - The Ethical Hacker
  - The Practitioner
  - The Researcher



# Careers in Cybersecurity: The Ethical Hacker

### **What is Pen-Testing?**

## Why Pentesting Is Now a Necessity — and How To Leverage it Effectively

Here's a look at why pen tests are now a priority, how this process works, and what companies can do to make the most of their pentesting efforts.



Doug Bonderud Technology Writer

January 20, 2023



The global penetration testing, or pentesting, market is already <u>worth more than</u> \$1.8 billion ⋈, and experts predict a 15.97% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the next five years.



This investment makes sense. Here's why: attack surfaces are growing in tandem with expanding cloud networks and mobile device environments, thus making it easier for attackers to find and exploit unknown vulnerabilities.

Red Team agents use disguises, ingenuity to expose TSA vulnerabilities



## What is Pen-Testing?

Basically, a company hires you to hack them



## What is Pen-Testing?

#### Basically, a company hires you to hack them

- Test their physical security
  - Pick the locks on their front entrance
  - Trick employees into letting you inside
- Test their web and network security
  - Impersonate the CEO in a phishing email
- Test their application security
  - Exploit a widely-known-yet-unpatched bug



## **Becoming a Pen-Tester**

- Figure out your security niche(s)!
  - What topics interest you the most?
    - Physical
    - Forensics
    - Application
    - Web / Network
    - Communications
    - Open-src Intelligence
  - Master your niche and apply!
    - Internships are great to start
    - Be ready to learn on the job!









#### **Learn from the Pros**



## **Ethical Hacking**

#### Other ways to ethically hack:

- Participate in bug bounties
- Submit third-party bug reports
- Work to improve security tools



# Careers in Cybersecurity: The Practitioner

## **Cybersecurity Practitioners**

Security Operations Specialist



Software & Hardware Tester

Information Technology Manager





Computer Forensic Technician

## **Becoming a Security Practitioner**

#### Education

- CS 4440—security fundamentals
- Many trade-school programs too
- Specialized degree programs



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## **Becoming a Security Practitioner**

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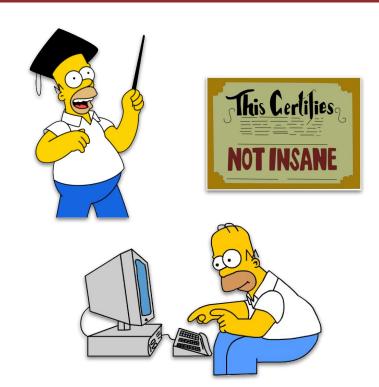
- CS 4440—security fundamentals
- Many trade-school programs too
- Specialized degree programs

#### Certifications

E.g., CISSP, CompTIA, CISA

#### Tools & techniques of the trade

- E.g., for testing—fuzzing
- E.g., for forensics—SleuthKit
- E.g., for netsec—WireShark/Snort



# Careers in Cybersecurity: The Researcher

#### What is research?

"Creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge"

#### Examples:

- New techniques that improve bug-finding capabilities
- New attacks that exploit microarchitectural leakage
- New methodologies to evaluate fuzzer's effectiveness
- And an infinite wealth more!

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#### **Research Labs**

Industrial Labs







National Labs/FFRDCs







Academic Labs





## How can I get a career in research?

#### 1. Become an enthusiast

- Find your favorite topic(s)
- Get involved in research!
  - University labs
  - Internships



## How can I get a career in research?

- Become an enthusiast
  - Find your favorite topic(s)
  - Get involved in research!
    - University labs
    - Internships
- Go to grad school and get a PhD
  - Your job will be conducting research
    - The "worker bees" of labs



#### What is a PhD?

"Doctorate of Philosophy"—proof that you can conduct and lead research

This →





Also this ←

## Why get a PhD?

#### What you get out of it:

- A fancy piece of paper
- A prefix to your name ;)
- Author cutting-edge work
- Expertise in some topic

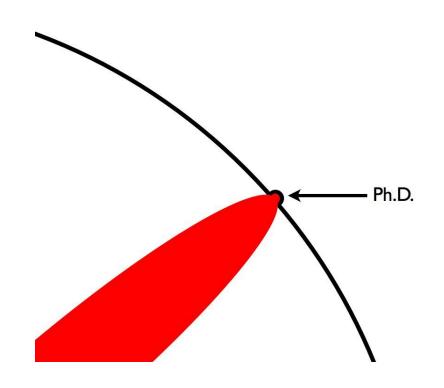
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#### Circle = all knowledge

- Blue = grade school
- Green = high school
- Pink = your Bachelor's
- Red = your Master's



#### **Undergrads can do research too!**

Undergraduate Research
Opportunity Program (UROP)

#### Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR)

SPUR is a nationally competitive opportunity that provides undergraduate students with an intensive 10-week summer research experience under the mentorship of a University of Utah faculty member. The program provides opportunities to gain research experience in a variety of disciplines.





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## **Security/Privacy Research @ UofU**



**Sneha Kasera** Networks



**Sameer Patil** Human Factors



**Mu Zhang** Mobile / IoT



**Jun Xu** Software / Systems



**Anton Burtsev** Kernels



**Stefan Nagy**Software / Systems



**Pratik Soni**Cryptography



**Luis Garcia**CPS / Drones



**Guanhong Tao**ML / Al Security

## **Questions?**



# Next time on CS 4440...

Course Wrap-Up Exam Review—show up!

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