## AFL++: Combing Incremental Steps of Fuzzing Research

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**AFL++: Combining Incremental Steps of Fuzzing Research** 

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## Background

#### AFL (@lcamtuf):



https://www.freebuf.com/articles/system/191536.htmł

## Challenges && Contributions

#### Challenges:

- 1. Combining state-of-the-art fuzzing techniques is hard.
- 2. Evaluating combinations is hard.

#### Contributions:

- 1. a usable tool, incorporating recent fuzzing research.
- 2. novel Custom Mutator API, easy to implement and combine.
- 3. evaluate incorporated technologies, show target-dependence.

Cutting Edge AFL++ Evaluation

Intro

#### Overview:

- American Fuzzy Lop
- Smart Scheduling
  - AFLFast: Seed Scheduling
  - MOpt: Mutation Scheduling
- Bypassing Roadblocks
  - LAF-Intel
  - RedQueen
- Mutate Structured Inputs
  - AFLSmart



#### Coverage Guided Feedback

- Mutations
- Forkserver
- Persistent Mode



https://paper.seebug.org/842/

#### https://paper.seebug.org/842/









## deterministic stage:



havoc stage: a stack of mutations



https://bbs.pediy.com/thread-254705.htm



#### <u>AFL:</u> - Coverage Guided Feedback - Mutations

- Forkserver
- Persistent Mode

#### Patch a loop into the target:

```
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
```

```
while (__AFL_LOOP(1000)) {
```

```
/* Reset state. */
```

```
memset(buf, 0, 100);
```

```
/* Read input data. */
```

```
read(0, buf, 100);
```

/\* Parse it in some vulnerable way. You'd normally call a library here. \*/

```
if (buf[0] != 'p') puts("error 1"); else
if (buf[1] != 'w') puts("error 2"); else
```

```
if (buf[2] != 'n') puts("error 3"); else
```

abort();

https://lcamtuf.blogspot.com/2015/06/new-in-afl-persistent-mode.html

Cutting Edge AFL **AFLFast** MOpt LAF-Intel RedQueen AFLSmart

#### <u>AFLFast:</u> Contributions:

- observed that most generated inputs exercise the same few "high-frequency" paths.
- developed strategies to stress low-frequency paths.
  - Search Strategy decides the order of the fuzzer pick the seeds
- Power Schedules decides the amount of generated inputs from each seed (the seed' s energy)







f(i) total number of being fuzzed (frequency)

Cutting	AFLFast:	s(i): number of pick	s(i): number of pick			
Edge •	AFLFast Power Schedules: p(i) = ene	ergy				
AFL	1. EXPLOIT: p(i) = AFL	p(i)=lpha(i)				
AFLFast	2. EXPLORE: $p(i) = AFL / const$	$p(i) = rac{lpha(i)}{eta}$				
MOpt		$f(i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } f(i) > \mu \end{cases}$	$\sum_{i \in S^+} f(i)$			
LAF-Intel	3. Cut-Off Exponential (COE)	$p(i) = \lim_{\beta \to \infty} \left( \frac{\alpha(i)}{\beta} \cdot 2^{s(i)}, M \right)$ otherwise.	$\mu =$			
RedQueen	4. Exponential Schedule (FAST)	$p(i) = \min\left(rac{lpha(i)}{eta} \cdot rac{2^{s(i)}}{f(i)}, M ight)$	mean number of fuzz exercising a			
AFLSmart	5. Linear Schedule (LINEAR)	$p(i) = \min\left(rac{lpha(i)}{eta} \cdot rac{s(i)}{f(i)}, M ight)$				
	6. Quadratic Schedule (QUAD)	$p(i) = \min\left(rac{lpha(i)}{eta} \cdot rac{s(i)^2}{f(i)}, M ight)$				
	/		>			

3-6: prevent high-frequency paths to be fuzzed until they become low-frequency path

## State-of-the-Art: Mutation Scheduling



https://wiki.vul337.team:888 8/doku.php?id=wiki:mopt\_o ptimize\_mutation\_schedulin g\_for\_fuzzers

Cutting

MOpt:

## State-of-the-Art: Mutation Scheduling

Edge AFL AFLFast MOpt LAF-Intel RedQueen AFLSmart

#### customized PSO

- (position of ) a particle : (selection probability of) per operator
- swarm : selection probability distribution of operators

#### Multiple Swarms

- Pilot: evaluate each swarm fuzzing efficiency
- Core: perform fuzz with the best swarm selected by Pilot



Cutting Edge **AFL** AFLFast MOpt LAF-Intel RedQueen AFLSmart

#### LAF-Intel:

- Challenge: tricky conditional statements
- almost correct : 0xabad1dee

if (input == 0xabad1dea) { /\* terribly buggy code \*/ else { /\* secure code \*/

#### Idea:

- split up comparisons into multiple single-byte comparisons

#### **LLVM Passes**

- The split-compares-pass
- The compare-transform-pass
- The split-switches-pass



else {



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observe that values from the input are directly used at various states during execution

Cutting Edge **AFL AFLFast** MOpt LAF-Intel RedQuee AFLSmart

RedQueen:

Contributions:





https://hexgolems.com/talks/redqueen.pdf

https://hexgolems.com/talks/redqueen.pdf





**Colorization** (remain bitmap): reduce the number of candidate positions

Replace(0x0, 0x44)		Replac	e(0)	xb1	, 0x44)		
af	00	00	00	af	00	00	00
ff	ff	ff	ff	b1	06	77	7a
00	00	00	00	45	ea	6c	3b
00	00	00	00	bb	a6	3e	b1
00	00	00	00		2d	b9	f0
00	00	00	00	of	6A	Λd	15
00	00	00	00	27	04	4u	40
	•			52	04	54	00
				C6	5e	†3	e/

https://hexgolems.com/talks/redqueen.pdf<sup>21</sup>

- Cutting Edge AFL **AFLFast** MOpt LAF-Intel RedQuee AFLSmart
- Nested Checksum
- 1. colorization

RedQueen:

- 2. identification checksum cmp
- 3. patching yields true: False Positive
- 4. input validation and fixing

#### fixing

- magic bytes <pattern -> repl>
- nesting: Topological Sort





#### State-of-the-Art : Mutate Structure Inputs

Edge AFL AFLFast MOpt LAF-Intel RedQueen AFLSmart

Cutting

#### A Common Issue: fuzzers generate mostly invalid inputs

Contributions:

AFLSmart:

- a high-level structural representation of the seed
  - parses input into Peach pits
- define innovative mutation operators
  - work on virtual file structure
  - rather than on the bit level

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57	41	56	45	W A	V E	RIFF.WAVEID
66	6d	74	20	f m	t _	fmt.ckID
10	00	00	00		16	fmt.cksize
01	00	02	00	] 1	1 2	fmt.wFormatTag (1=PCM) &
						fmt.nChannels
22	56	00	00		22050	fmt.nSamplesPerSec
88	58	01	00		88200	fmt.nAvgBytesPerSec
04	00	10	00	4	16	Imt.nBlockAlign &
E A	61	74	61	4 2	+ -	data akID
00	08	00	00	u a	2048	data chejze
00	00	00	00	sound	data 1	left and right channel
24	17	10	f3	sound	data 2	left and right channel
30	13	30	14	sound	data 3	left and right channel
16	f 9	18	f9	sound	data 4	left and right channel
34	e7	23	a 6	sound	data 5	left and right channel
3c	f2	24	f2	sound	data 6	left and right channel
11	ce	1a	0d	sound	data 7	left and right channel
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https://thuanpv.github.io/publications/TSE19\_aflsmart.pdf

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#### Overview:

- Seed Scheduling

- based on power schedules of AFLFast

#### - Mutators

- Custom Mutator API
- RedQueen: Input-To-State Mutator
- MOpt Mutator
- Instrumentation

Intro Cutting Edge AFL++ Evaluation

#### Seed Scheduling:

AFL++

Seed Scheduling

**Mutators** 

Instrumentation

#### AFLFAST Power Scheduling:

decides the amount of generated inputs from each seed (the seed' s energy)

#### 1. EXPLOIT: AFL

- 2. EXPLORE: AFL / const
- 3. Cut-Off Exponential (COE)
- 4. Exponential Schedule (FAST)
- 5. Linear Schedule (LINEAR)
- 6. Quadratic Schedule (QUAD)
- 7. Mmopt
- 8. Rare



Custom Mutator API:

AFL++ AFL++ incorporates many mutators. Framework

- can be easily extend
- can be adapted to specific targets

Mutators <

Seed

Scheduling

Instrumentation implement API:

- afl\_custom\_(de)init
- afl\_custom\_queue\_get
- afl\_custom\_fuzz: custom mutations
- afl\_custom\_havoc mutation
- afl\_custom\_post\_process
- afl\_custom\_queue\_new\_entry

Trimming Support: custom trim api

#### Input-To-State Mutator:

- AFL++ Based on REDQUEEN' s Input-To-State Colorization Seed RedQueen: remain hash of bitmap Scheduling -AFL++: but also **remain the execution speed** (bounds of a 2x slowdown) -Mutators -Bypass Comparison: probabilistic fuzzing fail to bypass: fuzzed with low probability next time — Instru-RedQueen mentation cmp hooking: hardware-assisted VM breakpoints -
  - hit a small numer times: remove breakpoint



#### Input-To-State Mutator:

- AFL++ Seed Scheduling Mutators
- mentation

- Based on RedQueen's Input-To-State
  - Colorization
  - Bypass Comparison: probabilistic fuzzing
  - CmpLog Instrumentation
    - RedQueen:
      - comparisons are hooked by hardware-assisted VM breakpoints
      - arguments are extracted when hit
    - AFL++:
      - a shared table
      - each comparison logs the operands of its last 256 executions

#### MOpt:



#### Instrumentation:



- Unicornafl: support to Unicorn Engine
- QBDI: support to andriod libraries



https://www.tutorialspoint.com/compiler design/compiler design architecture.htm



#### LLVM:

AFL++

Seed

Scheduling

**Mutators** 

Instru-

mentation

**Coverage Metrics** 

- Edge Coverage: consider prev and cur
  - more collisions and less speed
- Ngram: consider cur and N-1 prev blocks (N in 2-16)

#### Pass:

- coverage feedback pass
- LAF-Intel Passes (improved)
- CmpLog Passes

. . .

# cur\_location = <COMPILE\_TIME\_RANDOM>; shared\_mem[cur\_location ^ prev\_location]++;

prev\_location = cur\_location >> 1;

**Pass** : A pass refers to the traversal of a compiler through the entire program.



- afl-gcc, afl-g++ assembly-level rewriting instrumentation
- AFL++
  - afl-gcc-fast, afl-g++-fast: wrapper of afl-gcc, afl-g++
  - GCC plugin: true compiler-level instrumentation
  - not LLVM, **like** AFL LLVM mode (afl-clang-fast)

#### QEMU:

- AFL++ Seed Scheduling Mutators
- Deferred initialization
- Persistent mode
- Snapshot mode
- Partial instrumentation
- CompareCoverage
- CmpLog mode
- Wine mode

—

. . .

https://github.com/AFLplusplus/AFLplusplus/tree/stable/qemu\_mode

#### QEMU:



#### CompareCoverage

- binary-level CompareCoverage = source-level LAF-Intel
- can be configured by env variable AFL\_COMPCOV\_LEVEL
  - AFL\_COMPCOV\_LEVEL=1: split only immediate values
  - AFL\_COMPCOV\_LEVEL=2: instrument all comparison instructions

#### **Persistent Mode**

. . .

- AFL QEMU mode: don't support persistent mode
- The START address
- The RET address

#### Instrumentation:

Table with supported features for each instrumentation backend									
	afl-gcc	LLVM mode	GCC plugin	QEMU mode	UNICORN mode	QBDI mode			
NeverZero	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>		✓	✓				
Persistent mode		1	1	1	1	✓			
LAF-INTEL/ CompCov		1		1	1				
CmpLog		1		1					
Instrument filelist		1	1	partial					
InsTrim		1		-					
Ngram/Ctx coverage		1							
Snapshot LKM		✓							
	NeverZero Persistent mode LAF-INTEL/ CompCov CmpLog Instrument filelist InsTrim Ngram/Ctx coverage Snapshot LKM	Table with a fil-gcc         NeverZero         Persistent mode         LAF-INTEL/ CompCov         CmpLog         Instrument filelist         InsTrim         Ngram/Ctx coverage         Snapshot LKM	Table with supported feaafl-gccLLVM modeNeverZero✓Persistent mode✓LAF-INTEL/ CompCov✓CmpLog✓Instrument filelist✓InsTrim✓Ngram/Ctx coverage✓Snapshot LKM✓	Table with supported features for each inafl-gccLLVM modeGCC pluginNeverZero✓✓Persistent mode✓✓LAF-INTEL/ CompCov✓✓CmpLog✓✓Instrument filelist✓✓InsTrim✓✓Ngram/Ctx coverage✓Snapshot LKM✓	Table with supported features for each instrumentation baafl-gccLLVM modeGCC pluginQEMU modeNeverZero✓✓✓Persistent mode✓✓✓LAF-INTEL/ CompCov✓✓✓CmpLog✓✓✓Instrument filelist✓✓InsTrim✓✓Ngram/Ctx coverage✓✓Snapshot LKM✓✓	Table with supported features for each instrumentation backend         afl-gcc       LLVM mode       GCC plugin       QEMU mode       UNICORN mode         NeverZero       ✓       ✓       ✓       ✓       ✓       ✓         Persistent mode       ✓<			

https://aflplus.plus//papers/aflpp-woot2020.pdf

#### Evaluation:

Compare with FuzzBench

- 1. Default : AFL with some fixes
- 2. MOpt : Mutator
- 3. Ngram4 : Instrumentation
- 4. RedQueen : Additional cmp feedback
- 5. Ngram4, Rare: Instrumentation and Rare Scheduling
- 6. MOpt, RedQueen

**FuzzBench**: offer free service that evaluates fuzzers on a wide variety of real-world benchmarks.

Intro

Cutting Edge

AFL++

Evaluation







Time

(h) Coverage growth in *mbedtls* 









afl: https://afl-1.readthedocs.io/en/latest/# aflfast: https://mboehme.github.io/paper/CCS16.pdf https://github.com/mboehme/aflfast RedQueen: https://react-h2020.eu/m/filer\_public/6d/86/6d869f98-f544-49cc-8221b380c593888f/ndss19-redqueen.pdf

https://hexgolems.com/talks/redqueen.pdf

MOpt:

https://www.usenix.org/system/files/sec19-lyu.pdf



#### <u>aflsmart:</u>

https://thuanpv.github.io/publications/TSE19\_aflsmart.pdf

aflplusplus:

https://aflplus.plus/papers/

Thanks for suggestions from Wang. Q&A or Suggestions

## Thanks for listening: )

**刘冯润** 2021/04/08