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# TaintScope: A Checksum-Aware Directed Fuzzing Tool for Automatic Software Vulnerability Detection

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# Outline

- **Introduction**

- Background
- Motivation

- **TaintScope**

- Intuition
- System Design
- Evaluation

**Microsoft**<sup>®</sup>

Google



Adobe

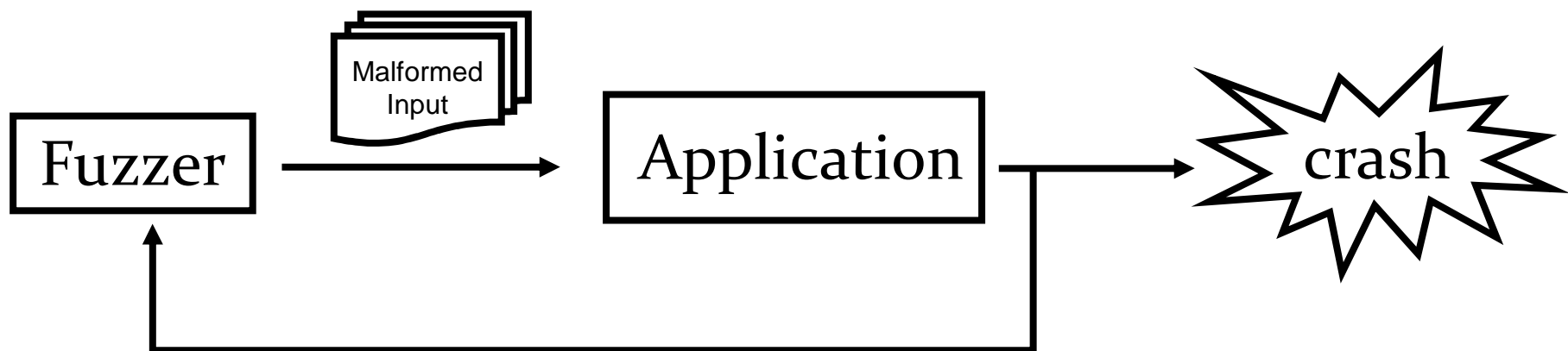
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- **Conclusion**

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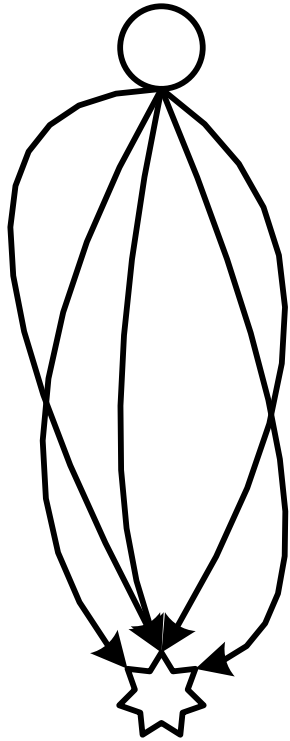
# Fuzzing/Fuzz Testing

- Feed target applications with **malformed inputs**  
e.g., invalid, unexpected, or random test cases
  - Proven to be remarkably successful
  - E.g., randomly mutate well-formed inputs and runs the target application with the “*mutations*”



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# Fuzzing is great



In the best case, malformed inputs will explore different program paths, and trigger security vulnerabilities

**However...**

# A quick example

```
1 void decode_image(FILE* fd){
2 ...
3 int length = get_length(fd);
4 int recomputed_chksum = checksum(fd, length);
5 int chksum_in_file = get_checksum(fd);
//line 6 is used to check the integrity of inputs
6 if(chksum_in_file != recomputed_chksum)
7   error();
8 int Width = get_width(fd);
9 int Height = get_height(fd);
10 int size = Width*Height*sizeof(int); //integer overflow
11 int* p = malloc(size);
12 ...
```

re-compute a new  
checksum

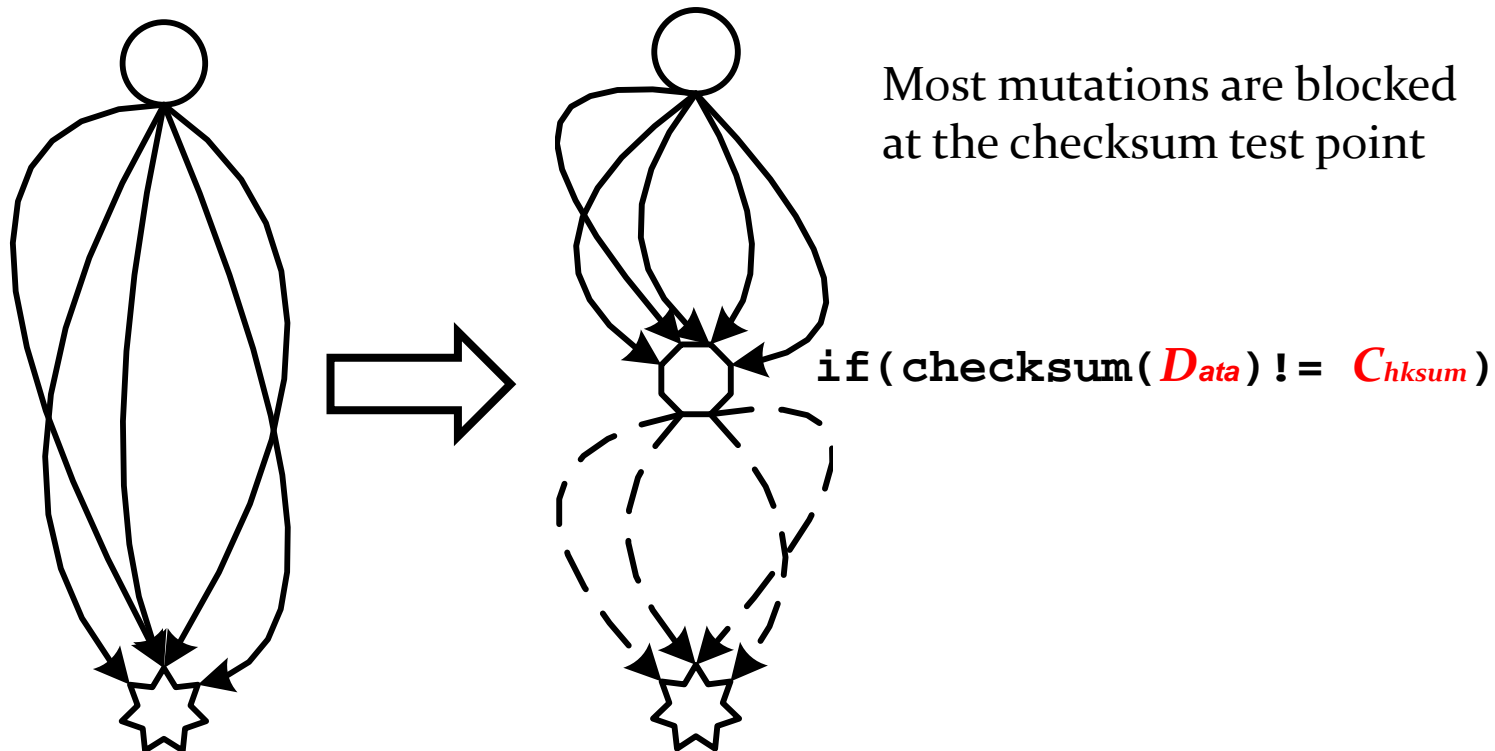
read the attached  
checksum

compare tow values

- **Malformed images will be dropped when the decoder function detects checksums mismatch**

# Checksum: the bottleneck

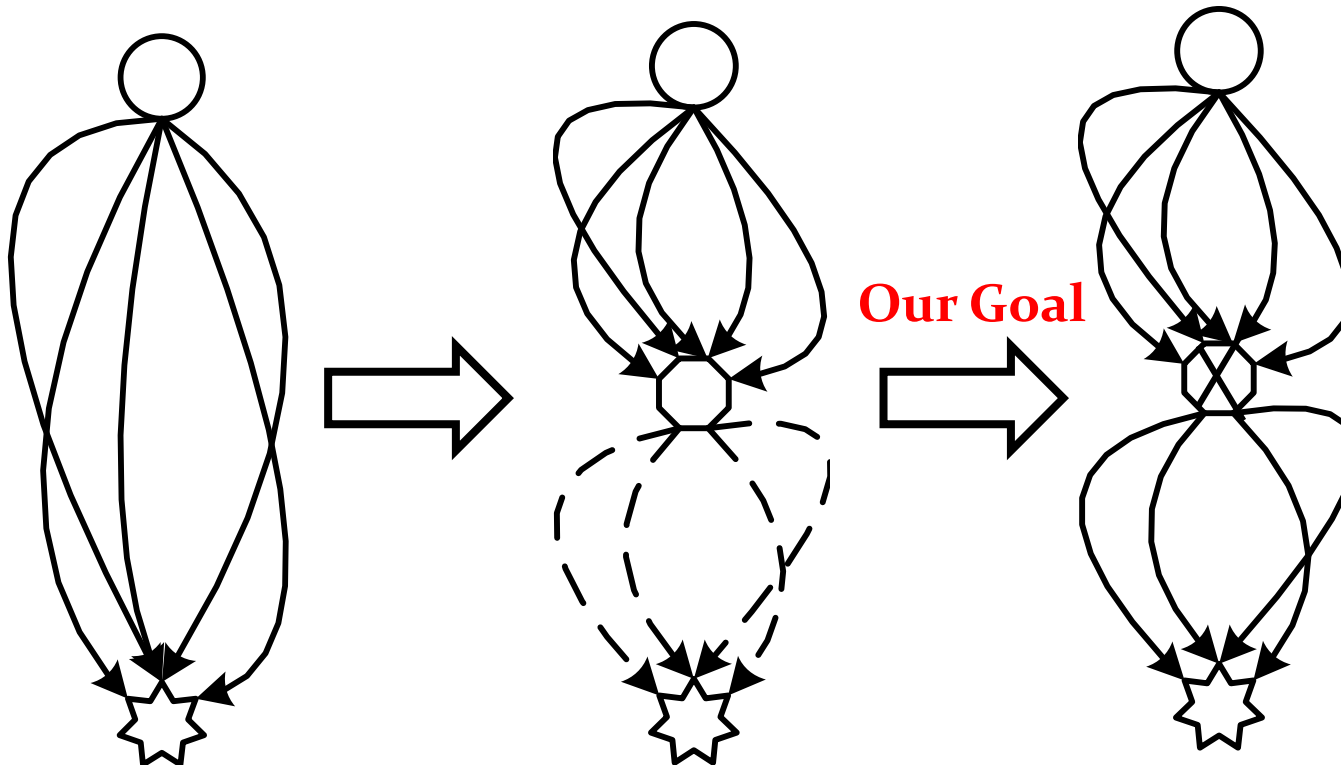
Checksum is a common way to test the integrity of input data



# Our motivation



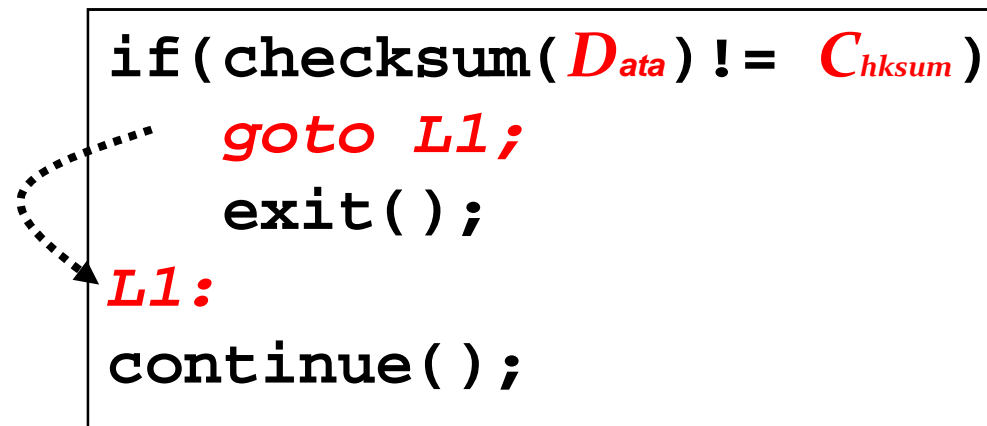
- Penetrate checksum checks!



# Intuition

- Disable checksum checks by control flow alteration

```
if (checksum(Data) != Checksum)  
    goto L1;  
    exit();  
L1:  
    continue();
```



*Modified program*

- Fuzz the *modified* program
- Repair the checksum fields in malformed inputs that can crash the modified program



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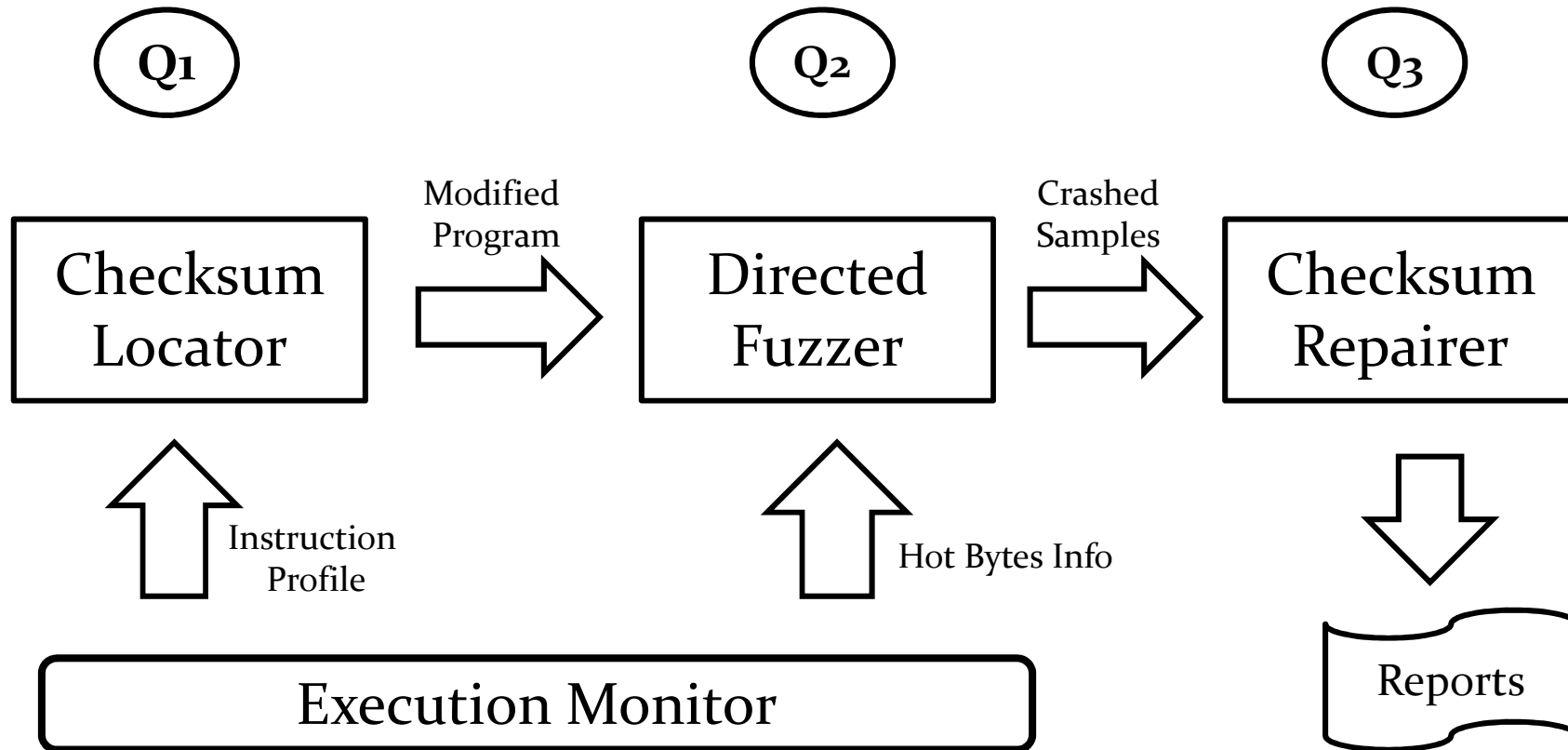
# Key Questions

- Q1: How to **locate the checksum** test instructions in a binary program?
- Q2: How to **effectively and efficiently fuzz** for security vulnerability detection?
- Q3: How to **generate the correct checksum** value for the invalid inputs that can crash the modified program?

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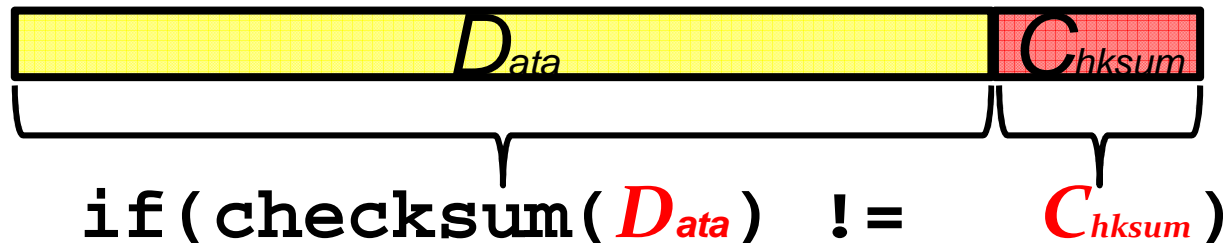
# TaintScope Overview



# A1: Locate the checksum test instruction

## Key Observation 1

Checksum is usually used to protect a large number of input bytes



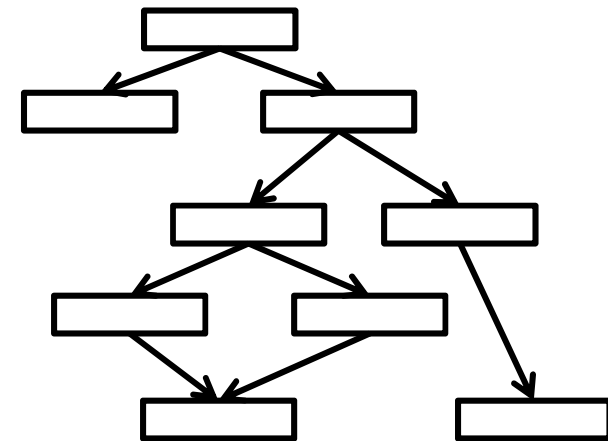
- Based on fine-grained taint analysis, we first find the conditional jump instructions (e.g., jz, je) that depend on more than a certain number of input bytes
- Take these conditional jump instructions as candidates

# A1: Locate the checksum test instruction

## Key Observation 2

Well-formed inputs can pass the checksum test,  
but most malformed inputs cannot

- We log the behaviors of candidate conditional jump instructions

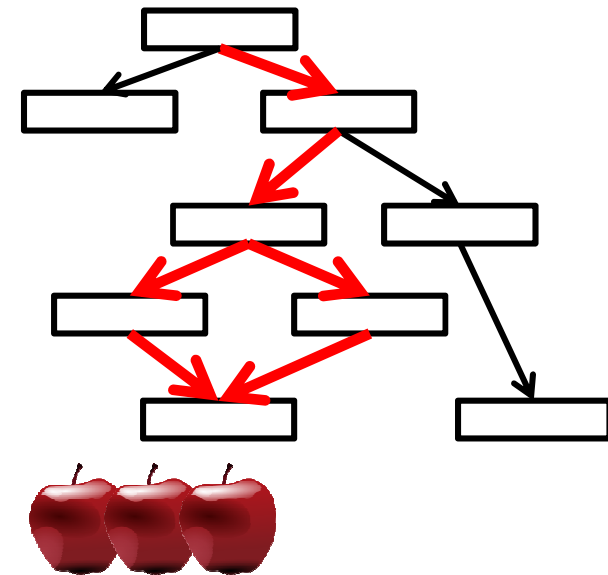


# A1: Locate the checksum test instruction

## Key Observation 2

Well-formed inputs can pass the checksum test,  
but most malformed inputs cannot

- We log the behaviors of candidate conditional jump instructions
- ① Run well-formed inputs, identify the always-taken and always-not-taken insts

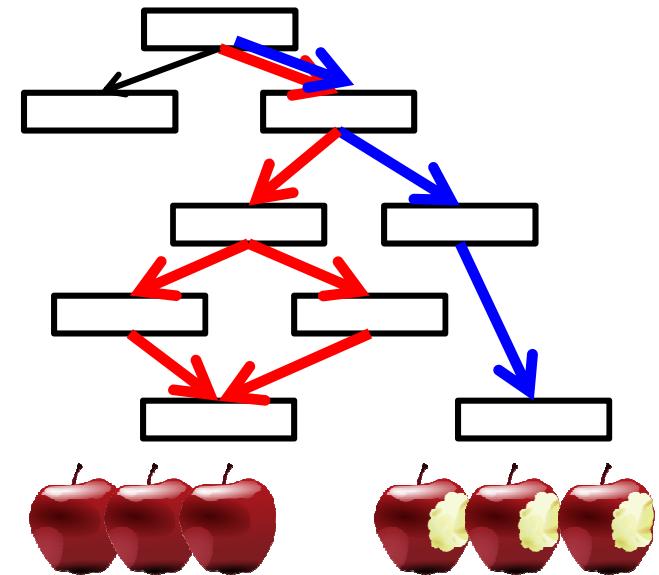


# A1: Locate the checksum test instruction

## Key Observation 2

Well-formed inputs can pass the checksum test,  
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- We log the behaviors of candidate conditional jump instructions
  - ① Run well-formed inputs, identify the always-taken and always-not-taken insts
  - ② Run malformed inputs, also identify the always-taken and always-not-taken insts

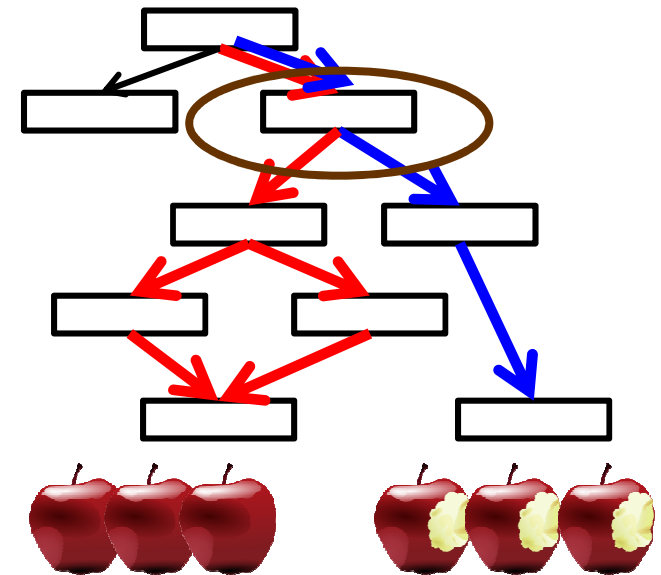


# A1: Locate the checksum test instruction

## Key Observation 2

Well-formed inputs can pass the checksum test,  
but most malformed inputs cannot

- We log the behaviors of candidate conditional jump instructions
  - ① Run well-formed inputs, identify the always-taken and always-not-taken insts
  - ② Run malformed inputs, also identify the always-taken and always-not-taken insts
  - ③ Identify the conditional jump inst that **behaves completely different** when processing well-formed and malformed inputs



# A2: Effective and efficient fuzzing

- Blindly mutating will create huge amount of redundant test cases --- *ineffective and inefficient*

```
1 void decode_image(FILE  
2 ...  
3 ...  
6 if(chksum_in_file != recomput  
7     goto 8;  
8     error());  
9 int Width = get_width(fd);  
10 int Height = get_height(fd);  
11 int size = Width*Height*sizeof(int); //integer overflow  
12 int* p = malloc(size);  
13 ...
```

*Directly modifying “width” or “height” fields will trigger the bug easily*

- Directed fuzzing: focus on modifying the “**hot bytes**” that refer to the input bytes flow into critical system/library calls
  - Memory allocation, string operation...



# A3: Generate the correct checksum

- The classical solution is symbolic execution and constraint solving

Solving  $\text{checksum}(D_{ata}) == C_{hksun}$  is hard or impossible, if both  $D_{ata}$  and  $C_{hksun}$  are symbolic values

- We use combined concrete/symbolic execution
  - Only leave the bytes in the checksum field as symbolic values
  - Collect and solve the trace constraints on  $C_{hksun}$  when reaching the checksum test inst.
  - Note that:
    - $\text{checksum}(D_{ata})$  is a runtime determinable constant value.
    - $C_{hksun}$  originates from the checksum field, but may be transformed, such as from hex/oct to dec number, from little-endian to big-endian.

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# Design Summary

## ■ Directed Fuzzing

- ❑ Identify and modify “hot bytes” in valid inputs to generate malformed inputs
  - On top of *PIN* binary instrumentation platform

## ■ Checksum-aware Fuzzing

- ❑ Locate checksum check points and checksum fields.
- ❑ Modify the program to accept all kinds input data
- ❑ Generate correct checksum fields for malformed inputs that can crash the modified program
  - Offline symbolically execute the trace, using *STP* solver

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# Evaluation

- **Component evaluation**

- ❑ E1: Whether TaintScope can locate checksum points and checksum fields?
- ❑ E2: How many hot byte in a valid input?
- ❑ E3: Whether TaintScope can generate a correct checksum field?

- **Overall evaluation**

- ❑ E4: Whether TaintScope can detect previous unknown vulnerabilities in real-world applications?

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# Evaluation 1: locate checksum points

- We test several common checksum algorithms, including CRC32, MD5, Adler32. TaintScope accurately located the check statements.

Executable	Package (Version)	File Format	Checksum Algorithm	$ \mathcal{A} $	$ (\mathcal{P}_1 \cap \mathcal{P}'_0) \cup (\mathcal{P}_0 \cap \mathcal{P}'_1) $	Detected?
PicasaPhotoViewer	Google Picasa (3.1)	PNG	CRC32	830	1	✓
Acrobat	Adobe Acrobat (9.1.3)			5,805	1	✓
Snort	snort (2.8.4.1)	PCAP	TCP/IP checksum	2	2	✓
tcpdump	tcpdump (4.0.0)			5	2	✓
sigtool	clamav (0.95.2)	CVD	MD5	2	1	✓
vcdiff	open-vcdiff (0.6)	VCDIFF	Adler32	1	1	✓
Tar	GNU Tar (1.22)	Tar Archive	Tar checksum	9	1	✓
objcopy	GNU binutils (2.17)	Intel HEX	Intel HEX checksum	62	1	✓

# Evaluation 2: identify hot bytes

- We measured the number of bytes could affect the size arguments in memory allocation functions

Executable	Package	Input Format	Input Size (Bytes)	# Hot Bytes	# X86 Instrs	Run Time
Display	ImageMagick	TIFF	5778	18	191,759,211	2m53s
			2,020	18	82,640,260	1m30s
		PNG	5,149	9	19,051,746	1m54s
			1,250	29	47,246,043	1m8s
		JPEG	6,617	11	48,983,897	1m13s
			6,934	9	48,823,905	1m11s
PicasaPhotoViewer.exe	Google Picasa	GIF	3,190	14	304,993,501	1m25s
			6,529	43	536,938,567	2m57s
		PNG	2,730	18	712,021,776	5m16s
			1,362	16	660,183,239	4m8s
		BMP	3,174	8	310,909,256	1m21s
			7,462	19	468,273,580	2m35s
Acrobat.exe	Adobe Acrobat	BMP	1,440	6	658,370,048	4m25s
			3,678	6	663,923,080	5m2s
		PNG	770	21	297,492,758	3m8s
			1,250	12	354,685,431	4m31s
		JPEG	1,012	13	328,365,912	4m14s
			2,356	4	356,136,453	4m36s

## Evaluation 3: generate correct checksum fields

- We test malformed inputs in four kinds of file formats.
- TaintScope is able to generate correct checksum fields.

Executable	File Format	# fields	field	Repaired?	Time (s)
display	PNG	4	4	✓	271.9
tcpdump	PCAP	8	2	✓	455.6
tar	Tar Archive	3	8	✓	572.8
objcopy	Intel HEX	4	2	✓	327.1

# Evaluation 4 : 27 previous unknown vulns



MS Paint



Google Picasa



Adobe Acrobat



ImageMagick



irfanview



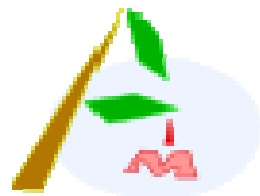
gstreamer



Winamp



XEmacs



Amaya



dillo



wxWidgets



PDFlib

# Evaluation 4 : 27 previous unknown vulns

**Secunia Advisories**

**Highlighted**

- Google Picasa JPEG Processing Integer Overflow Vulnerability** (2 days ago // 21202 views)
- Adobe getPlus DLM Unauthorised Installation Vulnerability** (2 days ago // 936 views)
- Google Chrome Multiple Vulnerabilities** (2 weeks ago // 10,257 views)

Adobe would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for reporting the relevant issues and for working with Adobe to help protect our customers' security:

- Michael Schmidt of Compass Security (<http://www.csnc.ch>) (CVE-2007-0048, CVE-2007-0045)
- Didier Stevens (CVE-2009-2979)
- Drew Yao of Apple Product Security (<http://www.apple.com/support/security/>) (CVE-2009-2980)
- Stefano Di Paola of Minded Security (<http://www.mindedsecurity.com/>) (CVE-2009-2981)
- Guillaume Delugré and Frédéric Raynal of SOGETI ESEC (<http://esec.fr.sogeti.com/>) (CVE-2009-2982, CVE-2009-3461, CVE-2009-3462)
- SkyLined of Google Inc. (<http://skypther.com/SkyLined>) (CVE-2009-2983)
- Tavis Ormandy, Google Security Team (<http://www.google.com/corporate/security.html>) (CVE-2009-2984)
- An anonymous researcher reported through TippingPoint's Zero Day Initiative (<http://www.zerodayinitiative.com/>) (CVE-2009-2985)
- Will Dormann, CERT (<http://www.cert.org/>) (CVE-2009-2986)
- Zhenhua Liu and Xiaopeng Zhang of Fortinet's FortiGuard Global Security Research Team (<http://www.fortiguardscenter.com/>) (CVE-2009-2987, CVE-2009-2988, CVE-2009-2996)
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# Evaluation 4: 27 previous unknown vulns

Package	Vuln-Type	# Vulns	Checksum-aware?	Advisory	Severity Rating
Microsoft Paint	Memory Corruption	1	N	CVE-2010-0028	Moderate
Google Picasa	Infinite loop	1	N	pending	N/A
	Integer Overflow	1		SA38435	Moderate
Adobe Acrobat	Infinite loop	1	N	CVE-2009-2995	Extremely critical
	Memory Corruption	1	N	CVE-2009-2989	Extremely critical
ImageMagick	Integer Overflow	1	N	CVE-2009-1882	Moderate
CamImage	Integer Overflow	3	Y	CVE-2009-2660	Moderate
LibTIFF	Integer Overflow	2	N	CVE-2009-2347	Moderate
wxWidgets	Buffer Overflow	2	N	CVE-2009-2369	Moderate
	Double Free	1	Y		
IrfanView	Integer Overflow	1	N	CVE-2009-2118	High
GStreamer	Integer Overflow	1	Y	CVE-2009-1932	Moderate
Dillo	Integer Overflow	1	Y	CVE-2009-2294	High
XEmacs	Integer Overflow	3	Y	CVE-2009-2688	Moderate
	Null Dereference	1	N	N/A	N/A
MPlayer	Null Dereference	2	N	N/A	N/A
PDFlib-lite	Integer Overflow	1	Y	SA35180	Moderate
Amaya	Integer Overflow	2	Y	SA34531	High
Winamp	Buffer Overflow	1	N	SA35126	High
Total		27			

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# Conclusion

- **Checksum is a big challenge for fuzzing tools**
- **TaintScope can perform:**
  - Directed fuzzing
    - Identify which bytes flow into system/library calls.
    - dramatically reduce the mutation space.
  - Checksum-aware fuzzing
    - Disable checksum checks by control flow alternation.
    - Generate correct checksum fields in invalid inputs.
- **TaintScope detected dozens of serious previous unknown vulnerabilities.**

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Thanks for your attention!

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