

# Lecture 11 – Defense Strategies

[COSE451] Software Security

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Spring 2024

# Overview

- **Defense strategies**

# Defense strategies

- **Vulnerability detection strategies**

- **Static analysis**

- Examining source code without executing it
      - To identify potential security vulnerabilities
    - Also called whitebox testing

- **Dynamic analysis**

- **Running the program** and analyzing its behavior during execution
      - To identify potential security vulnerabilities
    - Also called **blackbox testing**

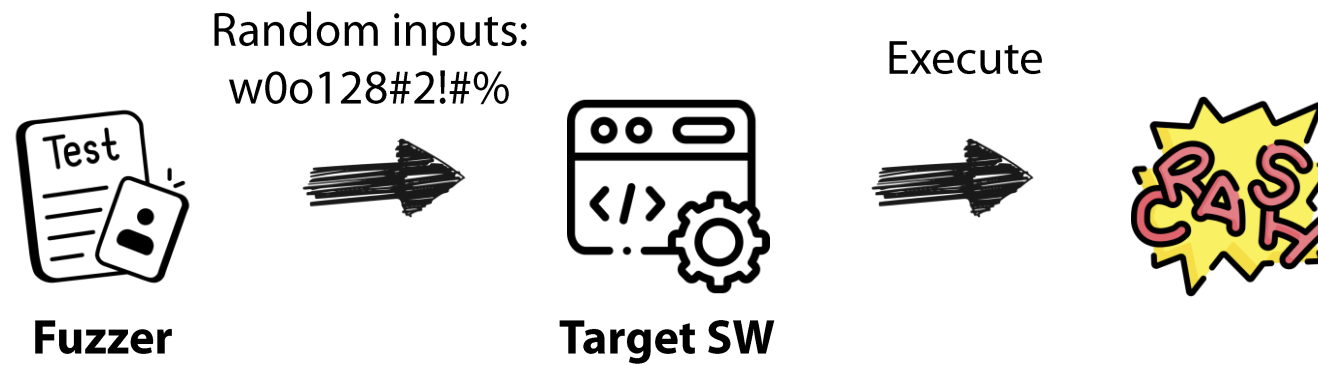
# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**

- An automated testing technique to find program inputs that reveal a bug (or vulnerability)
- How?
  - Generate inputs **randomly** until program crashes!
- Fuzzer-found bugs
  - Causes: incorrect arg validation, incorrect type casting, etc.
  - Effects: stack/heap buffer overflows, memory leak, use-after-free, division-by-zero, out-of-bounds, etc.

# Defense strategies

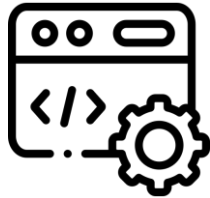
- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**
  - Purely random data is not a very interesting input!

Target SW



Expected inputs: \$ Target -f build.xml

```
<project default="dist">
  <target name="init">
    <mkdir dir = "${build}"/>
  </target> ...
```

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**
  - Purely random data is not a very interesting input!

Target SW



Expected inputs: `$ Target -f build.xml`

Random inputs: `$ Target -f random.xml`

```
<project default="dist">
  <target name="init">
    <mkdir dir = "${build}"/>
  </target> ...
```

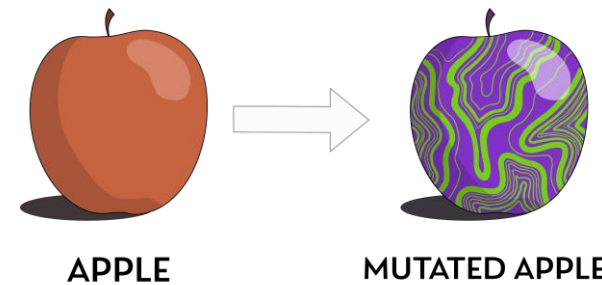
```
Afkldjkl123$JKdsnkj!@#Kw;xk
dmakd2K#Nk013kn19dk1CK
#$$%mkxd...
```

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**

- Using **mutation** technique!

1. Collecting legitimate input or input that causes known vulnerabilities
  - These data are called "**seeds**"
2. Create testing input by changing some part of the legitimate input





# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**
  - Example: mutated input

Target SW



Expected inputs: `$ Target -f build.xml`

```
<project default="dist">
  <target name="init">
    <mkdir dir = "${build}"/>
  </target> ...
```

Random inputs: `$ Target -f mutate.xml`

```
<project default="dist">
  <target name="init">
    <mkdir dir = "2{build}"/@
  </target> ...
```

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**
  - Mutation heuristics
    - Binary input
      - Bit flips
      - Change/insert/delete random bytes
      - Set randomly chosen bytes to interesting values (e.g., INT\_MAX, INT\_MIN, 0, 1, -1)
    - Text input
      - Change/insert/delete random symbols or keywords from a dictionary

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**
  - Effectiveness of fuzzing
    - Code coverage
      - A measure of how much of the program the input can cover

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**

- Effectiveness of fuzzing

- Code coverage

- A measure of how much of the program the input can cover

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         if (y > 0)
5             printf("Here!\n");
6     }
7     printf("Test end T^T\n");
8 }
```

- if  $x = 10, y = 5$  then
        - \* coverage =  $4/5 = 80\%$  (ignore curly braces)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: fuzz testing (fuzzing)**

- Effectiveness of fuzzing

- Code coverage

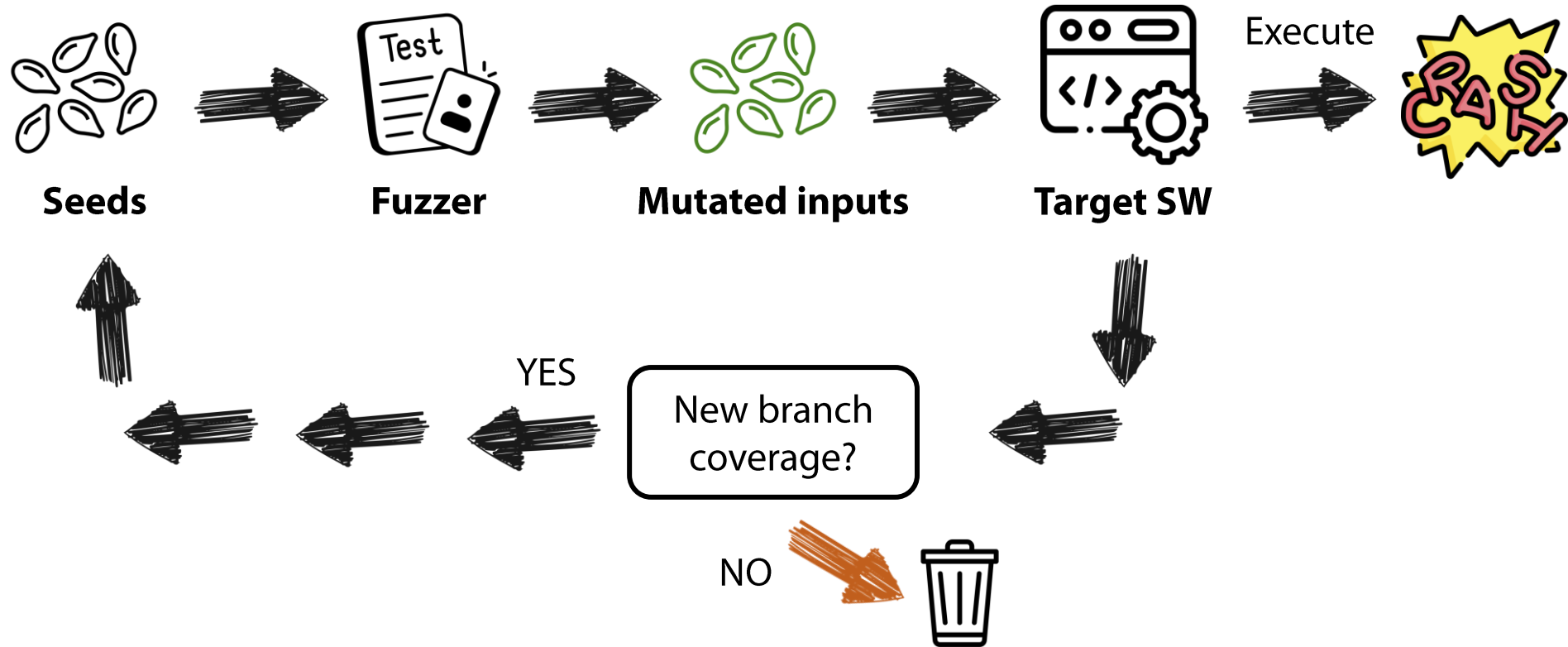
- A measure of how much of the program the input can cover

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         if (y > 0)
5             printf("Here!\n");
6     }
7     printf("Test end T^T\n");
8 }
```

- if  $x = 10, y = 5$  then  
\* coverage =  $4/5 = 80\%$
- if  $x = 10, y = -5$  then  
\* coverage =  $5/5 = 100\%$

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         printf("X: positive integer");
5         if (y > 0){
6             printf("Y: positive integer");
7             if (z > 0)
8                 assert();
9         }
10    }
11 }
```

**Seed**

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         printf("X: positive integer");
5         if (y > 0){
6             printf("Y: positive integer");
7             if (z > 0)
8                 assert();
9         }
10    }
11 }
```

## Seed

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)

## Input

x, y, z = (6, -1, -5)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         printf("X: positive integer");
5         if (y > 0){
6             printf("Y: positive integer");
7             if (z > 0)
8                 assert();
9         }
10    }
11 }
```

## Seed

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)

## Input

x, y, z = (6, -1, -5)

## Coverage

4/7 = 57%

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         printf("X: positive integer");
5         if (y > 0){
6             printf("Y: positive integer");
7             if (z > 0)
8                 assert();
9         }
10    }
11 }
```

## Seed

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)

## Input

x, y, z = (6, -1, -5)

## Coverage

4/7 = 57%

Not new branch coverage

-> Do not add to seed

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         printf("X: positive integer");
5         if (y > 0){
6             printf("Y: positive integer");
7             if (z > 0)
8                 assert();
9         }
10    }
11 }
```

## Seed

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)

## Input

x, y, z = (5, **100**, -5)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         printf("X: positive integer");
5         if (y > 0){
6             printf("Y: positive integer");
7             if (z > 0)
8                 assert();
9         }
10    }
11 }
```

## Seed

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)

## Input

x, y, z = (5, **100**, -5)

## Coverage

6/7 = **86%**

New branch coverage

-> Add to seed

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
4         printf("X: positive integer");
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7             if (z > 0)
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```

## Seeds

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)  
x, y, z = (5, 100, -5)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
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```

## Seeds

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)  
x, y, z = (5, 100, -5)

## Input

x, y, z = (5, 100, **10**)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: coverage-guided fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
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```

## Seeds

x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)  
x, y, z = (5, 100, -5)

## Input

x, y, z = (5, 100, **10**)

## Coverage

7/7 = 100%

**Crash detect!**



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

- Fuzzing techniques to quickly reach a **specific point** rather than coverage
- Typically done as a **greybox** testing
  - Source code + binary
- For example
  - The closer the fuzzing input gets to a certain point, the higher the score is given

# Defense strategies

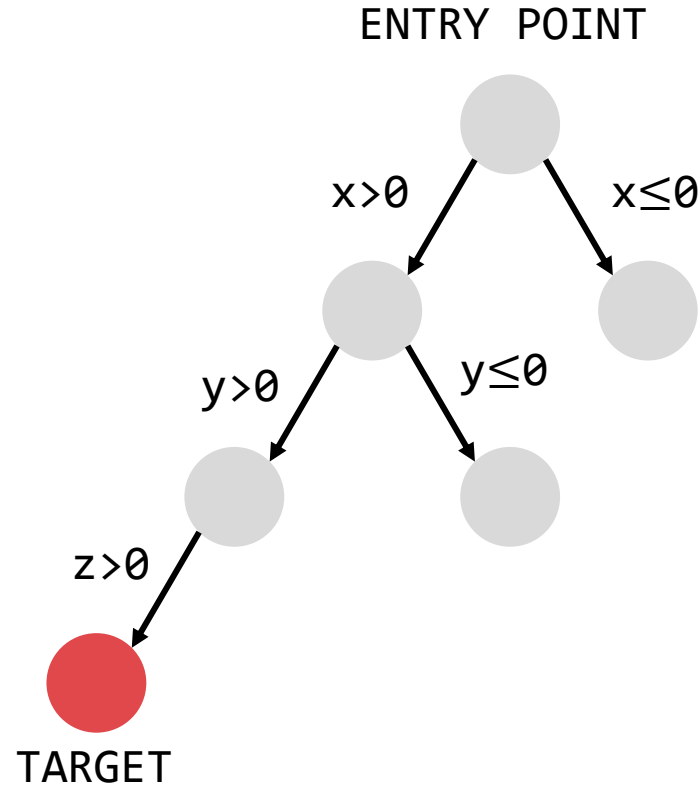
- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2     printf("Test start!!\n");
3     if (x > 0){
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5         if (y > 0){
6             printf("Y: positive integer");
7             if (z > 0)
8                 assert();
9         }
10        else{
11            printf("Y: negative integer");
12        }
13    }
14    else{
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17 }
```

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

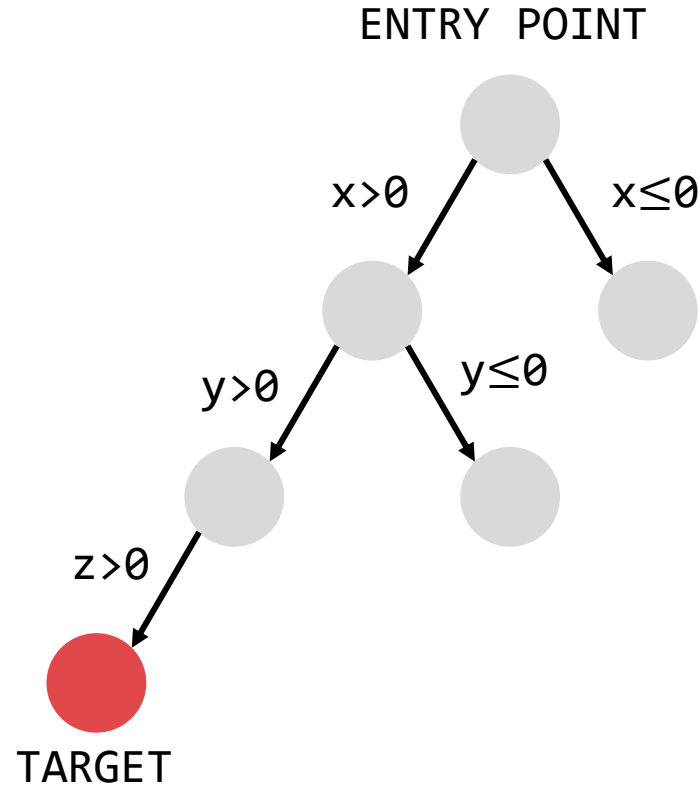
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# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

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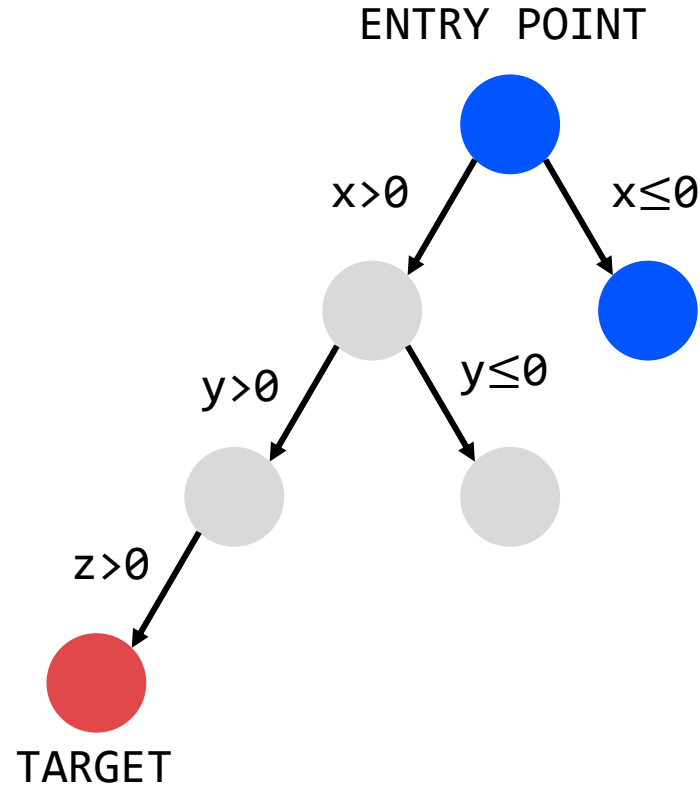
## Seeds

- ① x, y, z = (-5, -1, -5)
- ② x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2   printf("Test start!!\n");
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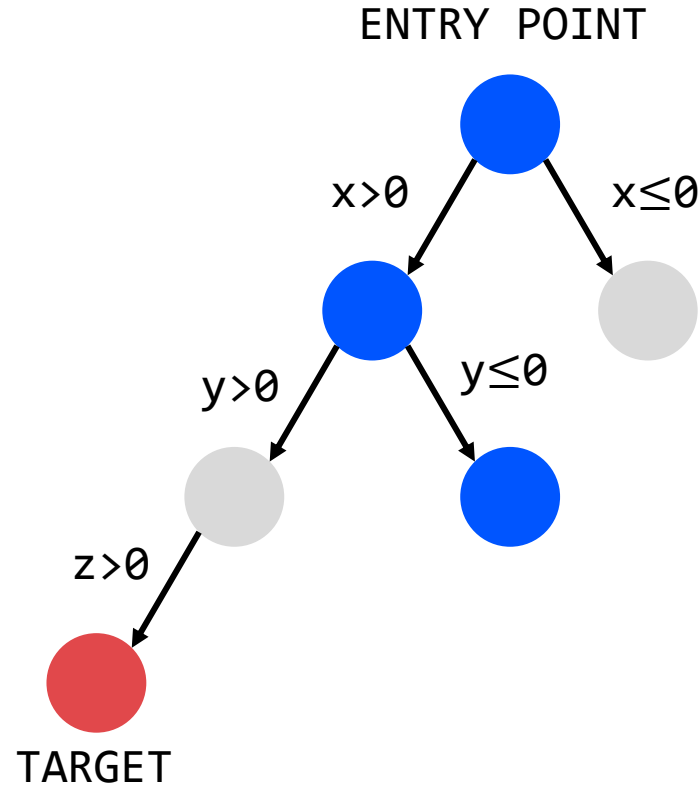
## Seeds

- ①  $x, y, z = (-5, -1, -5)$
- ②  $x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)$

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
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## Seeds

- ①  $x, y, z = (-5, -1, -5)$
- ②  $x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)$

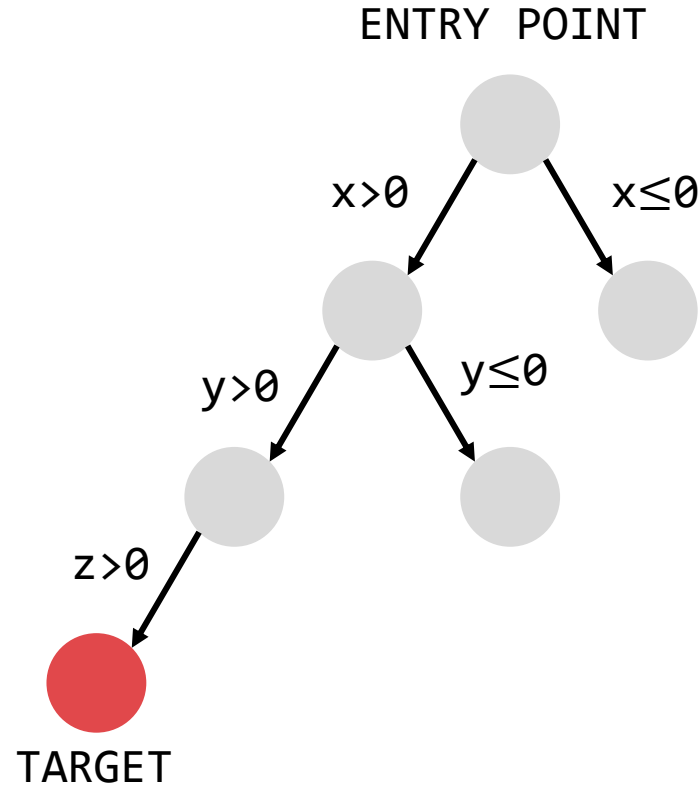
② **win!**

> Mutating the following testing input from ②

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
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### Seeds

- ① x, y, z = (-5, -1, -5)
- ② x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)

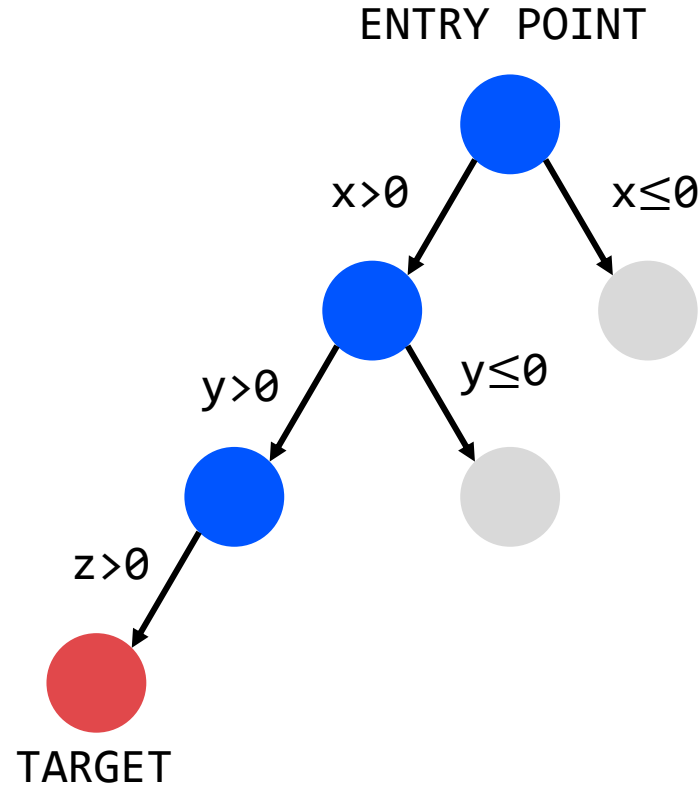
### Input

x, y, z = (5, **100**, -5)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2   printf("Test start!!\n");
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## Seeds

- ①  $x, y, z = (-5, -1, -5)$
- ②  $x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)$

## Input

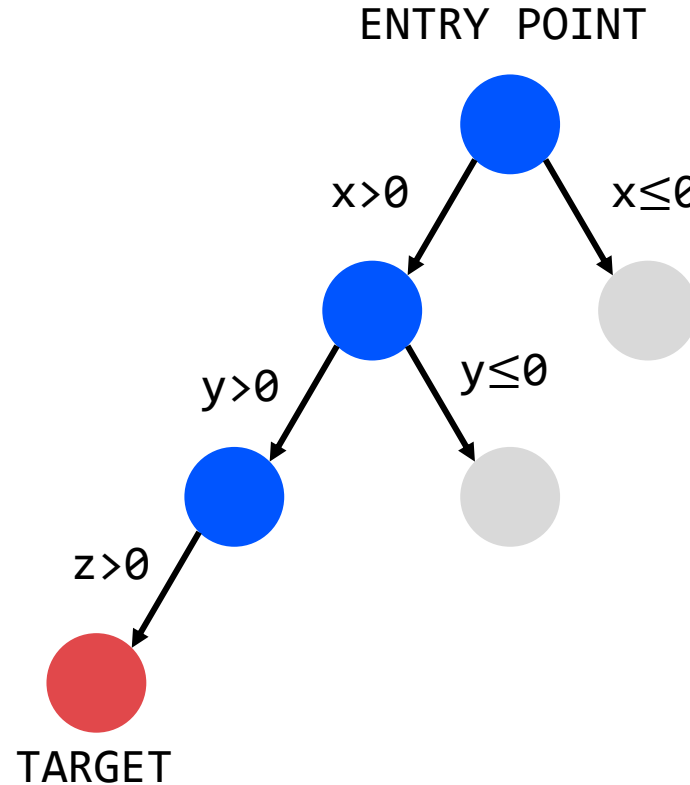
$x, y, z = (5, 100, -5)$



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

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### Seeds

- ①  $x, y, z = (-5, -1, -5)$
- ②  $x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)$

### Input

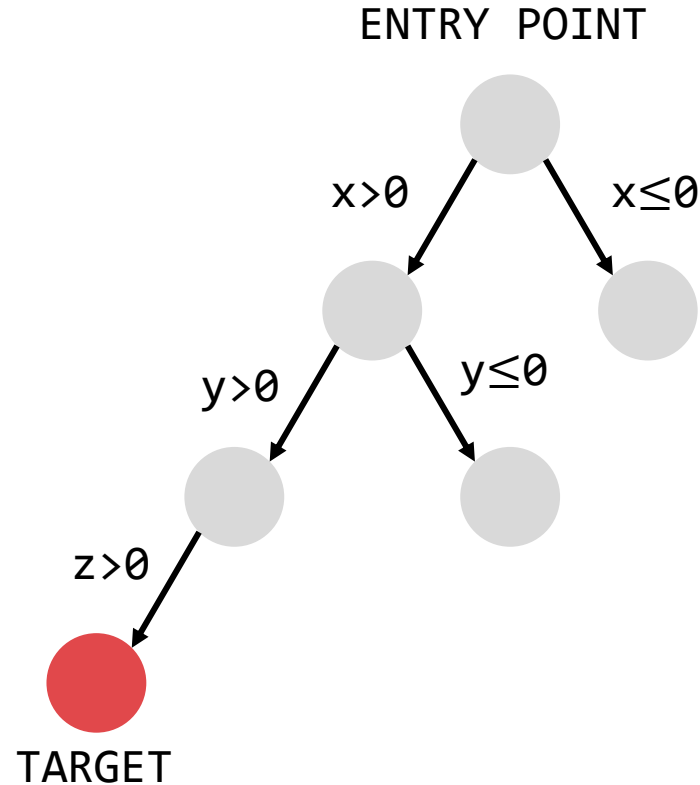
$x, y, z = (5, 100, -5)$

> Add to seed and mutating the following testing input from this input

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

```
1 void test(int x, int y, int z){
2   printf("Test start!!\n");
3   if (x > 0){
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```



## Seeds

- ① x, y, z = (-5, -1, -5)
- ② x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)
- ③ x, y, z = (5, 100, -5)

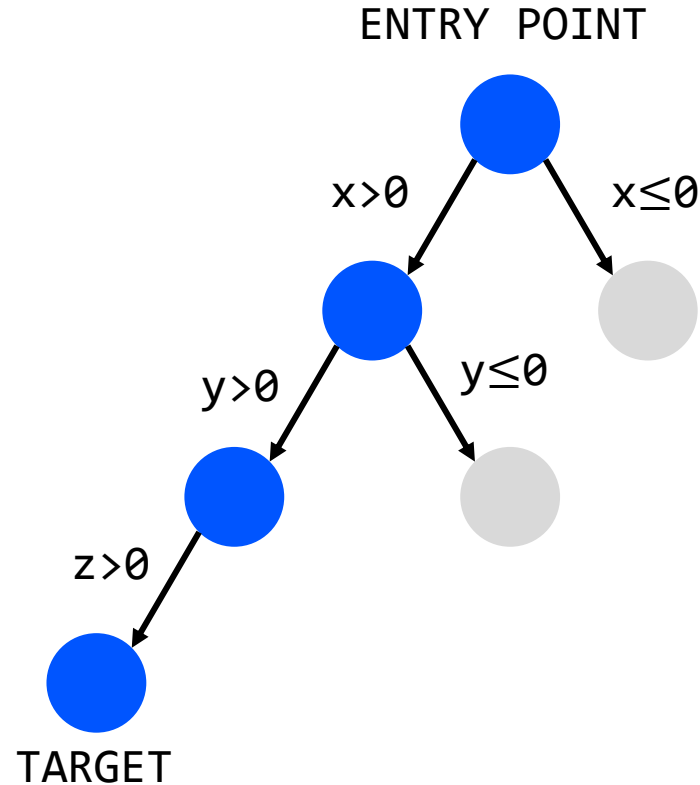
## Input

x, y, z = (5, 100, **5**)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: directed fuzzing**

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### Seeds

- ① x, y, z = (-5, -1, -5)
- ② x, y, z = (5, -1, -5)
- ③ x, y, z = (5, 100, -5)

### Input

**x, y, z = (5, 100, 5)**  
**Crash detect!**

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

- A technique for analyzing information flow
- Tracking how private information flows through the program and if it is leaked to public observers
- Terms
  - **Sources**: private data of interest
  - **Sinks**: locations of interest
    - Check taints of incoming information
    - Determines if there is a leak in the program

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

```
1 x = source();  
2 y = x;  
3 if (y == 0)  
4     z = x+y;  
5 else  
6     z = 1;  
7 sink(z);
```

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

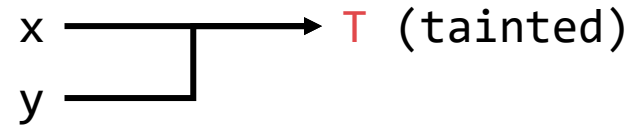
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```

x  $\longrightarrow$  T (tainted)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

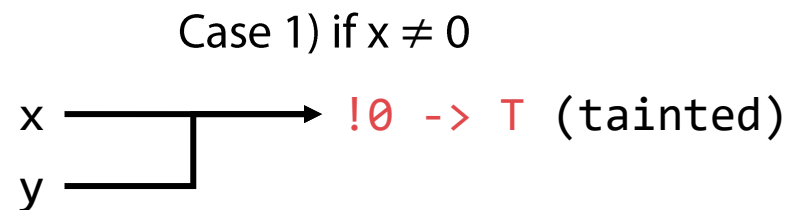
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# Defense strategies

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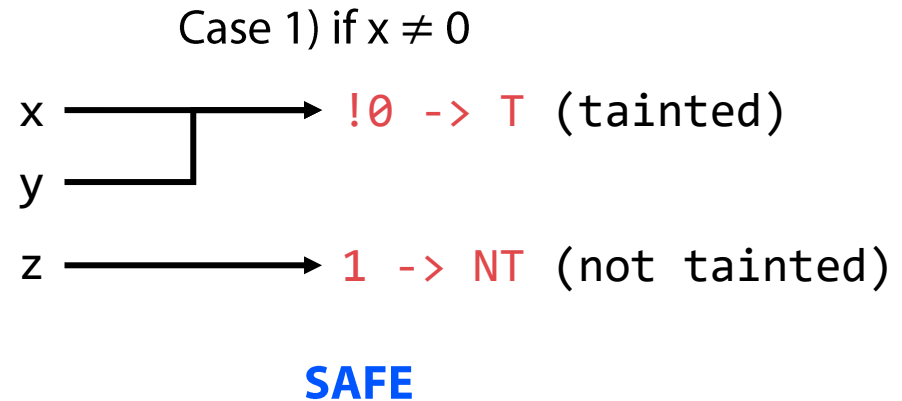




# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

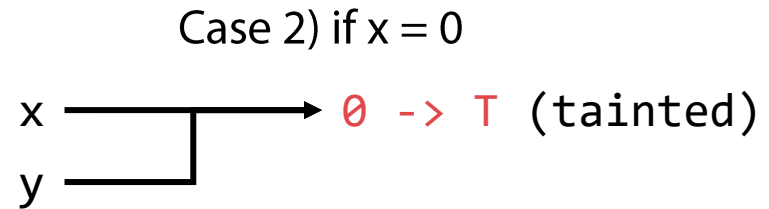
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# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

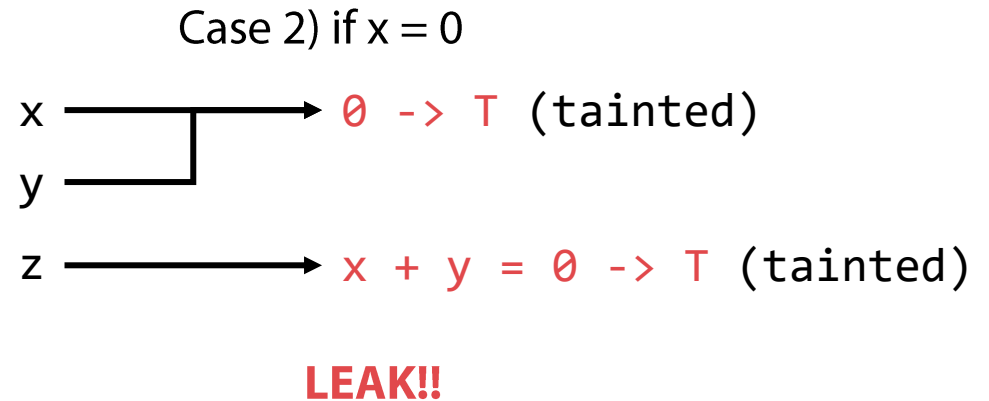
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# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

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```



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

```
1 from flask import Flask, request, render_template_string
2
3 app = Flask(__name__)
4
5 @app.route('/')
6 def index():
7     return '''
8         <form action="/greet" method="post">
9             <input type="text" name="name">
10            <input type="text" name="id">
11            <input type="submit" value="Greet">
12        </form>
13    '''
14
15 @app.route('/greet', methods=['POST'])
16 def greet():
17     user_name = request.form['name']
18     user_id = request.form['id']
19     print_name = "Dr." + user_name
20     return render_template_string(f'<h1>Hello, {print_name}</h1>')
21
22 if __name__ == '__main__':
23     app.run(debug=True)
```

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

```
1 from flask import Flask, request, render_template_string
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3 app = Flask(__name__)
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21
22 if __name__ == '__main__':
23     app.run(debug=True)
```

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

```
1 from flask import Flask, request, render_template_string
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18     user_id = request.form['id']
19     print_name = "Dr." + user_name
20     return render_template_string(f'<h1>Hello, {print_name}</h1>')
21
22 if __name__ == '__main__':
23     app.run(debug=True)
```

user\_name → T (tainted)

user\_id → T (tainted)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

```
1 from flask import Flask, request, render_template_string
2
3 app = Flask(__name__)
4
5 @app.route('/')
6 def index():
7     return '''
8         <form action="/greet" method="post">
9             <input type="text" name="name">
10            <input type="text" name="id">
11            <input type="submit" value="Greet">
12        </form>
13    '''
14
15 @app.route('/greet', methods=['POST'])
16 def greet():
17     user_name = request.form['name']
18     user_id = request.form['id']
19     print_name = "Dr." + user_name
20     return render_template_string(f'<h1>Hello, {print_name}</h1>')
21
22 if __name__ == '__main__':
23     app.run(debug=True)
```

user\_name → T (tainted)

user\_id → T (tainted)

print\_name → T (tainted)

**XSS!!**

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

```
1 import os
2
3 def process_input(user_input):
4     sanitized_input = sanitize(user_input)
5     execute_command(sanitized_input)
6
7 def sanitize(input_str):
8     return input_str.replace(";", "")
9
10 def execute_command(command):
11     os.system(command)
12
13 user_input = input("Enter a command: ")
14 process_input(user_input)
```



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

```
1 import os
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3 def process_input(user_input):
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```

**SINK** →

**SOURCE** →

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

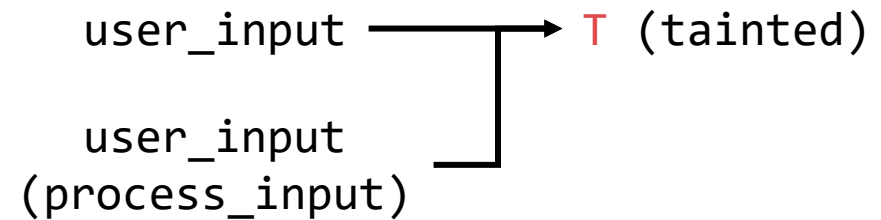
```
1 import os
2
3 def process_input(user_input):
4     sanitized_input = sanitize(user_input)
5     execute_command(sanitized_input)
6
7 def sanitize(input_str):
8     return input_str.replace(";", "")
9
10 def execute_command(command):
11     os.system(command)
12
13 user_input = input("Enter a command: ")
14 process_input(user_input)
```

user\_input → T (tainted)

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

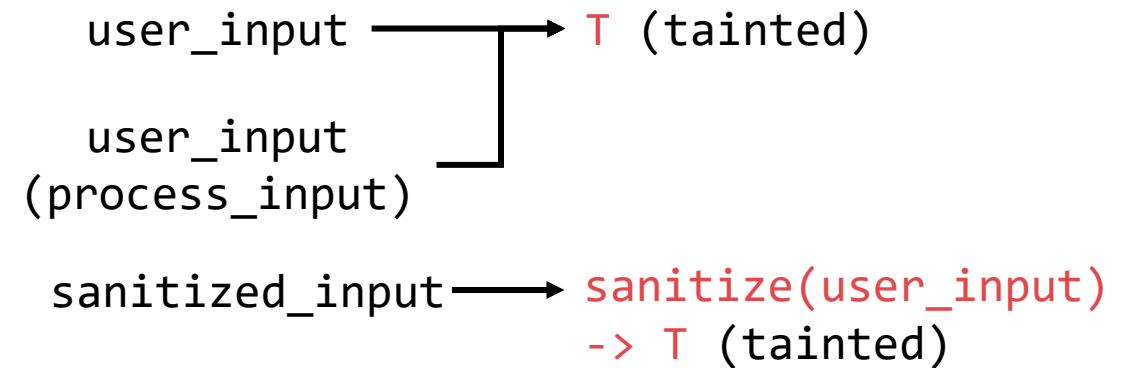
```
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2
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7 def sanitize(input_str):
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10 def execute_command(command):
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# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

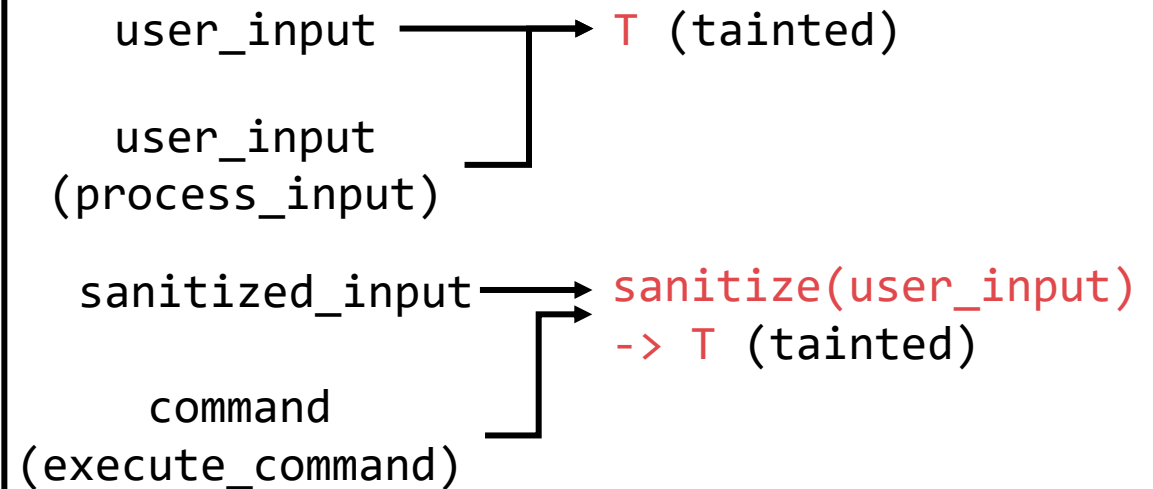
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```



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

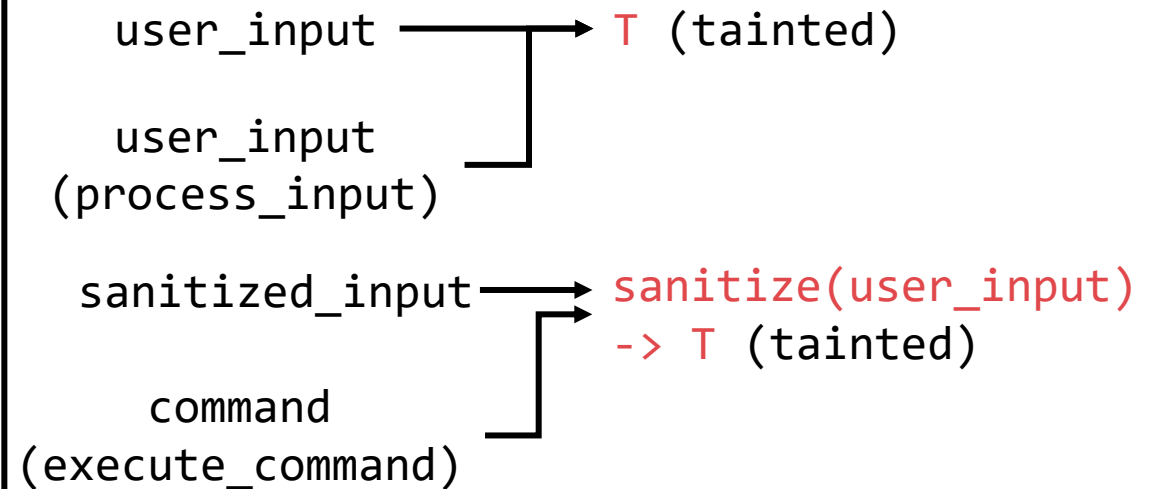
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13 user_input = input("Enter a command: ")
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```



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

```
1 import os
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10 def execute_command(command):
11     os.system(command)
12
13 user_input = input("Enter a command: ")
14 process_input(user_input)
```



**Command Injection!!**

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: taint analysis**

- For convenience, I explained it using the source code, but...
  - In actual dynamic taint analysis, memory and registers are used to track tainted values
  - E.g., if a **tainted** variable stored in memory is loaded and used to update the value of another variable, then the latter variable is also considered **tainted**
  - This is a rather deep topic, so I encourage you to understand taint analysis at the source code level!

# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: behavior analysis**

- A technique to observe and analyze the behavior of malicious code in real time to determine its characteristics and intent
- Using sandbox environment
  - An isolated execution environment for behavioral analysis
  - Protect the program being analyzed from affecting the actual system



# Defense strategies

- **Dynamic analysis: behavior analysis**

- Example steps

1. Prepare the environment: Set up an isolated environment for analysis
2. Program execution: Run the program being analyzed and observe its behavior
3. Data collection: A variety of data is collected in real time, including file system access, network activity, and process creation
4. Behavioral Analysis: Analyzes the behavior of a program based on collected data

# Next Lecture

- **Special lecture!**