

# Fuzz testing (“fuzzing”)

**Questões de Segurança em Engenharia de Software (QSES)**

Mestrado em Segurança Informática

Departamento de Ciência de Computadores

Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto

Eduardo R. B. Marques, [edrdo@dcc.fc.up.pt](mailto:edrdo@dcc.fc.up.pt)



# Fuzzing

## ■ What is fuzzing ?

- Testing software with invalid and possibly malicious data, usually generated in semi-automatic manner.

## ■ What is the goal of fuzzing?

- Evaluate program response to invalid input, rather than “common case” inputs used for plain functional testing.

## ■ Optimal response to invalid inputs:

- a graceful failure — in line with the “Fail Safely” design principle. Nothing “unintended” or “bad” happens!

## ■ Vulnerable responses to invalid input may include (possibly a combination of):

- program crashes, memory corruption (e.g. buffer overflows). failure to detect the error in input

# Fuzz testing

## ■ Deriving inputs — essential techniques

- **Randomisation:** generate random inputs, or introduce randomness during generation:
- **Mutation:** mutate given inputs according to some criteria
- **Grammar-based generation:** use a grammar to generate inputs
- Hybrid approaches combining these are common.

## ■ Fuzz-testing process

- **Black-box:** generate inputs and monitor execution result, blindly.
- **White-box:** guide input generation according to feedback from execution + information regarding program structure.

# Random input

```
$ head -c 15 /dev/urandom | xargs ping  
ping: cannot resolve ?c?D?\fN\016?=??;?: Unknown host
```

- No context of the software at stake or the type of input.
- Easy to implement, but will typically expose only shallow bugs

# Mutation-based input generation

- Start from valid inputs e.g. inputs for normal functional testing or concrete execution.
- Mutate them according to some strategy for instance:
  - Applying randomisation, e.g., random bit flips.
  - More generally, applying mutation rules
  - Mutation fragments may be domain-specific, e.g., contain shell-code, SQL injection, etc.
- Ability to expose bugs: dependent on starting inputs and mutation expressiveness for the context at stake.
- Example tools next:
  - radamsa
  - The ZAP fuzzer
  - zzuf

# Example tools — radamsa

```
$ echo 192.168.106.103 | radamsa --count 10 --seed 0
-107.167.106.103
192.168.8407971865571866.-9[?]5154737306362663942413194069
191.1A1.1A1.106.1
192.129.18.106.103
192.168.0.103
192.170141183460.106.1802311213346089.104
-3402823669209.106.168.106.16.103
192093846346337460765704.192.65704.-1.?-18446744073709518847
192.106.0
191.168.106.103
$ echo 192.168.106.103 | radamsa --count 1 --seed 0 | xargs ping
ping: invalid option -- 1
```

- [Radamsa](#): a mutation-based input generator
- Mutates given inputs, randomly applying pre-defined mutation rules and patterns.

# Example tools — radamsa (2)

```
$ ./radamsa --list
Mutations (-m)
...
bd: drop a byte
bf: flip one bit
bi: insert a random byte
...
sr: repeat a sequence of bytes
sd: delete a sequence of bytes
ld: delete a line
...
ls: swap two lines
...
num: try to modify a textual number
xp: try to parse XML and mutate it
...
Mutation patterns (-p)
od: Mutate once
nd: Mutate possibly many times
bu: Make several mutations closeby once
```

- Example mutations and mutation patterns (listed with `radamsa --list`)

# ZAP fuzzer

Select part of the input to “fuzz with”, in this case the “1” value that is part of the HTTP request header

```
GET
http://localhost:8081/vulnerabilities/sqli/?id=1&Submit=Submit HTTP/1.1
Proxy-Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_12_6)
AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/62.0.3202.97 Safari/537.36
```

Select “fuzz set” of replacements for the chosen input, in this case strings likely to trigger SQLi, if a vulnerability of this kind exists

Several test cases will be considered for execution, each replacing ‘1’ by potentially malicious input

Files:  Find Next Find Prev

- Active SQL Injection
- MS SQL Injection i
- MS SQL Ninja Injection (Blind)
- MySQL Injection (Blind)
- MySQL Injection 101
- MySQL/MS SQL Common Injection
- Oracle SQL Injection
- Passive SQL Injection
- SQL Injection
- URI Exploits
- User Agents

State	Payloads
☀ Reflected	' or '1'='1
☀ Reflected	' or '1'='1
☀ Reflected	' or '7659'='7659
☀ Reflected	' or '7659'='7659
☀ Reflected	' or 'a'='a
☀ Reflected	' or 1=1--
☀ Reflected	1;(load_file(char...
☀ Reflected	1' or '1'='1
☀ Reflected	1



# Example programs - zzuf

```
zzuf -r 0.02 -s 1:3 cat ./silly_program.c
```

```
J'a|cl}de <st?i?.h>
```

```
inu`main(int avgc, char*? argw) {  
    int l = 0;  
    whidE("fgfgets*buf,sizeof(Buf-, f) != NULL- {  
        pryntf(bt?;  
    } dclose(f);  
    retezn 0;J}
```

```
#include |stdio.h
```

```
i|t main(int aRfc, ch`r** argv) {  
    ahar buf[128];
```

- **zzuf** automates the fuzzing process by **transparently fuzzing read from files or from the network.**
  - Mutations are introduced randomly according to a specified bit fuzzing ratio.
  - The target program runs in batch mode for a specified number of trials / seeds.
  - It has been successful in [uncovering bugs in real-world programs.](#)

# Example programs - zzuf (2)

- In this case zzuf transparently mutates data from the network (use of the `-n` switch).

```
$ zzuf -r 0.02 -s 1 -n curl http://www.dcc.fc.up.pt/~edrdo/QSES1819/test_zzuf.html
% Total      % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time    Time       Time  Current
           Dload  Upload   Total     Spent    Left     Speed
100  328      0  328      0      0      60      0  --:--:--   0:00:05  --:--:--    0
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Wed, 13 Dec 2018 12:42:36 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)
X-Frame-Options: DENY
X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
Expires: Wed, 12 Dec 2007 05:40:54 GMT
Etag: "07-57bd?86197e5a"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 71
Content-Type: text/html
```

```
<html>?<body>
```

**“Fuzzed” execution**

```
ZZUF! |est(resource -- QSS 0018/2019
```

```
</body>
</html>
```

```
% Total      % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time    Time       Time  Current
           Dload  Upload   Total     Spent    Left     Speed
100  71  100  71      0      0      220      0  --:--:--  --:--:--  --:--:--  1145
```

```
<html>
<body>
```

```
ZZUF test resource -- QSES 2018/2019
```

```
</body>
</html>
```

**Normal execution**


# Grammar-based input generation

- Generate inputs using a grammar.
  - Grammar rules may express possible deviations.
  - Combination with mutation: alternatively, valid inputs may be generated using a grammar, and then mutated.
  - This approach can be more systematic, is potentially able to generate more relevant inputs, and account for complex combinations of input fragments.
- Example tool illustrated next: [blab](#)
  - A few others of the same kind: [ABNFuzzer](#) [gramfuzz](#)

# Example tools - blab

`ip_address.blab`

```
output = ip_address "\n"  
ip_address = octet "." octet "." octet "." octet  
octet = [0-9] | [1-9][0-9] | "1" [0-9][0-9] | "2" [0-4][0-9] | "25" [0-5]
```



```
$ blab ip_address.blab -n 10 -s 0  
4.4.4.104  
5.148.205.94  
0.237.230.95  
0.140.232.252  
178.81.250.6  
252.252.252.8  
135.159.123.250  
204.5.172.8  
177.188.21.213  
0.78.204.240
```

- **Blab**: a grammar-based black-box fuzzer
- Inputs generated according to grammar. In this example the grammar generates only valid IP addresses.

# Example tools - blab (2)

`fuzzed_ip_address.blab`

```
output = fuzzed_ip_address "\n"
fuzzed_ip_address = octet "." octet "." octet "." octet
octet = normal_octet | fuzzed_octet
normal_octet = [0-9] | [1-9][0-9] | "1" [0-9][0-9] | "2" [0-4][0-9] | "25" [0-5]
fuzzed_octet = [0-9]{3}
```



```
$ blab fuzzed_ip_address.blab -n 10 -s 0
40.4.40.40
143.696.528.100
137.013.61.242
7.433.5.522
113.277.743.145
123.6.119.235
740.810.87.801
221.077.43.319
079.737.507.518
947.479.245.947
```

- In this variation we allow the possibility of malformed IP IP addresses.

# Generate, then mutate

```
$ blab fuzzed_ip_address.blab -n 5 -s 0 | tee generated.txt  
40.4.40.40  
143.696.528.100  
137.013.61.242  
7.433.5.522  
113.277.743.145  
$ radamsa --count 1 --seed 22 generated.txt -p nd=10  
3321759348573678331568.4.40.40  
143.696.528.100  
1.013.61.0  
7.65535.9223372036854775803.522  
113.280.743.145
```

- Generation and mutation can be combined, e.g., blab + radamsa.

# Black-box fuzzing

- **Simplest approach — “black box” fuzzing**
  - Repeatedly feed the program with fuzzed inputs, without consideration for the program structure.
  - Observe program responses and assert that program fails gracefully / nothing “bad” happens (crashes, memory corruption etc).
- **Looking for bugs — possible strategies**
  - Instrument the program with runtime sanitizers to monitor abnormal program execution (undefined behavior, buffer overflows, etc)
  - Inspect exit codes (e.g. `SIGSEV = 139` — segmentation fault), program output, etc

# White-box fuzzing

## ■ Idea

- Monitor (instrumented) program state during execution and observe which changes to input cause new program states to be explored.
- The information is used to generate new inputs, trying to avoid inputs that repeat the same program paths.

## ■ The goal is to explore the state-space of the program as extensively as possible / increase code coverage.

- The execution is automatic, but can be time-consuming given that many executions of the program under test will be triggered.
- Tools can derive inputs randomly or (with better results) through mutations of a pre-defined set of inputs that are accepted by the program.

## ■ Example tools:

- [AFL](#), [libFuzzer](#), [SAGE](#)



# libFuzzer / AFL

## ■ libFuzzer, AFL

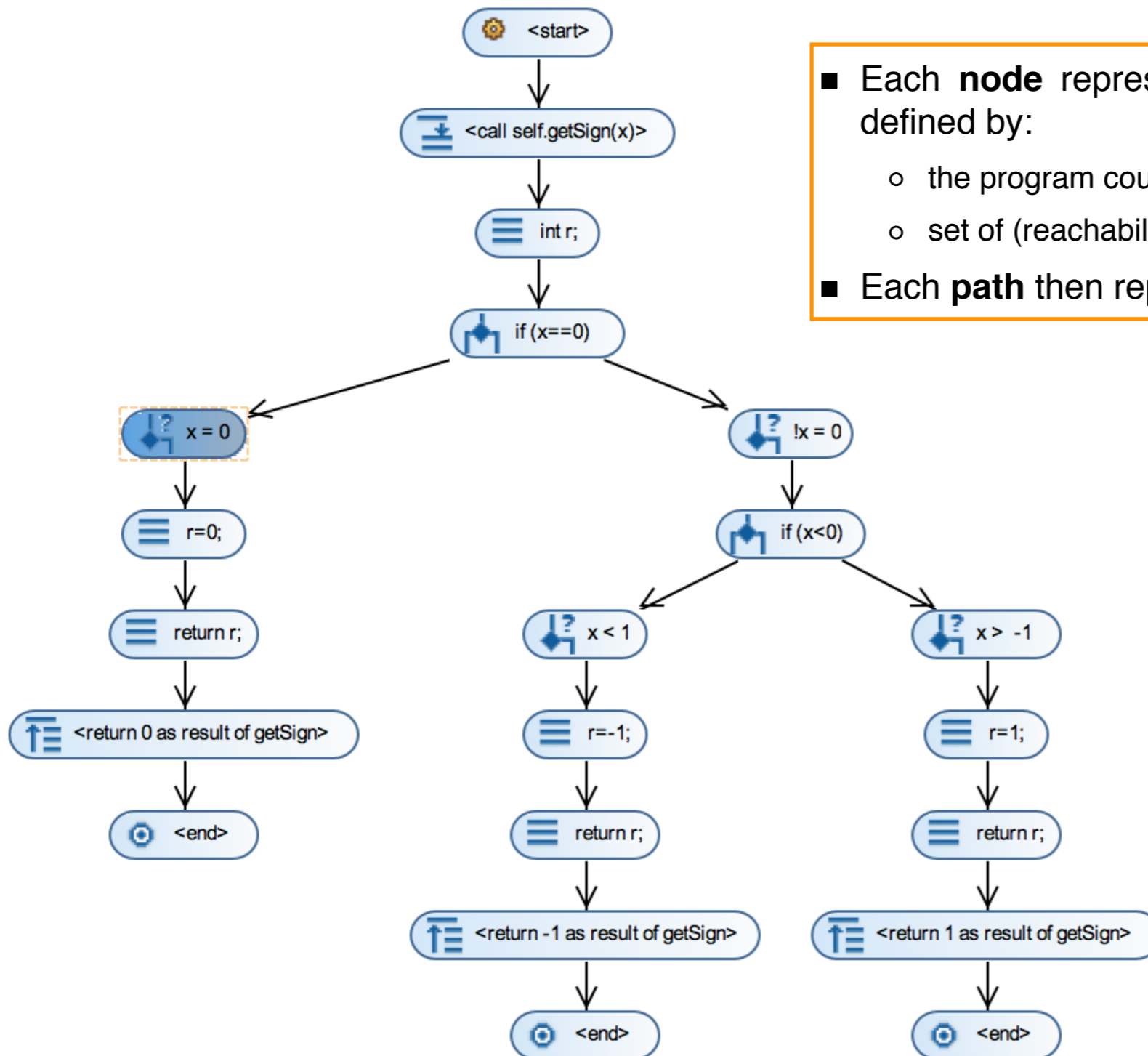
- The fuzzers employed by [Google's OSS-Fuzz project](#) (“continuous fuzzing of open source software”)
- Employ program instrumentation/monitoring coupled with input mutation techniques that are coverage-guided.
- The fuzzers are effective if supplied with a corpus of input samples that are representative of the program execution / likely to provide good coverage.



# SAGE & symbolic execution

- SAGE employs **symbolic execution**.
  - Interprets a program, treating inputs as symbolic with possible constraints — actual values need not be specified for input values.
  - When a branch condition is found that depends on symbolics input, follow each branch leading to a symbolic execution tree. User-specified assertions can be checked for all possible executions.
  - May potentially explore all possible states of a program, in most cases the state-explosion problem must be curbed through state-exploration strategies.
  - A few other tools of the genre: [Klee](#), [Triton](#), [S2E](#)

# Symbolic execution tree



- Each **node** represents a symbolic execution state and is defined by:
  - the program counter (PC)
  - set of (reachability) conditions over the symbolic inputs
- Each **path** then represents a possible execution

```
int getSign(int x) {  
    int r ;  
    if (x == 0)  
        r = 0;  
    else if (x < 0)  
        r = -1;  
    else  
        r = 1;  
    return r;  
}
```

[screenshot obtained using the [KeY Symbolic Execution Debugger](#)]