

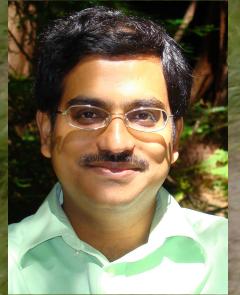
# FUZZING Challenges and Reflections

### Marcel Böhme

ARC DECRA Fellow Senior Lecturer (A/Prof) Monash University



### Organizers



Abhik Roychoudhury



Cristian Cadar

Marcel Böhme

**2019 Shonan Meeting on Fuzzing and Symbolic Execution: Reflections, Challenges, and Opportunities** 

### **Keynote Speakers**

Patrice Godegroid @Microsoft

Kostya Serebryany @Google



EXECUTION SYMBOLIC FUZZING and MIOS GLIGORIC 24-27.2019 SEPTEMBER Abliltran Cristian Cadar Northir Yoshida Reter Goodman Darko Marinov Darko 00 Michael Pradel Filip Nikšić 4 dras 2000 Morrel Döhme Potrice Godephoid Alessandra Gorea 22 Willon Visser Sergey Nechtaev Brandon Dalar - Smith Mous how me Yne Jia driang Grav Jartraz Khurshin Antonis Bertolino Martin Kongyn 2/2 David Trabisk Streeping Coroline Jemienx M. Chaston's



Caroline Lemieux

### VE WEETS bringing discussions to the larger community

### 다 You Retweeted



Brandon Falk @gamozolabs · Sep 24, 2019 routinely finds bugs.

### Marcel Böhme @mboehme\_ · Sep 24, 2019

bugs, e.g. github.com/google/fuzzer-..." Show this thread

Q 3

1] 14

### Show this thread

### 다 You Retweeted



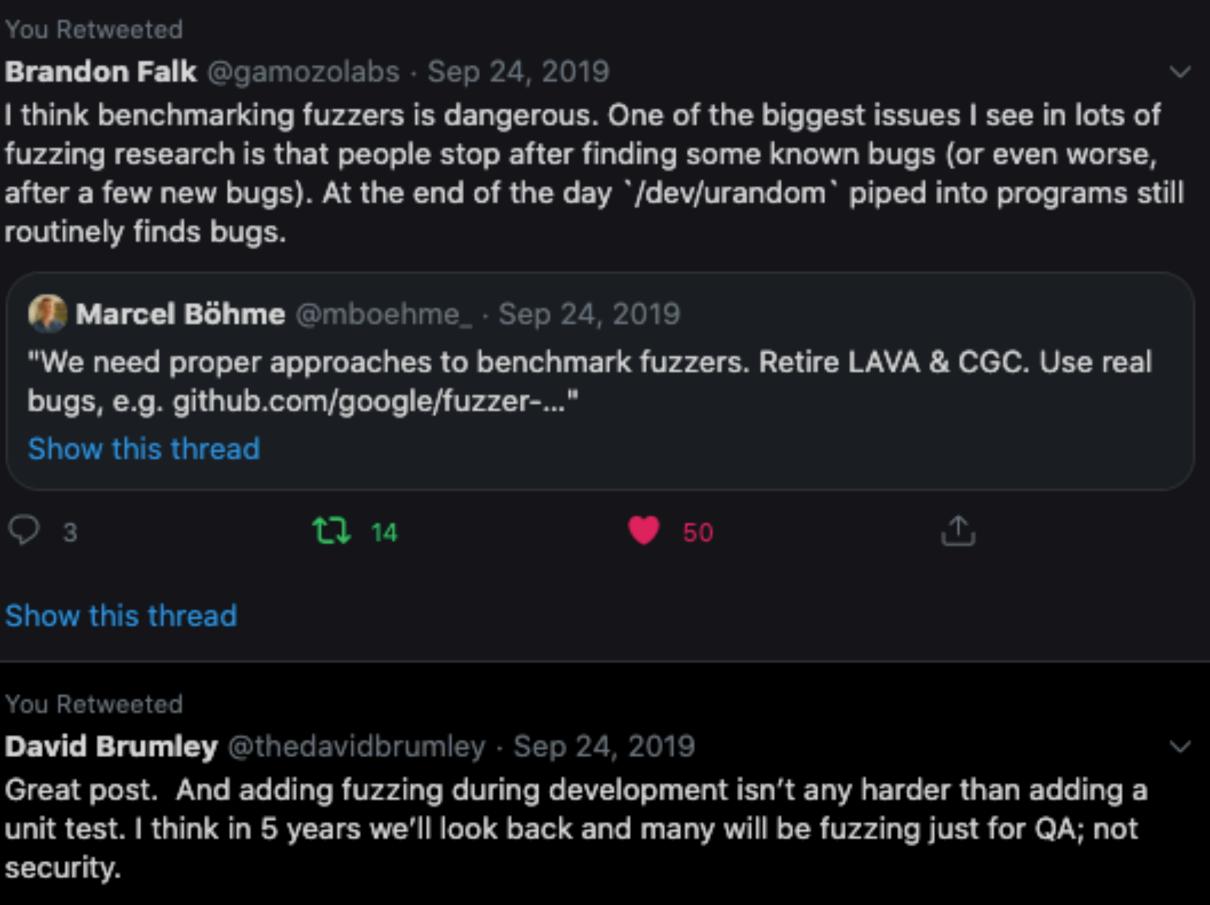
David Brumley @thedavidbrumley · Sep 24, 2019

security.

### Marcel Böhme @mboehme\_ · Sep 24, 2019

Kostya's keynote: LibFuzzer hasn't found new bugs in <big software companie>'s library. We didn't know why. Later we got a note that they are now using LibFuzzer during regression testing in CI and that it prevented 3 vulns from reaching to production.

Show this thread



## Survey validating our findings with the larger community

### Section 1 of 5

### Fuzzing: Challenges and Reflections

Fuzzing is an emerging research field. We are currently writing up a short paper, with some directions on important topics in fuzzing. We are now organizing a survey to collect the diverse opinions of various researchers in the field. Please find the draft at https://www.dropbox.com/s/oljac6pt1uuueai/FuzzingChallenges.pdf?dl=0 (6 pages). The paper is a result of a recent Shonan meeting on "Fuzzing and Symbolic Execution: Reflection Challenges and Opportunities" (https://shonan.nii.ac.jp/seminars/160/).

:

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It takes about 10 minutes to fill this questionnaire. There are three very short and two longer sections.

Among these high-level challenges, choose 3 that you find most important to be addressed going forward?

Fuzzing Theory (Fundamental limitations of different approaches to fuzzing)

Security Auditor in the Loop (Usability, interactive fuzzing w/ human-in-the-loop)

Automation (Improving scalability, efficiency, effectiveness, deep bugs)

Fair evaluation of specialized fuzzers (Level playing field)

Valid measures of effectiveness/efficiency (coverage, synthetic bugs, known bugs, time budget)?

How do we evaluate techniques instead of tools?

### **Reflections** we are all stakeholders of secure open-source.

The Internet and the world's Digital Economy runs on a shared, critical OSS infrastructure that no one is accountable for.

### **Reflections** we are all stakeholders of secure open-source.

\$ git clone <u>https://github.com/google/oss-fuzz</u> \$ ls -1 oss-fuzz/projects | wc -l 356

- Encryption/Decryption
- Compression
- Streaming
- Parser libraries
- Databases
- **Compilers/Interpreter**
- **Protocol implementations**
- **Server implementations**
- **Operating systems**

(openssl, gnutls, cryptlib, mbed, wolfssl) (bzip2, brotli, gzip, lzma, xz, lz4, libarchive) (ffmpeg, gstreamer, libvlc) (xml, json, jpg, png, gif, avi, mpg, pcre) (mysql, redis, postgre, derby, sqlite) (gcc, llvm [clang,..], php, javascript) (http/http2, ftp, smtp, ssh, tls/ssl, rtsp) (httpd, nginx, node.js, tomcat, lighthttpd) (ubuntu, debian, android, glibc)

# The Internet and the world's Digital Economy runs on a shared, critical OSS infrastructure that no one is accountable for.

### Reflections fuzzing is having substantial impact!



https://www.darpa.mil/program/cyber-grand-challenge



• There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.

### Reflections

what enabled this recent surge of interest?

- There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
  - 1. The worldwide information security market is forecast to reach \$170.4 billion in 2022. (Gartner)
  - 2. 62% of businesses experienced phishing and social engineering attacks in 2018. (Cybint Solutions)
  - 3. 68% of business leaders feel their cybersecurity risks are increasing. (Accenture)
  - 4. Only 5% of companies' folders are properly protected, on average. (Varonis)
  - 7. 52% of breaches featured hacking, 28% involved malware and 32–33% included phishing or social engineering, respectively. (Verizon)
  - 19. The average cost of a data breach is \$3.92 million as of 2019. (Security Intelligence)

From https://www.varonis.com/blog/cybersecurity-statistics/



### Reflections

what enabled this recent surge of interest?

• There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.

Google has paid security researchers over \$21 million for bug bounties, \$6.5 million in 2019 alone

Emil Protalinski @EPro

January 28, 2020 12:50 PM

Security

VentureBeat.com

2.0

2015

### Facebook Paid \$2.2 Million in Bug Bounty Rewards in 2019

By Ionut Arghire on February 10, 2020

SecurityWeek.com



• There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.

### **Mozilla Security Blog**

Firefox has one of the oldest security bug bounties on the internet, dating back to 2004. From 2017-2019, we paid out \$965,750 to researchers across 348 bugs, making the average payout \$2,775 - but as you can see in the graph below, our most common payout was actually \$4,000!

Tom Ritter April 23, 2020

- There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
- We now have the **incentives** and the required mindset.

- There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
- We now have the **incentives** and the required mindset.

### HACKERS EARN RECORD-BREAKING \$100 MILLION ON HACKERONE May 27, 2020

https://www.hackerone.com/press-release

- 214%: Year-over-year hacker-powered security growth in the federal government
- 85.6%: The year over year growth in total bounty payments, with 17.5% increase since February when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic.
- **343%**: The increase in signups over the past year on Hacker101 HackerOne's free online classes for ٠ aspiring hackers.
- Over 170,000: The number of vulnerabilities hackers have uncovered in nearly 2,000 customer programs

- There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
- We now have the **incentives** and the required mindset.
- We now have the **tools** for automatic vulnerability discovery.

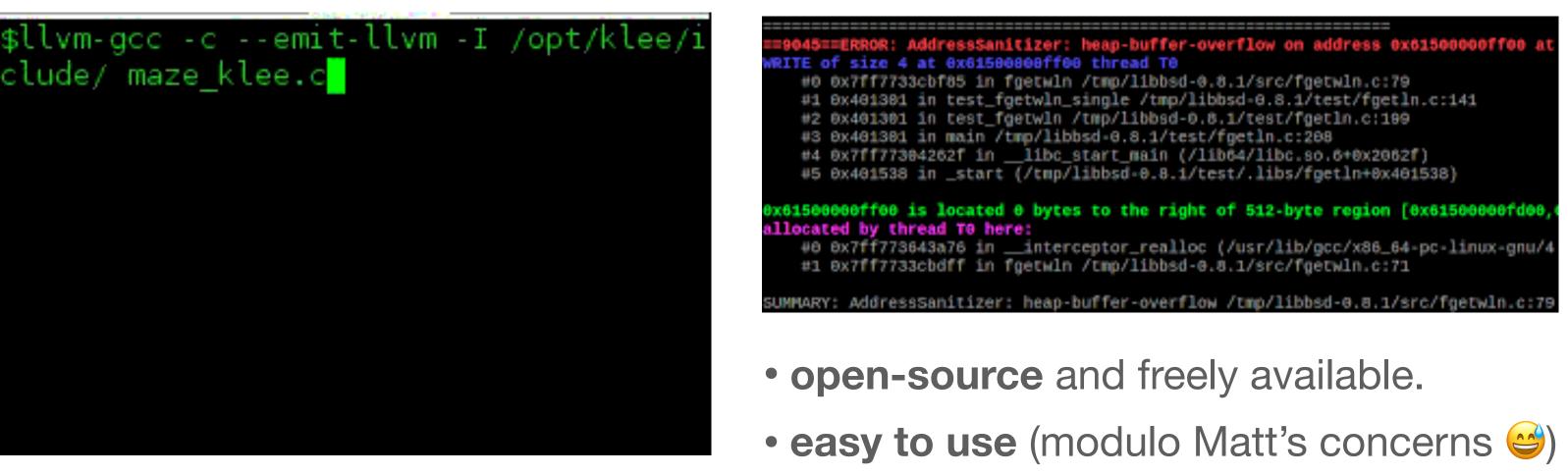
### Reflections

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what enabled this recent surge of interest?

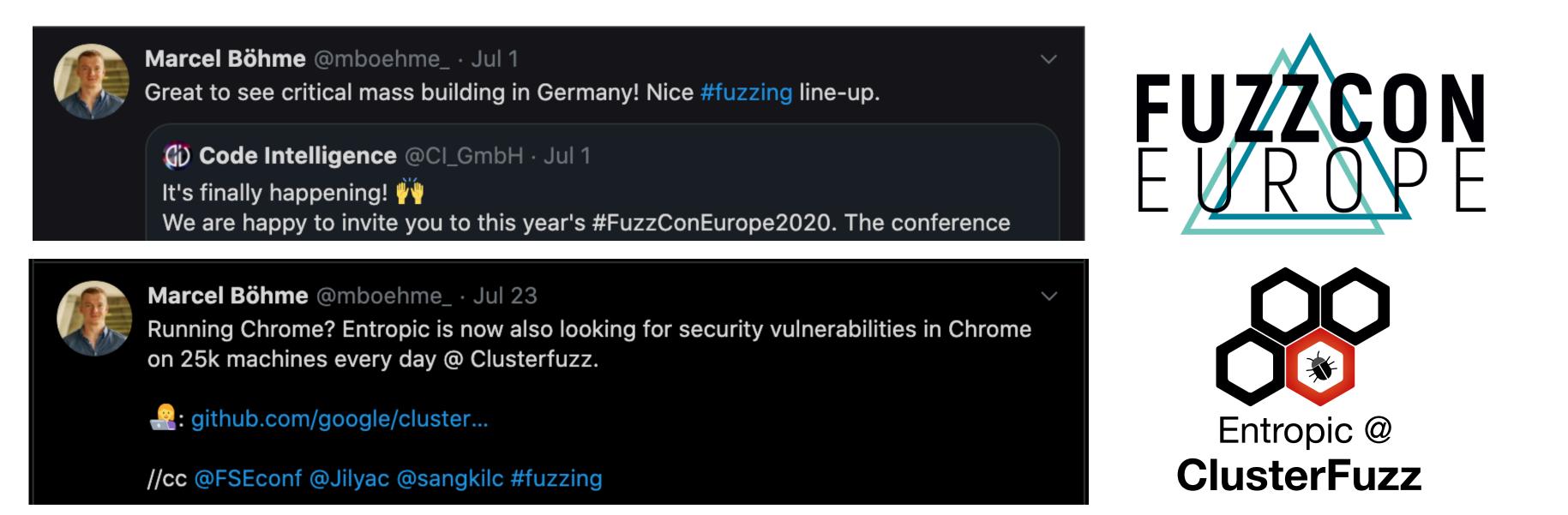


• very successful in finding bugs!

- There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
- We now have the **incentives** and the required mindset.
- We now have the **tools** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
- Meaningful engagement between industry and academia (via open-science) leading to rapid advances in fuzzing!

## Reflections

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what enabled this recent surge of interest?

Community building

> Industry adoption





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### https://github.com/AFLplusplus

### About

MOpt mutators, InsTrim instrumentation, unicorn\_mode, Redqueen and a lot more!

- The fuzzer afl++ is afl with community
- patches, AFLfast power schedules,
- qemu 3.1 upgrade + laf-intel support,

Industry adoption



## Reflections

- There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
- We now have the **incentives** and the required mindset.
- We now have the **tools** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
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Abhishek Arya Dinfernosec

🥑 @infernosec

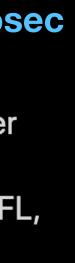
After a decade of fuzzing, we just launched FuzzBench, a fuzzer benchmarking platform to bridge the gap between academic fuzzing research and industry fuzzing engines (e.g libFuzzer, AFL, Honggfuzz).



**Brandon Falk** 

Gonna start a new series on my Twitch (twitch.tv/gamozo) called "Paper Review". Tonight (undetermined stream time) we're gonna look through the "Building Fast Fuzzers" paper, which is the "worlds fastest grammar fuzzer" arxiv.org/pdf/1911.07707...

what enabled this recent surge of interest?





**FuzzBench** (compute resources and infrastructure for fuzzer benchmarking)



### **Paper Reviews** et al. (twitch.tv/gamozo)



Disclaimer: We put forward only questions. We have no answers (only ideas).

• Automating vulnerability discovery. Considered most important challenge.

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
  - [C.1] How can we fuzz more types of software systems?



- Automating vulnerability discovery.
  - [C.1] How can we fuzz more types of software systems?

We know how to fuzz command line tools (e.g., AFL).

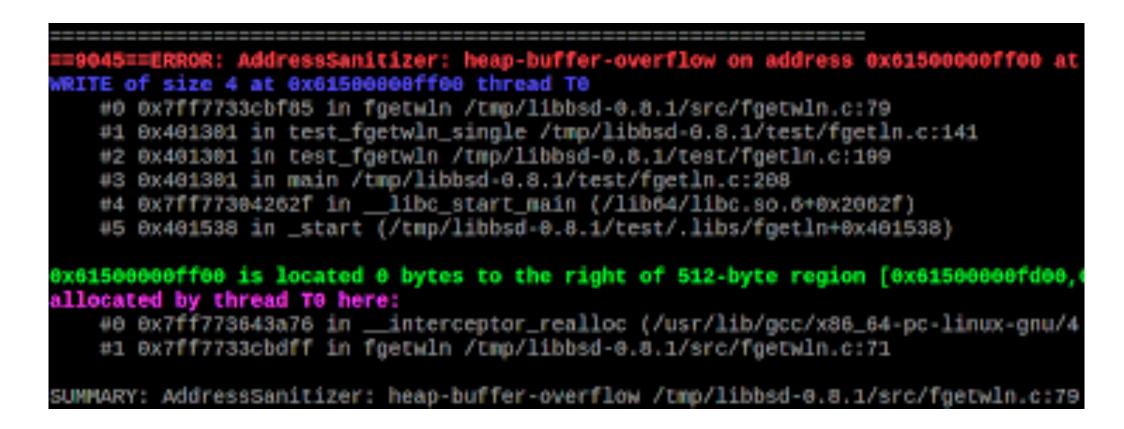
What about cyber physical systems, machine learning systems, stateful software, polyglot software, GUI-based software, ..?



```
We know how to fuzz individual units / functions (e.g., libfuzzer).
```

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
  - [C.1] How can we fuzz more types of software systems?
  - [C.2] How can the fuzzer identify more types of vulnerabilities?

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
  - [C.1] How can we fuzz more types of software systems?
  - [C.2] How can the fuzzer identify more types of vulnerabilities?
    - How to detect various side-channels (incl. information leaks)?
    - How to detect domain-specific vulns. (incl. sandbox escapes, kernel exploits)?
    - How to detect language-specific vulns?
    - How to detect other causes of arbitrary / remote code execution?



### mory corruption bugs (ASAN, TSAN).

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
  - [C.1] How can we fuzz more types of software systems? ullet
  - [C.2] How can the fuzzer identify more types of vulnerabilities?
  - [C.3] How can we find "deep bugs" that have evaded detection? ullet



Cornelius Aschermann (Security Researcher, Facebook), Sergej Schumilo (Security Researcher, Ruhr-University Bochum)

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
  - [C.1] How can we fuzz more types of software systems?
  - [C.2] How can the fuzzer identify more types of vulnerabilities?
  - [C.3] How can we find "deep bugs" that have evaded detection?
    - How to mine dictionaries, grammars, and protocols?
    - How to identify input dependencies (e.g. checksums)?
    - How identify and rectify fuzzer roadblocks?



Cornelius Aschermann (Security Researcher, Facebook), Sergej Schumilo (Security Researcher, Ruhr-University Bochum)

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
  - [C.1] How can we fuzz more types of software systems?
  - [C.2] How can the fuzzer identify more types of vulnerabilities?
  - [C.3] How can we find "deep bugs" that have evaded detection?
  - [C.4] What is the empirical nature of undiscovered vulnerabilities?



https://github.com/gamozolabs/cookie\_dough

- Which types of vulnerabilities are difficult to discover by fuzzing and why?
- What are fuzzer roadblocks?



- Automating vulnerability discovery.
- The human component in fuzzing.
  - [C.5] **HITL**: How can fuzzers leverage the ingenuity of the auditor?

### We need the auditor-in-the-loop.



Taming Fuzzers

Andreas Zeller (Professor, CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security)

### Fuzzing Suricata: Finding Vulnerabilities in Large Projects

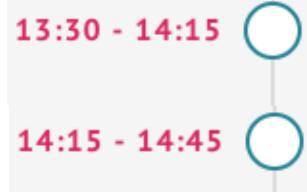
Sirko Höer (Vulnerability Expert, German Federal Office for Information Security)

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
- The human component in fuzzing.
  - [C.5] **HITL**: How can fuzzers leverage the ingenuity of the auditor?



@NedWilliamson **Project Zero** 

- 1. Write a good fuzzer harness
- 2. Identify fuzzer roadblocks (via code coverage).
- 3. Patch out roadblocks.
- 4. Goto 2 until vulnerability is found.
- 5. Patch back roadblocks, "repair" reproducer.



### Taming Fuzzers

Andreas Zeller (Professor, CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security)

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- Automating vulnerability discovery.
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  - [C.5] **HITL**: How can fuzzers leverage the ingenuity of the auditor?
  - [C.6] **Usability**: How can we improve the usability of fuzzing tools?



- Automating vulnerability discovery.
- The human component in fuzzing.
  - [C.5] **HITL**: How can fuzzers leverage the ingenuity of the auditor?
  - [C.6] **Usability**: How can we improve the usability of fuzzing tools? We need Fuzzing in IDEs (JUnit-like Fuzzing)



# Fuzzing in Continuous Integration / Deployment Fuzzing in processes (Fuzz-driven Development)

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
- The human component in fuzzing.
  - [C.5] **HITL**: How can fuzzers leverage the ingenuity of the auditor?
  - [C.6] **Usability**: How can we improve the usability of fuzzing tools?



David Brumley @thedavidbrumley · Sep 24, 2019 Great post. And adding fuzzing during development isn't any harder than adding a unit test. I think in 5 years we'll look back and many will be fuzzing just for QA; not security.

🅼 Marcel Böhme @mboehme\_ · Sep 24, 2019

Kostya's keynote: LibFuzzer hasn't found new bugs in <big software companie>'s library. We didn't know why. Later we got a note that they are now using LibFuzzer during regression testing in CI and that it prevented 3 vulns from reaching to production.

16:30 - 17:00

CI Fuzz - Continuous Fuzzing of Network Services Khaled Yakdan (Chief Scientist, Code Intelligence)

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
- The human component in fuzzing.
- Fuzzing theory and scientific foundations. **Considered second most important challenge.**

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
- The human component in fuzzing.
- Fuzzing theory and scientific foundations.

  - [C.8] What are **fundamental limitations** of each approach?

How much more efficient is an attacker that has an order of magnitude more computational resources?

When to stop fuzzing? How to deal with adaptive bias?

• [C.7] How can we assess residual security risk if the fuzzing campaign was unsuccessful?

We need foundations.

## **Evaluation and Benchmarking**

Which fuzzer finds a larger number of important bugs within a reasonable time in software that we care about?



• What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?

- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
  - [C.9] How can we evaluate specialised fuzzers?
    - Works only in a specific program domain Command line, parser libraries, network protocols, GUIs, browsers, compilers, kernels, Android apps)
    - Focusses on a specific use case CI/CD [directed fuzzers], specific classes of bugs [UAF, concurrency, deserialization attacks]
    - Suggestion was:
      - Make available special benchmark categories for specialised fuzzers (as in Test-Comp).



- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
  - [C.9] How can we evaluate specialised fuzzers?
  - [C.10] How can we prevent overfitting to a specific benchmark?



**Goodhart's Law** "When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure." -

- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
  - [C.9] How can we evaluate specialised fuzzers?
  - [C.10] How can we prevent overfitting to a specific benchmark?
    - Suggestions were:
      - 1. Submit and peer-review benchmarks in addition to fuzzers (Test-Comp).
      - 2. Regularly evaluate on **new and unseen benchmarks** (RodeODay).
      - 3. Continuous evaluation on a large and growing set of diverse, real-world benchmarks (FuzzBench).

**Goodhart's Law** "When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure." -

- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
- What is a good measure of fuzzer performance? **Considered third most important challenge.**



- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
- What is a good measure of fuzzer performance?
  - [C.11] Are synthetic bugs representative?
    - Fuzzer developers can synthesize a large number of benchmark subjects for their special use case, or domain.



- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
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    - Fuzzer developers can synthesize a large number of benchmark subjects for their special use case, or domain.



Brendan Dolan-Gavitt @moyix · Sep 24, 2019

"Time to retire LAVA & CGC, they are actively harmful" – I think at this point I agree about LAVA-M (too small and unrealistic), but I still have hope that improved techniques for bug injection (and newer synthetic datasets) can be useful for evaluations

### "Time to retire Lava & CGC, they are actively harmful" **KCC** @ Shonan



### Brandon Falk @gamozolabs · Sep 6

Of course I'm always biased. But I really like the direction I started down of generating programs. It'll take a lot of work to make them "realistic" but being able to generate a program with many parameters allows us to see how things perform on slightly different programs.

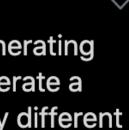
### Brandon Falk @gamozolabs · Sep 6

I'm very comfortable with nuance and recognizing there is signal, although the signal is not realistic in programs. But I'm still interested in it as I'm sure some real bugs would be found. These random programs found an RNG bug in honggfuzz where it wouldn't generate past 64k

"I really like the direction [..] of generating programs. [..] These random programs found an RNG bug in honggfuzz." **Brandon Falk @ Twitter** 







- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
- What is a good measure of fuzzer performance?
  - [C.11] Are synthetic bugs representative?
  - [C.12] Are real bugs representative?
    - Is your set of real bugs large enough to be representative?



A ground-truth binary fuzzing benchmark suite based on real programs with real bugs.



Magma has 114 CVEs + 4 bugs in 7 open-source C programs.

- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
- What is a good measure of fuzzer performance?
  - [C.11] Are synthetic bugs representative?
  - [C.12] Are real bugs representative?
    - Is your set of real bugs large enough to be representative?
    - Are discovered bugs representative of undiscovered bugs?



- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
- What is a good measure of fuzzer performance?
  - [C.11] Are synthetic bugs representative?
  - [C.12] Are real bugs representative?
  - [C.13] Is code coverage a good measure of fuzzer effectiveness?
    - Measuring coverage achieved is cheaper than measuring the number of bugs found.
    - Coverage feedback is the classic measure of progress in greybox fuzzing.
    - If small correlation, how are bugs/vulnerabilities distributed over the code?

### We need more empirical studies.





- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
- What is a good measure of fuzzer performance?
  - [C.11] Are synthetic bugs representative?
  - [C.12] Are real bugs representative?
  - [C.13] Is code coverage a good measure of fuzzer effectiveness? • [C.14] What is a fair choice of time budget?

### We need more empirical studies.

- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
- What is a good measure of fuzzer performance?
- How do we evaluate techniques, not implementations?



Marcel Böhme @mboehme\_

### LibFuzzer, AFL++, and HonggFuzz went through major performance improvements -- enabled by FuzzBench.

I'm interested in which strategies work, not which tools.

We are interested in both! FuzzBench is used by fuzzer developers to find the best strategies all the time, e.g., libFuzzer devs noticed AFL did better on one benchmark and thought its handling of seeds might be responsible. So they added a patched version of libFuzzer implementing this strategy to see if libFuzzer benefits from this strategy. AFL++ devs continuously experiment and A/B test different strategies (configs). Honggfuzz went through a series of major improvements due to such FuzzBench experiments. These developments often happen by focusing on an individual benchmark first, evaluating a single change, similarly to your workflow described in the beginning of your post. One thing that FuzzBench enables is evaluating whether that change or strategy generalizes (and didn't just happen to work for a single target). We can tell this by running the experiment on a wide, diverse set of benchmarks, with many trials, so proper statistical analysis and conclusions can be made.

10:34 PM · Sep 5, 2020 · Twitter Web App



The Hacker's Choice @hackerschoice · 3h Replying to @mboehme\_

Without fuzzbench, afl++ would not be where it is now. Or will be. @metzmanj @infernosec

### **FuzzBench**

 $\sim$ 

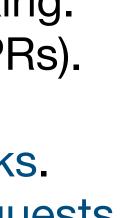
- Continuous benchmarking.
- Open-source (Submit PRs).
- Submit your fuzzer. lacksquare
- Submit your benchmarks. •
- Submit your feature requests. •
- Free Compute !!!

Rode0day

A continuous bug finding competition



Test-Comp **Tool Competition** 



- How do we address this at scale?
  - **Open-source, open-science, open discourse**  $\bullet$ 
    - has fostered a meaningful engagement between industry and academia, ullet
    - has fostered tremendous recent advances
      - in symbolic execution-based whitebox fuzzing, and lacksquare
      - in coverage-guided greybox fuzzing.



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- How do we address this at scale?
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  - Educate developers and students on fuzzing.



- How do we address this at scale?
  - **Open-source, open-science, open discourse.**
  - Educate developers and students on fuzzing.
    - Develop educational content, such as tutorials and textbooks.
    - Integrate software security courses into university curriculum.

### Welcome to pwn.college!

pwn.college is a first-stage education platform for students (and other interested parties) to learn about, and practice, core cybersecurity concepts in a hands-on fashion. It is designed to take a "white belt" in cybersecurity to becoming a "yellow belt", able to approach (simple) CTFs and wargames. The philosophy of pwn.college is "practice makes perfect".

pwn.college: MOOC-style ASU Computer Systems Security / CTF course



The Internet and the world's Digital Economy runs on a shared, critical OSS infrastructure that no one is accountable for.

### An ethical hacker about https://fuzzingbook.com



### 1 You Retweeted

Brandon Falk @gamozolabs · May 15

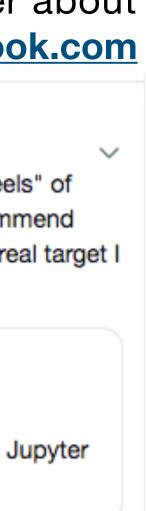
This looks to be one of the most accurate writings I've seen on the "feels" of fuzzing. This is actually what it "feels" like to fuzz things. I highly recommend anyone reads this. The graphs are extremely accurate to nearly every real target I have ever fuzzed.

### Marcel Böhme @mboehme\_

Replying to @NotRedacted @moyix and 2 others

If you want to play with the statistics for fuzzing, here is a tutorial as Jupyter notebook: fuzzingbook.org/html/WhenToSto...





- How do we address this at scale?
  - **Open-source**, **open-science**, **open discourse**.
  - **Educate** developers and students on fuzzing.  $\bullet$
  - Get organised and support others.  $\bullet$ 
    - As organization, take matters into your hands.
      - Adopt fuzzing (e.g., in continuous integration). lacksquare
      - Make your **tools available** as open-source.
      - Establish competitive **bug bounty programs**.
      - Join cross-organisational security efforts. (Open Source Security Foundation; <u>https://openssf.org/</u>)







- How do we address this at scale?
  - **Open-source, open-science, open discourse.**  $\bullet$
  - **Educate** developers and students on fuzzing.
  - Get organised and support others.
    - As organization, take matters into your hands.
    - As individual, take matters into your hands.
      - Join the fuzzing community
        - Submit PRs to Klee, AFL++, LLVM LibFuzzer, OSS-Fuzz,...
        - Make your tools available as open-source.
      - **Organize and support** hackathons, capture-the-flags, hacking clubs, ethical hackers.
      - Support an open-source project (e.g., add it to OSSFuzz or fund it on hackerone.com).

The Internet and the world's Digital Economy runs on a shared, critical OSS infrastructure that no one is accountable for.



(a)



2019 Cyber Security Challenge Australia (CySCA)





### Reflections

- What enabled this recent surge of interest?
- There is a tremendous **need** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
- We now have the **incentives** and the required mindset.
- We now have the **tools** for automatic vulnerability discovery.
- Meaningful engagement between industry and academia (via open-science) leading to rapid advances in fuzzing!

### **Evaluation and Benchmarking**

Which fuzzer finds a larger number of important bugs within a reasonable time in software that we care about?

- What makes a fair fuzzer benchmark?
- What is a **good measure** of **fuzzer performance**?
- How do we evaluate **techniques**, **not implementations**?

### Challenges

- Automating vulnerability discovery.
- The human component in fuzzing.
- Fuzzing theory and scientific foundations.

### **Opportunities**

- How do we address this **at scale**?
  - Open-source, open-science, open discourse.
  - Educate developers and students on fuzzing.
  - Get organised and support others.

