

Standards in reporting Software Flaws: **SCAP**, CVE and CWE (Part 2)

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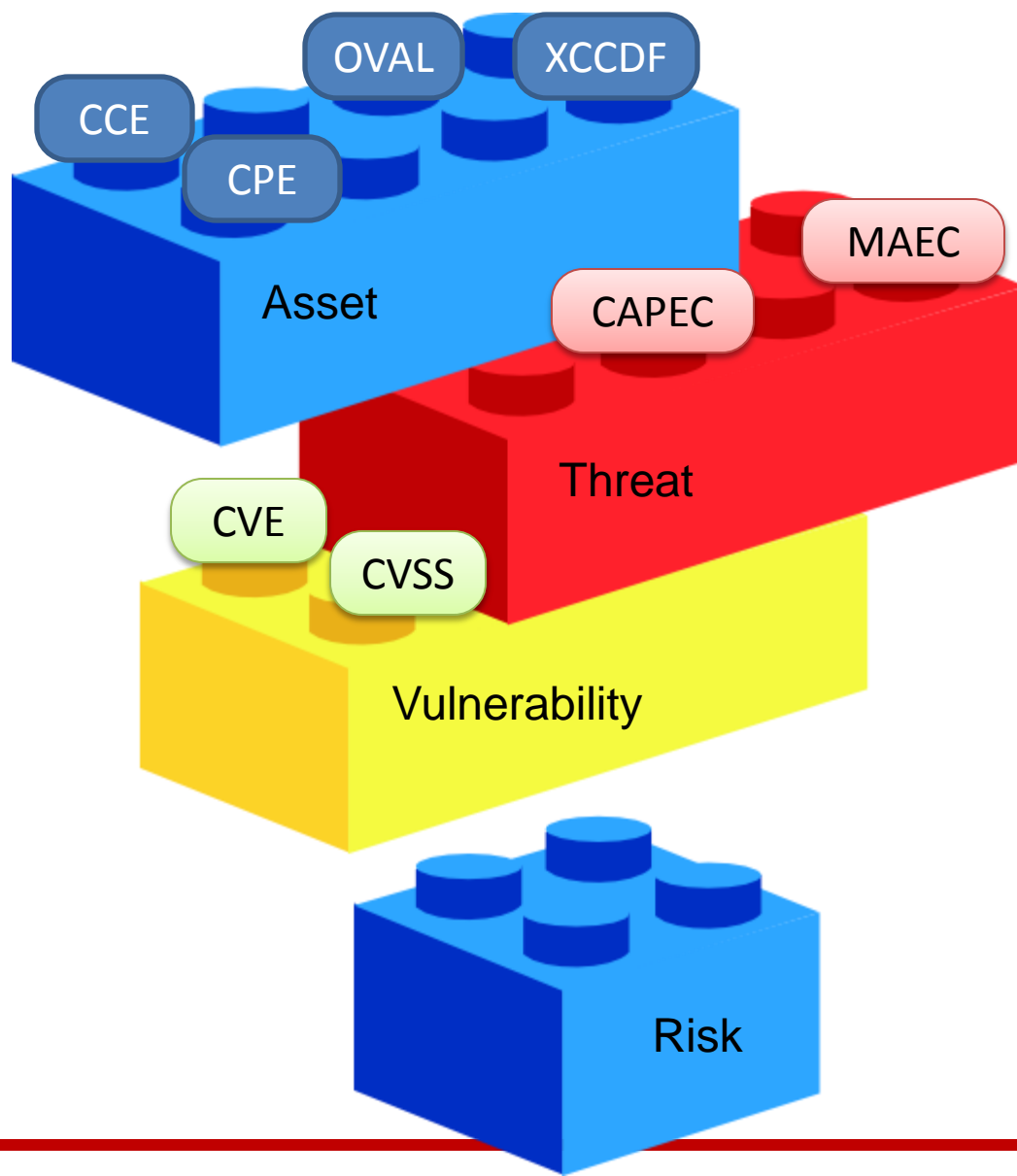
Who am I ?

- **Job**
 - Assistant Professor of Information Assurance at IS&T since Fall 2008
- **Research highlights**
 - Regulatory Requirements driven Risk Assessment
 - Using the semantic web to bridge the gap from high-level regulations to low-level technical evidence (Domain: SCADA)
 - Software Assurance in the Development Lifecycle
 - Building semantic templates for the most egregious software flaws
 - Cyber attack modeling and forecasting (CyCast)
 - Exploring disturbances in the human network to predict cyber attacks
- **Teaching**
 - Software Assurance (seniors/grad) **New !**
 - Foundations of Information Assurance (seniors/grad)
 - Introduction to Information Assurance (Freshmen) **New !**
 - Introduction to Computer Science II (Freshmen/Sophomore)

A two part talk (Recap Part 1)

- SCAP
 - What is it?
 - What does it do?
 - What will it take to realize its potential?
 - What do I need to do to start preparing for it?
- How can we better understand vulnerabilities
 - Research on semantic templates built from CWE and CVE enumerations

SCAP Philosophy (Recap Part 1)



Different Roles and Responsibilities

- **Information Assurance** professionals tend to focus on the protection of systems that they may NOT have built
 - Extrinsic and deployed view of the system
 - SCAP is geared towards improving the efforts of IA professionals (Vulnerability Assessment/ Hardening)
- **Software Assurance** professionals tend to focus on the development of software systems with security BUILT-IN
 - Intrinsic and functional view of the system
 - Weakness, attack and secure coding enumerations are geared towards improving the efforts of developers

Why Jonny Can't write secure code?

- *Johnny, avoid these weaknesses.... Period!*
 - Common Weaknesses Enumeration (CWE)
- *Johnny...learn from your mistakes*
 - Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE)
- *Johnny...these are the ways of the bad guys*
 - Common Attack Patterns Enumeration and Classification (CAPEC)
- *Johnny...these are ways to develop secure code*
 - CERT secure coding guidelines

Poor Johnny !

42976
CVE Vulnerabilities

CWE v.19
668 Weaknesses
1043 Pages

Countless Do's
and Don'ts

CAPEC
311 Attack
Patterns

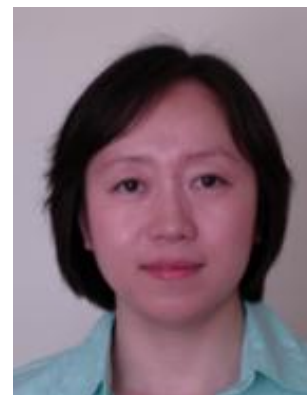
Using Semantic Templates to Study Vulnerabilities Recorded in Large Software Repositories



Me



Harvey Siy



Yan Wu

Outline

- Information overload in the study of vulnerabilities
 - Large software repositories
 - Vulnerability databases
 - Weakness enumerations
- Our research efforts:
 - Building **semantic templates** to understand and categorize the information related to a vulnerability
- Ongoing progress
- Future work

Large Software Repositories

- Source code version control systems (CVS, SVN)
 - Support distributed development
 - Versioning, Merging and Backup functions
 - Huge!
- Log of changes
 - Brief descriptions of the change performed
 - who, when, what, why
- IDEs, Bug tracker databases (reporters, resolvers, discussions), Public websites
- Mailing list threads related to the changes
 - Stakeholders: Developers, Organizations

Vulnerability Databases

- Several databases available
 - IBM X-force
 - CERIAs
 - CERT
 - DARPA CIDF
 - BindView Hacker Shield
 - Many others...
- Common Vulnerability Enumeration (CVE)
 - 42976 Vulnerabilities as of 2010-07-21 09:22 CST

Learning from our mistakes

- The Landwehr Software Flaw Taxonomy (1993)
 - Genesis (How), Time of introduction (When), Location (Where)
- Several recent efforts have followed
 - Seven Pernicious Kingdoms, PLOVER, 19 Deadly Sins, OWASP top ten...
- The Common Weaknesses Enumeration (CWE) has tried to assimilate these efforts and bring consensus (<http://cwe.mitre.org>)

Building CWE & Consensus

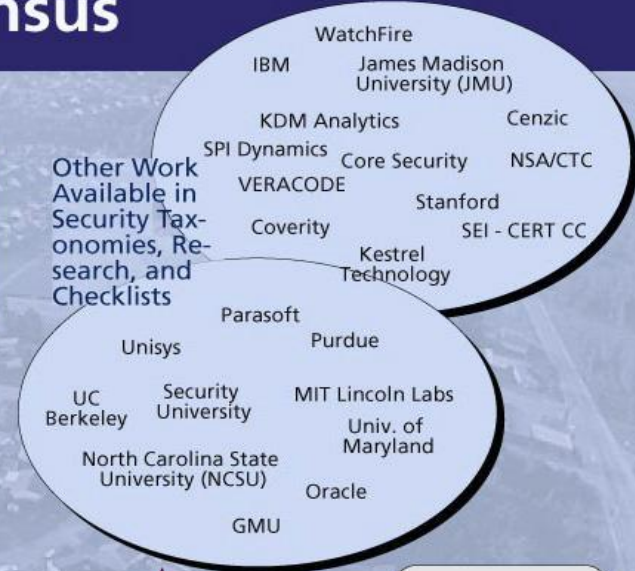
Publicly Available: Security Taxonomies, Research, and Checklists



Preliminary



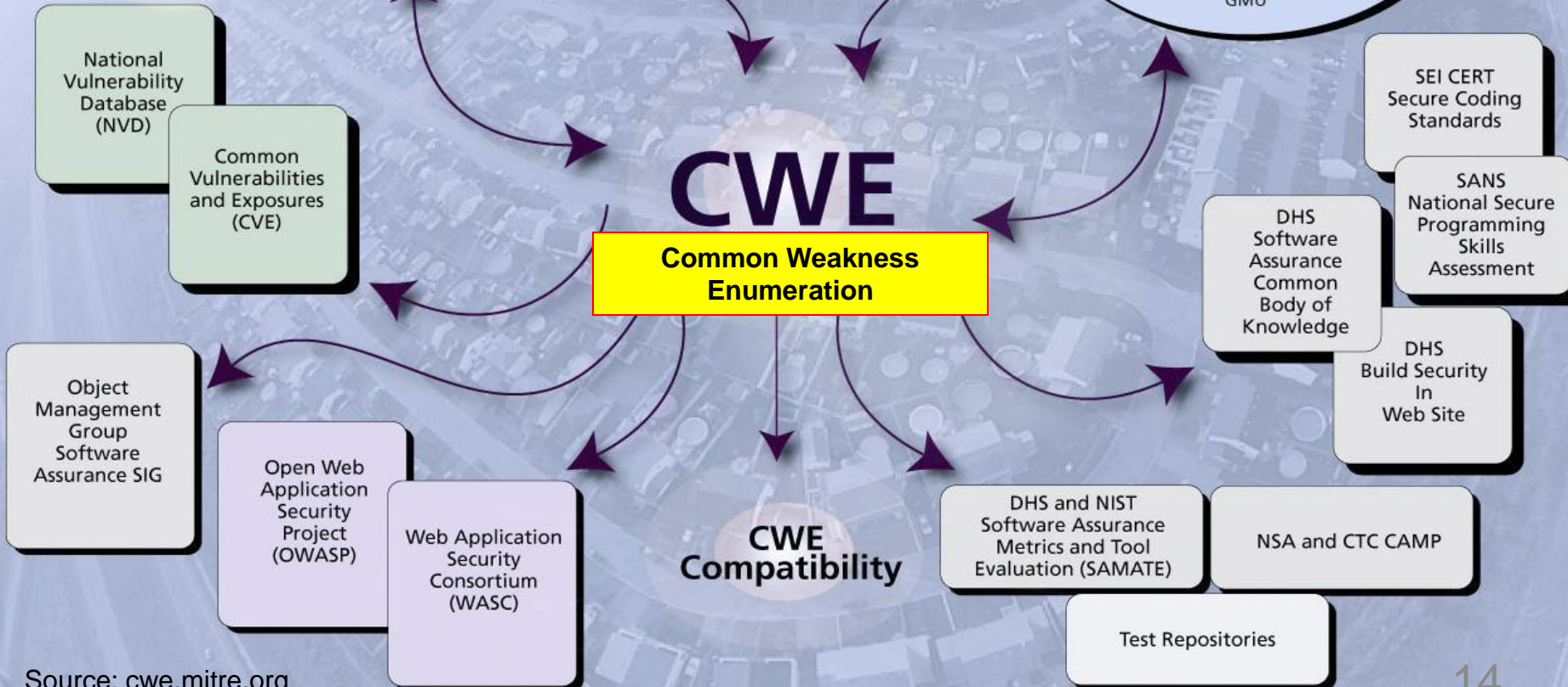
Other Work Available in Security Taxonomies, Research, and Checklists



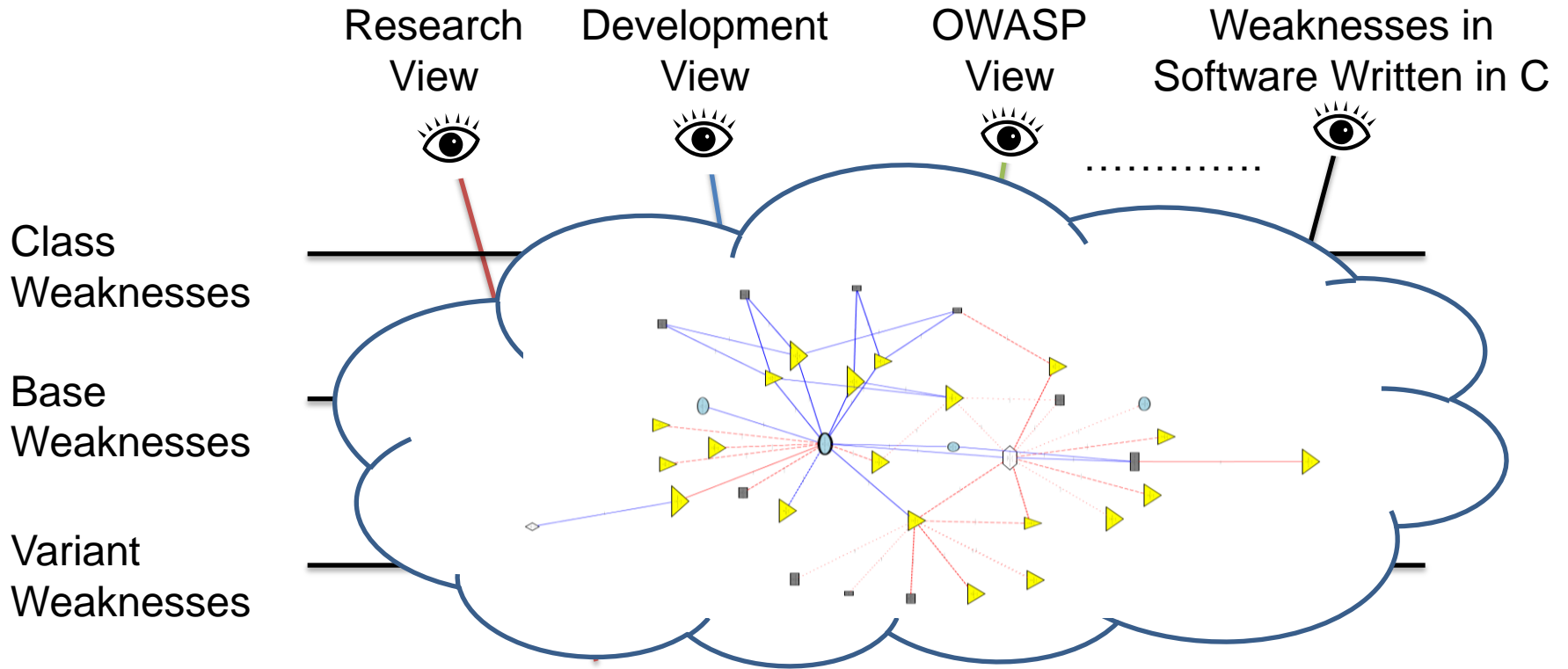
CWE

Common Weakness Enumeration

CWE Compatibility



CWE Organization (rough)



Weakness Enumerations

- Common Weaknesses Enumeration (CWE)
 - (**measurement**) Unified, measurable set of software weaknesses
 - (**communication**) Effective sharing, description, selection, and use of software security tools and services
 - (**management, prioritization**) Better understanding and management of software weaknesses related to design and code

Problems, Problems, Problems...

- Most vulnerability related artifacts are in unstructured text
 - Makes aggregation of these artifacts harder
- No shortage of weakness enumerations and categorization
 - Adoption in projects is slow
 - many choices could be a factor
- Growing software complexity
 - Little or no effort to improve the mental model of the software developer to sense the possibility of a vulnerability

Reducing the Cognitive Overload

- Devil is in the Details
 - The details about vulnerabilities are enormous during the coding phases
- Simple guides can be more effective than a long checklist
 - The 3 golden questions to ask about each bug (1989)
 - Is this mistake somewhere else also?
 - What next bug is hidden behind this one?
 - What should I do to prevent bugs like this?

Reducing the Cognitive Overload

- Questions about security weaknesses
 - What are the **Software flaws** (commission, omission, operational) that lead to the weakness?
 - What are the defining characteristics of the **Weakness**?
 - What are the **Resources/Location** where the weakness is typically manifest?
 - What are the **Consequences** that the weakness precedes?

Tangling of information in the CWE

- **CWE-119: Failure to Constrain Operations within the Bounds of a *Memory Buffer***
 - The software performs operations on a *memory buffer*, but it can read from or write to a memory location that is outside of the intended boundary of the *buffer*.
 - Certain languages allow direct addressing of memory locations and do not automatically ensure that these locations are valid for the memory buffer that is being referenced. This can cause read or write operations to be performed on memory locations that may be associated with other variables, data structures, or internal program data. As a result, an attacker may be able to execute arbitrary code, alter the intended control flow, read sensitive information, or cause the system to crash.

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LEGEND

Software Fault

Weakness

Resource/Location

Consequence

Tangling of information in the CWE

- CWE-120: **Buffer Copy without Checking Size of Input** ('Classic **Buffer Overflow**')
 - The program copies an input **buffer** to an output **buffer** without verifying that the size of the input **buffer** is less than the size of the output **buffer**, leading to a **buffer overflow**.
 - A **buffer overflow** condition exists when a program attempts to put more data in a **buffer** than it can hold, or when a program attempts to put data in a **memory area** outside of the boundaries of a **buffer**.
 - **Buffer overflows** often can be used to **execute arbitrary code**...
 - **Buffer overflows** generally **lead to crashes**

LEGEND

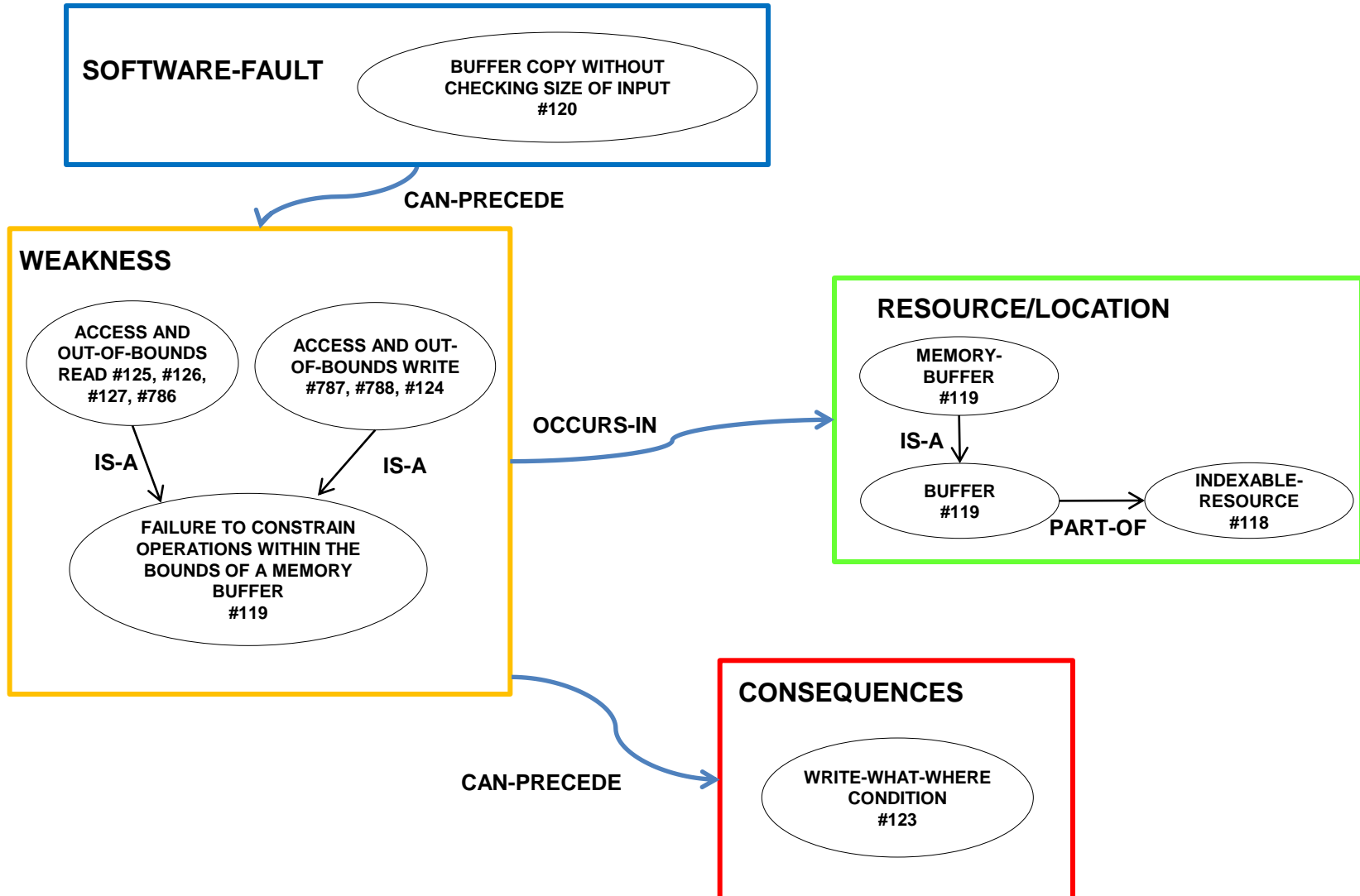
Software Fault

Weakness

Resource/Location

Consequence

UnTangling



Building a Semantic Template

- For each weakness type create a semantic template

CE Concept Extraction

- Exploration of the CWE structure to extract entries relevant to a weakness

TS Template structuring

- Software Fault, Weakness, Resources, Consequences

TR Template refinement

- Aggregation of Vulnerability Artifacts
- Annotation using Semantic template concepts

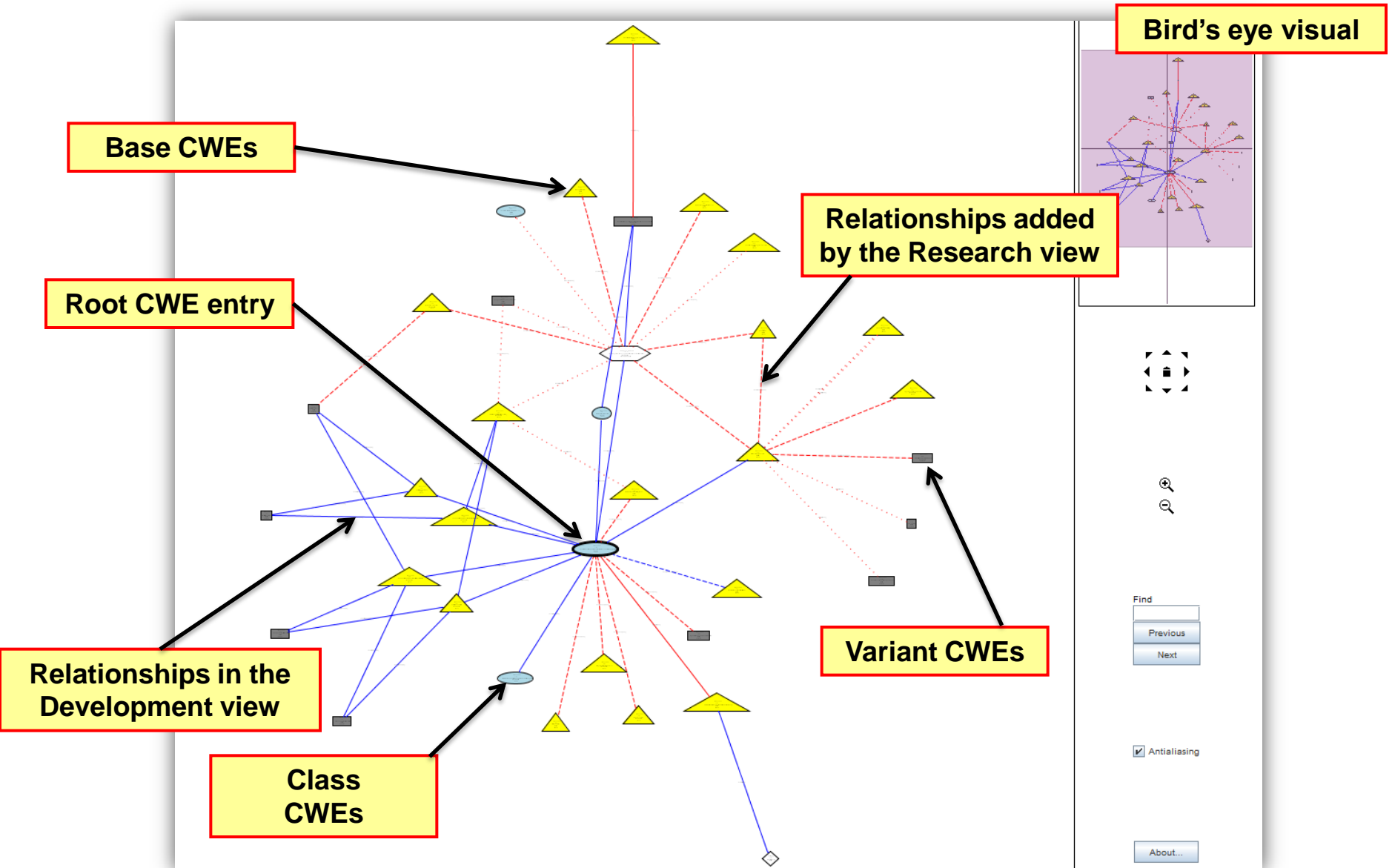
Concept Extraction

- CWE 1.6
- Development view
 - Suited for stakeholders in the SDLC
- Research view
 - Suited for research using the cwe; deep hierarchical structure
- Select a “Root entry”
 - CWE that provides the most abstract description of a weakness, that would be CWE 119 for BO

Concept Extraction

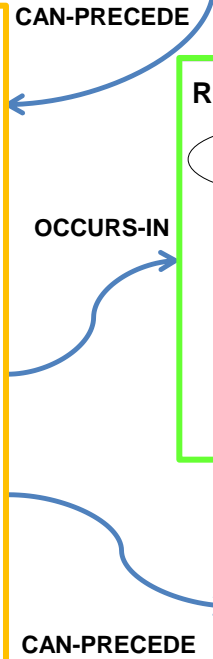
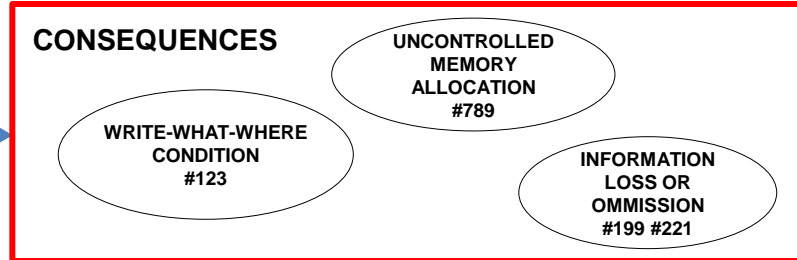
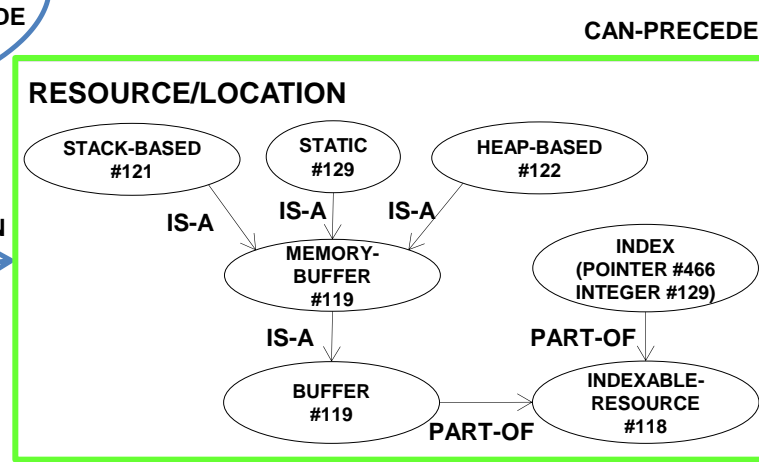
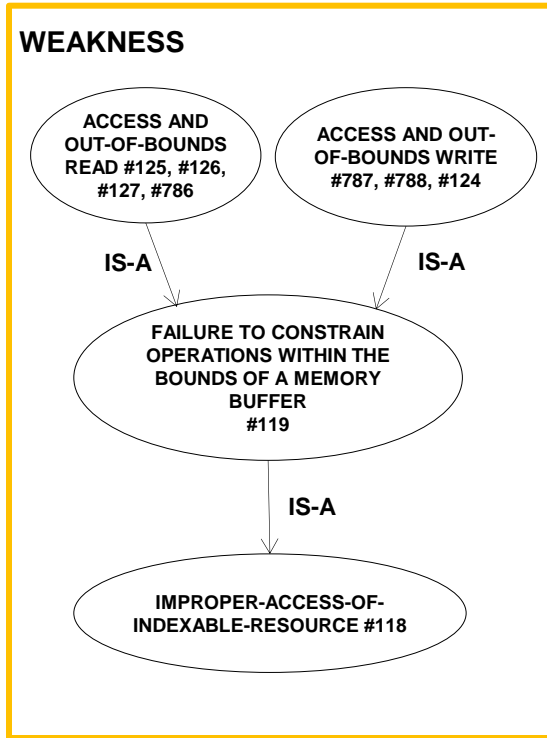
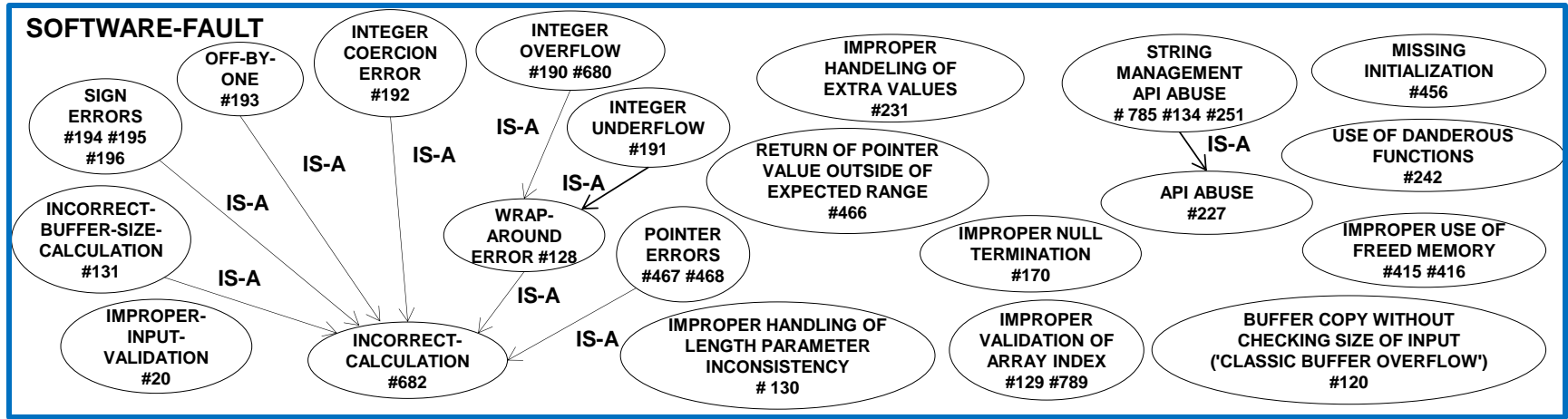
- Strategies:
 1. Navigate hierarchical relationships of the root entry
 2. Navigate non-taxonomical relationships such as “Can Precede”, “Can Follow”, “Peer-of”
 3. Visualization of the CWE XML specification
 - A graph is generated using graphviz
 4. Keyword search on the CWE hyperlinked document
 - Followed by exploration of parent, sibling and child categories of the discovered CWE, for relevance to the root entry

Visualization



Template Structuring

- Each CWE identified in the previous step is analyzed for concepts along the conceptual unit of the semantic template
- Relationships among the CWE entries are then used to structure the identified concepts into a coherent semantic template
- CWE-120: **Buffer Copy without Checking Size of Input** ('Classic **Buffer Overflow**')
 - The program copies an input **buffer** to an output **buffer** without verifying that the size of the input **buffer** is less than the size of the output **buffer**, leading to a **buffer overflow**.
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Apache HTTP Server

- Widely used web server
- Open Source project with a large software repository readily available
- Due to the project size and its complexity, various vulnerabilities have occurred and solved during its lifetime

CVE (CAN-2004-0492)

- National Vulnerability Database (**Vulnerability Database**)
<http://web.nvd.nist.gov/view/vuln/detail?vulnId=CVE-2004-0492>
 - **Heap-based buffer overflow** in **proxy_util.c** for **mod_proxy** in **Apache 1.3.25 to 1.3.31** allows remote attackers to **cause a denial of service (process crash)** and possibly **execute arbitrary code via a negative Content-Length HTTP header field**, which causes a large amount of data to be copied.
- Apache Security Reports (**Public website**)
- http://httpd.apache.org/security/vulnerabilities_13.html
 - A **buffer overflow** was found in the **Apache proxy module, mod_proxy**, which can be triggered by receiving an **invalid Content-Length header**. In order to exploit this issue an attacker **would need to get an Apache installation that was configured as a proxy to connect to a malicious site**. This would cause the Apache child processing the request to crash, although this does not represent a significant Denial of Service attack as requests will continue to be handled by other Apache child processes. This issue may lead to remote arbitrary code execution on some BSD platforms.

Apache Log of Changes(Fix)

**Files Fixed
in Project:**

Roles

```

mjc          2004/06/11 00:54:38
Modified:   src      CHANGES
           src/modules/proxy proxy http.c
Log:
Receiving a negative content length from a remote server can cause
a buffer overflow in later code; reject connection if we receive an invalid
header.  CAN-2004-0492
Submitted by: Mark Cox
Reviewed by: Joe Orton, Bill Stoddard, Jim Jagielski

Revision  Changes  Path
1.1943   +4 -0      apache-1.3/src/CHANGES

Index: CHANGES
=====
RCS file: /home/cvs/apache-1.3/src/CHANGES,v
retrieving revision 1.1942
retrieving revision 1.1943
diff -u -r1.1942 -r1.1943
--- CHANGES  2 Jun 2004 22:49:03 -0000      1.1942
+++ CHANGES  11 Jun 2004 07:54:38 -0000      1.1943
@@ -1,5 +1,9 @@
  Changes with Apache 1.3.32

+ *) SECURITY: CAN-2004-0492 (cve.mitre.org)
+   Reject responses from a remote server if sent an invalid (negative)
+   Content-Length.  [Mark Cox]
+
+ *) Fix a bunch of cases where the return code of the regex compiler
+   was not checked properly.  This affects mod_usertrack and
+   core.  PR 28218.  [André Malo]

1.107     +7 -0      apache-1.3/src/modules/proxy/proxy_http.c
    
```

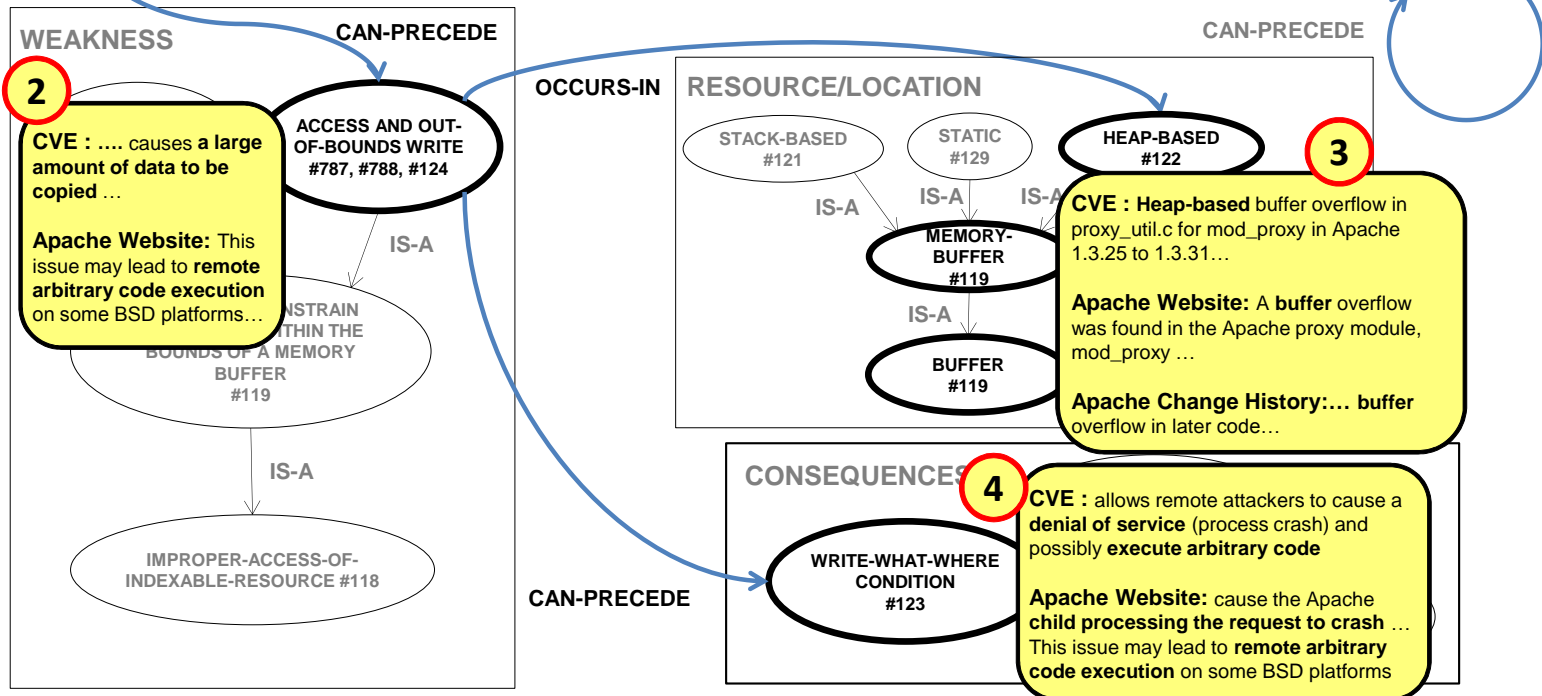
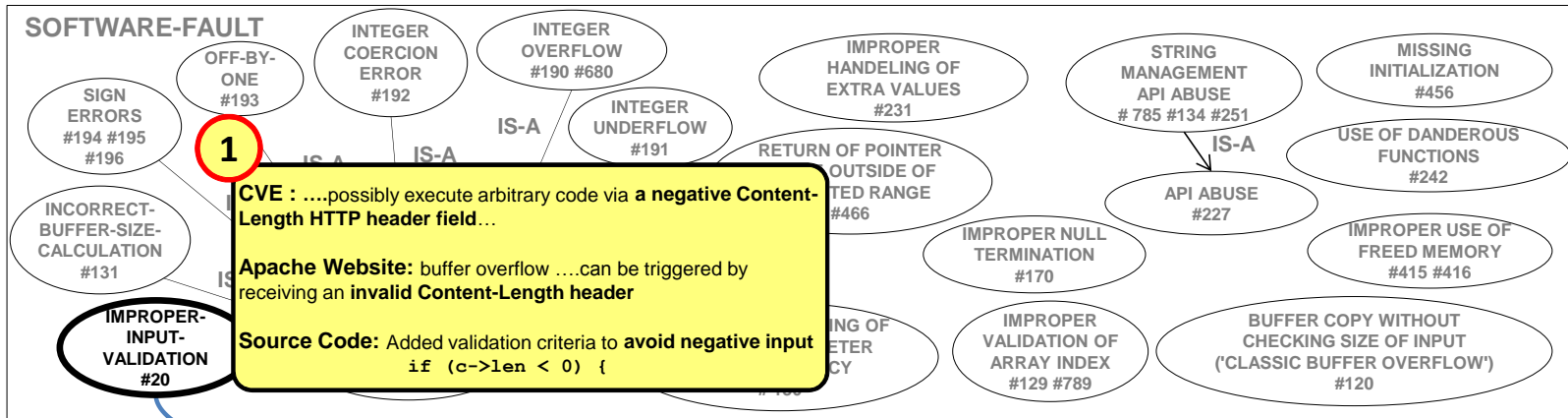
Fix time

Source Code Differences

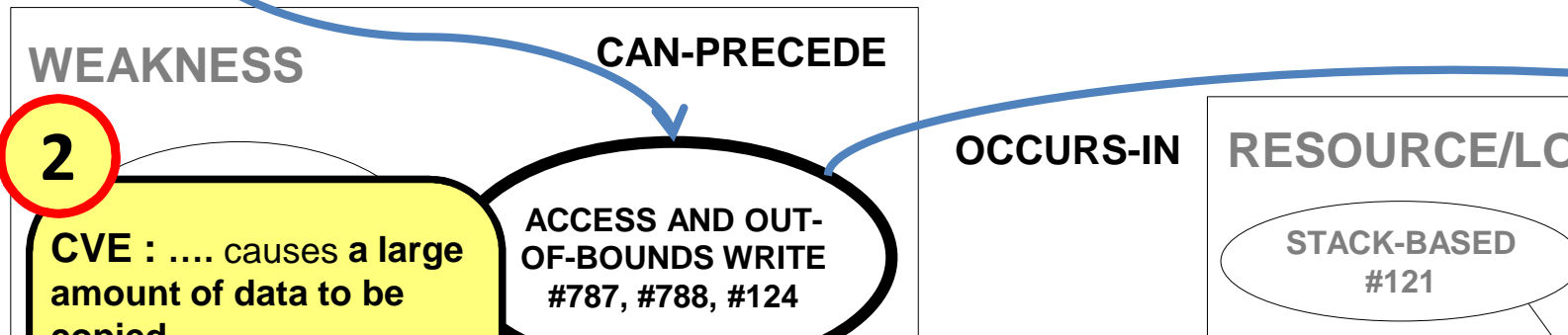
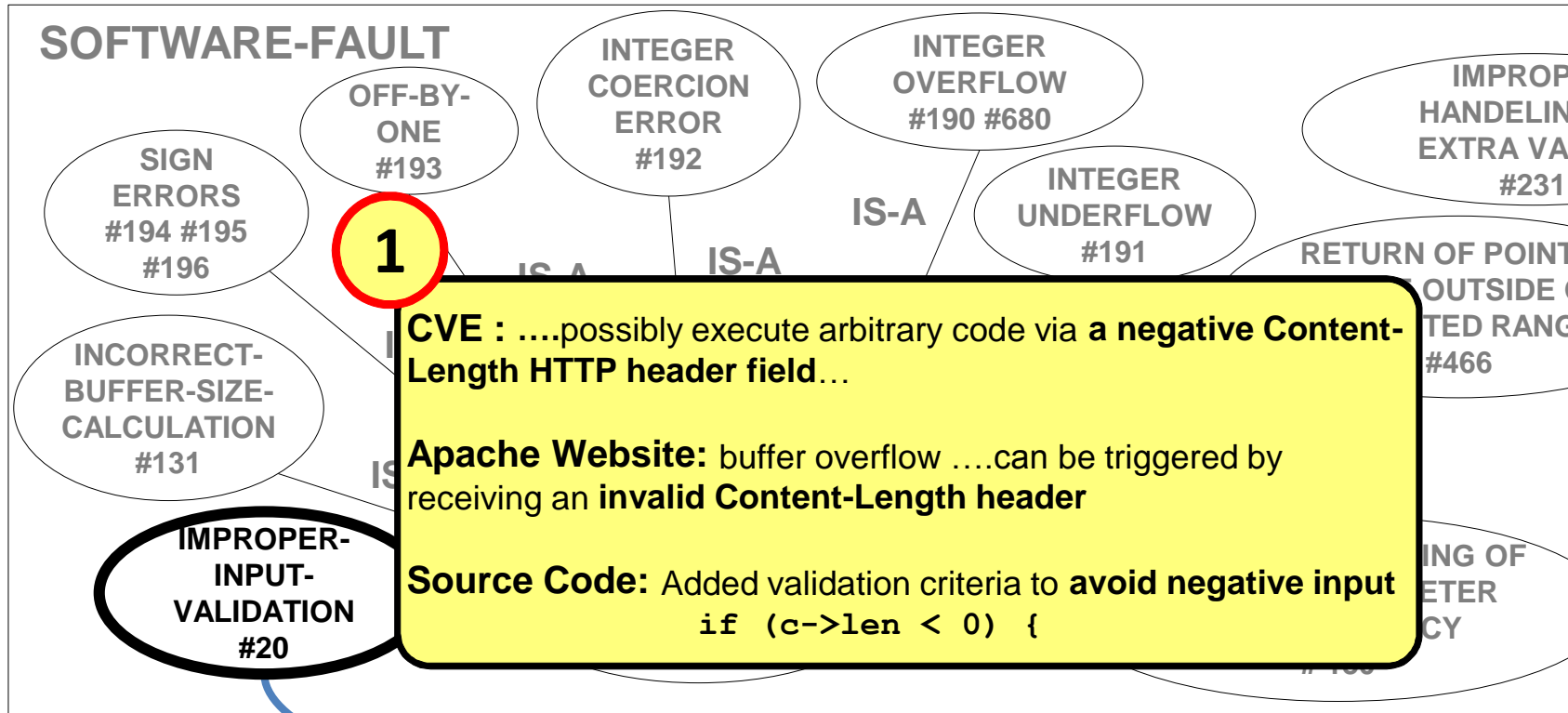
revision [103191](#), Mon Mar 29 17:47:15 2004 UTCrevision [103896](#), Fri Jun 11 07:54:38 2004 UTC

#	Line 485	int ap_proxy_http_handler(request_rec *r
485	content_length = ap_table_get(resp_hdrs, "Content-Length"),	content_length = ap_table_get(resp_hdrs, "Content-Length"),
486	if (content_length != NULL) {	if (content_length != NULL) {
487	c->len = ap_strtol(content_length, NULL, 10);	c->len = ap_strtol(content_length, NULL, 10);
488		
489		if (c->len < 0) {
490		ap_kill_timeout(r);
491		return ap_proxyerror(r, HTTP_BAD_GATEWAY, ap_pstrcat(r->pool,
492		"Invalid Content-Length from remote server",
493		NULL);
494		}
495	}	}
496		
497	}	}

Study of the Vulnerability



Study of the Vulnerability



INCORRECT-BUFFER-SIZE-CALCULATION
#131

IMPROPER-INPUT-VALIDATION
#20

CVE :possibly execute arbitrary code via a **negative Content-Length HTTP header field...**

Apache Website: buffer overflowcan be triggered by receiving an **invalid Content-Length header**

Source Code: Added validation criteria to **avoid negative input**
`if (c->len < 0) {`

WEAKNESS

2

CVE : causes a **large amount of data to be copied ...**

Apache Website: This issue may lead to **remote arbitrary code execution** on some BSD platforms...

CAN-PRECEDE

ACCESS AND OUT-OF-BOUNDS WRITE
#787, #788, #124

IS-A

CONSTRAIN WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF A MEMORY BUFFER
#119

IS-A

OCCURS-IN

RESOURCE/LOCATION

STACK-BASED
#121

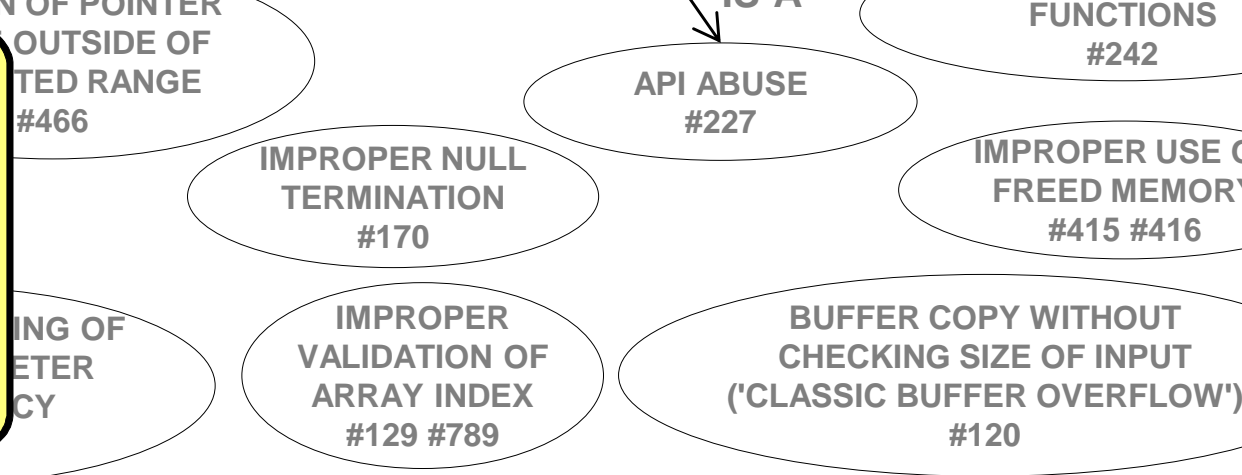
IS-A

CONSEQUENCE

...arbitrary code via a **negative Content-Length**...

...overflow ...can be triggered by **Content-Length header**

validation criteria to **avoid negative input**
`c->len < 0) {`

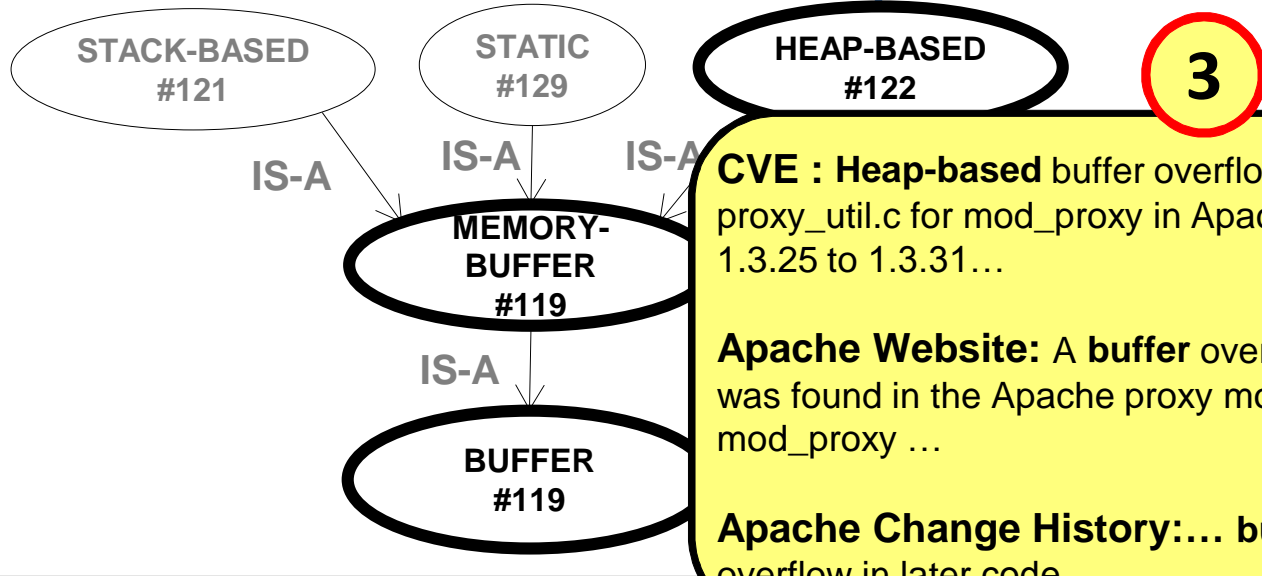


PRECEDE

CAN-PRECEDE

OCCURS-IN

RESOURCE/LOCATION



CVE : Heap-based buffer overflow in proxy_util.c for mod_proxy in Apache 1.3.25 to 1.3.31...

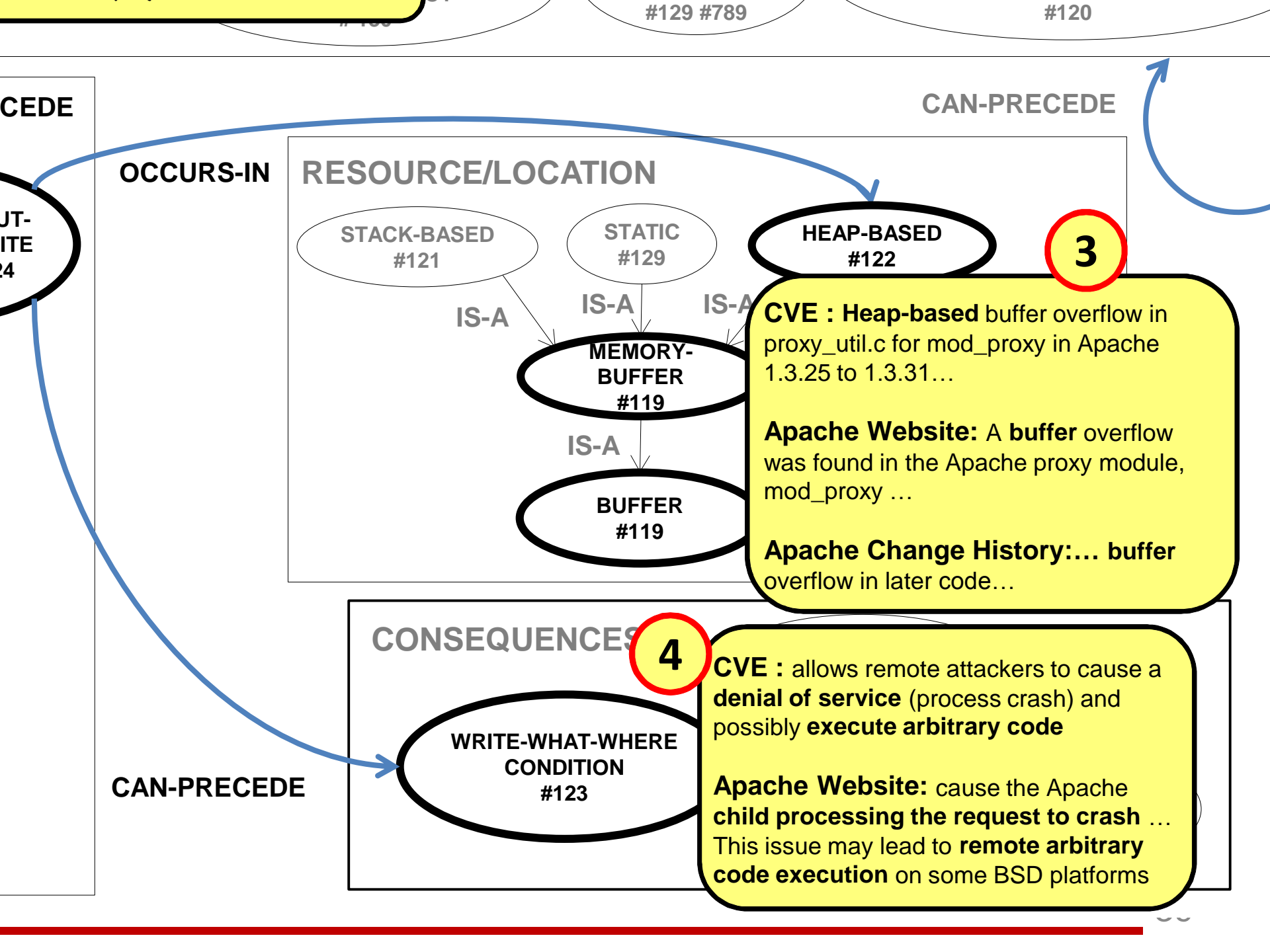
Apache Website: A buffer overflow was found in the Apache proxy module, mod_proxy ...

Apache Change History:... buffer overflow in later code...

CONSEQUENCES

4

CVE : allows remote attackers to cause a



Ontology Representation

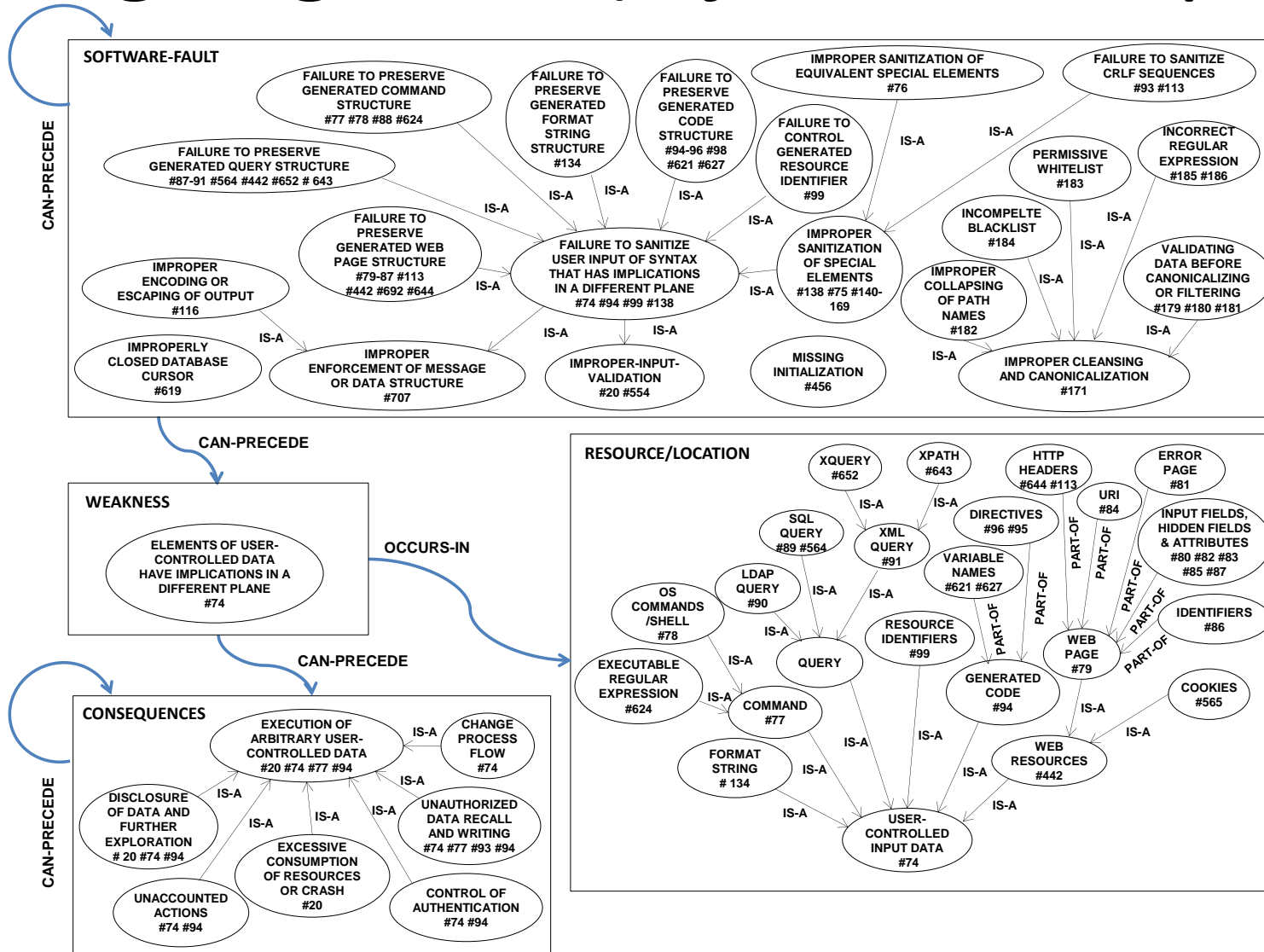
- Semantic web based representation
 - Allow inferences and queries over a large collection of semantically annotated vulnerability artifacts
 - Examples
 - “Show past vulnerabilities that related to **buffer overflow weaknesses** that precedes **arbitrary code execution**”
 - “Which **software fault** most often precedes the **buffer overflow weaknesses**?”

Common Attack Pattern

Enumeration and Classification (**CAPEC**)

- A shared indexing standard for common attacks patterns used in exploits or malware
- Attack patterns
 - Capture and communicate an attackers perspective
 - Common vocabulary to express attack vectors
 - List of common methods to exploit vulnerabilities
 - A “destructive” way of thinking
 - Know your enemy. Defense alone is not enough.
- <http://capec.mitre.org/>

Ongoing Work (Injection Template)



Ongoing Work (Injection Template)

Apache Website CVE-2007-5000 :
....a cross-site scripting attack is possible....

NVD CVE-2007-5000: a Cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability in themod_imap module....

Source Code Repository developer fix documentation: Fix cross-site-scripting issue by escaping the URI...

Source Code Repository Code Difference:

File: mod_imagemap.c
Line 485 and 490 modified to escape html in URI:
`ap_escape_html(r->pool, r->uri)`

CAPEC-63: Simple Script Injection:

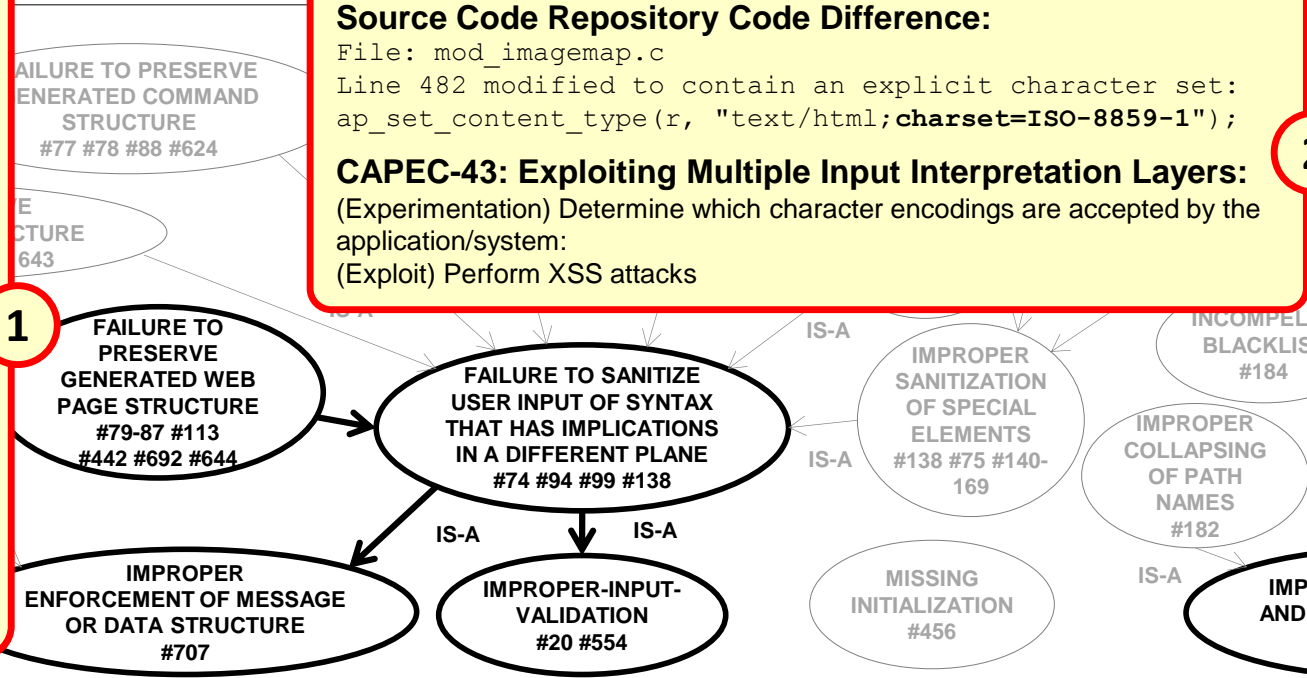
(Experimentation) Use a list of XSS probe strings to inject script into resources accessed by the application
(Exploit) Develop malicious JavaScript that is injected through vectors identified during the Experiment Phase

Source Code Repository developer fix documentation:
....ensure that a charset parameter is sent in the content-type ...

Source Code Repository Code Difference:

File: mod_imagemap.c
Line 482 modified to contain an explicit character set:
`ap_set_content_type(r, "text/html;charset=ISO-8859-1");`

CAPEC-43: Exploiting Multiple Input Interpretation Layers:
(Experimentation) Determine which character encodings are accepted by the application/system:
(Exploit) Perform XSS attacks



1

CAN-PRECEDE

WEAKNESS

3

Apache Website CVE-2007-5000 :a cross-site scripting attack is possible....

NVD CVE-2007-5000 : allows remote attackers to inject

RESOURCE/

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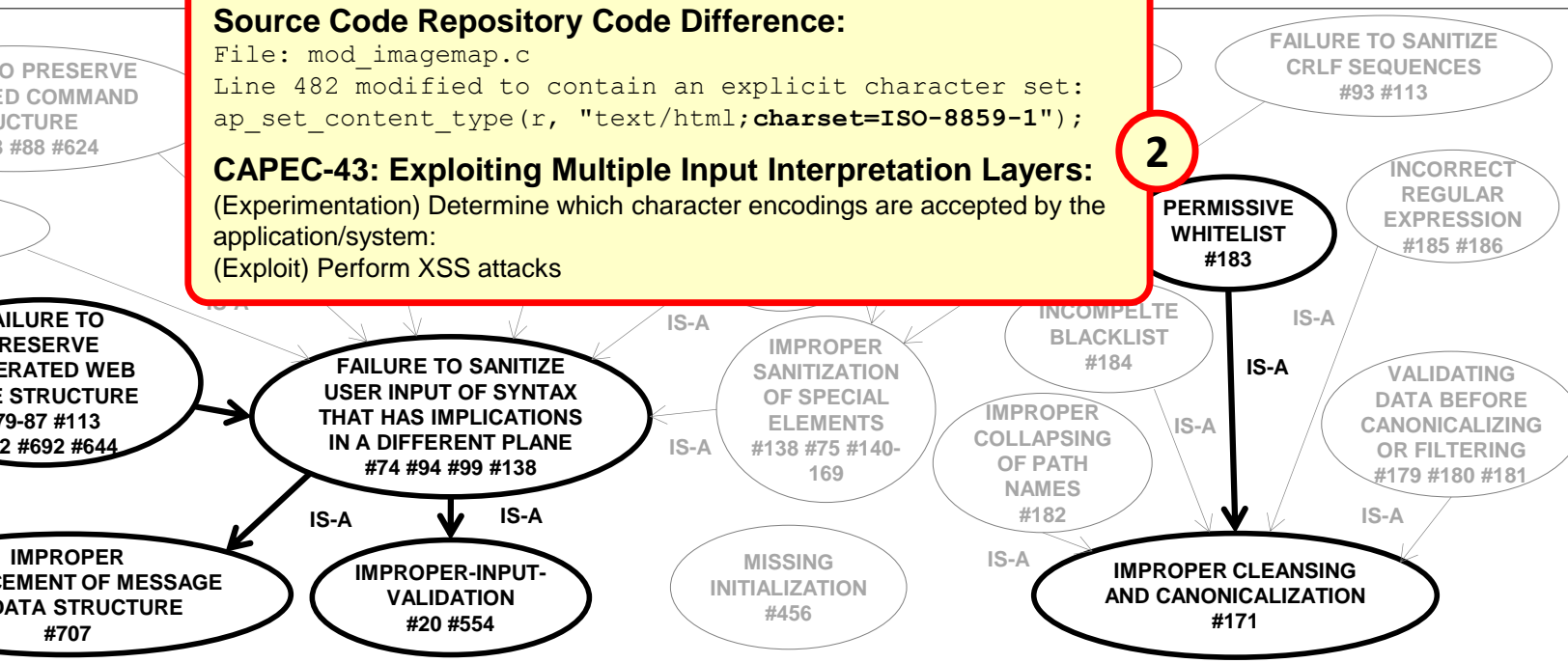
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Website CVE-2007-

a cross-site scripting issue... possible....

CVE-2007-5000 :

allows hackers to inject...

RESOURCE/

Source Code Repository developer fix documentation:

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Source Code Repository Code Difference:

File: mod_imagemap.c

4

URI #84

ERROR PAGE #81

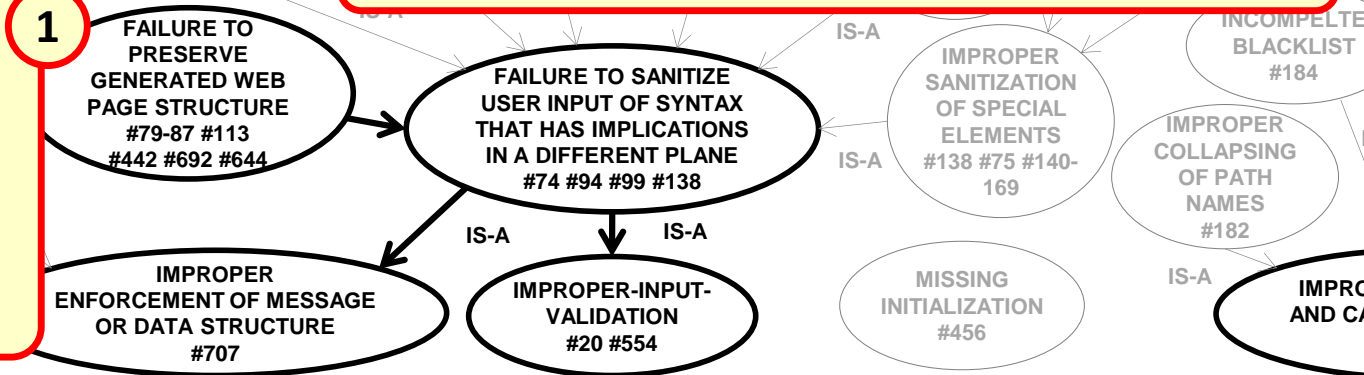
INPUT FIELDS, HIDDEN FIELDS & ATTRIBUTES

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CAN-PRECEDE

WEAKNESS



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OCCURS-IN

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CAN-PRECEDE

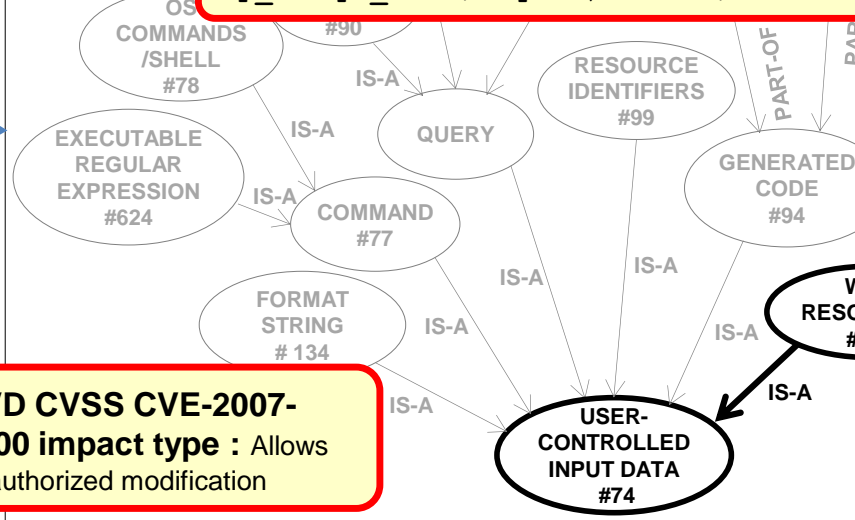
CONSEQUENCES



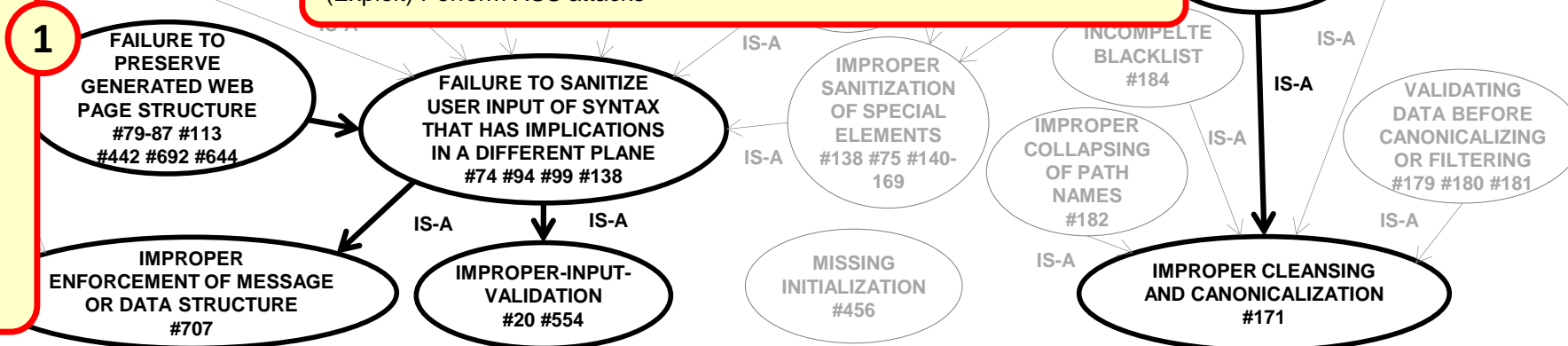
NVD CVE-2007-5000 :allows remote attackers to inject arbitrary web script or HTML....

NVD CVSS CVE-2007-5000 impact type : Allows unauthorized modification

RESOURCE/



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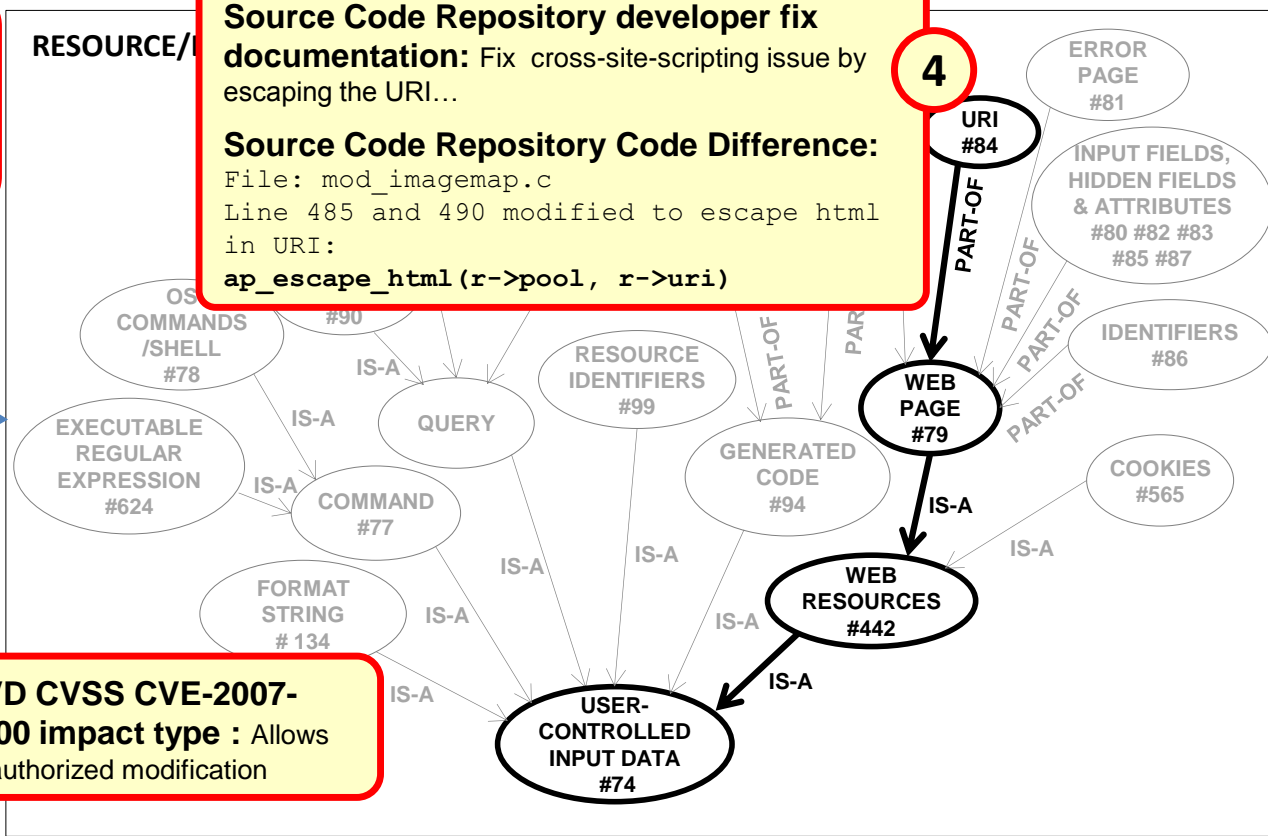


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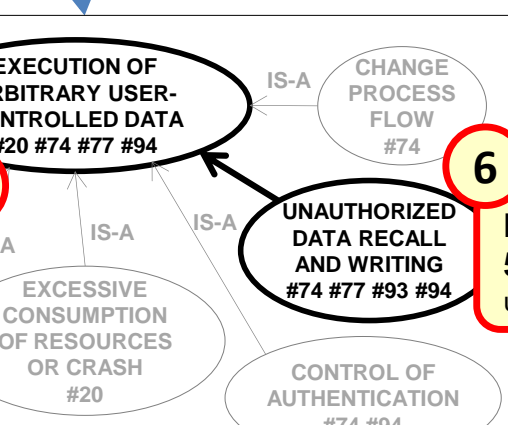
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Future Work

- Integrate with existing static and dynamic analysis tools to enhance reporting capabilities
 - Provide layers of guidance to a developer upon detection of a software flaw
 - Organize and retrieve knowledge of past vulnerabilities
 - Verify patch submissions
- Investigate project/developer specific coding errors and vulnerability fix patterns
- Other usage scenarios in the SDLC

Some take aways...

- Ask Johnny (or your software vendor):
 - *How many CWEs have you attempted to explicitly avoid in your software?*
 - *What CWEs can our Threats take advantage of?*
 - *I want you to build a shopping cart, while avoiding those CWEs...*
 - *What CAPECs do your testing efforts map to?*
 - *What CWEs do the vulnerabilities in your code typically map to? Have you taken any training for them?*
 - *Have you looked at the semantic templates by being developed at UNO/NUCIA for those CWEs?*
 - <http://faculty.ist.unomaha.edu/rgandhi/st/>

CERT Secure Coding Guidelines

<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/>



CERT Secure Coding Standards

11 Added by [Confluence Administrator](#), last edited by [Yozo Todor](#) on Jun 30, 2010 ([view change](#))

Welcome to the Secure Coding Web Site
This web site exists to support the development of secure coding standards for commonly used programming languages such as C, C++, and Java. These standards are being developed through a broad-based community effort including the CERT Secure Coding Initiative and members of the software development and software security communities. For a further explanation of this project and tips on how to contribute, please see the [Development Guidelines](#).

As this is a development web site, many of the pages are incomplete or contain errors. If you are interested in furthering this effort, you may comment on existing items or send recommendations to secure-coding at cert dot org. You may also request privileges to directly edit content on the site.

The CERT Oracle Secure Coding Standard for Java



CERT and Oracle are developing [The CERT Oracle Secure Coding Standard for Java](#).

The rules and recommendations are not globally editable, but anyone is able to add comments, and qualified individuals can be added as editors.

We are depending on the active involvement of the Java community (you) to make this effort a success. We invite you to participate in this effort by reviewing content in the Java space and providing comments, or by contributing new rules and recommendations for secure Java coding. These can be included as comments or emailed to secure-coding at cert dot org.

Java is a trademark or registered trademark of Oracle Corporation, in the US and other countries.

Java Concurrency Guidelines TR Released

CERT has released the [Java Concurrency Guidelines](#) technical report that documents the portion of the [CERT Oracle Secure Coding Standard for Java](#) that are related to concurrency.

The CERT C Secure Coding Standard



Version 1.0 of The CERT C Secure Coding Standard is now available as a [book](#) from Addison-Wesley. This official release can be used as a fixed point of reference for the development of compliant applications and source code analysis tools.

Development of the next version of the [CERT C Secure Coding Standard](#) is being performed here on the secure coding wiki. This version is a work-in-progress and reflects the current thinking of the secure coding community. Subsequent official releases of this standard will be issued as dictated by the needs and interests of the secure software development community.

There is also a Japanese Edition of the [CERT C Secure Coding Standard](#) thanks to our partner JPCERT/CC.

The CERT C++ Secure Coding Standard



The [CERT C++ Secure Coding Standard](#) is under development. Please create a sign in account, review, comment, or contribute new guidelines to this standard.

Presentations on Secure Coding in C and C++ from the Software Development Best Practices 2008 Conference are available on the [Secure Coding Initiative](#) page.

The [Top 10 Secure Coding Practices](#) provides some language independent recommendations.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following [folks](#), and we look forward to seeing your name there as well.

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Thank you for your Attention

