

The logo for SYNAKTIV features a stylized icon on the left consisting of a 3x3 grid of squares. The top-left square is white, the top-middle square is white with a red dot, and the top-right square is white. The remaining squares are black. To the right of this icon, the word "SYNAKTIV" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. "SYNA" is in white, and "KTIV" is in red.

**SYNAKTIV**



Diablo I

# About me



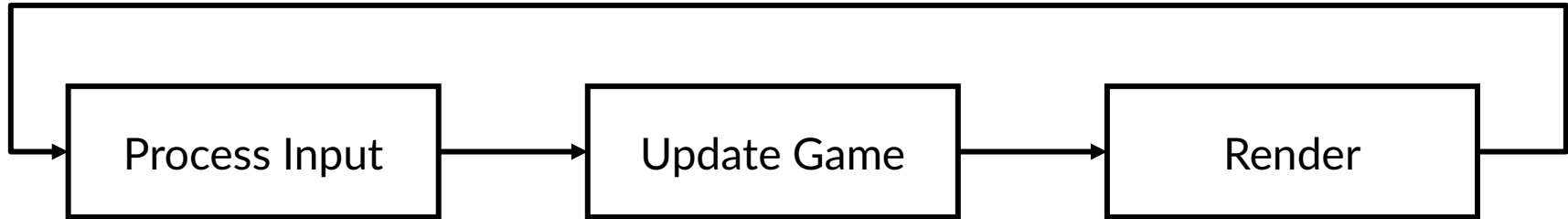
- **Thomas Dubier**
- **@Tomtombinary**
- **Security Engineer at Synacktiv**
  - Offensive security company
  - Pentest, Reverse engineering, Development, Incident response
  - Offices at Paris, Lyon, Rennes, Toulouse, Lille

# Research Motivations

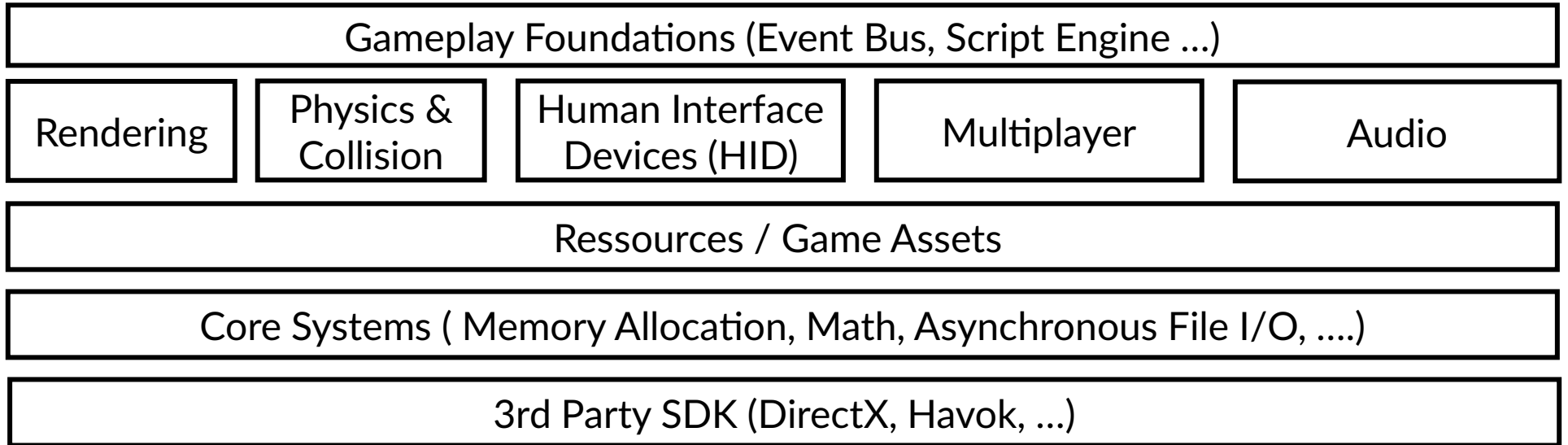


- Why look for vulnerabilities in old video games?
  - To have fun
  - To recycle my old video game collections
  - Interesting when old games are re-released
  - There are always bugs, but sometimes complicated to exploit
- Focus on RCE (no cheating technique)

# What is a video game ?

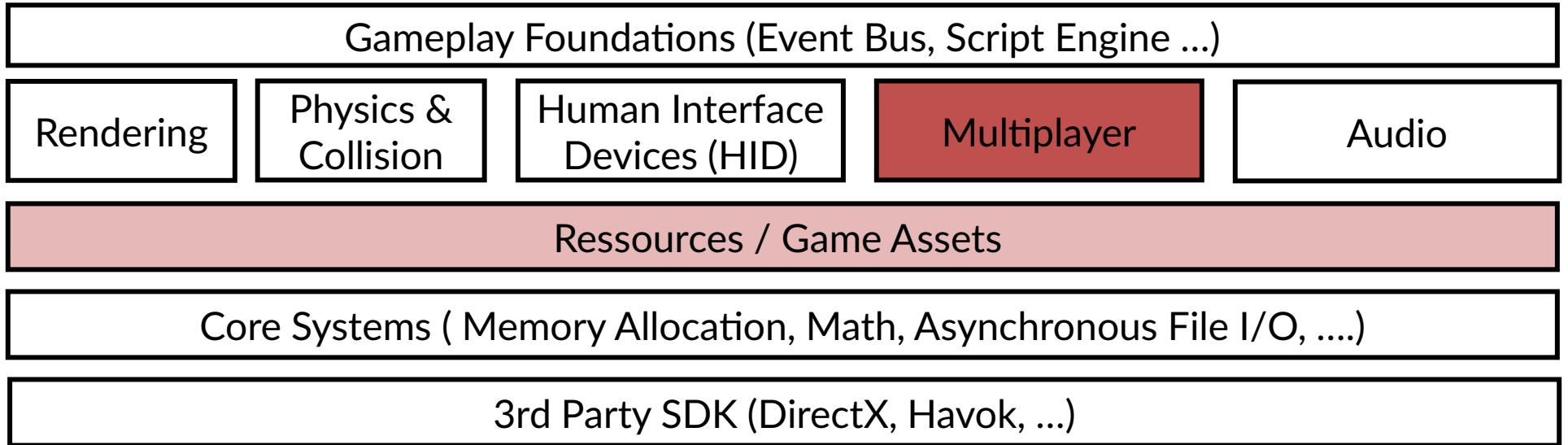


# What is a game engine ?



Source: <https://www.gameenginebook.com/>  
« Game Engine Architecture » by Jason Gregory

# Where to Focus ?



# Diablo I



- **Developed in 1996**
- **Re-released version from GOG**
  - Windows 10
  - Multiplayer support
- **Source code issued from original game reverse-engineering**
- **<https://github.com/diasurgical/devilution>**

# Network Stack



Diablo.exe

*Handle game specific messages*

Storm.dll

*Closed-source, shared between Diablo I, Warcraft II, Starcraft (partially documented)*

ipxwrapper.dll

*Open-source*

Network UDP Stack

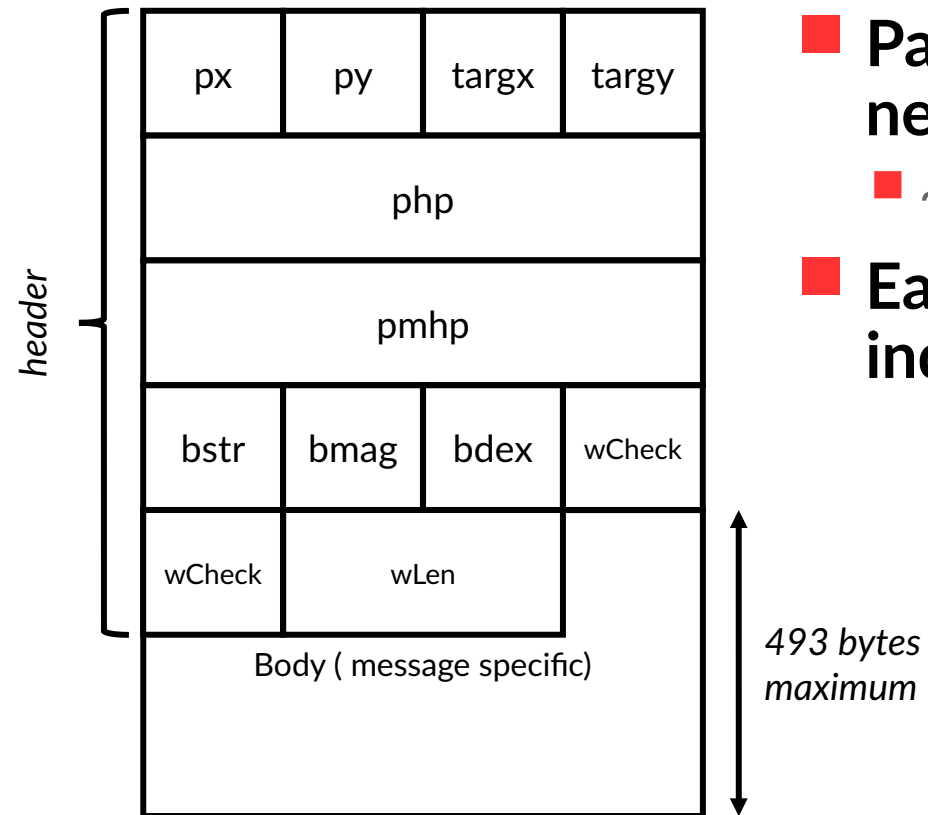
*OS implementation*



# Attack surface



- ParseCmd handles messages from the network
  - ~76 different messages
- Each message starts with 1 byte which indicates its type



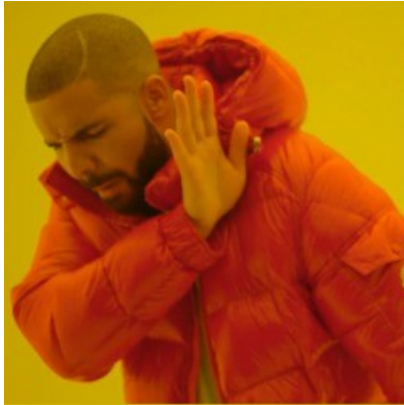
# Looking for vulnerabilities



Run a  
static source  
code  
analysis tools

- Old source code
- Search for
  - memcpy
  - strcpy
  - sprintf

Ctrl  
+ F



imgflip.com

# Vulnerability



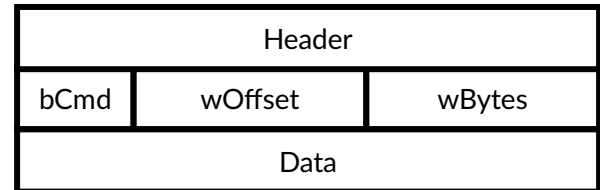
```
void recv_plrinfo(int pnum, TCmdPlrInfoHdr *p, BOOL recv)
{
    const char *szEvent;

    if (myplr == pnum) {
        return;
    }
    // ASSERT: assert((DWORD)pnum < MAX_PLRS);

    if (sgwPackPlrOffsetTbl[pnum] != p->wOffset) {
        sgwPackPlrOffsetTbl[pnum] = 0;
        if (p->wOffset != 0) {
            return;
        }
    }
    if (!recv && sgwPackPlrOffsetTbl[pnum] == 0) {
        multi_send_pinfo(pnum, CMD_ACK_PLRINFO);
    }

    // [BUG] overflow
    memcpy((char *)&netplr[pnum] + p->wOffset, &p[1], p->wBytes); /* todo: cast? */
    sgwPackPlrOffsetTbl[pnum] += p->wBytes;
    if (sgwPackPlrOffsetTbl[pnum] != sizeof(*netplr)) {
        return;
    }
    [...]
    UnPackPlayer(&netplr[pnum], pnum, TRUE);
    [...]
}
```

- **CMD\_SEND\_PLRINFO** receives and unpacks information about player
- **Player information is fragmented in multiple messages**



*CMD\_SEND\_PLRINFO message*

# Vulnerability



- Write 0xFFFF arbitrary bytes from &netplr[1]
- netplr in .bss (segment containing uninitialized static variables)
- No code pointer / vtable ■■
- Can corrupt player array (plr)
  - Represent states of each players

# Vulnerability



- CMD\_DLEVEL receives and unpacks level information
- Level information is fragmented in multiple messages
- Same kind of vulnerability

```
static DWORD On_DLEVEL(int pnum, TCmd *pCmd)
{
    TCmdPlrInfoHdr *p = (TCmdPlrInfoHdr *)pCmd;
    [...]
    /// ASSERT: assert(p->wOffset == sgdwRecvOffset);
    memcpy(&sgRecvBuf[p->wOffset], &p[1], p->wBytes); // [BUG] overflow
    sgdwRecvOffset += p->wBytes;
    return p->wBytes + sizeof(*p);
}
```

# Vulnerability



- `sgRecvBuf` is 4722 bytes length in `.bss`
- Write `0xFFFF` arbitrary bytes from `&sgRecvBuf[1]`
- No code pointer / vtable ■■
- Can corrupt `szPlayerDescript`
- Can corrupt `sgwPackPlrOffsetTlb` array
  - Used to receive `netplr` information

# Indirect vulnerability



- *szPlayerName* and *szPlayerDescript* can't be controlled directly
- Each buffer is 128 bytes length

```
static void DrawAutomapText()
{
    char desc[256];
    int nextline = 20;

    if (gbMaxPlayers > 1) {
        strcat(strcpy(desc, "game: "), szPlayerName);
        PrintGameStr(8, 20, desc, COL_GOLD);
        nextline = 35;
        if (szPlayerDescript[0]) {
            strcat(strcpy(desc, "password: "), szPlayerDescript); // possible overflow
            PrintGameStr(8, 35, desc, COL_GOLD);
            [...]
        }
    }
}
```

# How to trigger stack buffer overflow ?



- Toggle button map
- Display is determined by a boolean variable automapflag
- automapflag is located before .bss ■■
- Can't be corrupted directly



# Take advantage of game loop



- *ProcessPlayers* is called in loop
- `plr[0]` can be corrupted
- Achieve arbitrary memory OR with `_px` and `_py`

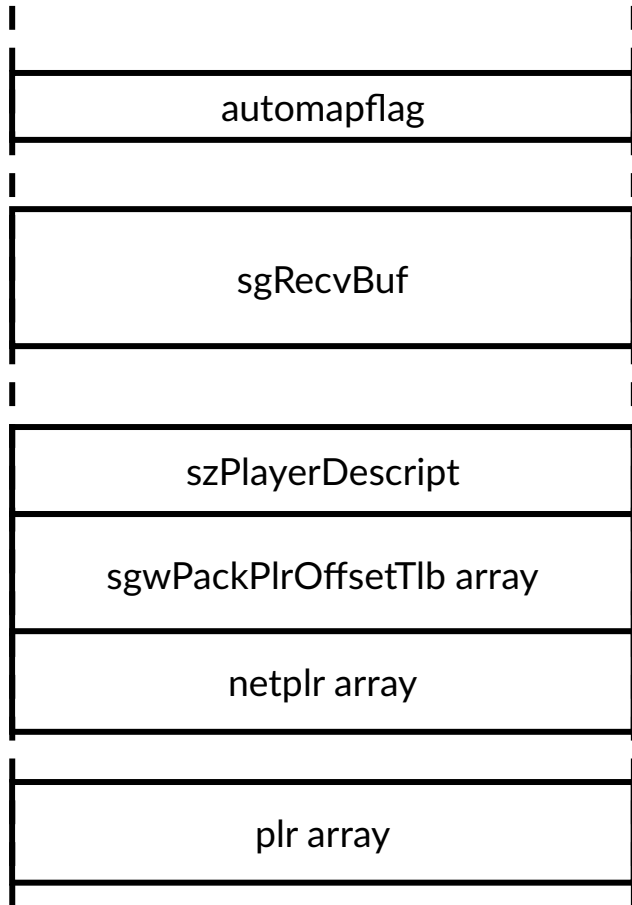
```
void ProcessPlayers()
{
    [...]
    do {
        switch (plr[pnum]._pmode) {
            [...]
            case PM_DEATH:
                tplayer = PM_DoDeath(pnum);
                break;
            [...]
        }
    }
}
```

```
BOOL PM_DoDeath(int pnum)
{
    if ((DWORD)pnum >= MAX_PLRS) {
        app_fatal("PM_DoDeath: illegal player %d", pnum);
    }

    if (plr[pnum]._pVar8 >= 2 * plr[pnum]._pDFrames) {
        if (deathdelay > 1 && pnum == myplr) {
            deathdelay--;
            if (deathdelay == 1) {
                deathflag = TRUE;
                if (gbMaxPlayers == 1) {
                    gamemenu_on();
                }
            }
        }

        plr[pnum]._pAnimDelay = 10000;
        plr[pnum]._pAnimFrame = plr[pnum]._pAnimLen;
        dFlags[plr[pnum]._px][plr[pnum]._py] |= BFLAG_DEAD_PLAYER; // arbitrary OR
    }
    [...]
}
```

# Bring all together



- Send CMD\_DLEVEL to corrupt szPlayerDescript
- Send CMD\_SEND\_PLRINFO to corrupt
  - plr[0].\_pmode
  - plr[0].\_px
  - plr[0].\_py
- Player 0 dies and a arbitrary OR is made on automapflag
- automapflag != 0 DrawAutomapText is called
- szPlayerDescript is not null byte terminated => Stack Buffer Overflow

# PoC





<https://www.linkedin.com/company/synacktiv>

<https://twitter.com/synacktiv>

Nos publications sur : <https://synacktiv.com>