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# STACKMOONWALK

A novel approach to stack spoofing on Windows x64

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# WHO WE ARE

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Arash Parsa



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Alessandro  
Magnosi



Principal Security Consultant  
Red Teamer, Malware Developer, Source Code Reviewer



Offensive Security OSS Developer  
Author of Inceptor, and several other tools



Bug Bounty Hunter  
Hunting bugs for fun and a little profit

 Alessandro Magnosi

  KlezVirus

# WHO WE ARE

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Red Team

Red Teamer, Detection Engineer, Threat Hunter

Arash Parsa

 Arash Parsa

 waldoirc

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-  trickster012
-  trickster0

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Athanasios  
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Arash Parsa



# TIMELINE

Q3 2022

NAMAZSO POC

Q4 2022

WINDOWS STACK R&D

DEVELOPING BASE FOR FRAME SELECTION

Q1 2023

DEVELOP FULL MOON

Q2 2023

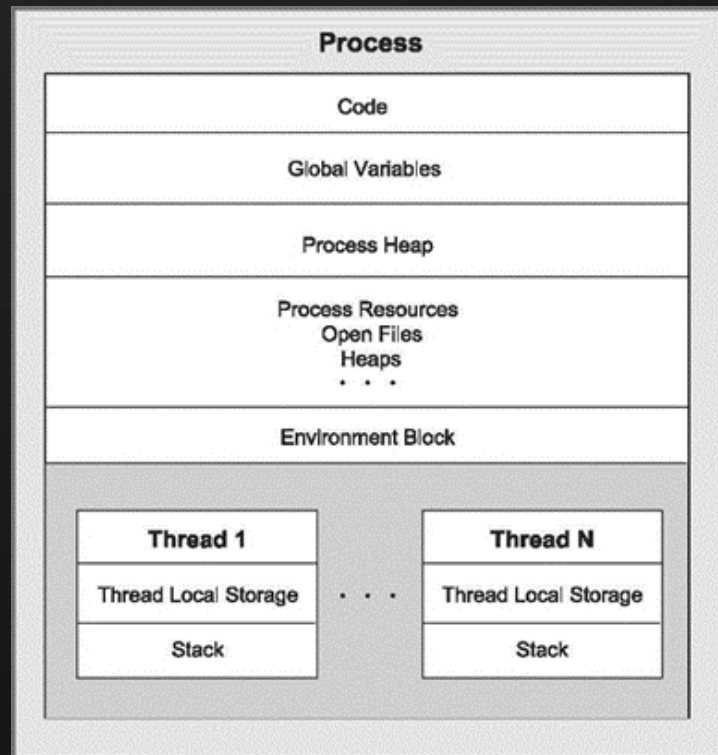
ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AVENUES



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# BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS WORK

# DEFINE STACK SPOOFING



# THREAD CALL STACK

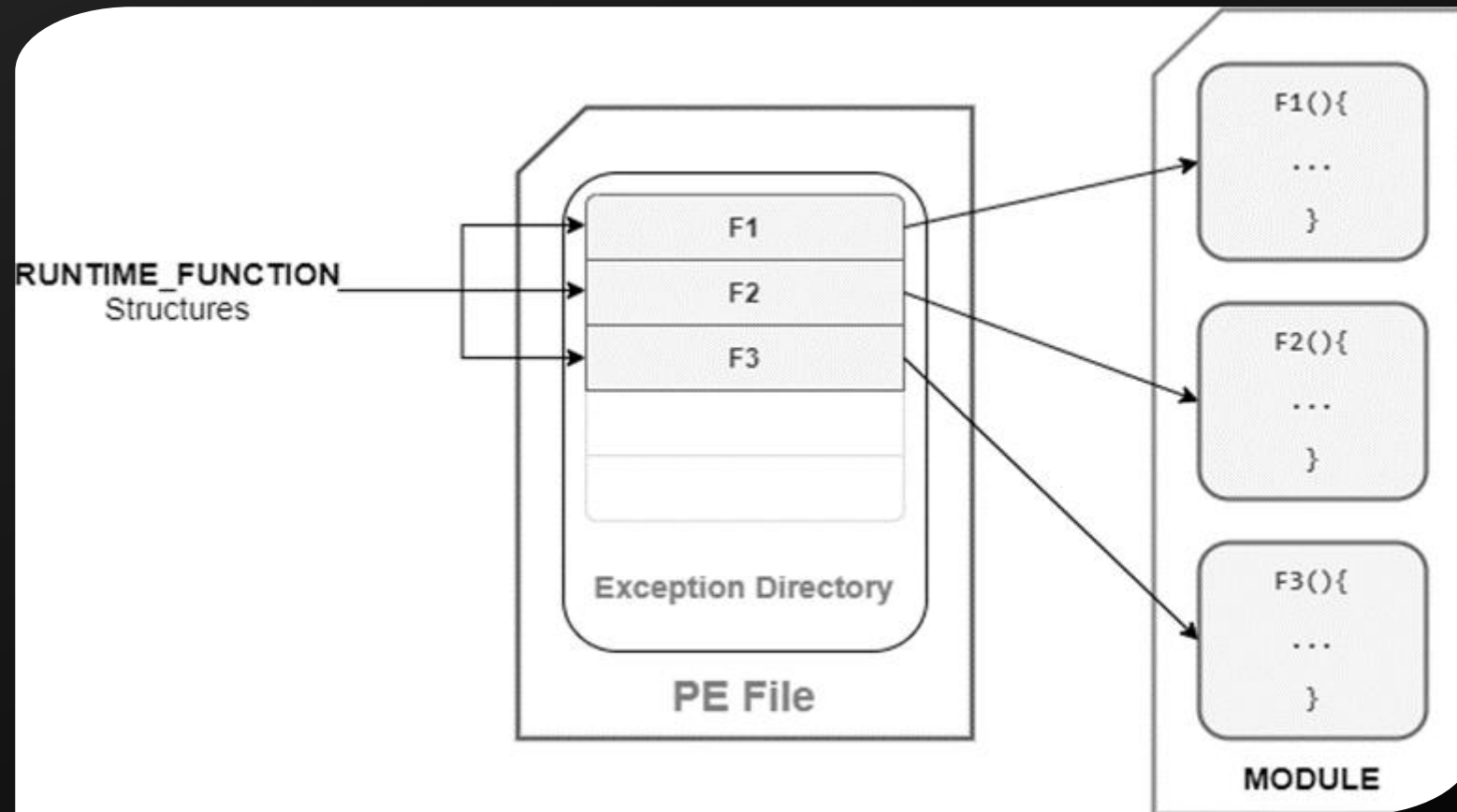
```
00, win32u.dll!NtUserGetMessage+0x14
01, user32.dll!GetMessageW+0x2a
02, notepad++.exe!SetLibraryProperty+0x19ae92
03, notepad++.exe!GetNameSpace+0x105802
04, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
05, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

```
00, ntdll.dll!NtDeviceIoControlFile+0x14
01, KernelBase.dll!GetConsoleScreenBufferInfoEx+0x229
02, KernelBase.dll!ReadConsoleW+0x1c5
03, KernelBase.dll!ReadConsoleW+0x1e
04, cmd.exe+0x2bf87
05, cmd.exe+0x13b11
06, cmd.exe+0x1305a
07, cmd.exe+0x12d66
08, cmd.exe+0x12ad2
09, cmd.exe+0x25b2d
10, cmd.exe+0x1f876
11, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
12, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

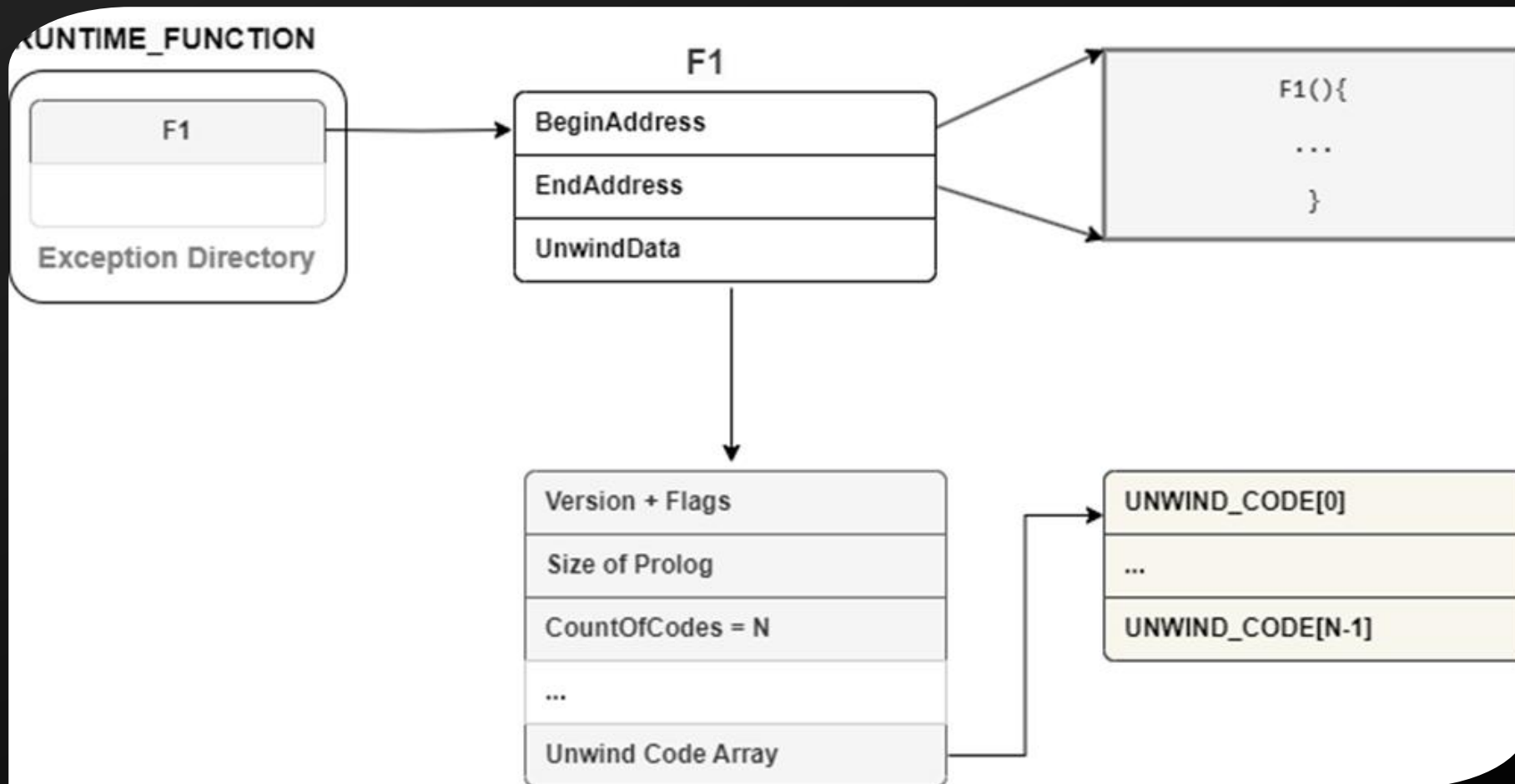
```
00, win32u.dll!NtUserGetMessage+0x14
01, user32.dll!GetMessageW+0x2a
02, Notepad.exe+0x734c6
03, Notepad.exe+0x18236
04, Notepad.exe+0x40e70
05, Notepad.exe+0x7b55e
06, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
07, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

```
00, ntdll.dll!NtWaitForSingleObject+0x14
01, KernelBase.dll!DeviceIoControl+0x86
02, kernel32.dll!DeviceIoControl+0x81
03, conhost.exe+0x16490
04, conhost.exe+0x94a6
05, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
06, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

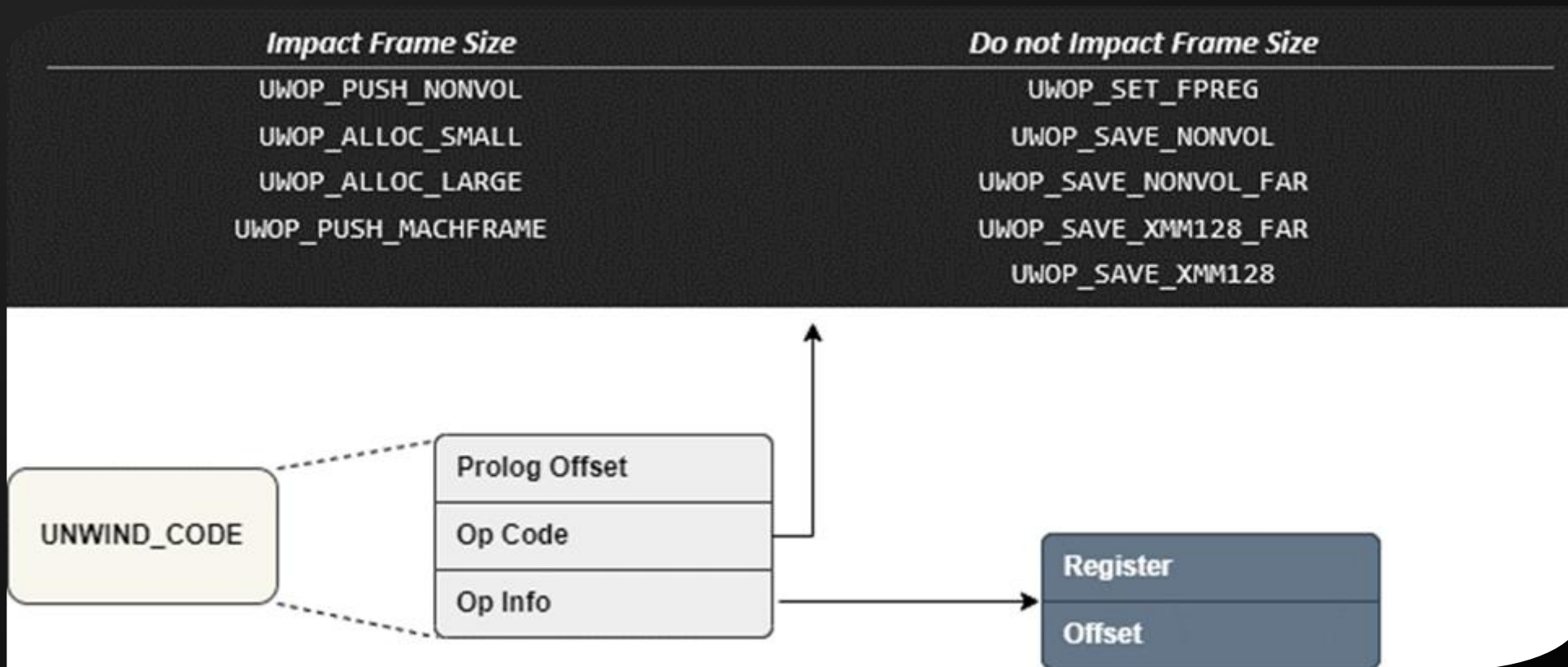
# UNWINDING



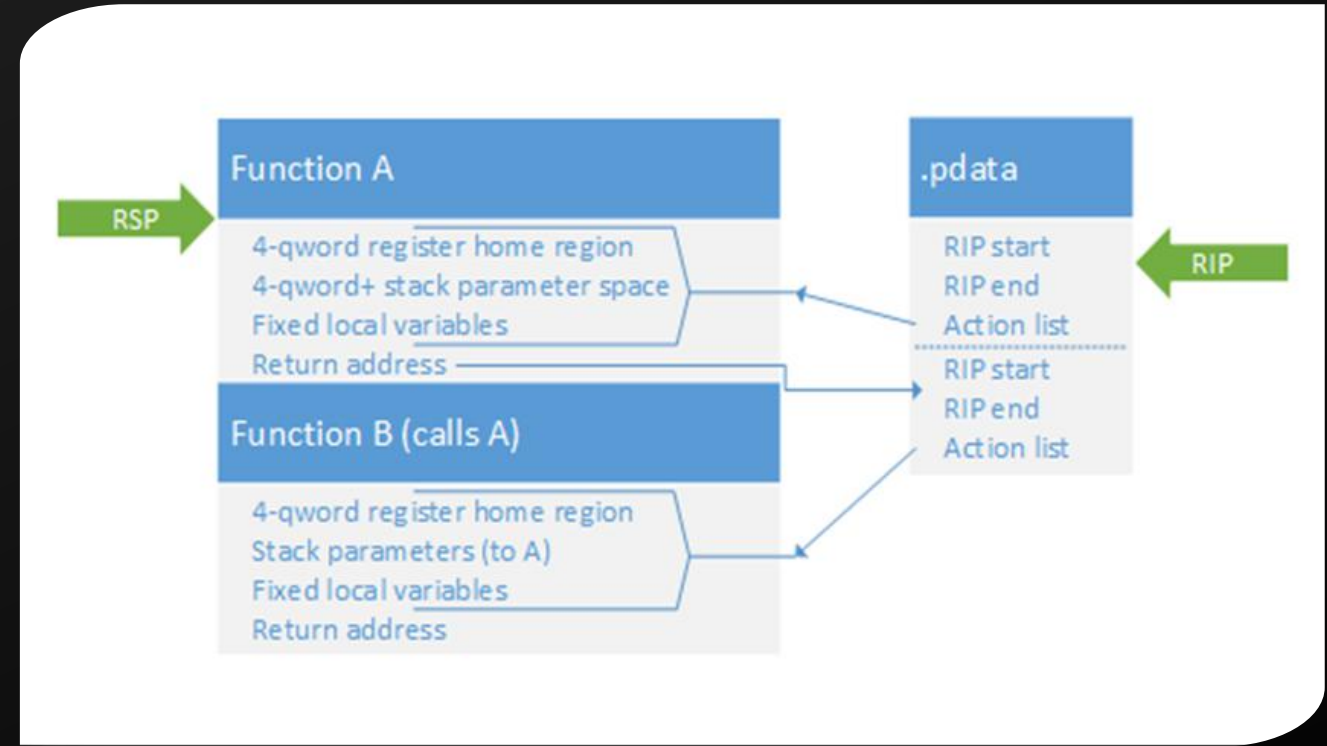
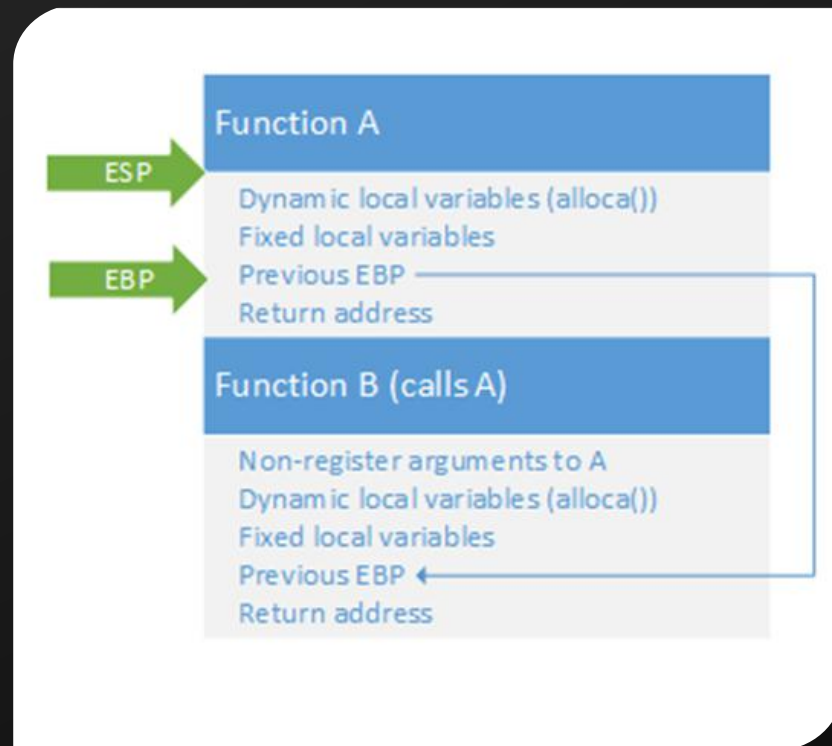
# UNWINDING



# UNWINDING



# WINDOWS CALLING CONVENTION



# CALL-STACK ANALYSIS

## In-Memory Execution

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When a particular API or system call is executed, Call Stack analysis can be utilised to trace back the caller frame and verify if it can be resolved to a module on disk.

## In-Direct System Calls

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Although rarely used for this reason, analyzing the call stack can be used to identify situation whereby a system call has been invoked directly via an Nt function or by using an indirect jump.

# IN-MEMORY EXECUTION

## Normal Call Stack

```
0, win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x12
1, user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x336
2, user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x19b
3, user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x826
4, user32.dll!DrawStateW+0x25f9
5, user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6, user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7, user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8, AbsentMoon.exe!main+0xed
9, AbsentMoon.exe!__scrt_common_main_seh+0x10c
10, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
11, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

## In-Memory Code Call Stack

```
0, win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x12
1, user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x336
2, user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x19b
3, user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x826
4, user32.dll!DrawStateW+0x25f9
5, user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6, user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7, user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8, 0x0000000000000000
```

# IN-MEMORY EXECUTION - STOMPING

The screenshot displays the Windows Task Manager interface for the process 'Proprietà - msgbox.exe (81404)'. The 'Threads' tab is selected, showing a list of threads with the following data:

TID	CPU	Cycles delta	Start address	Priority
88288			msgbox.exe+0x2de7	Normal
74800			ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart	Normal
27340			rpcrt4.dll!UuidToStringW	Normal

Below the thread list, the 'Start module' field is empty. The 'Started' status is 'N/A'. The 'State' is 'N/A'. The 'Priority' is 'N/A'. The 'Base priority' is 'N/A'. The 'I/O priority' is 'N/A'. The 'Page priority' is 'N/A'. The 'Ideal processor' is 'N/A'. The 'Cycles' is 'N/A'.

Two stack windows are open, showing the call stack for threads 74800 and 27340.

**Stack - thread 74800**

Index	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14
1	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x336
2	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x19b
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x826
4	user32.dll!DrawStateW+0x25f9
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8	0x1d441414100
9	0x1d44141410b
10	0x1d44141411c

**Stack - thread 27340**

Index	Name
0	ntdll.dll!NtWaitForSingleObject+0x14
1	KernelBase.dll!WaitForSingleObjectEx+0x8e
2	rpcrt4.dll!RpcBindingFromStringBindingW+0x29bd

# INDIRECT SYSCALL EXECUTION

## High Level API Call Stack

```
0, ntdll.dll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory+0x13
1, KernelBase.dll!VirtualAllocExNuma+0x5c
2, KernelBase.dll!VirtualAllocEx+0x16
3, AbsentMoon.exe!main+0x5a
4, AbsentMoon.exe!__scrt_common_main_seh+0x10c
5, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
6, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

## Indirect Syscall Call Stack

```
0, ntdll.dll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory+0x13

1, AbsentMoon.exe!main+0xc4
2, AbsentMoon.exe!__scrt_common_main_seh+0x10c
3, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
4, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

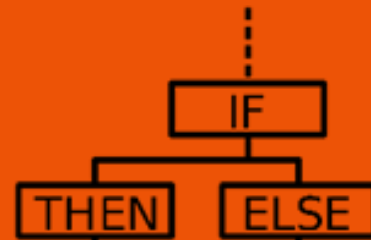
# WHEN TO DETECT

## Periodic



Every period of T seconds all threads can be scanned and their call stack analysed

## Conditional



A security tool might scan all threads in a WAIT state to check for sleeping implants

## Hooking



Every time a specific API or System Call gets called, the call stack can be analysed

# PREVIOUS RESEARCH



1

## Stack Truncation

This is an extension of return address spoofing, which ensure to zero out the return address of the caller frame



2

## Stack Crafting

Craft the thread call stack artificially, to mimic other legitimate threads when invoking a specific API



3

## Stack Cloning

Uses an external mechanism (timers, APC queues) to hide the thread stack of the in-memory injected code by cloning a legitimate thread stack

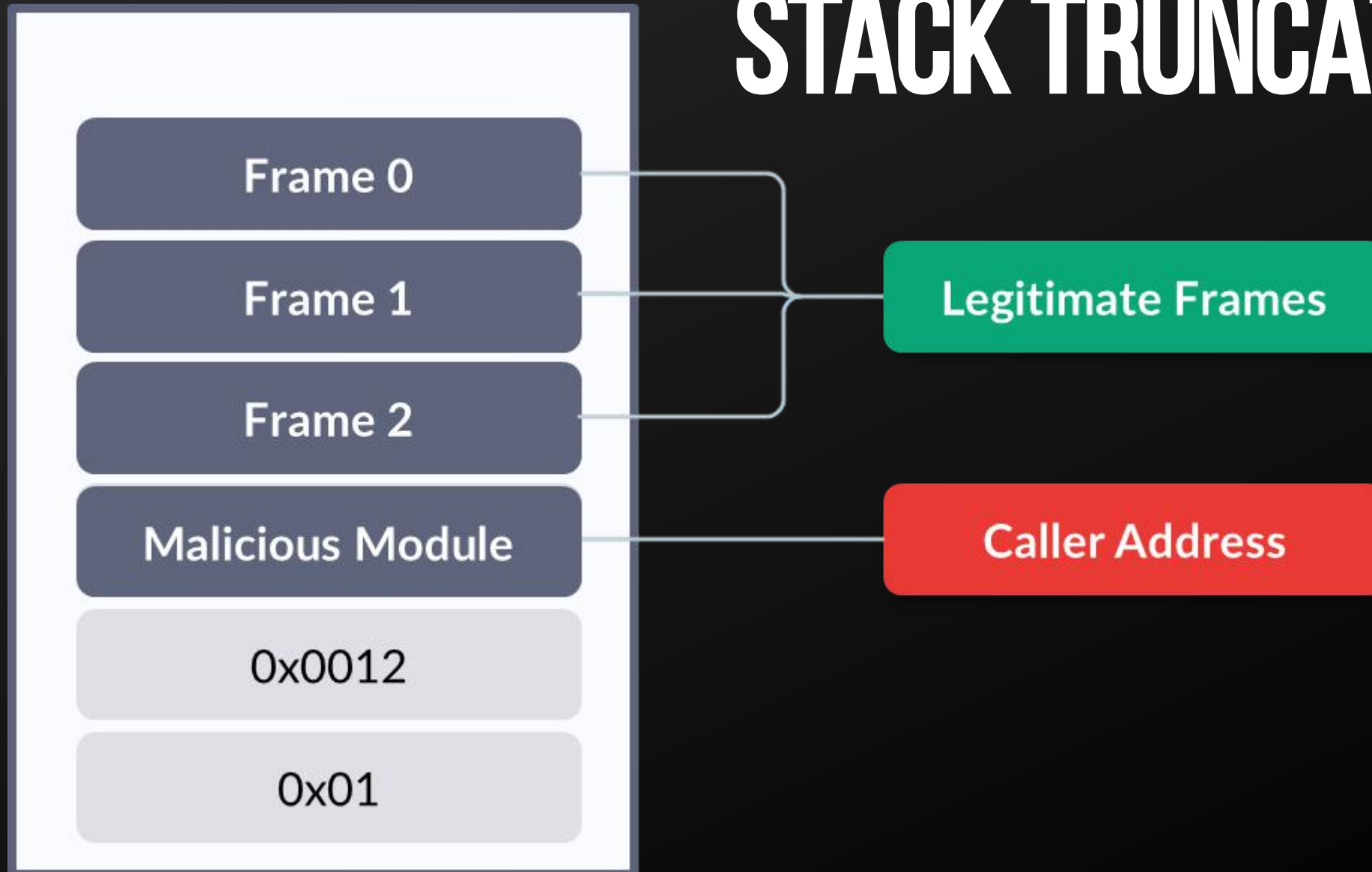


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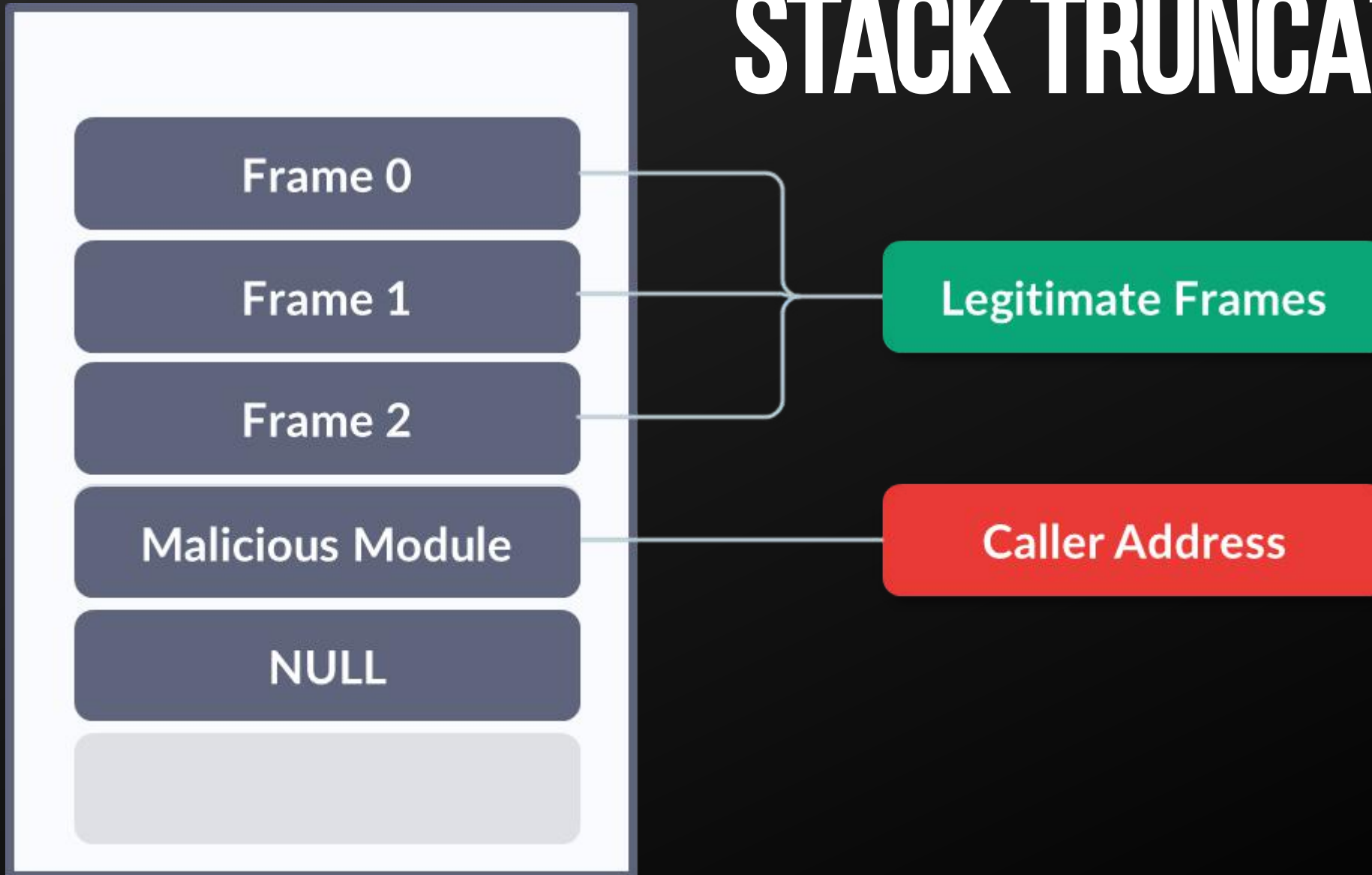
## Stack Hiding

Uses Fibers to hide the thread stack of the in-memory injected code

# STACK TRUNCATION



# STACK TRUNCATION



# STACK TRUNCATION

Stack - thread 34356

#	Name	Stack address	Return address	Frame address
0	ntoskrnl.exe!KiDeliverApc+0x1b0			
1	ntoskrnl.exe!KiSwapThread+0x827			
2	ntoskrnl.exe!KiCommitThreadWait+0x14f			
3	ntoskrnl.exe!KeDelayExecutionThread+0x122			
4	ntoskrnl.exe!NtDelayExecution+0x5f			
5	ntoskrnl.exe!KiSystemServiceCopyEnd+0x25			
6	ntdll.dll!NtDelayExecution+0x14	0x88da5ffa98	0x7ffeb65795be	0x88da5ffa90
7	KernelBase.dll!SleepEx+0x9e	0x88da5ffaa0	0x22d6bd5bd51	0x88da5ffb30
8	0x22d6bd5bd51	0x88da5ffb40	0x1388	0x88da5ffb38
9	0x1388	0x88da5ffb48	0x22d00000000	0x88da5ffb40
10	0x22d00000000	0x88da5ffb50	0x1b0001c00000bb	0x88da5ffb48
11	0x1b0001c00000bb	0x88da5ffb58		0x88da5ffb50

Stack - thread 45956

#	Name	Stack address	Frame address	Return address
0	ntoskrnl.exe!KiDeliverApc+0x1b0			
1	ntoskrnl.exe!KiSwapThread+0x827			
2	ntoskrnl.exe!KiCommitThreadWait+0x14f			
3	ntoskrnl.exe!KeDelayExecutionThread+0x122			
4	ntoskrnl.exe!NtDelayExecution+0x5f			
5	ntoskrnl.exe!KiSystemServiceCopyEnd+0x25			
6	ntdll.dll!NtDelayExecution+0x14	0x3211ff4d8	0x3211ff4d0	0x7ffeb65795be
7	KernelBase.dll!SleepEx+0x9e	0x3211ff4e0	0x3211ff570	0x7ff79a49125c
8	ThreadStackSpoof.exe!MySleep+0x5c	0x3211ff580	0x3211ff5d0	

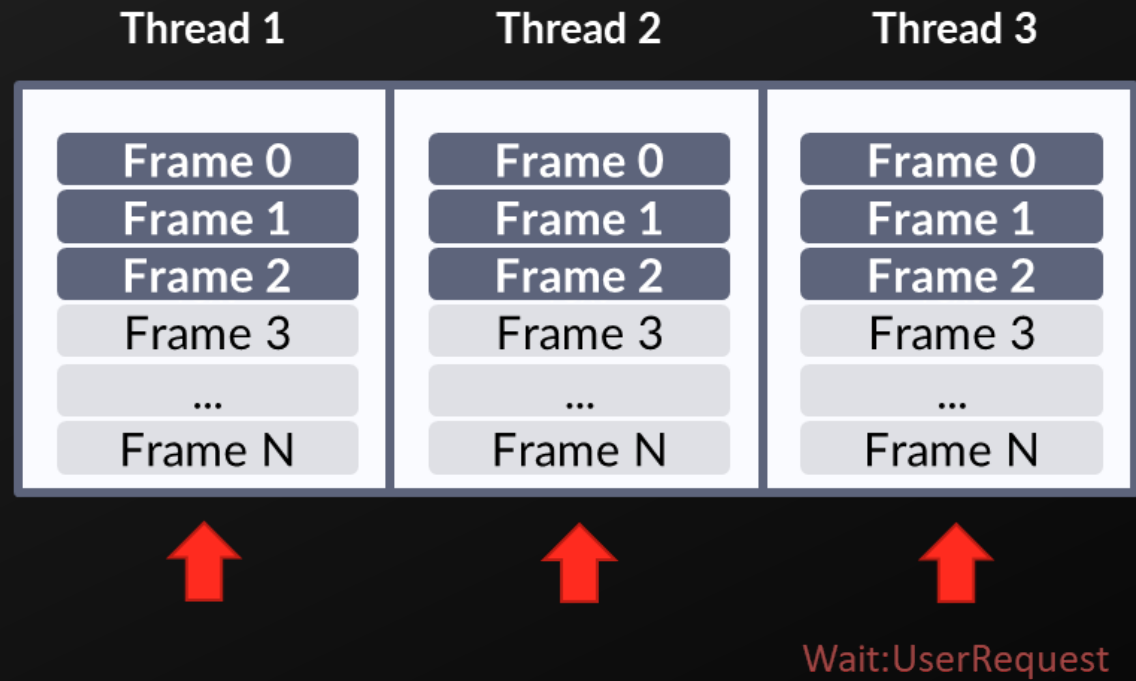
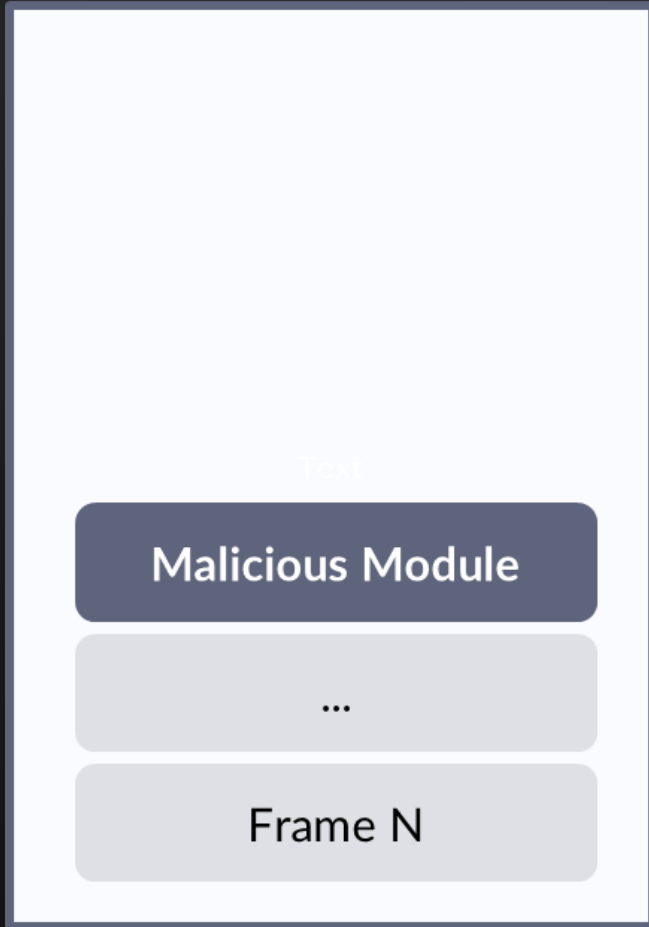
# STACK CRAFTING



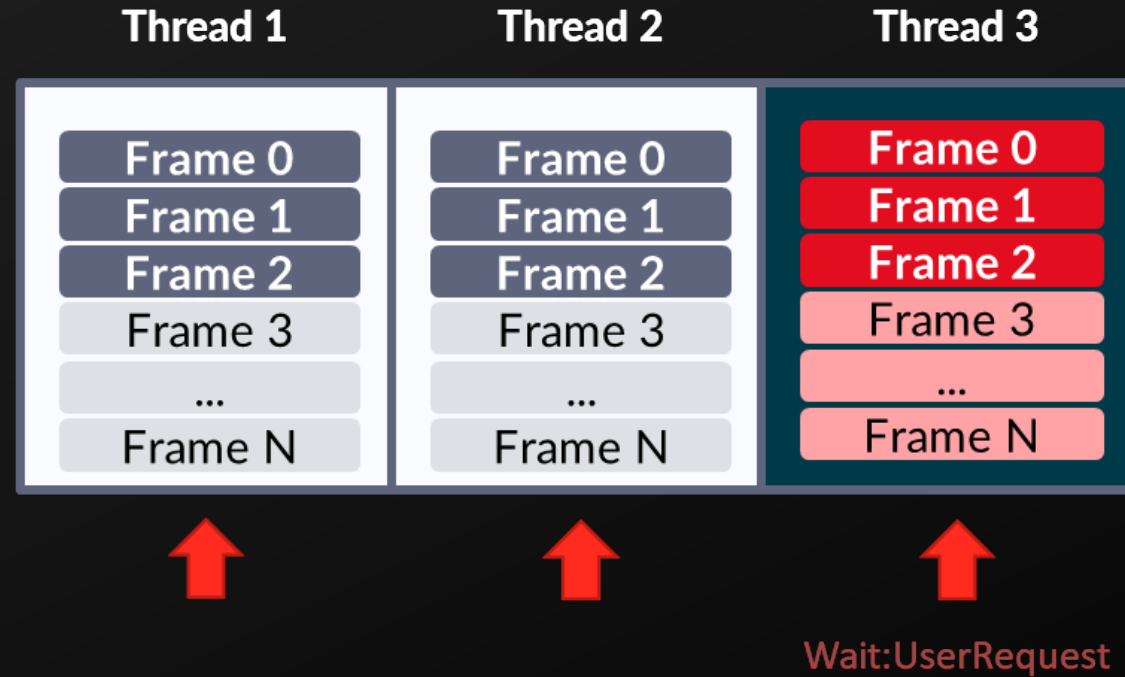
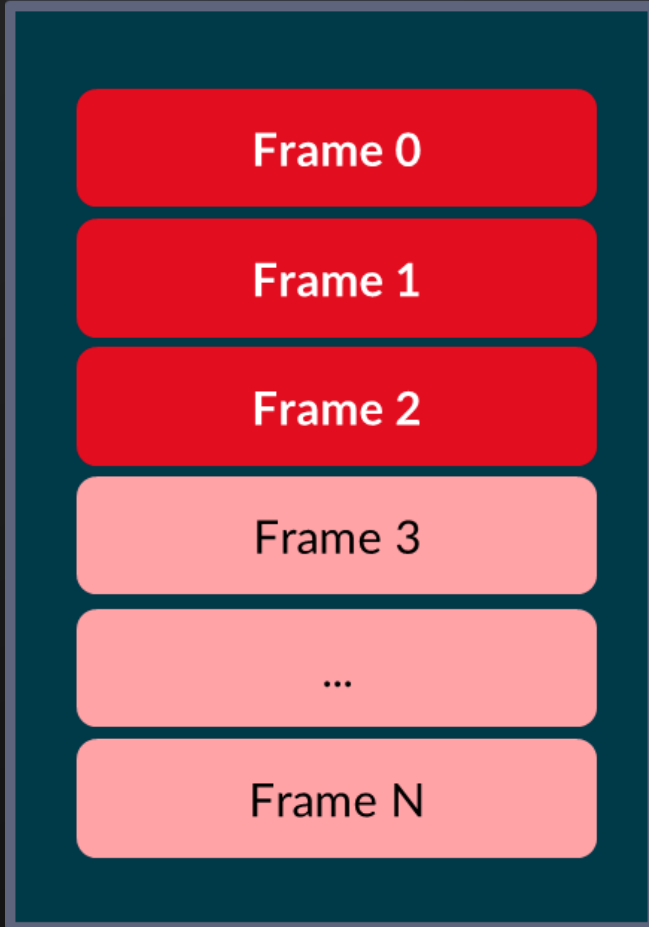
# STACK CRAFTING



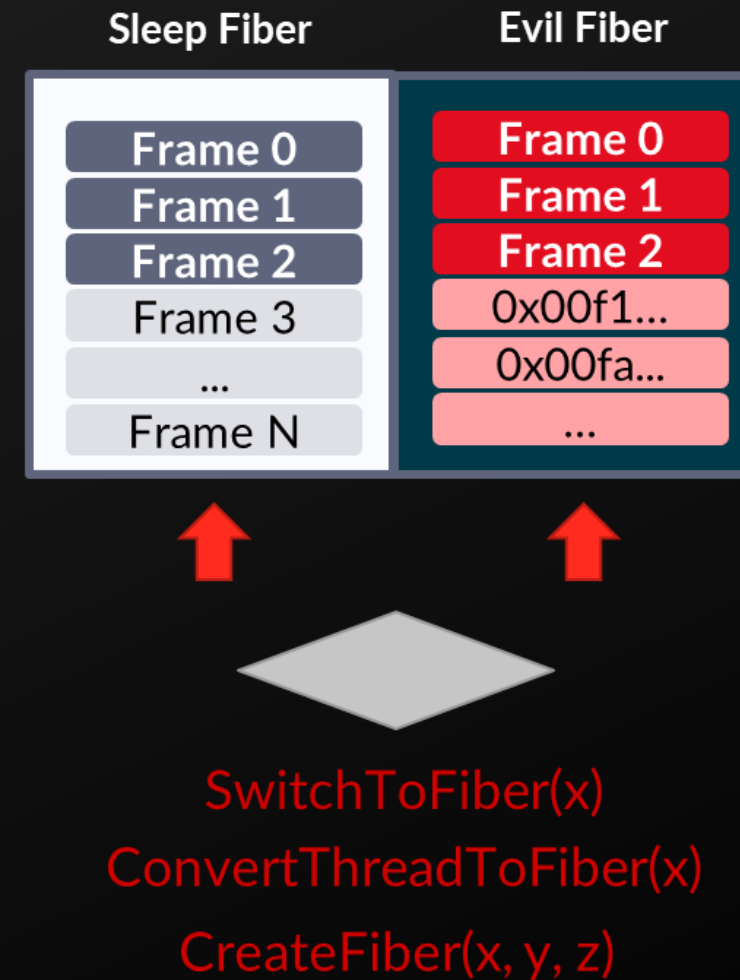
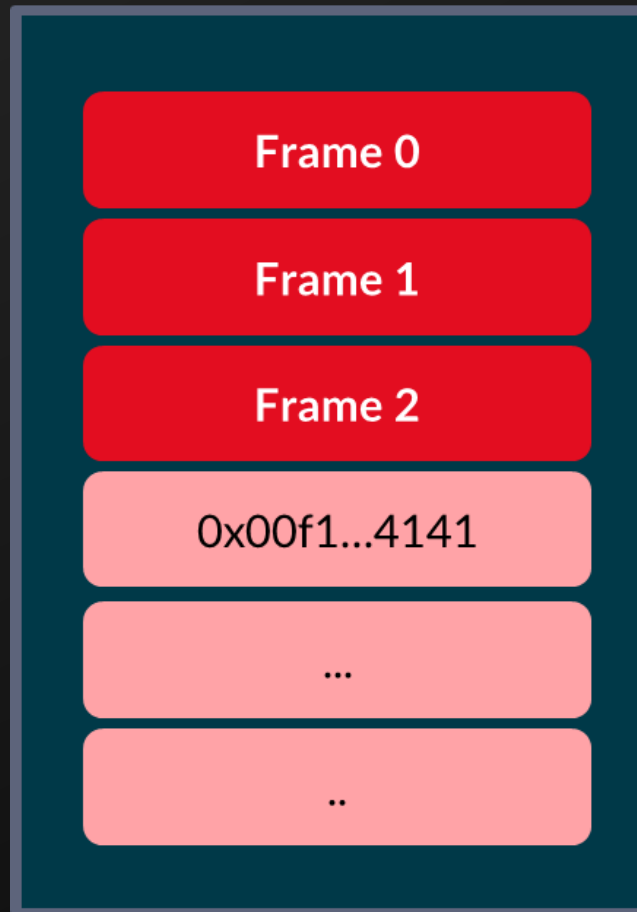
# STACK CLONING



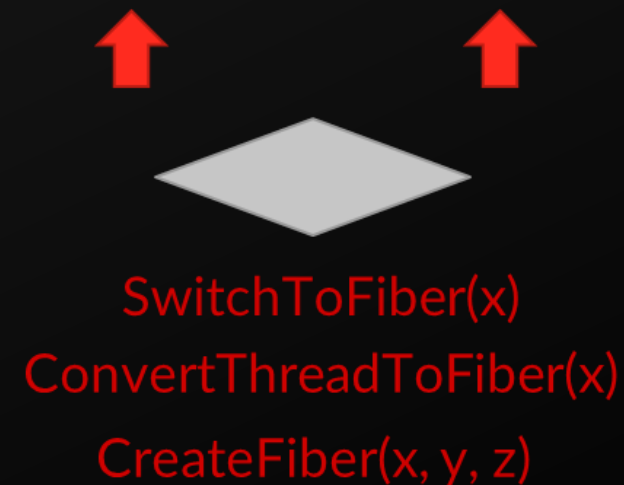
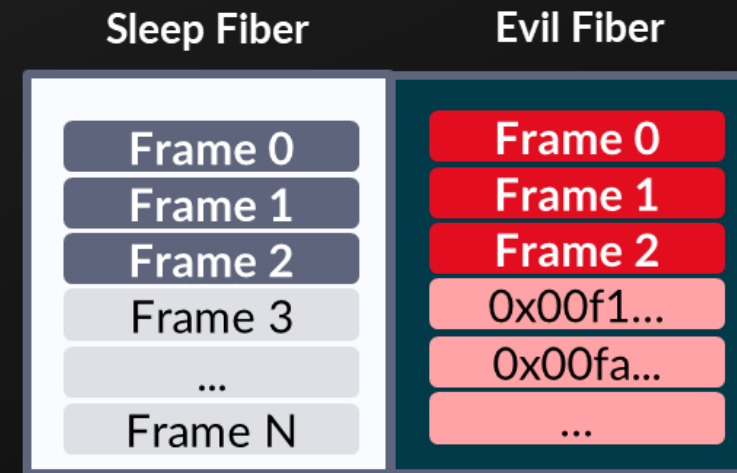
# STACK CLONING



# STACK HIDING



# STACK HIDING



# STACK HIDING

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R	
> 0x5d0a200000	Private	2.048 kB	RW	PEB
> 0x5d0a400000	Private	1.024 kB	RW	
> 0x5d0a800000	Private	1.024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R	
> 0x15f1c850000	Mapped	116 kB	R	

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R	
> 0x5d0a200000	Private	2.048 kB	RW	PEB
> 0x5d0a400000	Private	1.024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)
> 0x5d0a800000	Private	1.024 kB	RW	
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R	
> 0x15f1c850000	Mapped	116 kB	R	

Stack - thread 2388

	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14
1	user32.dll!FrameRect+0x27c
2	user32.dll!EndDialog+0x65b
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x836
4	user32.dll!DrawStateA+0x1e11
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxW+0x4e
7	0x1fbf1b011b4

Stack - thread 2388

	Name
0	ntdll.dll!NtDelayExecution+0x14
1	ntdll.dll!RtlDelayExecution+0x43
2	KernelBase.dll!SleepEx+0x71
3	loader.exe+0x138c
4	loader.exe+0x1006
5	loader.exe+0x1047
6	loader.exe+0xc89e
7	loader.exe+0x1035
8	loader.exe+0x28828
9	kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x10
10	ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x2b

---

# OUR CONTRIBUTION

# STACK MOONWALKING

# 1

## Hide Caller

This technique was initially developed to conceal the main caller module from the call stack, preserving its unwindability when executing in-memory code

# 2

## Obfuscate Stack

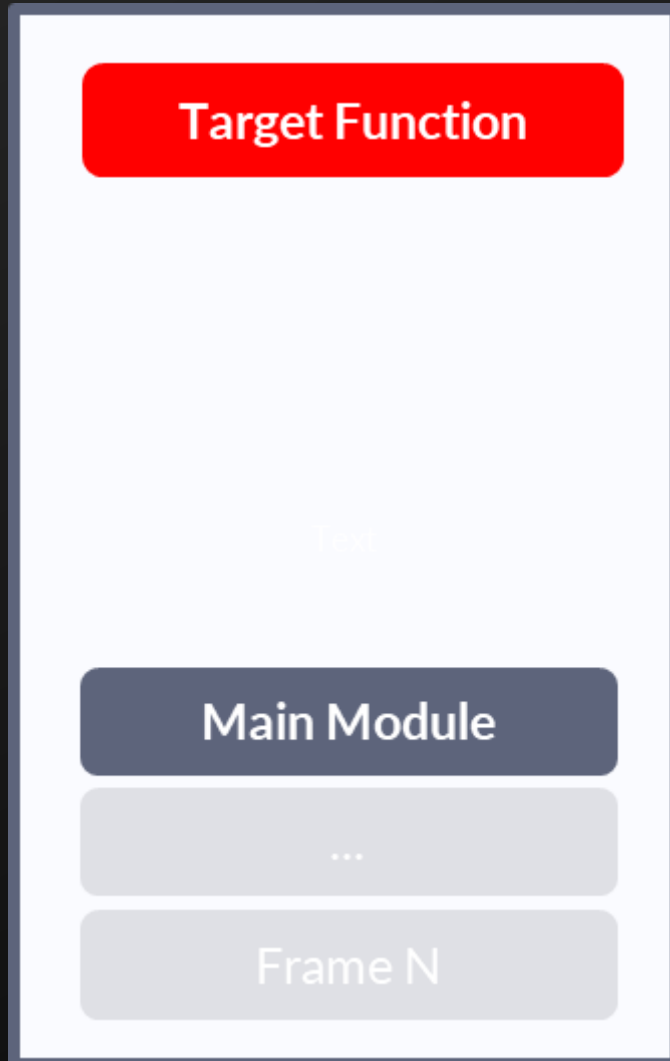
Stack Moonwalk obfuscates the stack, making it difficult to understand how a specific API/System Call was invoked

# 3

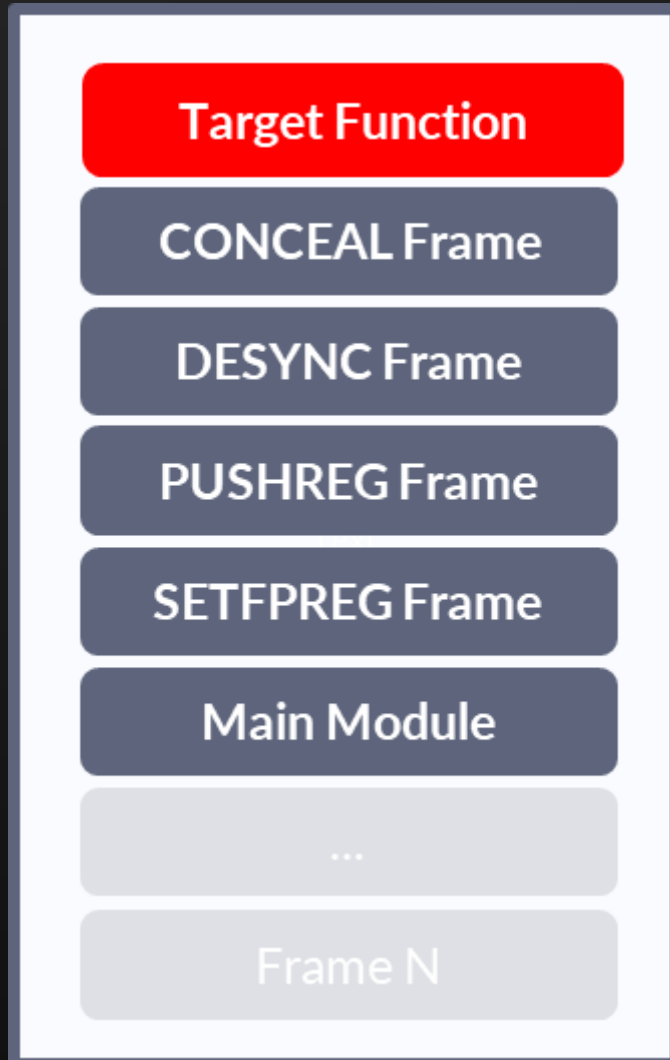
## Auto Restore

The technique does not use any external mechanism to restore the stack on return, it does use a ROP paradigm instead

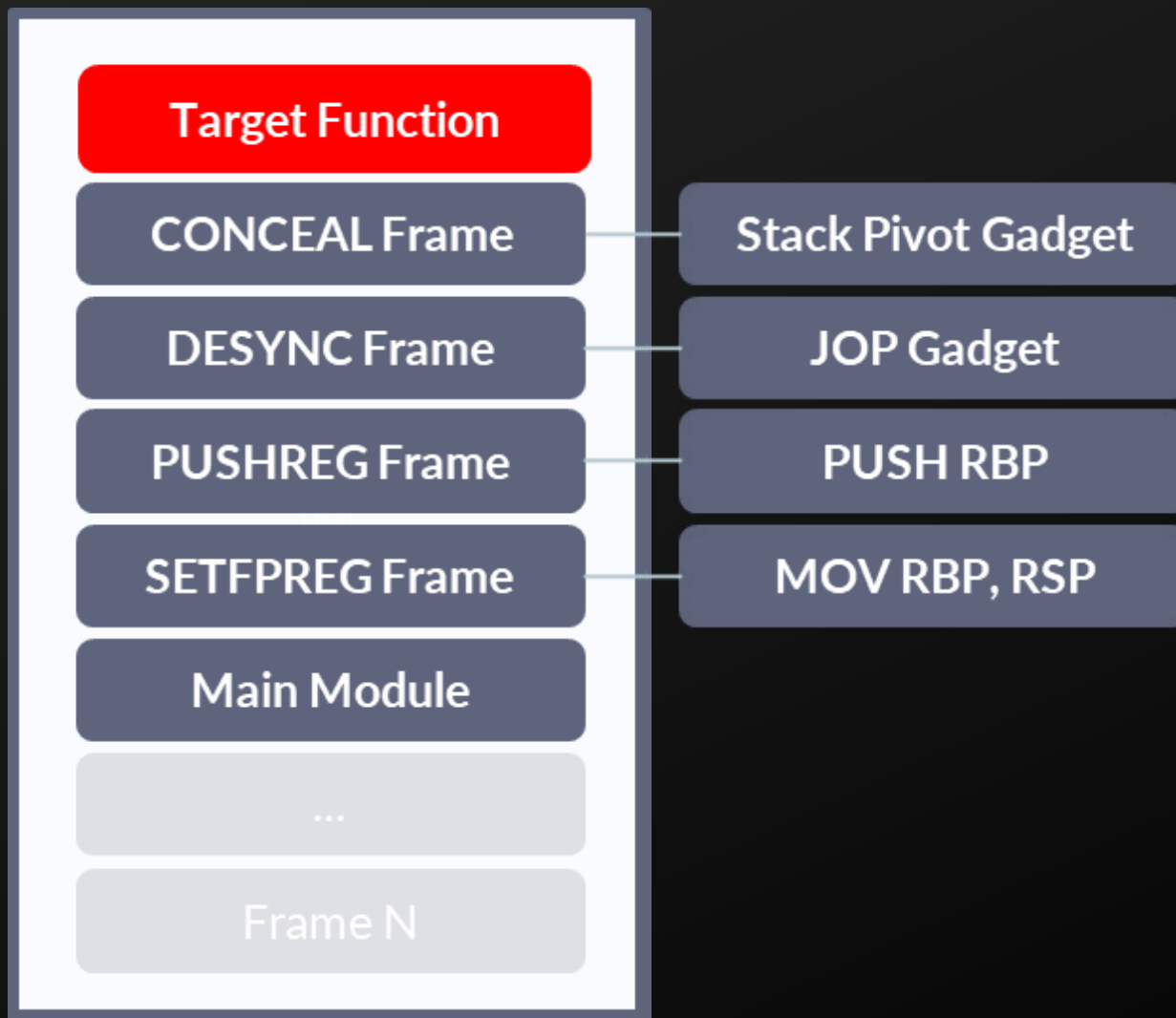
# FULL MOON (WALK)



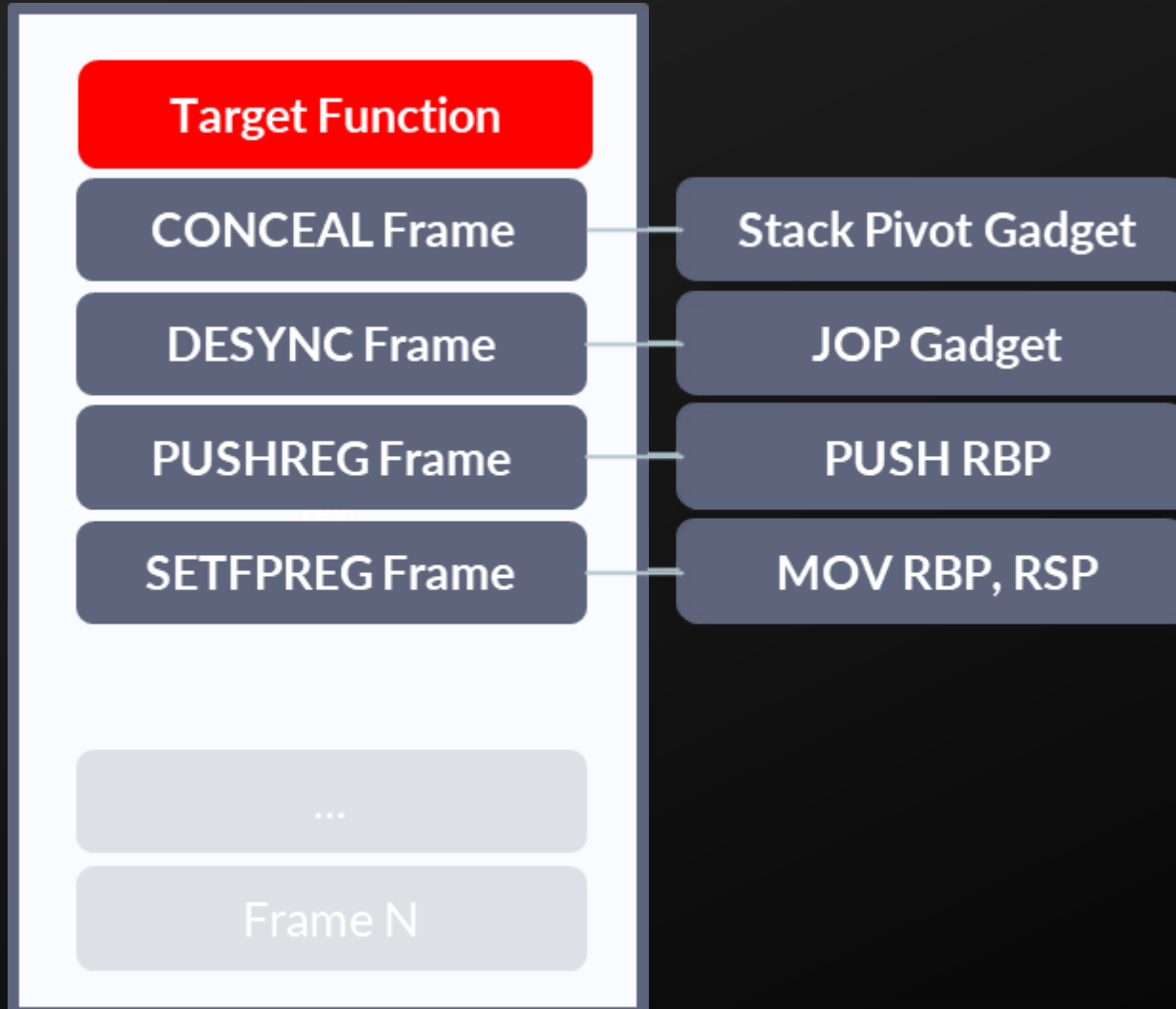
# FULL MOON (WALK)



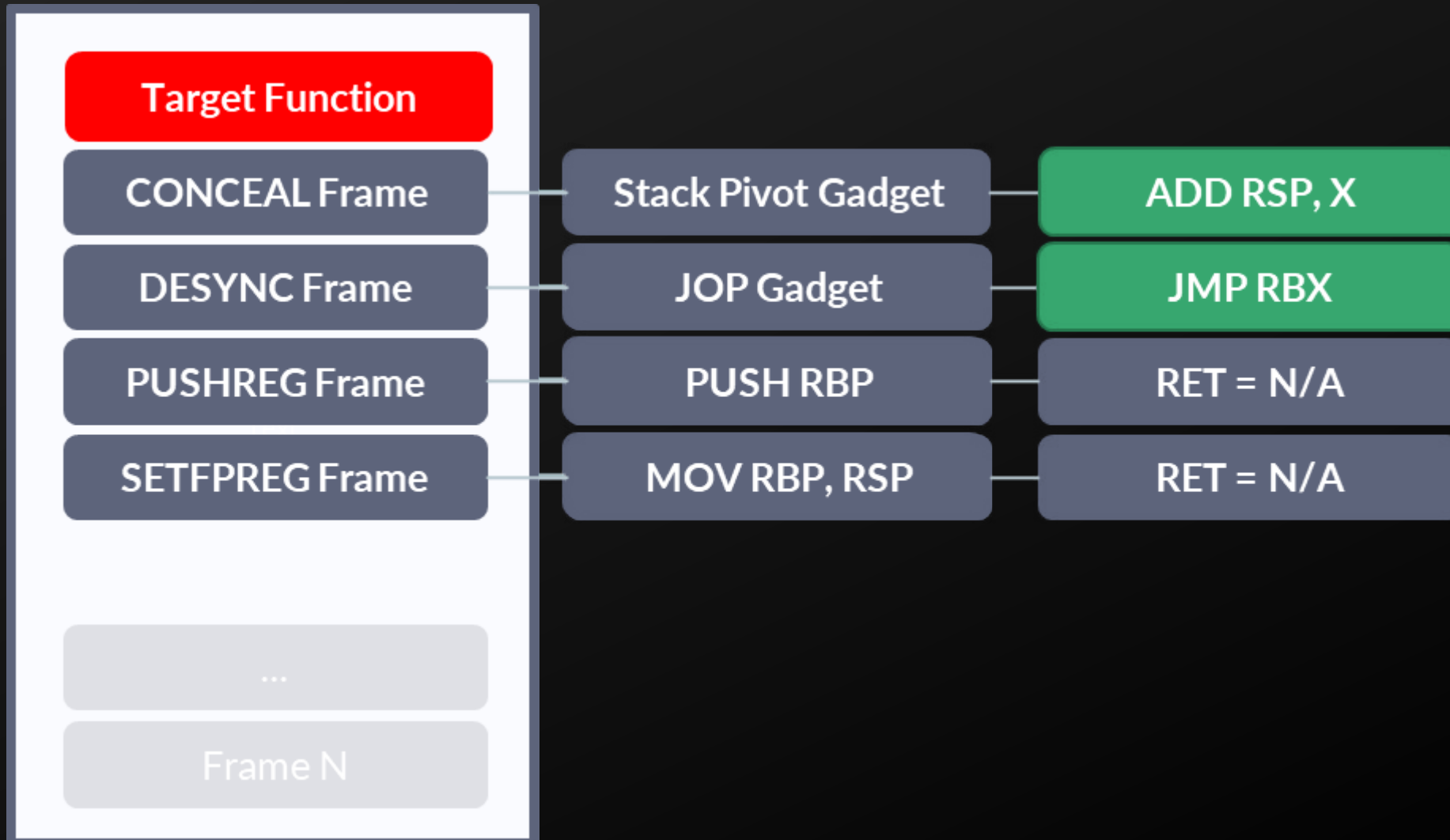
# FULL MOON (WALK)



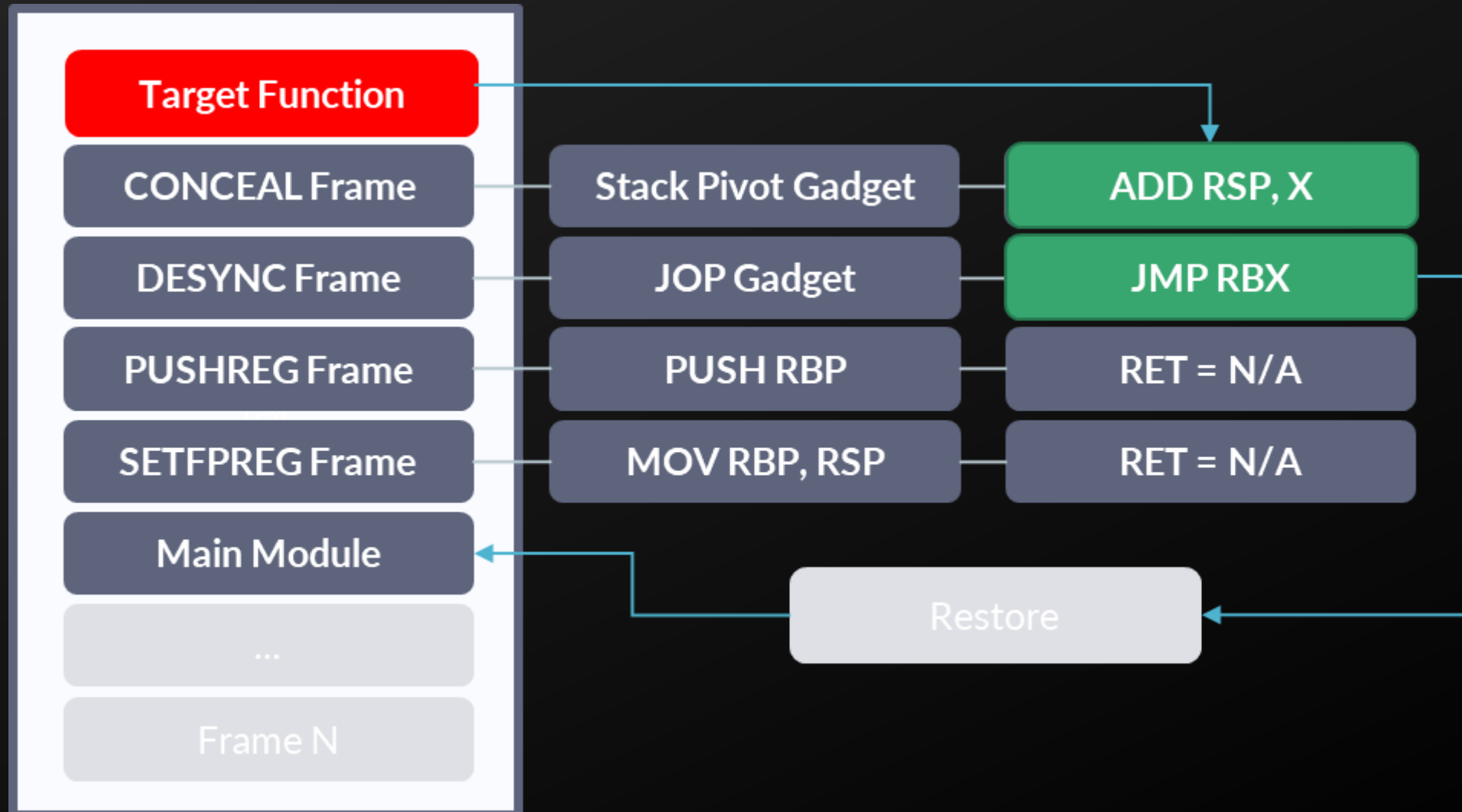
# FULL MOON (WALK)



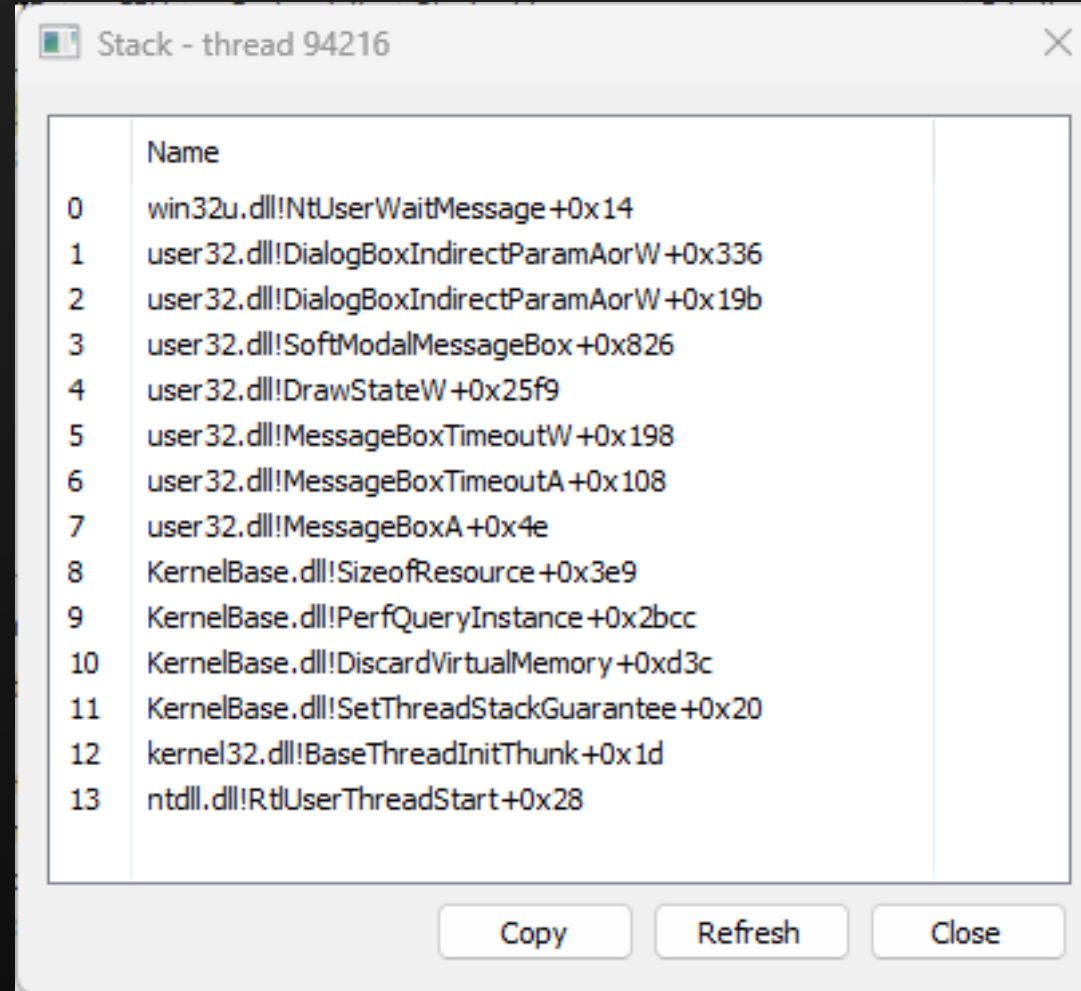
# FULL MOON (WALK)



# FULL MOON (WALK)



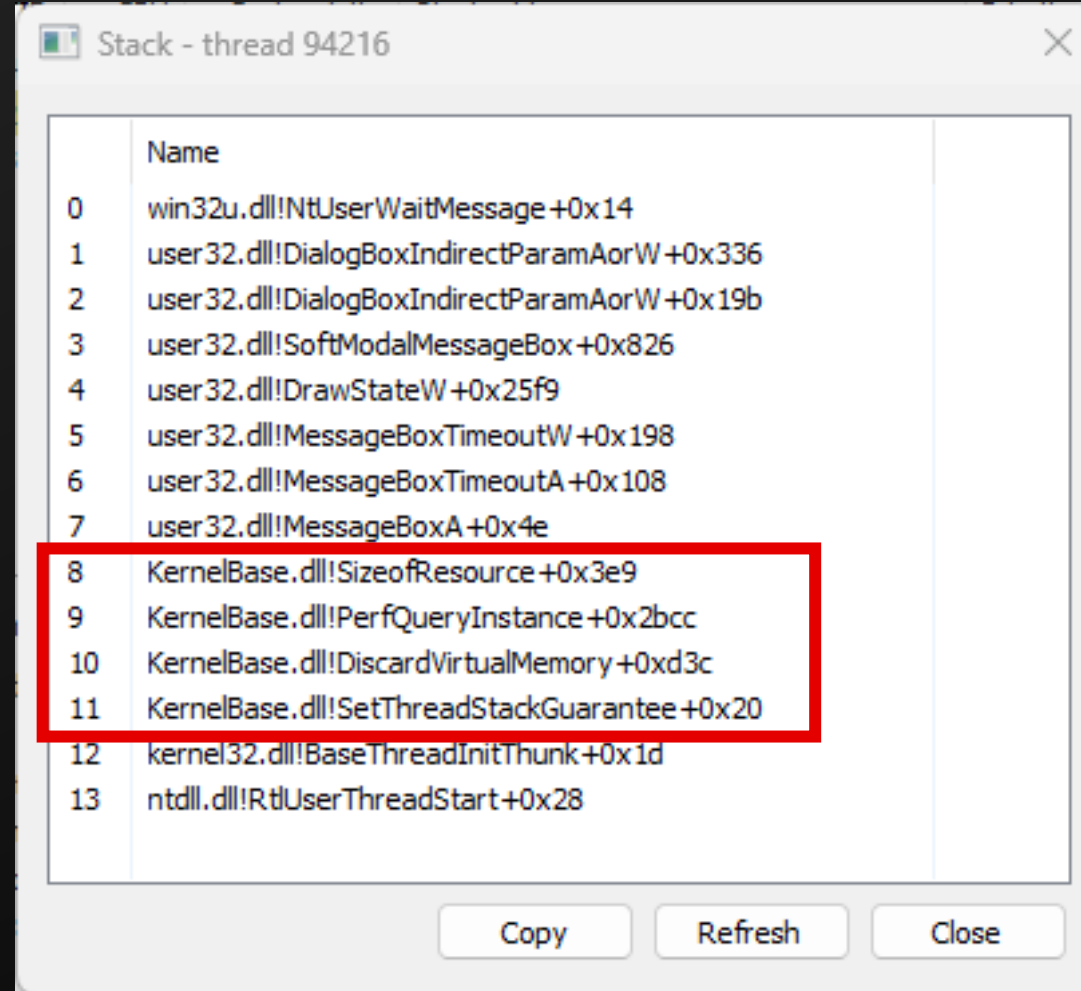
# FULL MOON (WALK)



```
Stack - thread 94216
Name
0 win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage +0x14
1 user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW +0x336
2 user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW +0x19b
3 user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox +0x826
4 user32.dll!DrawStateW +0x25f9
5 user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW +0x198
6 user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA +0x108
7 user32.dll!MessageBoxA +0x4e
8 KernelBase.dll!SizeofResource +0x3e9
9 KernelBase.dll!PerfQueryInstance +0x2bcc
10 KernelBase.dll!DiscardVirtualMemory +0xd3c
11 KernelBase.dll!SetThreadStackGuarantee +0x20
12 kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk +0x1d
13 ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart +0x28
```

Copy Refresh Close

# FULL MOON (WALK) - FRAMES

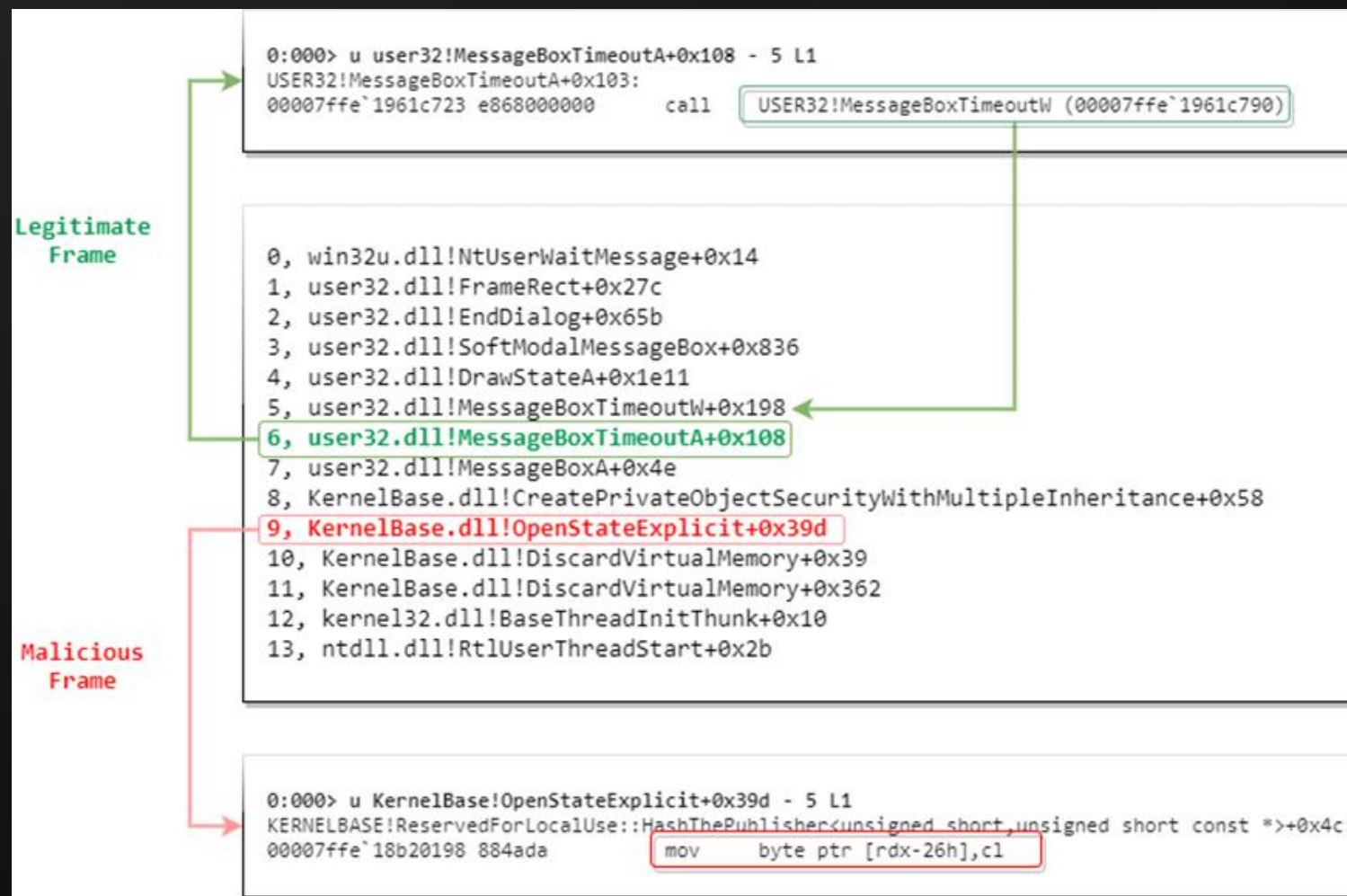


Stack - thread 94216

	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage +0x14
1	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW +0x336
2	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW +0x19b
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox +0x826
4	user32.dll!DrawStateW +0x25f9
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW +0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA +0x108
7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA +0x4e
8	KernelBase.dll!SizeofResource +0x3e9
9	KernelBase.dll!PerfQueryInstance +0x2bcc
10	KernelBase.dll!DiscardVirtualMemory +0xd3c
11	KernelBase.dll!SetThreadStackGuarantee +0x20
12	kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk +0x1d
13	ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart +0x28

Copy Refresh Close

# ECLIPSE



# ECLIPSE

## Expected CALL Instructions

Instruction	Opcode	Length
CALL MODR/M Rex.W 1	48 FF cd	0x7
CALL MODR/M Rex.W 0	FF cd	0x6
CALL REL32	E8 cd	0x5
CALL R64	[41] FF cb	0x2 - 0x3
SYSTEM CALL	0F 05	0x2

Possible CALL instructions observable before a frame return address

# ECLIPSE - ALGORITHM

## Algorithm 2: Eclipse detection algorithm

**Result:** True if  $Eclipse(f) = 0 \forall f \in s$

**Input :**  $s$ : Stack,  $current$ : Frame,  $strict$ : Boolean

**Output:**  $alarm$ : Integer

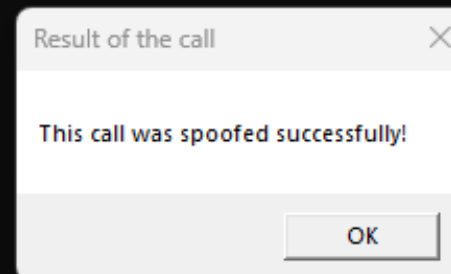
```

1 while  $s$  is not empty do
2    $frame \leftarrow s.pop()$ 
3    $prev_s \leftarrow prev\_call\_instruction(frame)$ 
4    $ret_n_s \leftarrow instruction\_on\_return(frame)$ 
5   if  $frame$  is not backed by a file on disk then
6     return REFLECTIVE_INJECTION_DETECTED
7   else if  $ret_n_s == DESYNC\_GADGET$  then
8     return STACK_MOONWALK_DETECTED
9   else if  $prev_s \neq CALL$  then
10    return CALL_MISMATCH_DETECTED
11  else
12     $address \leftarrow extract(prev_s)$ 
13    if  $address$  does not call  $current \wedge strict$  then
14      return CALL_WRONG_ADDRESS_DETECTED
15    else
16       $current \leftarrow frame$ 
17    end
18  end
19 return NO_ALERT;
```

# ECLIPSE - IN ACTION

```
Function BaseThreadInitThunk found. Stack size: 0x28 - Address: 0x7ffef88b2690
Function RtlUserThreadStart found. Stack size: 0x78 - Address: 0x7ffef988aa40
Runtime Function Table Size: 102312
Runtime Function Table Last Index: 8526
RT Function Table Range: 0x7FFEF7418000 - 0x7FFEF7430FA8
Return address: 0x244C8FFBD8
Address of Function to spoof: 0x7FFEF8176DB0
```

```
-----
Breaking at: 74
First Frame FP: 0x7FFEF70C54B4
First Frame stack size: 0x58
Return address: 0x7FFEF70C0160
Breaking at: 2
Second Frame FP: 0x7FFEF70C1470
Second Frame stack size: 0x148
Return address: 0x7FFEF70C0520
PUSH RBP offset: 0x140
Breaking at: 632
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70E4BCB
JMP [RBX] Frame Stack size: 0x168
Breaking at: 15
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70C245F
ADD RSP, X Frame Stack size: 0x38
```



# ECLIPSE - IN ACTION

```
Function BaseThreadInitThunk found. Stack size: 0x28 - Address: 0x7ffef88b2690
Function RtlUserThreadStart found. Stack size: 0x78 - Address: 0x7ffef988aa40
```

#	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14
1	user32.dll!DialogBox2+0x172
2	user32.dll!InternalDialogBox+0x127
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x826
4	user32.dll!MessageBoxWorker+0x341
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8	KernelBase.dll!wisd::function<long __cdecl(unsigned short *
9	KernelBase.dll!CreateFileInternal+0x34b
10	KernelBase.dll!PssQuerySnapshot+0x25
11	KernelBase.dll!QueryProcessMachine+0x82
12	kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
13	ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28

```
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70E4BCB
JMP [RBX] Frame Stack size: 0x168
Breaking at: 15
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70C245F
ADD RSP, X Frame Stack size: 0x38
```

```
Analyzing ThreadID: 4436
```

```
Analyzed Function Frame: CreateFileW
```

```
PC Address: 0x00007FFEF70E4BCB
```

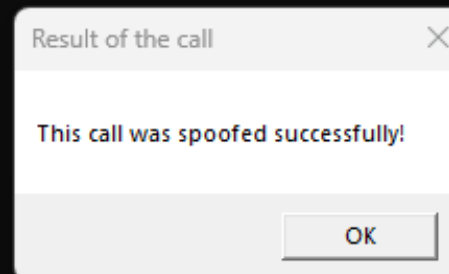
```
Stack Address: 0x000000244C8FF820
```

```
Return Address: 0x00007FFEF70C1495
```

```
[X] Possibly spoofed return address observed! There is a false caller observed here.
```

```
[!] This alert was generated because a call was not observed before the return address.
UNLESS this is a JIT process (such as a C Sharp Process). Then FP's are expected.
```

```
[Information] Opcode observed at return address is: 0xF1
```



# ECLIPSE - IN ACTION

```
Function BaseThreadInitThunk found. Stack size: 0x28 - Address: 0x7ffef88b2690
Function RtlUserThreadStart found. Stack size: 0x78 - Address: 0x7ffef988aa40
```

#	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14
1	user32.dll!DialogBox2+0x172
2	user32.dll!InternalDialogBox+0x127
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x826
4	user32.dll!MessageBoxWorker+0x341
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8	KernelBase.dll!wistd::function<long __cdecl(unsigned short *
9	KernelBase.dll!CreateFileInternal+0x34b
10	KernelBase.dll!PssQuerySnapshot+0x25
11	KernelBase.dll!QueryProcessMachine+0x82
12	kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
13	ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28

```
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70E4BCB
JMP [RBX] Frame Stack size: 0x168
Breaking at: 15
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70C245F
ADD RSP, X Frame Stack size: 0x38
```

```
Analyzing ThreadID: 4436
```

```
Analyzed Function Frame: CreateFileW
```

```
PC Address: 0x00007FFEF70E4BCB
```

```
Stack Address: 0x000000244C8FF820
```

```
Return Address: 0x00007FFEF70C1495
```

```
[X] Possibly spoofed return address observed! There is a false caller observed here.
```

```
[!] This alert was generated because a call was not observed before the return address UNLESS this is a JIT process (such as a C Sharp Process). Then FP's are expected.
```

```
[Information] Opcode observed at return address is: 0xF1
```

```
Analyzed Function Frame: PssQuerySnapshot
```

```
PC Address: 0x00007FFEF70C1495
```

```
Stack Address: 0x000000244C8FF990
```

```
Return Address: 0x00007FFEF70C5536
```

```
[X] Possibly spoofed return address observed! There is a false caller observed here.
```

```
[!] This alert was generated because a call was not observed before the return address UNLESS this is a JIT process (such as a C Sharp Process). Then FP's are expected.
```

```
[Information] Opcode observed at return address is: 0x0F
```

# ECLIPSE - FALSE POSITIVES

The screenshot shows the DbgX Shell interface for a process named 'Proprietà - DbgX.Shell.exe (81740)'. The 'Threads' tab is active, displaying a list of threads. Thread 55112 is selected, and its stack trace is shown in a pop-up window titled 'Stack - thread 55112'. The stack trace lists the following frames:

Index	Name
0	ntdll.dll!ZwWaitForMultipleObjects+0x14
1	KernelBase.dll!WaitForMultipleObjectsEx+0xe9
2	coreclr.dll+0x3587f
3	coreclr.dll+0x356f1
4	coreclr.dll+0x35260
5	System.Private.CoreLib.dll+0x2c838a
6	System.Private.CoreLib.dll+0x2c82e1
7	0x7ffc96da2ba9
8	0xffffffff

Below the stack trace, the 'Start module' is listed as 'C:\F...we\coreclr.dll'. The 'State' is 'Wait:Susp'. The 'Kernel time' is '00:00:00.000'. The 'User time' is '00:00:00.000'. The 'I/O priority' is 'Normal'. The 'Context switches' are '207'. The 'Page priority' is 'Normal'. The 'Cycles' are '71,848,342'. The 'Ideal processor' is '0:9'. The 'Close' button is visible at the bottom right of the window.

# ECLIPSE - ACCURACY AND JIT

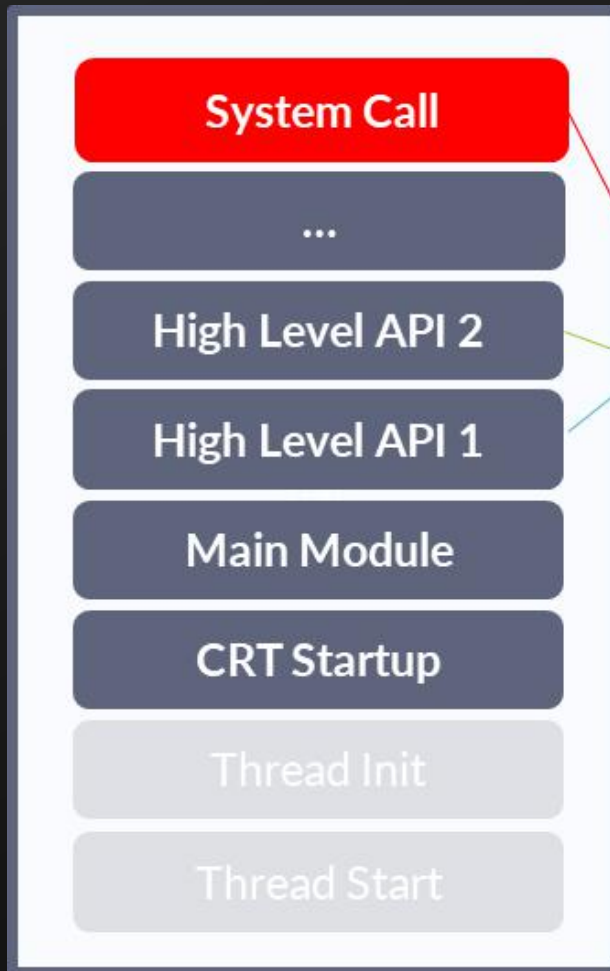
Machine	Processes Count	Alerts	False Positive Rate
Windows 10 Pro (std)	190	2	1.05%
Windows 10 Pro (dev)	350	15	4.29%
Windows 11 Enterprise (std)	176	4	2.27%
Windows 11 Enterprise (dev)	330	12	3.64%
Windows Server 2019	160	5	3.13%

Number of Processes

Number of processes with anomalies

False Positives

# HALF MOON (WALK)



```

KERNELBASE!VirtualAllocEx:
00007ffa`d661ba30 4883ec38      sub     rsp,38h
00007ffa`d661ba34 834c2428ff   or     dword ptr [rsp+28h],0FFFFFFFFh
00007ffa`d661ba39 8b442460     mov     eax,dword ptr [rsp+60h]
00007ffa`d661ba3d 89442420     mov     dword ptr [rsp+20h],eax
00007ffa`d661ba41 e81a000000   call   KERNELBASE!VirtualAllocExNuma (00007ffa`d661ba60)

KERNELBASE!VirtualAllocExNuma:
00007ffa`d661ba60 4c89442418   mov     qword ptr [rsp+18h],r8
00007ffa`d661ba65 4889542410   mov     qword ptr [rsp+10h],rdx
00007ffa`d661ba6a 4883ec38     sub     rsp,38h
...
00007ffa`d661bab5 48ff151c3b1e00 call   qword ptr [KERNELBASE!_imp_NtAllocateVirtualMemory (00007ffa`d67ff5d8)]

ntdll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory:
00007ffa`d8e2ef40 4c8bd1      mov     r10,rcx
00007ffa`d8e2ef43 b818000000 mov     eax,18h
...
00007ffa`d8e2ef52 0f05      syscall
00007ffa`d8e2ef54 c3        ret
...

```

# HALF MOON (WALK)

```
0, ntdll.dll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory+0x13
1, KernelBase.dll!VirtualAllocExNuma+0x5c
2, KernelBase.dll!VirtualAllocEx+0x16
3, AbsentMoon.exe!main+0x5a
4, AbsentMoon.exe!__scrt_common_main_seh+0x10c
5, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
6, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

**Normal**

```
0, ntdll.dll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory+0x13
1, KernelBase.dll!VirtualAllocExNuma+0x5c
2, KernelBase.dll!VirtualAllocEx+0x16
3, HalfMoon.exe!emulate_system_call+0x3f
4, HalfMoon.exe!main+0x322
5, HalfMoon.exe!__scrt_common_main_seh+0x10c
6, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
7, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

**Half Moon**

# HALF MOON (WALK) - RETURN FLOW

## 1

### Place Return on Unwinding

It is possible to set the return address at the start of the epilogue, which can be calculated using the `RUNTIME_FUNCTION` information.

## 2

### Targeted Setup

It is also possible to analyze and tamper the post-return checks to ensure the program returns without errors.

## 3

### Sliding HW breakpoints

It is possible to use a "sliding breakpoint" strategy to force the return flow in a suitable way.

# HALF MOON (WALK) - RETURN ON EPILOG

```
KERNELBASE!VirtualProtectEx:
00007fff`f798de10 488bc4      mov     rax,rsp
00007fff`f798de13 48895808   mov     qword ptr [rax+8],rbx
00007fff`f798de17 4c894018   mov     qword ptr [rax+18h],r8
00007fff`f798de1b 48895010   mov     qword ptr [rax+10h],rdx
00007fff`f798de1f 55        push   rbp
00007fff`f798de20 56        push   rsi
00007fff`f798de21 57        push   rdi
00007fff`f798de22 4883ec30   sub     rsp,30h
00007fff`f798de26 488b6c2470 mov     rbp,qword ptr [rsp+70h]
00007fff`f798de2b 4c8d4018   lea    r8,[rax+18h]
00007fff`f798de2f 488d5010   lea    rdx,[rax+10h]
00007fff`f798de33 488968d8   mov     qword ptr [rax-28h],rbp
00007fff`f798de37 418bf1     mov     esi,r9d
00007fff`f798de3a 488bf9     mov     rdi,rcx
00007fff`f798de3d 48ff15b4171e00 call   qword ptr [KERNELBASE!_imp_NtProtectVirtualMemory (00007fff`f7b6f5f8)]
00007fff`f798de44 0f1f440000 nop     dword ptr [rax+rax]
00007fff`f798de49 8bd8     mov     ebx,eax
00007fff`f798de4b 85c0     test   eax,eax
00007fff`f798de4d 0f88ab510700 js     KERNELBASE!VirtualProtectEx+0x751ee (00007fff`f7a02ffe)
00007fff`f798de53 b801000000 mov     eax,1
00007fff`f798de58 488b5c2450 mov     rbx,qword ptr [rsp+50h]
00007fff`f798de5d 4883c430   add     rsp,30h
00007fff`f798de61 5f        pop     rdi
00007fff`f798de62 5e        pop     rsi
00007fff`f798de63 5d        pop     rbp
00007fff`f798de64 c3        ret
```

# HALF MOON (WALK) - TARGETED SETUP

```

execute proc
  push  lastFrameCall
  xor    rsi, rsi
  mov   rbp, offset dummy
  mov   [rbp+07fh], rsi
  xor   r14, r14
  xor   r12, r12
  push  rbx
  xor   rbx, rbx
  ret
execute endp

```

```

KERNELBASE!WriteProcessMemory+0xb8:
00007fff`f7989ed8 48ff1521571e00 call  qword ptr [KERNELBASE!_imp_NtWriteVirtualMemory (00007fff`f7b6f600)]
00007fff`f7989edf 0f1f440000    nop   dword ptr [rax+rax]
00007fff`f7989ee4 488b4d7f     mov   rcx,qword ptr [rbp+7Fh]
00007fff`f7989ee8 8bd8        mov   ebx,eax
00007fff`f7989eea 4885c9      test  rcx,rcx
00007fff`f7989eed 754e       jne   KERNELBASE!WriteProcessMemory+0x11d (00007fff`f7989f3d)
...
00007fff`f7989f29 4881c4a0000000 add  rsp,0A0h
00007fff`f7989f30 415f       pop  r15
00007fff`f7989f32 415e       pop  r14
00007fff`f7989f34 415d       pop  r13
00007fff`f7989f36 415c       pop  r12
00007fff`f7989f38 5f        pop  rdi
00007fff`f7989f39 5e        pop  rsi
00007fff`f7989f3a 5d        pop  rbp
00007fff`f7989f3b c3        ret

```

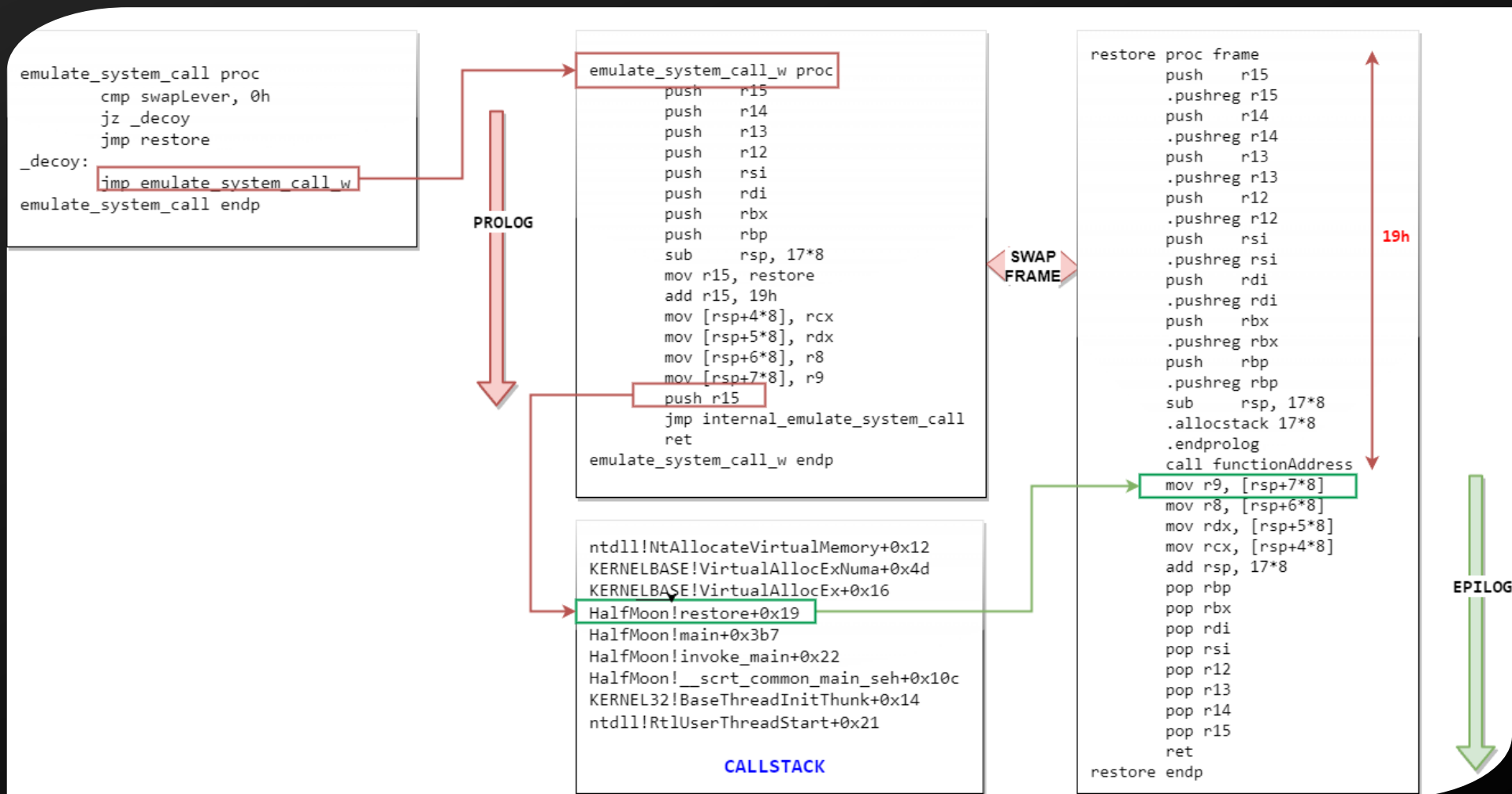
# HALF MOON (WALK) - SLIDING HWBP

```

KERNELBASE!WriteProcessMemory+0xb8:
00007fff`f7989ed8 48ff1521571e00 call    qword ptr [KERNELBASE!_imp_NtWriteVirtualMemory]
00007fff`f7989edf 0f1f440000    nop    dword ptr [rax+rax]
00007fff`f7989ee4 488b4d7f     mov    rcx,qword ptr [rbp+77h]
00007fff`f7989ee8 8bd8       mov    ebx,eax
00007fff`f7989eea 4885c9     test   rcx,rcx
00007fff`f7989eed 754e       jne    KERNELBASE!WriteProcessMemory+0x11d (00007fff`f7989f3d)
...
00007fff`f7989f29 4881c4a0000000 add   rsp,0A0h
00007fff`f7989f30 415f       pop    r15
00007fff`f7989f32 415e       pop    r14
00007fff`f7989f34 415d       pop    r13
00007fff`f7989f36 415c       pop    r12
00007fff`f7989f38 5f        pop    rdi
00007fff`f7989f39 5e        pop    rsi
00007fff`f7989f3a 5d        pop    rbp
00007fff`f7989f3b c3        ret

```

# OPAQUE ARCHITECTURE



# OPAQUE ARCHITECTURE - RPC

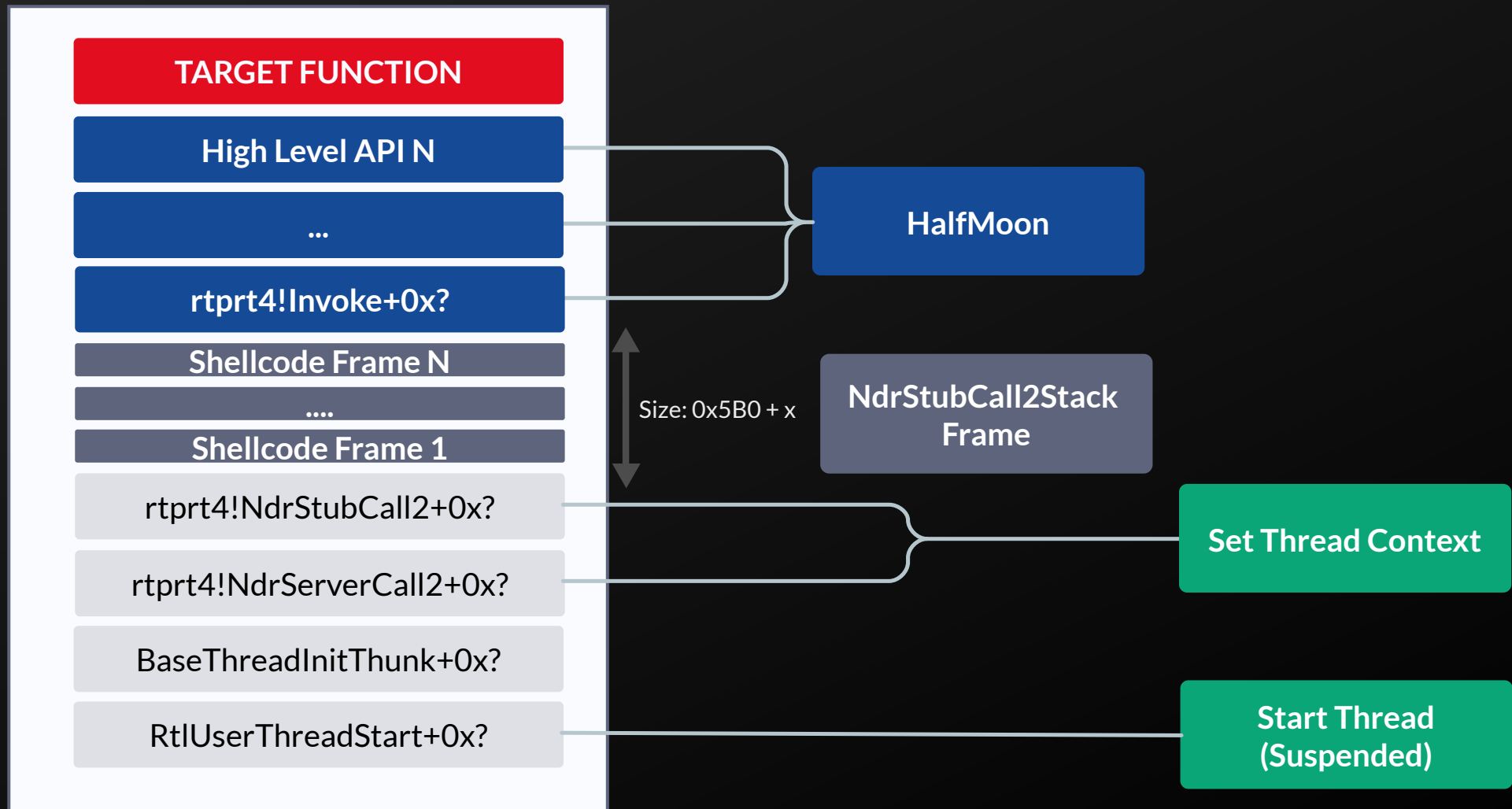
```
RPCRT4!NdrServerCall12:  
00007fff`f8a50380 4883ec28      sub     rsp,28h  
...  
00007fff`f8a50395 e816be0300      call   RPCRT4!NdrStubCall12 (00007fff`f8a8c1b0)
```

```
RPCRT4!NdrStubCall12:  
...  
00007fff`f8a8c1bf 57              push   rdi  
00007fff`f8a8c1c0 4883ec20      sub     rsp,20h  
...  
00007fff`f8a8c1ec e857a50100      call   RPCRT4!NdrStubCall12Stack (00007fff`f8aa6748)
```

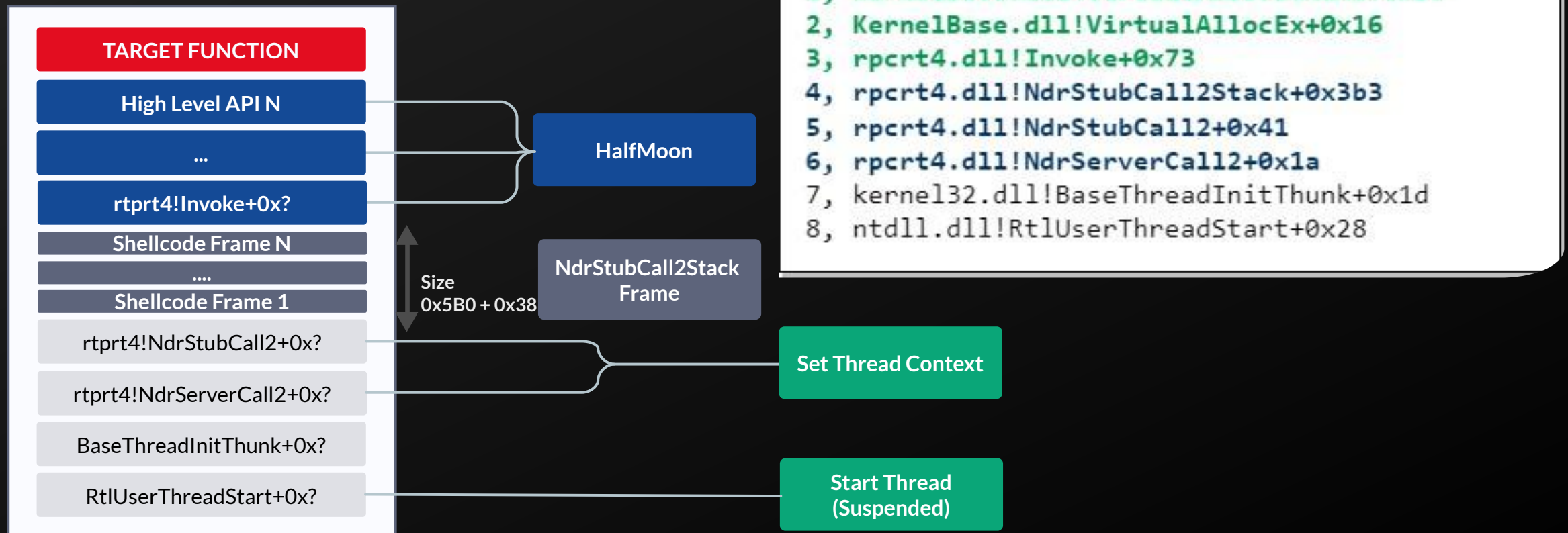
```
RPCRT4!NdrStubCall12Stack:  
...  
00007fff`f8aa6754 4881ecb0050000 sub     rsp,5B0h  
...  
00007fff`f8aa6af6 e885080000      call   RPCRT4!Invoke (00007fff`f8aa7380)
```

```
RPCRT4!Invoke:  
00007fff`f8aa7380 4883ec38      sub     rsp,38h  
...  
00007fff`f8aa7393 488bec        mov     rbp,rsp  
...  
00007fff`f8aa73f0 41ffd2        call   r10
```

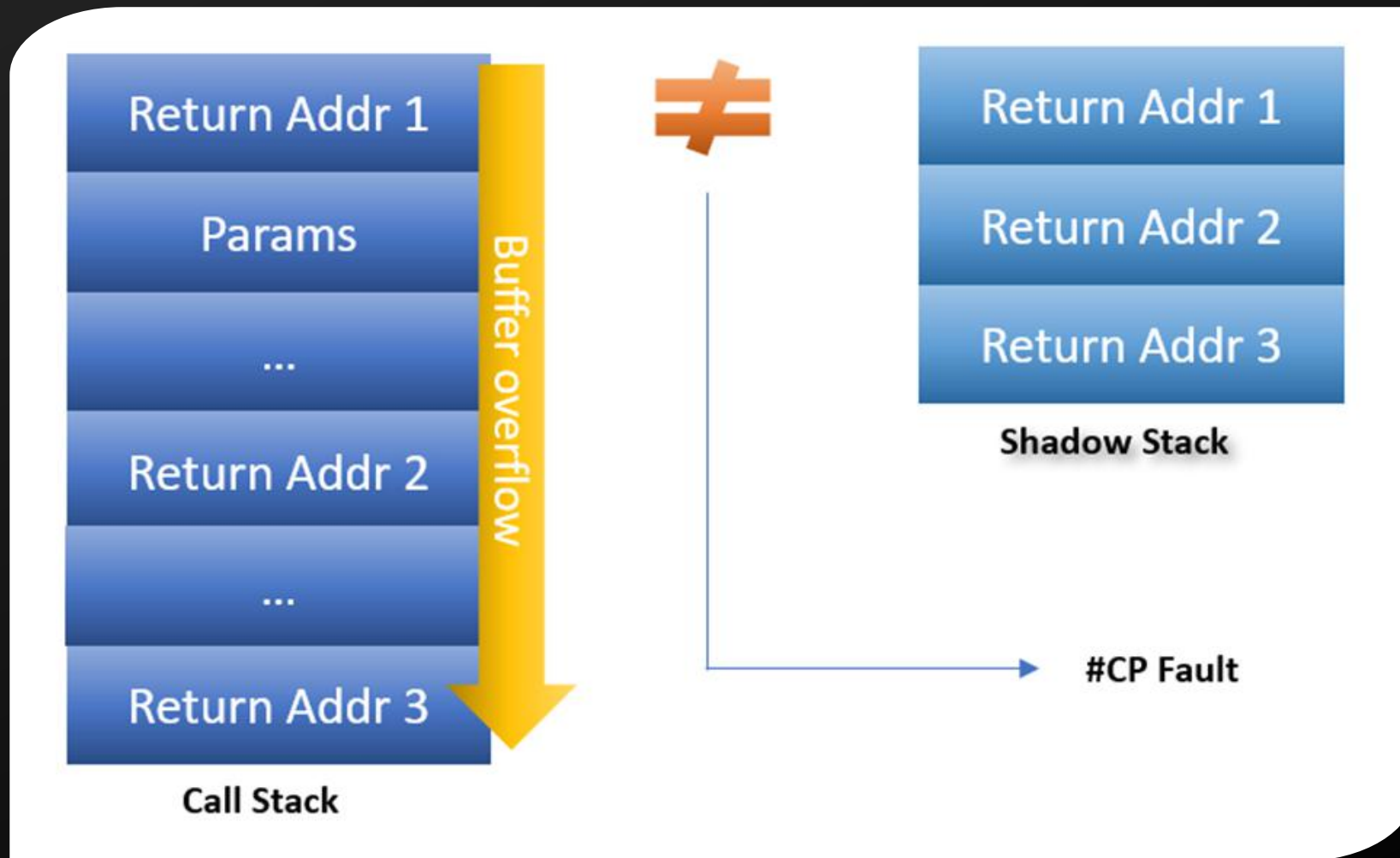
# OPAQUE ARCHITECTURE - RPC



# OPAQUE ARCHITECTURE - RPC



# ABOUT INTEL CET



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

Public POC Available  
<https://github.com/klezVirus/SilentMoonwalk>

It adds a layer of complexity which is not always easy to manage

It is possible to create chains of different length by inserting stack pivot frames

This POC is designed to obfuscate the stack at runtime, and can be used wherever return address spoofing is used

Full Moon obfuscate the caller frames but creates inconsistencies across frames. Half Moon and its variations, instead, require executable memory (Exception Handlers) to restore the stack on return

For sleep obfuscation an approach like Stack Hiding or Stack Cloning is preferred

It is possible to integrate full encryption of the code at runtime (i.e. sleep encryption) whenever an API is invoked



*Thanks!*