CS 161 Computer Security

Discussion 4

Question 1 Software Vulnerabilities

 $(20 \min)$

For the following code, assume an attacker can control the value of **basket** passed into **eval_basket**. The value of **n** is constrained to correctly reflect the number of elements in **basket**.

The code includes several security vulnerabilities. Circle three such vulnerabilities in the code and briefly explain each of the three.

```
1 struct food {
     \mathbf{char}\ \mathrm{name}\,[\,1\,0\,2\,4\,]\,;
     int calories;
4
  };
5
6
   /* Evaluate a shopping basket with at most 32 food items.
       Returns the number of low-calorie items, or -1 on a problem. */
  int eval_basket(struct food basket[], size_t n)
9
10
     struct food good [32];
     char bad [1024], cmd [1024];
11
     int i, total = 0, ngood = 0, size_bad = 0;
12
13
14
     if (n > 32)
15
       return -1;
16
17
     for (i = 0; i \le n; ++i)
18
       if (basket[i].calories < 100)
19
         good[ngood++] = basket[i];
20
       else if (basket[i].calories > 500) {
21
         size_t len = strlen(basket[i].name);
22
         snprintf(bad + size_bad , len , "%s " , basket[i].name);
23
         size_bad += len;
24
25
26
       total += basket[i].calories;
27
28
     if (total > 2500) {
29
       const char *fmt = "health-factor --calories %d --bad-items %s";
30
       fprintf(stderr, "lots of calories!");
31
32
       snprintf(cmd, sizeof cmd, fmt, total, bad);
33
       system (cmd);
34
35
36
     return ngood;
```

Reminder: **strlen** calculates the length of a string, not including the terminating '\0' character. **snprintf(buf, len, fmt, ...)** works like **printf**, but instead writes to **buf**, and won't write more than **len - 1** characters. It terminates the characters written with a '\0'. **system** runs the shell command given by its first argument.