

Part 1: Computer and Software Fundamentals

1. Basic Computer Architecture

- a. What is a CPU and how it processes instructions
- b. Role of memory (RAM), registers, stack, and heap
- c. Concept of the call stack and function calls

2. Operating System Basics

- a. What are processes and threads
- b. How memory is managed in programs
- c. Introduction to file systems and I/O operations
- d. Understanding synchronization and race conditions at a high level

3. Software Compilation and Execution

- a. How source code becomes a program (compile → link → run)
- b. Static vs dynamic linking (conceptual)
- c. Basics of executable files (just high-level formats like ELF, PE)

4. Programming Language Concepts (C/C++)

- a. How memory is allocated (stack vs heap)
- b. Common mistakes in C/C++ (e.g., uninitialized memory, pointer errors)
- c. Concept of undefined behavior

Part 2: Common Software Vulnerabilities

5. Memory-Based Vulnerabilities

- a. What is a buffer overflow?
- b. Understanding format string issues
- c. Concept of use-after-free and double free
- d. Integer overflows and off-by-one errors

6. Race Conditions

- a. Simple explanation of concurrency problems
- b. What is a time-of-check vs time-of-use (TOCTOU) issue?

Part 3: Understanding Vulnerability Discovery Techniques

7. Concept of Static and Dynamic Analysis

- a. What is static analysis?
- b. What is dynamic analysis?

- c. High-level benefits and limitations of each
- 8. Overview of Analysis Techniques**
- a. What is data flow and control flow?
 - b. What does "symbolic execution" mean ?
 - c. What is taint analysis?

Part 4: Fuzzing – Conceptual Overview

9. Introduction to Fuzzing

- a. What is fuzzing and why it's used
- b. Difference between dumb and smart fuzzing
- c. How input mutation and generation work

10. Grammar-Based Fuzzing

- What is a grammar?
- Why structured inputs are important

11. Theory Behind Fuzzing Strategies

- What is coverage-guided fuzzing?
- Importance of code coverage in fuzzing

Part 5: Understanding Exploitability and Mitigations

12. Crash Concepts

- What is a crash and why it matters
- Simple view of how crashes help discover bugs

13. Common Security Defenses

- What is DEP (Data Execution Prevention)?
- What is ASLR (Address Space Layout Randomization)?
- What is a Stack Canary?
- What is SEH (Structured Exception Handling)?

14. Vulnerability Scoring Basics

- What is CVSS and why it's important
- Basic explanation of impact, complexity, and vector

Part 6: Ethical Aspects of Vulnerability Research

15. Responsible Disclosure

- What is ethical hacking?
- Coordinated vulnerability disclosure
- Importance of ethics in cybersecurity research