



# Unveiling the Cracks in Virtualization, Mastering the Host System

— VMware Workstation Escape

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#BHASIA @BlackHatEvents

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Top 3 of MSRC  
2023 Q3/Q4  
Leaderboard

VMware  
Workstation  
Escape  
TianfuCup  
2018/2021/2023

Zer0Con 2022  
HITB 2020

Bugs in  
SQLServer, RDP,  
QEMU, DNS,  
DHCP, Samba,  
ESXi...

Hyper-V Escape  
CVE-2019-0887  
In 2021

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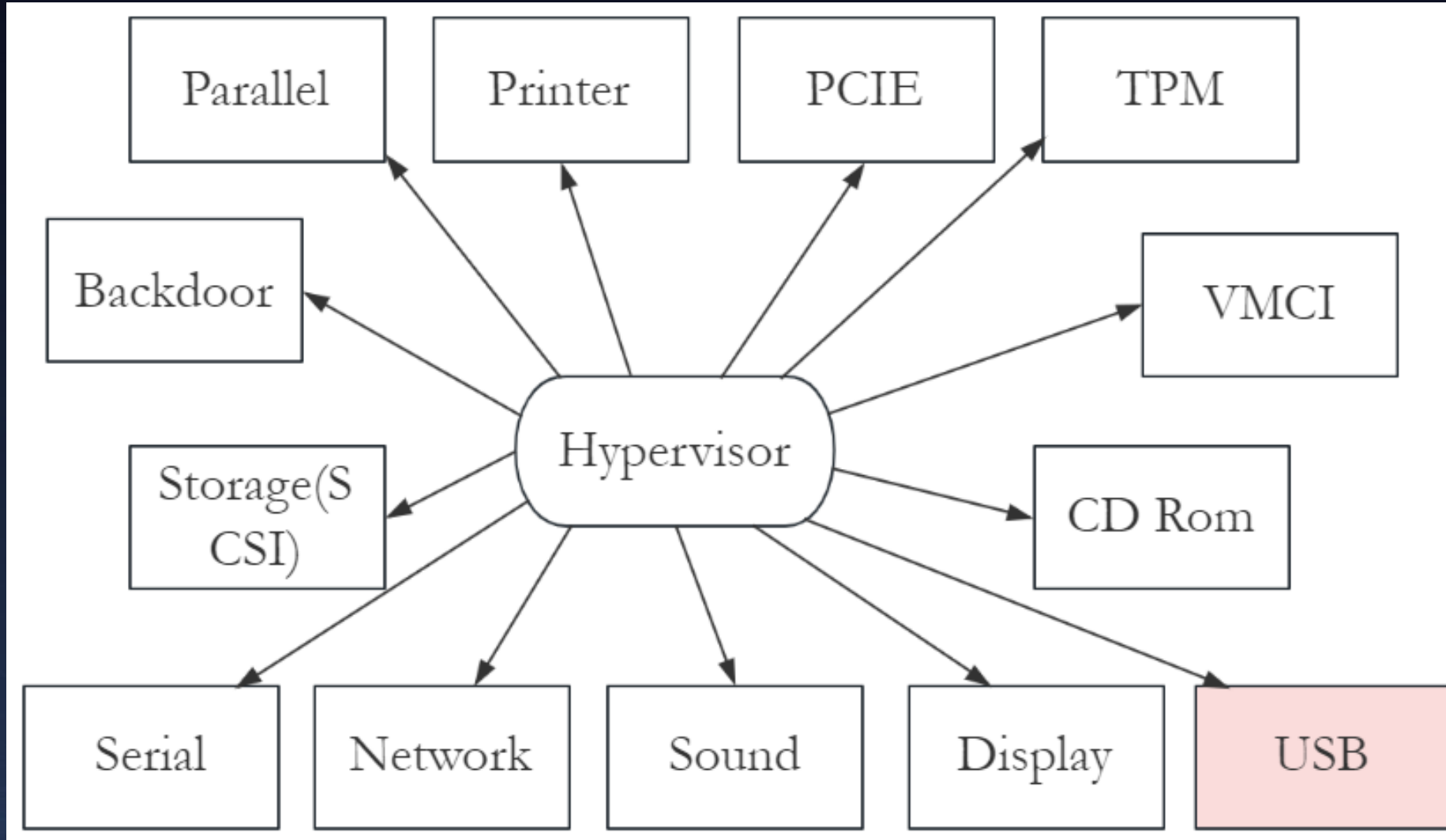
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# *PART ONE*

## Virtualization Basic Info

# Virtualization Basic Info

## VMware Workstation Architecture



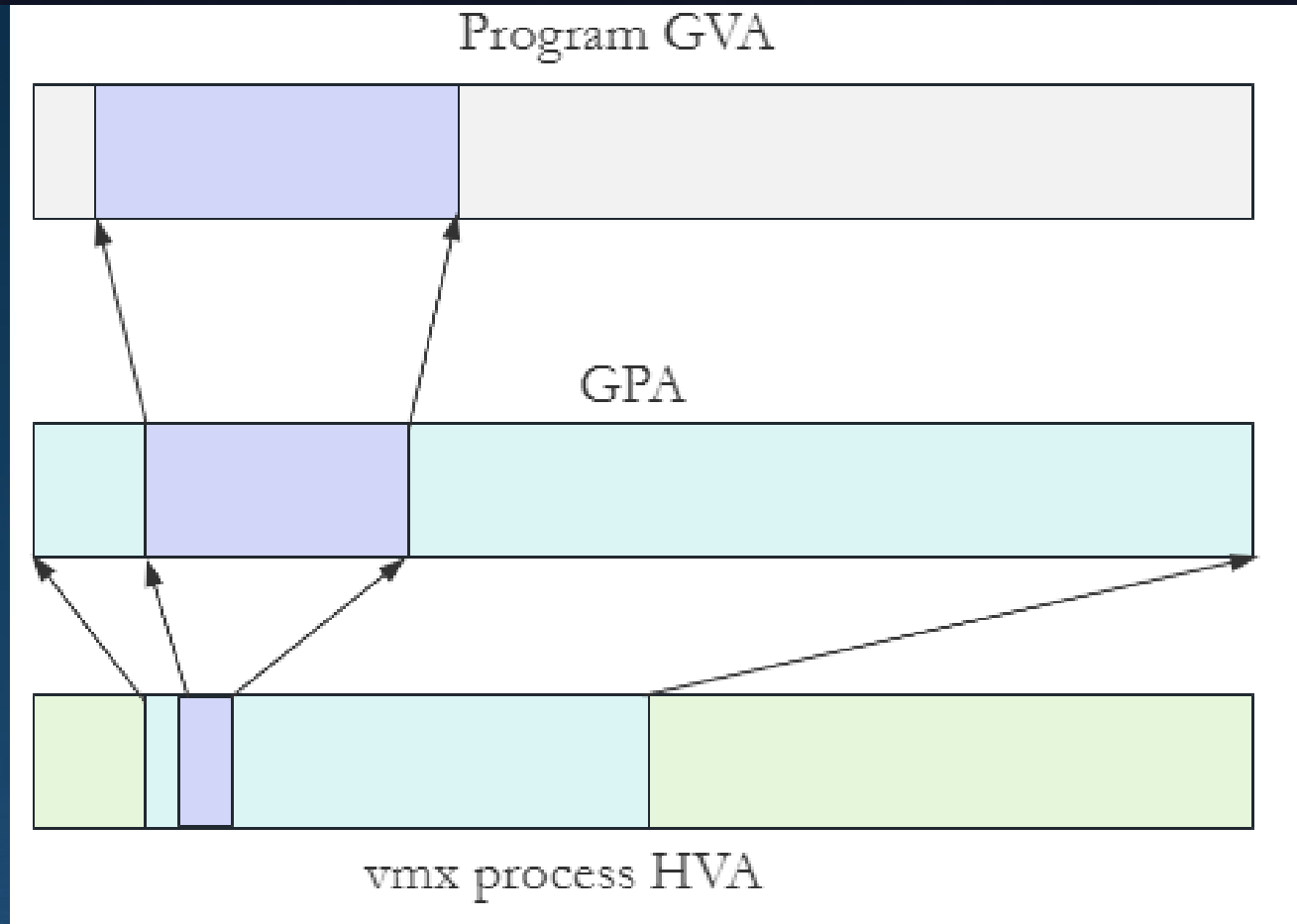
# Virtualization Basic Info

## Virtual Process Address and Guest Physical Address

Guest Virtual Address(GVA)  
Guest Physical Address(GPA)  
Host process Virtual Address(HVA)

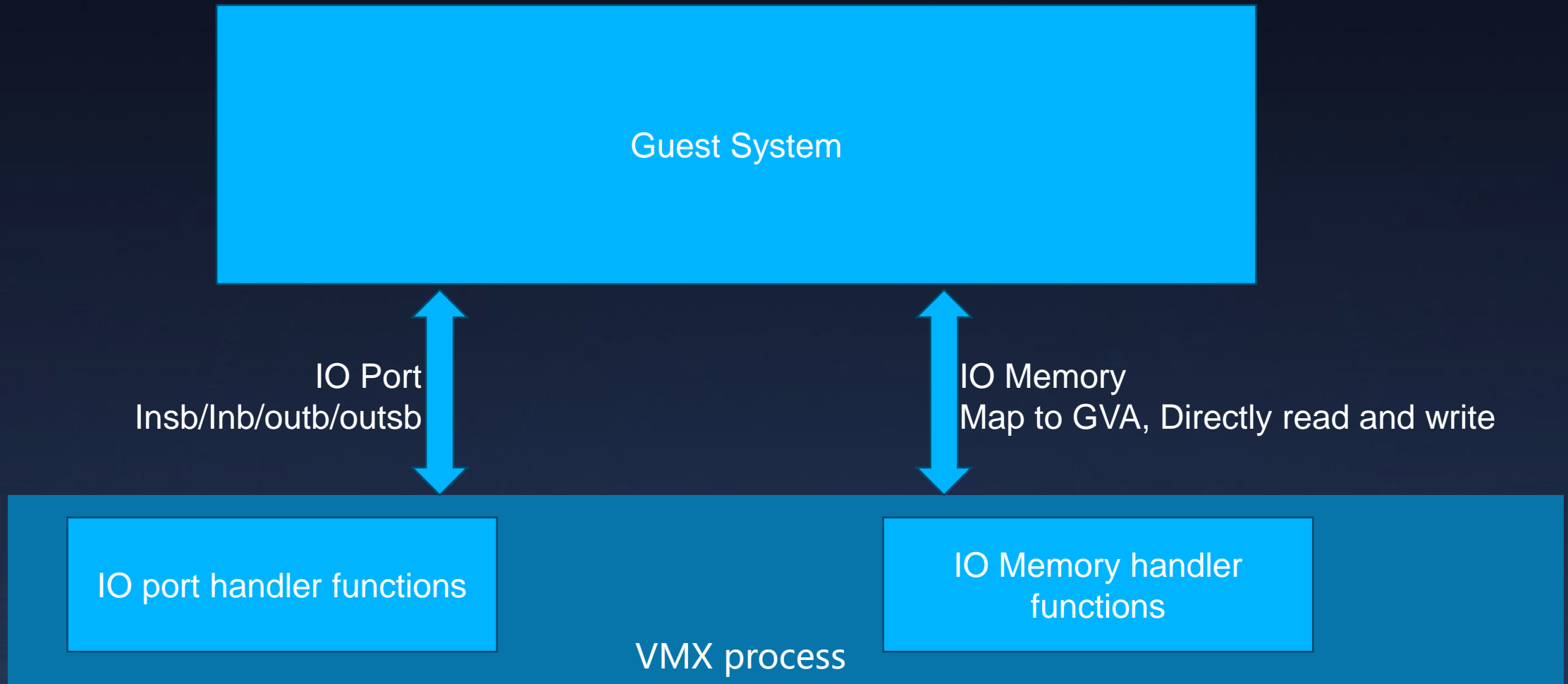
In Guest, use GVA access its  
physical memory

In Host vmx, use HVA of GPA access  
Guest memory



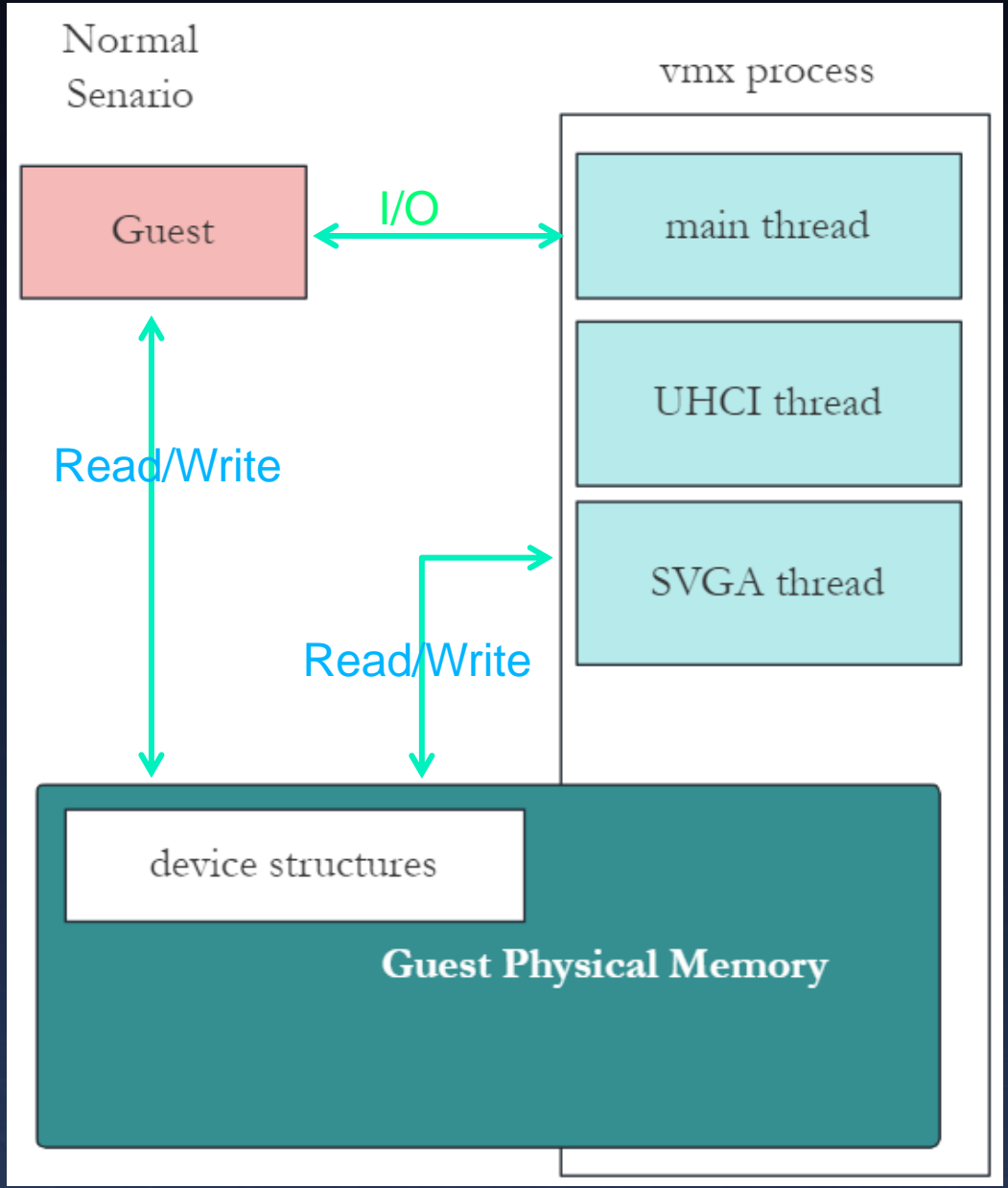
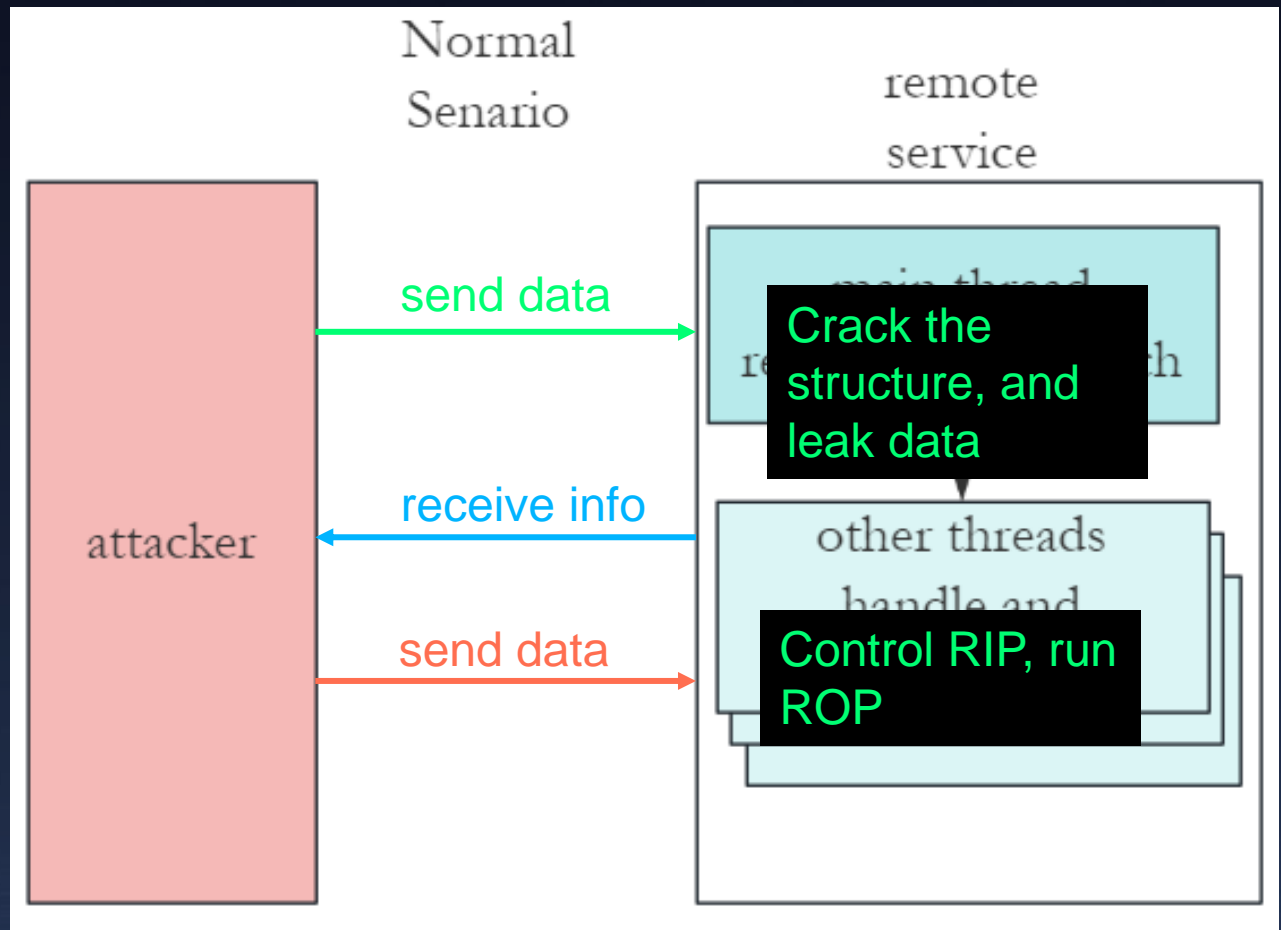
# Virtualization Basic Info

## Virtual Device and Guest Driver Interaction



# Virtualization Basic Info

## VM Escape and RCE exploit





# Virtualization Basic Info

## USB Controller



USB 1.x  
UHCI

CVE-2021-22041  
CVE-2019-5519  
CVE-2019-5518  
CVE-2023-20870 ...



USB 2.0  
EHCI

CVE-2022-31705 ...



USB 3.x  
XHCI

CVE-2024-22252  
CVE-2021-22040  
CVE-2020-4004  
CVE-2020-3968  
CVE-2017-4904 ...



USB 4.0  
Future

# Virtualization Basic Info

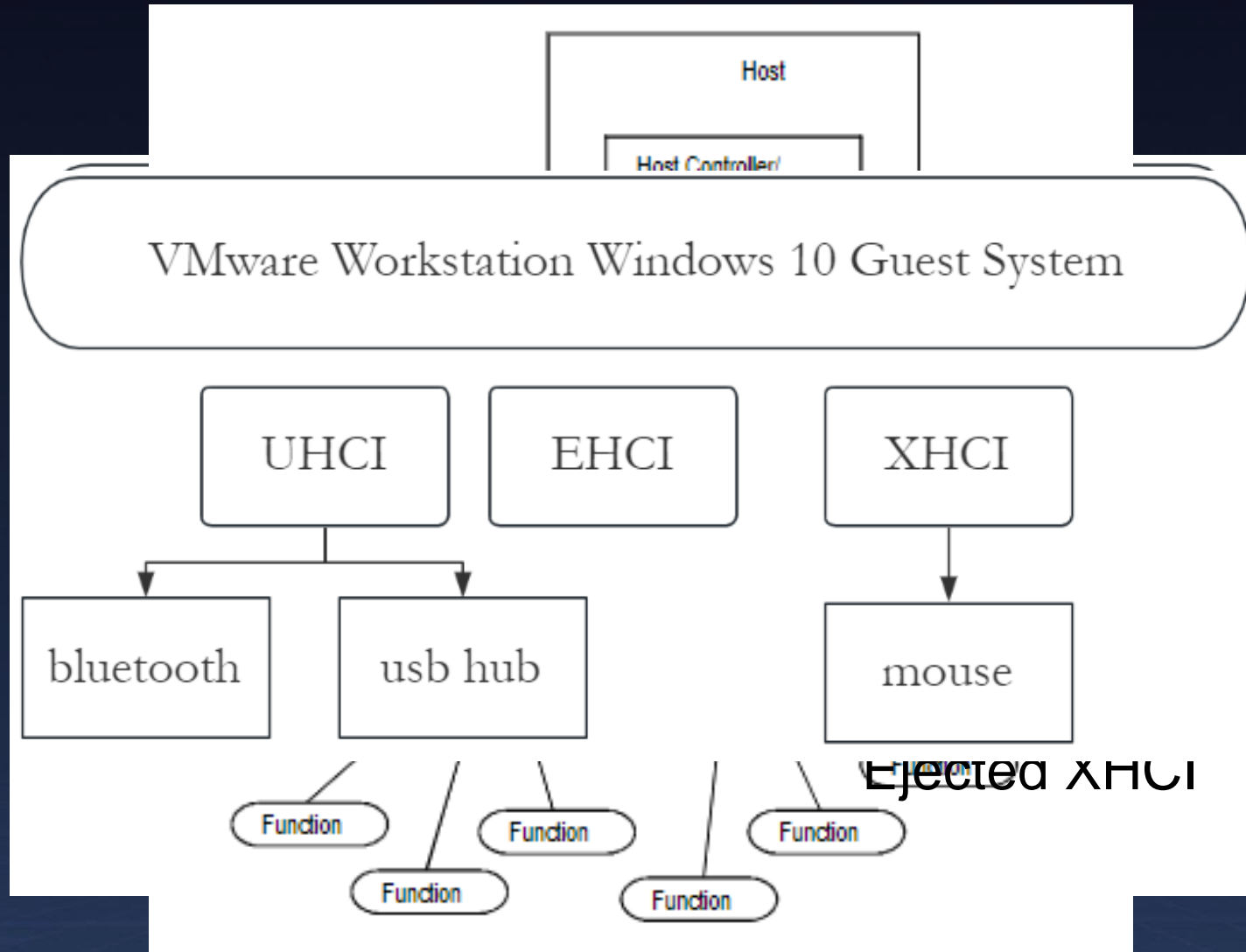
## Virtual USB Controller Device Info

```
[root@localhost vv]# lspci -v -s 03:00.0
03:00.0 USB controller: VMware USB3 xHCI 1.0 Controller (prog-if 30 [XHCI])
  Subsystem: VMware USB3 xHCI 1.0 Controller
  Physical Slot: 160
  Flags: bus master, fast devsel, latency 64, IRQ 18
  Memory at fd400000 (64-bit, non-prefetchable) [size=128K]
  Capabilities: [64] Power Management version 3
  Capabilities: [6c] Express Endpoint, MSI 00
  Capabilities: [a8] MSI: Enable- Count=1/1 Maskable+ 64bit+
  Capabilities: [c0] MSI-X: Enable+ Count=31 Masked-
  Kernel driver in use: xhci_hcd

[root@localhost vv]# lspci -v -s 02:00.0
02:00.0 USB controller: VMware USB1.1 UHCI Controller (prog-if 00 [UHCI])
  Subsystem: VMware Device 1976
  Physical Slot: 32
  Flags: bus master, medium devsel, latency 64, IRQ 18
  I/O ports at 20c0 [size=32]
  Capabilities: [40] PCI Advanced Features
  Kernel driver in use: uhci_hcd
```

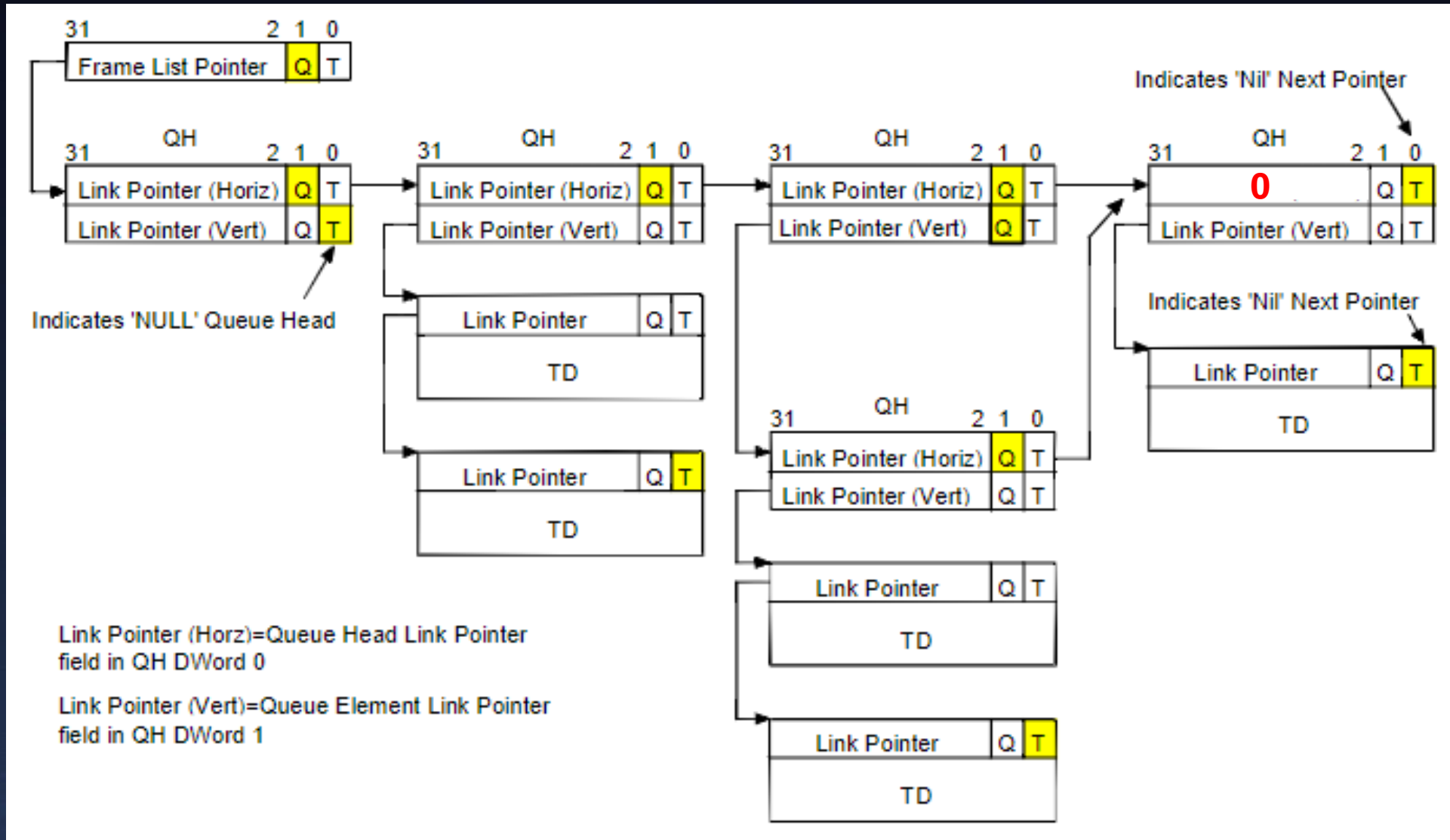
# Virtualization Basic Info

## UHCI Controller



# Virtualization Basic Info

## UHCI Controller



# Virtualization Basic Info

## UHCI Controller

```
u32 * TD = dmaAlloc(0x10, &TD_GPA);  
buffer = dmaAlloc(0x10, &buffer_GPA);
```

```
frame_list[0] = TD_GPA | 1;
```

```
TD[0] = 1; // end
```

```
TD[1] = 1 << 23; // active
```

```
TD[2] = (2 << 8) | (0 << 15) | (7 << 21) | 0x2d;
```

```
//dev_id: 2, ep_id: 0, length: 8(7+1), type: setup(0x2d)
```

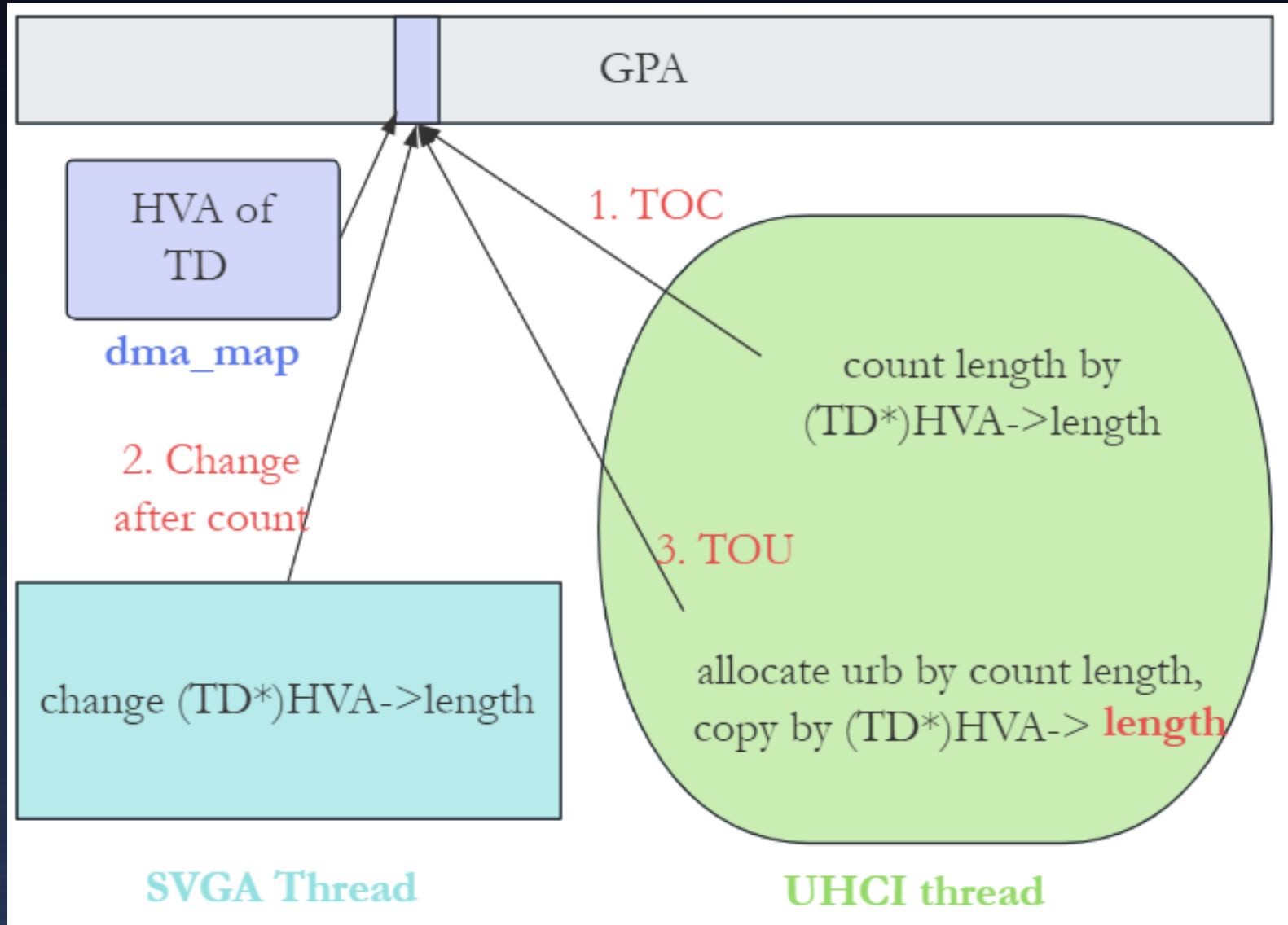
```
TD[3] = buffer_GPA;
```

```
buffer[0] = XXX;
```

***PART TWO***

# Historic Bugs In UHCI

# CVE-2019-5519 TOCTOU



# CVE-2021-22041 TOCTOU

```
1  do{
2      while(uhci_prepare_qh_td(i++));
3  }while(i < 0x400)
4  uhci_prepare_qh_td(int index){
5      frame_index = (uhci_main->frame_start + index)&0x3ff;
6      frame_dma = uhci_main->frame_dma_addr + frame_index*4;
7      qh_td_dma = dma_map_read(frame_dma, 4);
8      ret = !frame_index || frame_index == 0x3ff;
9      while(...){
10 next:
11     if(no next TD or QH){
12         return ret;
13     }
14     qh_td_map = dma_map(uhci_main, qh_td_dma);
15     if(qh_td_map->transfer_tag == uhci_main->transfer_tag){
16         goto next;
17     }
18     qh_td_map->transfer_tag = uhci_main->transfer_tag;
19     ep = uhci_main->usb_dev[dev_id][ep_id];
20     if(ep->type == 1){
21         if(!ep->map_array){
22             ep->map_array = calloc(0x400, sizeof(TD));
23         }
24         ep->map_array[index] = *(TD*)qh_td_map->real_addr;
25         if(index < 0x400) ret = 1;
26     }
```

If frame\_start = 0x3ff,  
i=0x400,

frame\_index =  
(0x400+0x3ff)&0x3ff = 0x3ff;

ret = 1

frame[(0+0x3ff)&0x3ff] ==  
frame[(0x400+0x3ff)&0x3ff]

transfer\_tag will match



# CVE-2021-22041 TOCTOU

```
1  do{
2      while(uhci_prepare_qh_td(i++));
3  }while(i < 0x400)
4  uhci_prepare_qh_td(int index){
5      frame_index = (uhci_main->frame_start + index)&0x3ff;
6      frame_dma = uhci_main->frame_dma_addr + frame_index*4;
7      qh_td_dma = dma_map_read(frame_dma, 4);
8      ret = !frame_index || frame_index == 0x3ff;
9      while(...){
10 next:
11     if(no next TD or QH){
12         return ret;
13     }
14     qh_td_map = dma_map(uhci_main, qh_td_dma);
15     if(qh_td_map->transfer_tag == uhci_main->transfer_tag){
16         goto next;
17     }
18     qh_td_map->transfer_tag == uhci_main->transfer_tag;
19     ep = uhci_main->usb_dev[dev_id][ep_id];
20     if(ep->type == 1){
21         if(!ep->map_array){
22             ep->map_array = calloc(0x400, sizeof(TD));
23         }
24         ep->map_array[index] = *(TD*)qh_td_map->real_addr;
25         if(index < 0x400) ret = 1;
26     }
```

1. Access frame[0x3ff]

2. Change frame[0x3ff] in SVGA thread

3. Access frame[(0x400+0x3ff)&0x3ff]  
again  
Get a new GPA

# CVE-2023-20870 Uninitialize Leak

```
1 uhci_handle_type0_td(){
2     while(i < ep->map_max){
3         TD = ep->map_array[i];
4         length = TD->length;
5         if(TD->type != 0x69 && (TD->length&0x7ff) != 0){
6             td_buff = dma_map(TD->buff_dma);
7         }
8         if(TD->type == 0x2d){// setup
9             if(urb){
10                uhci_handle_urb(urb)
11                goto next_handle;
12            }
13            if(length != 8) goto fail;
14            size = td_buff->real_addr[0]+length;
15            urb = allocate_urb(size);// malloc
16            urb->count_size = size;
17            memcpy(urb->cur_buff, td_buff, length);
18            urb->cur_buff += length;
19        }else if(TD->type == 0xe1){// OUT
20            if(length > size) goto fail;
21            memcpy(urb->cur_buff, td_buff, length);
22            urb->cur_buff += length;
23            size -= length;
24        }else if(TD->type == 0x69){// IN
25            size -= length;
26        }else {goto fail;}
27    }
28    if(urb) uhci_handle_urb(urb)
```

```
struct urb{
    +0h reference;
    +4h buffer size;
    +8h count size;
    +Ch size can read to vm; default 0
    ...
    +18h endpoint;
    ...
    +78h buffer start;
    +80h cur_buff;
    char buffer[xxx]; size is determined by input size
}
```

```
18 ep = urb->usb_endpoint_18h;
19 len = urb->count_transaction_len_8h;
20 urb_about = *(bluetooth_urb_buff **) &urb[-1].packe
21 pkt = urb->p_self_packet_78h;
22 dev = ep->usb_dev_20h;
23 f_260h = (usb_bluetooth_main *)dev->f_230h.f_260h;
24 urb->_ret_status_de_ne1_58h = 0;
25 urb->size_for_vm_to_read_Ch = len; // u
```

# CVE-2023-20870 Uninitialize Leak

```
1 uhci_handle_type0_td(){
2     while(i < ep->map_max){
3         TD = ep->map_array[i];
4         length = TD->length;
5         if(TD->type != 0x69 && (TD->length&0x7ff) != 0){
6             td_buff = dma_map(TD->buff_dma);
7         }
8         if(TD->type == 0x2d){// setup
9             if(urb){
10                uhci_handle_urb(urb)
11                goto next_handle;
12            }
13            if(length != 8) goto fail;
14            size = td_buff->real_addr[0]+length;
15            urb = allocate_urb(size);// malloc
16            urb->count_size = size;
17            memcpy(urb->cur_buff, td_buff, length);
18            urb->cur_buff += length;
19        }else if(TD->type == 0xe1){// OUT
20            if(length > size) goto fail;
21            memcpy(urb->cur_buff, td_buff, length);
22            urb->cur_buff += length;
23            size -= length;
24        }else if(TD->type == 0x69){// IN
25            size -= length;
26        }else {goto fail;}
27    }
28    if(urb) uhci_handle_urb(urb)
```

Fix:

Set urb->Ch = 8 in Bluetooth handler

```
18 ep = urb->usb_endpoint_18h;
19 len = urb->count_transaction_len_8h;
20 urb_about = *(bluetooth_urb_buff **) &urb[-1].packe
21 pkt = urb->p_self_packet_78h;
22 dev = ep->usb_dev_20h;
23 f_260h = (usb_bluetooth_main *)dev->f_230h.f_260h;
24 urb->_ret_status_de_ne1_58h = 0;
25 urb->size_for_vm_to_read_Ch = len; // u
```

# CVE-2024-22255 Uninitialize Leak

```
58 case 9:
59     if ( v7 < 0 || (v7 & 0x1F) != 1 )
60         goto LABEL_26;
61     v9 = *(void (__fastcall **)(_QWORD, _QWORD, _QWORD, _BYTE *, int
62     if ( v9 )
63         v9(
64             *(unsigned __int16 *)(v5 + 4),
65             HIBYTE(*(unsigned __int16 *)(v5 + 2)),
66             (unsigned __int8)*(_WORD *)(v5 + 2),
67             v8,
68             *(_DWORD *)(a1 + 8) - 8);
69     break;
```

```
24     v6 = *(_DWORD *)(a1 + 8) - 8;
```

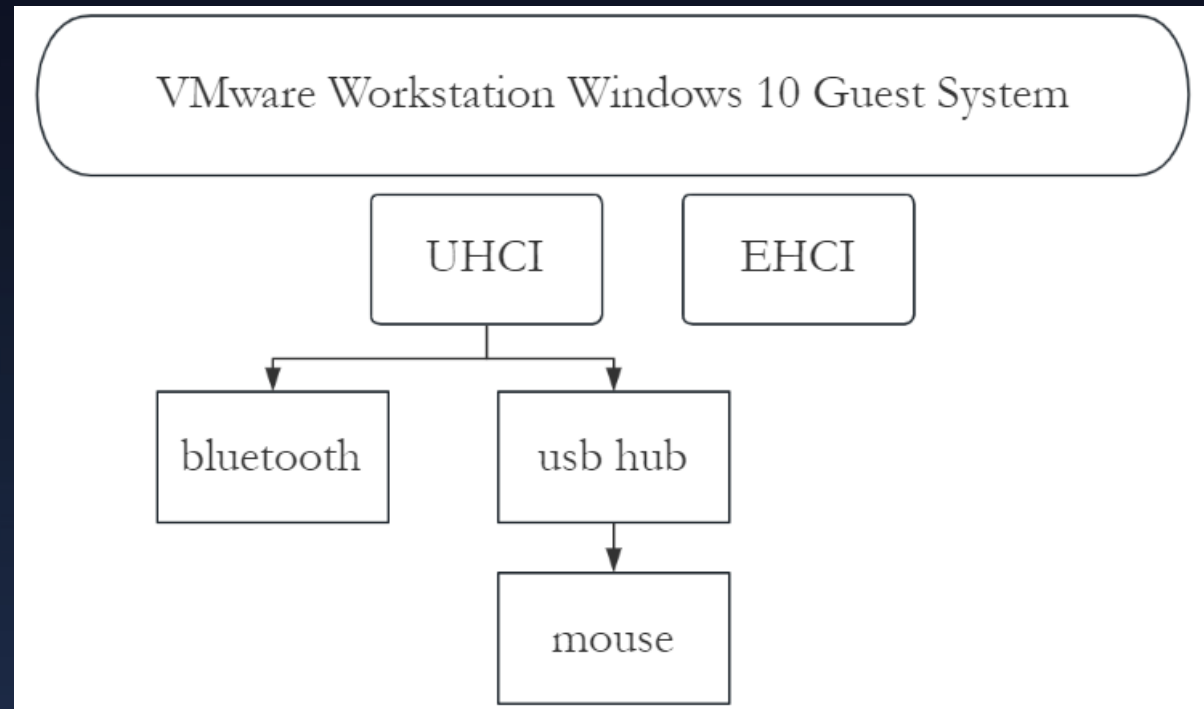
```
79     if ( v6 >= 0 )
80     {
81         *(_DWORD *)(a1 + 88) = 0;
82         *( _DWORD *) (a1 + 12) = v6 + 8;
```

```
struct urb{
    +0h reference;
    +4h buffer size;
    +8h count size;
    +Ch size can read to vm; default 0
    ...
    +18h endpoint;
    ...
    +78h buffer start;
    +80h cur_buff;
    char buffer[xxx]
}
```

U8(buffer, 0) = 0x21;  
U8(buffer, 1) = 9;// CASE  
U16(buffer, 6) = buffer size - 8;

# CVE-2024-22253 UAF

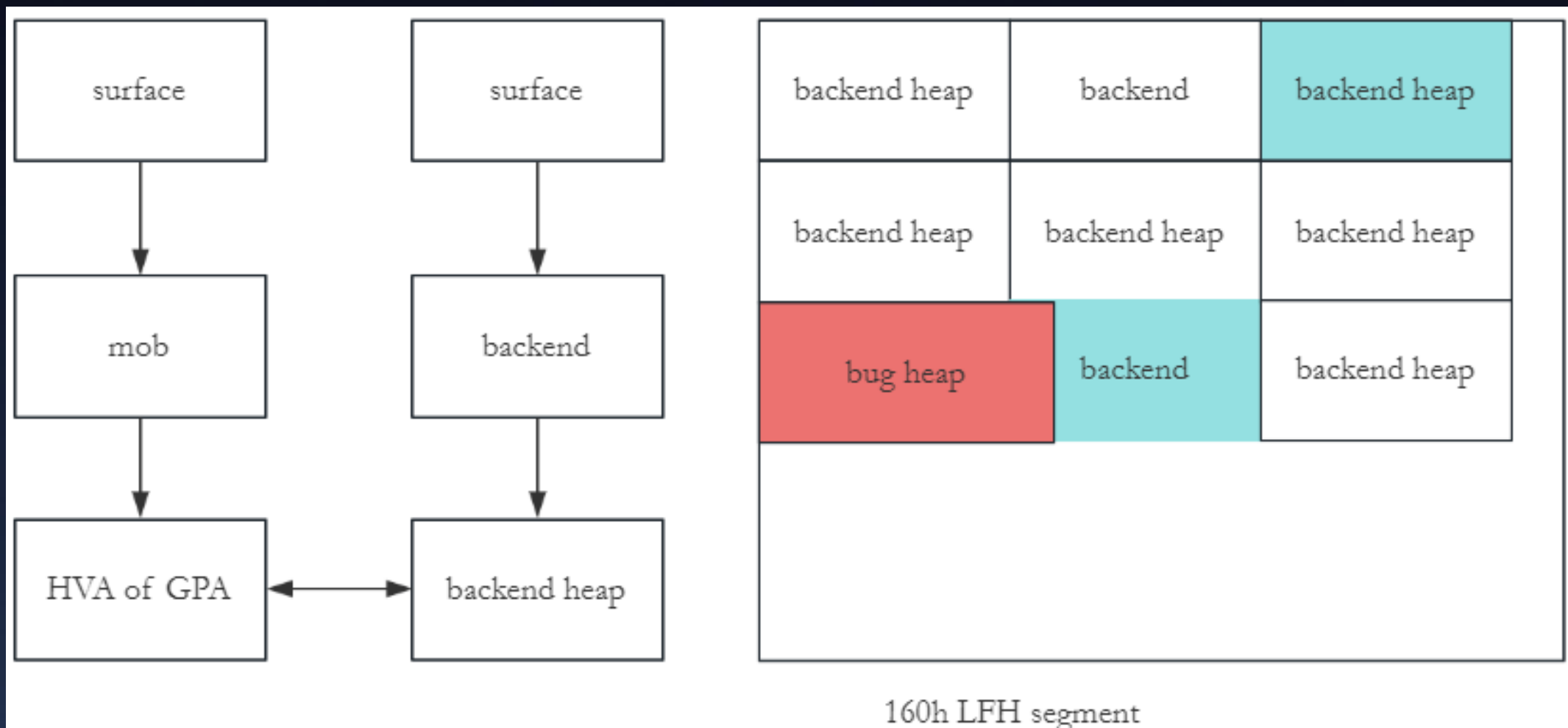
```
1  uhci_handle_TDs(){
2      next = uhci_main->ep0_link.next;
3      while(next != &uhci_main->ep0_link){
4          ep = next-18;
5          next = ep->link_uhci_main.next;
6          if(uhci_handle_in_urb(ep))
7              break
8          uhci_handle_type0_td(ep)
9          if(uhci_handle_in_urb(ep))
10             }
11     }
12     usb_hub_reset_sub_port(sub_dev){
13         reset_usb_dev(sub_dev){
14             free_all_endpoints(dev){
15                 for(;ep = dev->eps[i]; i++){
16                     free_pending_urbs(ep);
17                     unlink ep->link_uhci_main;
18                     dev->eps[i] = 0;
19                     free(ep);
20                 }
21             }
22             dev->ep[0] = new_ep();
23         }
24     }
```



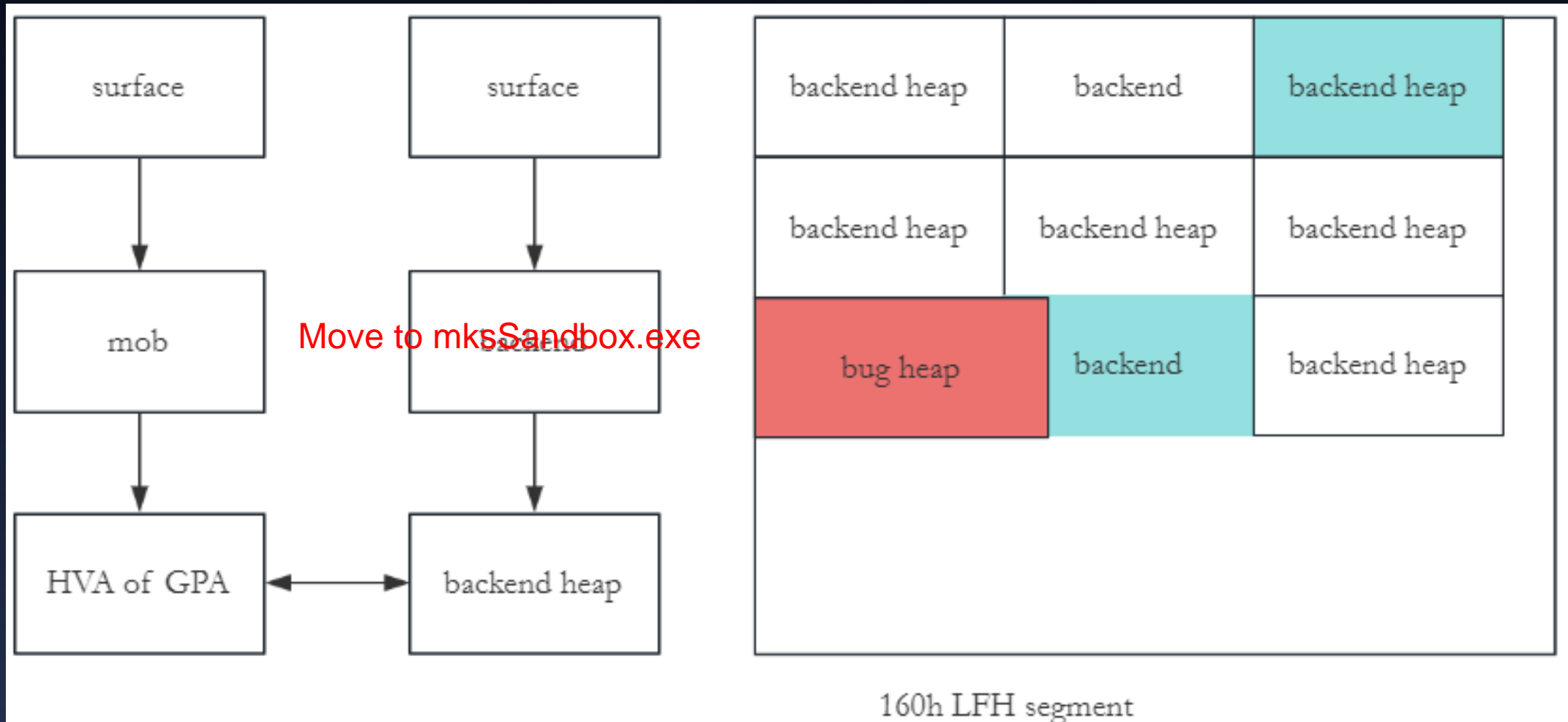
# *PART THREE*

## Exploit for TianfuCup 2023

# Old Exploit primitives-Straight outta VMware

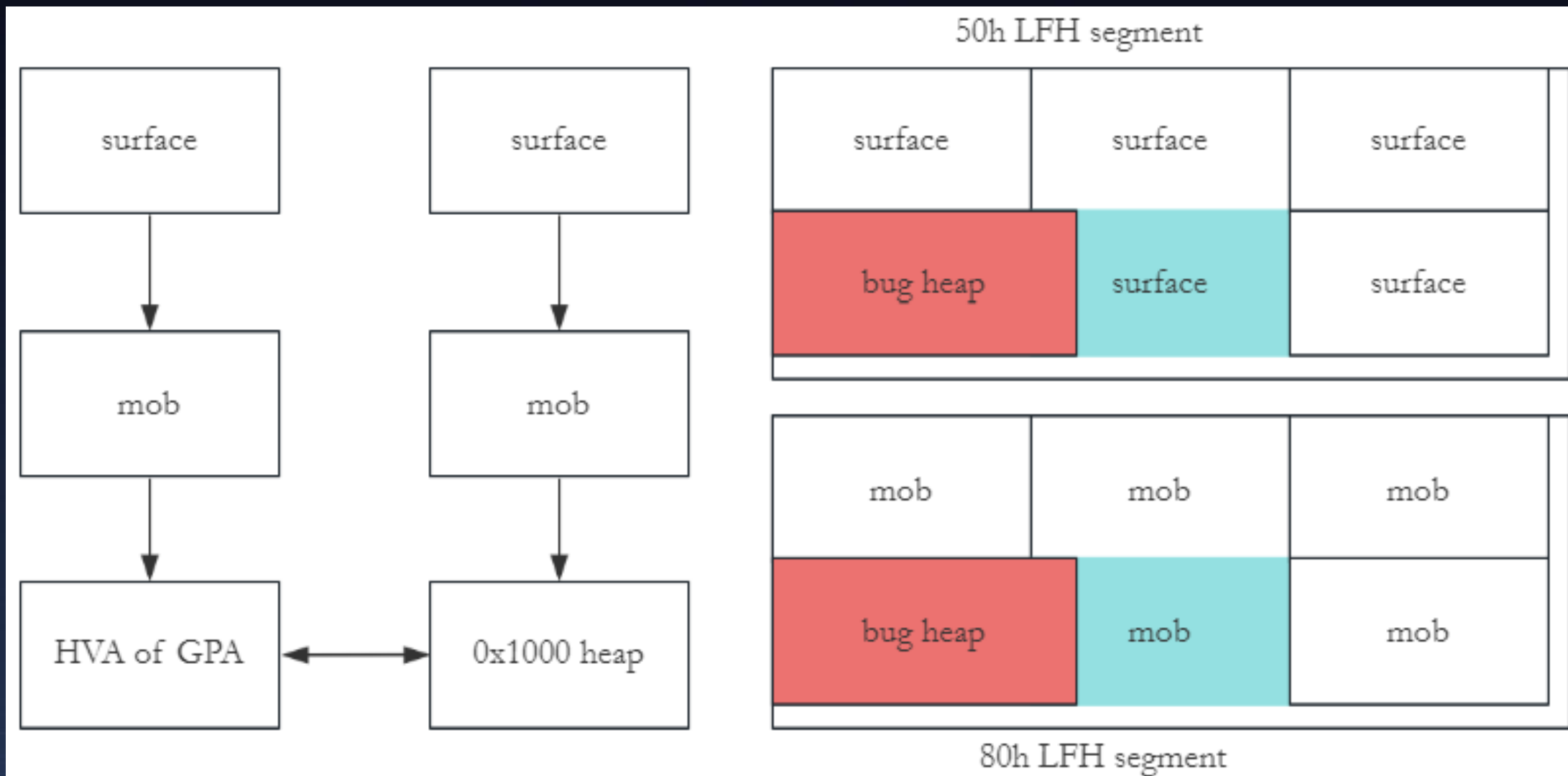


# Old Exploit primitives-Straight outta VMware

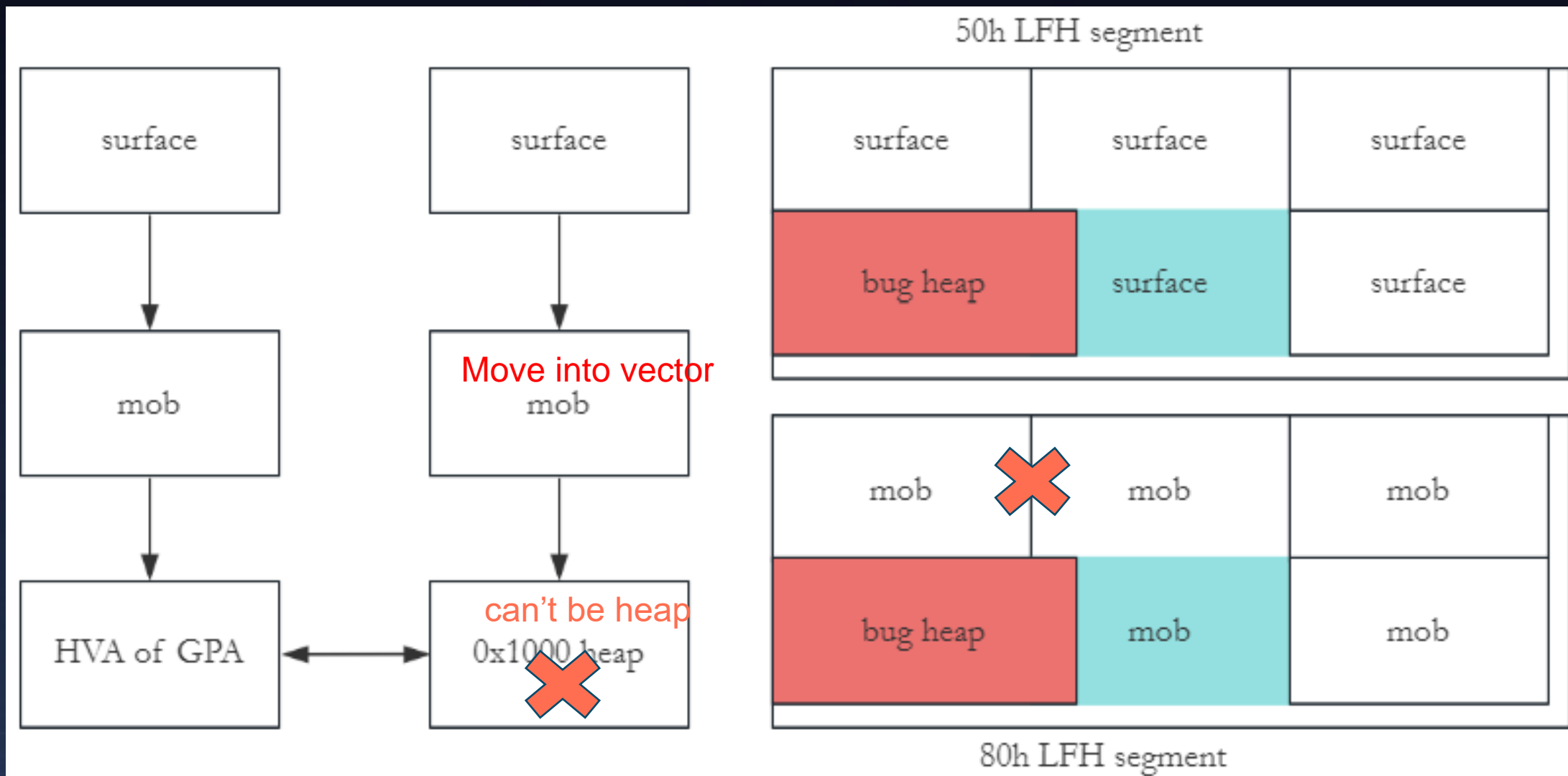




# Old Exploit primitives-Breakout Script of the Westworld



# Old Exploit primitives-Breakout Script of the Westworld

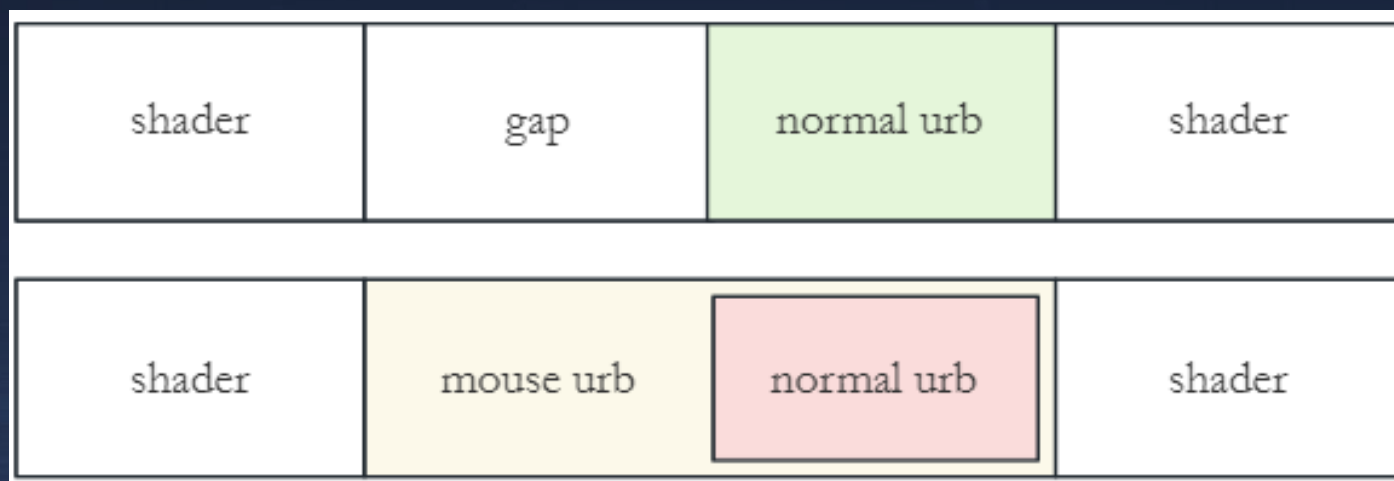


## Exploit primitives-UHCI Endpoint

```
1  {
2  |   urb_link = (a2 + 64);
3  |   do{
4  |       urb = *urb_link - 40;
5  |       ep = *(urb + 24);
6  |       while(1){
7  |           v8 = v7 + *(ep + 104);
8  |           v9 = *(v8 + 8);
9  |           if(!v9 || (*(v9 + 1) & 0xffffffff) != **v8)
10 |              goto next;
11 |           *(*v8 + 8) + 4 = **(*v8 + 8);
12 |       }
13 |   }while(xx)
14 }
```

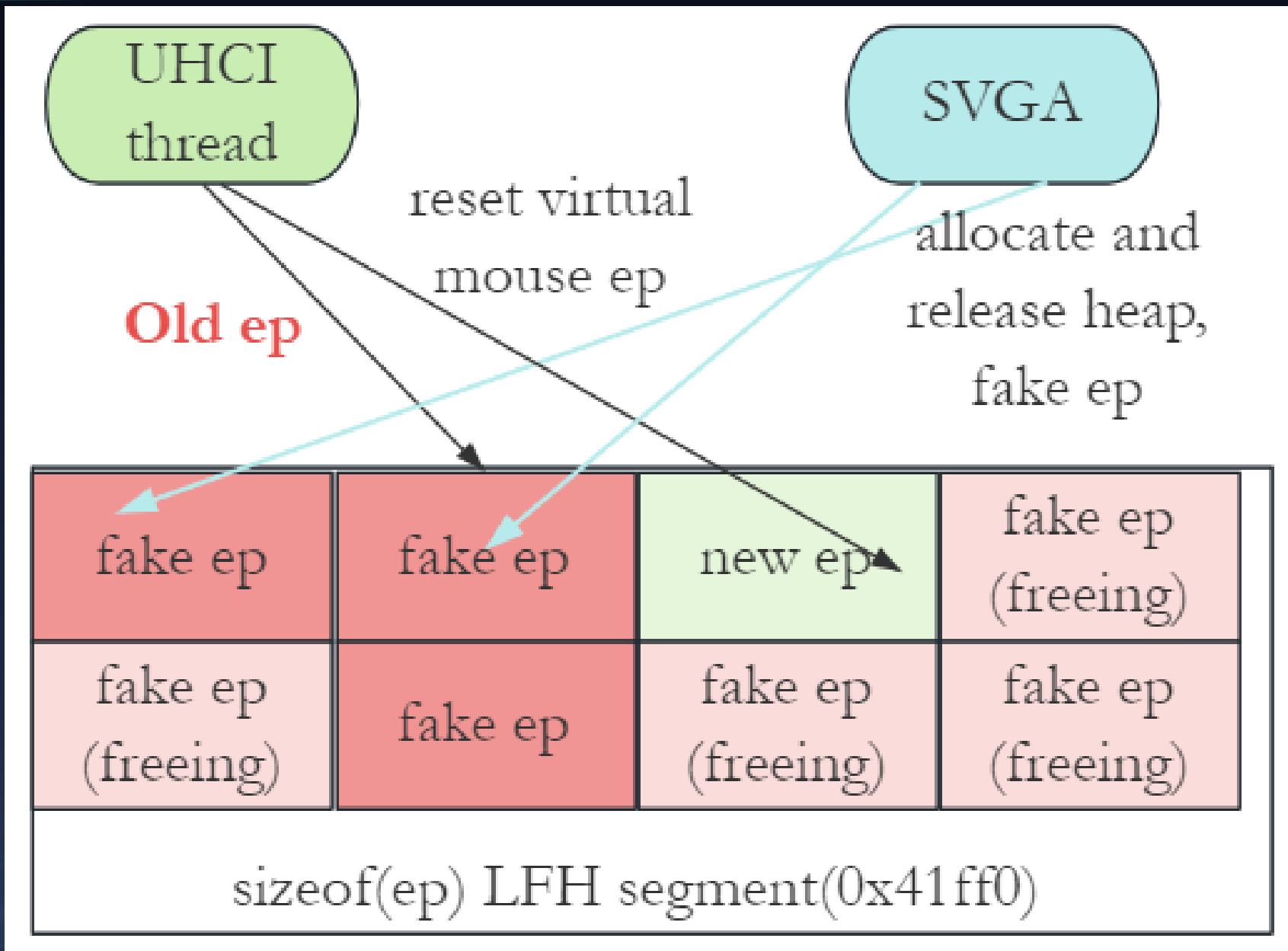
# Exploit primitives-Leak address by Urb bug

```
struct urb{  
    ...  
    +70h vmx related process address  
    +78h buffer start;  
    +80h cur_buff;  
    char buffer[xxx]; size is determined by input  
size  
}
```

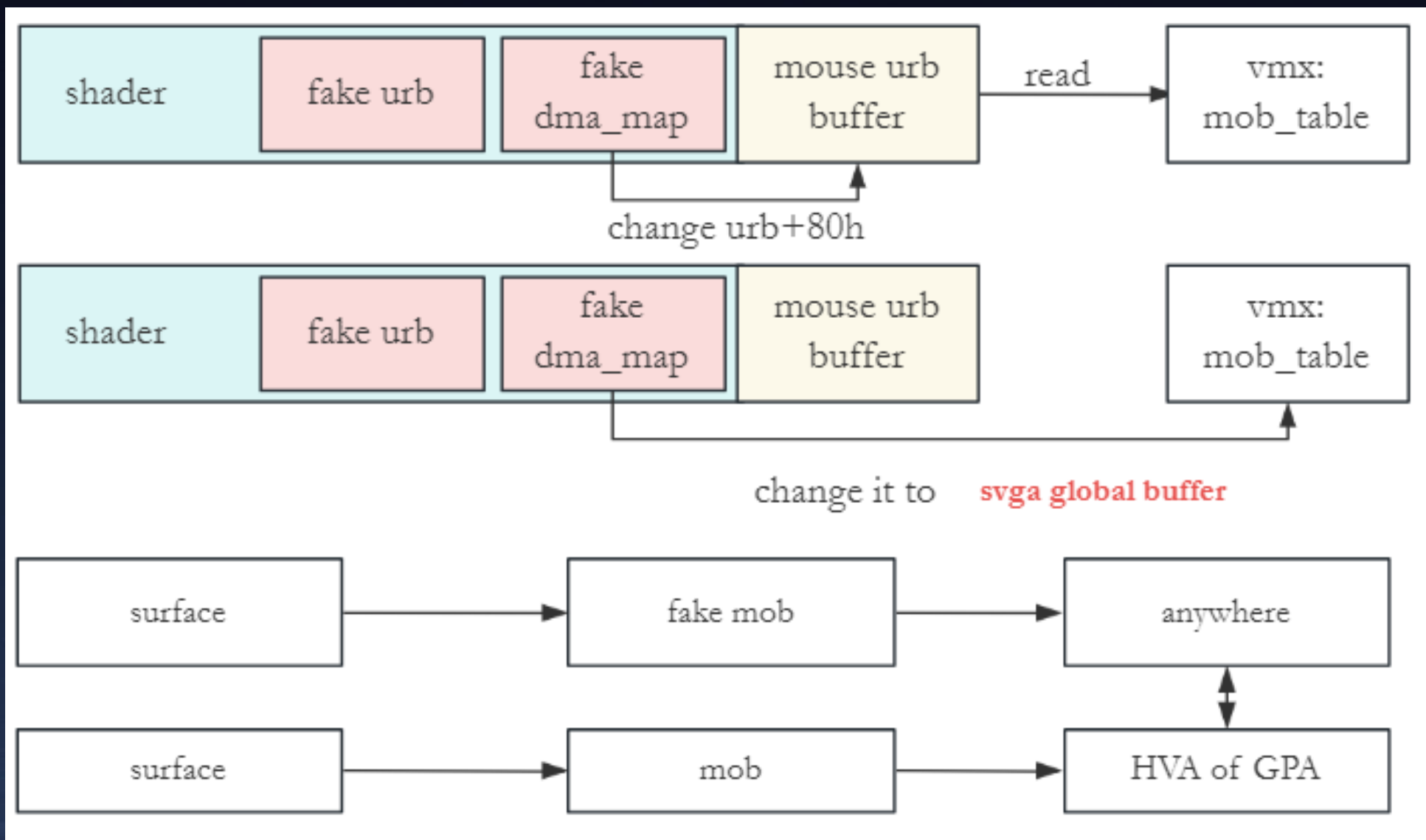


Get a urb heap address  
Get VMX related address

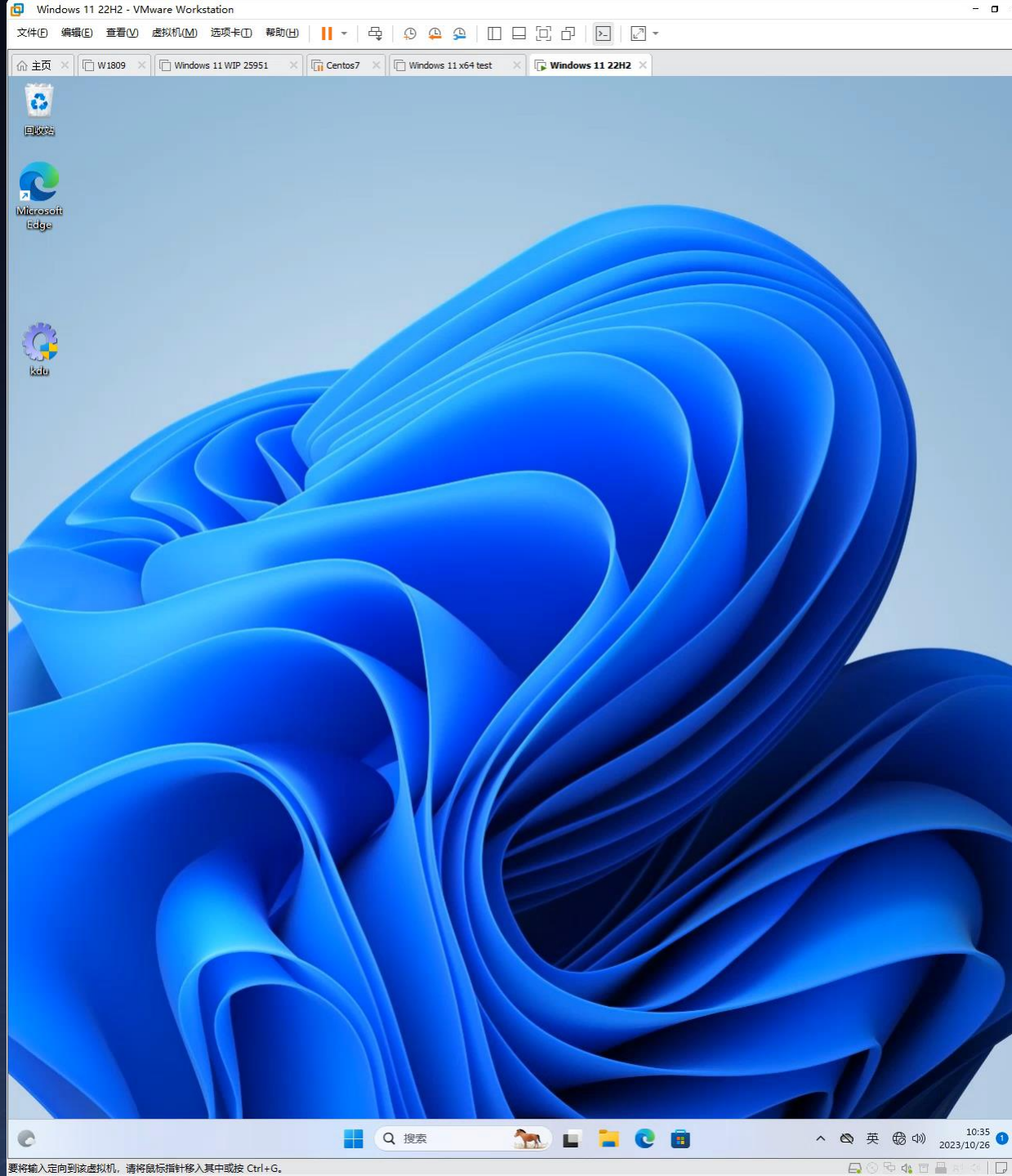
# Exploit primitives-R/W Everywhere by Endpoint primitive and urb



# Exploit primitives-R/W Everywhere by Endpoint primitive and urb



# Exploit Demo



#BHASIA @BlackHatEvents

# *PART FOUR*

## Summary



# Black Hat Sound Bytes

Bug



## Bug Research Tips

- TOCTOU, data of HVA can complete
- UAF, Notice reset operation, similar bug: cve-2020-4004

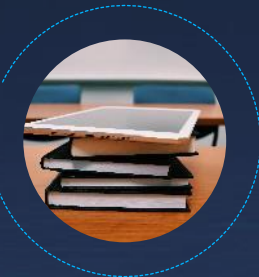
Exp



## Exploit Tips

- Urb to leak data
- Endpoint to write arbitrary anywhere

Defense



## Defense Escape Attack

- Remove unnecessary virtual devices: Usb, Sound, CDrom
- Disable SVGA 3D
- Keep your software newest

<https://census-labs.com/media/straightouttavmware-wp.pdf>

[Zero Day Initiative — Taking Control of VMware Through the Universal Host Control Interface: Part 2](#)

<https://github.com/474172261/slides/blob/main/Breakout%20Script%20of%20the%20Westworld-new%5B1088%5D.pdf>

[Universal Host Controller Interface \(UHCI\) Design Guide](#)

Q&A

THANKS