

Taming Fuzzers

FuzzCon Europe - September 8, 2020

Andreas Zeller
with Rahul Gopinath, Rafael Dutra, and Zeller's team at CISPA



Taming Fuzzers

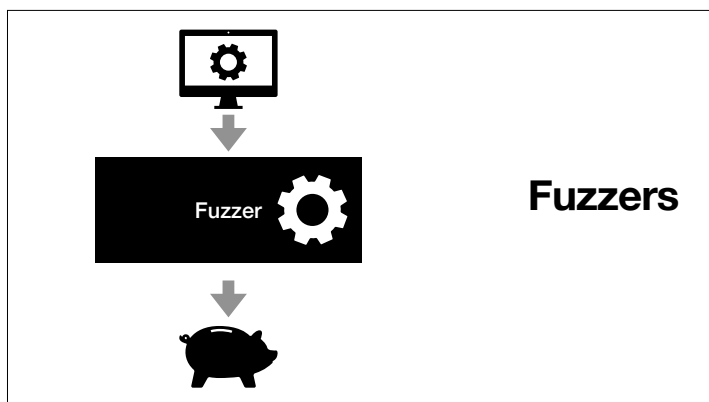
Andreas Zeller, CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security
Joint work with Rahul Gopinath, Rafael Dutra, and Zeller's team at CISPA

Software test generation (fuzzing) can be made much more effective if one knows what to search for. But how can users inform fuzzers about the program and its domain? And how can they control what a fuzzer should do?

In this talk, I present and introduce tools and techniques that allow users to *specify* the languages of program inputs, from recursive languages such as JavaScript to complex binary inputs, leveraging hundreds of existing format specifications. And I show how to *customize* such languages, targeting specific input features. Our all-new FormatFuzzer is now available as open source.

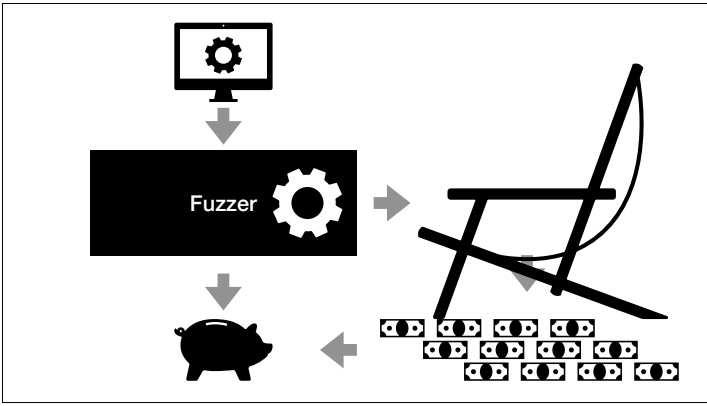
<https://andreas-zeller.info/>

<https://www.cispa.de/>

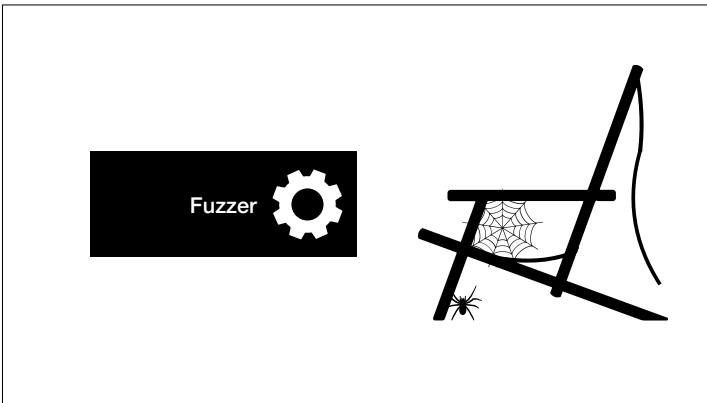


We imagine fuzzers as machines that take programs to produce bugs, and hence money.

... and, of course, all of this automatically.



Unfortunately, this doesn't work. (Or takes a long time.)



Bugs can be Tricky

```
8.2 - 27 - -9 / +((+9 * --2 + ----+((-1 *  
+(8 - 5 - 6)) * (-((-+(((+4)))))) - ++4) / +  
(+---((5.6 - --(3 * -1.8 * +(6 * +(-((-6)  
* ---+6)) / +--(+--7 * (-0 * +(((2)) + 8  
- 3 - ++9.0 + ---(-7 / (1 / +++6.37) + (1  
/ 482) / ++++0)))) * --5 + 7.513)))) -  
(+1 / +++((-84)))))) * ++5 / +(-2 - --  
+-9.0))) / 5 * ----+090
```

Because if you have a bug in a program with a complex input

Generic Fuzzing

```
(144 60 )5(5-(05*/( * *)910)25/509505)3)/  
09211762 / (7**22)76-+ /29+ /4**2+
```

```
8( )04/844)
```

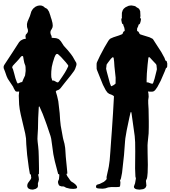
```
4)632/3/7 *0525+)7*
```



*How can we teach the fuzzer
what an expression looks like?*

... your fuzzer might not find them. If you just take sequences of random characters and throw them at an interpreter, all you're going to get is syntax errors. (It's okay to test syntax error handling, but this should not be all.)

Taming Fuzzers: Adapt Fuzzing to *Your* Needs



You know

- about the **domain**
- about the **program**
- about its **input**
- about **what needs to be tested**

How do you get
this into a fuzzer?

So the theme of this talk is how to integrate user's knowledge into a fuzzer – to test more efficiently, and to test more effectively.

Adapt Fuzzing to Your Needs

Customizing Fuzzers

Provide *knowledge* about
program and domain

Controlling Fuzzers

Get the fuzzer to do
exactly *what you want*

Adapt Fuzzing to Your Needs

Customizing Fuzzers

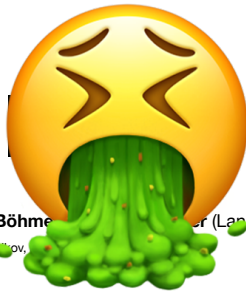
Provide *knowledge* about program and domain

Controlling Fuzzers

Get the fuzzer to do exactly *what you want*

Fuzzing with Grammars

Grammar →



Program under test

Aschermann (Nautilus), Böhme (LangFuzz), Me (Fuzzingbook)
– and also Godefroid, Hanford, Havoc, etc.

Grammars are popular tools in fuzzers – but not everyone likes the word "grammar".

Grammars

Specify a *language* (= a set of inputs)

```
<start> ::= <expr>
<expr> ::= <term> + <expr> | <term> - <expr> | <term>
<term> ::= <term> * <factor> | <term> / <factor> | <factor>
<factor> ::= + <factor> | - <factor> | ( <expr> ) | <int> | <int> . <int>
<int> ::= <digit> <int> | <digit>
<digit> ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

Expansion rule

Nonterminal symbol

Terminal symbol

I'll therefore stick to the most basic definitions.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

You may have seen grammars as **parsers**, but they can also be used as **producers** of inputs.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

<start>

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

You start with a start symbol

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

<start>

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

<expr>

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

which then subsequently gets replaced according to the production rules in the grammar.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

<term> - <expr>

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

If there are multiple alternatives, you randomly choose one.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

<term> - <expr>

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr) ::= (term) * (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term) ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int) ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

<factor> - **<expr>**

Nikolaus Haslauer and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr) ::= (term) * (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term) ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int) ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

<int> . **<int>** - **<expr>**

Nikolaus Haslauer and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr) ::= (term) * (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term) ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int) ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

<digit> . **<int>** - **<expr>**

Nikolaus Haslauer and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

$\langle \text{digit} \rangle . \langle \text{digit} \rangle - \langle \text{expr} \rangle$

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

8. $\langle \text{digit} \rangle - \langle \text{expr} \rangle$

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
(int)   ::= (digit) (int) | (digit)
(digit) ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

8.2 - $\langle \text{expr} \rangle$

Nikolaus Hirth and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Over time, this gives you a syntactically valid input. In our case, a valid arithmetic expression.

Grammars as Producers

```
(start) ::= (expr)
(expr)  ::= (term) + (expr) | (term) - (expr) | (term)
(term)  ::= (term) * (factor) | (term) / (factor) | (factor)
(factor) ::= + (factor) | - (factor) | ( (expr) ) | (int) | (int) . (int)
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```

```
8.2 - 27 - -9 / +((+9 * --2 + ---+--((-1 *
+(8 - 5 - 6)) * (-((-+(((+4)))))) - ++4) / +
(+---((5.6 - --(3 * -1.8 * +(6 * +---((-6)
* ---+6)) / +--(+--7 * (-0 * +(((2)) + 8
- 3 - ++9.0 + ---(-+7 / (1 / +++6.37) + (1)
/ 482) / ++++0)))) * -+5 + 7.513)))) -
(+1 / +++((-84)))))) * ++5 / +--(-2 - -+
+-9.0)))) / 5 * ---+090
```

Nikolaus Haslauer and Andreas Zeller: Systematically Covering Input Structures, ASE 2018.

Reliably reach, a pretty **complex** arithmetic expression.

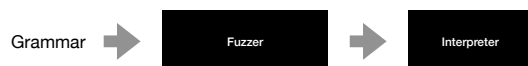
Fuzzing with Grammars

```
8.2 - 27 - -9 / +((+9 * --2 + ---+--((-1 *
+(8 - 5 - 6)) * (-((-+(((+4)))))) - ++4) / +
(+---((5.6 - --(3 * -1.8 * +(6 * +---((-6)
* ---+6)) / +--(+--7 * (-0 * +(((2)) + 8
- 3 - ++9.0 + ---(-+7 / (1 / +++6.37) + (1)
/ 482) / ++++0)))) * -+5 + 7.513)))) -
(+1 / +++((-84)))))) * ++5 / +--(-2 - -+
+-9.0)))) / 5 * ---+090
```

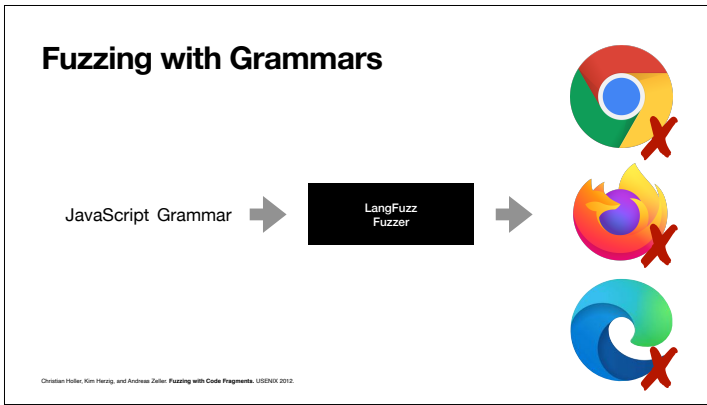


These can now be used as input to your program. And by construction, all inputs are valid.

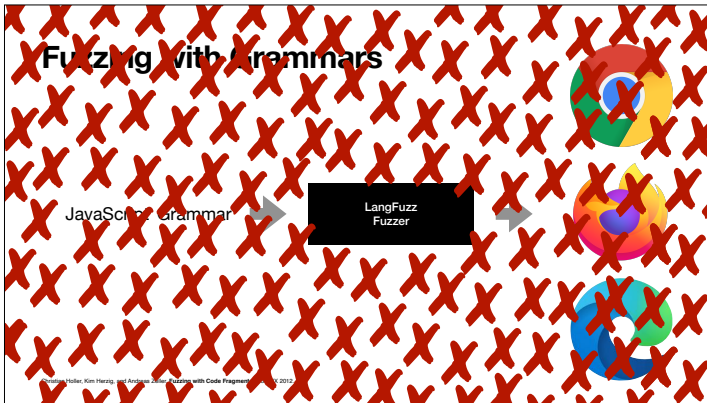
Fuzzing with Grammars



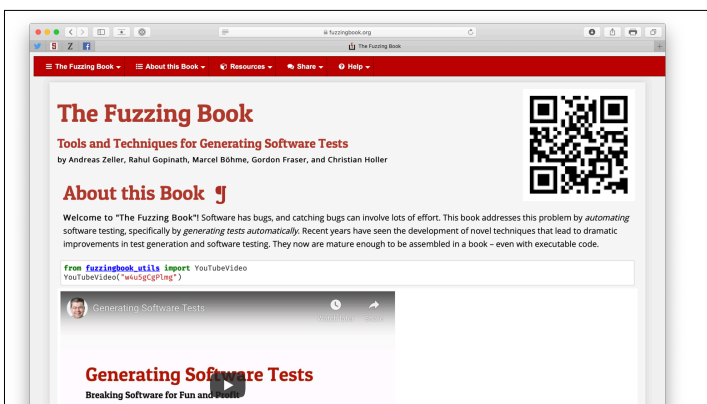
This actually scales.



A couple of years ago, we used a JavaScript grammar to fuzz the interpreters of Firefox, Chrome and Edge.

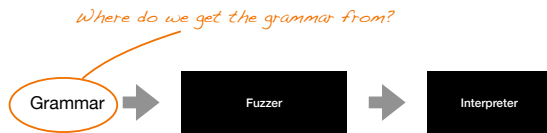


My student Christian Holler (whom you've heard earlier today) found more than 2,600 bugs, and in the first four weeks, he netted more than \$50,000 in bug bounties. If you use a browser to read this, one of the reasons your browser works as it should is because of grammar-based fuzzing.



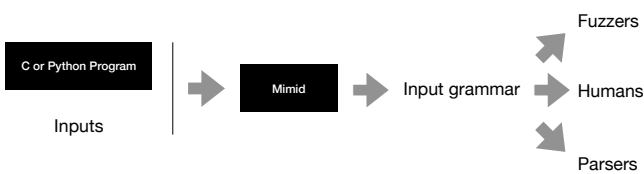
If you want to learn more about these, have a look at our book – a textbook on fuzzing.

Fuzzing with Grammars



But the problem for all grammar-based approaches is: Where do you get this grammar from?

Mimid: A Grammar Miner



Rahul Gopinath, Bipin Mishra, and Andreas Zeller. Mining Input Grammars from Dynamic Control Flow. ESOP/ASE 2020.

Our Mimid grammar miner takes a program and its inputs and extracts a grammar out of it. This grammar can directly be used by fuzzers, parsers, and humans.

Mimid

```
(start) ::= (json_raw)
(json_raw) ::= " (json_string" | [ (json_list" | { (json_dict"
| (json_number" | true | false | null
(json_string) ::= (space) | ! | # | $ | % | & | ' |
| * | + | - | , | . | / | : | ; |
| < | = | | ? | @ | [ | ] | ^ | _ | | ' |
| { | } | ~ | / [A-Za-z0-9] / | \ (decode_escape)
(decode_escape) ::= " / | b | f | n | r | t
(json_list" ::= [
| (json_raw) (, (json_raw) )* ]
| (, (json_raw) )* (, (json_raw) )* ]
(json_dict" ::= {
| ( " (json_string" ) : (json_raw) , )
| " (json_string" ) : (json_raw) }
(json_string" ::= (json_string)*
(json_number" ::= (json_number) | (json_number) e (json_number)
(json_number) ::= + | - | . | / [0-9] / | E | e
```

Fuzzers
Humans
Parsers

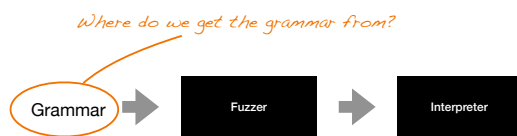
The extracted grammars are well structured and human readable as you can see in this grammar extracted from a JSON parser.

Fuzzing with Grammars



Our plan is that you can go, mine a grammar from a program, and then use this for highly effective fuzzing.

Fuzzing with Grammars



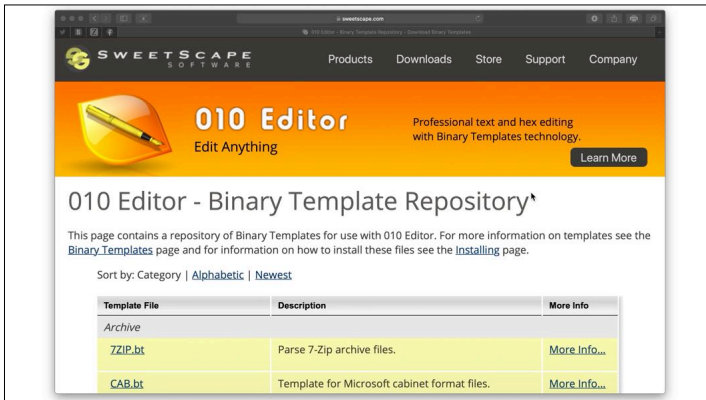
However, Mimid and grammar mining are still research prototypes – and also are limited to, well, grammars. What do you do for more complex inputs?

Existing Grammars

You use an existing grammar!

Existing Grammars

(Unfortunately, there are almost none that could be used for fuzzers – which made us investigate grammar mining in the first place.)



However, we have found a repository of input specifications. These stem from the 010 Editor, which uses so-called binary templates for structured display of complex inputs.

Existing Input Format Specifications

```
//----- 010 Editor Binary Template
//
// File: PNG.bt
// Authors: Kevin O. Grover, RCS, Mister Wu
// Version: 2.3
// Purpose: Parse PNG (Portable Network Graphics) and APNG (Animated Portable Network Graphics) image files.
// Category: Image
// File Mask: *.png;*.apng
// ID Bytes: 89 50 4E 47 %%PNG
// History:
// 2.3 2018-08-17 K. Grover: Uniform type names. Formatting/comments.
// 2.2 2017-10-20 Mister Wu: Initial support of APNG chunks: acTL, fcTL, fdAT.
// 2.1 2017-08-31 K. Grover: Better colors. Alternate chunk colors. Cleaned up messages.
// 2.0 2016-02-10 SweetScape Software: Merged in extra chunks from PNG12Template.bt, updated header for
// repository submission.
// 1.1 2009-02-23 K. Grover: Decode IHDR and tEXt chunks.
// 1.0.1 2005-06-29 K. Grover: Fixed typos in comments.
// 1.0 2005-05-11 K. Grover: Initial version.
//
// This template was written to the PNG 1.2 Specification:
// http://www.libpng.org/pub/png/spec/1.2/
//
// It includes chunks described in the APNG 1.0 Specification:
// https://wiki.mozilla.org/APNG_Specification
//
// Note however, that it does not check nor parse all chunk subdata, so it
// should work with all future PNG specifications.
//
// Possible caveat: PNG encourages the chunk type to be mapped to
// strings of the form "[a-zA-Z]{4}". However, it's not a requirement.
```

Here's an example – the PNG spec.

You see the individual elements (in a C-like syntax)

```
// PNG Data types
typedef struct {
    uint16_t pngSignature[4] <format=hex>;
} PNG_SIGNATURE;

typedef enum <byte> pngColorSpaceType {
    Grayscale = 0,
    TrueColor = 1,
    Indexed = 3,
    AlphaGrayscale = 4,
    AlphaTrueColor = 6
} PNG_COLOR_SPACE_TYPE;

// Compression Methods
typedef enum <byte> pngCompressionMethod {
    Deflate = 0
} PNG_COMPR_METHOD;

// Filter Methods
typedef enum <byte> pngFilterMethod {
    AdaptiveFiltering = 0
} PNG_FILTER_METHOD;

// Interlace Methods
typedef enum <byte> pngInterlaceMethod {
    NoInterlace = 0,
    Adam7Interlace = 1
} PNG_INTERLACE_METHOD;

typedef struct {
    byte bitRed <format=hex>;
    byte bitGreen <format=hex>;
    byte bitBlue <format=hex>;
} PNG_PALETTE_PIXEL;

typedef struct {
    uint32_t x;
    uint32_t y;
```

```
typedef struct {
    string label;
    char data[length - StrLen(label) - 1]; // to the first NULL (including)
} PNG_CHUNK_TEXT <read=readEXT>;

string readEXT(local PNG_CHUNK_TEXT &text) {
    local string s;
    SPrintf(s, "%s = %s", text.label, text.data);
    return s;
}

struct PNG_CHUNK_PLTE (int32 chunkLen) {
    PNG_PALETTE_PIXEL plteChunkData[chunkLen/3];
};

struct PNG_CHUNK_CHRM {
    PNG_POINT white;
    PNG_POINT red;
    PNG_POINT green;
    PNG_POINT blue;
};

struct PNG_CHUNK_SRGB {
    PNG_SRGB_CHUNK_DATA srgbChunkData;
};

struct PNG_CHUNK_IEXR {int32 chunkLen} {
    string iexrIdChunkData;
    byte iexrCompressionFlag;
    PNG_COMPR_METHOD iexrComprMethod;
    string iexrLanguageTag;
    string iexrTranslatedKeyword;
    char iexrVal[chunkLen - StrLen(iexrIdChunkData) - 1 - StrLen(iexrLanguageTag) - 1 - StrLen(iexrTranslatedKeyword) - 1 - 2];
};
```

```
// Generic Chunks
typedef struct {
    uint32_t length; // Number of data bytes (not including length,type, or crc)
    local int64 pos_start = FTell();
    CTYPE type <fgcolor=c8b8blue>; // Type of chunk
    if (type.cname == "IHDR")
        PNG_CHUNK_IHDR ihdr;
    else if (type.cname == "tEXt")
        PNG_CHUNK_TEXT text;
    else if (type.cname == "pLte")
        PNG_CHUNK_PLTE plte(length);
    else if (type.cname == "cHRM")
        PNG_CHUNK_CHRM chrm;
    else if (type.cname == "sRGB")
        PNG_CHUNK_SRGB srgb;
    else if (type.cname == "iEXt")
        PNG_CHUNK_IEXR iexr(length);
    else if (type.cname == "zEXt")
        PNG_CHUNK_ZEXT zext(length);
    else if (type.cname == "tIME")
        PNG_CHUNK_TIME time;
    else if (type.cname == "pHYs")
        PNG_CHUNK_PHYS phys;
    else if (type.cname == "bKGR")
        PNG_CHUNK_BKGR bkgr(chunk[0].ihdr.color_type);
    else if (type.cname == "sBIT")
        PNG_CHUNK_SBIT sbit(chunk[0].ihdr.color_type);
    else if (type.cname == "sPLt")
        PNG_CHUNK_SPLT splt(length);
    else if (type.cname == "aCLt")
        PNG_CHUNK_ACTL actl;
    else if (type.cname == "fCtL")
        PNG_CHUNK_FCTL fctl;
    else if (type.cname == "fDAT")
        PNG_CHUNK_FDAT fdat;
    else if (length > 0)
        ubyte data[length]; // Data (or not present)
    local int64 data_size = FTell() - pos_start;
```

```

else if (type.cname == "PLTE")
    PNG_CHUNK_PLTE ptele(length);
else if (type.cname == "CHRM")
    PNG_CHUNK_CHRM chrm;
else if (type.cname == "sRGB")
    PNG_CHUNK_sRGB srgb;
else if (type.cname == "iEXt")
    PNG_CHUNK_IEXt iext(length);
else if (type.cname == "zEXt")
    PNG_CHUNK_ZEXt zext(length);
else if (type.cname == "tIME")
    PNG_CHUNK_TIME time;
else if (type.cname == "pHYs")
    PNG_CHUNK_PHYs phys;
else if (type.cname == "bKGD")
    PNG_CHUNK_bKGD bkgd(chunk[0].ihdr.color_type);
else if (type.cname == "sBIT")
    PNG_CHUNK_sBIT sbit(chunk[0].ihdr.color_type);
else if (type.cname == "sPLT")
    PNG_CHUNK_sPLT splt(length);
else if (type.cname == "aCLT")
    PNG_CHUNK_aCLT actl;
else if (type.cname == "fCtL")
    PNG_CHUNK_fCtL fctl;
else if (type.cname == "fDAT")
    PNG_CHUNK_fDAT fdats;
else if (length > 0)
    ubyte data[length]; // Data (or not present)
    local int64 data_size = FTEll() - pos_start;
    uint32 crc <-format=hex, fgcolor=dkPurple; // CRC (not including length or crc)
    local uint32 crc_calc = Checksum(CHECKSUM_CRC32, pos_start, data_size);
    if (crc != crc_calc) {
        local string msg;
        sprintf(msg, "ERROR: CRC Mismatch @ chunk[%d]; in data: %08x; expected: %08x", CHUNK_CNT, crc, crc_calc);
        error_message( msg );
    }
    CHUNK_CNT++;
} PNG_CHUNK <read=readCHUNK>;

```

This is actually a grammar:

```

<PNG_CHUNK> ::= <PNG_CHUNK_IHDR>
| <PNG_CHUNK_TEXT>
| <PNG_CHUNK_PLTE>
| <PNG_CHUNK_CHRM>
| ...

```

Technically, this is a grammar – but it doesn't look like it. Plus, there's extra code.

```

s=readCTYPE(c.type)* ("";
s += (c.type.cname[0] & 0x20) ? "Ancillary, " : "Critical, ";
s += (c.type.cname[1] & 0x20) ? "Private, " : "Public, ";
s += (c.type.cname[2] & 0x20) ? "RESERVED, " : "";
s += (c.type.cname[3] & 0x20) ? "Safe to Copy)" : "Unsafe to Copy)";
return s;
}

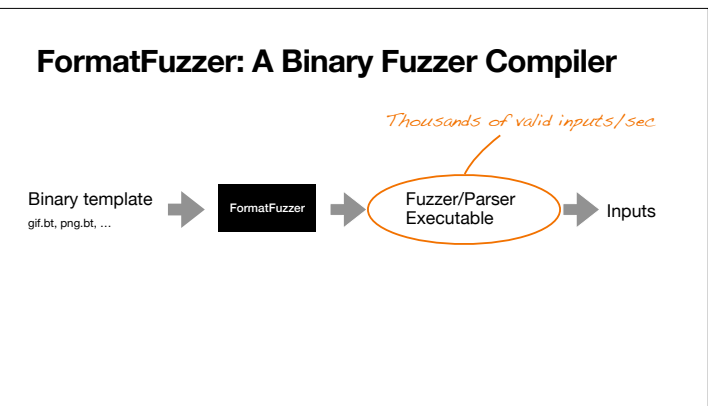
// -----
// MAIN --- Here's where we really allocate the data
// -----
PNG_SIGNATURE sig <bgcolor=cltPurple>;
if (sig.btPngSignature[0] != 0x8950 ||
sig.btPngSignature[1] != 0x4E47 ||
sig.btPngSignature[2] != 0x000A ||
sig.btPngSignature[3] != 0x1A0A) {
    error_message( "ERROR: File is not a PNG image. Template stopped." );
    return -1;
}

local int32 chunk_count = 0;
while(!feof()) {
    SetBackColor( (chunk_count++ % 2) ? dNone : cltGray);
    PNG_CHUNK chunk;

    if (CHUNK_CNT > 1) {
        if ( chunk[0].type.cname != "IHDR" ) {
            error_message( "ERROR: Chunk IHDR must be first chunk." );
        }
        if ( chunk[CHUNK_CNT-1].type.cname != "IEND" ) {
            error_message( "ERROR: Chunk IEND must be last chunk." );
        }
    }
}

```

This extra code checks for semantic constraints that couldn't be expressed in a grammar.



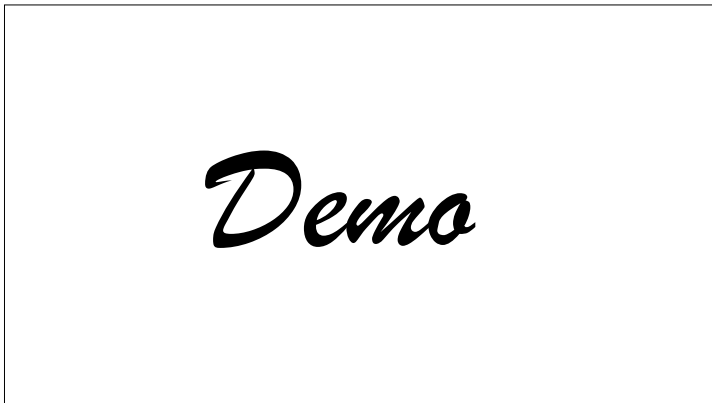
We have built a fuzzer that takes such a template and compiles it into a fuzzer.

```

BPList MiniDump CSharp 010Theme SHX RegistryDhcpInterfaceOptionsPAL AndroidTrace
FormatFuzzer: A Binary Fuzzer Compiler
HFSJournal Luac SinclairMicrodrive Quake3Arena_BSP GZip MOBI InspectorDatesLNK
TGAkryoFlux ICO ROMFS DynamixelProtocol Mifare4k DDS OrCAD_SCH InspectorGUID
FTSMXF ThumbCache CDAIGI2_THM MachO 7ZIP RealFlow_Bin_Particles Yara CSVSCP
MP4 LuaJIT Modo KnyttStoriesWorld SRec EatonAPR48 LUKS Batch CPP
RegistryPolicyFile Goclever FormatFuzzer Quake3Arena_MD3 SeqBox CLASS
RegistryHive IGI2_WAV Picolog_PLW Anno2070_RDM ShpcAnim BaseMedia
FLV_UTMP MongoDBWireProtocol EXE OpenType IGI2_SPR HiewCMarkers Java
WASM BSON VHDCAB_ZIPAdv_SHP OscarItem MifareUltralight OrochiDAT STL Bash CSS PCX
TIFRDBSQLJSCJPG SytosPlus BMP Mifare1k UnityMetadata OrCAD_LIB JavaScript PCAP
FUTX RIFF CLASSAdv SquashFS EZTap_EZVIEW2 IGI2_TMM LZ4SQLiteTOCAVI OpenWRT-BIN
DEXDMP InspectorWithMP4DateTime GIF NTAG215 IGI2_TEX OGG APFS NetflowVersion5 TNEF
PCAPNG WMFPNGPHPXMLCRXADFELTorito EMFFNT EDID Nus3Audio PDF Python AndroidManifest
AndroidVBMeta UMSE ULP WinhexPos MP3 NDS TTF iNes Drive RESCAP Taxc AndroidResource

```

The plan is that you can go and use it for all the 170 formats around (and many more)



So let me show it to you :-)

FormatFuzzer: A Binary Fuzzer Compiler

Can be used as platform for any test strategy

Binary template (gif, bt, png, bt, ...) → FormatFuzzer → Fuzzer/Parser Executable → Inputs

- Open source available **today** <https://uds-se.github.io/FormatFuzzer/>
- New formats every week
- Contributors welcome!

Good news: We have opened up the repo today, and you can try it out yourself. It will still take a couple of weeks until this is ready for prime time, but feel free to peek into it now. Contributors welcome!

Adapt Fuzzing to Your Needs

Customizing Fuzzers

Provide *knowledge* about program and domain



Controlling Fuzzers

Get the fuzzer to do exactly *what you want*

Adapt Fuzzing to Your Needs

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Controlling Fuzzers

Get the fuzzer to do exactly *what you want*

Now a bit about controlling fuzzers

Something we rarely talk about is that grammars give you lots of control over what should be created.

Mimid

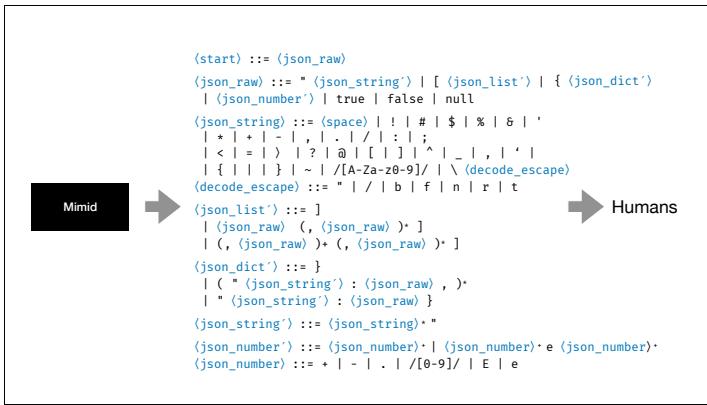
```
(start) ::= (json_raw)
(json_raw) ::= " (json_string" | [ (json_list" | { (json_dict"
| (json_number" | true | false | null
(json_string) ::= (space) | ! | # | $ | % | & | '
| * | + | - | , | . | / | : | ;
| < | = | > | ? | @ | [ | ] | ^ | _ | | ' |
| { | } | ~ | / [A-Za-z0-9] / | \ (decode_escape)
(decode_escape) ::= " / | b | f | n | r | t
(json_list" ::= [
| (json_raw) (, (json_raw) )* ]
| (, (json_raw) )+ (, (json_raw) )* ]
(json_dict" ::= {
| ( " (json_string" ) : (json_raw) , )
| " (json_string" ) : (json_raw) }
(json_string" ::= (json_string)*
(json_number" ::= (json_number) | (json_number)·e (json_number)·
(json_number) ::= + | - | . | / [0-9] / | E | e
```

Fuzzers

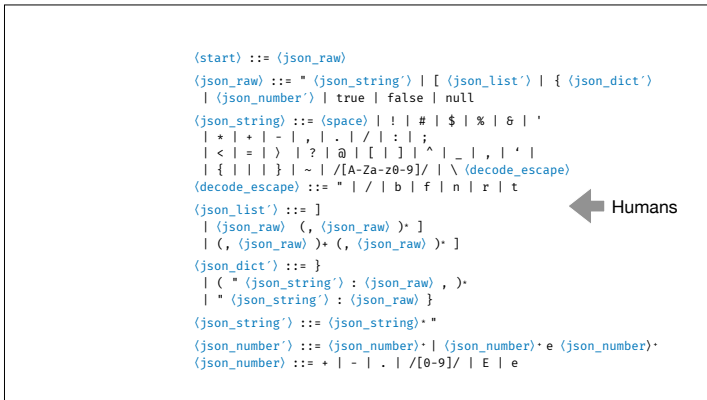
Humans

Parsers

The extracted grammars are well structured and human readable as you can see in this grammar extracted from a JSON parser.



Humans can **edit** these grammars.



For instance, by assigning probabilities to individual productions.



```

(start) ::= (json_raw)
(json_raw) ::= " (json_string" | [ (json_list" | { (json_dict"
| (json_number" | true | false | null
(json_string) ::= (space) | ! | # | $ | % | & | '
| * | + | - | , | . | / | : | ;
| < | = | | | ? | @ | [ | ] | ^ | _ | | ' |
| { | } | | | | ~ | / [A-Za-z0-9] / | \ (decode_escape)
(decode_escape) ::= " | / | b | f | n | r | t
(json_list" ::= [
| (json_raw" (, (json_raw" ) *
| (, (json_raw" ) * (, (json_raw" ) * ]
(json_dict" ::= {
| ( " (json_string" ) : (json_raw" ) , *
| " (json_string" ) : (json_raw" ) }
(json_string" ::= (json_string" * " | ' ; DROP TABLE students"
(json_number" ::= (json_number" | (json_number" . e (json_number" .
(json_number" ::= + | - | . | / [0-9] / | E | e

```

Fuzzer ←

← Humans

Or by inserting magic strings that program analysis would have a hard time finding out.

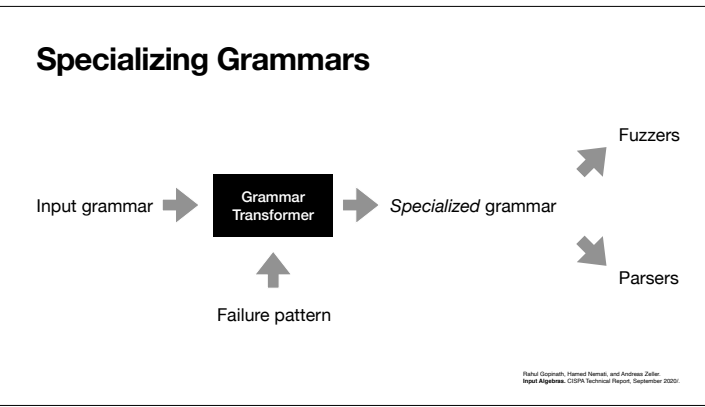
```

{ "": " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" , "/h?0 " : [ ] , "": " , "x" : false ,
"": null }
{ "": ".qf" , "": " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" , "": 47 }
{ "7" : { "y" : " " } , "": false , "x" : "N7!" , "": [ true ] , "": [ ] , "": {
} }
{ "": [ ] , "9z6!" : null }
{ "h" : false , "D" : { "": true } , "t" : 90 , "g" : [ " ; DROP TABLE
STUDENTS" ] , "": [ false ] , "=R5" : [ ] , " " : " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" ,
"l" : { "": "2!L" , "E" : null , "": [ 70.3076998940e6 ] , "Ju" : true } }
{ "": true , "": "%7y" , "t" : false , "": true , "": { "": [ ] , "":
-096060E+0 , "U" : 0E-5 } }
{ "ia" : [ true , " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" , null , [ false , { } ] ,
true ] }
{ "@me81!" : 0.0 , "": null , "": true , "7" : 208.00E4 , "": true , "":
70e+10 , "": " , "5zJ" : [ false , false ] }
{ "": "H" , "d" : " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" }
{ "yz!" : "i" , "h" : " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" }
{ "": -64.0e-06 , "": [ { "p[f" : false , "": " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" ,
"m" : [ ] , "": true , "8D" : -0 , "QR" : true } ] }
{ "": " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" }
{ "r" : " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" , "zJzj!" : 6.59 }
{ "oh" : false }
{ "c" : [ false , 304e+008520 , null , false , " ; DROP TABLE STUDENTS" ,
"m[MD" , [ false ] ] }

```

Fuzzer →

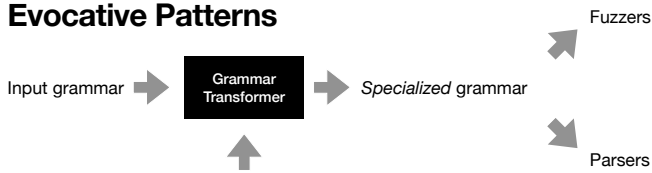
This change to the grammar injects SQL statements everywhere. Do not do this at home, folks – thank you.



In our most recent work, we have introduced **grammar transformers** that take a grammar and specialize it towards a specific goal.

Rahul Singh, Hamed Nemat, and Andreas Zeller
Input Algebra, CIDR Technical Report, September 2020.

Evocative Patterns

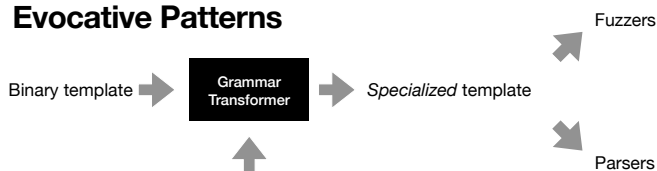


```
(json_dict') is { "username": "zeller", "password": "1234" }  
- Input must contain user name and password  
(json_string') is (sql_injection)  
- At least one string should be a SQL injection  
not (json_number) is . and not (json_dict') is { " (json_string') : null }
```

Rahul Ghosh, Hamed Nemat, and Andreas Zeller
Input Algebra, CIDR Technical Report, September 2020.

Using special expressions, we can control what should be produced. The result is another grammar, which can be used with any grammar-based fuzzer.

Evocative Patterns

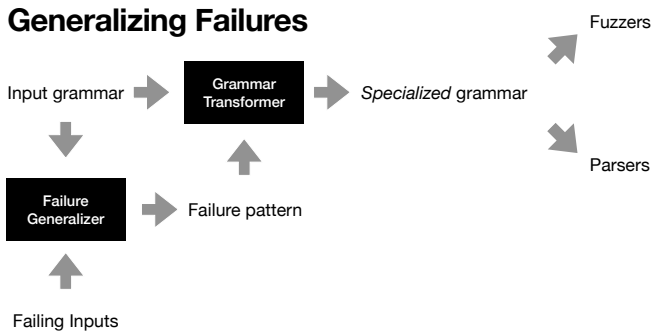


```
(PNG_CHUNK) is 70% PNG_CHUNK_TIME  
- 70% of all PNG chunks must be of type TIME  
not (PNG_CHUNK) is PNG_CHUNK_FDAT  
- No PNG chunk should be of type FDAT  
(PNG_CHUNK_SBIT) is (AlphaRed) (AlphaGreen) (AlphaBlue) (AlphaAlpha)  
- Use TrueColor with alpha RGB
```

Rahul Ghosh, Hamed Nemat, and Andreas Zeller
Input Algebra, CIDR Technical Report, September 2020.

This includes our own FormatFuzzer, by the way; so we're working hard on also controlling FormatFuzzer.

Generalizing Failures

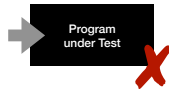


Rahul Ghosh, Hamed Nemat, and Andreas Zeller
Input Algebra, CIDR Technical Report, September 2020.

Interestingly, these patterns we use to control the fuzzer can actually come from **earlier failures**

Generalizing Failures

1 * (8 - 5)

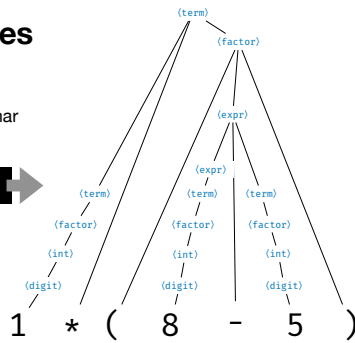
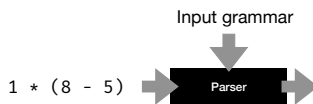


For which other inputs does this hold?

Rahul Dognani, Alexander Kemmer, Niklas Henkel, Eyal Seidenberg, and Andreas Zeller
Abstracting Failure-Inducing Inputs, 1033A.2020, ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award.

When you do fuzzing, you'll find single inputs that cause failures. But are these the only inputs?

Generalizing Failures

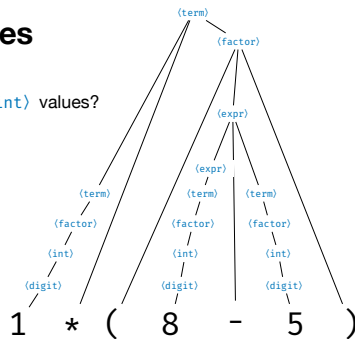


Rahul Dognani, Alexander Kemmer, Niklas Henkel, Eyal Seidenberg, and Andreas Zeller
Abstracting Failure-Inducing Inputs, 1033A.2020, ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award.

We want to know the **set of inputs** that causes the failure – in other words, the language. To this end, we parse the input into a tree.

Generalizing Failures

Does the failure occur for other `<int>` values?

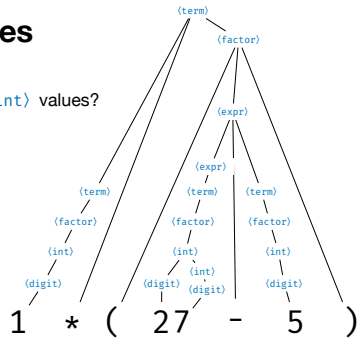


Rahul Dognani, Alexander Kemmer, Niklas Henkel, Eyal Seidenberg, and Andreas Zeller
Abstracting Failure-Inducing Inputs, 1033A.2020, ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award.

To find out whether the failure occurs for other integer values too, ...

Generalizing Failures

Does the failure occur for other `<int>` values?



Rahul Dogra, Alexander Kemmer, Niklas Henkel, Eyal Seidenbaum, and Andreas Zeller
Abstracting Failure-Inducing Inputs, 1037A-1020, ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award.

... we replace parts of the parse tree (8) by newly generated alternatives (27).

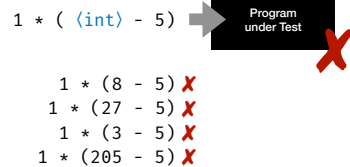
Generalizing Failures



Rahul Dogra, Alexander Kemmer, Niklas Henkel, Eyal Seidenbaum, and Andreas Zeller
Abstracting Failure-Inducing Inputs, 1037A-1020, ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award.

and find that this one fails as well.

Generalizing Failures

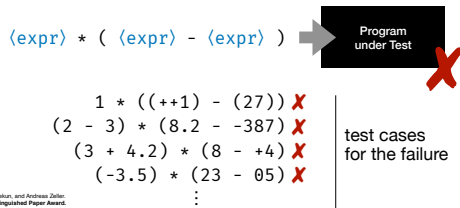


Rahul Dogra, Alexander Kemmer, Niklas Henkel, Eyal Seidenbaum, and Andreas Zeller
Abstracting Failure-Inducing Inputs, 1037A-1020, ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award.

Reliably reachly, the program fails for any integer in this position. So we can come up with an abstract pattern that represents the set of failing inputs.

Generalizing Failures

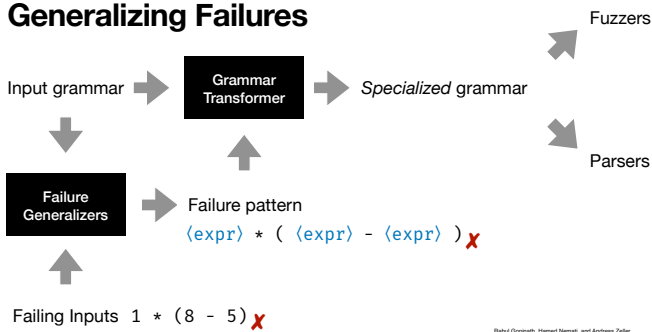
“The error occurs whenever * is used in conjunction with -“



Rahul Dignath, Alexander Kemmerer, Niklas Henkel, Eyal Seidenberg, and Andreas Zeller. Automating Failure-Inducing Inputs. CCS'13, 2013. ACM SIGPLAN Distinguished Paper Award.

By repeating this, we can come up with a general pattern of which **all** instantiations cause the failure. These instantiations also serve as test cases for validating a fix.

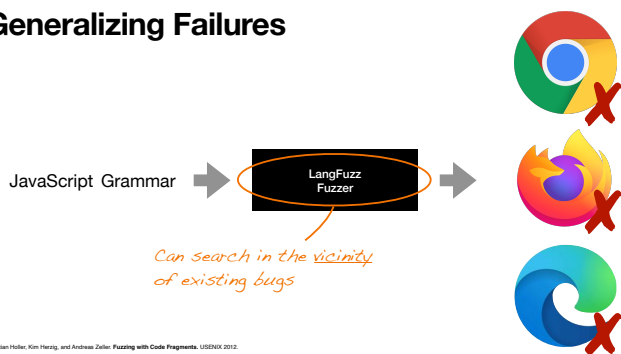
Generalizing Failures



Rahul Dignath, Hamed Namiati, and Andreas Zeller. Input Algebra. CSDM Technical Report, September 2009.

This means that you can start with a failing input, generalize this into a pattern, and then create a specialized grammar which includes this pattern again and again.

Generalizing Failures



Christian Hoyer, Kim Herzig, and Andreas Zeller. Fuzzing with Code Fragments. USENIX 2012.

For a fuzzer, this means that we can search in the vicinity of existing bugs – and this is tremendously successful.

Adapt Fuzzing to Your Needs

Customizing Fuzzers

Provide *knowledge* about program and domain



Controlling Fuzzers

Get the fuzzer to do exactly *what you want*



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So this was a peek into what we do for taming fuzzers – and I think there's quite some perspective for fuzzing here.

Rafael Dutra



Rahul Gopinath



Customizing Fuzzers

Provide *knowledge* about program and domain



Controlling Fuzzers

Get the fuzzer to do exactly *what you want*



Let me point out the masterminds behind these works. Rafael Dutra designed and write FormatFuzzer, Rahul Gopinath did the work on specializing grammars towards (generalized) patterns. They will be on the job market soon!



This are just two of the researchers at CISPA. If you don't know CISPA, this is a Helmholtz Center that is set to become Europe's largest center focusing on security fundamental research, with huge base funding and more than 800 positions for researchers at all levels. We are growing, we are hiring.

Taming Fuzzers: Adapt Fuzzing to Your Needs

You know

- about the domain
- about the program
- about its input
- about what needs to be tested

How do you get this into a fuzzer?

Evocative Patterns

Input grammar → Grammar transformer → Specialized grammar → Fuzzers

```

(json_dict) && { "username": "root", "password": "1234" }
  → Input must contain user name and password
(json_string) && (sql_injection)
  → At least one string should be a SQL injection
not (json_number) && . and not (json_dict) && ! * (json_string) : null }
  → No floating point numbers and no null key values
          
```

Twitter: @AndreasZeller

FormatFuzzer: A Binary Fuzzer Compiler

Can be used as platform for any fuzzer strategy

Binary template (getfile.php...) → FormatFuzzer → Fuzzer/Parser Executable → Inputs

- Open source available today
- New formats every week
- Contributors welcome!

<https://uds-se.github.io/FormatFuzzer/>

Generalizing Failures

"The error occurs whenever + is used in conjunction with -"

```

(expr) * ( (expr) - (expr) )
          
```

Program error test

```

1 * ((+1) - (27)) X
(2 - 3) * (8.2 - -387) X
(3 + 4.2) * (8 - +4) X
(-3.5) * (23 - 85) X
          
```

test cases for the failure

That's all! If you like this work, and want to know more, follow me on Twitter or visit my homepage at <https://andreas-zeller.info/>. See you!

Useful Links

- **Andreas Zeller** – <https://andreas-zeller.info>
- **The Fuzzing Book (book + software)** – <https://www.fuzzingbook.org>
- **FormatFuzzer (software)** – <https://uds-se.github.io/FormatFuzzer/>
- **Mining Grammars (paper)** – <https://publications.cispa.saarland/3101/>
- **Generalizing Failures (paper)** – <https://publications.cispa.saarland/3136/>
- **Specializing Grammars (paper)** – <https://publications.cispa.saarland/3208/>
- **CISPA (jobs! jobs! jobs!)** – <https://cispa.de/>