



Crashing Harder

Catching your application in compromising contexts



Mark Mentovai
Software Engineer, Google Chrome

What Is a Crash?



Hardware traps

[xnu-2050.18.24/osfmk/i386/trap.h \(10.8.2, paraphrased\):](#)

```
#define T_DIVIDE_ERROR      0
#define T_INT3              3    /* int 3 instruction */
#define T_INVALID_OPCODE   6    /* invalid op code */
#define T_GENERAL_PROTECTION 13
#define T_PAGE_FAULT       14
```

What Is a Crash?



Mach exceptions

[/usr/include/mach/exception_types.h \(10.8.2, paraphrased\):](#)

```
/*  
 *      Machine-independent exception definitions.  
 */  
  
#define EXC_BAD_ACCESS      1    /* Could not access memory */  
    /* Code contains kern_return_t describing error. */  
    /* Subcode contains bad memory address. */  
  
#define EXC_BAD_INSTRUCTION  2    /* Instruction failed */  
    /* Illegal or undefined instruction or operand */  
  
#define EXC_ARITHMETIC       3    /* Arithmetic exception */  
    /* Exact nature of exception is in code field */  
  
#define EXC_BREAKPOINT      6    /* Trace, breakpoint, etc. */  
    /* Details in code field. */  
  
#define EXC_CRASH           10    /* Abnormal process exit */
```

What Is a Crash?



UNIX Signals

/usr/include/sys/signal.h (10.8.2, paraphrased):

```
#define SIGILL  4    /* illegal instruction (not reset when
                     caught) */
#define SIGTRAP 5    /* trace trap (not reset when caught) */
#define SIGABRT 6    /* abort() */
#define SIGFPE  8    /* floating point exception */
#define SIGBUS  10   /* bus error */
#define SIGSEGV 11   /* segmentation violation */
```

What Is a Crash?



Trap T_DIVIDE_ERROR: Integer division by zero

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    int dividend = 1;  
    int divisor = 0;  
    int quotient = dividend / divisor;  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ ./trap_0_divide_error  
Floating point exception: 8
```

```
Exception Type:   EXC_ARITHMETIC (SIGFPE)  
Exception Codes: EXC_I386_DIV (divide by zero)
```

What Is a Crash?



Trap T_INVALID_OPCODE: Invalid opcode

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    __builtin_trap();  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ ./trap_6_invalid_opcode  
Illegal instruction: 4
```

```
Exception Type:   EXC_BAD_INSTRUCTION (SIGILL)  
Exception Codes:  0x0000000000000001, 0x0000000000000000
```

What Is a Crash?



Trap T_GENERAL_PROTECTION: General protection fault

```
#include <stddef.h>
```

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    int* pointer = NULL;  
    *pointer = 6;  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ ./trap_13_general_protection  
Bus error: 10
```

```
Exception Type:   EXC_BAD_ACCESS (SIGBUS)  
Exception Codes: KERN_PROTECTION_FAILURE at 0x0000000000000000
```

What Is a Crash?



Software: abort()

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    abort();  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ ./abort  
Abort trap: 6
```

```
Exception Type:   EXC_CRASH (SIGABRT)
```

```
Exception Codes: 0x0000000000000000, 0x0000000000000000
```

```
Application Specific Information:  
abort() called
```


What Is a Crash?



Software: assert()

```
#include <assert.h>
```

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    assert(false);  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ ./assert
```

```
Assertion failed: (false), function main, file assert.cc, line 4.  
Abort trap: 6
```

```
Exception Type:  EXC_CRASH (SIGABRT)
```

```
Exception Codes:  0x0000000000000000, 0x0000000000000000
```

```
Application Specific Information:
```

```
Assertion failed: (false), function main, file assert.cc, line 4.
```

What Is a Crash?



Software: `abort()` vs. `__asm__("int3")`

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    fprintf(stderr, "first\n");  
    abort();  
    fprintf(stderr, "second\n");  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ gdb -q abort3
```

```
(gdb) run
```

```
first
```

```
Program received signal SIGABRT, Aborted.
```

```
0x967983ba in __kill ()
```

```
(gdb) continue
```

```
Continuing.
```

```
Program terminated with signal SIGABRT, Aborted.
```

```
The program no longer exists.
```

```
(gdb)
```

What Is a Crash?



Software: `abort()` vs. `__asm__("int3")`

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    fprintf(stderr, "first\n");  
    __asm__("int3");  
    fprintf(stderr, "second\n");  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ gdb -q int3
```

```
(gdb) run
```

```
first
```

```
Program received signal SIGTRAP, Trace/breakpoint trap.
```

```
main (argc=1, argv=0xbffffb2c) at int3.cc:4
```

```
4      fprintf(stderr, "second\n");
```

```
(gdb) continue
```

```
Continuing.
```

```
second
```

```
Program exited normally.
```

```
(gdb)
```

Heap Corruption



```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    void* pointer = malloc(1024);  
    free(pointer);  
    free(pointer);  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ ./malloc_double_free  
malloc_double_free(7693) malloc: *** error for object 0x79a94a00:  
pointer being freed was not allocated  
*** set a breakpoint in malloc_error_break to debug  
Abort trap: 6
```

```
Exception Type:  EXC_CRASH (SIGABRT)  
Exception Codes: 0x0000000000000000, 0x0000000000000000
```

```
Application Specific Information:  
*** error for object 0x79a94a00: pointer being freed was not  
allocated
```

[chrome/common/mac/objc_zombie.mm \(Chrome 24, paraphrased\):](#)

```
void ZombieObjectCrash(id object, SEL selector) {  
    abort();  
}
```

```
@interface CrZombie {  
    Class isa;  
}  
@end
```

```
@implementation CrZombie  
+ (void)initialize {  
}
```

```
- (id)forwardingTargetForSelector:(SEL)selector {  
    ZombieObjectCrash(self, selector);  
    return nil;  
}  
@end
```

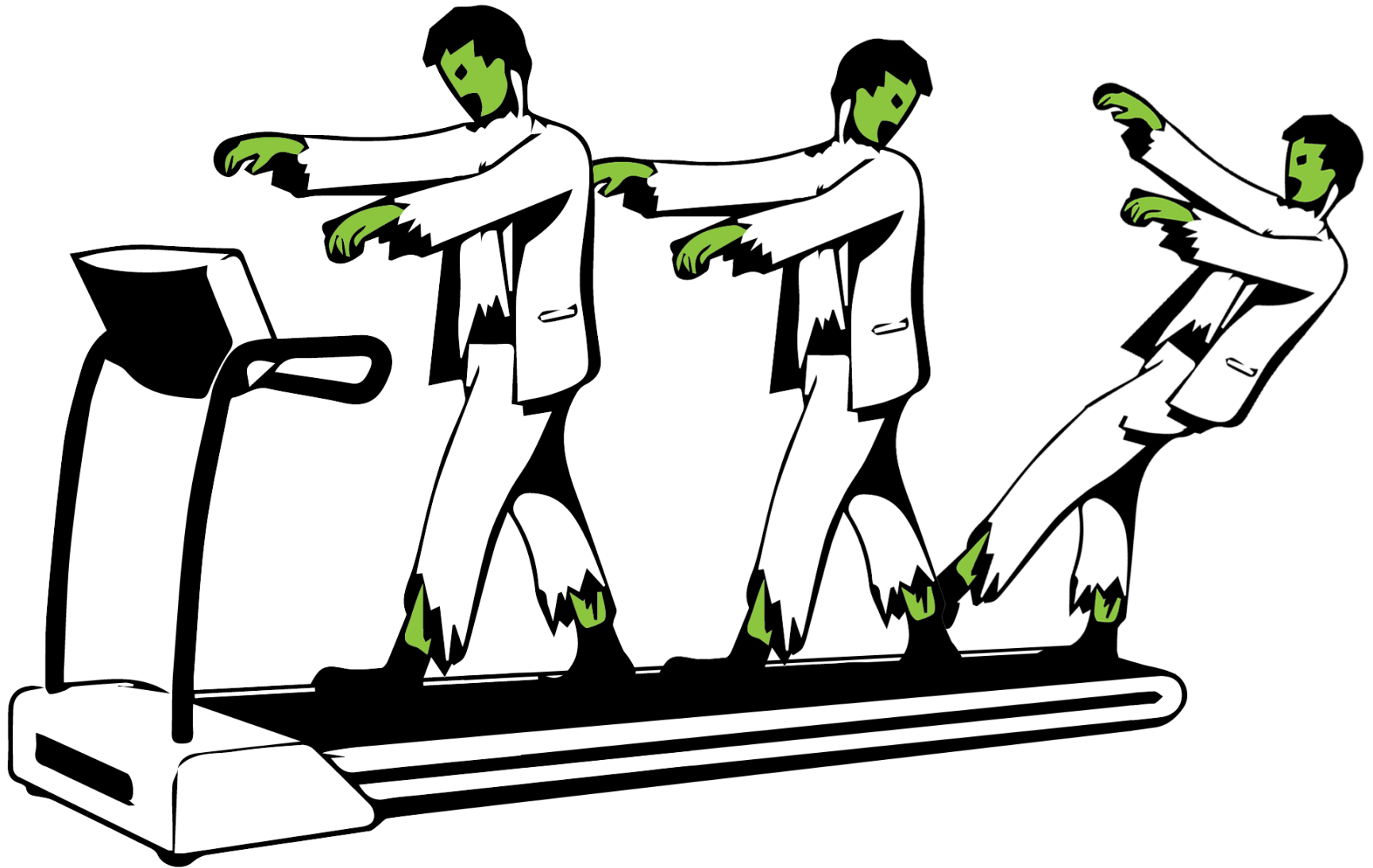
[chrome/common/mac/objc_zombie.mm \(Chrome 24, paraphrased\):](#)

```
const size_t zombieCount = 10000;
id zombieTreadmill[zombieCount];
size_t zombieIndex;
pthread_mutex_t zombieLock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;

void ZombieDealloc(id self, SEL _cmd) {
    objc_destructInstance(self);
#pragma clang diagnostic push
#pragma clang diagnostic ignored "-Wdeprecated-objc-isa-usage"
    self->isa = [CrZombie class];
#pragma clang diagnostic pop
    pthread_mutex_lock(&zombieLock);
    id zombieToFree = zombieTreadmill[zombieIndex];
    zombieTreadmill[zombieIndex] = self;
    zombieIndex = (zombieIndex + 1) % zombieCount;
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&zombieLock);
    if (zombieToFree)
        object_dispose(zombieToFree);
}
```

[chrome/common/mac/objc_zombie.mm \(Chrome 24, paraphrased\):](#)

```
void ZombieEnable() {  
    Method m = class_getInstanceMethod([NSObject class],  
                                       @selector(dealloc));  
    if (!m)  
        return;  
    method_setImplementation(m, (IMP)ZombieDealloc);  
}
```



Out-of-Memory Killer



```
void* SomeFunction() {  
    const size_t size = 123456;  
    char* new_string = (char*)malloc(size);  
    assert(new_string);  
    memset(new_string, '?', size - 1);  
    new_string[size - 1] = '\\0';  
  
    char* copy_of_string = strdup(new_string);  
    assert(copy_of_string);  
}
```

Out-of-Memory Killer



[base/process_util_mac.mm \(Chrome 24, paraphrased\):](#)

```
typedef void* (*malloc_zone_malloc_t)(malloc_zone_t* zone,
                                      size_t size);

malloc_zone_malloc_t old_malloc;

void* oom_killer_malloc(malloc_zone_t* zone, size_t size) {
    void* result = old_malloc(zone, size);
    assert(result || !size);
    return result;
}

void EnableTerminationOnOutOfMemory() {
    malloc_zone_t* default_zone = malloc_default_zone();
    vm_address_t start = mach_vm_trunc_page(default_zone);
    vm_size_t length = (vm_address_t)default_zone - start +
                      sizeof(malloc_zone_t);
    old_malloc = default_zone->malloc;
    mprotect(start, length, PROT_READ | PROT_WRITE);
    default_zone->malloc = oom_killer_malloc;
    mprotect(start, length, PROT_READ);
}
```

Out-of-Memory Killer



[base/process_util_mac.mm \(Chrome 24, paraphrased\):](#)

```
CFAllocatorAllocateCallback old_cfallocator_system_default;

void* oom_killer_cfallocator_system_default(CFIndex alloc_size,
                                            CFOptionFlags hint,
                                            void* info) {
    void* result = old_cfallocator_system_default(alloc_size,
                                                  hint,
                                                  info);

    assert(result);
    return result;
}

void EnableTerminationOnOutOfMemory() {
    CFAllocatorContext* context =
        ContextForCFAllocator(kCFAllocatorSystemDefault);
    old_cfallocator_system_default = context->allocate;
    context->allocate = oom_killer_cfallocator_system_default;
}
```

Out-of-Memory Killer



base/process_util_mac.mm (Chrome 24, paraphrased):

```
void oom_killer_new() {  
    abort();  
}  
  
void EnableTerminationOnOutOfMemory() {  
    std::set_new_handler(oom_killer_new);  
}
```

Out-of-Memory Killer



base/process_util_mac.mm (Chrome 24, paraphrased):

```
typedef id (*allocWithZone_t)(id self, SEL _cmd, NSZone* zone);
allocWithZone_t old_allocWithZone;

id oom_killer_allocWithZone(id self, SEL _cmd, NSZone* zone) {
    id result = old_allocWithZone(self, _cmd, zone);
    assert(result);
    return result;
}

void EnableTerminationOnOutOfMemory() {
    Method method = class_getMethod([NSObject class],
                                     @selector(allocWithZone:));
    old_allocWithZone = method_getImplementation(method);
    method_setImplementation(method,
                              (IMP)oom_killer_allocWithZone);
}
```

```
NSString* GetFilenameFromDictionary(NSDictionary* d) {  
    return [d objectForKey:@"filename"];  
}
```

```
int OpenFileForDictionary(NSString* root,  
                          NSDictionary* d) {  
    NSString* name = GetFilenameFromDictionary(d);  
    NSString* path = [root stringByAppendingPathComponent:name];  
    return open([path fileSystemRepresentation], O_RDONLY);  
}
```

```
#0  0x95129947 in ___TERMINATING_DUE_TO_UNCAUGHT_EXCEPTION___ ()  
#1  0x925f352e in objc_exception_throw ()  
#2  0x9512cd9d in -[NSObject(NSObject) doesNotRecognizeSelector:]  
()  
#3  0x95075437 in ___forwarding___ ()  
#4  0x950751e2 in ___forwarding_prep_0___ ()  
#5  0x983e2cca in -[NSString(NSPathUtilities)  
stringByAppendingPathComponent:] ()  
#6  0x00001d42 in OpenFileForDictionary (root=0x2020, d=0x16bb00)  
at objccast.mm:27
```

[base/mac/foundation_util.h \(Chrome 24, paraphrased\):](#)

```
template<typename T>
T* ObjCCast(id objc_val) {
    if ([objc_val isKindOfClass:[T class]])
        return reinterpret_cast<T*>(objc_val);
    return nil;
}
```

```
template<typename T>
T* ObjCCastStrict(id objc_val) {
    T* rv = ObjCCast<T>(objc_val);
    assert(!objc_val || rv);
    return rv;
}
```

```
NSString* GetFilenameFromDictionary(NSDictionary* d) {  
    return ObjCCastStrict<NSString>([d objectForKey:@"filename"]);  
}  
  
int OpenFileForDictionary(NSString* root,  
                          NSDictionary* d) {  
    NSString* name = GetFilenameFromDictionary(d);  
    NSString* path = [root stringByAppendingPathComponent:name];  
    return open([path fileSystemRepresentation], O_RDONLY);  
}  
  
#0  0x967983ba in __kill ()  
#1  0x967974bc in kill$UNIX2003 ()  
#2  0x92aea527 in abort ()  
#3  0x92af8d37 in __assert_rtn ()  
#4  0x00001d2f in ObjCCastStrict<NSString> (objc_val=0x177bb0) at  
objccast.mm:14  
#5  0x00001b29 in GetFilenameFromDictionary (d=0x177b10) at  
objccast.mm:19  
#6  0x00001b58 in OpenFileForDictionary (root=0x202c, d=0x177b10)  
at objccast.mm:26
```


CRSetCrashLogMessage



```
struct CRAnnotations {
    int version;
    int unknown;
    const char* message;
};

CRAnnotations gCRAnnotations
    __attribute__((section("__DATA, __crash_info"))) = { 4 };

void CRSetCrashLogMessage(const char* message) {
    gCRAnnotations.message = message;
}

void AbortWithMessage(const char* message) {
    CRSetCrashLogMessage(message);
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", message);
    abort();
}
```

CRSetCrashLogMessage



```
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    AbortWithMessage("kaboom");  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
bash$ ./crsetcrashlogmessage  
kaboom  
Abort trap: 6
```

```
Exception Type:   EXC_CRASH (SIGABRT)  
Exception Codes:  0x0000000000000000, 0x0000000000000000
```

```
Application Specific Information:  
kaboom  
abort() called
```

CRSetCrashLogMessage + ObjCCast



```
template<typename T>
T* ObjCCastStrict(id objc_val) {
    T* rv = ObjCCast<T>(objc_val);
    if (objc_val && !rv) {
        char message[256];
        snprintf(message, sizeof(message),
                 "expected %s, observed %s",
                 [[T className] UTF8String],
                 [[objc_val className] UTF8String]);
        AbortWithMessage(message);
    }
    return rv;
}
```

Exception Type: EXC_CRASH (SIGABRT)

Exception Codes: 0x0000000000000000, 0x0000000000000000

Application Specific Information:

expected NSString, observed __NSCFNumber

abort() called