



ROMHACK

CONFERENCE AND TRAINING

The Bright Side of the Moon

**Exploring Novel Techniques for
Bypassing Call Stack Analysis**

bsi.

\$> whoami

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bsi. Principal Security Consultant
Red Teamer, Malware Developer, Source Code Reviewer



Offensive Security OSS Developer
Author of Inceptor, and several other tools



Bug Bounty Hunter
Hunting bugs for fun and a little profit

 **Alessandro Magnosi**

  **KlezVirus**





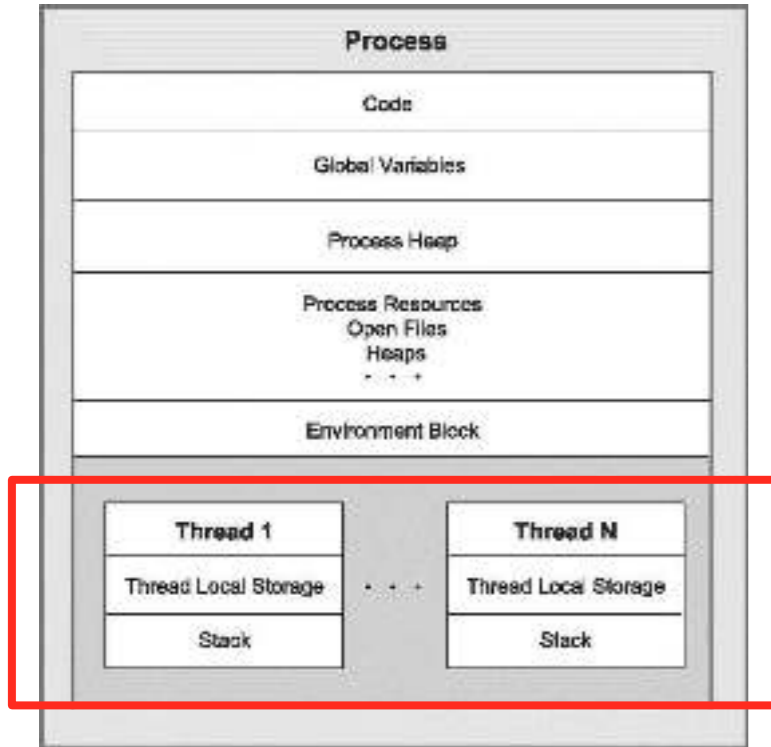
Introduction

Definitions and Windows
Internals Primer



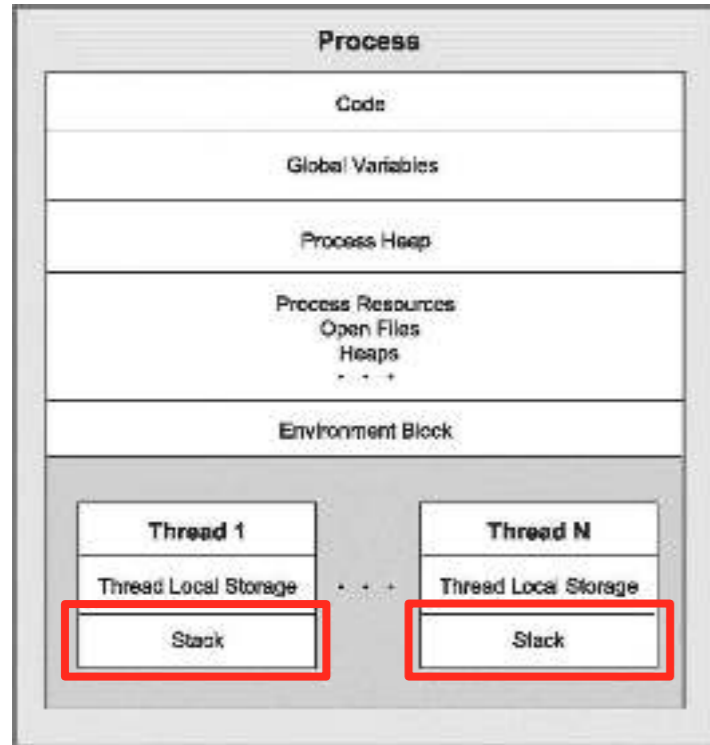
Why “Thread Call Stack Spoofing”?

Thread



Why “Thread Call Stack Spoofing”?

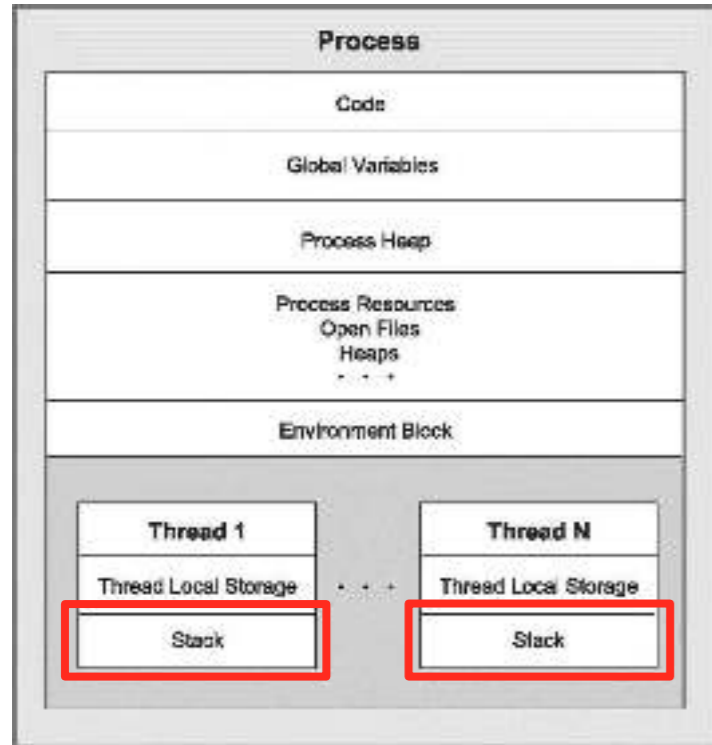
Thread



Why “Thread Call Stack Spoofing”?

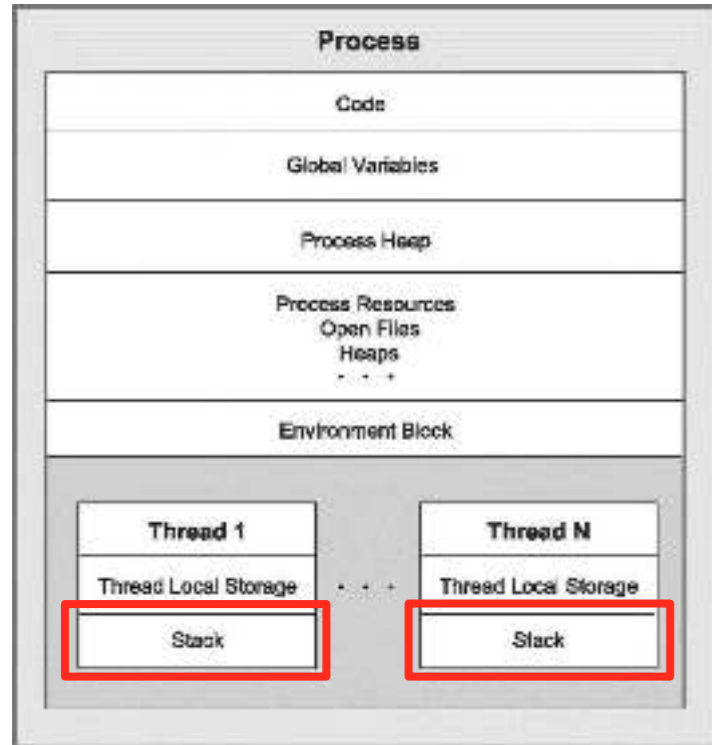
Thread

Call Stack



Why “Thread Call Stack Spoofing”?

Thread

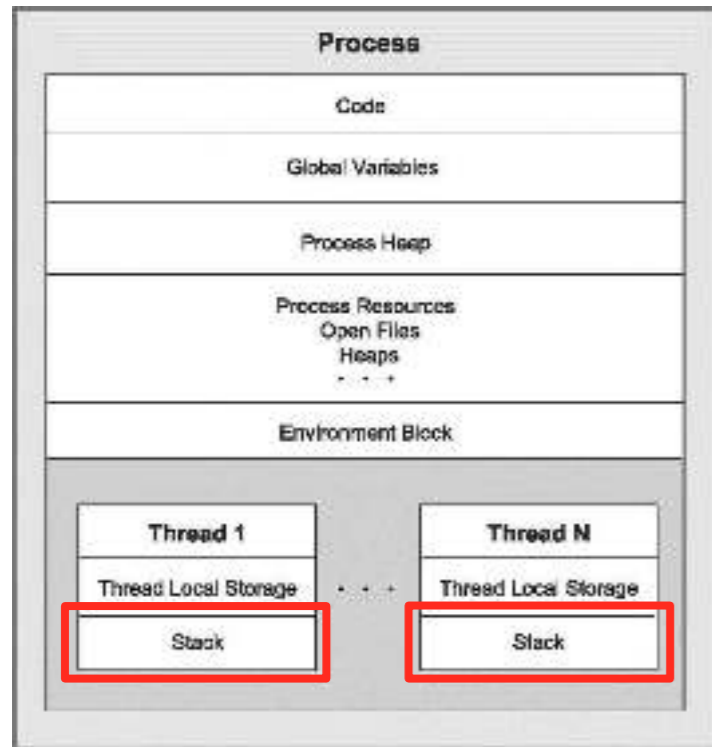


Call Stack



Why “Thread Call Stack Spoofing”?

Thread



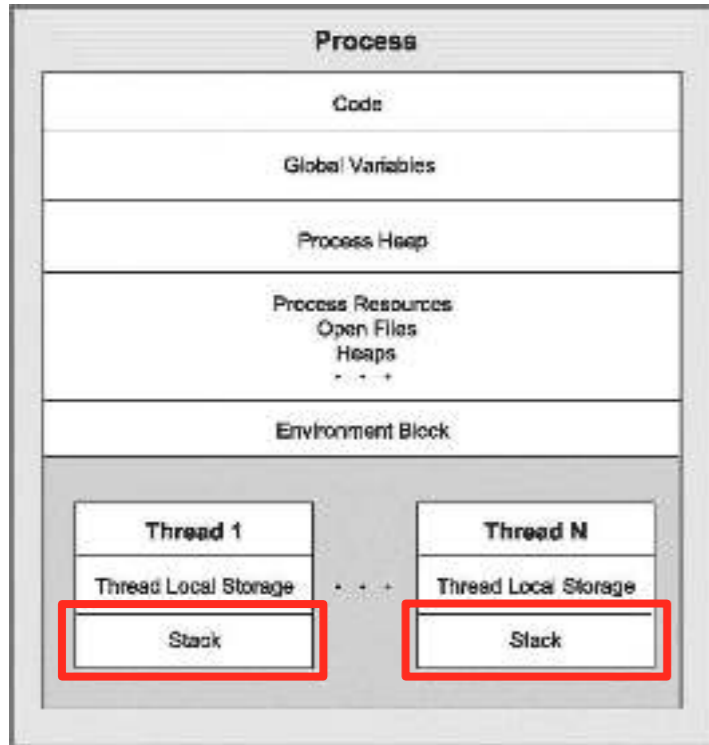
Call Stack



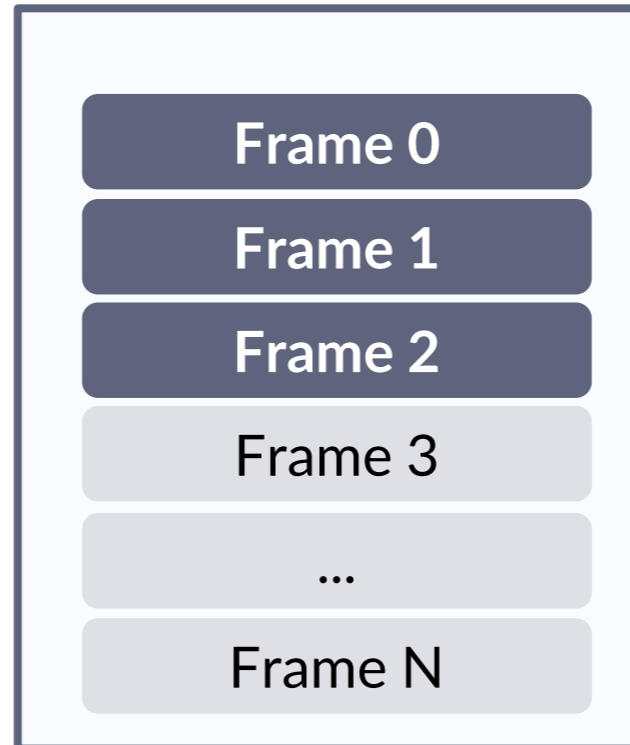
Spoofing

Why "Thread Call Stack Spoofing"?

Thread



Call Stack



Spoofing



Thread Call Stack

```
00, win32u.dll!NtUserGetMessage+0x14
01, user32.dll!GetMessageW+0x2a
02, notepad++.exe!SetLibraryProperty+0x19ae92
03, notepad++.exe!GetNameSpace+0x105802
04, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
05, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

```
00, ntdll.dll!NtDeviceIoControlFile+0x14
01, KernelBase.dll!GetConsoleScreenBufferInfoEx+0x229
02, KernelBase.dll!ReadConsoleW+0x1c5
03, KernelBase.dll!ReadConsoleW+0x1e
04, cmd.exe+0x2bf87
05, cmd.exe+0x13b11
06, cmd.exe+0x1305a
07, cmd.exe+0x12d66
08, cmd.exe+0x12ad2
09, cmd.exe+0x25b2d
10, cmd.exe+0x1f876
11, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
12, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

```
00, win32u.dll!NtUserGetMessage+0x14
01, user32.dll!GetMessageW+0x2a
02, Notepad.exe+0x734c6
03, Notepad.exe+0x18236
04, Notepad.exe+0x40e70
05, Notepad.exe+0x7b55e
06, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
07, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

```
00, ntdll.dll!NtWaitForSingleObject+0x14
01, KernelBase.dll!DeviceIoControl+0x86
02, kernel32.dll!DeviceIoControl+0x81
03, conhost.exe+0x16490
04, conhost.exe+0x94a6
05, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
06, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

Thread Call Stack

```
00, win32u.dll!NtUserGetMessage+0x14
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```

Thread Call Stack

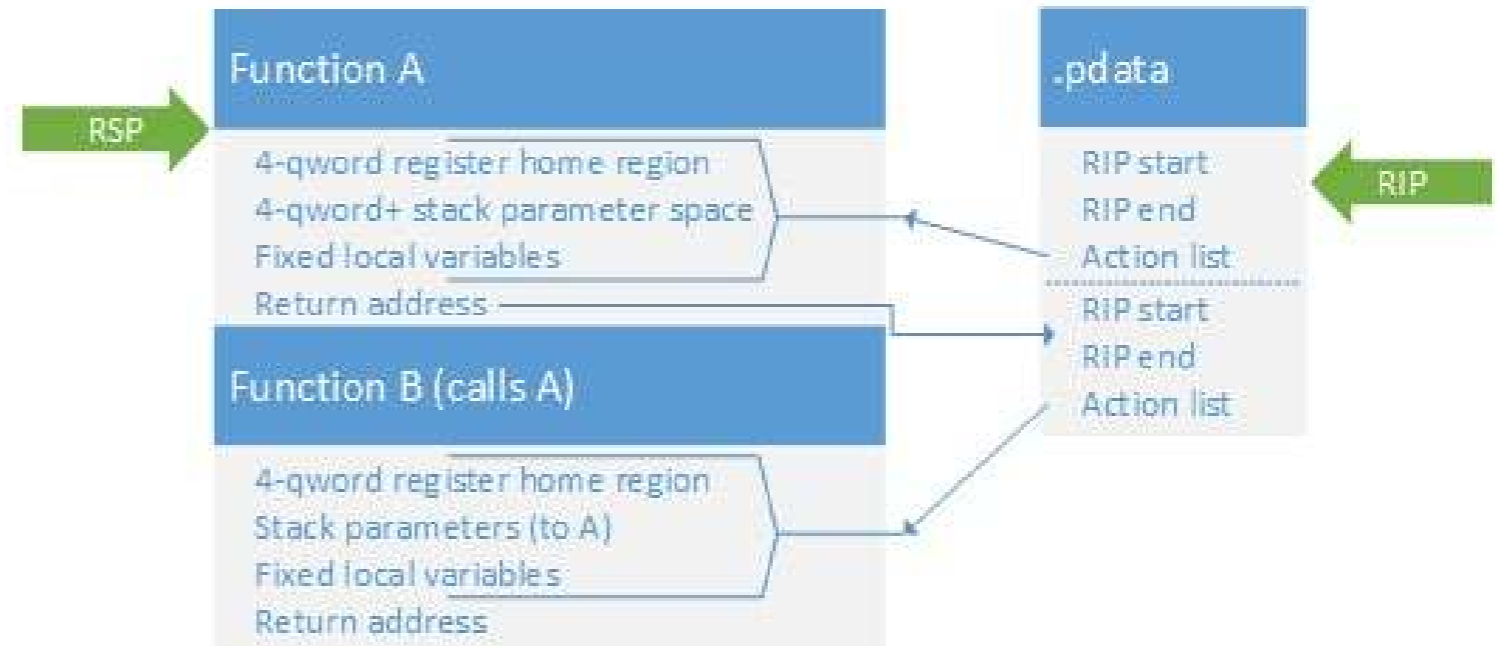
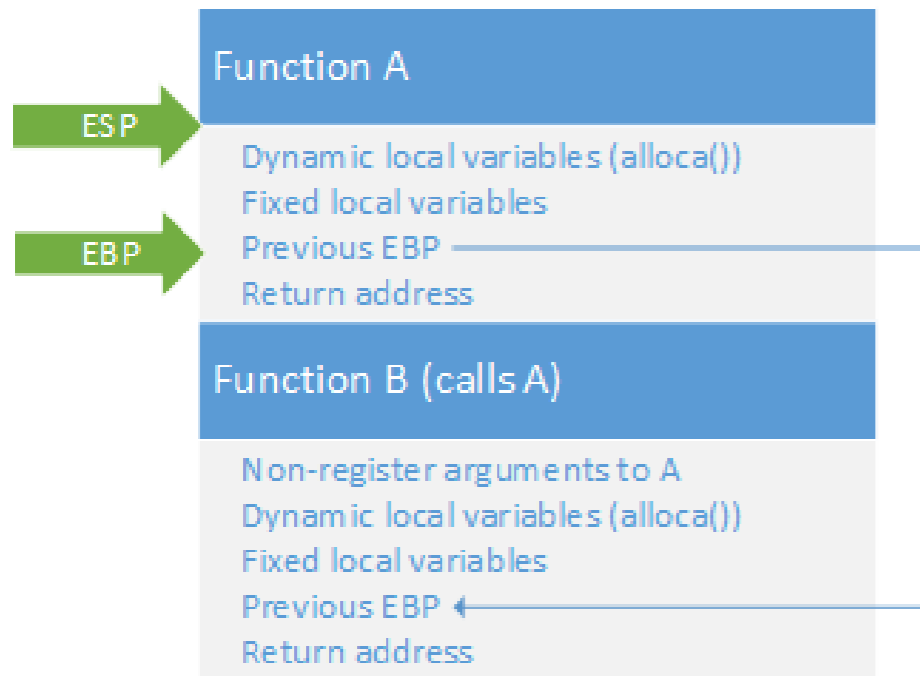
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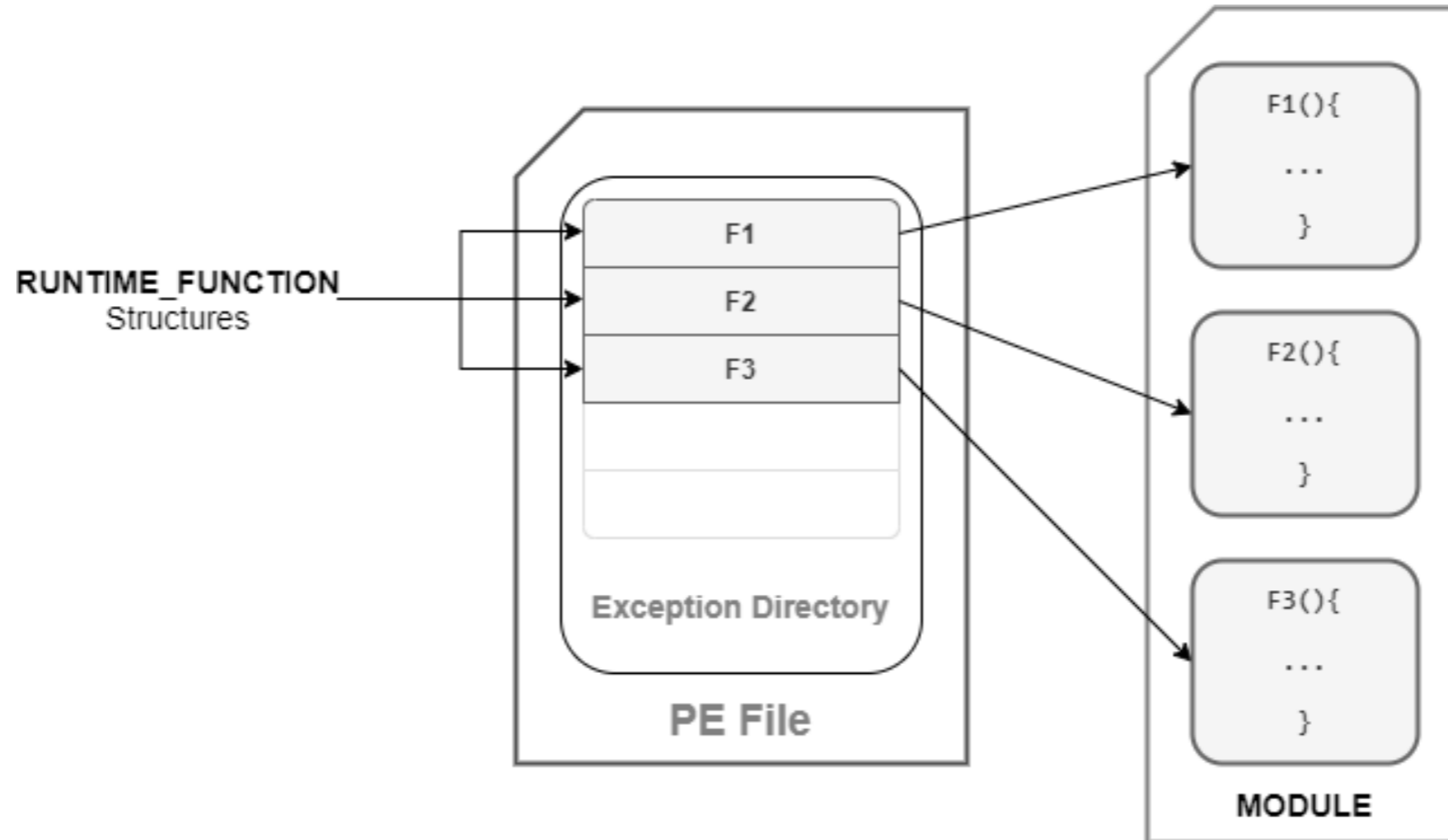
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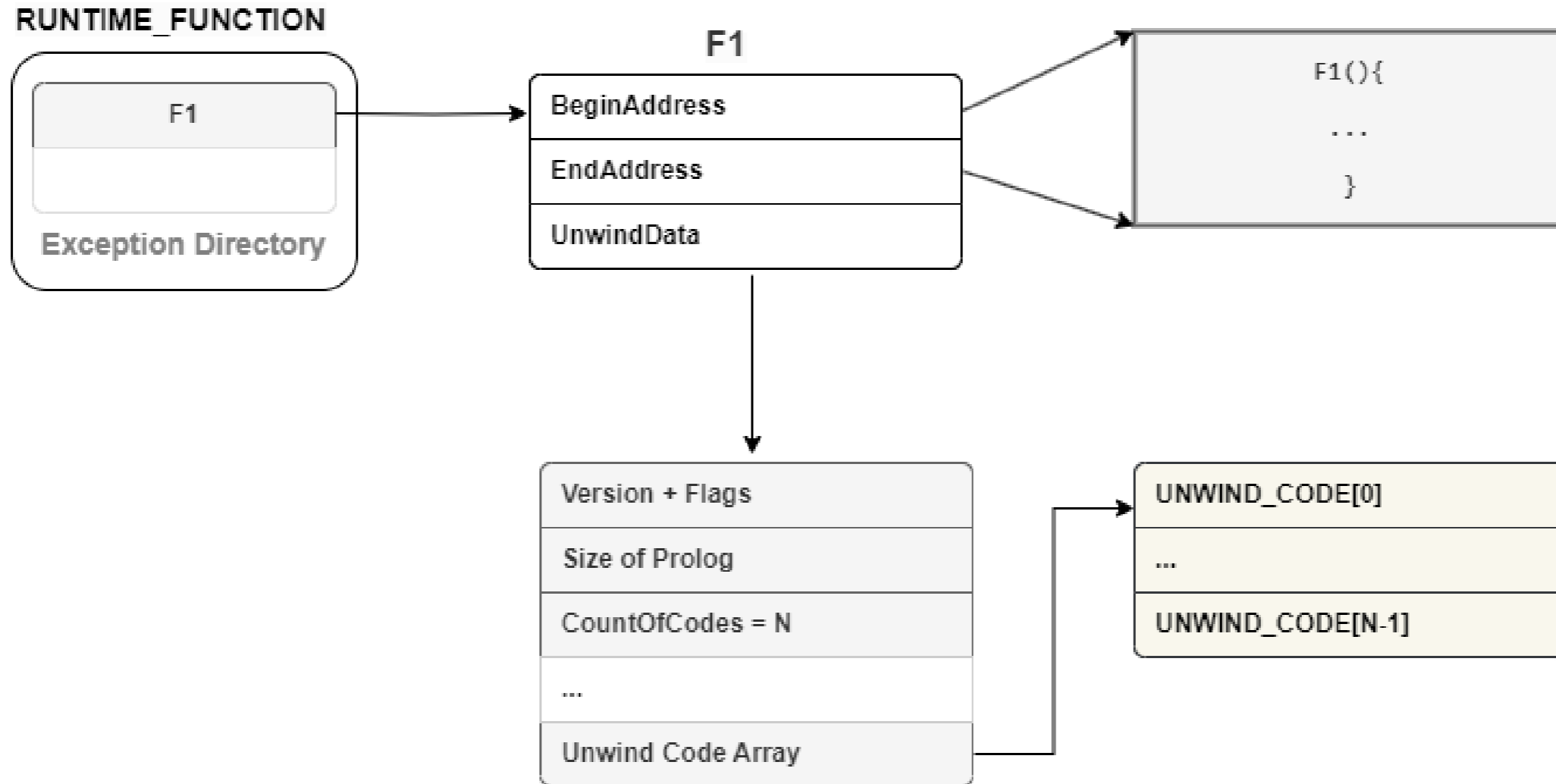
Windows Calling Convention



Exceptions and Unwinding

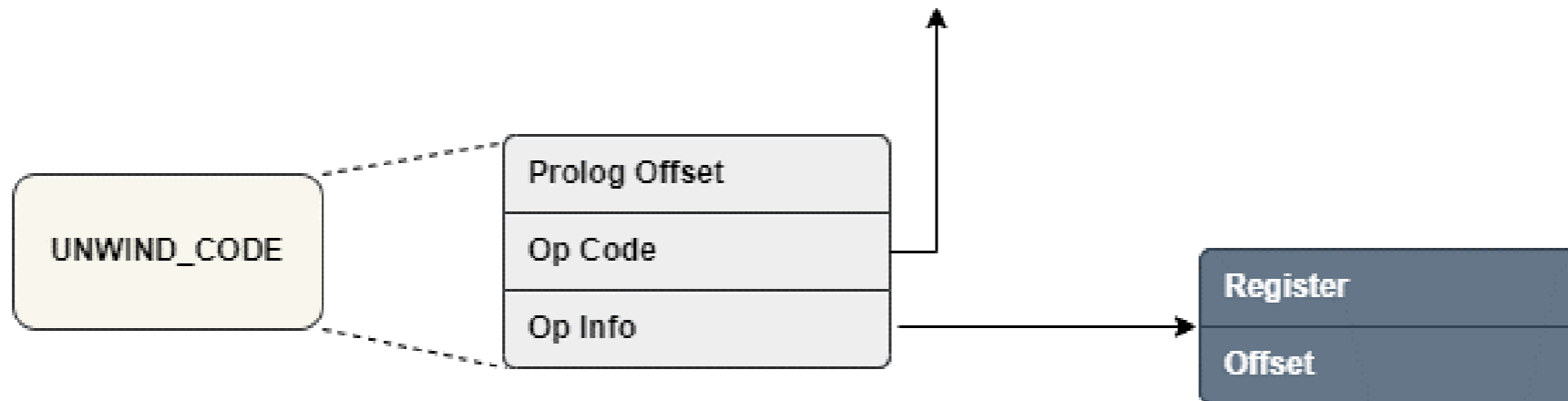


Exceptions and Unwinding



Exceptions and Unwinding

<i>Impact Frame Size</i>	<i>Do not Impact Frame Size</i>
UWOP_PUSH_NONVOL	UWOP_SET_FPREG
UWOP_ALLOC_SMALL	UWOP_SAVE_NONVOL
UWOP_ALLOC_LARGE	UWOP_SAVE_NONVOL_FAR
UWOP_PUSH_MACHFRAME	UWOP_SAVE_XMM128_FAR
	UWOP_SAVE_XMM128



Call stack-based detection

[In]Direct Syscalls

With callstack analysis, it is possible to check if a system call was called via Kernelbase or directly via NTDLL.

[In]Direct
Syscalls



In-Memory Execution

With callstack analysis, it is possible to trace execution back and identify non-resolvable modules and broken (non-unwindable) call stacks.



**In-Memory
Execution**

In-Memory Execution

Normal Call Stack

```
0, win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x12
1, user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x336
2, user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x19b
3, user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x826
4, user32.dll!DrawStateW+0x25f9
5, user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6, user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7, user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8, AbsentMoon.exe!main+0xed
9, AbsentMoon.exe!__scrt_common_main_seh+0x10c
10, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
11, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

In-Memory Code Call Stack

```
0, win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x12
1, user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x336
2, user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x19b
3, user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x826
4, user32.dll!DrawStateW+0x25f9
5, user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6, user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7, user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8, 0x0000000000000000
```

In-Memory Execution - Stomping

The image shows a Windows Task Manager window for 'Proprietà - msgbox.exe (81404)'. The 'Threads' tab is selected, displaying a table of threads. The thread with TID 74800 is highlighted in yellow. Below the table, the 'Start module' field is empty, and various performance metrics are listed as 'N/A'. To the right, two 'Stack' windows are open. The top stack window is for 'thread 74800' and shows a list of stack frames starting with 'win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage +0x14'. The bottom stack window is for 'thread 27340' and shows a list of stack frames starting with 'ntdll.dll!NtWaitForSingleObject +0x14'. Both stack windows have 'Copy', 'Refresh', and 'Close' buttons at the bottom.

TID	CPU	Cycles delta	Start address	Priority
88288			msgbox.exe +0x2de7	Normal
74800			ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart	Normal
27340			rpcrt4.dll!UuidToStringW	Normal

Start module:

Started: N/A

State: N/A Priority: N/A

Kernel time: N/A Base priority: N/A

User time: N/A I/O priority: N/A

Context switches: N/A Page priority: N/A

Cycles: N/A Ideal processor: N/A

Stack - thread 74800

Index	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage +0x14
1	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW +0x336
2	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW +0x19b
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox +0x826
4	user32.dll!DrawStateW +0x25f9
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW +0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA +0x108
7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA +0x4e
8	0x1d441414100
9	0x1d44141410b
10	0x1d44141411c

Stack - thread 27340

Index	Name
0	ntdll.dll!NtWaitForSingleObject +0x14
1	KernelBase.dll!WaitForSingleObjectEx +0x8e
2	rpcrt4.dll!RpcBindingFromStringBindingW +0x29bd

[In]Direct System Call Execution

WINAPI Call Stack

```
0, ntdll.dll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory+0x13
1, KernelBase.dll!VirtualAllocExNuma+0x5c
2, KernelBase.dll!VirtualAllocEx+0x16
3, AbsentMoon.exe!main+0x5a
4, AbsentMoon.exe!__scrt_common_main_seh+0x10c
5, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
6, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

NTAPI Call Stack

```
0, ntdll.dll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory+0x13
1, AbsentMoon.exe!main+0xc4
2, AbsentMoon.exe!__scrt_common_main_seh+0x10c
3, kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x1d
4, ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x28
```

Detection Timings

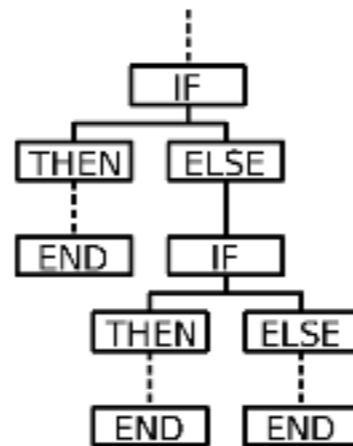


Periodic

Every period of T seconds all threads may be scanned and their call stack analysed

Conditional

The EDR might scan all threads in a WAIT state to check for sleeping implants



Via Hooking

Every time a specific API or System Call gets called, the call stack is analysed

Call stack enriched detection – Elastic EDR

Detection

Process

Suspicious Process Creation via Reflection

Direct Syscall via Assembly Bytes

File

Suspicious Microsoft Office Embedded Object

Suspicious File Rename from Unbacked Memory

Executable File Dropped by an Unsigned Service DLL

Registry

Suspicious Remote Registry Modification

Library

Unsigned Print Monitor Driver Loaded

Potential Library Load via ROP Gadgets

Evasion via LdrpKernel32 Overwrite

Call stack enriched detection – Elastic EDR

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Thread Stack Spoofing Approaches

History and previous research
on the topic



Previous Research



Stack Truncation

This is an extension of return address spoofing, which ensure to zero out the return address of the caller frame



Stack Crafting

Craft the thread call stack artificially, to mimic other legitimate threads when invoking a specific API



Stack Cloning

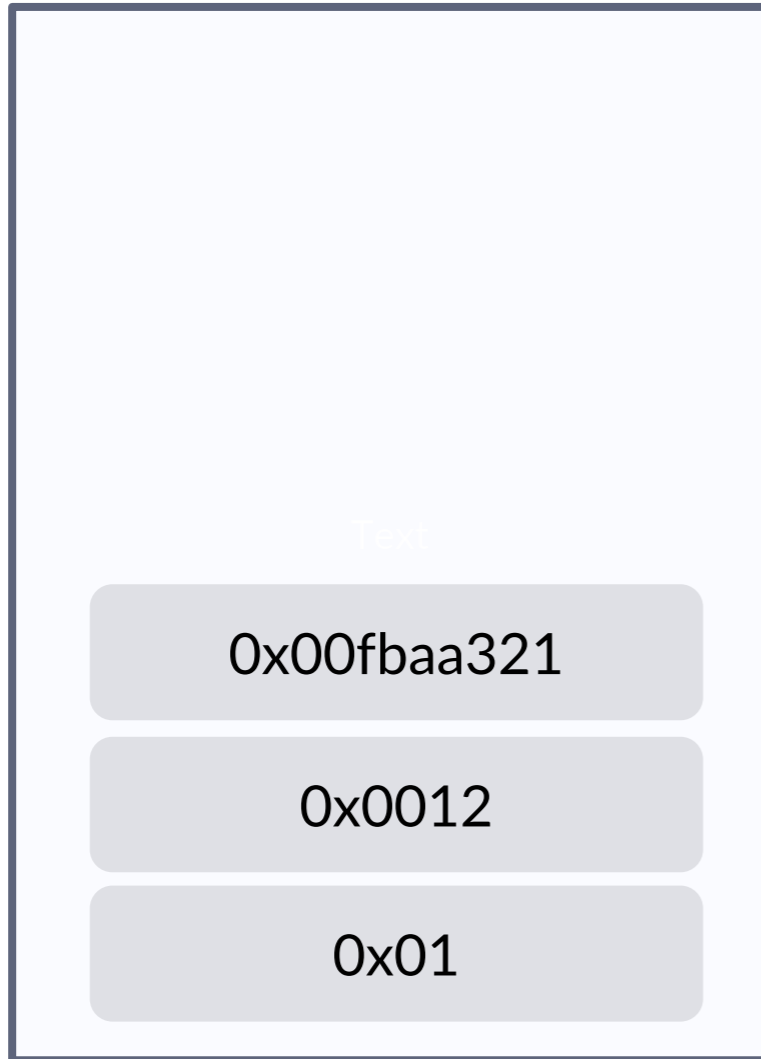
Uses an external mechanism (timers, APC queues) to hide the thread stack of the in-memory injected code by cloning a legitimate thread stack



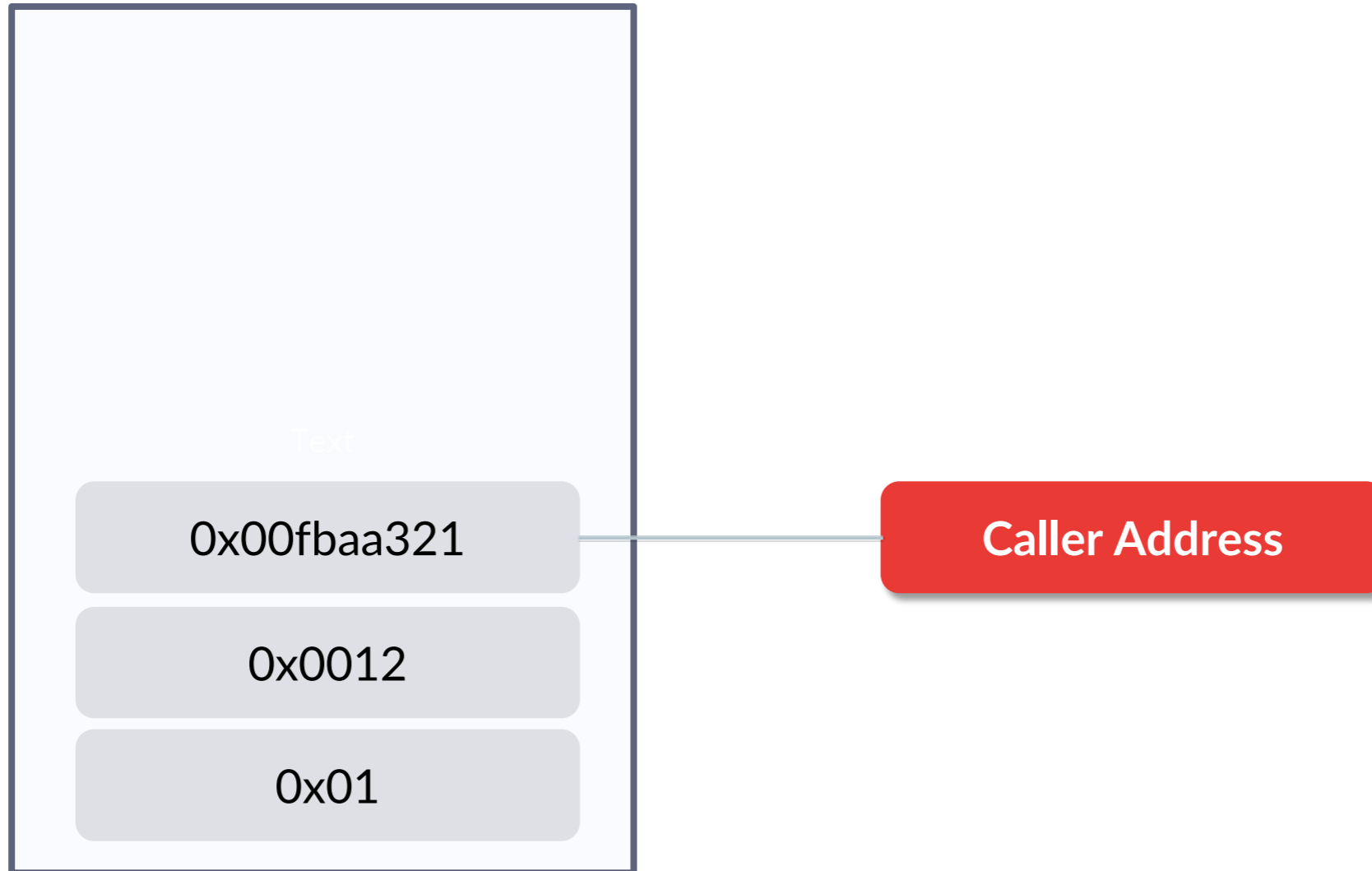
Stack Hiding

Uses Fibers to hide the thread stack of the in-memory injected code

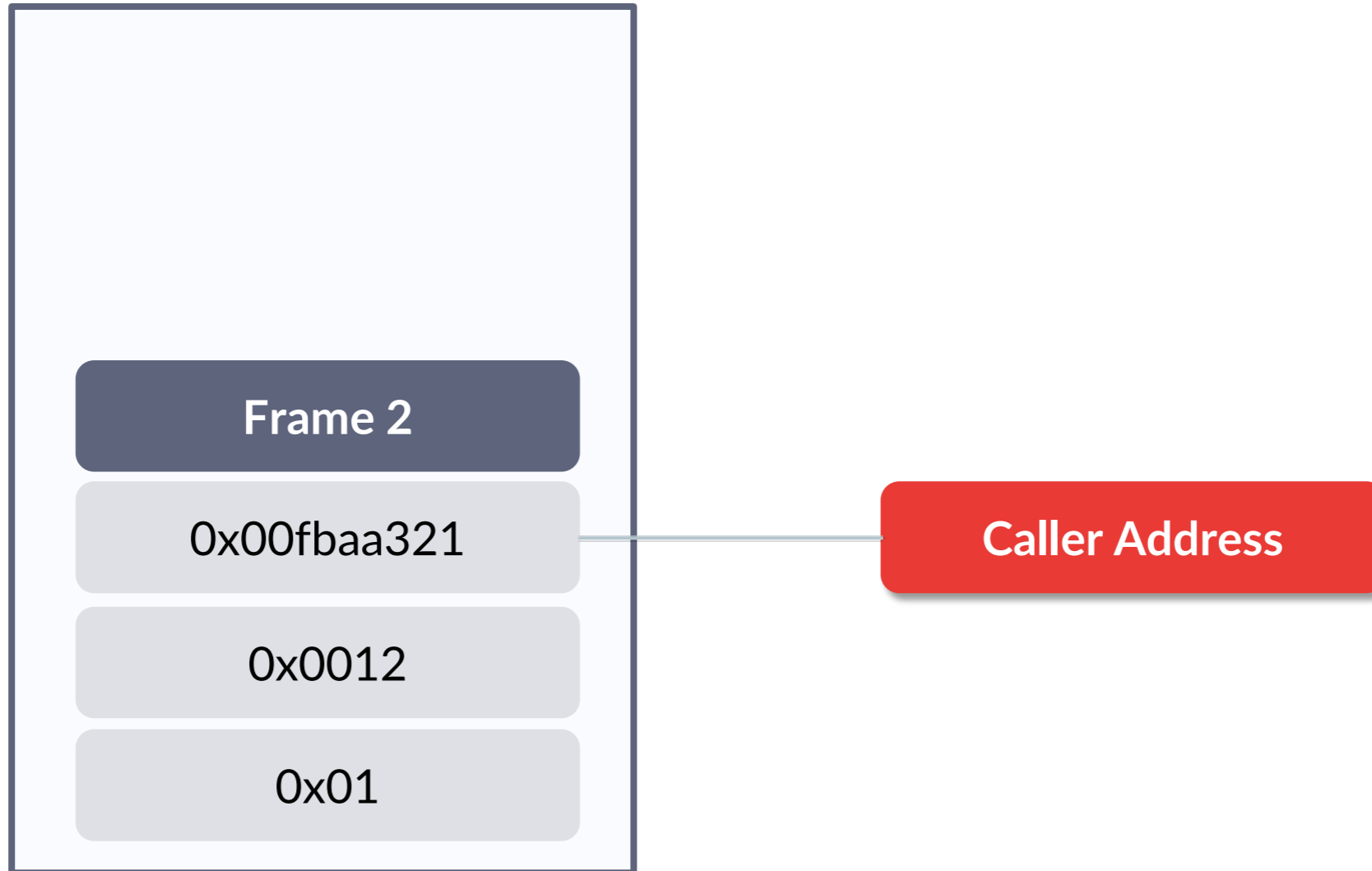
Stack Truncation



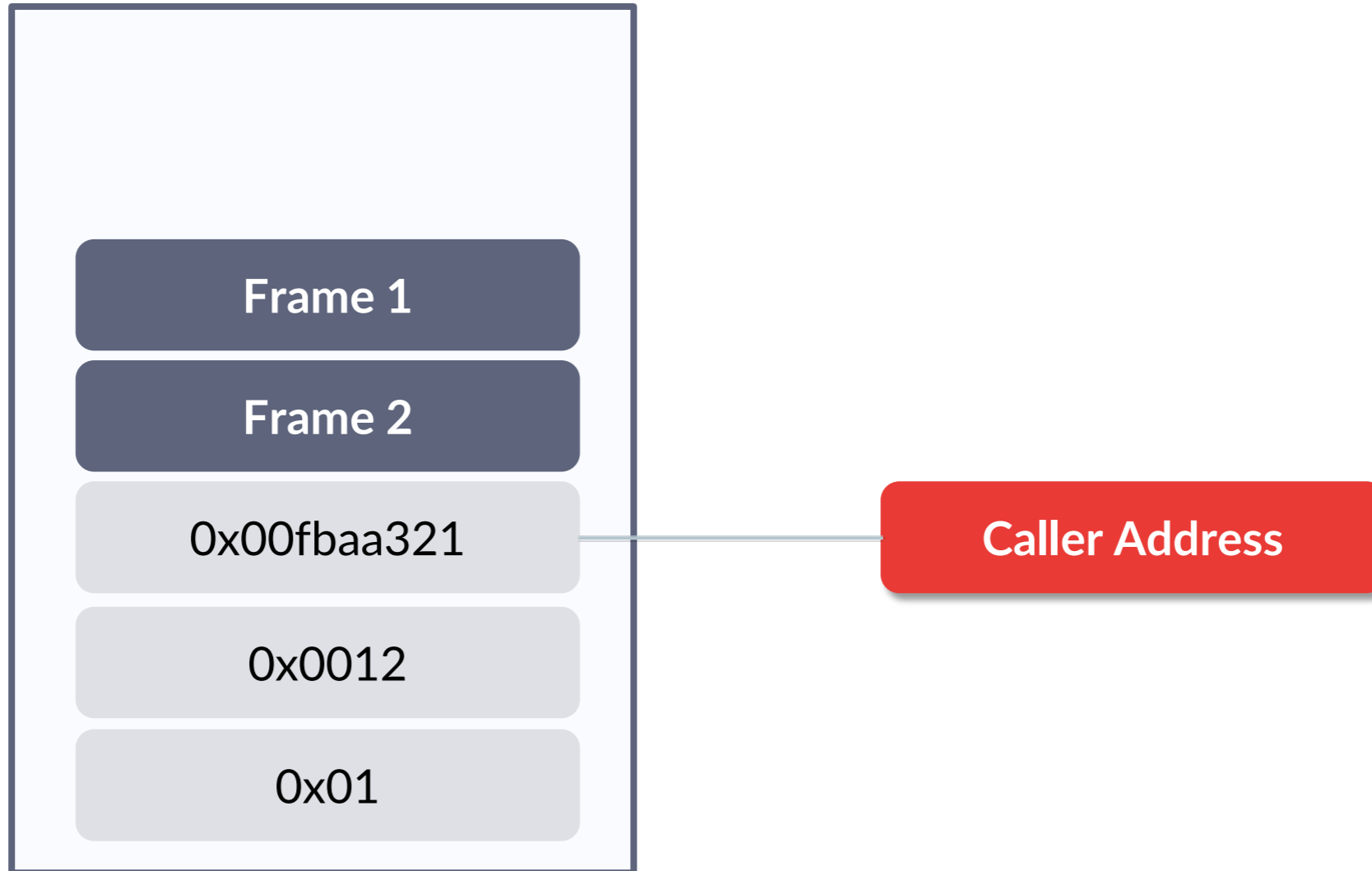
Stack Truncation



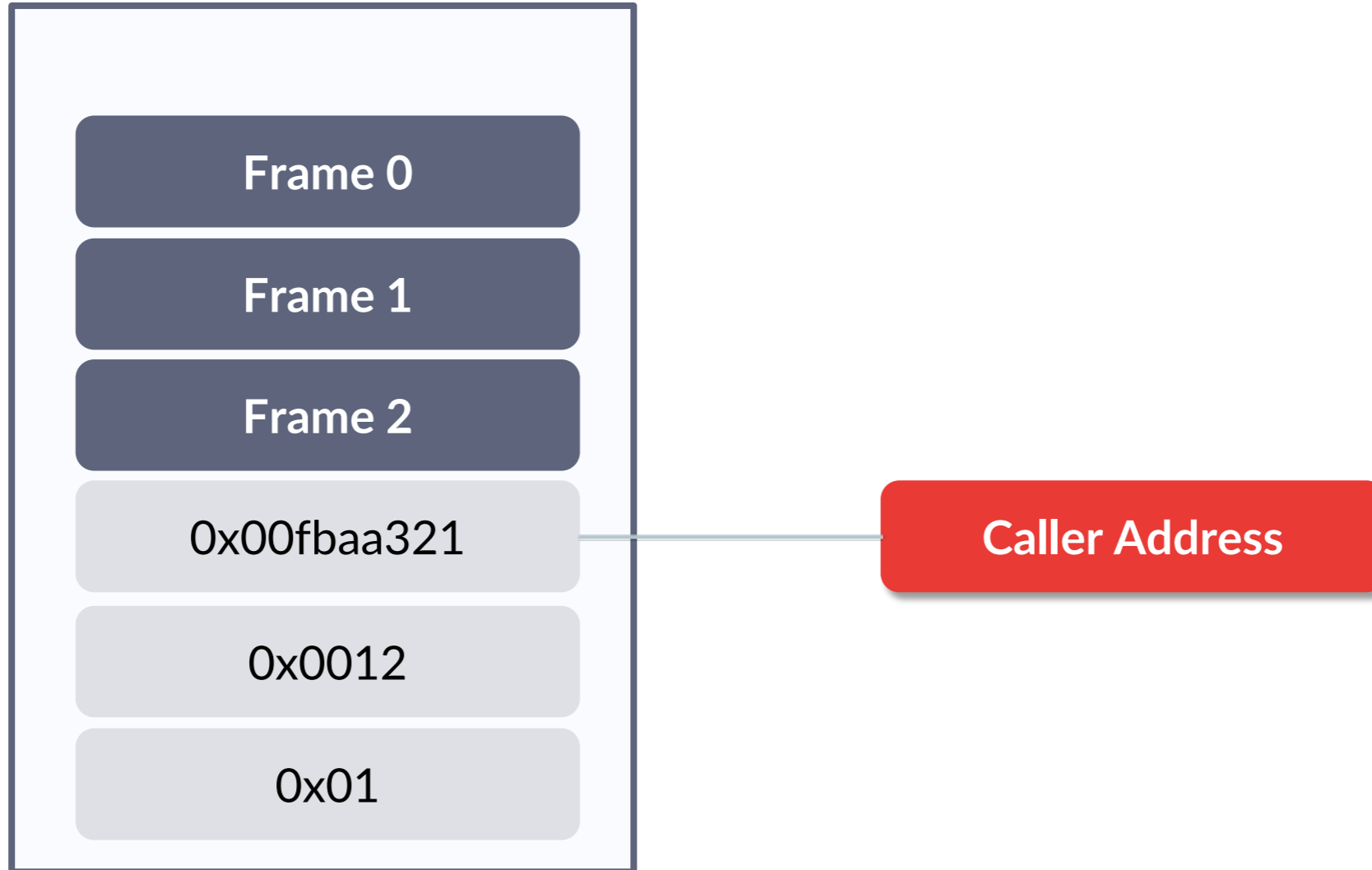
Stack Truncation



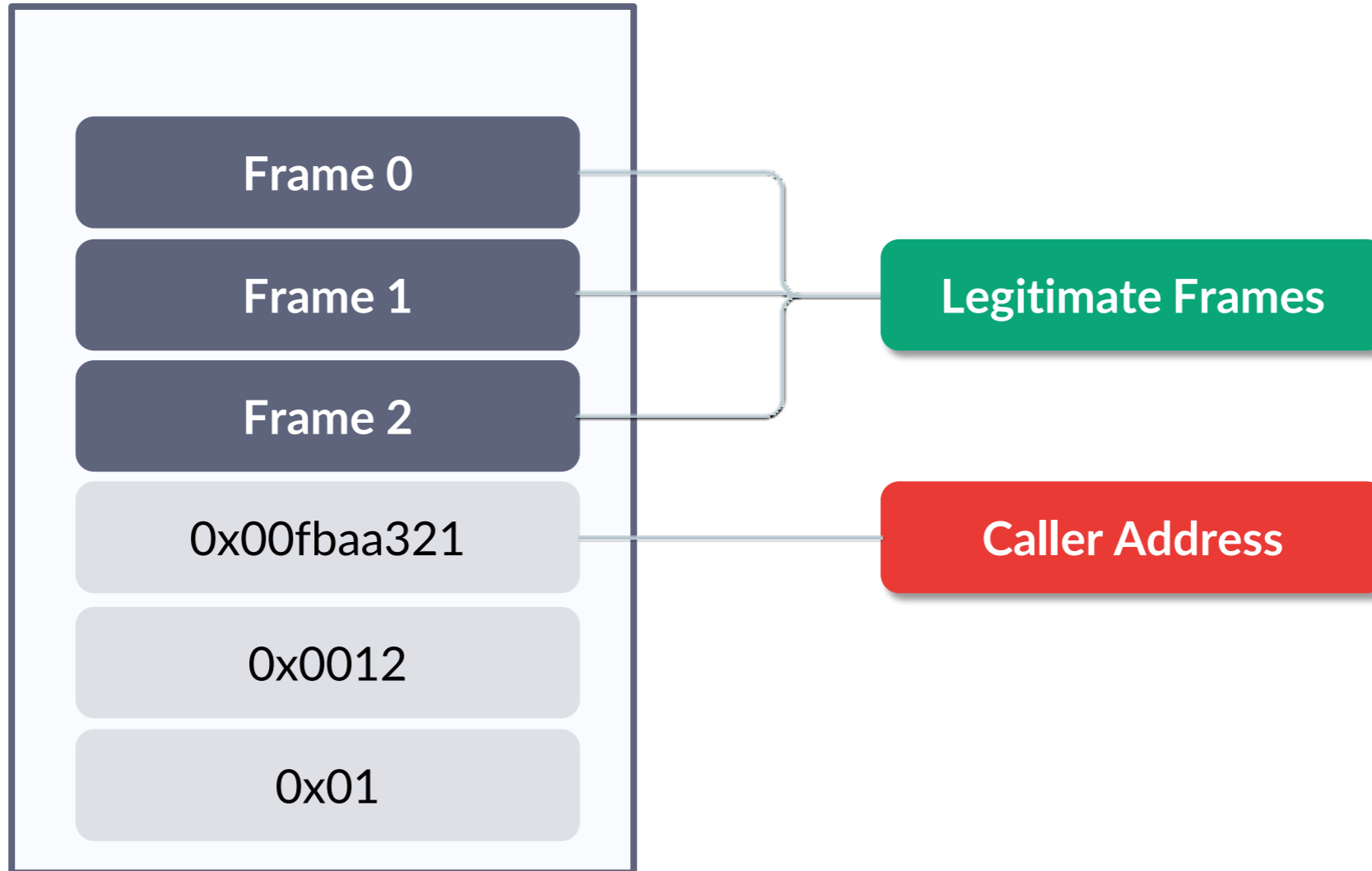
Stack Truncation



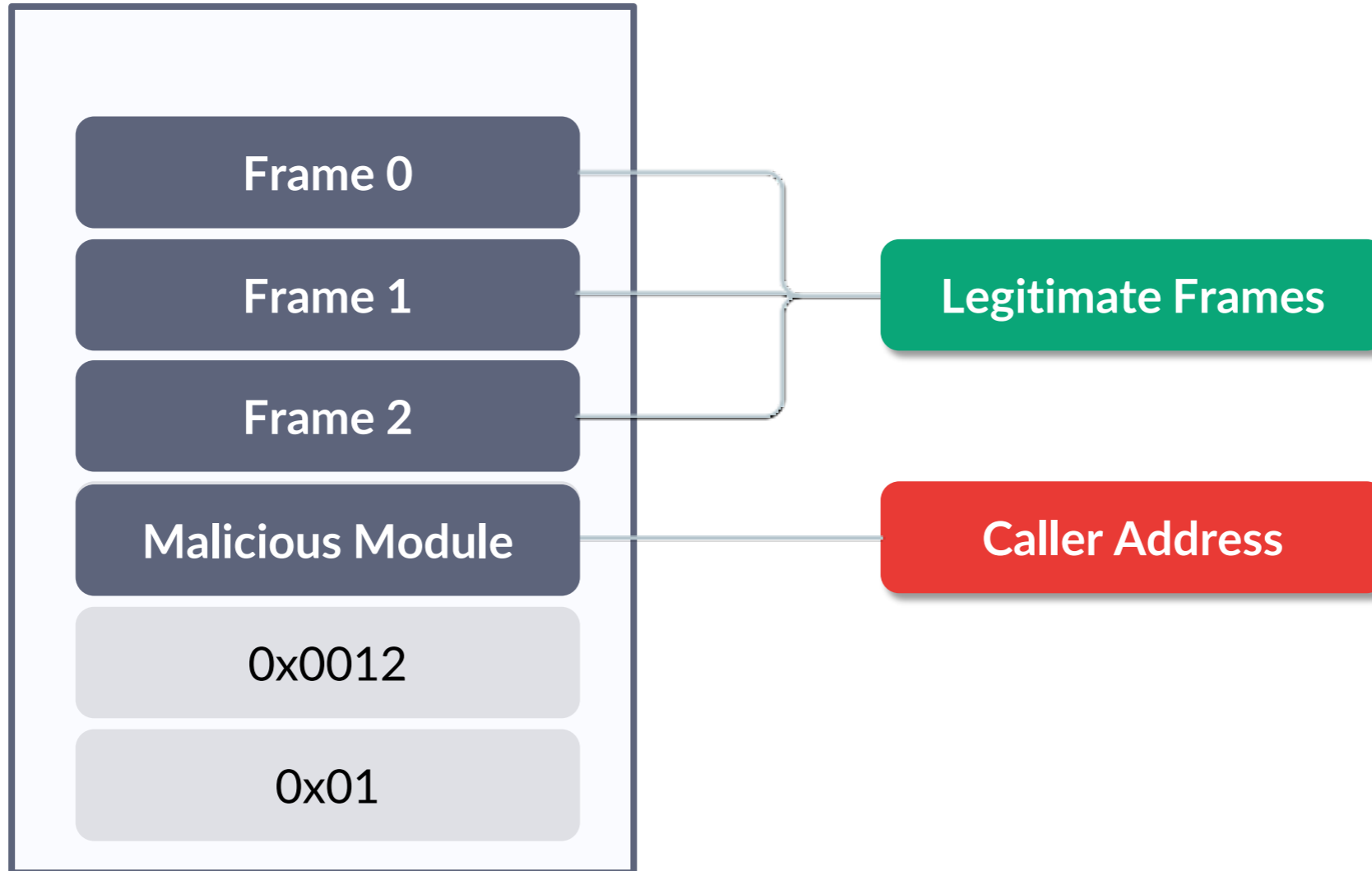
Stack Truncation



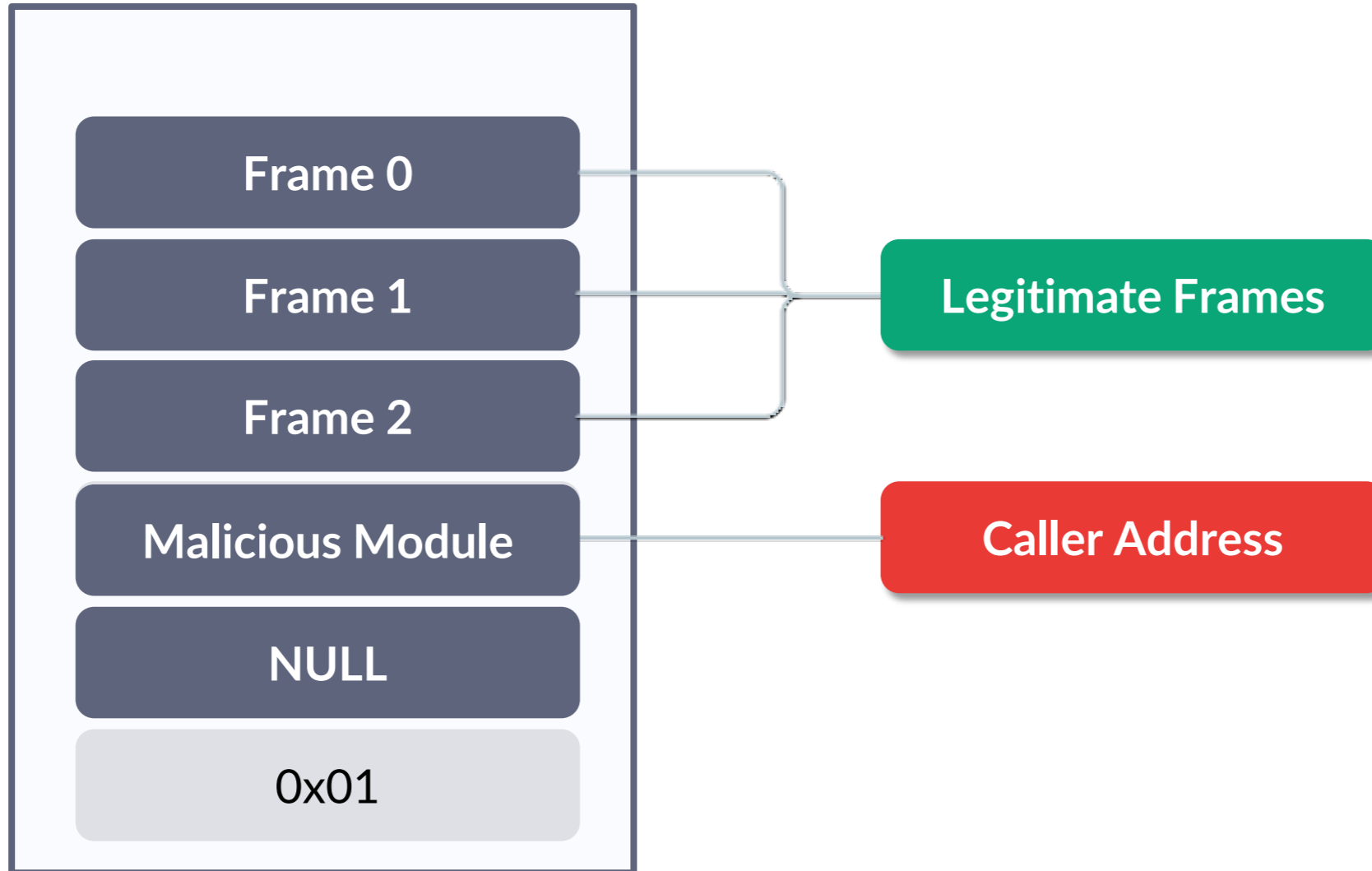
Stack Truncation



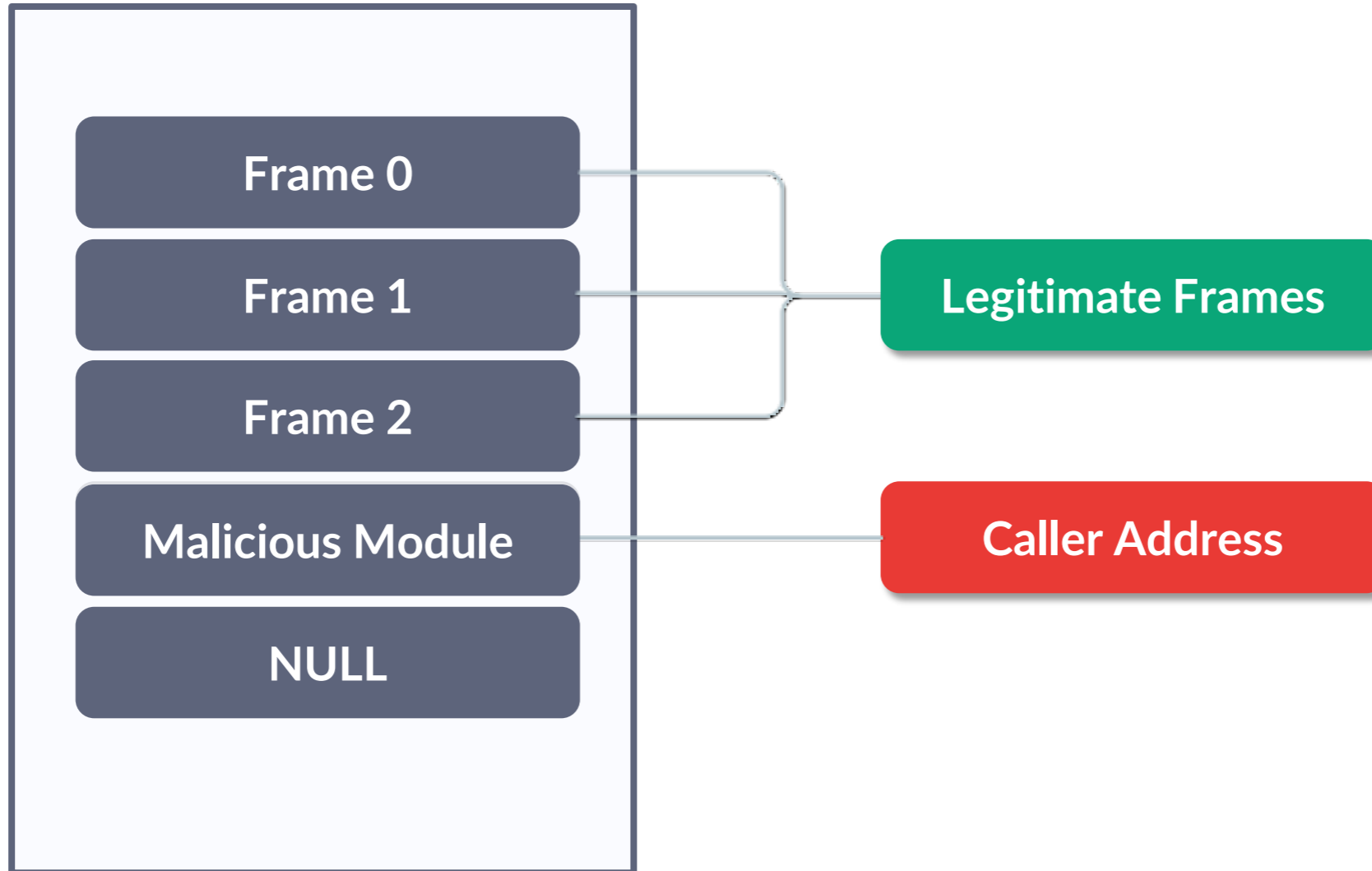
Stack Truncation



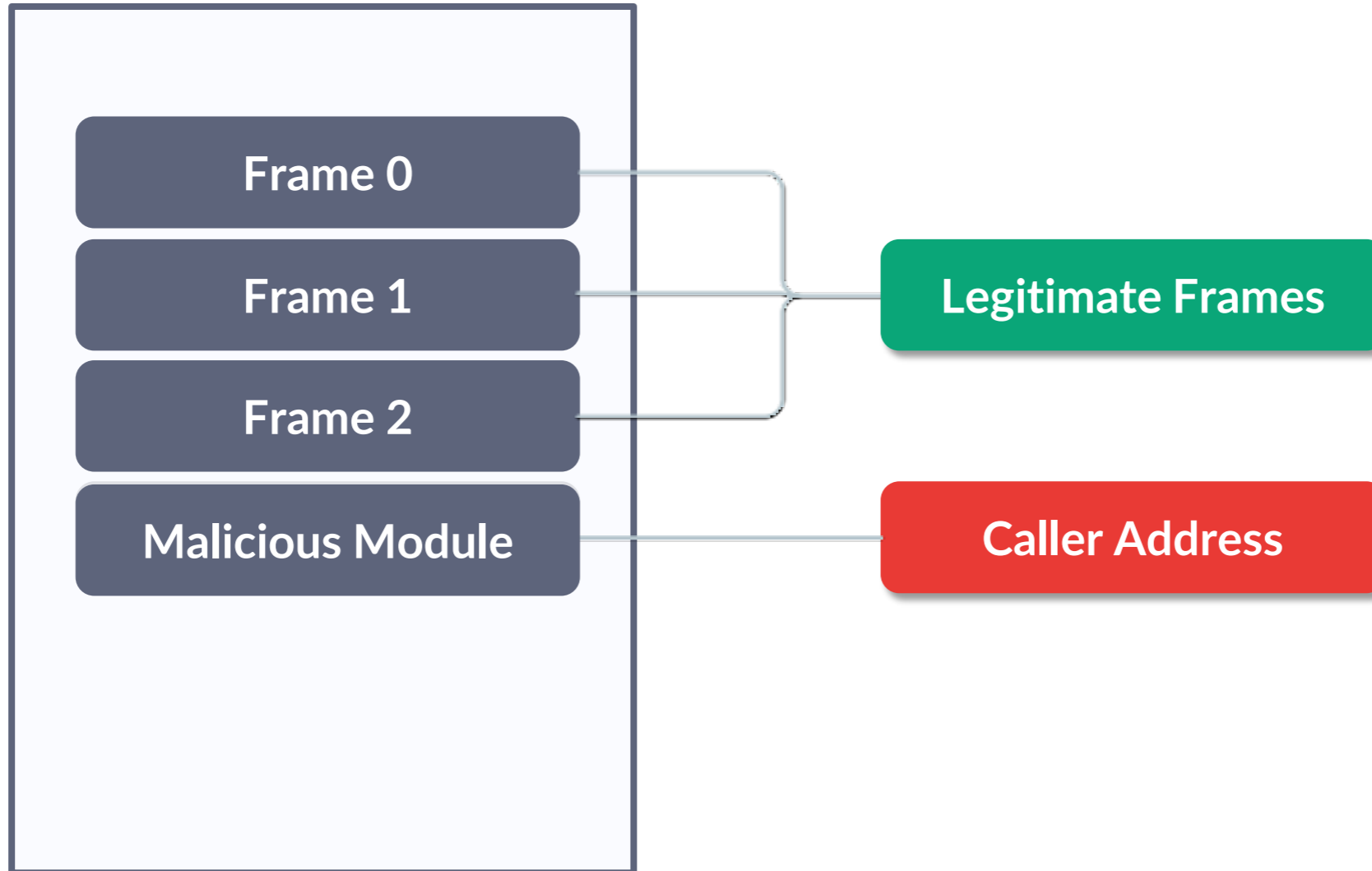
Stack Truncation



Stack Truncation



Stack Truncation



Stack Truncation

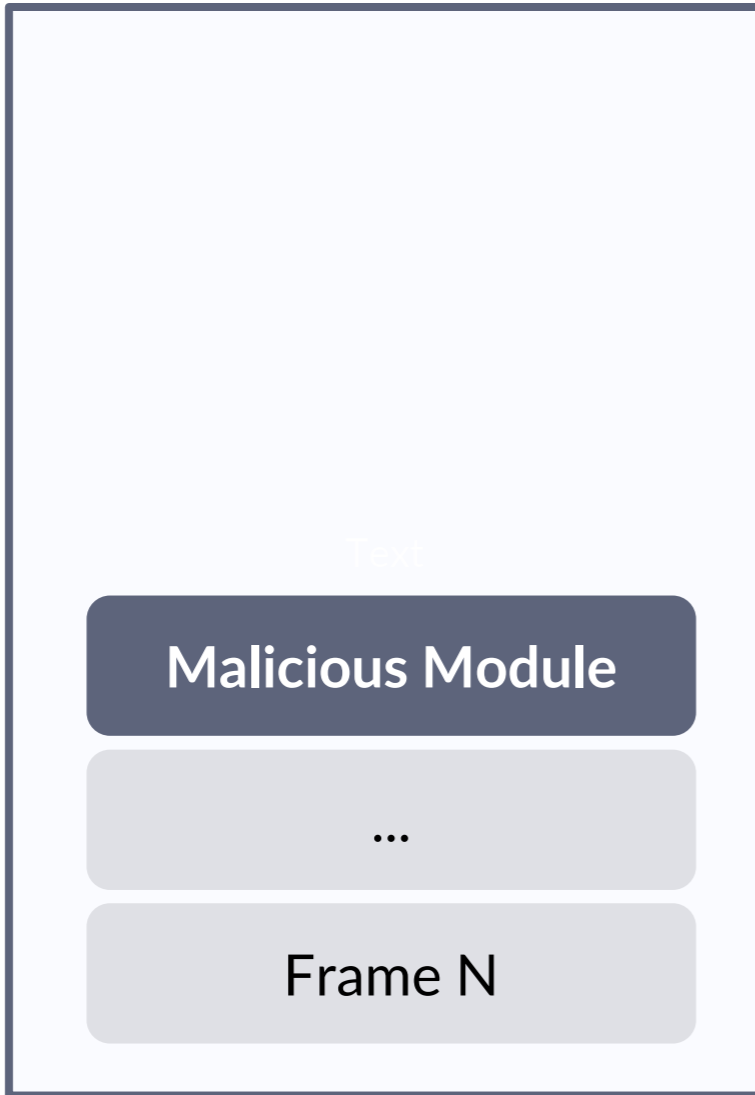
Stack - thread 3435b

#	Name	Stack address	Return address	Frame address
0	ntoskrnl.exe!KiDeliverApc+0x1b0			
1	ntoskrnl.exe!KiSwapThread+0x827			
2	ntoskrnl.exe!KiCommitThreadWait+0x14f			
3	ntoskrnl.exe!KeDelayExecutionThread+0x122			
4	ntoskrnl.exe!NtDelayExecution+0x5f			
5	ntoskrnl.exe!KiSystemServiceCopyEnd+0x25			
6	ntdll.dll!NtDelayExecution+0x14	0x88da5ffa98	0x7ffeb65795be	0x88da5ffa90
7	KernelBase.dll!SleepEx+0x9e	0x88da5ffaa0	0x22d6bd5bd51	0x88da5ffb30
8	0x22d6bd5bd51	0x88da5ffb40	0x1388	0x88da5ffb38
9	0x1388	0x88da5ffb48	0x22d00000000	0x88da5ffb40
10	0x22d00000000	0x88da5ffb50	0x1b0001c00000bb	0x88da5ffb48
11	0x1b0001c00000bb	0x88da5ffb58		0x88da5ffb50

Stack - thread 45956

#	Name	Stack address	Frame address	Return address
0	ntoskrnl.exe!KiDeliverApc+0x1b0			
1	ntoskrnl.exe!KiSwapThread+0x827			
2	ntoskrnl.exe!KiCommitThreadWait+0x14f			
3	ntoskrnl.exe!KeDelayExecutionThread+0x122			
4	ntoskrnl.exe!NtDelayExecution+0x5f			
5	ntoskrnl.exe!KiSystemServiceCopyEnd+0x25			
6	ntdll.dll!NtDelayExecution+0x14	0x3211ff4d8	0x3211ff4d0	0x7ffeb65795be
7	KernelBase.dll!SleepEx+0x9e	0x3211ff4e0	0x3211ff570	0x7ff79a49125c
8	ThreadStackSpoofers.exe!MySleep+0x5c	0x3211ff580	0x3211ff5d0	

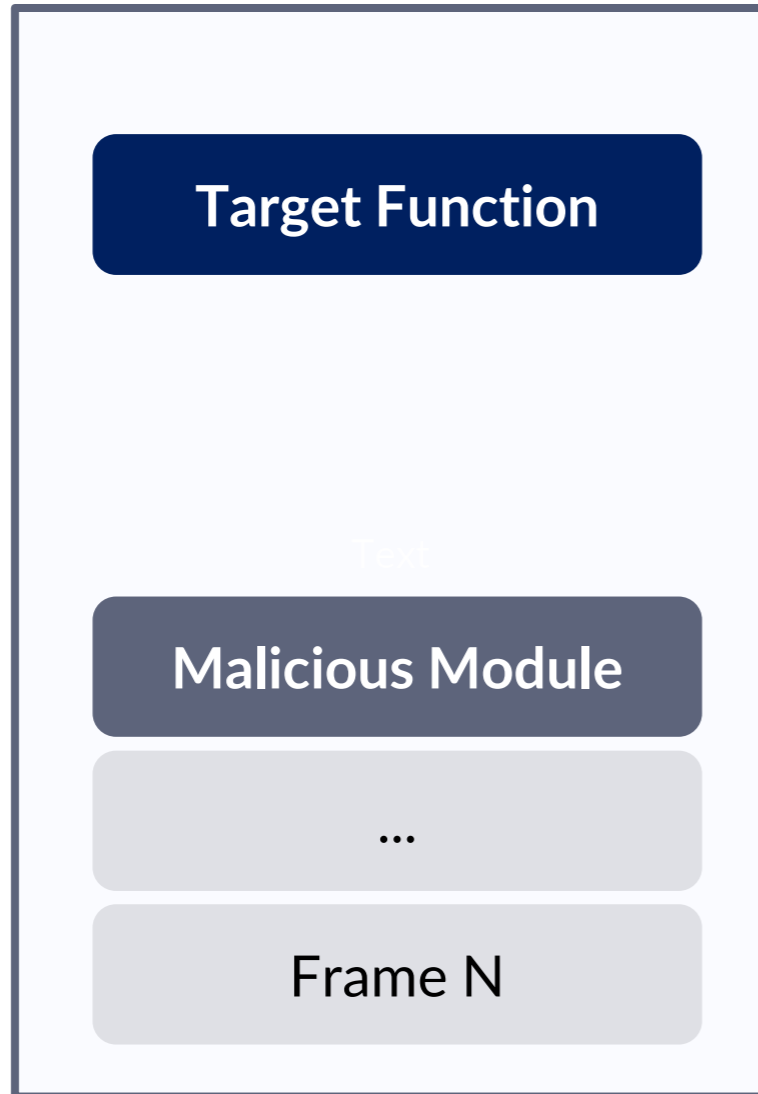
Stack Crafting



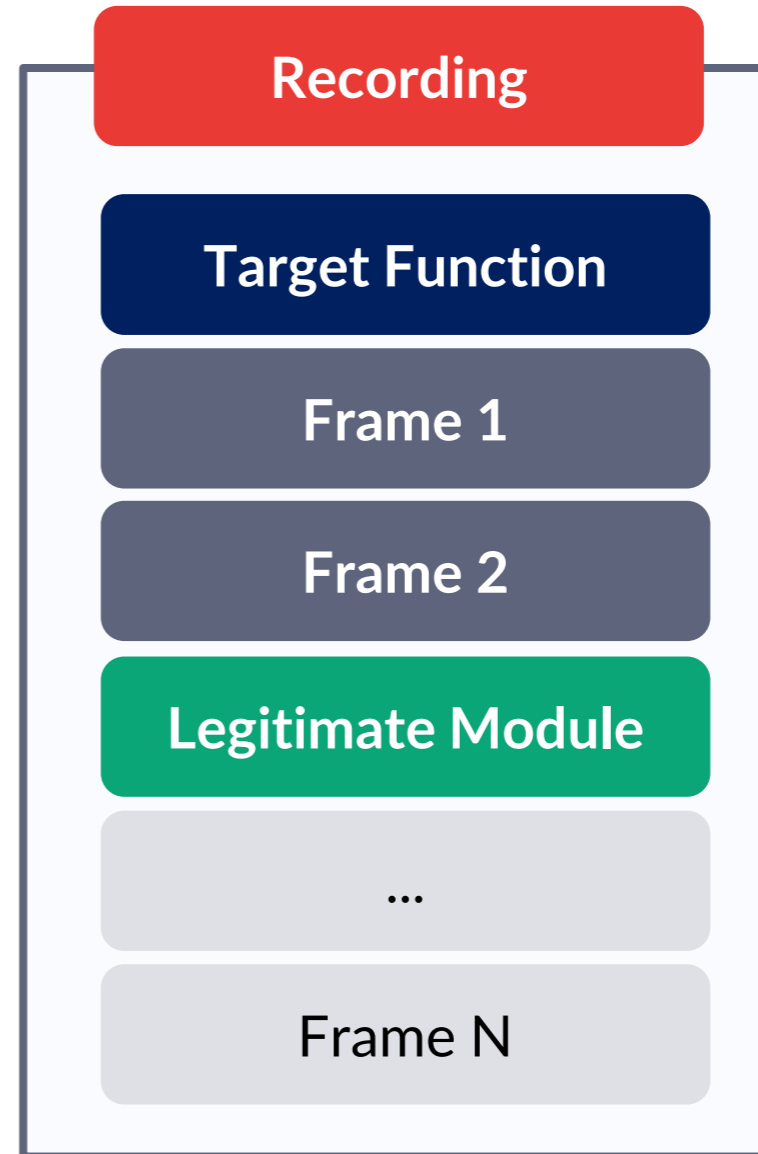
Stack Crafting



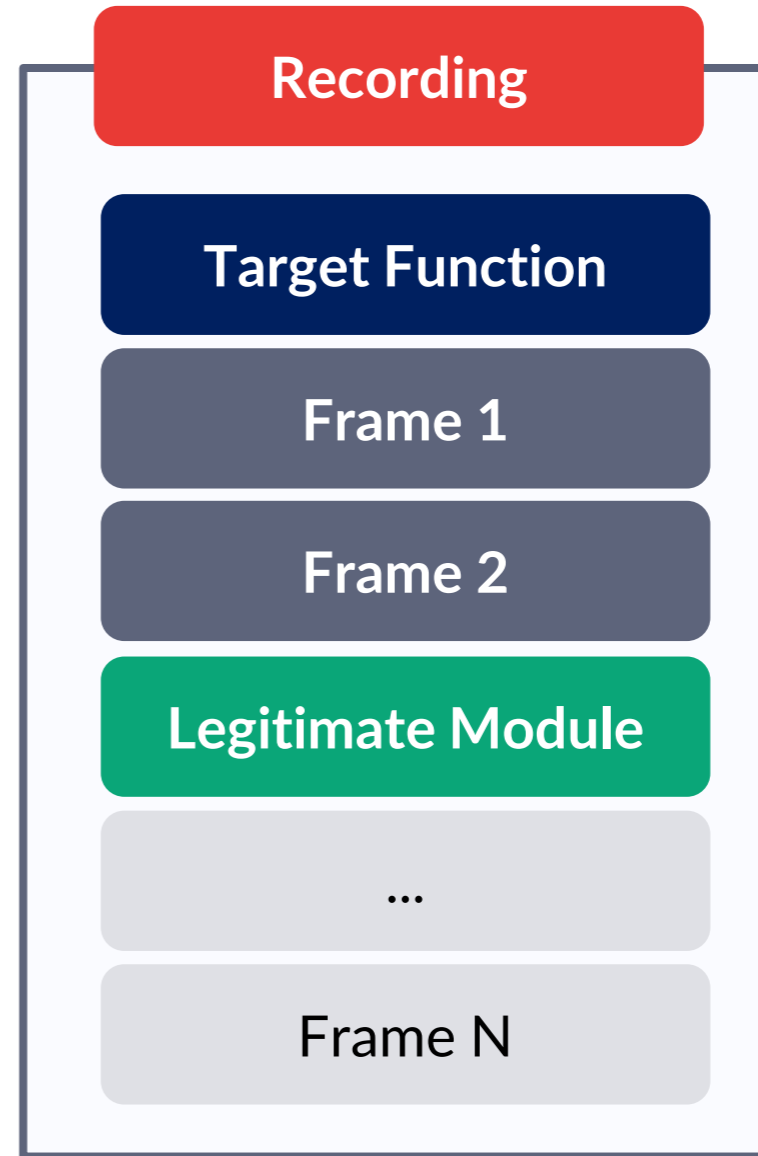
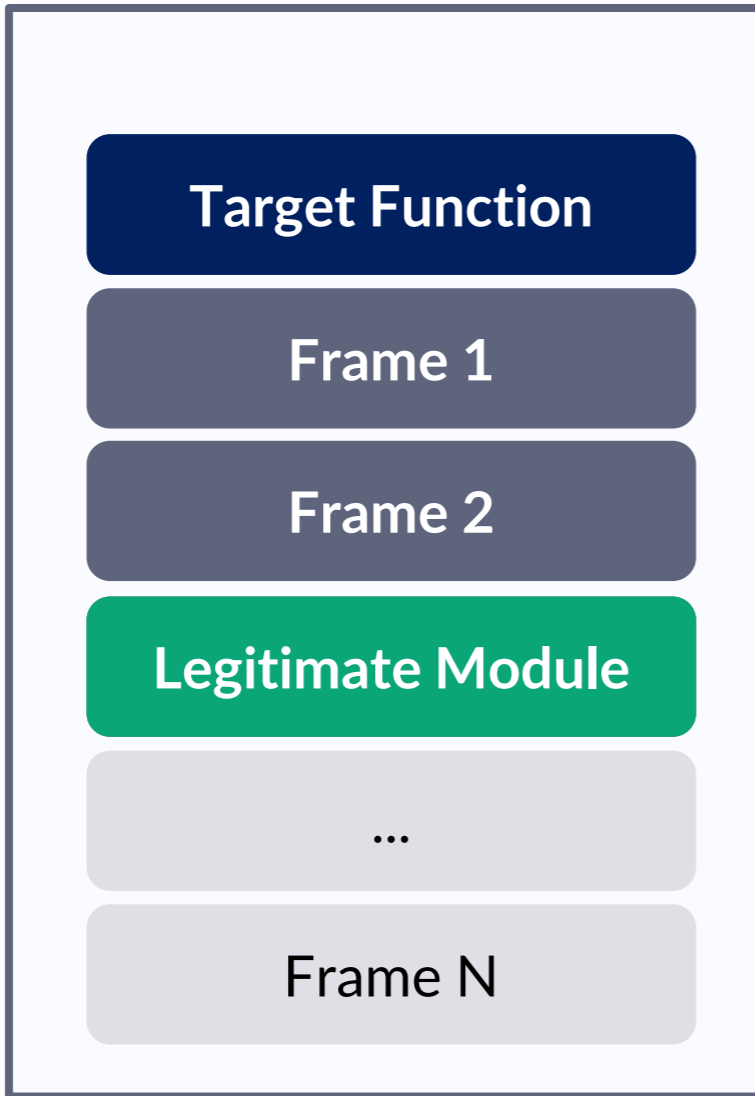
Stack Crafting



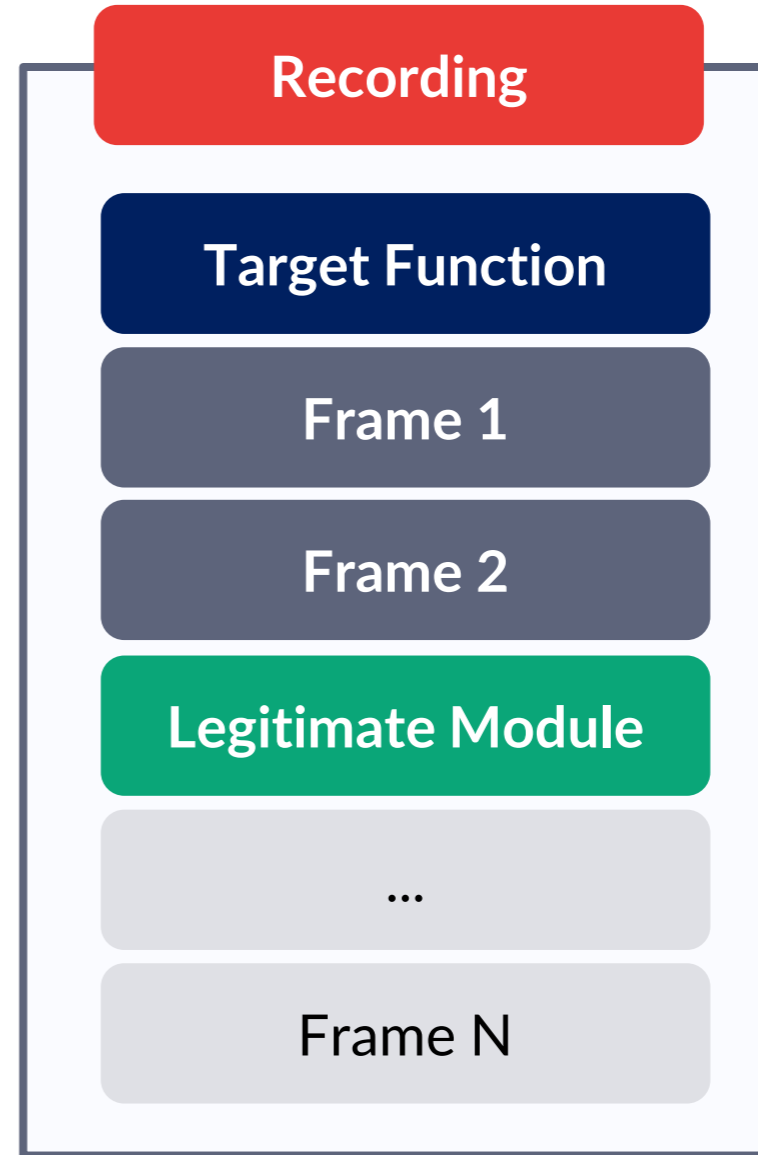
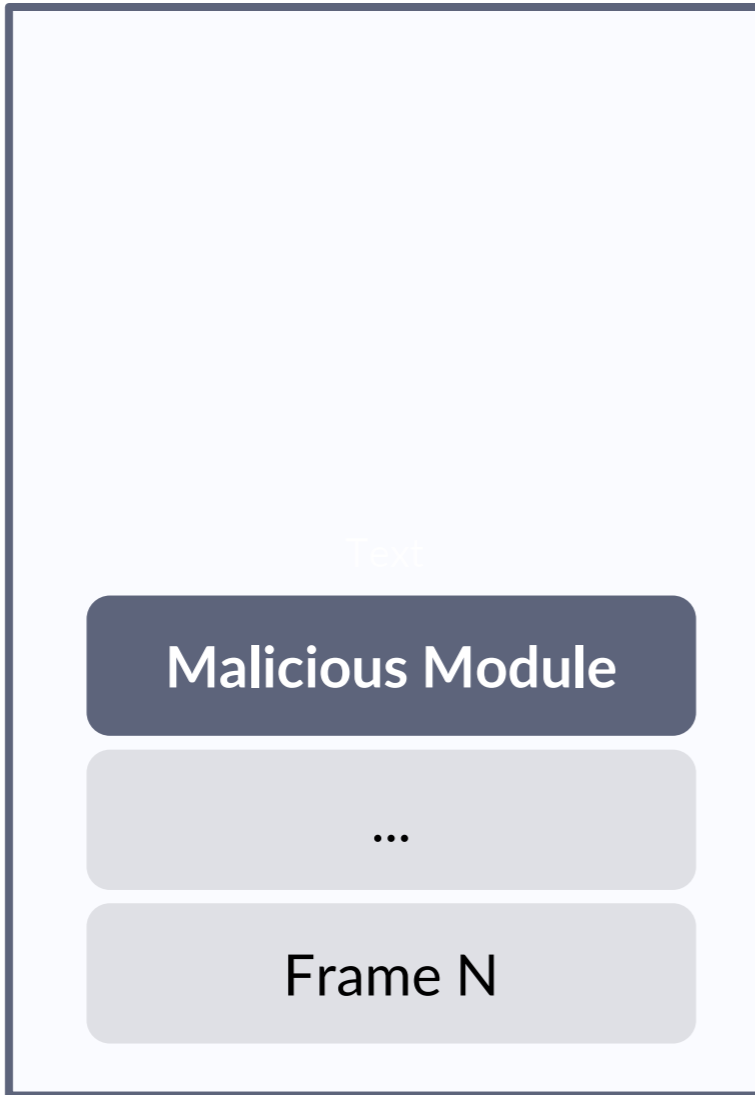
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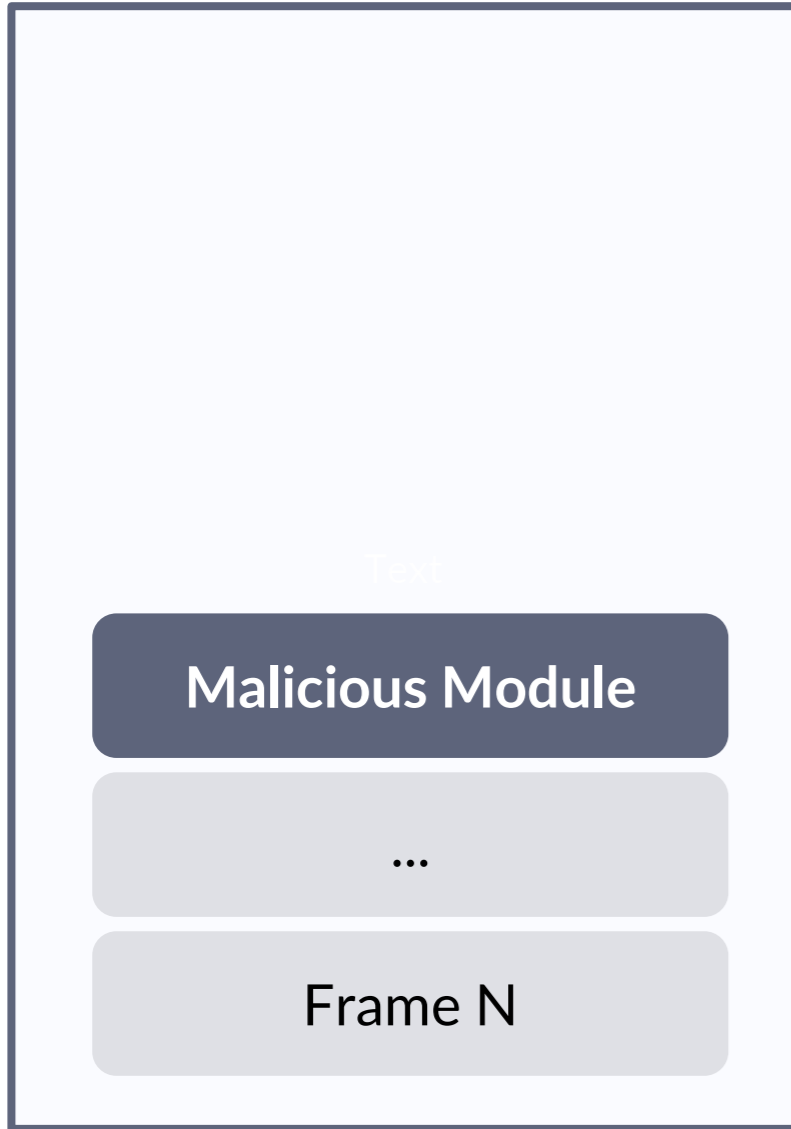
Stack Crafting



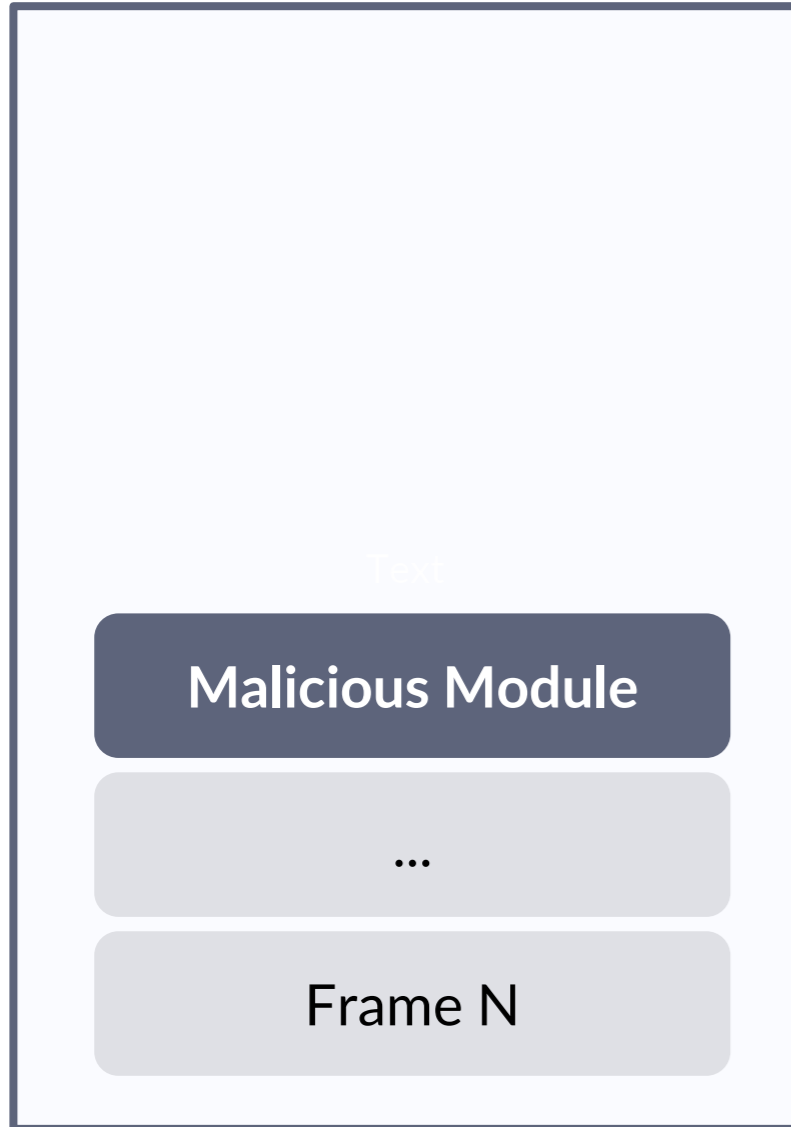
Stack Crafting



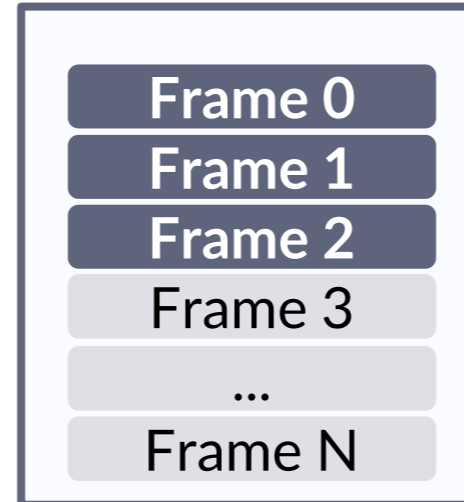
Stack Cloning



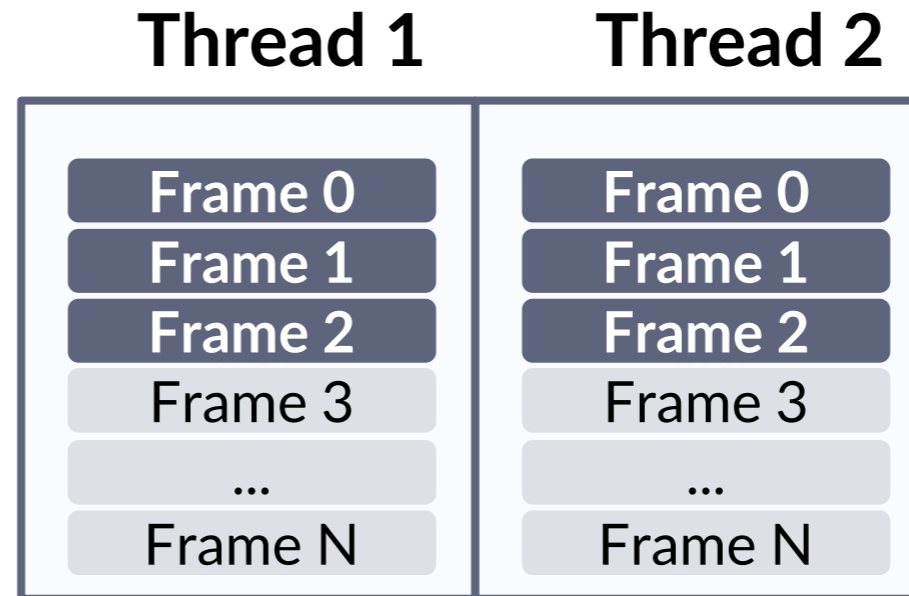
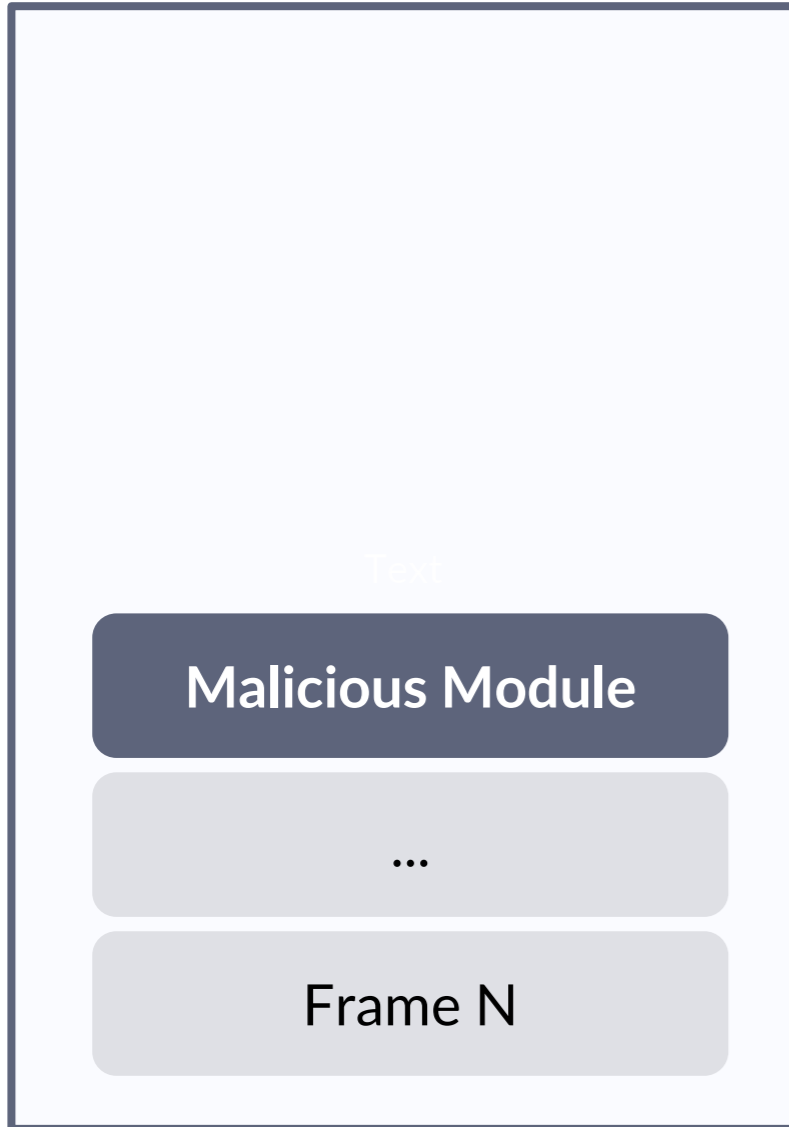
Stack Cloning



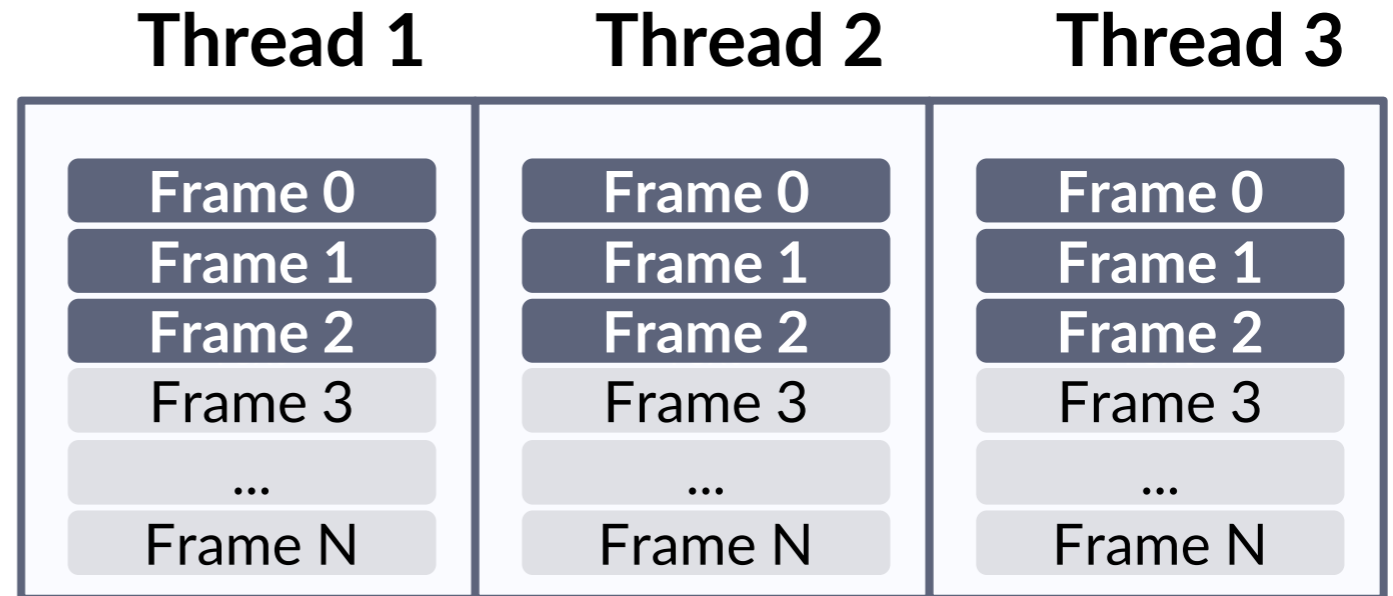
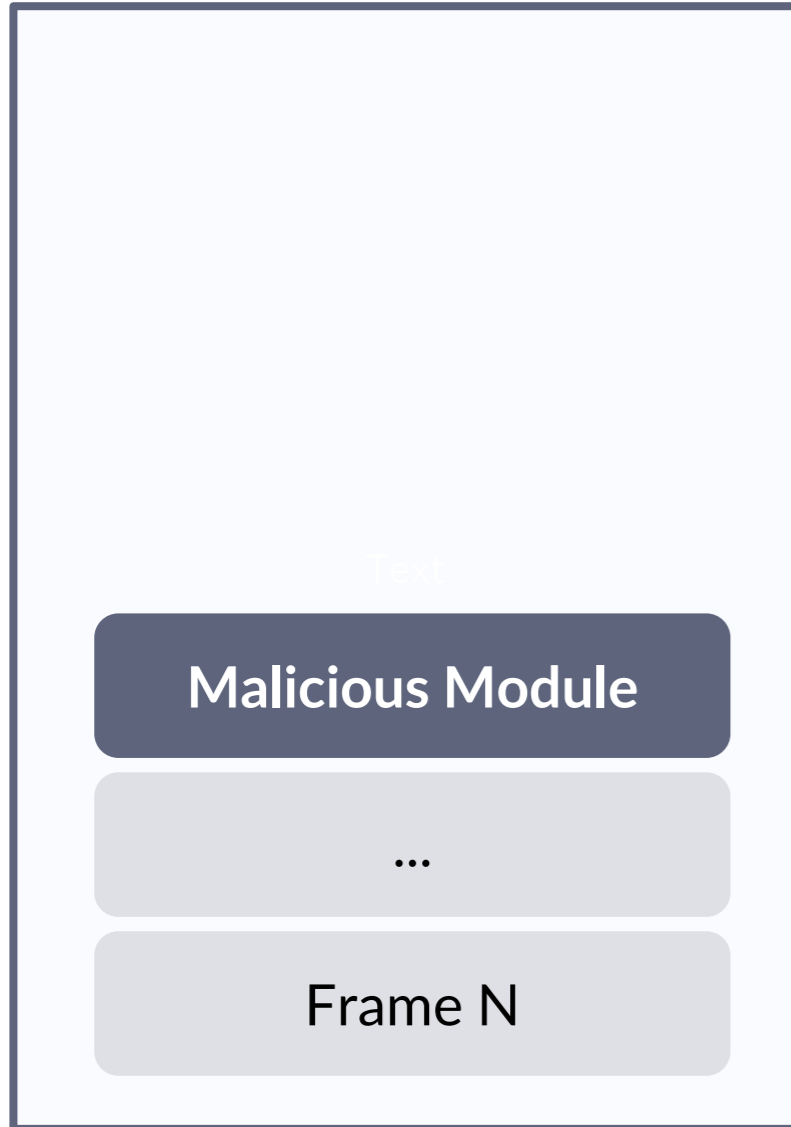
Thread 1



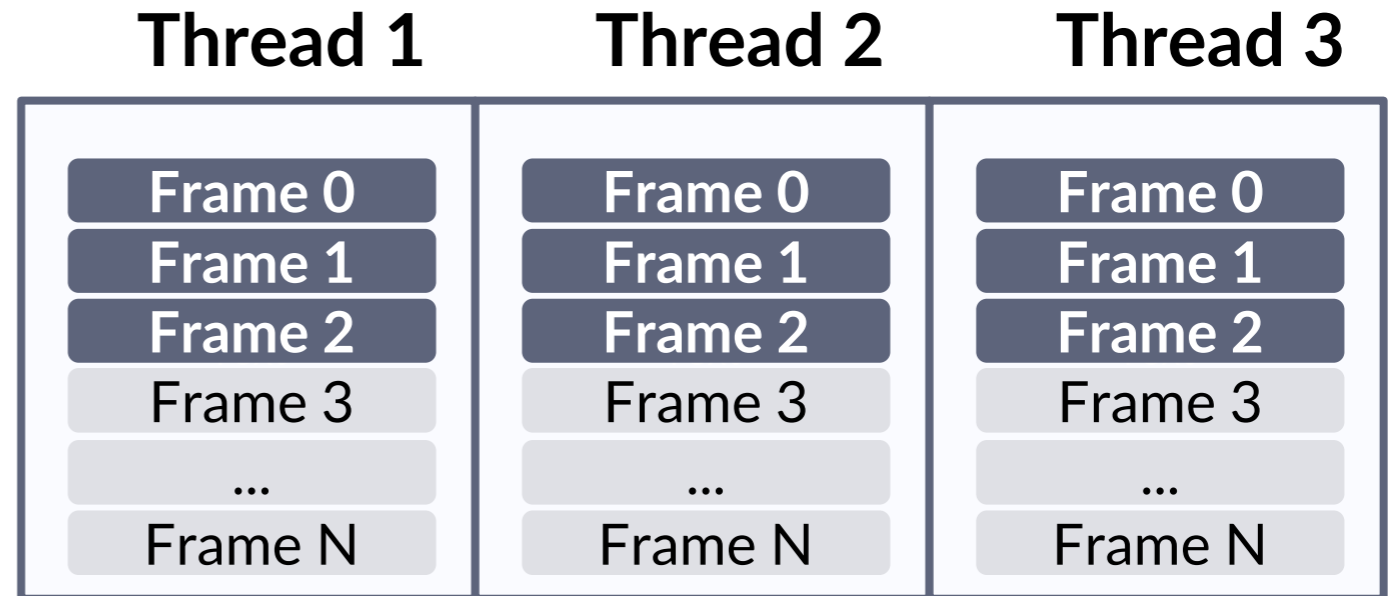
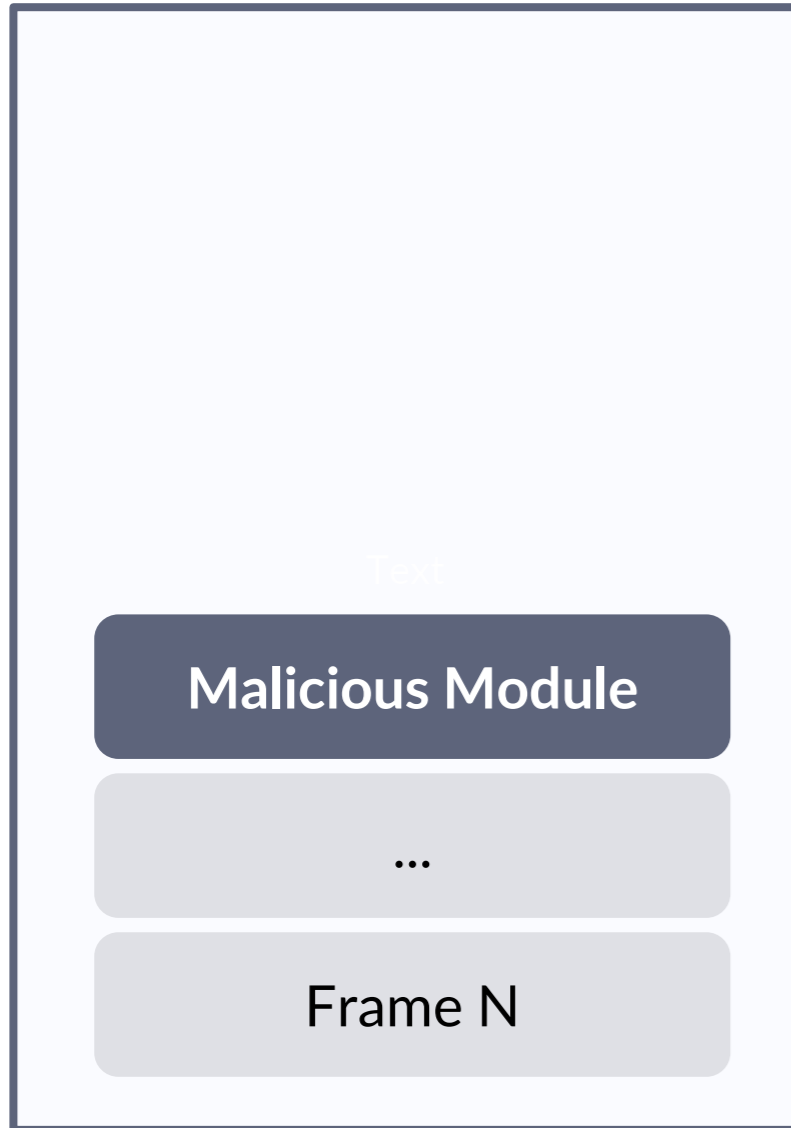
Stack Cloning



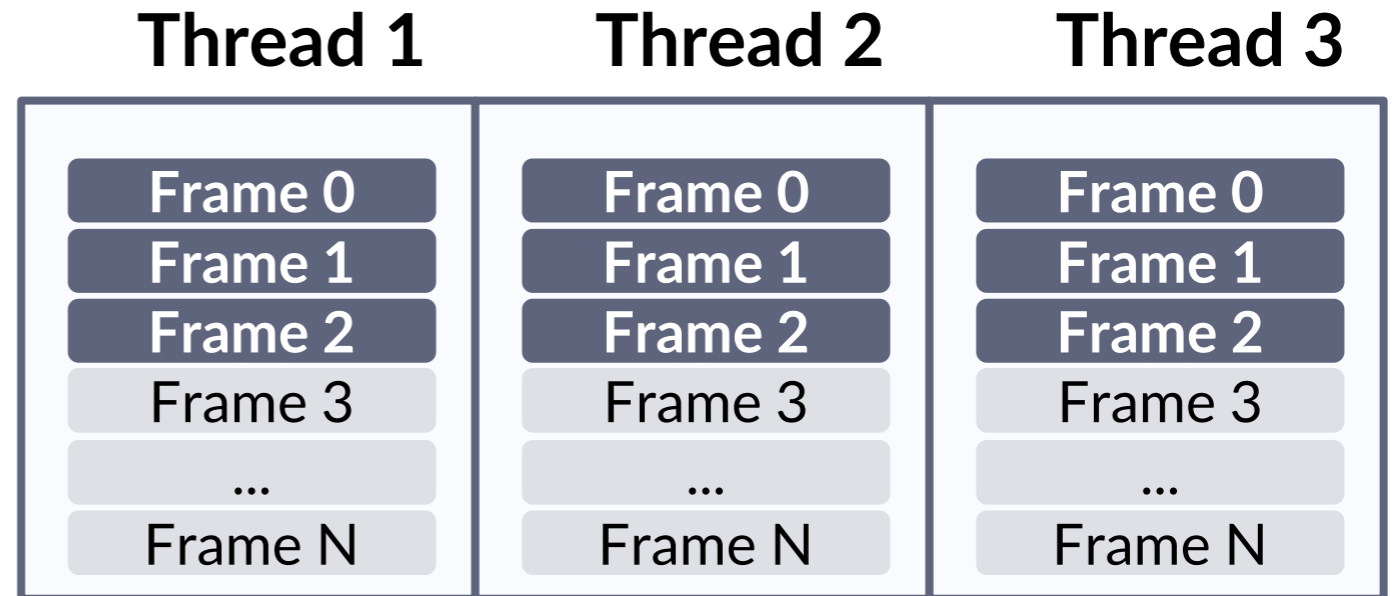
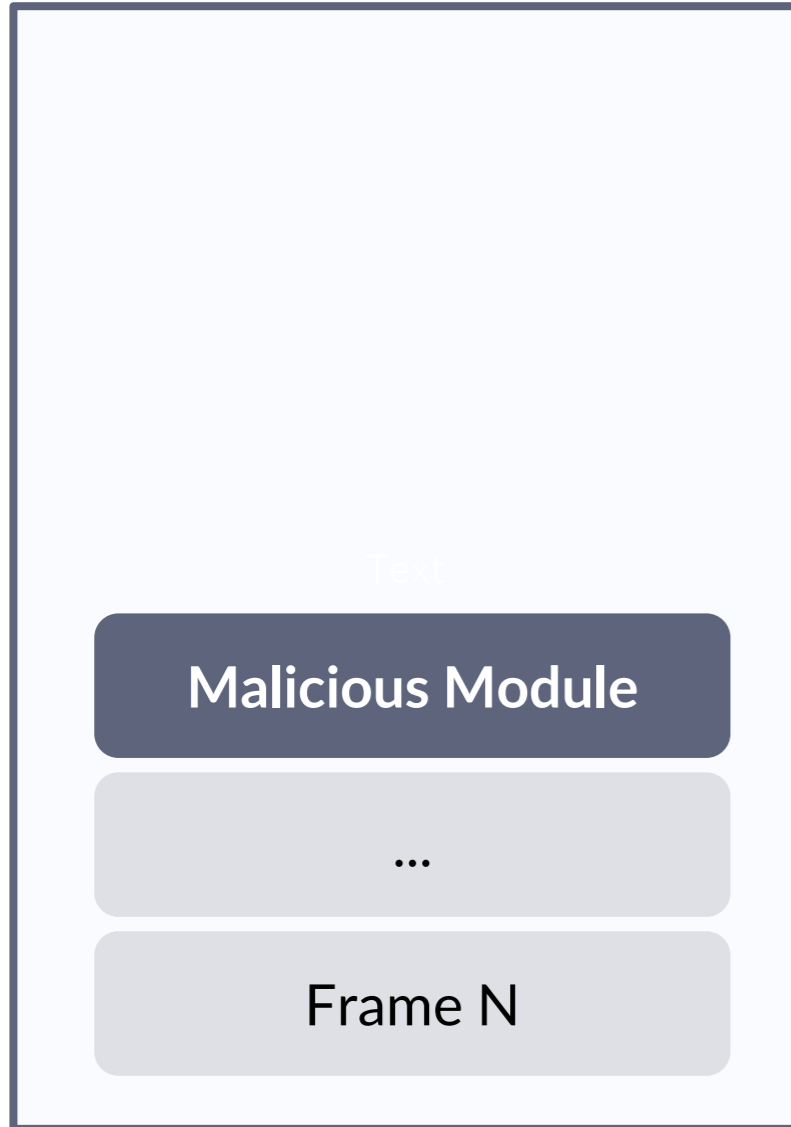
Stack Cloning



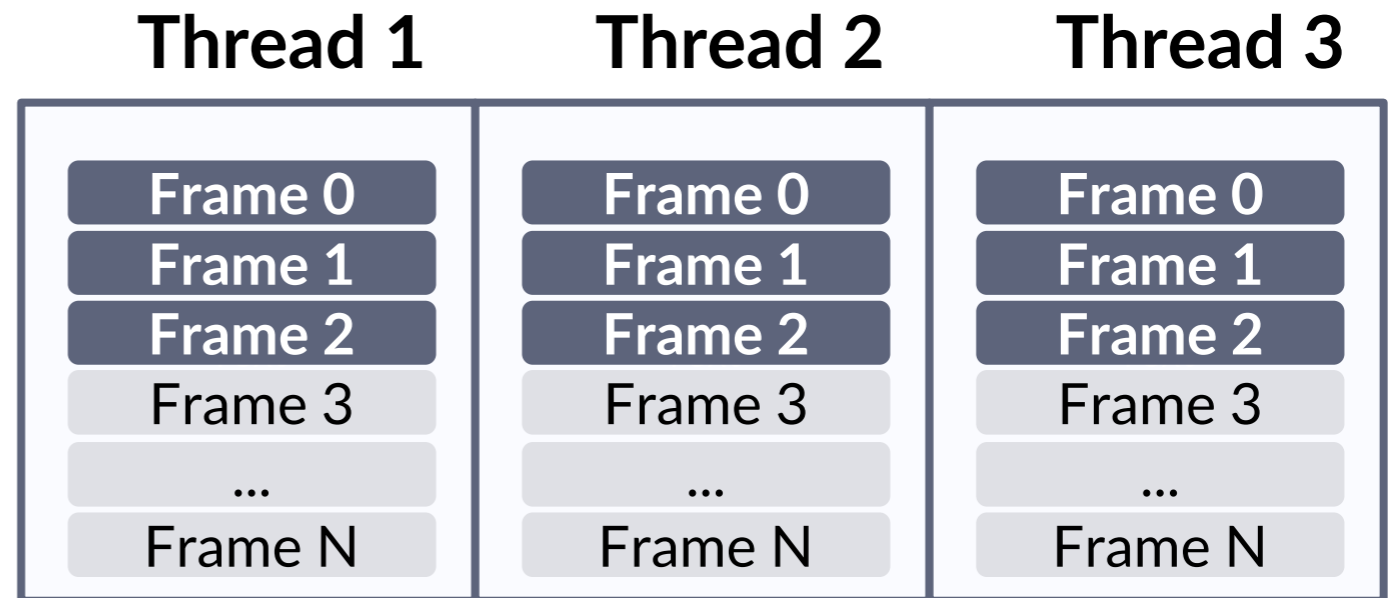
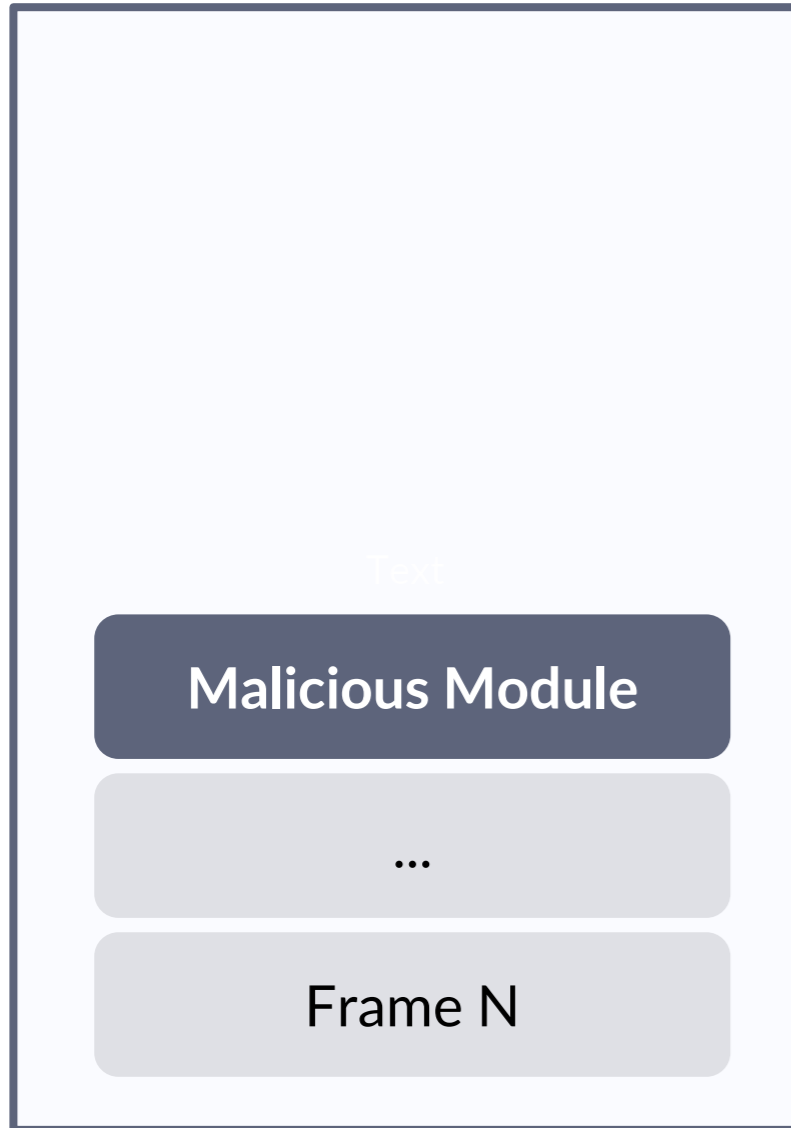
Stack Cloning



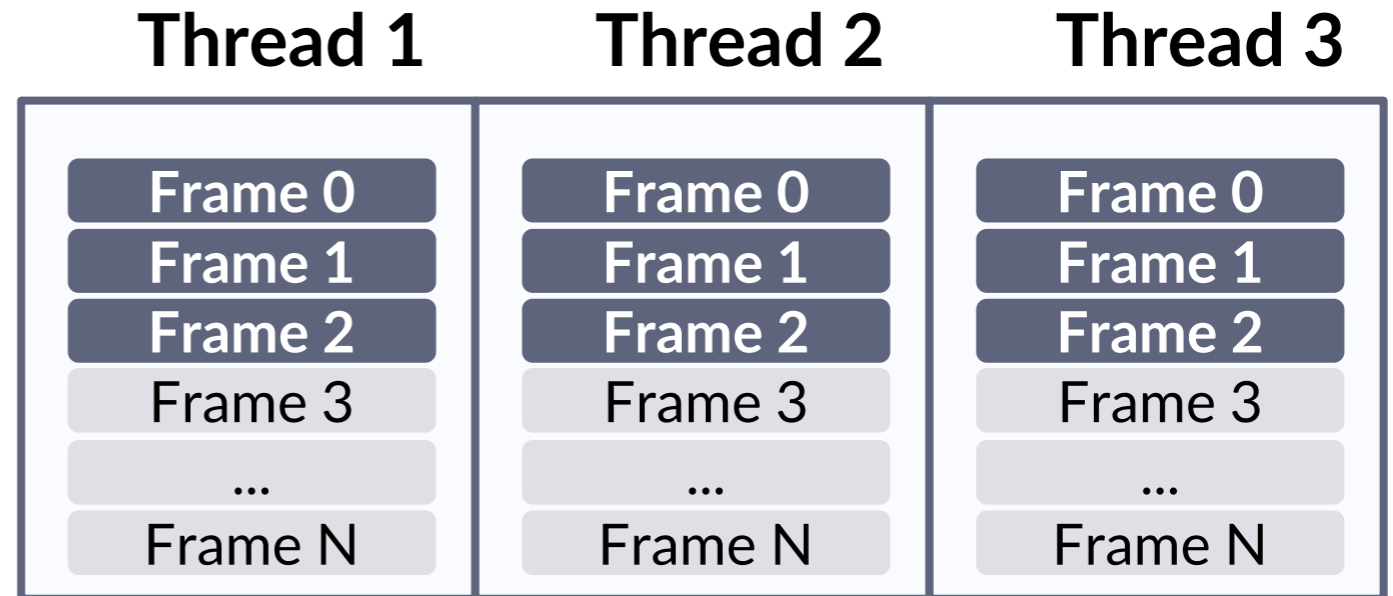
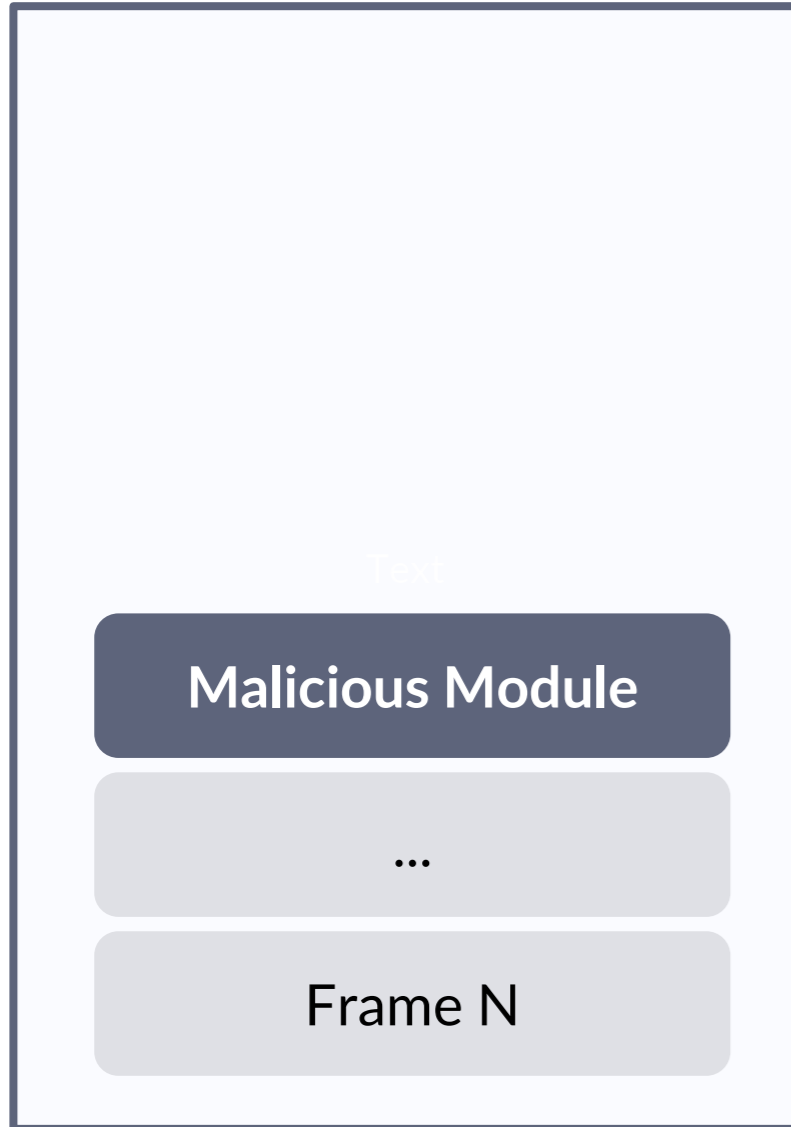
Stack Cloning



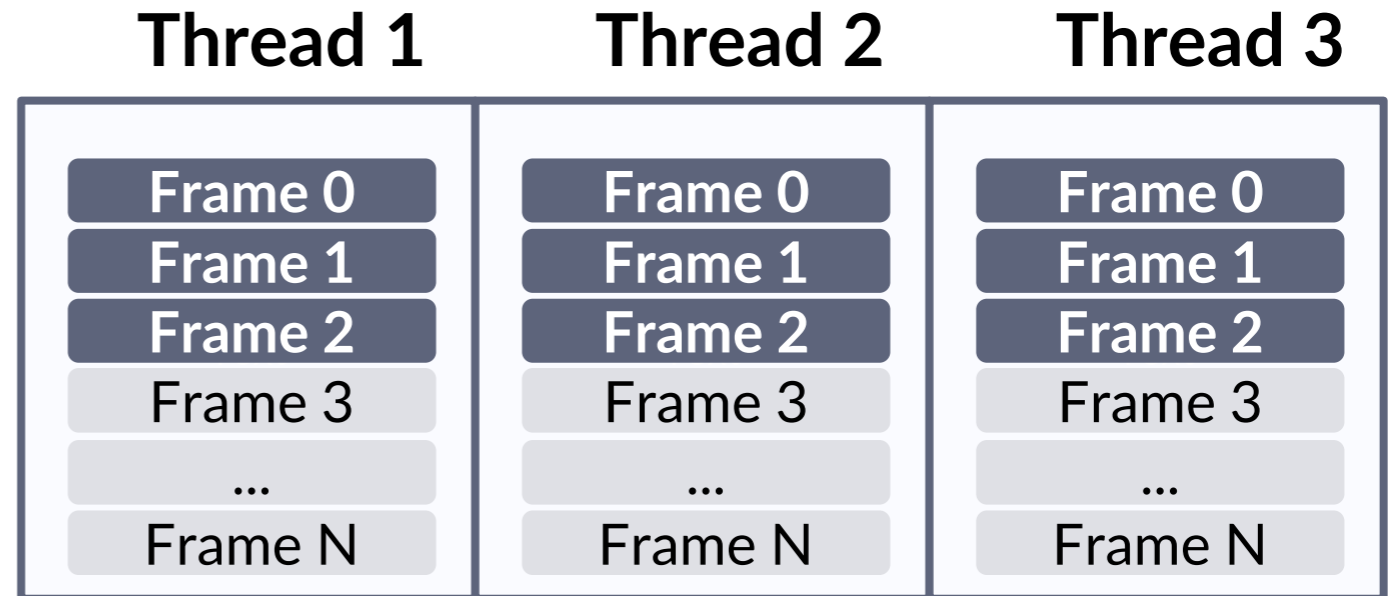
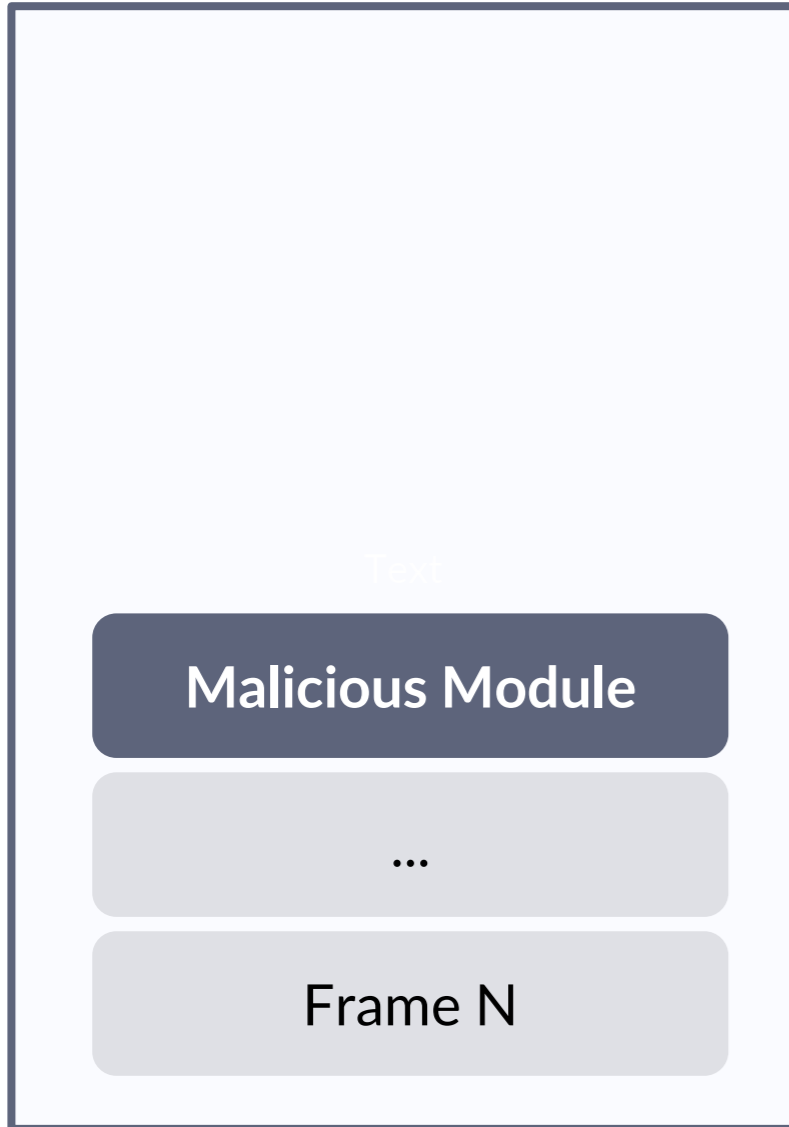
Stack Cloning



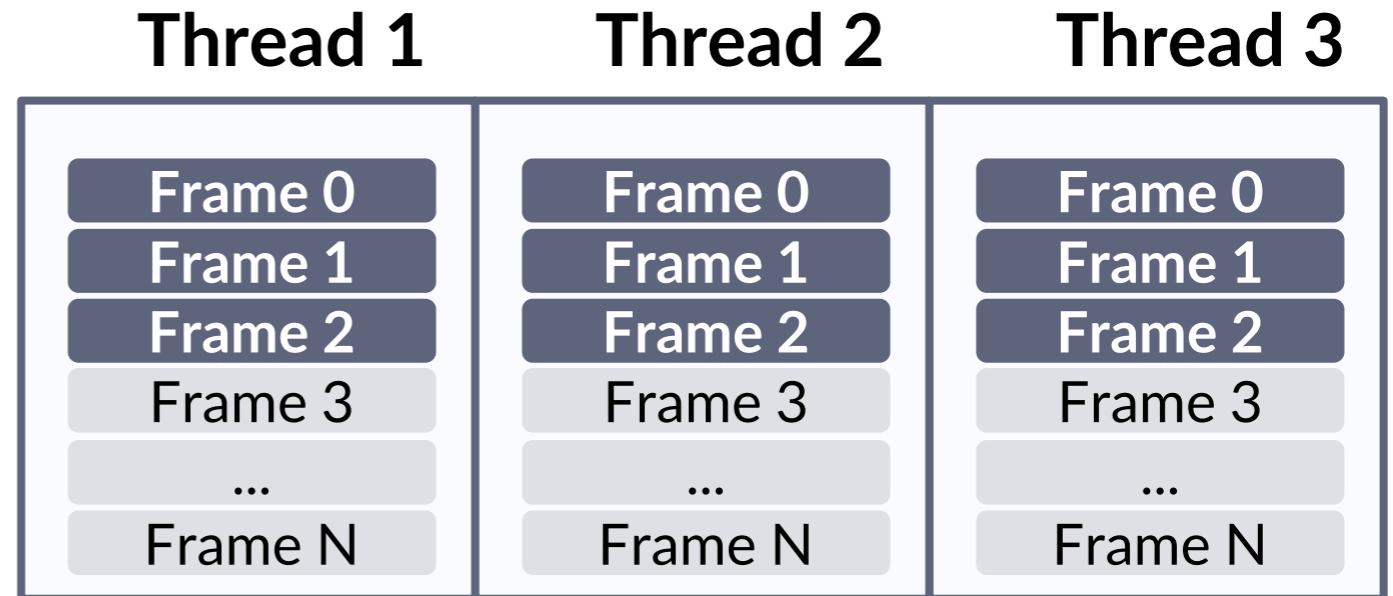
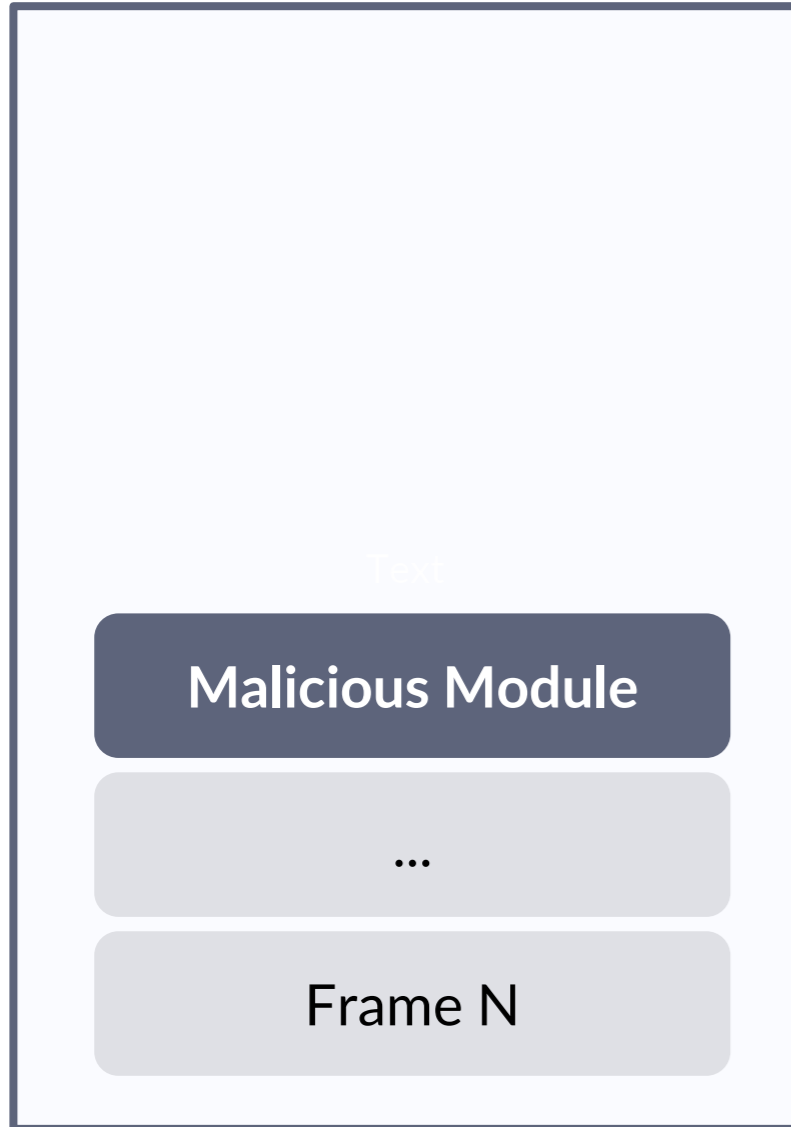
Stack Cloning



Stack Cloning

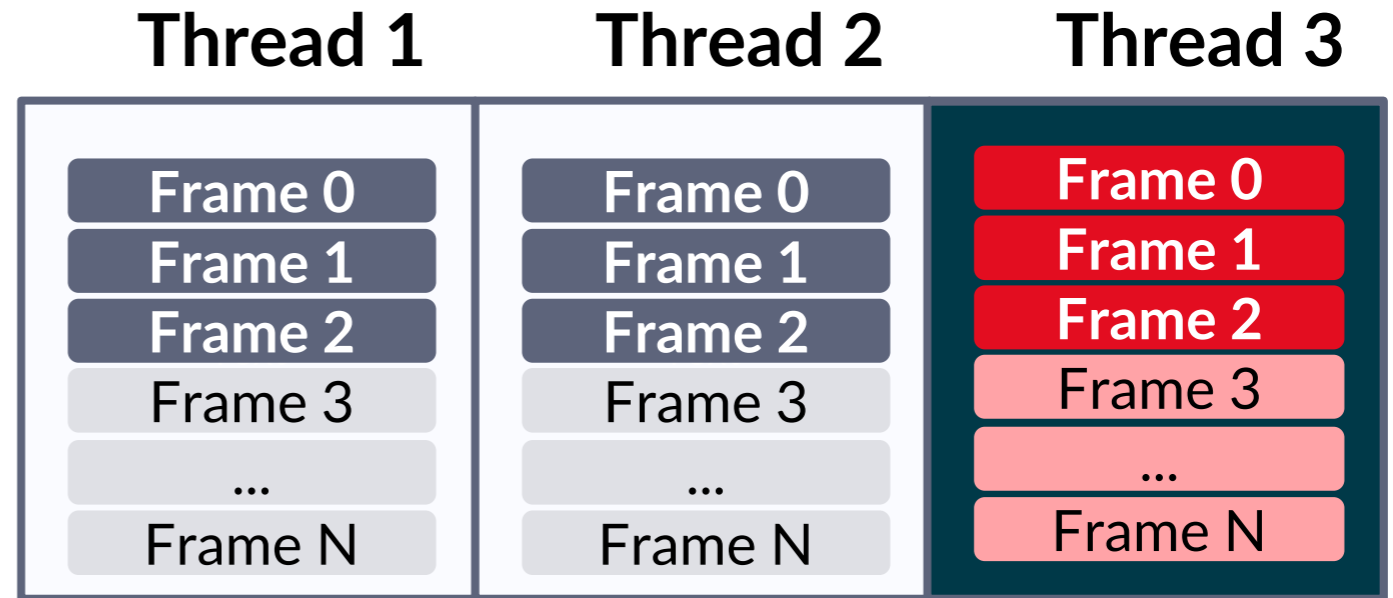
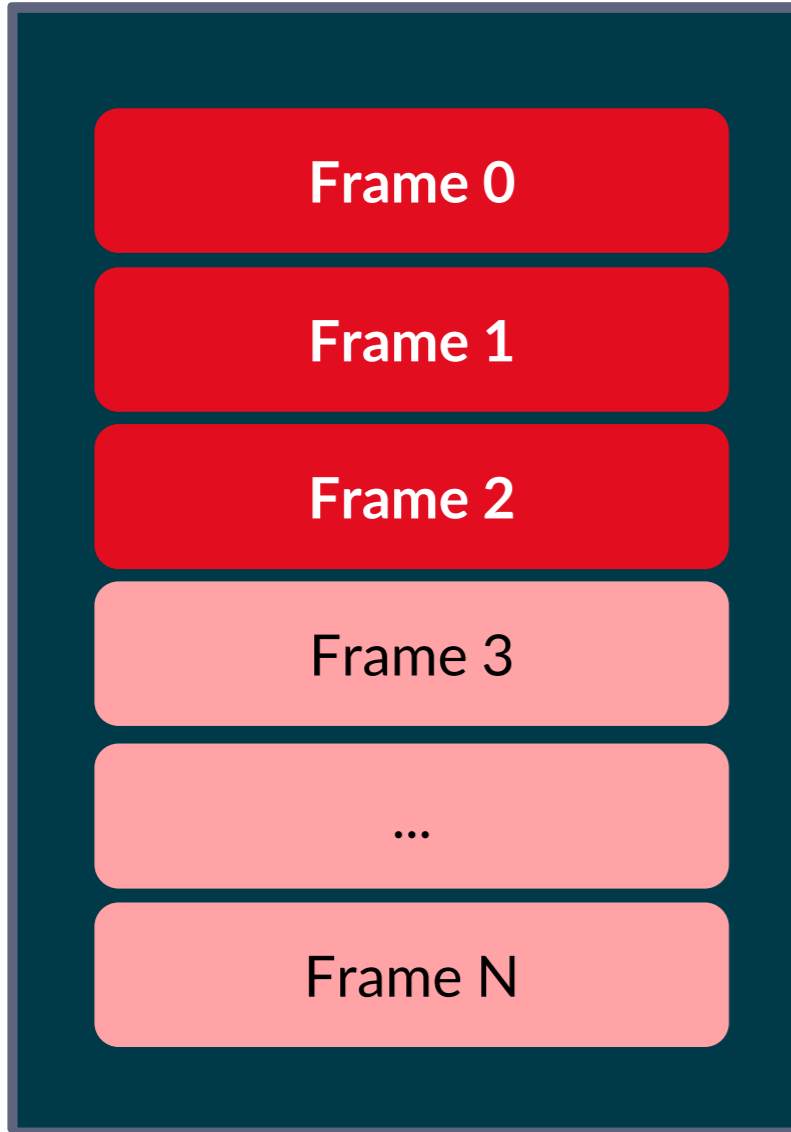


Stack Cloning



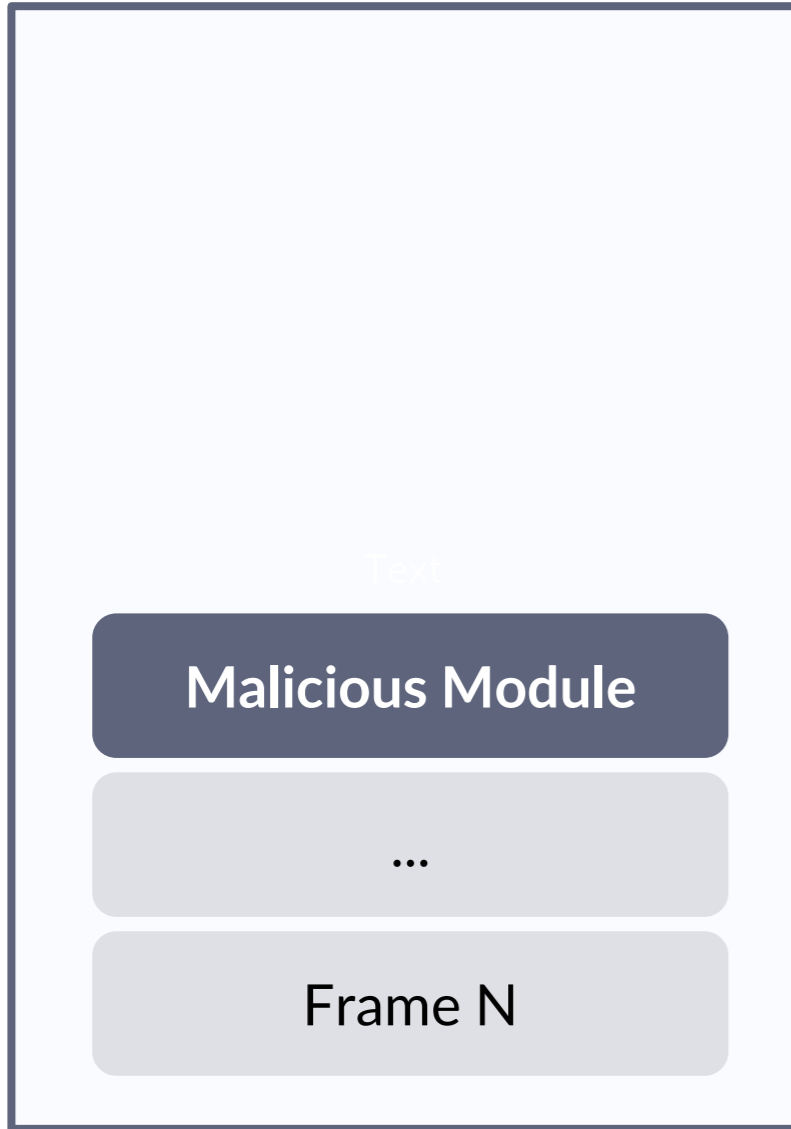
Wait:UserRequest

Stack Cloning

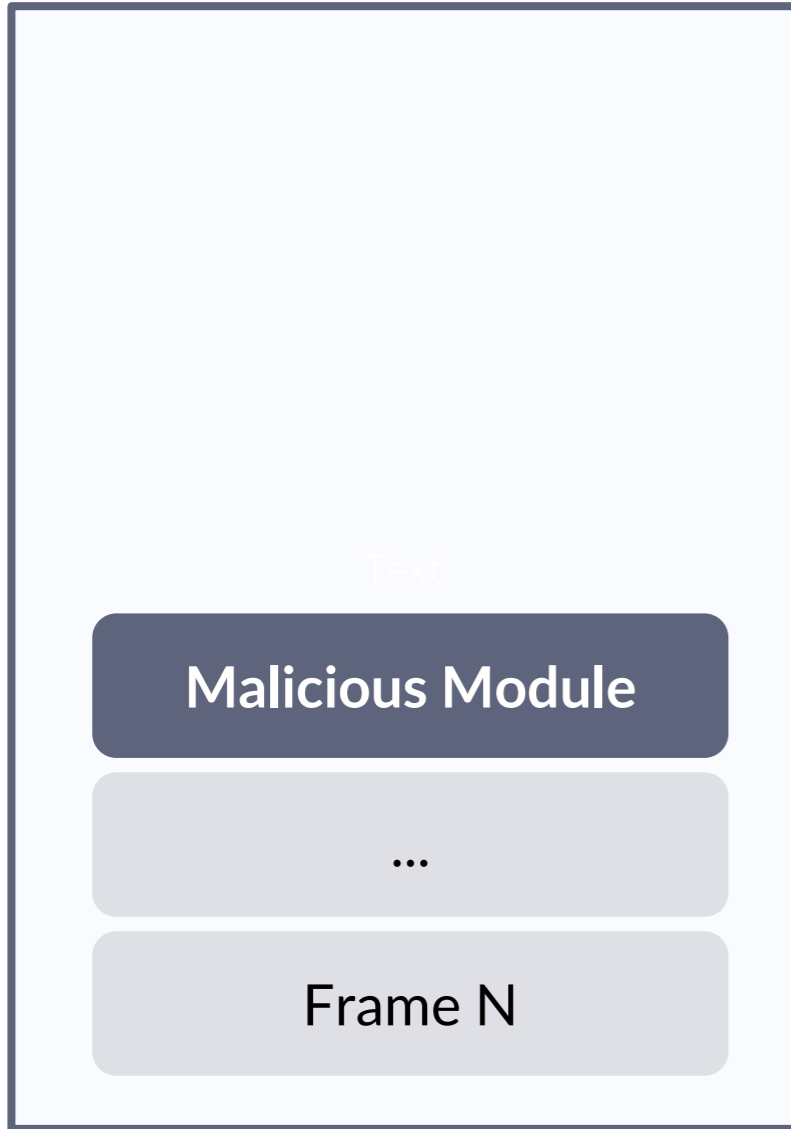


Wait:UserRequest

Stack Hiding

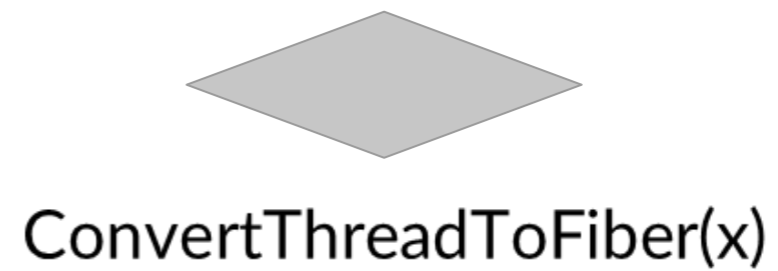
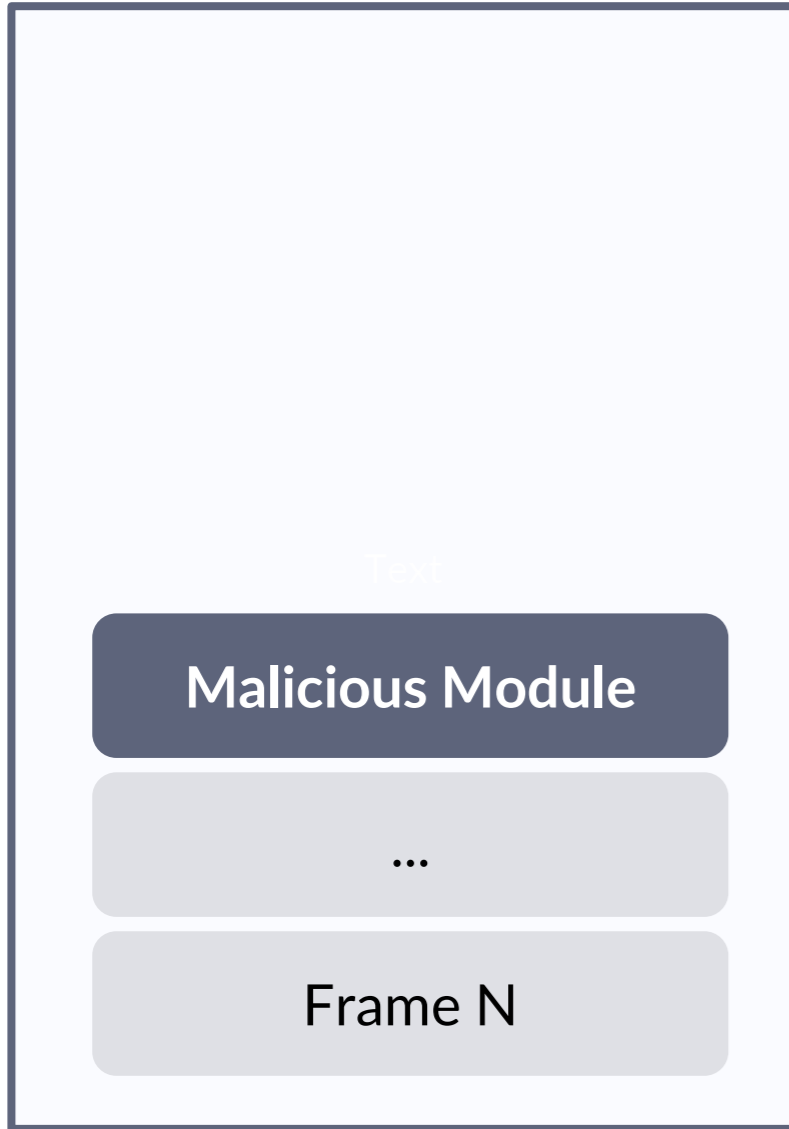


Stack Hiding

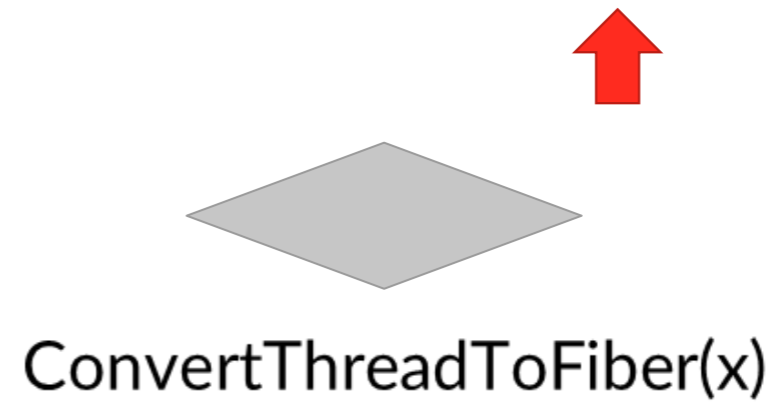
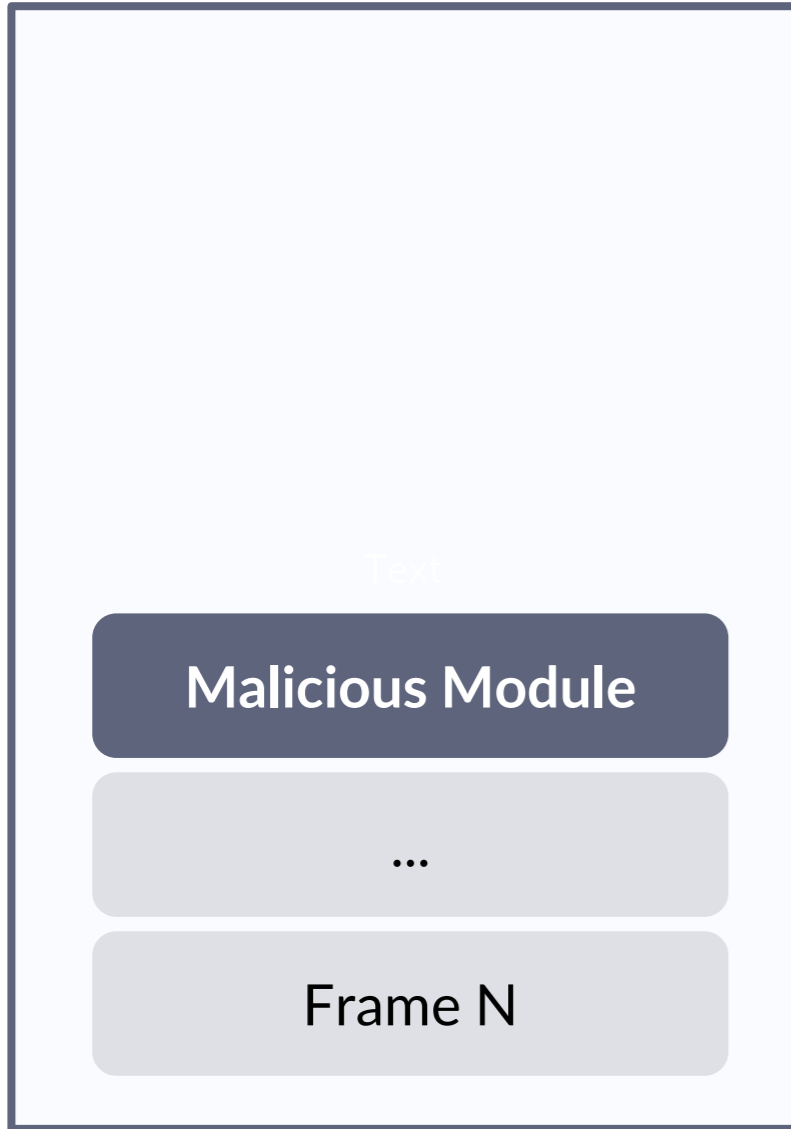


ConvertThreadToFiber(x)

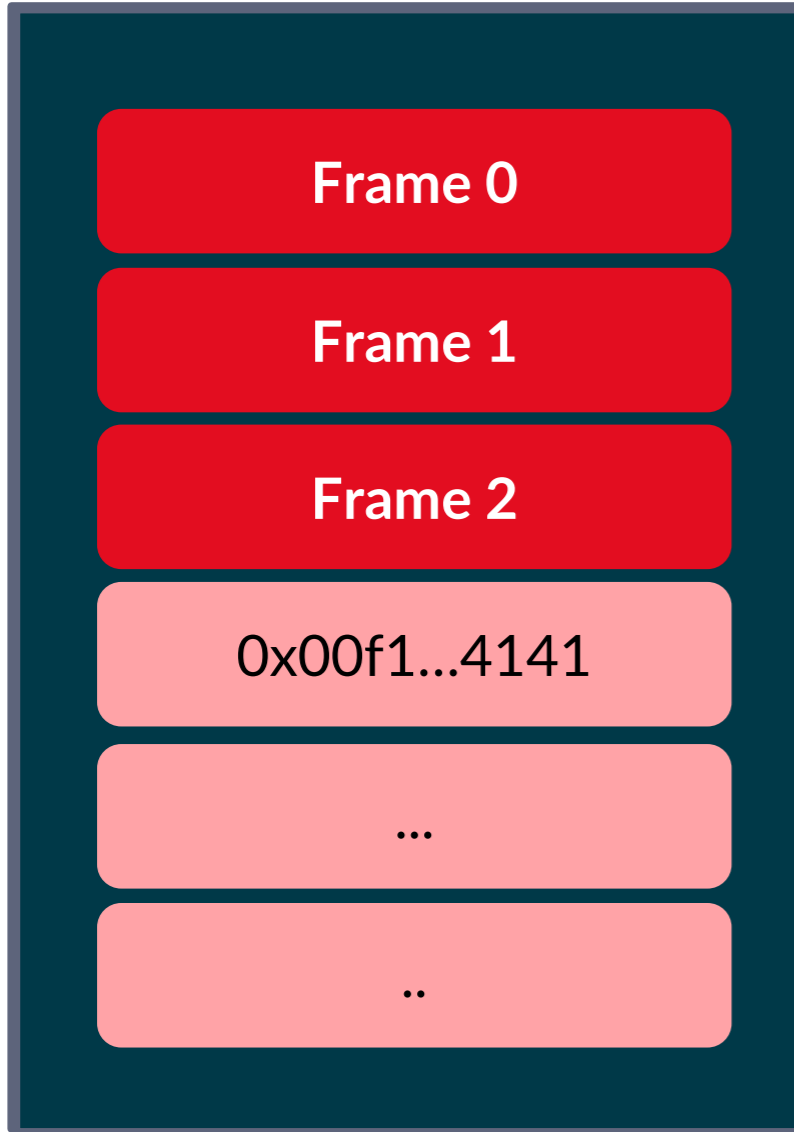
Stack Hiding



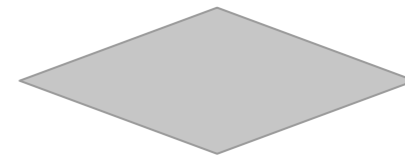
Stack Hiding



Stack Hiding

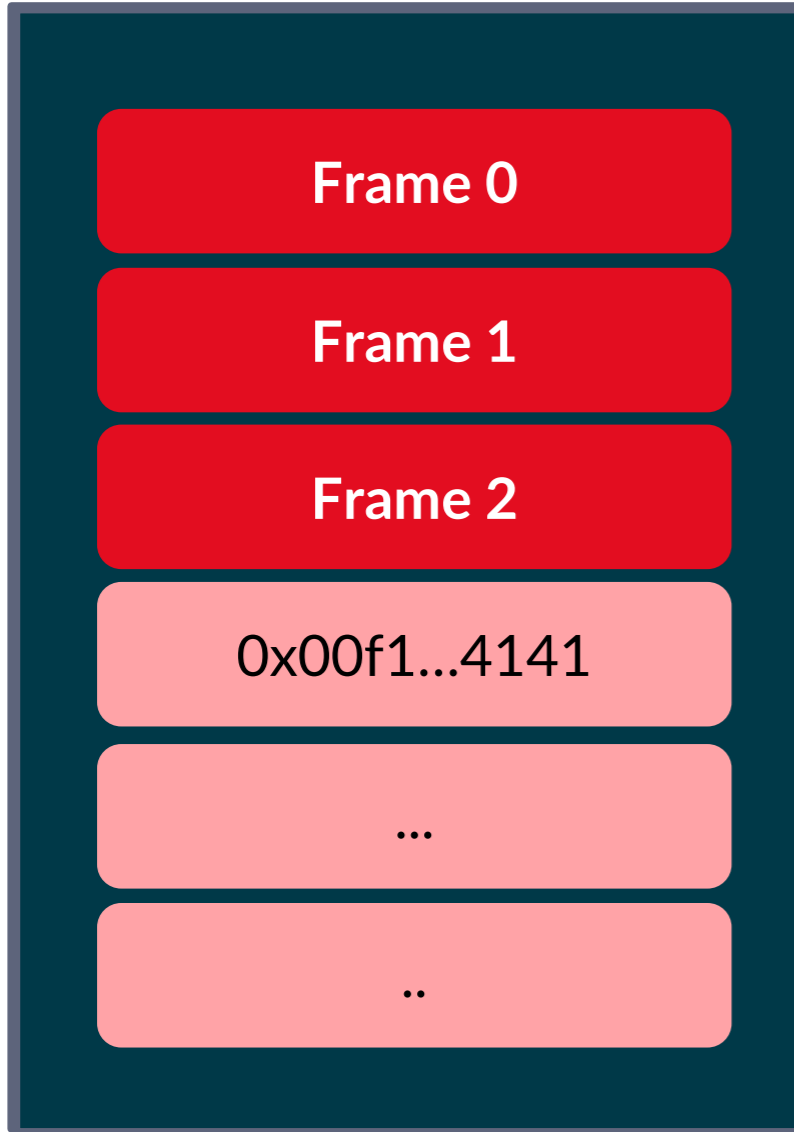


Evil Fiber

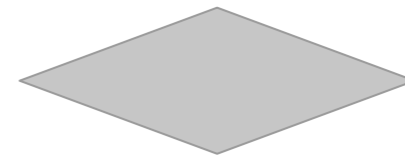


ConvertThreadToFiber(x)

Stack Hiding

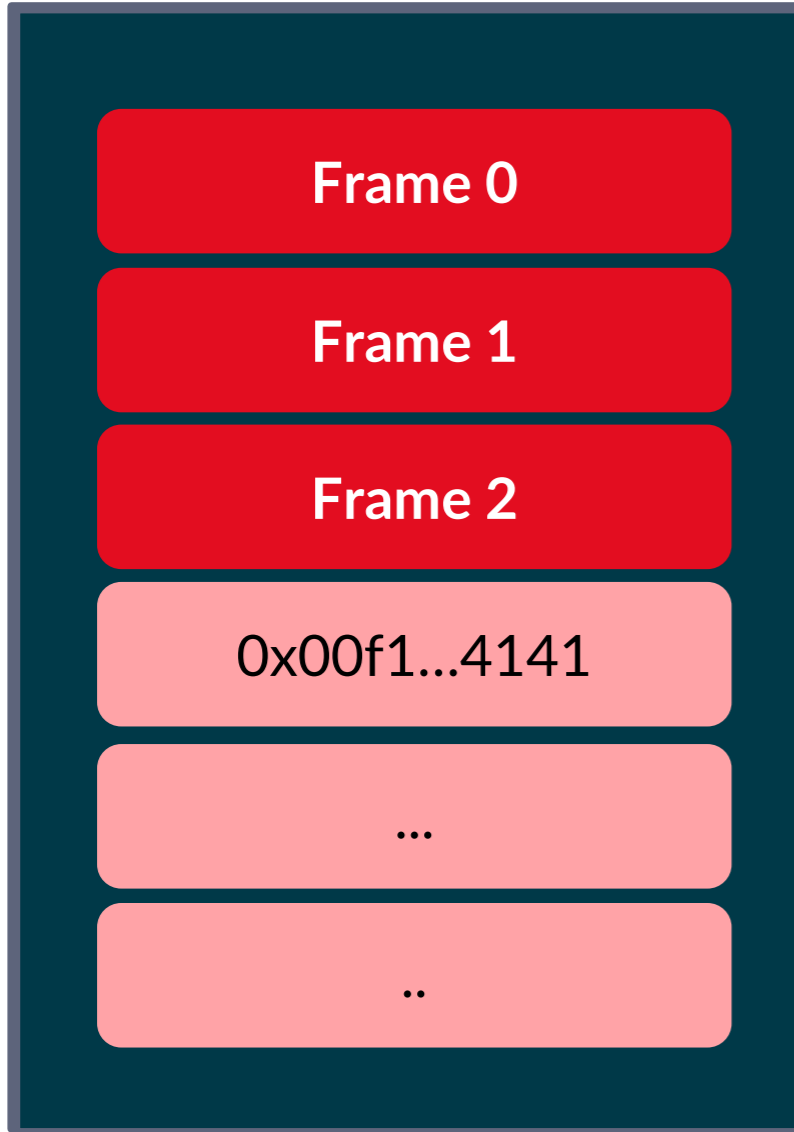


Evil Fiber

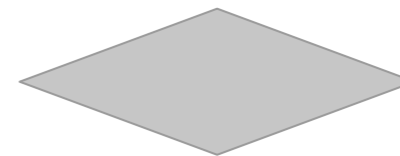


CreateFiber(x, y, z)

Stack Hiding

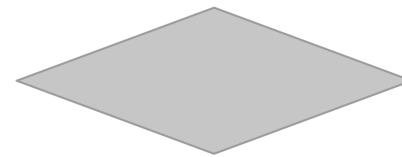
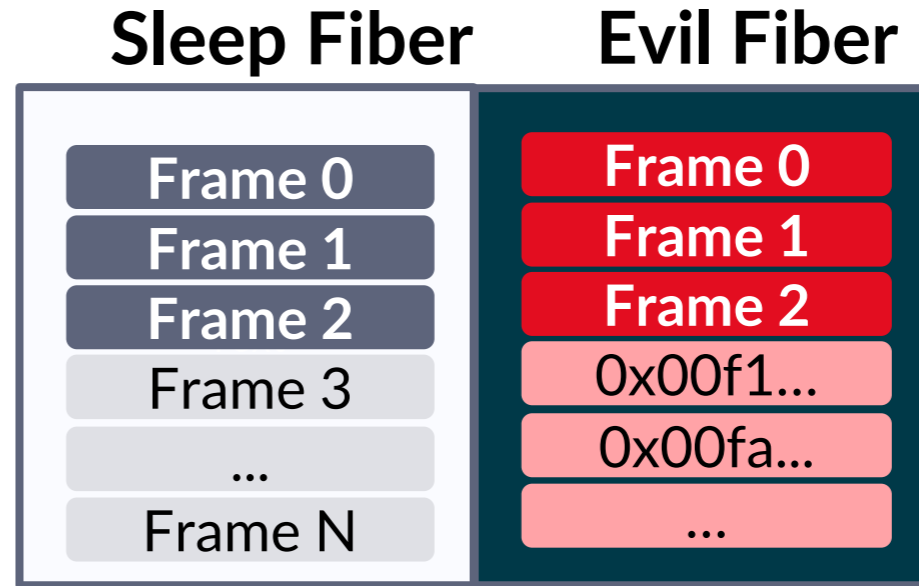
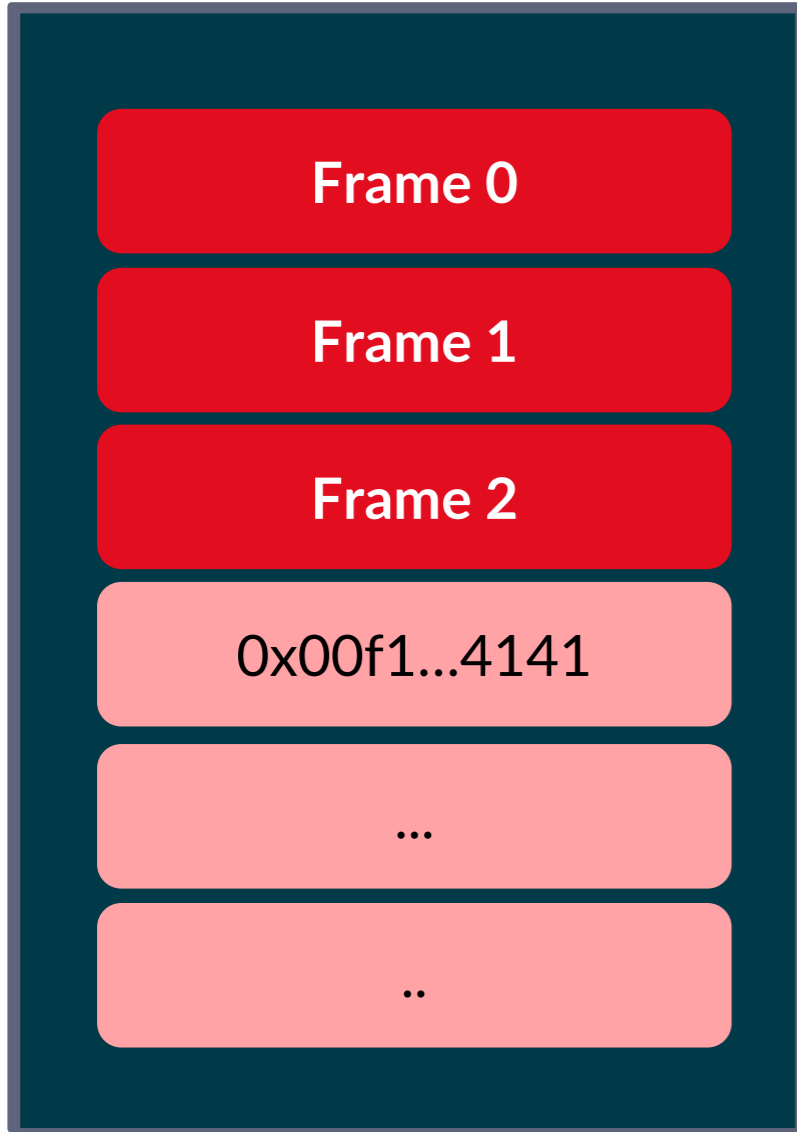


Evil Fiber

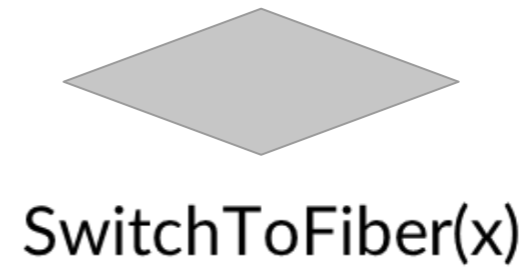
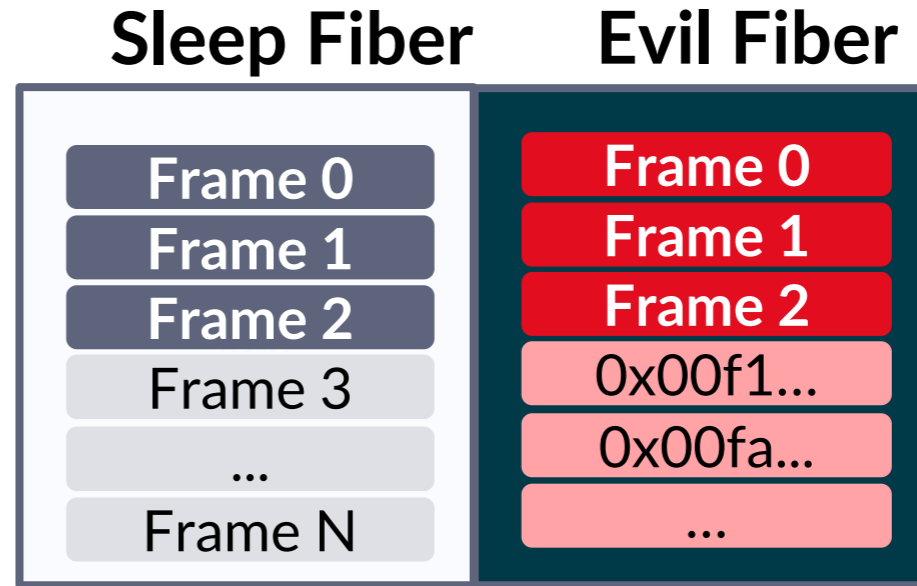
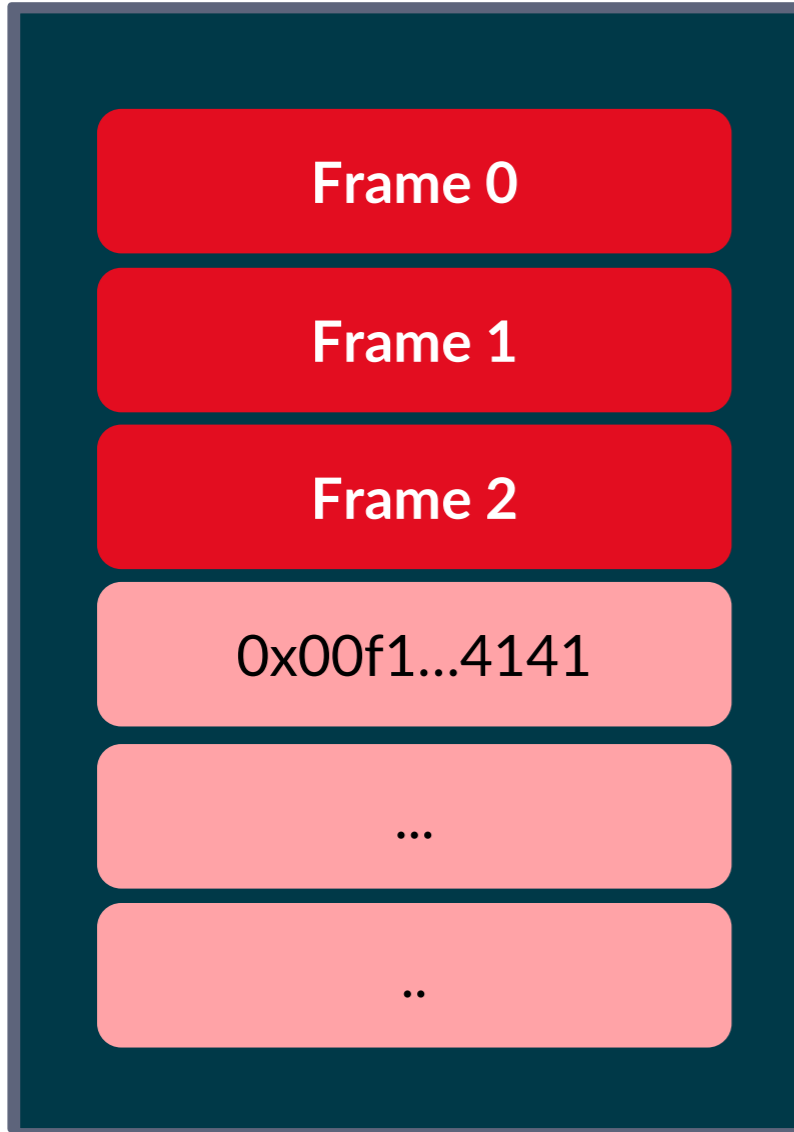


CreateFiber(x, y, z)

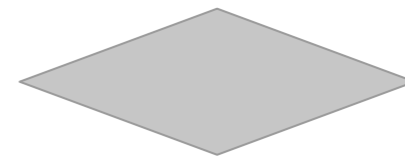
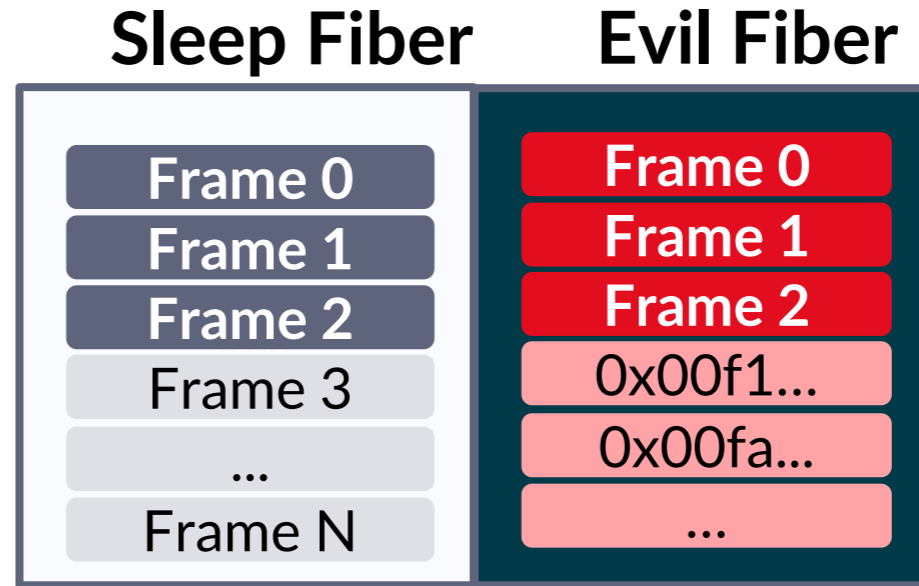
Stack Hiding



Stack Hiding

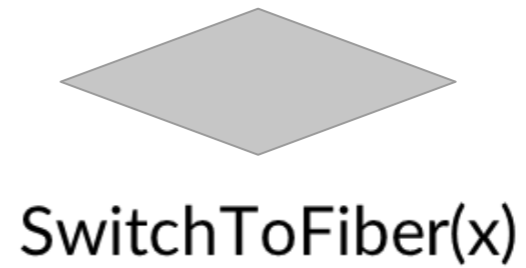
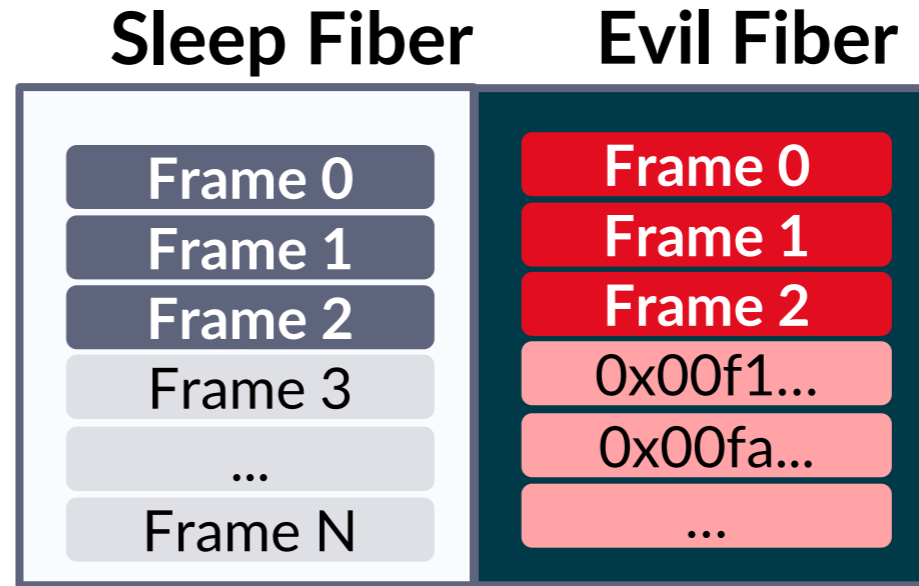


Stack Hiding

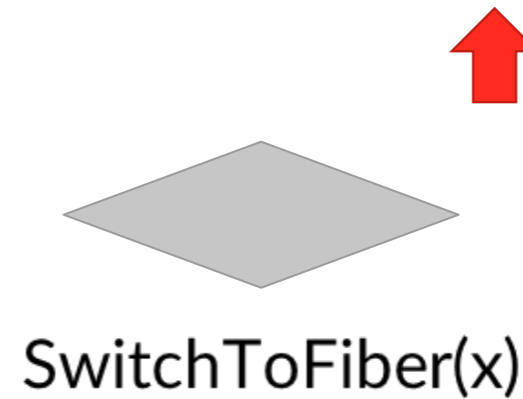
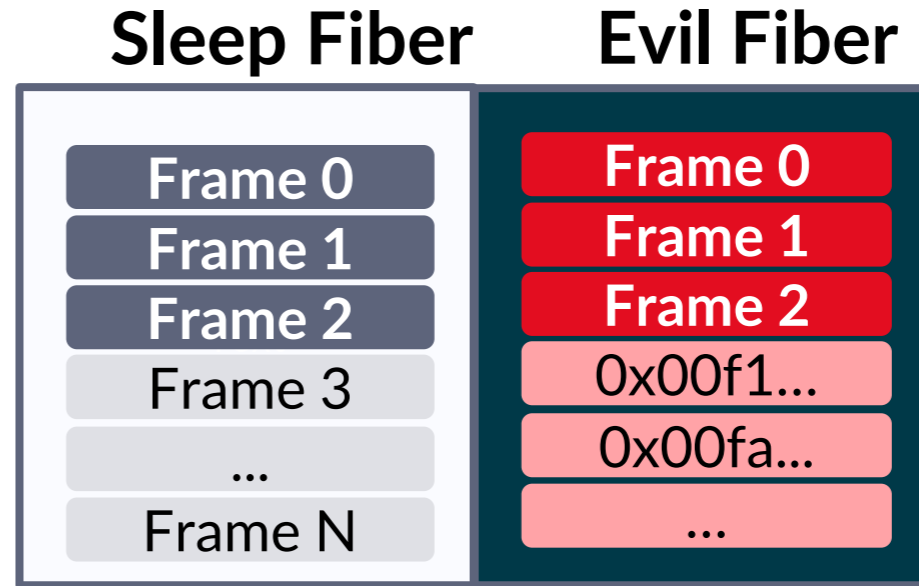


SwitchToFiber(x)

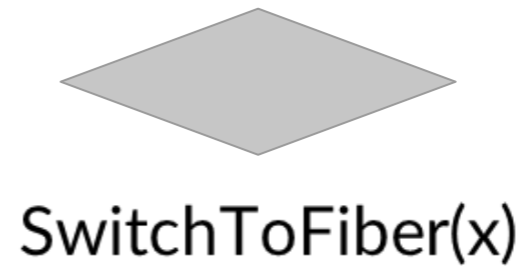
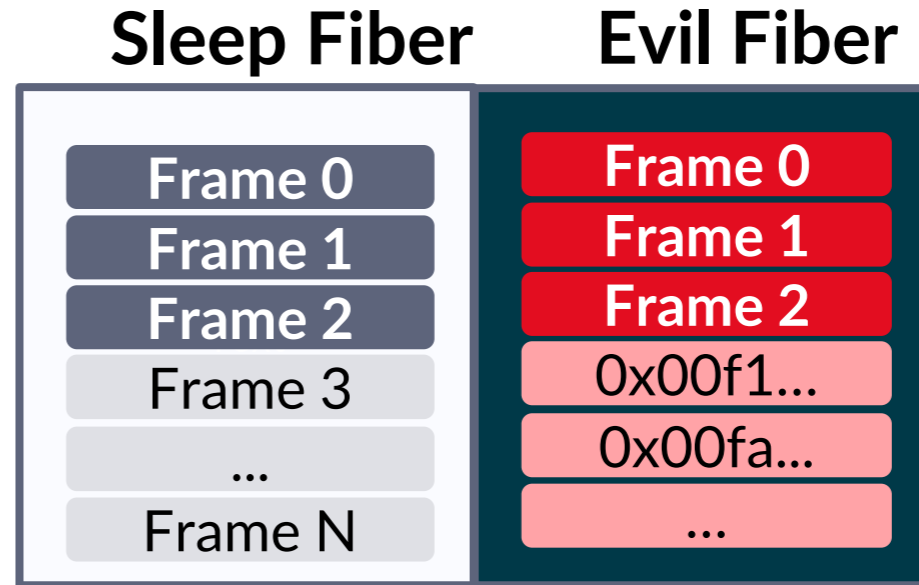
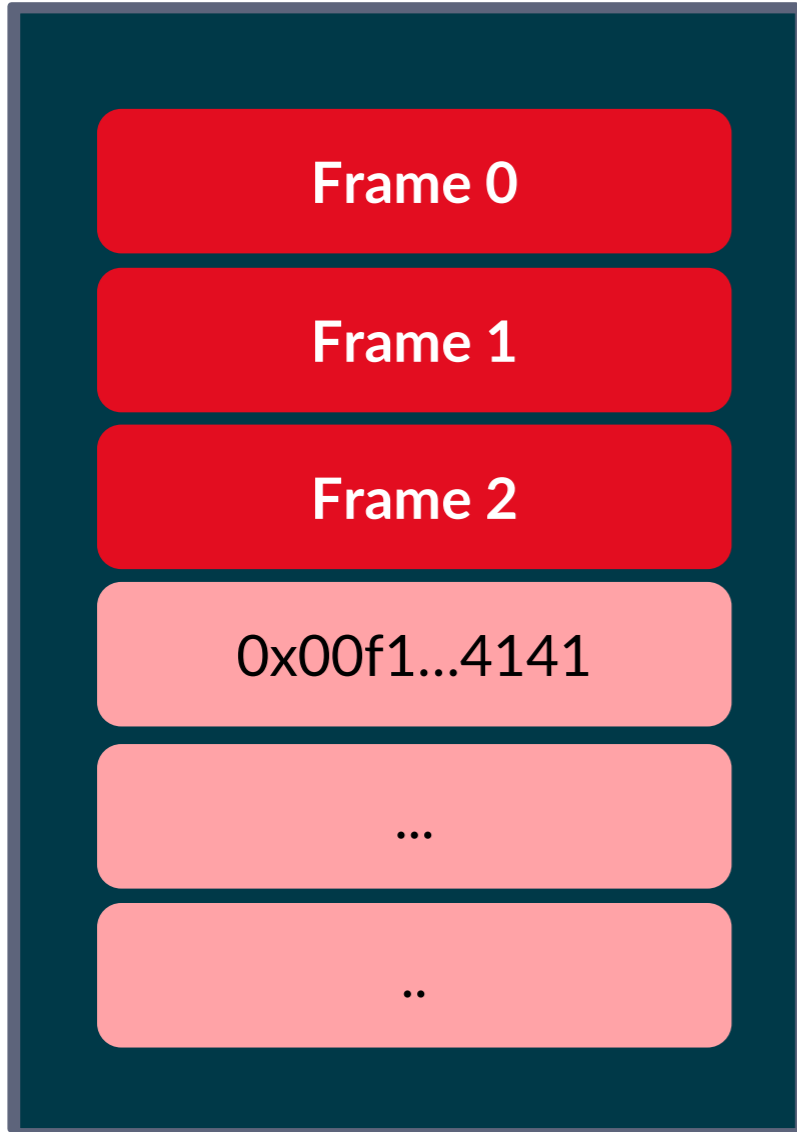
Stack Hiding



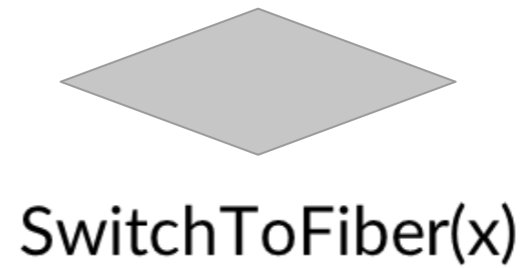
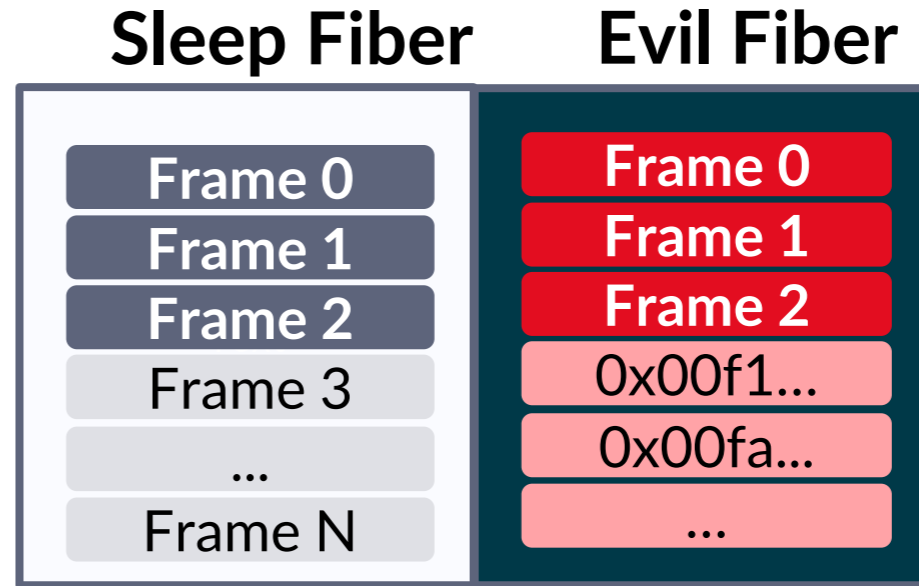
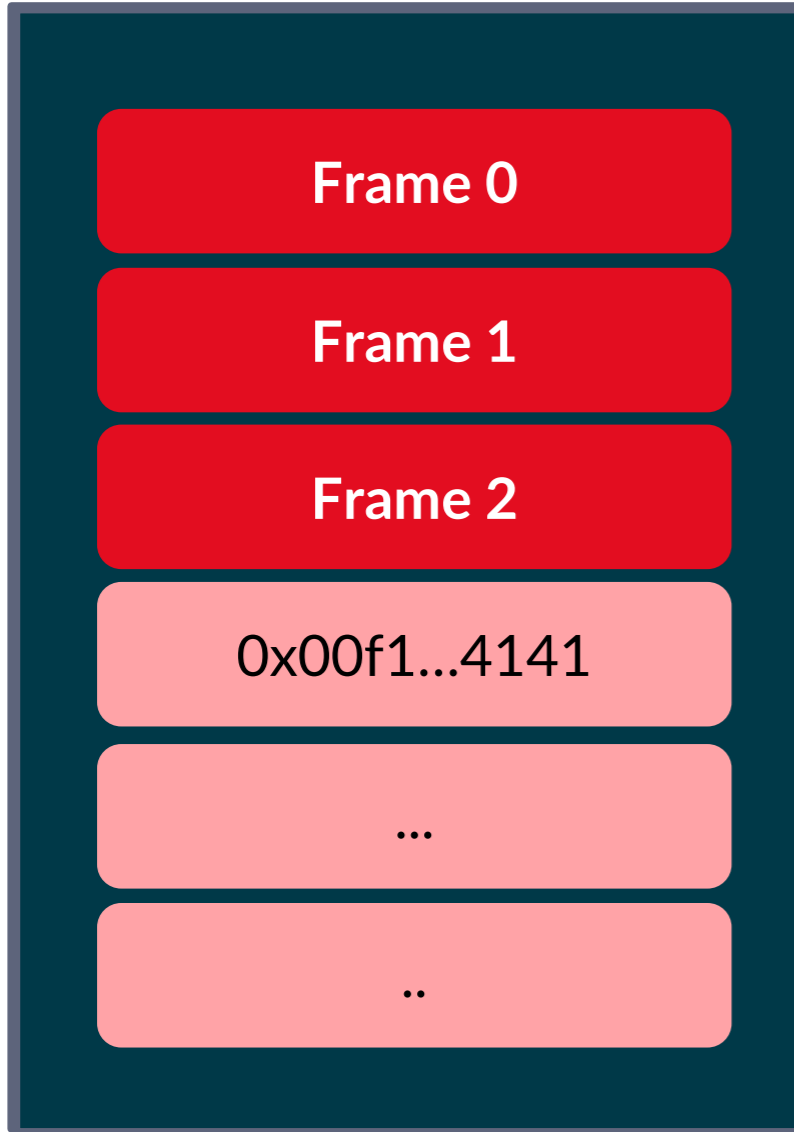
Stack Hiding



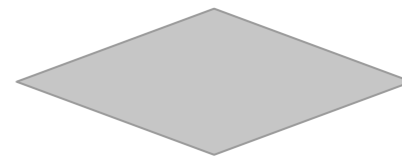
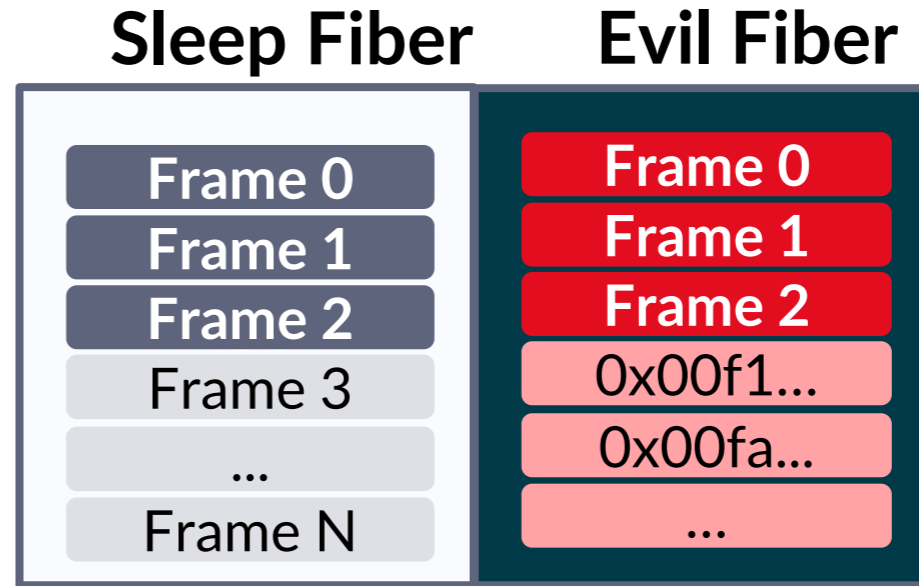
Stack Hiding



Stack Hiding



Stack Hiding



SwitchToFiber(x)

Stack Hiding

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use	Total WS	Private WS	Shareable WS	Shared WS	Locked W
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA	4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x5d0a20000	Private	2,048 kB	RW	PEB	12 kB	12 kB			
> 0x5d0a40000	Private	1,024 kB	RW		24 kB	24 kB			
> 0x5d0a80000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)	12 kB	12 kB			
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x15f1c850000	Mapped	116 kB	R		116 kB		116 kB	116 kB	

Stack Hiding

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules **Memory** Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use	Total WS	Private WS	Shareable WS	Shared WS	Locked WS
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA	4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x5d0a20000	Private	2,048 kB	RW	PEB	12 kB	12 kB			
> 0x5d0a40000	Private	1,024 kB	RW		24 kB	24 kB			
> 0x5d0a80000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)	12 kB	12 kB			
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x15f1c850000	Mapped	116 kB	R		116 kB		116 kB	116 kB	

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules **Memory** Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use	Total WS	Private WS	Shareable WS	Shared WS	Locked WS
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA	4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x5d0a20000	Private	2,048 kB	RW	PEB	12 kB	12 kB			
> 0x5d0a40000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)	24 kB	24 kB			
> 0x5d0a80000	Private	1,024 kB	RW		12 kB	12 kB			
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	

Stack Hiding

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use	Shared WS	Locked WS
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA		
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R			
> 0x5d0a20000	Private	2,048 kB	RW	PEB		
> 0x5d0a40000	Private	1,024 kB	RW			
> 0x5d0a80000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)		
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB	
> 0x15f1c850000	Mapped	116 kB	R		116 kB	

Stack - thread 2388

	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14
1	user32.dll!FrameRect+0x27c
2	user32.dll!EndDialog+0x65b
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x836
4	user32.dll!DrawStateA+0x1e11
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxW+0x4e
7	0x1fbf1b011b4

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use	Total WS	Private WS	Shareable WS	Shared WS	Locked WS
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA	4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x5d0a20000	Private	2,048 kB	RW	PEB	12 kB	12 kB			
> 0x5d0a40000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)	24 kB	24 kB			
> 0x5d0a80000	Private	1,024 kB	RW		12 kB	12 kB			
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R		4 kB		4 kB	4 kB	

Stack Hiding

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R	
> 0x5d0a20000	Private	2,048 kB	RW	PEB
> 0x5d0a40000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	
> 0x5d0a80000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R	
> 0x15f1c850000	Mapped	116 kB	R	

Stack - thread 2388

	Name	Shared WS	Locked WS
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14		
1	user32.dll!FrameRect+0x27c		
2	user32.dll!EndDialog+0x65b		
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox+0x836		
4	user32.dll!DrawStateA+0x1e11		
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198	4 kB	
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxW+0x4e	4 kB	
7	0x1bf1b011b4		

Propiedades: loader.exe (10916)

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

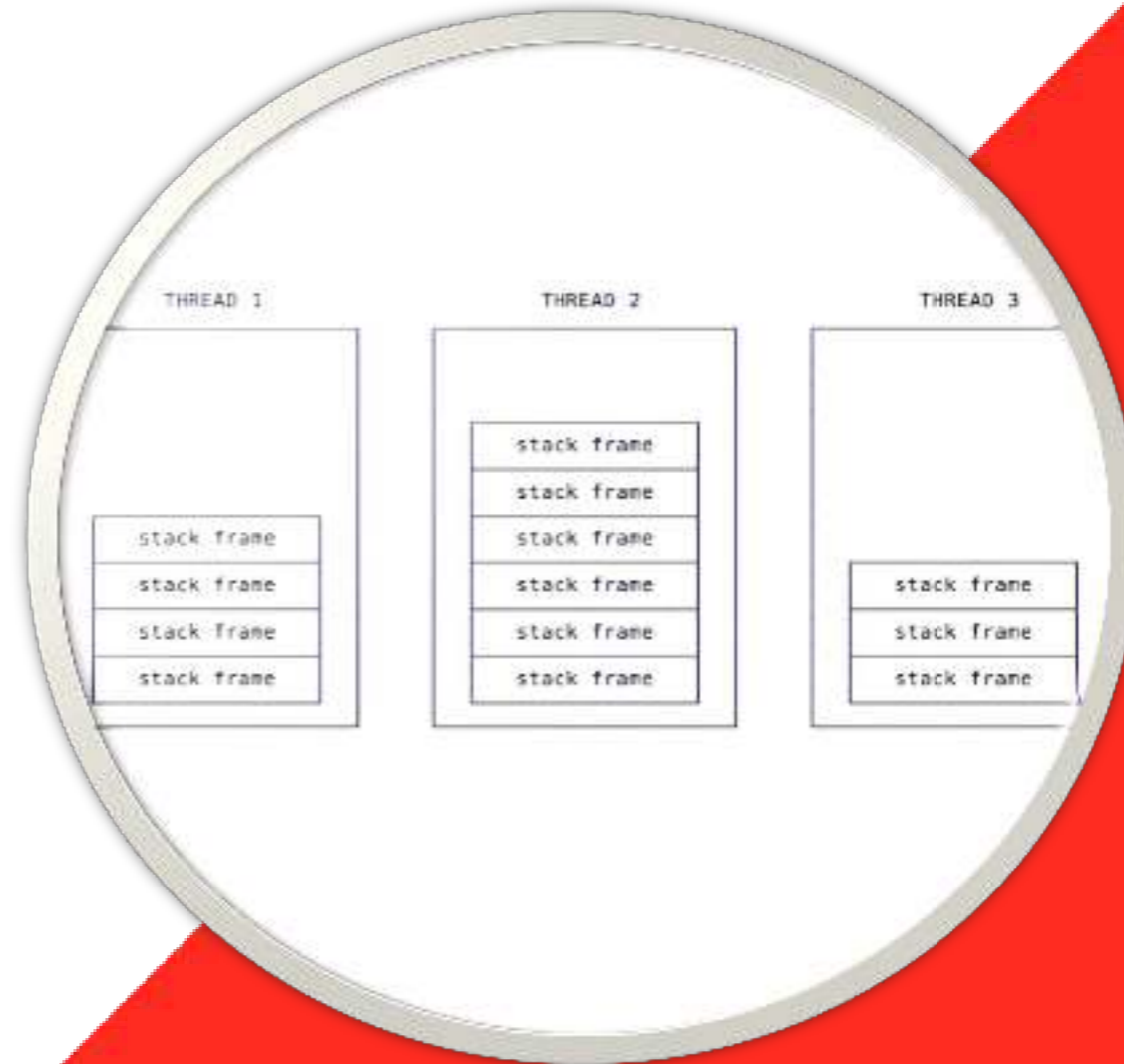
Base address	Type	Size	Protection	Use
> 0x7ffe0000	Private	4 kB	R	USER_SHARED_DATA
> 0x7ffe6000	Private	4 kB	R	
> 0x5d0a20000	Private	2,048 kB	RW	PEB
> 0x5d0a40000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	Stack (thread 12604)
> 0x5d0a80000	Private	1,024 kB	RW	
> 0x15f1c830000	Mapped	4 kB	R	
> 0x15f1c840000	Mapped	4 kB	R	

Stack - thread 2388

	Name	Shared WS	Locked WS
0	ntdll.dll!NtDelayExecution+0x14		
1	ntdll.dll!RtlDelayExecution+0x43		
2	KernelBase.dll!SleepEx+0x71		
3	loader.exe+0x138c		
4	loader.exe+0x1006	4 kB	
5	loader.exe+0x1047	4 kB	
6	loader.exe+0xc89e		
7	loader.exe+0x1035		
8	loader.exe+0x28828		
9	kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x10	4 kB	
10	ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x2b	4 kB	

Moonwalking the Windows Stack

Developing a dynamic call stack spoofer



Stack Moonwalk

1

Hide Caller

This technique was initially developed to conceal the main caller module from the call stack, preserving its unwindability when executing in-memory code

2

Obfuscate Stack

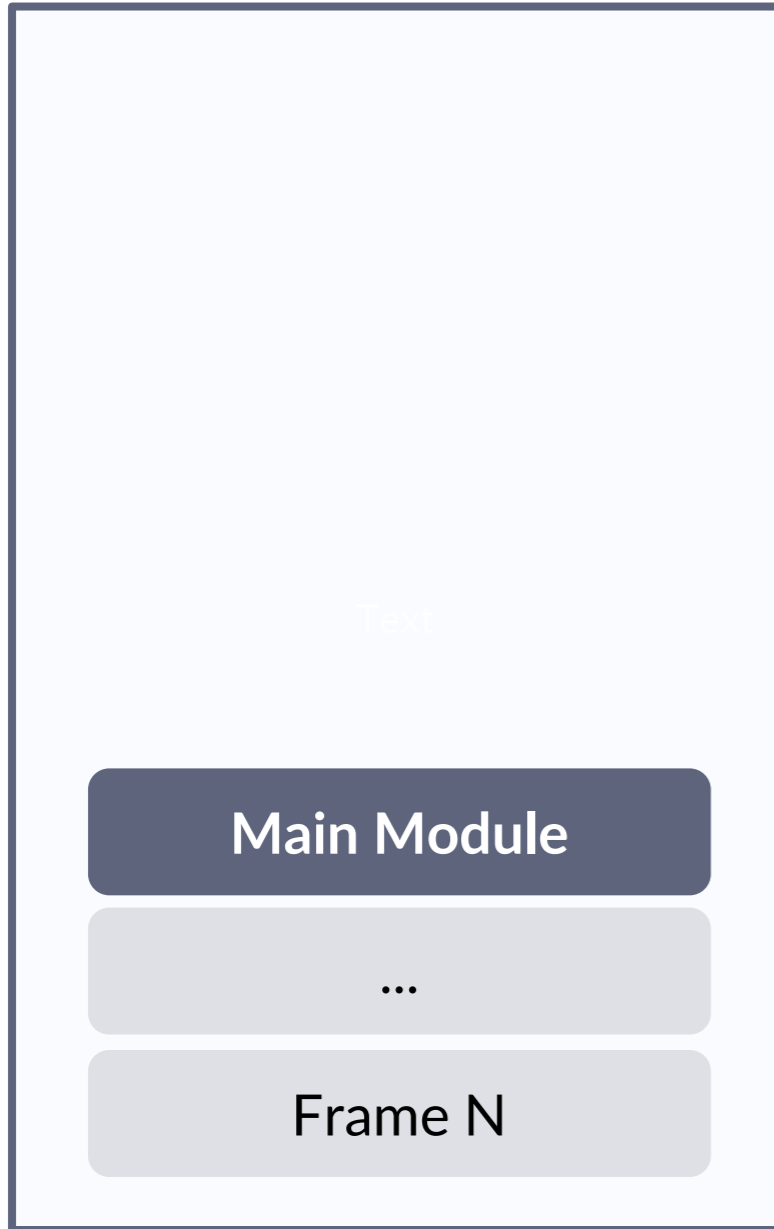
Stack Moonwalk obfuscates the stack, making it difficult to understand how a specific API/System Call was invoked

3

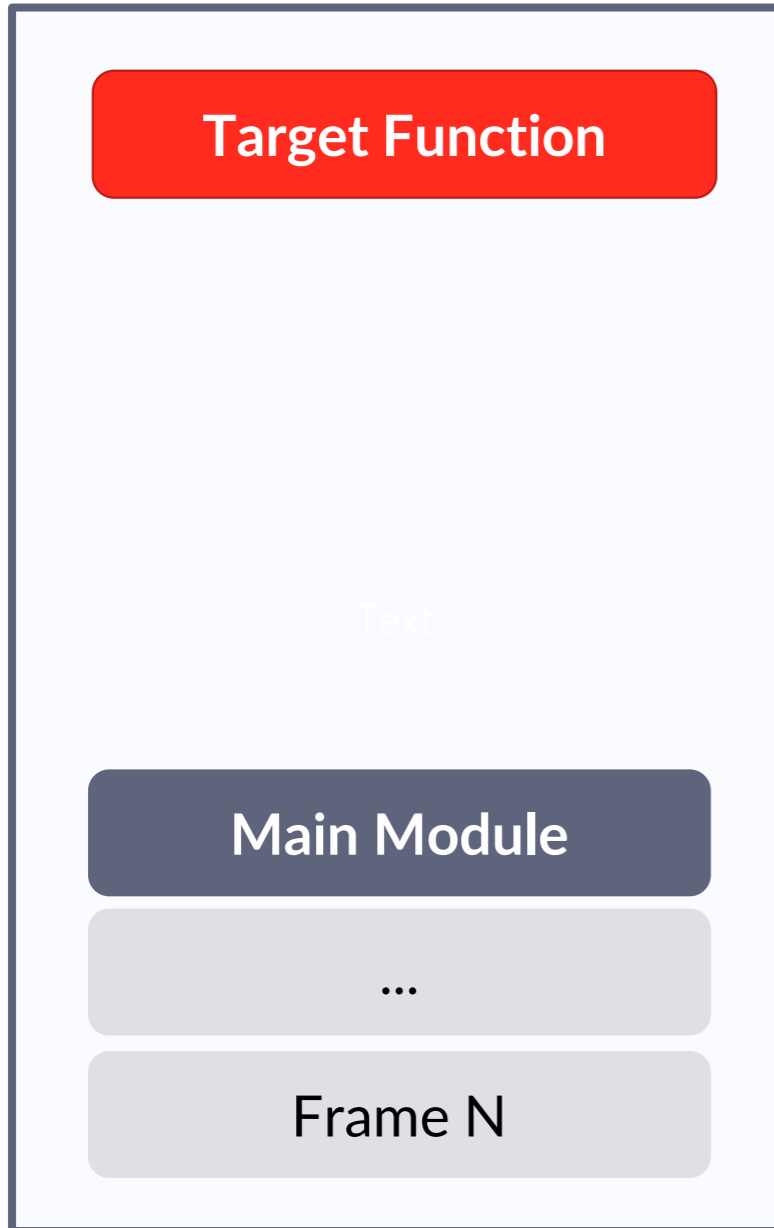
Auto Restore

The technique does not use any external mechanism to restore the stack on return, it does use a ROP paradigm instead

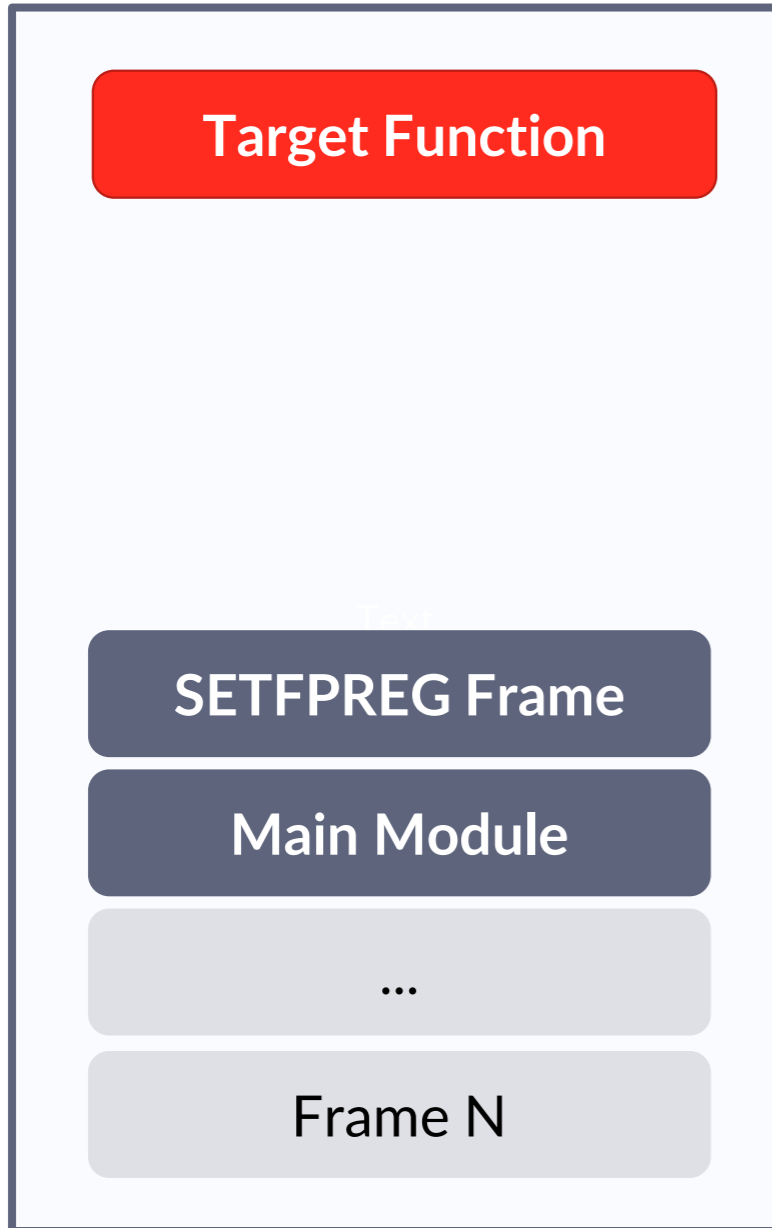
Full Moon (Walk)



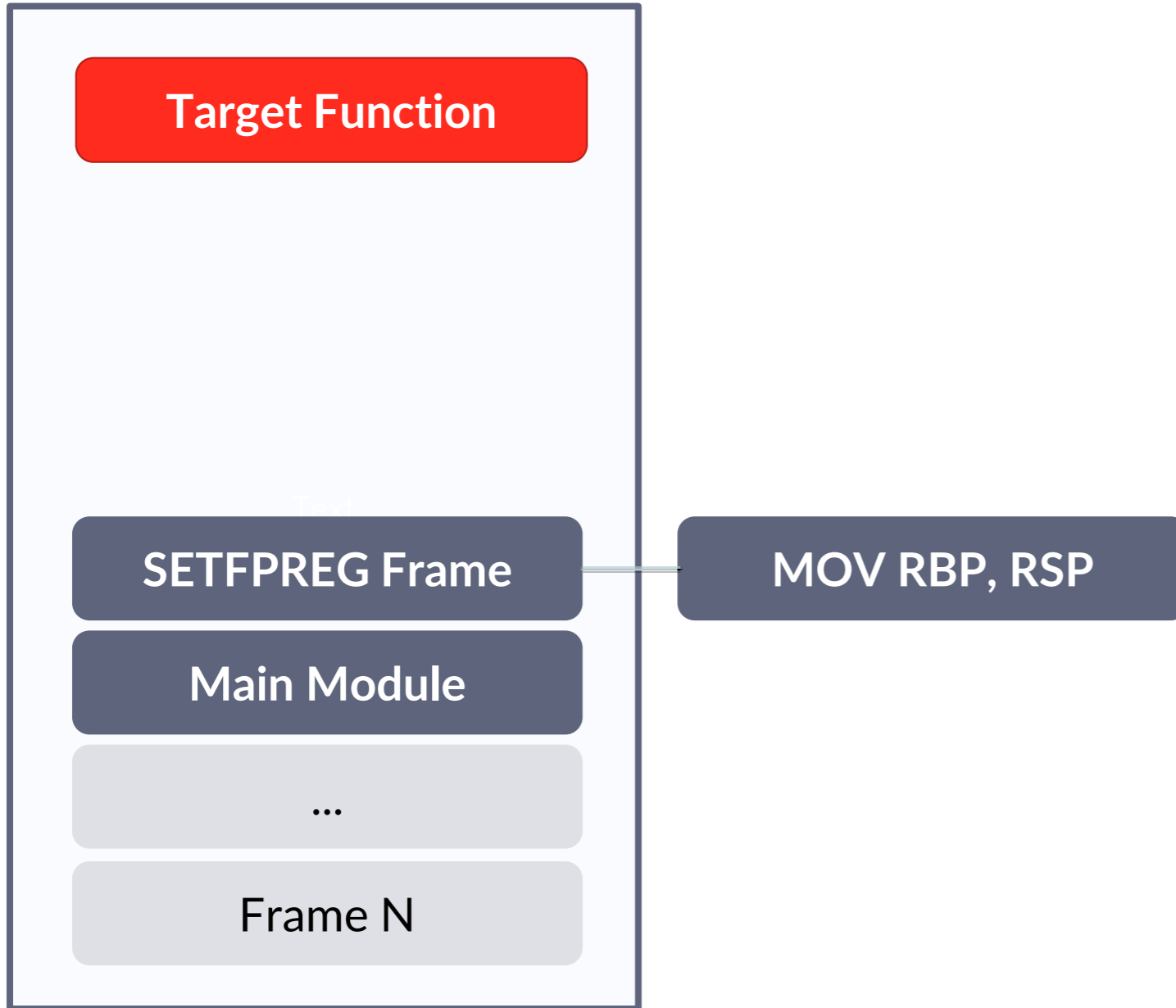
Full Moon (Walk)



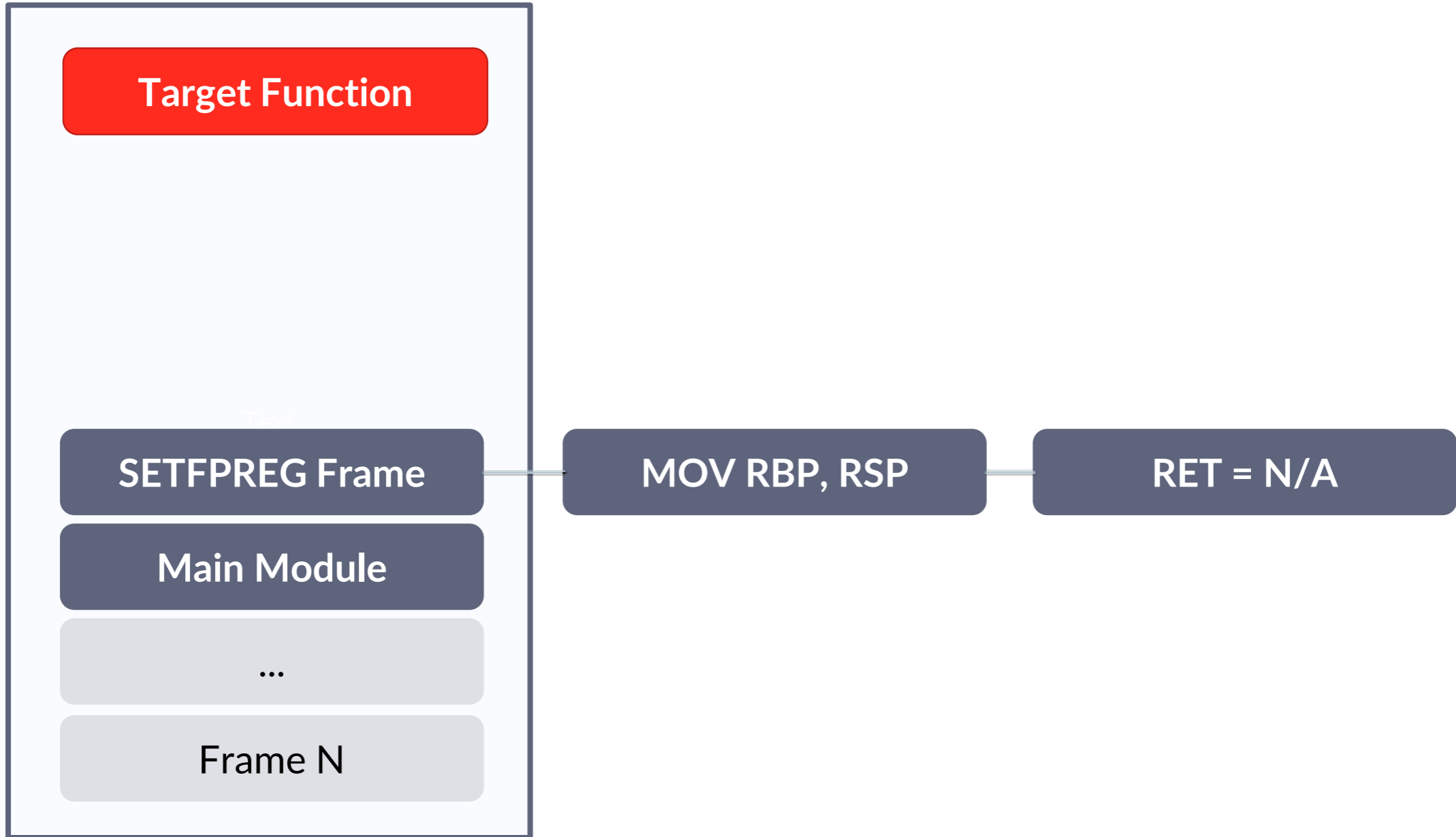
Full Moon (Walk)



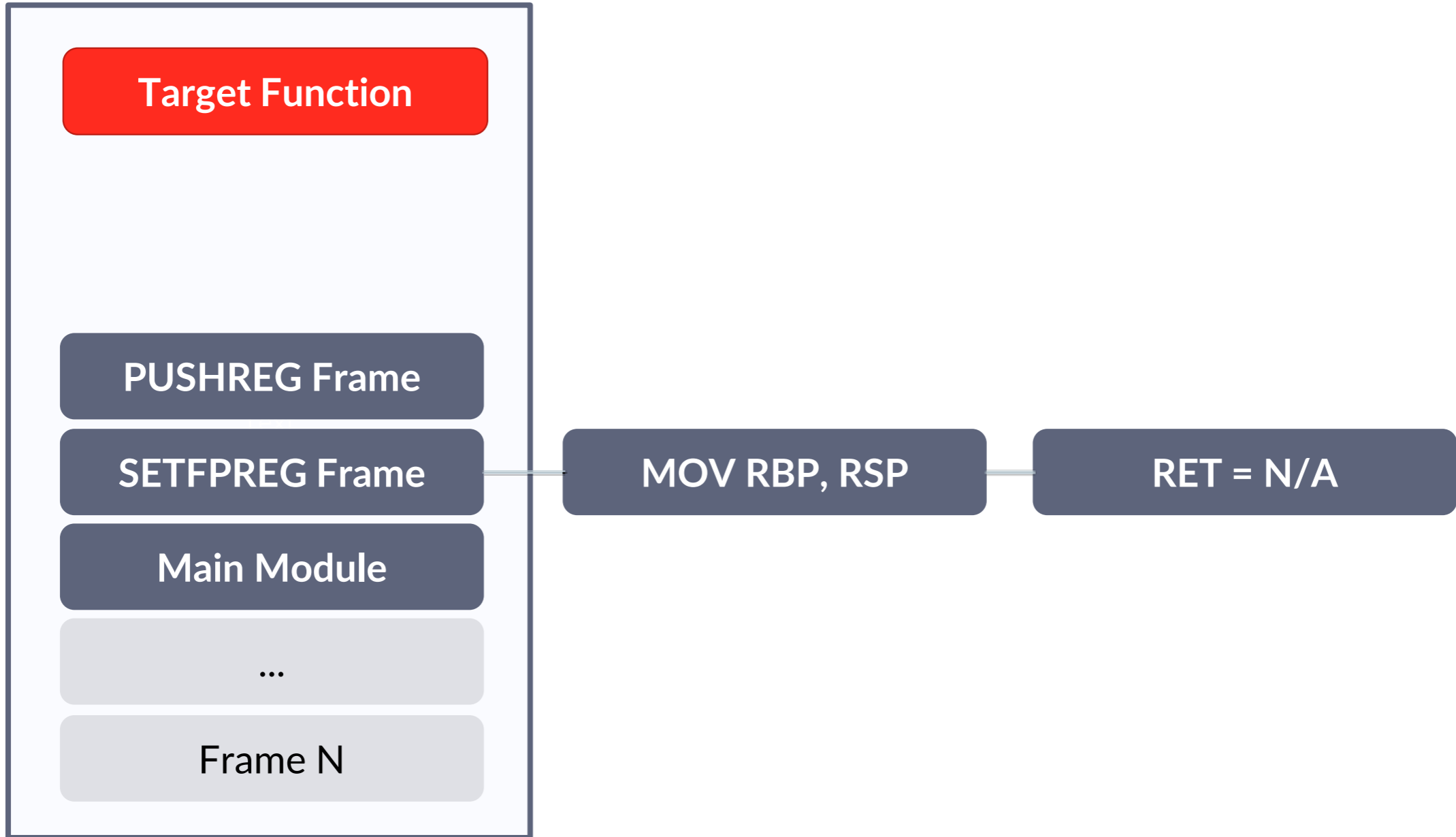
Full Moon (Walk)



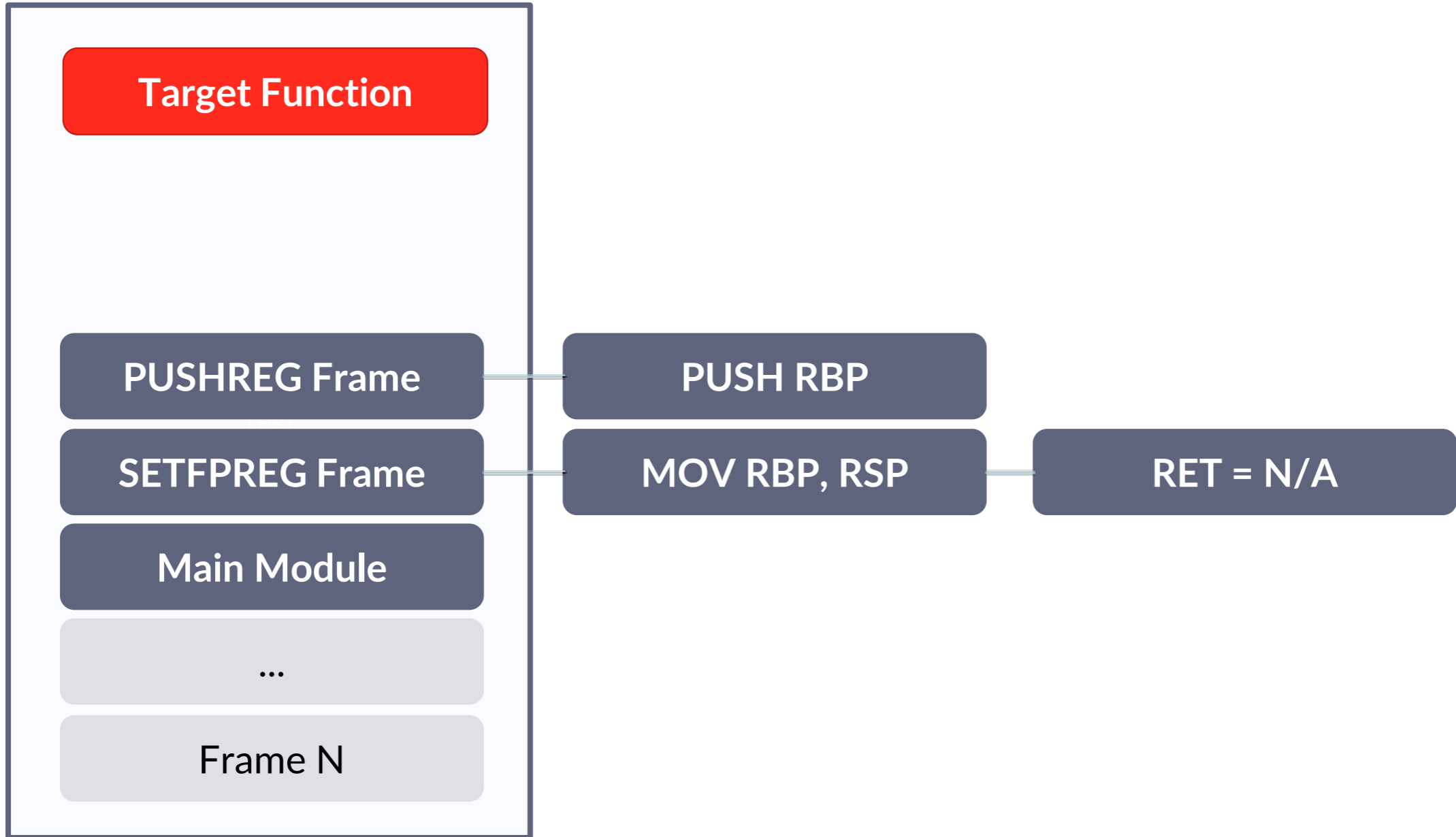
Full Moon (Walk)



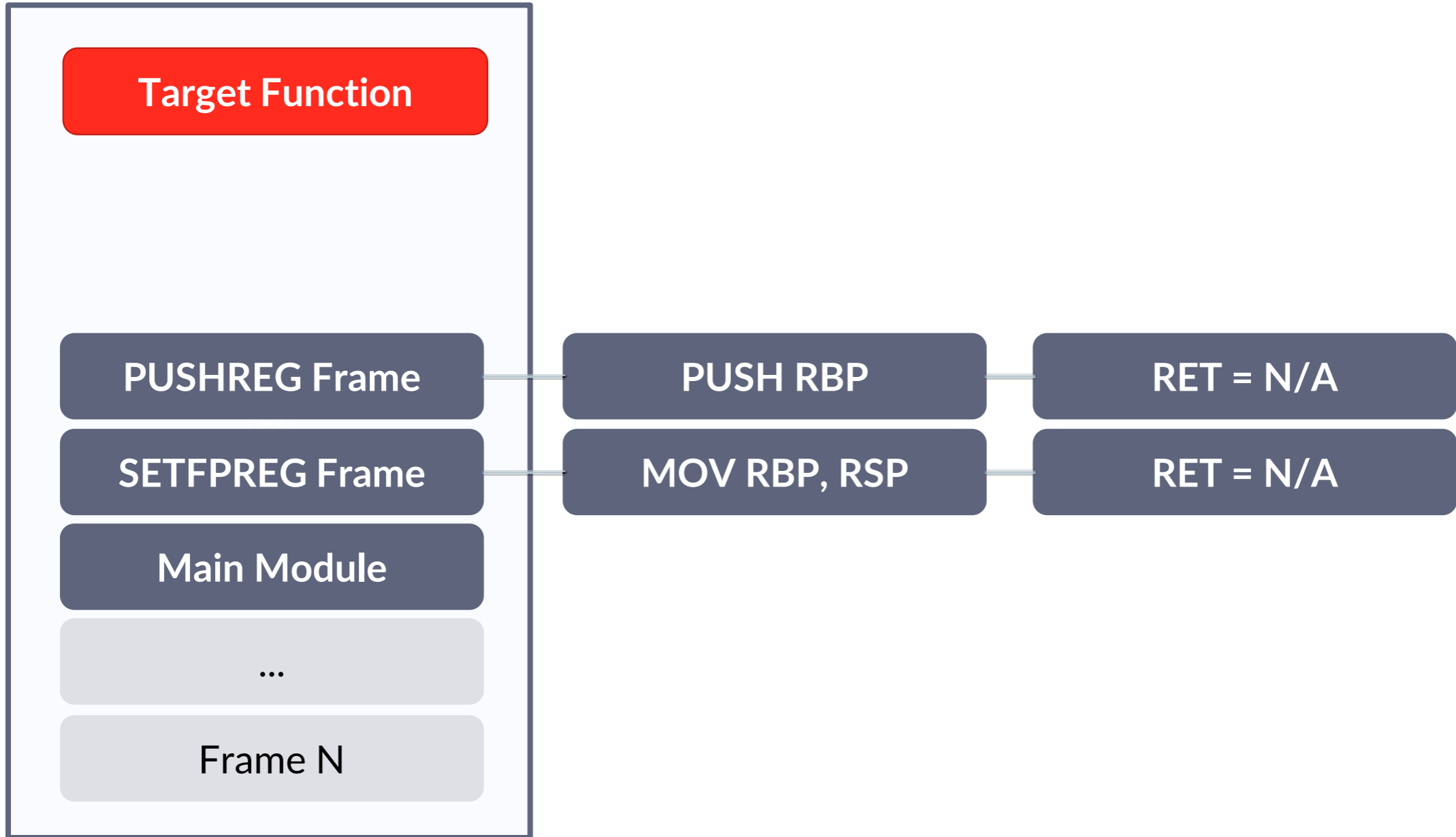
Full Moon (Walk)



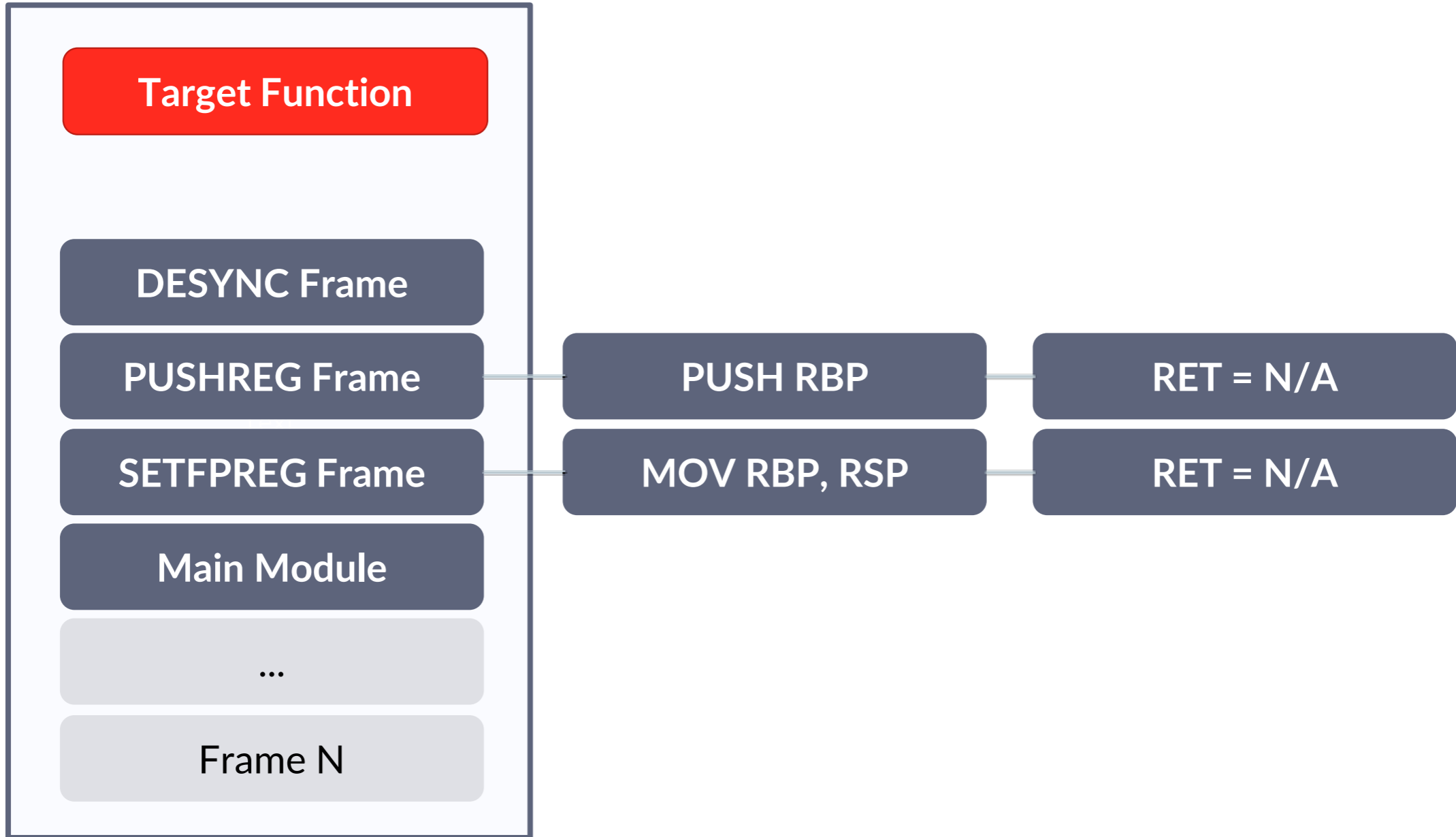
Full Moon (Walk)



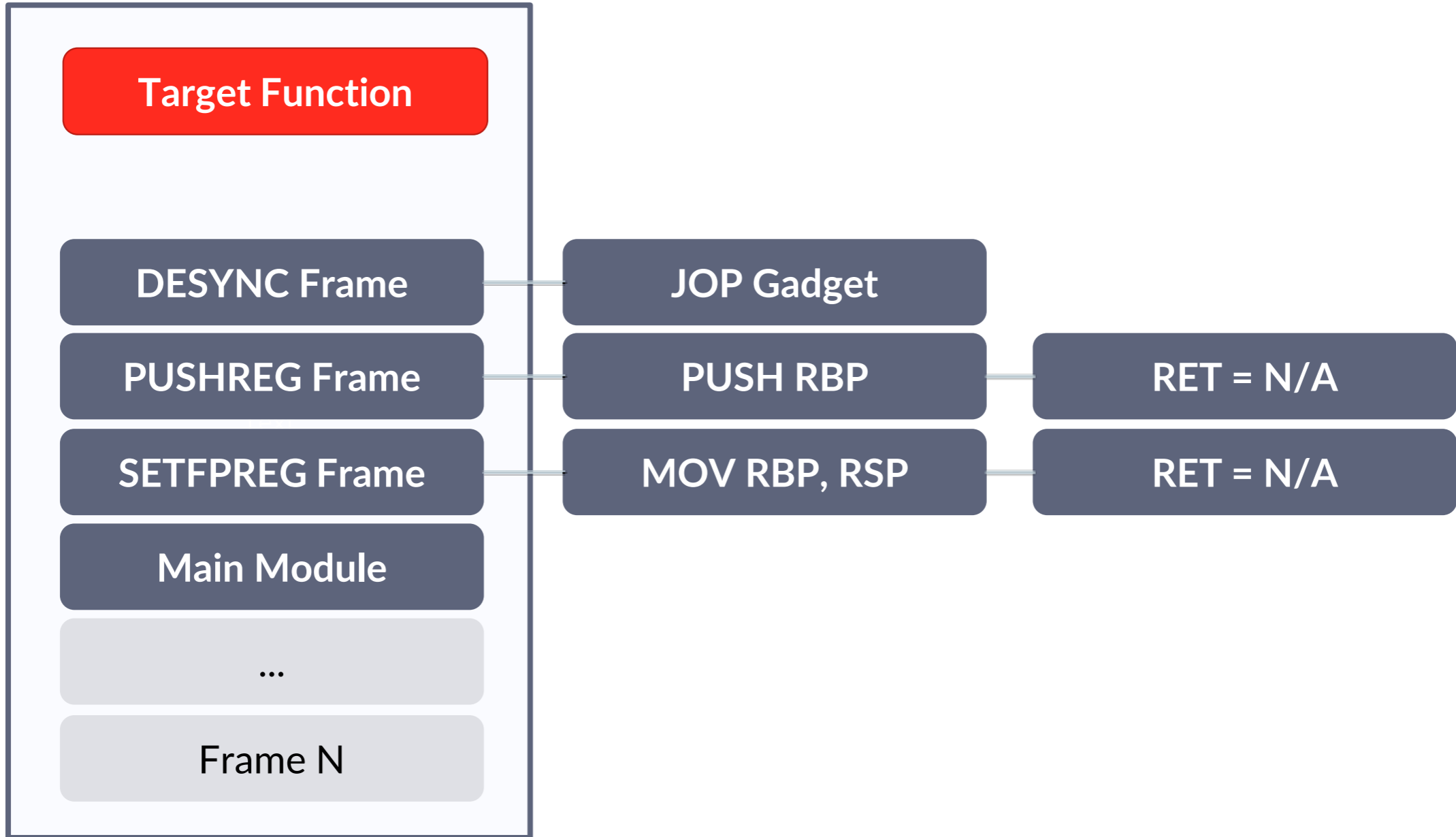
Full Moon (Walk)



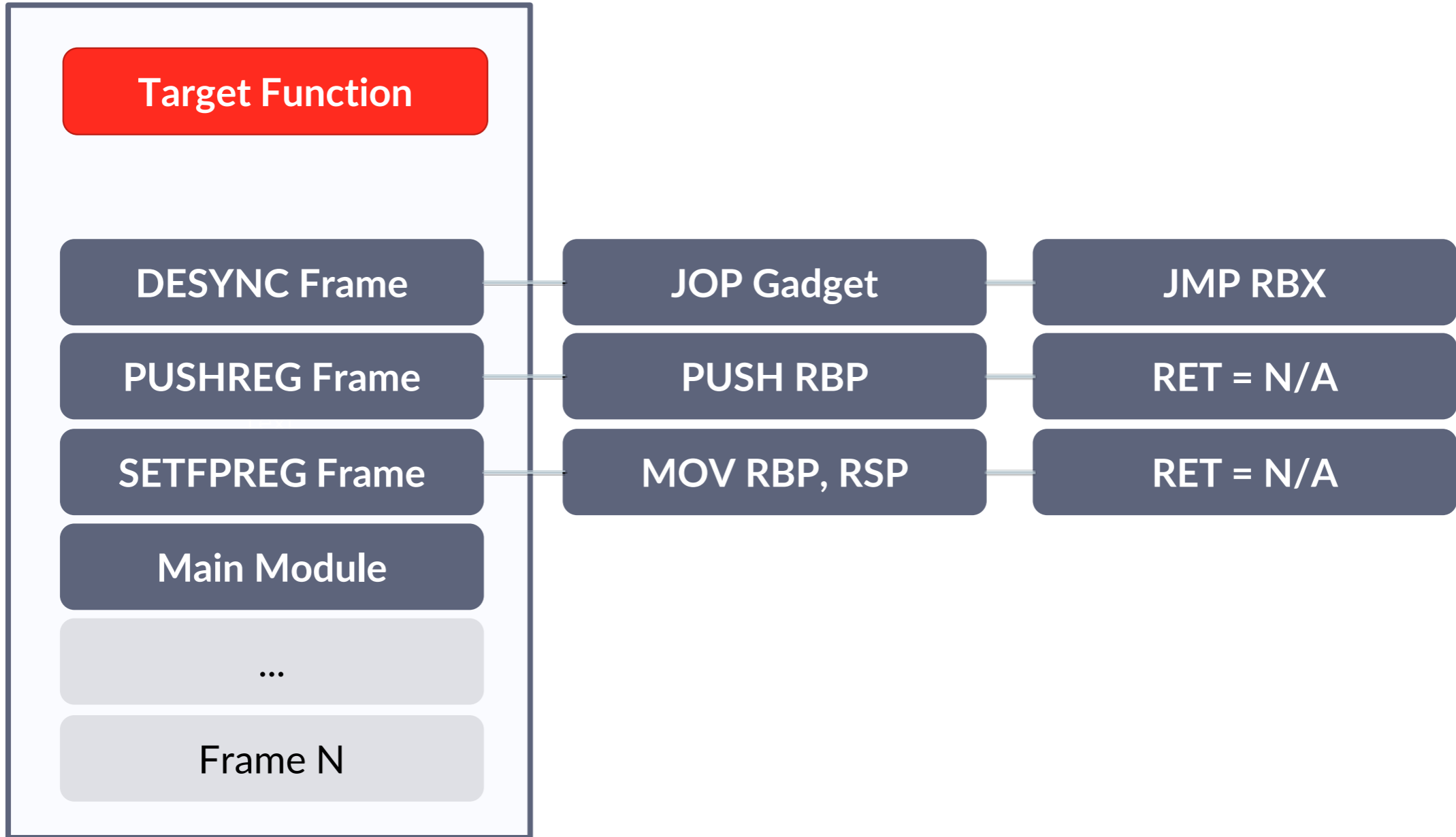
Full Moon (Walk)



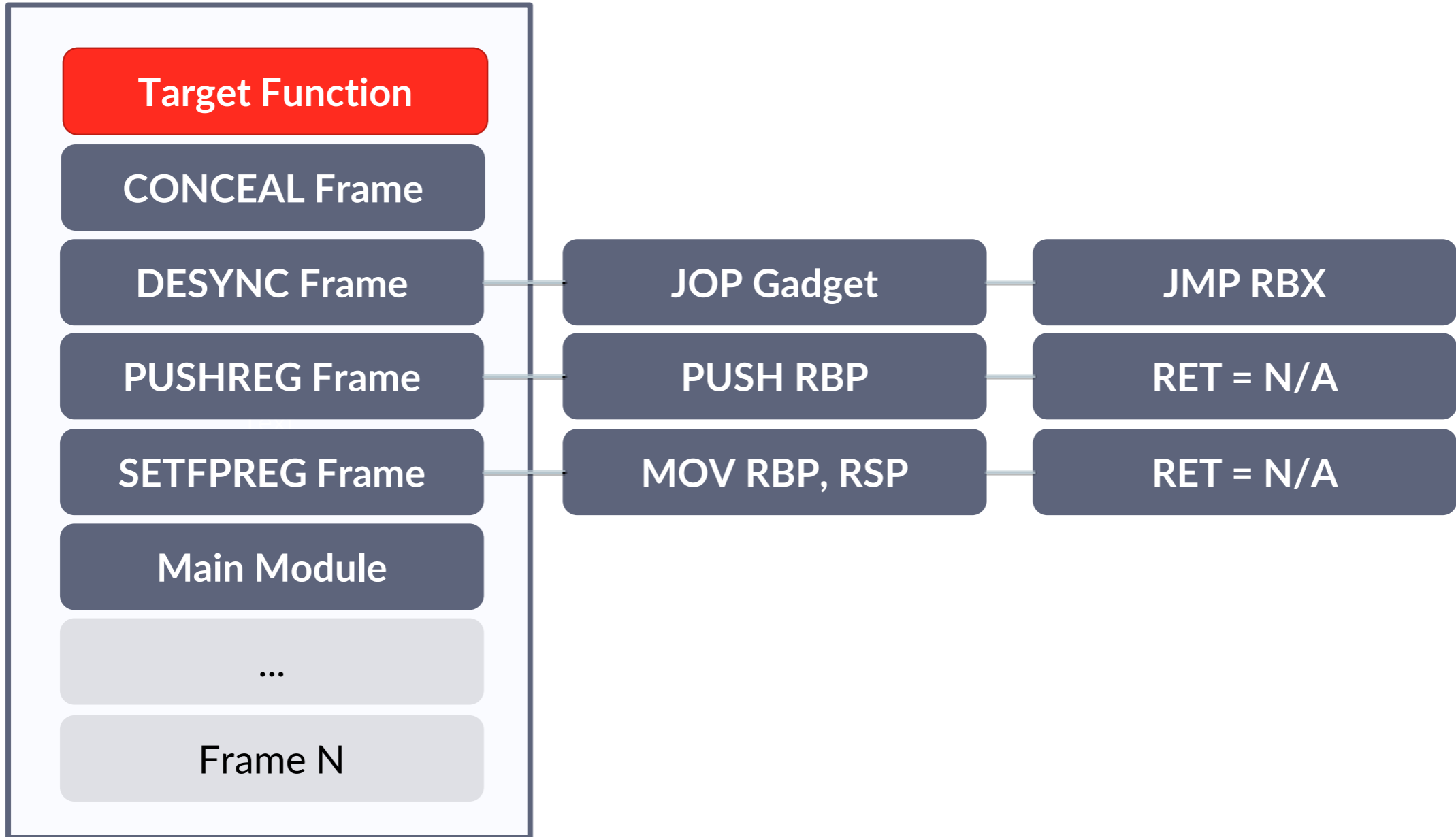
Full Moon (Walk)



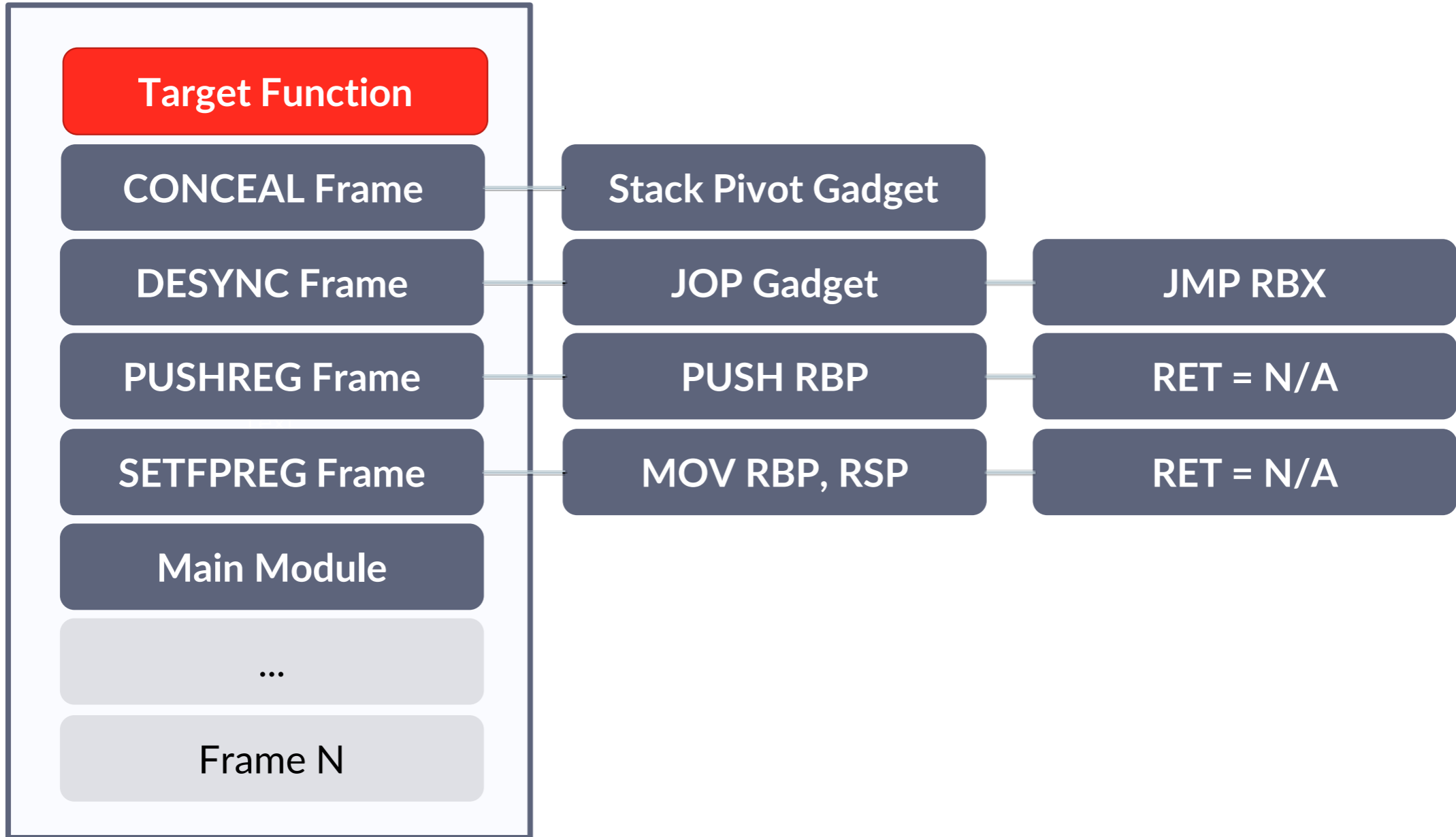
Full Moon (Walk)



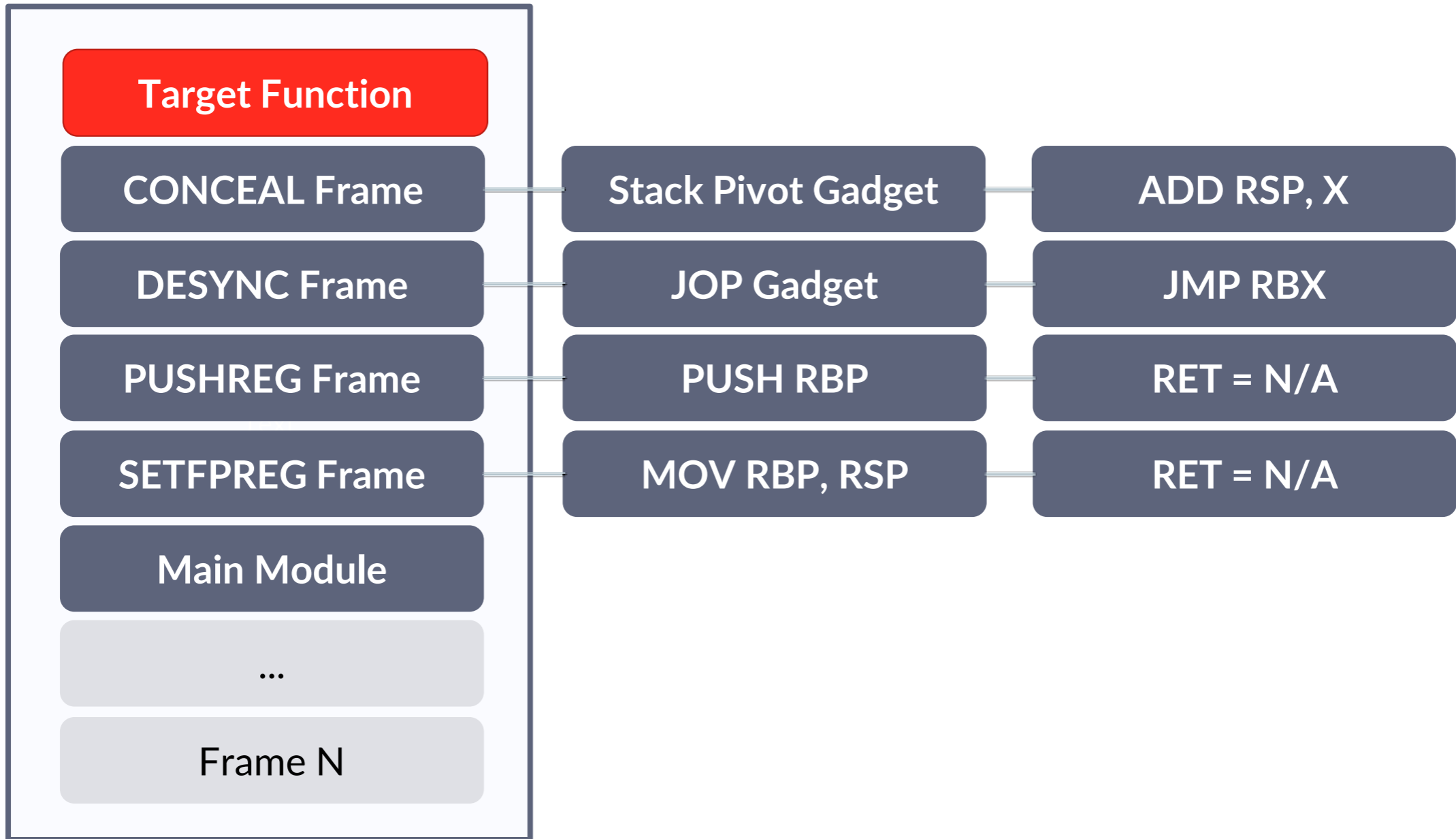
Full Moon (Walk)



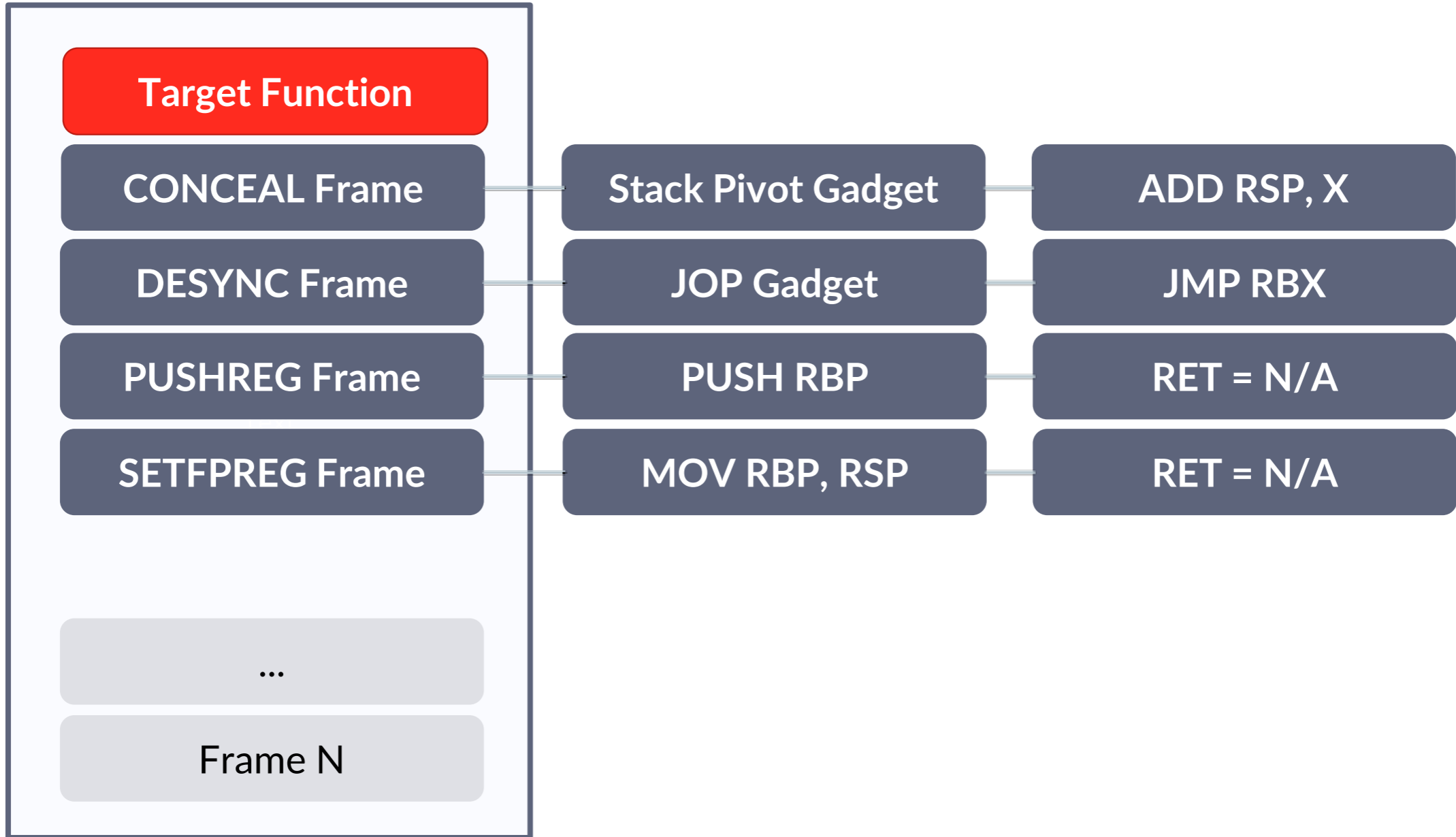
Full Moon (Walk)



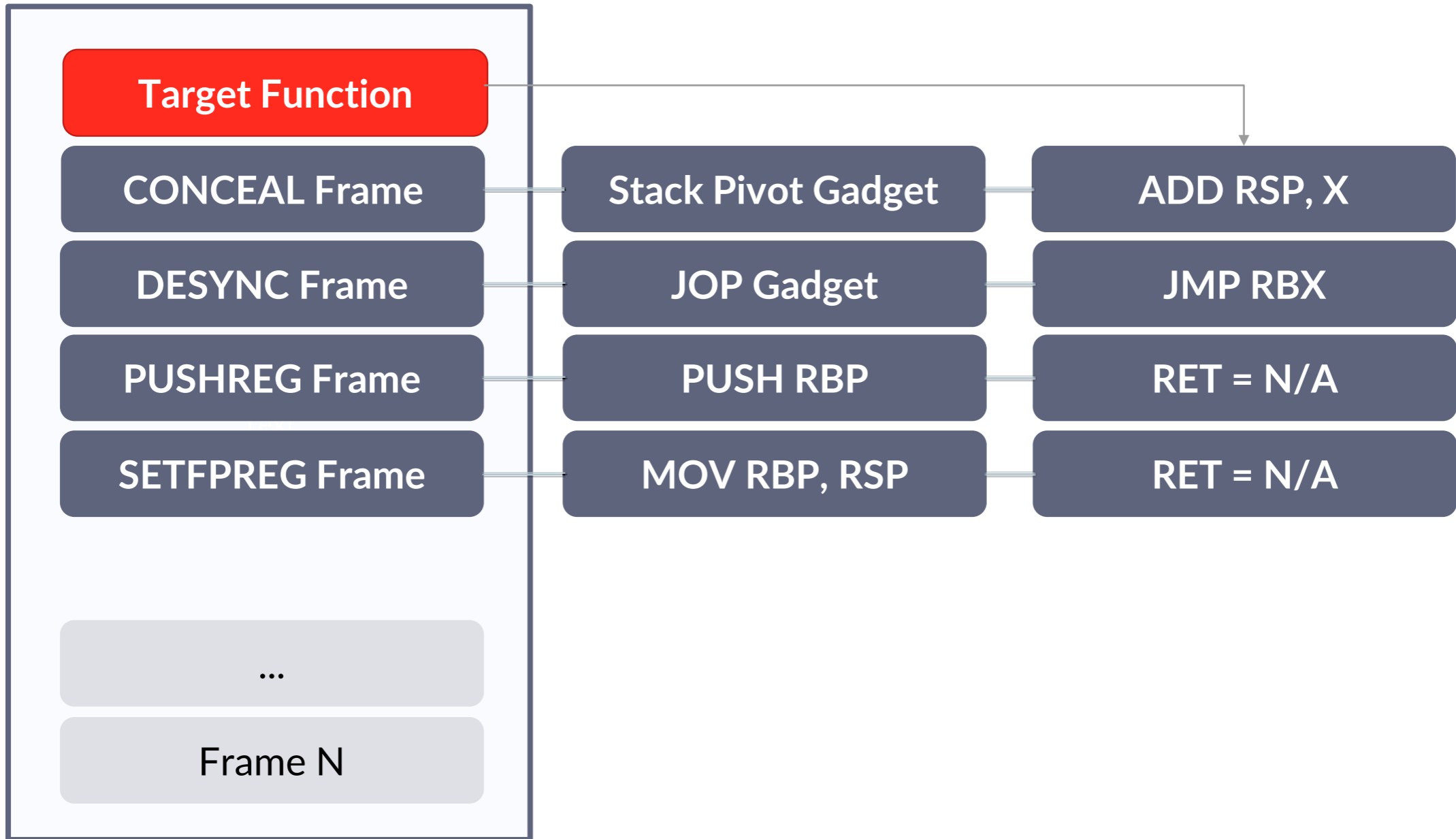
Full Moon (Walk)



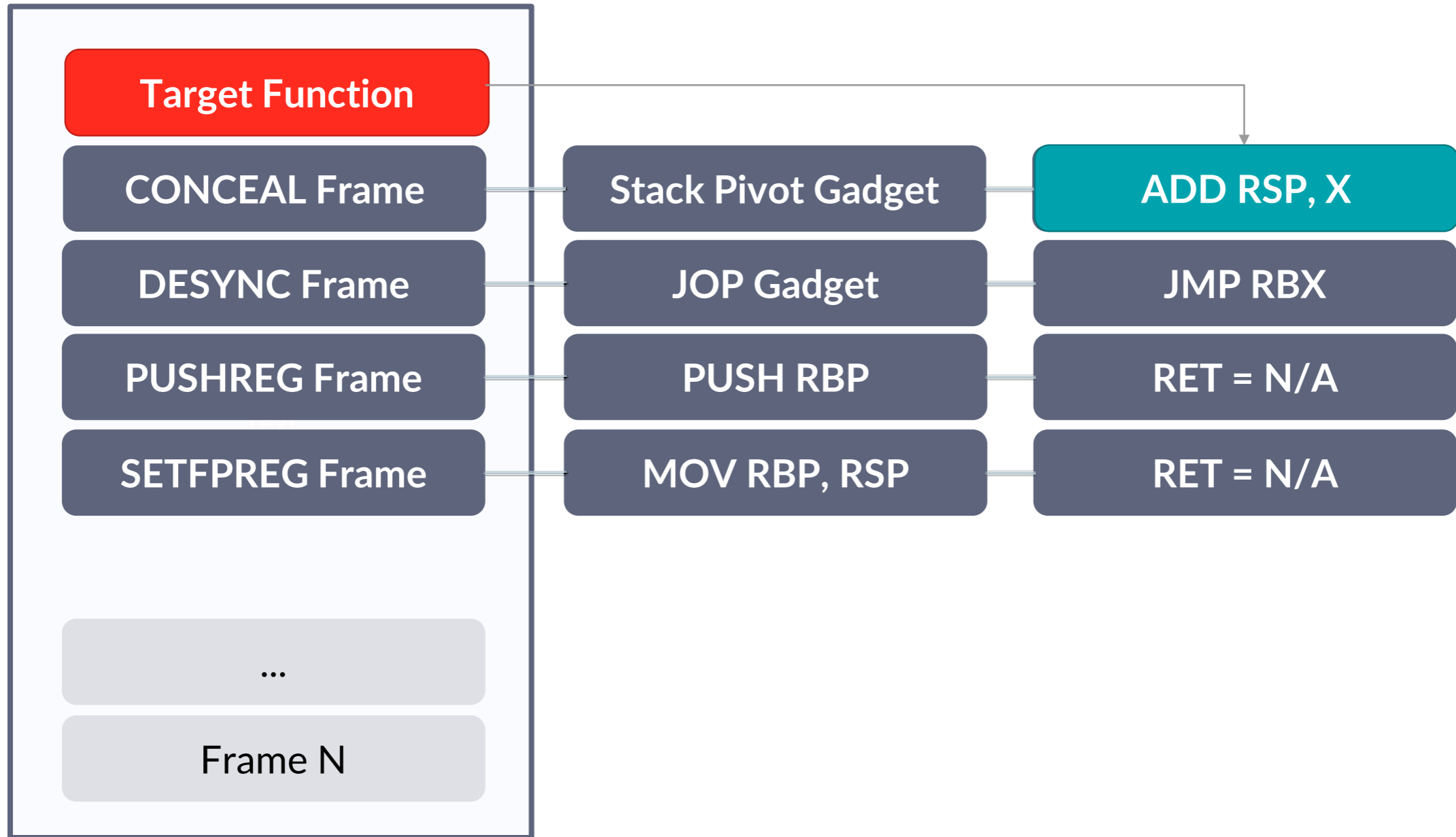
Full Moon (Walk)



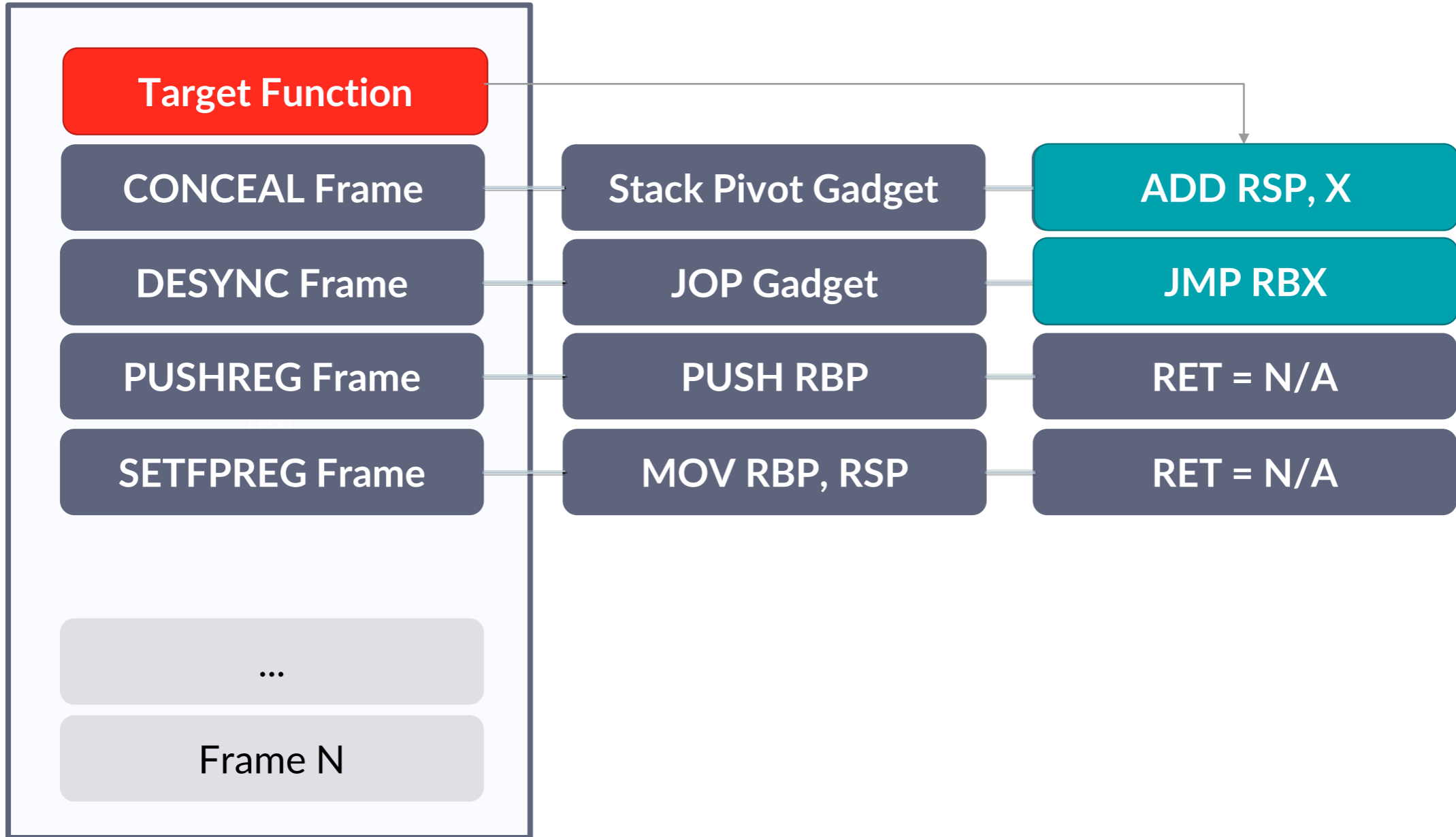
Full Moon (Walk)



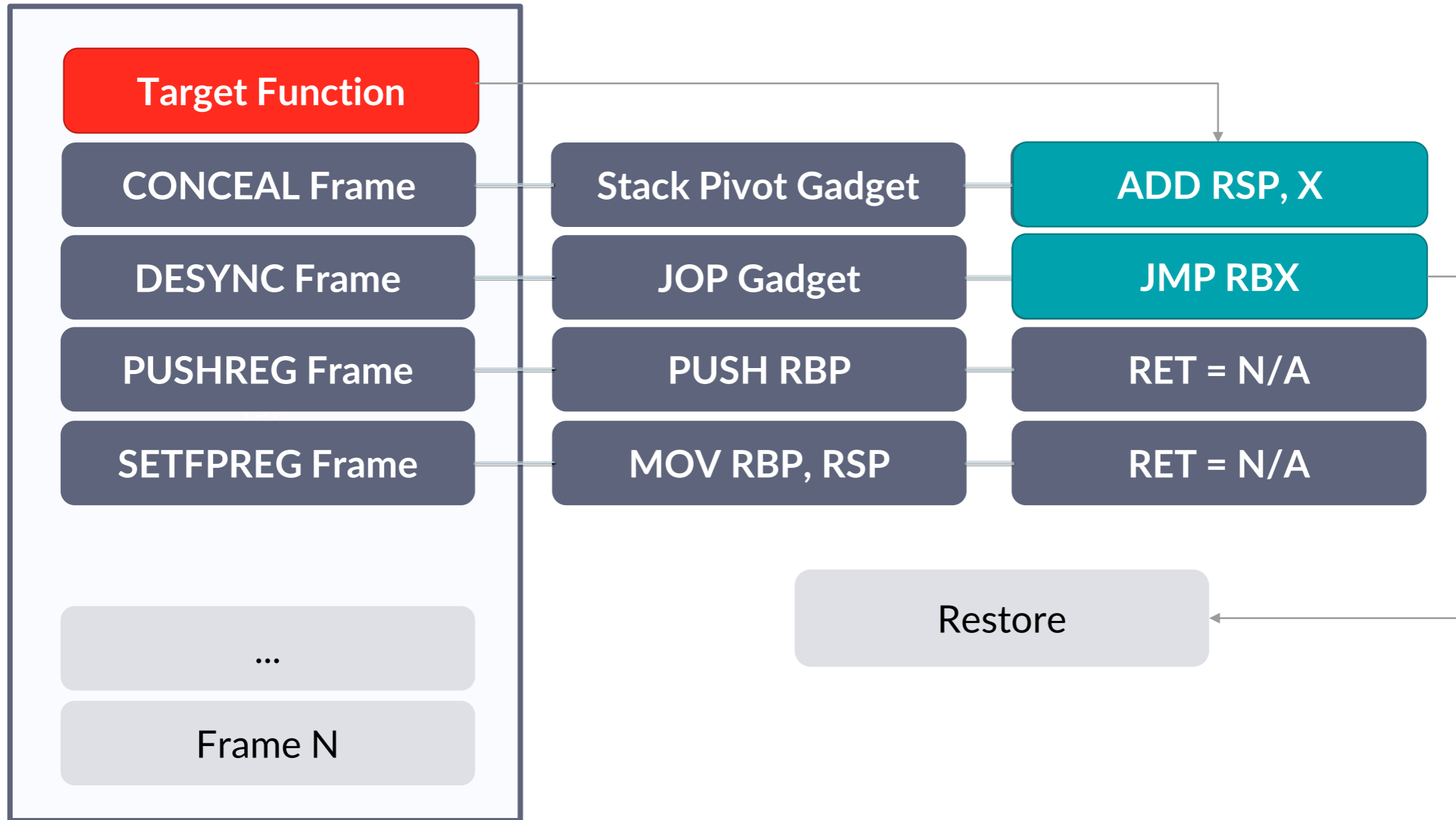
Full Moon (Walk)



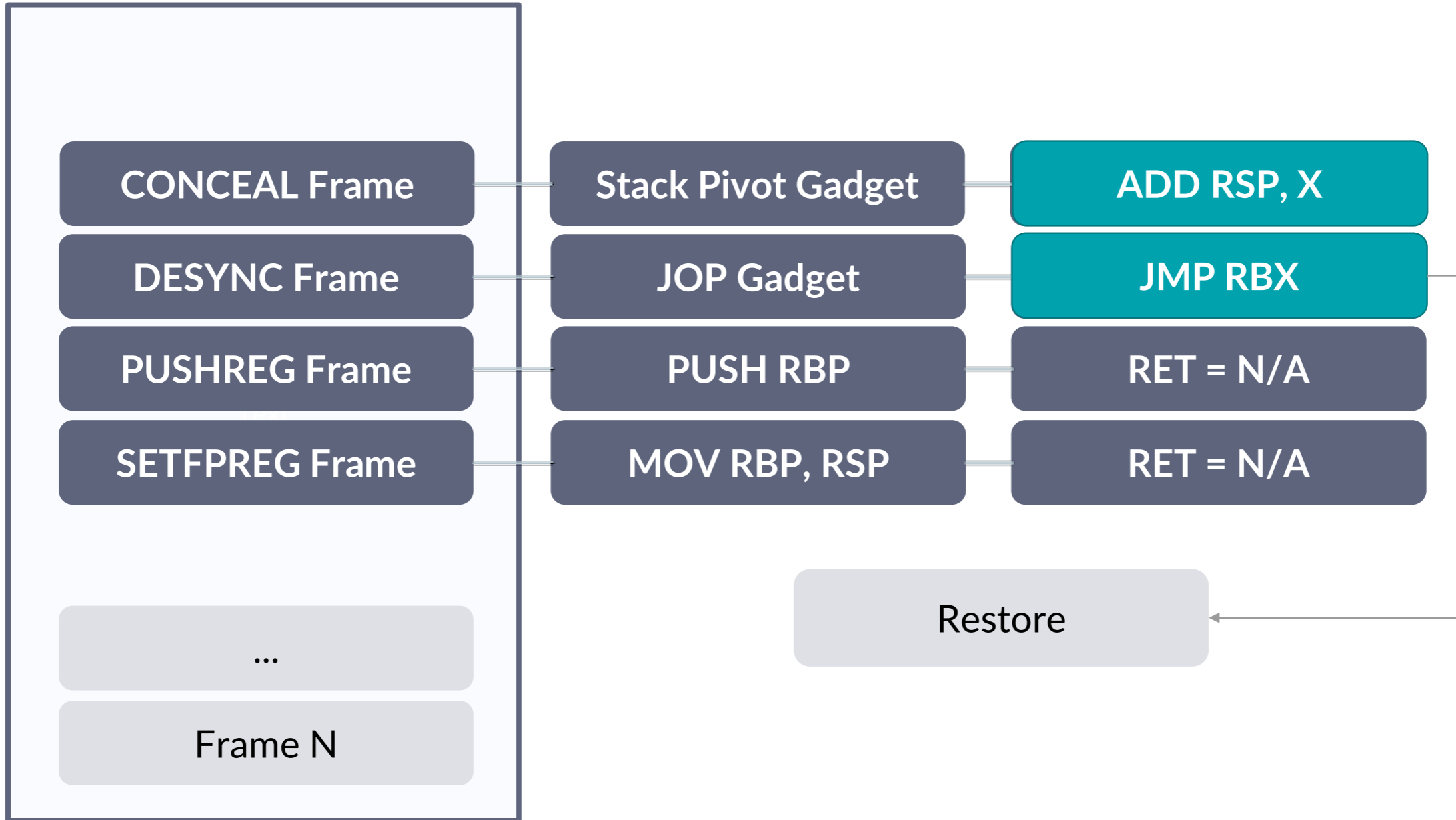
Full Moon (Walk)



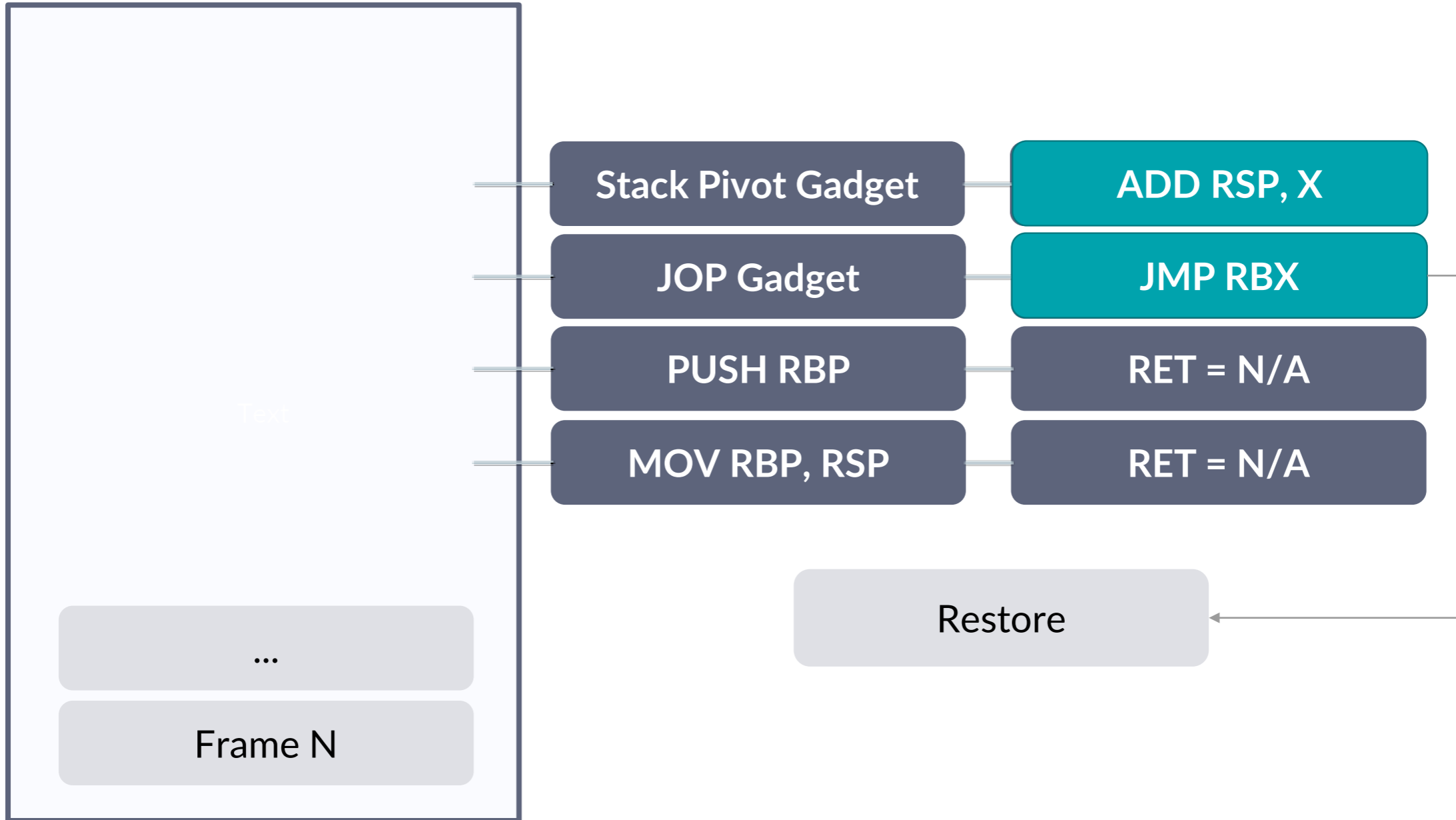
Full Moon (Walk)



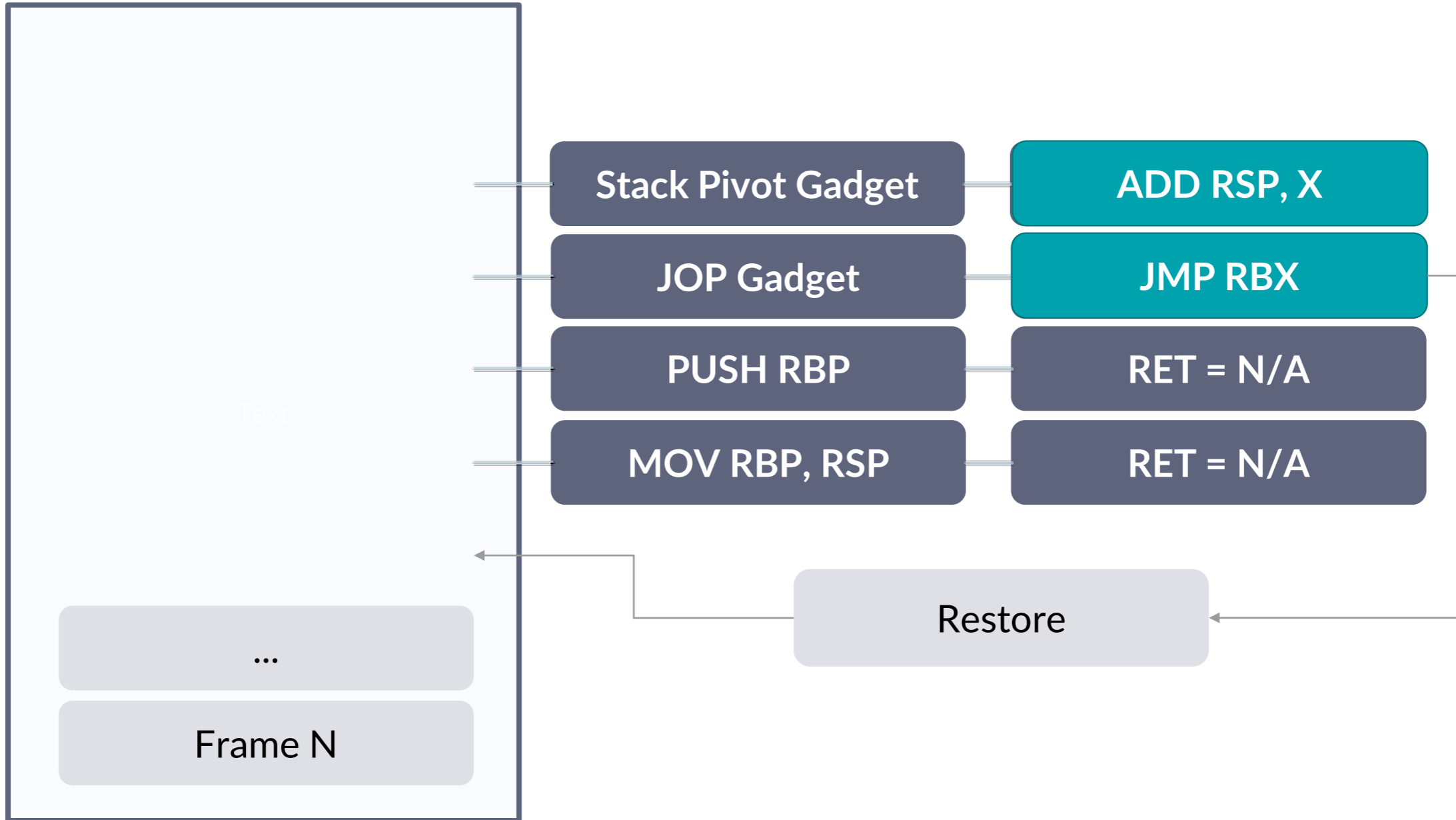
Full Moon (Walk)



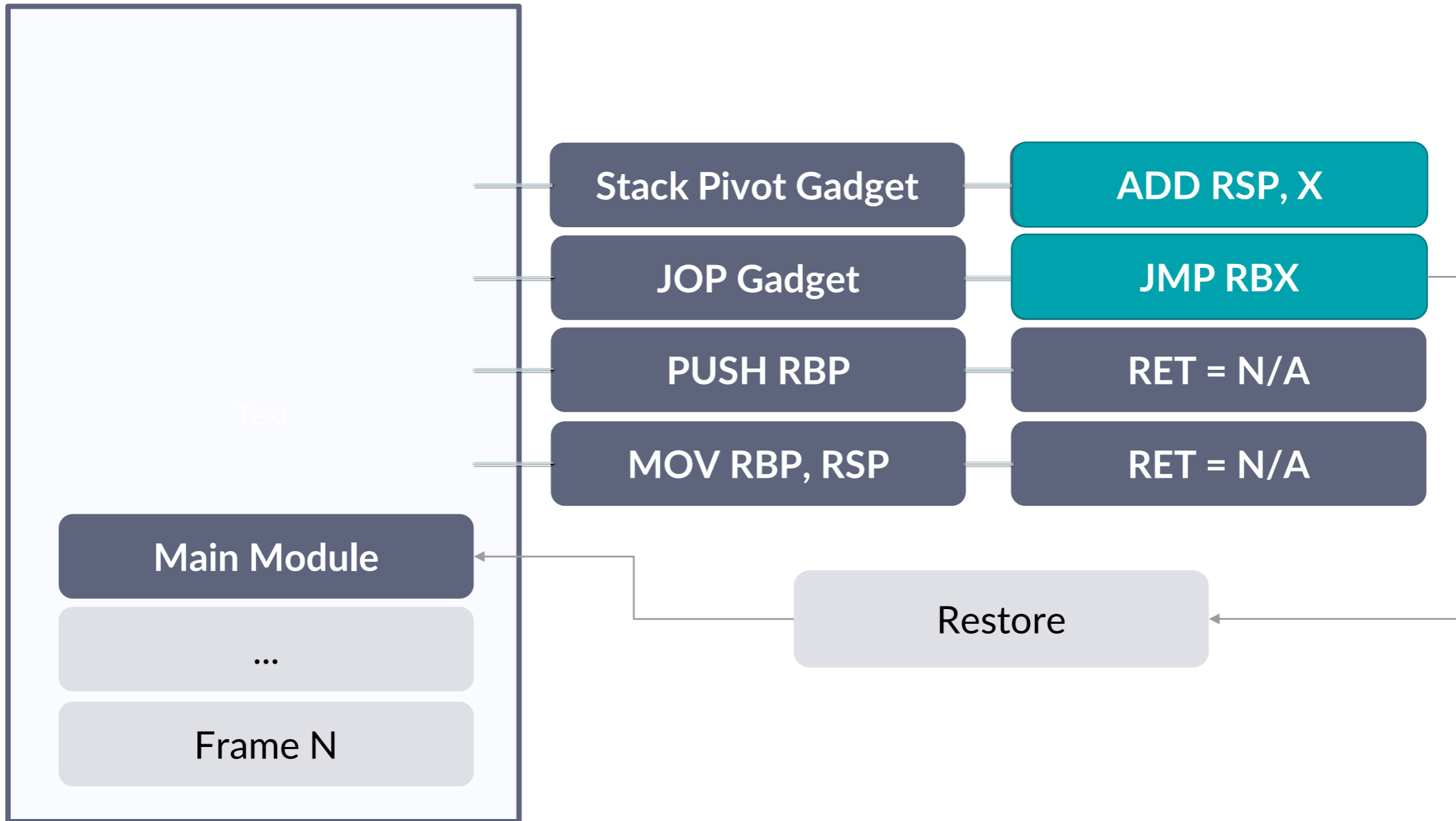
Full Moon (Walk)



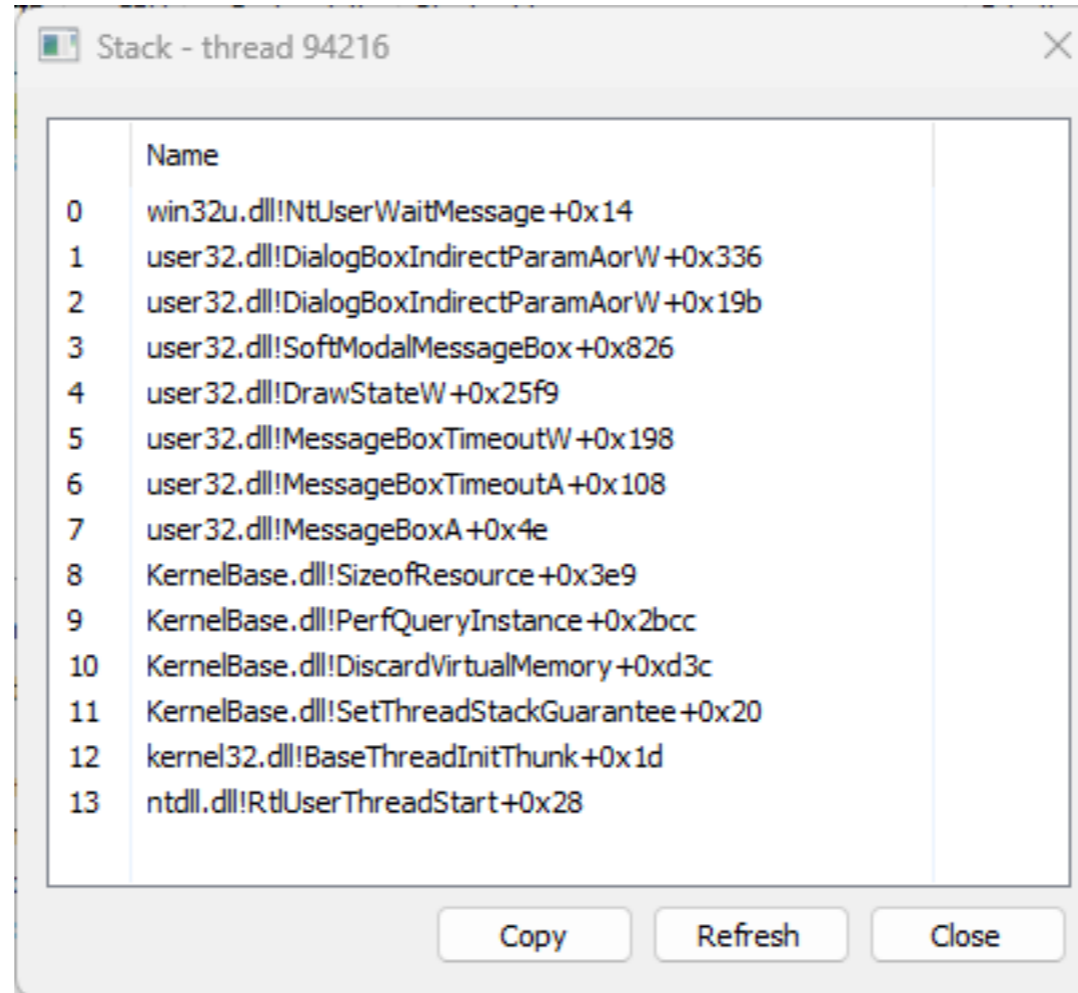
Full Moon (Walk)



Full Moon (Walk)



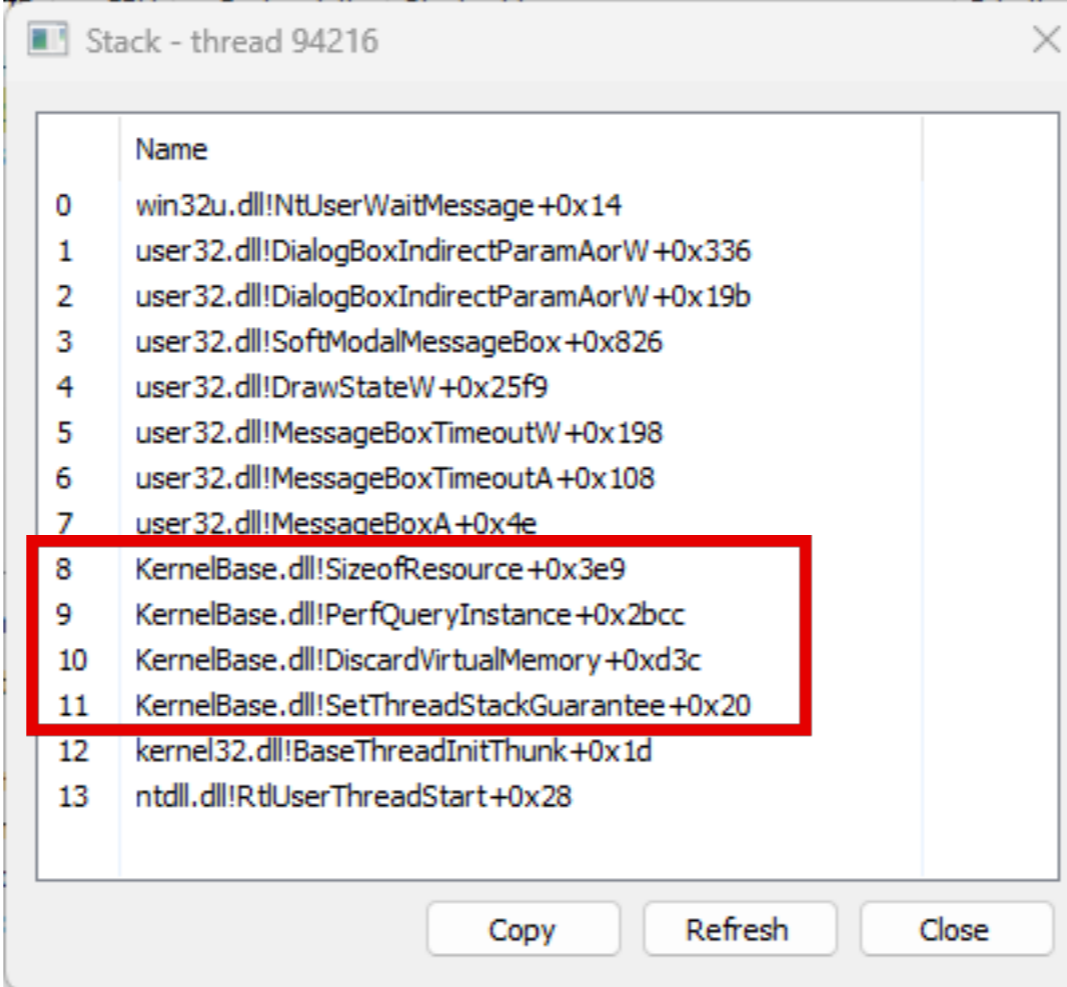
Full Moon (Walk) - Frames



	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage +0x14
1	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW +0x336
2	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW +0x19b
3	user32.dll!SoftModalMessageBox +0x826
4	user32.dll!DrawStateW +0x25f9
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW +0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA +0x108
7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA +0x4e
8	KernelBase.dll!SizeofResource +0x3e9
9	KernelBase.dll!PerfQueryInstance +0x2bcc
10	KernelBase.dll!DiscardVirtualMemory +0xd3c
11	KernelBase.dll!SetThreadStackGuarantee +0x20
12	kernel32.dll!BaseThreadInitThunk +0x1d
13	ntdll.dll!RtlUserThreadStart +0x28

Copy Refresh Close

Full Moon (Walk) - Frames



Stack - thread 94216

	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14
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2	user32.dll!DialogBoxIndirectParamAorW+0x19b
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4	user32.dll!DrawStateW+0x25f9
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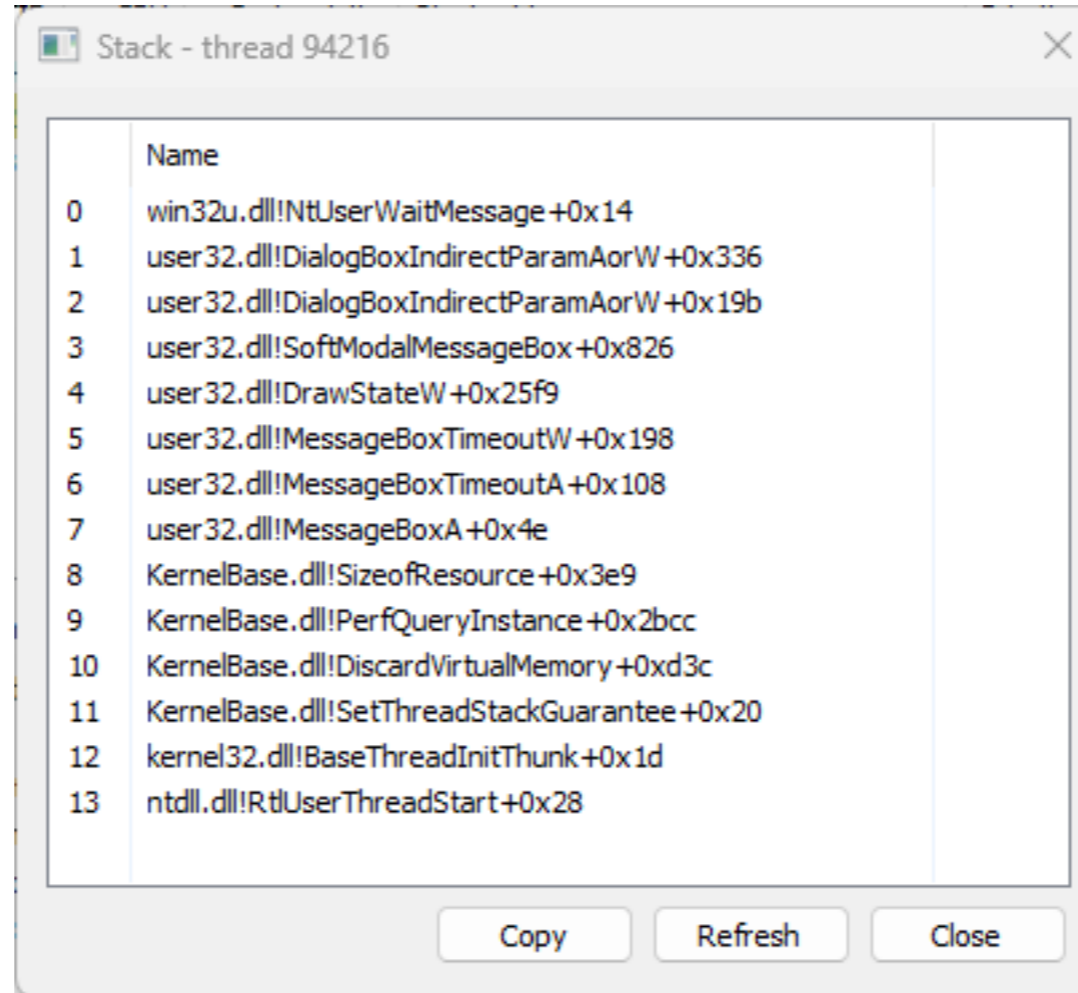
Copy Refresh Close

Detecting Spoofed Frames

Designing valid detection strategies
for moonwalking



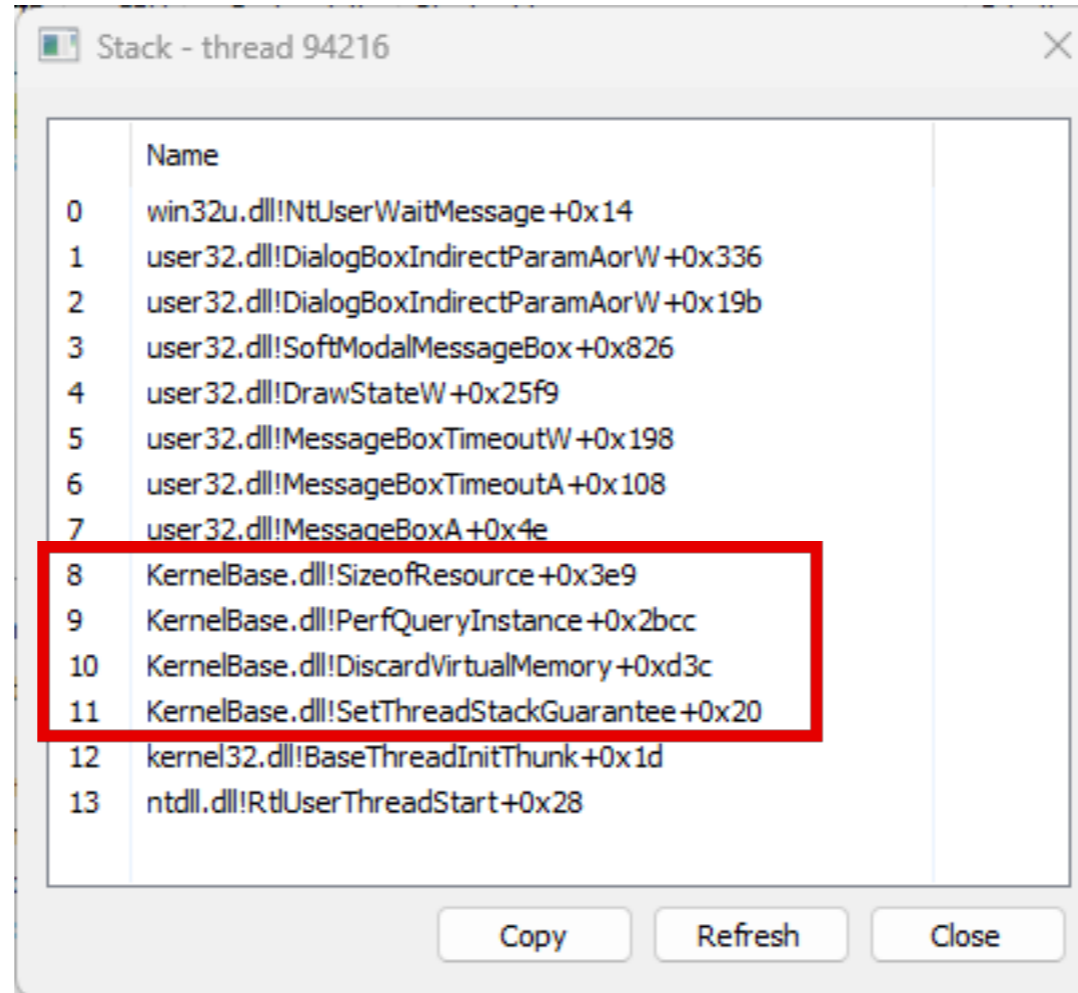
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Full Moon (Walk) - Frames



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Eclipse



Eclipse

Expected CALL Instructions

Instruction	Opcode	Length
CALL MODR/M Rex.W 1	48 FF cd	0x7
CALL MODR/M Rex.W 0	FF cd	0x6
CALL REL32	E8 cd	0x5
CALL R64	[41] FF cb	0x2 - 0x3
SYSTEM CALL	0F 05	0x2

Possible CALL instructions observable before a frame return address

Eclipse - Algorithm

Algorithm 2: Eclipse detection algorithm

Result: True if $Eclipse(f) = 0 \forall f \in s$

Input : s : Stack, $current$: Frame, $strict$: Boolean

Output: $alarm$: Integer

```
1 while  $s$  is not empty do
2   frame  $\leftarrow s.pop()$ 
3    $prev_n \leftarrow prev\_call\_instruction(frame)$ 
4    $ret_n \leftarrow instruction\_on\_return(frame)$ 
5   if frame is not backed by a file on disk then
6     | return REFLECTIVE_INJECTION_DETECTED
7   else if  $ret_n == DESYNC\_GADGET$  then
8     | return STACK_MOONWALK_DETECTED
9   else if  $prev_n \neq CALL$  then
10    | return CALL_MISMATCH_DETECTED
11  else
12    |  $address \leftarrow extract(prev_n)$ 
13    | if address does not call current  $\wedge$  strict then
14    |   | return CALL_WRONG_ADDRESS_DETECTED
15    | else
16    |   |  $current \leftarrow frame$ 
17    | end
18  end
19 return NO_ALERT;
```

Eclipse - Execution

```
Function BaseThreadInitThunk found. Stack size: 0x28 - Address: 0x7ffef88b2690
Function RtlUserThreadStart found. Stack size: 0x78 - Address: 0x7ffef988aa40
Runtime Function Table Size: 102312
Runtime Function Table Last Index: 8526
RT Function Table Range: 0x7FFEF7418000 - 0x7FFEF7430FA8
Return address: 0x244C8FFBD8
Address of Function to spoof: 0x7FFEF8176DB0
```

```
-----
Breaking at: 74
First Frame FP: 0x7FFEF70C54B4
First Frame stack size: 0x58
Return address: 0x7FFEF70C0160
Breaking at: 2
Second Frame FP: 0x7FFEF70C1470
Second Frame stack size: 0x148
Return address: 0x7FFEF70C0520
PUSH RBP offset: 0x140
Breaking at: 632
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70E4BCB
JMP [RBX] Frame Stack size: 0x168
Breaking at: 15
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70C245F
ADD RSP, X Frame Stack size: 0x38
```



Eclipse - Execution

#	Name
0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14
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4	user32.dll!MessageBoxWorker+0x341
5	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x198
6	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8	KernelBase.dll!wistd::function<long __cdecl(unsigned short *
9	KernelBase.dll!CreateFileInternal+0x34b
10	KernelBase.dll!PssQuerySnapshot+0x25
11	KernelBase.dll!QueryProcessMachine+0x82
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JMP [RBX] Frame Stack size: 0x168  
Breaking at: 15  
Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70C245F  
ADD RSP, X Frame Stack size: 0x38
```

Analyzing ThreadID: 4436

Analyzed Function Frame: CreateFileW

PC Address: 0x00007FFEF70E4BCB

Stack Address: 0x000000244C8FF820

Return Address: 0x00007FFEF70C1495

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[!] This alert was generated because a call was not observed before the return address
UNLESS this is a JIT process (such as a C Sharp Process). Then FP's are expected.
[Information] Opcode observed at return address is: 0xF1



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6	user32.dll!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0x108
7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8	KernelBase.dll!wistd::function<long __cdecl(unsigned short *
9	KernelBase.dll!CreateFileInternal+0x34b
10	KernelBase.dll!PssQuerySnapshot+0x25
11	KernelBase.dll!QueryProcessMachine+0x82
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7	user32.dll!MessageBoxA+0x4e
8	KernelBase.dll!wistd::function<long __cdecl(unsigned short *
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[Information] Opcode observed at return address is: 0xF1

Analyzed Function Frame: PssQuerySnapshot

PC Address: 0x00007FFEF70C1495

Stack Address: 0x000000244C8FF990

Return Address: 0x00007FFEF70C5536

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[!] This alert was generated because a call was not observed before the return address

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[Information] Opcode observed at return address is: 0x0F

PUSH RBP offset: 0x140

Breaking at: 632

Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70E4BCB

JMP [RBX] Frame Stack size: 0x168

Breaking at: 15

Gadget Address: 0x7FFEF70C245F

ADD RSP, X Frame Stack size: 0x38

OK

Eclipse - Execution

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0	win32u.dll!NtUserWaitMessage+0x14
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Eclipse – False Positives

Machine	Processes Count	Alerts	False Positive Rate
Windows 10 Pro (std)	190	2	1.05%
Windows 10 Pro (dev)	350	15	4.29%
Windows 11 Enterprise (std)	176	4	2.27%
Windows 11 Enterprise (dev)	330	12	3.64%
Windows Server 2019	160	5	3.13%

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bsi.

Towards the future

Additional research avenues and where to find them



bsi.

Key Takeaways



- 01 Public POC:
<https://github.com/klezVirus/SilentMoonwalk>
- 02 This POC is designed to obfuscate the stack at runtime
- 03 For sleep obfuscation an approach like Stack Hiding or Stack Cloning is preferred
- 04 It is possible to use other JOP/COP/ROP gadgets
- 05 It is possible to create chains of different length by inserting stack pivot frames
- 06 It is difficult but not impossible to create completely valid call stacks

Unanswered Questions

1

How would I use this technique within an implant?

2

Is it possible to integrate the technique with other advanced evasion techniques?

3

Is it possible to bypass Eclipse detection strategy?

4

What about Intel CET/AMD Shadow Stack?
Would it prevent the technique?



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21ST OF OCTOBER 2023, BERGAMO - ITALY

Thanks!