The Legend Of Random



Programming and Reverse Engineering



R4ndom's Tutorial #12: A Tougher NOOBy Example

by R4ndom on Jul.09, 2012, under Beginner, Reverse Engineering, Tutorials

Introduction

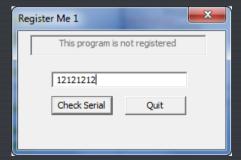
In this tutorial we will be going over a program that's a little more challenging. It is called ReverseM1, written by R4ndom. I will also be discussing the plugin "Ascii Table" for Olly. It is downloadable on the tools page. This ReverseMe is a perfect example of why the LAME way of patching is often just that-lame.

Getting Started

Go ahead and run the program:

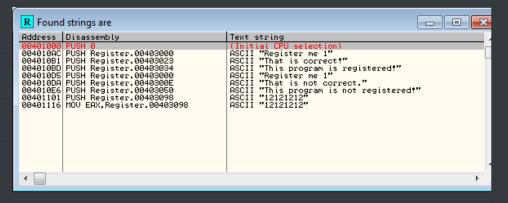


We can see that it says it is not registered and is asking for a serial number. Let's give it one:



and click "Check Serial":





Well, that looks promising. Let's check out the "That is not correct" string:

```
C9
C2 1000
6A 00
68 00304000
68 23304000
6A 00
6B 23904000
68 34304000
FF35 94304000
FF35 94304000
                                                                                              LEAVE
                                                                                                          10
  04010A7
004010H7
004010AA
004010AC
004010B1
004010B6
004010B8
004010BD
004010C2
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          tyle = MB_OK!MB_APPLMODAL
itle = "Register me 1"
ext = "That is correct!"
Owner = NULL
                             Ēέ
                                                                                                           Register.00403000
Register.00403023
                                                                                                          u
KUMP.‱user32.MessageBoxA>
Register.00403034
3EO
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          lessageBoxA
ext = "This program is registered!"
ontrolID = 3ED (1005.)
Whod = 00030368 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
etDlgitenTextA
                                                                                                          SEU
DWORD PTR DS:[403094]
<mark>KJMP.&user32.SetDlgItemTextA></mark>
                                       FF35 94304000

E8 BA000000

C3

6A 00

68 00304000

6A 00

E8 A0000000

E8 A0000000

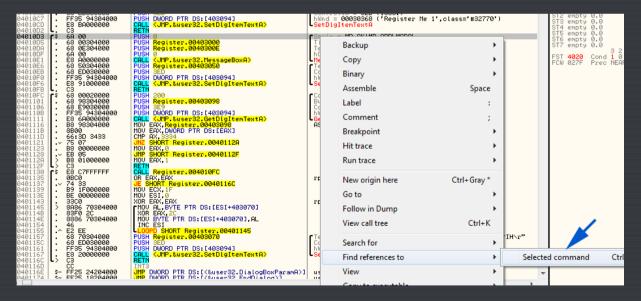
6B ED030000

FF35 94304000

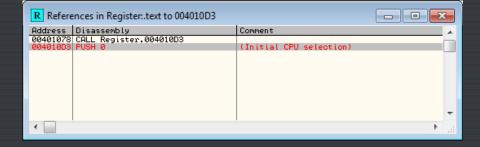
E8 91000000

C3
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Style = MB_OK:MB_APPLMODAL
Title = "Register me 1"
Text = "That is not correct."
hOwner = NULL
MessageBoxA
Text = "This program is not registered!"
ControlID = 3ED (1005.)
hUnd = 00030368 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
                             Ē$
                                                                                                          Register.00403000
Register.0040300E
004010DA
                                                                                                          u
<uMP.&user32.MessageBoxA>
Register.00403050
                                                                                                          SED
DWORD PTR DS:[403094]
<mark>KUMP.&user32.SetDlgItemTextA></mark>
                                       F735 94364600
E3 910000000
C3 00020000
68 08304000
68 E9030000
F735 94304000
E3 64000000
B3 98304000
B800
66:30 3433
75 07
 004010FB
004010FC
004010FC
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Count = 200 (512.)
Buffer = Register.00403098
ControlID = 3E9 (1001.)
hWnd = 00030368 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
                                                                                                            200
                                                                                                          Register.00403098
                                                                                                          DWORD PTR DS: [403094]
   040110B
                                                                                                       CMP. wser32.GetD|gltemTextA>
EAX, Register.00403098
EAX, DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       GetDlgItemTextA
ASCII "12121212"
```

and we come to the heart of the matter. Because each of these are separate methods, we will need to see where they are called from, so let's do that:



and Olly opens the References window:



and we see that there is one call to this function. Let's double-click that and see what it looks like:

```
CALL Register.004010FC
OR EAX,EAX
UNZ SHORT Register.00401078
CALL Register.004010AP
CALL Register.004010AP
CALL Register.004010A
CALL Register.004010A
CALL Register.004010A
CALL Register.004010A
CALL Register.004010A
CALL Register.004010A
CALL Register.004010AA
CALL Register.004010AA
CALL REGISTER.004010AA
CALL REGISTER.004010AA
CALL REGISTER.004010AA
PUSH 0
CALL CAMP.&user32.EndDialog
UNE SHORT Register.004010AA
CALL REGISTER.004010AA
CALL REGISTER.004010AA
                                                       rpert4.75081890
 00401060
   0401071
00401078
00401086
00401088
0040108A
0040108D
00401092
00401094
00401098
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Result = 0
hWnd = 0252006C
EndDialog
                                                                                                                                    CMP LHMS,2],0

JM2 SHORT Register.004010A4

PUSH 0

PUSH (ARG.1)

CALL (JMP.&user32.EndDialog)

XOR EAX, EAX

LEAVE

RETN 10

PUSH 0

PUSH 8egister.00403000

PUSH Register.00403033

PUSH 0

JMP.&user32.MessageBoxF

PUSH 8egister.00403034

PUSH 8egister.00403034

PUSH 3ED

PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[403094]

PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[403094]

PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[403094]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Result = 0
hWnd = 0252006C
EndDialog
rpcrt4.75CB1B9C
   9040109A
9040109A
9040109C
9040109F
304019A4
304019A6
304019A7
304019AA
304019AB
304019BB
304019BB
304019BB
304019BB
004019C2
004019C2
004019C2
004019C2
004019D2
004019D3
004019D3
004019D4
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            Style = MB_OK!MB_APPLMODAL
Title = "Register me 1"
Text = "That is correct!"
hOwner = NULL
                                        ....
                                                                                                                                                         0
Register.00403000
Register.00403023
0
(JMP.&user32.MessageBoxA)
Register.00403034
SED
DWORD PTR DS:[403094]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | MessageBoxA
| Text = "This program is registered!"
| ControlID = 3ED (1005.)
| hWnd = 000300368 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
| SetDlgItemTextA
                                                                                                                                                             <JMP.&user32.SetDlgItemTextA>
                                                                                                                                      CALL
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
CALL
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Style = MB_OK!MB_APPLMODAL
Title = "Register me 1"
Text = "That is not correct."
hOwner = NULL
MessageBoxA
Text = "This program is not registered†"
ControlID = 3ED (1005.)
hUnd = 00030368 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
SetDlgItemTextA
                                                                                                                                                           Register.00403000
Register.0040300E
                                                                                                                                                          Register.0040300E

0

(JMP.&user32.MessageBoxA)

Register.00403050

3E0
 004010E6
004010EB
004010F0
004010F6
004010FB
004010FC
00401101
                                                                                                                                                           DWORD PTR DS:[403094]

KUMP.&user32.SetDlgItemTextA>
                                                                                                                                      CALL
RETN
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Count = 200 (512.)
Buffer = Register.00403098
ControlID = 359 (1001.)
hUnd = 00030368 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
GetDlgltemTextA
ASCII "12121212"
                                        44 . . . . . . .
                                                                                                                                                           Register.00403098
                                                                                                                                                     H 3E9

+ DWORD PTR DS:[403094]

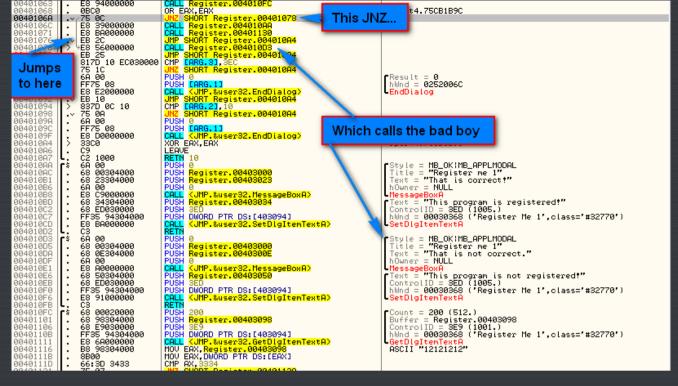
- Cultp.&user32.GetDlgItemTextA>
EAX.Register.00403098

EAX.DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]
AX.3334

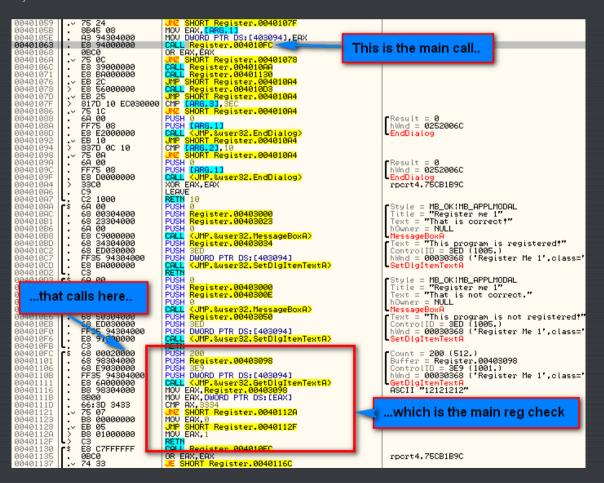
SHORT Register.0040112A

EOX.6
   040110B
                                                                                                                                     MOV
MOV
CMP
 00401116
0040111B
      9491
```

Here, we can see that the bad boy is called from address 401078, and we can also immediately see that there is a jump instruction that jumps to this call at address 40106A:



Scrolling up a couple lines we can see the proverbial call to check routine/compare/jump that we've seen before. From this we can guess that the main checking routine is at 4010FC, called from address 401063. After returning, the EAX register is checked if it contains zero or not, and if it doesn't, we jump to the bad boy.



```
MOV DWORD PTR Ds:[403094],EAX CALL Register.004010FC OR EAX,EAX JNZ SHORT Register.00401078 CALL Register.004010AA CALL Register.0040110A JMP SHORT Register.004010A4 CALL Register.004010A4 PUSH 0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          A3 94304000
E8 94000000
0BC0
                                                                                                                                           ES 25 00 EB 25 0 EB 25 0 EB 26 0 EB 26
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             UNZ SHORT REP
PUSH 0
PUSH (IRRG.11
CALL (JMP.&user32.EndDialog)
JMP SHORT Register.00401004
CMP (IRRG.21,10
UNZ SHORT Register.00401004
0040108D
```

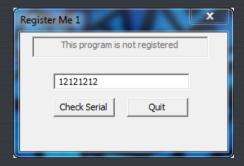
Now let's help Olly in the right direction so he won't take the jump (and fall through to the call to the good boy):



and hit run:



Yeah, that was easy!! Click OK and:



Oh F%\$@ that S&*@, what the F\$^& is going on here, you A\$\$\$%^#!!!!! Obviously it didn't register our program. This means that there must be something we missed.

Let's re-start the app, enter a serial and let Olly break again at 40106A:

```
0BC0

0BC0

775 0C

E8 39000000

E8 BA000000

EB 25

E8 25

817D 10 EC03

75 1C

6A 00

FF75 08
                                                                                                                                               OR EAX, EAX
UNZ SHORT Register.00401078
CALL Register.004010A0
CALL Register.004010A0
UNP SHORT Register.004010A0
UNP SHORT Register.004010A0
CMP [PARG.3], SEC
UNZ SHORT Register.004010A4
PISH 0
0040107:
004010
                                                                                     ĭ10 EC030000
```

We see that if we keep Olly from making the jump to the bad boy, execution falls through to the call at line 40106C, which will call address 4010AA. Looking down at that routine, we can see that it is pretty standard; it opens a message box with "That is correct" and then changes the label on the main screen to

"This program is registered!".

```
OR EAX EAX
UNG SHORT Register 00401078
CALL Register 0040109A
CALL Register 00401130
UNF SHORT Register 00401130
UNF SHORT Register 00401004
UNF SHORT Register 00401004
UNF SHORT Register 00401004
UNF SHORT Register 00401004
                                                                                                     0BC0
                                                                                                                          0C
39000000
BA000000
                                                                                                  E8 BA000000
EB 2C
E8 56000000
EB 25
817D 10 EC030000
75 1C
6A 00
FF75 08
E8 E2000000
                 4010
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Uniz SHORI Deg.

PUSH 0

PUSH (RRG.1)

CALL (JMP.&user32.EndDialog)

JMP SHORT Register.004010A4

CMP (LARG.2),10

JMZ SHORT Register.004010A4
        0401086
       30401088
30401088
3040108A
3040108D
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             Result = 0
hWhd = 000503B2 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
EndDialog
                                                                                                  E8 E2000000
EB 10
837D 0C 10
75 0A
6A 00
FF75 08
E8 D0000000
33C0
C9
C2 1000
        0401092
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  UNZ SHORT Register.004010A4
PUSH 0
PUSH [ARG.1]
CALL (UMP.&user32.EndDialog)
XOR EAX,EAX
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Result = 0
| hWnd = 000503B2 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
| EndDialog
        0401090
     0040109C
0040109F
004010A4
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  EAUE TO THE TO T
                 40100
                                                                                                  C9 1000
6A 00
6B 00304000
6B 20304000
6A 00
6B 00
6B 2900000
6B 24304000
6B ED030000
FF35 94304000
ES BA000000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     LEAUE
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Style = MB_OK!MB_APPLMODAL
Title = "Register me 1"
Text = "That is correct!"
hOwner = NULL
MessageBoxA
Text = "This program is registered!"
ControlID = SED (1005.)
hUnd = 000503B2 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
SetDlgItemTextA
004010AA rs
                 4010R1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Register.00403023
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    KUMP.&user32.MessageBoxA>
Register.00403034
3ED
       004010BD
        10401
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       DWORD PTR DS:[403094]

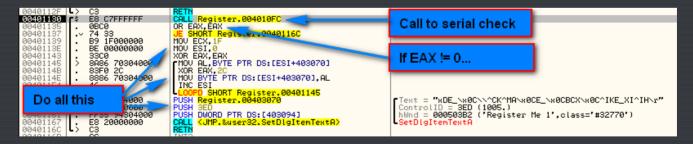
KUMP.&user32.SetDlgItemTextA>
```

But wait! Once we return from that call, there is another call at 401071:

```
OR EAX, EAX
OR SHORT Register.00401078
00401068
                                                                                     OR EAX,EAX
JNZ SHORT Register.00401078
CALL Register.004010AB
CALL Register.004010AB
CALL Register.00401130
JMP SHORT Register.004010AU
CALL Register.004010AU
UMP SHORT Register.004010AU
CAP [ARS.3],3EC
UMZ SHORT Register.004010A4
0040106C
00401071
                                                                                   UNIZ SHUNI
PUSH 0
PUSH [ARG.1]
CPLL (JMP.%user32.EndDialog)
JMP SHORT Register.004010A4
CMP [ARG.2],10
UNIZ SHORT Register.004010A4
                                                                                                                                                                                                               Result = 0
hWnd = 000503B2 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
EndDialog
      9491992
   00401094
00401094
00401098
0040109A
                                                                                     JNZ SHORT Register,004010A4
PUSH 0
PUSH [ARG.1]
CALL (JMP.&wser32.EndDialog)
XOR EAX, EAX
LEAVE
                                                                                                                                                                                                              Result = 0
hWnd = 000503B2 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
EndDialog
  0040109A
0040109C
0040109F
004010A4
004010A6
004010A7
004010AC
004010B6
004010B6
004010B8
004010B8
004010B8
                              ;
                                                                                     RETN 10
PUSH 0
PUSH Res
PUSH Res
PUSH 0
                                                                                                  16
0
Register.00403000
Register.00403023
                                                                                                                                                                                                               Style = MB_OK!MB_APPLMODAL
Title = "Register me 1"
Text = "That is correct!"
hOwner = NULL
                           .....
                                                                                                   CJMP.&user32.MessageBoxA>
Register.00403034
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     eboxH
"This program is registered!"
|| ID = 3ED (1005.)
| 000503B2 ('Register Me 1',class='#32770')
    004010C2
004010C7
004010CD
004010D2
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ControlID
                                                                                                  DWORD PTR DS:[403094]

KJMP.&user32.SetDlgItemTextA>
                                                                                     CALL KUMP.&user32.Setu
RETN
PUSH 0
PUSH Register.00403000
                           ۲۶
                                                                                                                                                                                                               Style = MB_OK!MB_APPLMODAL
Title = "Register me 1"
```

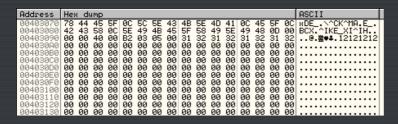
That call calls 401130, so let's have a look-see at that routine. First of all, we notice that it calls SetDlgItemTextA, but with a strange looking string. Let's step through this line by line. At 401130 a call is made to address 4010FC. Looking above at this we can see that this is the serial check routine. It then OR's EAX with itself to see if it's zero, and if it is not, it performs a lot of weird looking stuff:



So what we can gather from this so far is that, after we patch the app to display the good boy message, another call is made, and within this call, a call is made to the check serial routine again, performing the same analysis on the results. This is a backup check! Now let's see what happens if we fail this second backup check (which we will since we only patched the jump):

First, ECX is loaded with 1F (31 decimal) ** Sorry, it's a little cut off**. ESI is then loaded with zero and EAX is zeroed out. We then enter a loop. We'll go through the loop step-by-step. The first line moves a byte from an address, ESI + 403070, and since we know ESI equals zero, the address is actually just

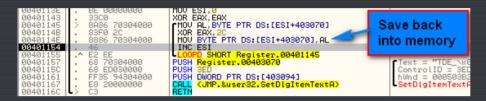
403070, into the AL register. Let's see what's at this address in the dump. Either right click and select Follow in dump -> constant or just click in the dump window and select goto and type in the address 403070:



If we look carefully, we can see that this is the string that appeared above in the argument to SetDlgTextItemA. So it is loading the first character of this weird looking string into AL.

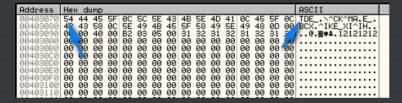
*** One thing you should know is that in a lot of assembly language instructions, certain registers are used in default ways, for example ECX is used as a counter, ESI is used as a source address, and EDI is used as a destination. This is the case in this example.***

Next, we XOR this character with 2C, then save it back into the same memory address:

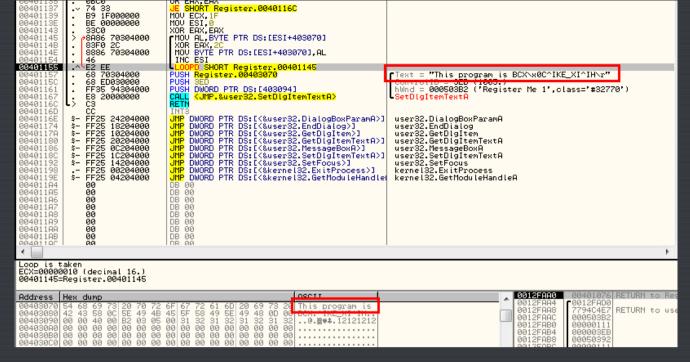


Lastly, we increment ESI (the source register) and do a LOOPD. LOOPD means lower the ECX register by one and loop until ECX equals zero. This tells us that the value that was loaded into ECX originally, 31 decimal, is the length of this loop.

From a big picture, this loop is basically cycling through each character of this weird string, XOR-ing it with 2C, and saving it back into memory. This will go on until ECX equals zero, or 31 times. Single step once past the LOOPD instruction to go back up to the top and look in the dump window:



You will notice that the first digit of this string has been replaced. The original character was XOR'ed and now it is a "T". If you step through this loop several times, you will see the dump window's string change. You will also see the argument for the SetDlqltemTextA change as well:



Stepping completely through the loop, we can see the final message, which looks surprisingly familiar; "This program is not registered!". This is the same message displayed on the main screen showing that the app is in fact not registered yet:

```
| SSC | SSC
```

You can see that this string then becomes a value passed to the SetDlgltemTextA routine, in effect replacing the registered message that was put up at the end of the good boy with a copy of the unregistered message that was there before:

```
| May | May
```

And here we see it in the main app:



So now we know that the smarter way to patch this app is to go into the serial check and make sure it always returns the right value, as it's called not only as the first check, but also after the success screen is displayed. Just to remind you, the call to the serial check is called, then eax is tested for zero. If it's not a zero, we jump to the bad boy- so we want that routine to return a zero! Then, the second time the serial check routine is called, it will return a zero again, and our second check will be passed:

```
Call to serial check

08401059
08401058
08401058
08401058
08401058
08401068
08401068
08401068
08401068
08401060
08401060
08401060
08401060
08401060
08401060
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401076
08401078

Jump to bad boy

Jump to bad boy
```

So let's go to the serial checking routine and see what we can do about it. At the beginning of the routine is a call to GetDlgItemTextA, as we could guess just get's our entered serial. You can see this by right clikcing on the argument at address 401101 (that points to the buffer that the text will be placed in) and following it in the dump:

```
| Section | Color | Co
```

After we step over the GetDlgItemTextA instruction, we can see our serial in the buffer:

```
Address Hex dump
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ASCII
                                         31
00
00
00
00
00
00
00
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        12121212.....
                                                       32
99
99
99
99
99
99
                                                                    31
00
00
00
00
00
00
00
                                                                                                                                                                       00
00
00
00
00
00
00
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                                                                                                                                                                                    00
00
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99
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99
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```

After it is stored in the buffer, the address of the beginning of the buffer is moved into EAX, and then the contents of this address are moved into EAX. This basically moves the first four bytes of our password into EAX. These bytes are then compared with 3334, and if they don't match, EAX is filled with a 1 (bad), otherwise, if they do match, EAX is stored with a zero (good):

We can see that the main decission maker is the JNZ instruction at address 401121:

This line determines whether EAX will equal zero or 1 right before the return. So what we want to do is guarantee that EAX will always equal zero:

```
68 ED030000
FF35 94304000
E3 910000000
C3
68 000200000
68 E90300000
FF35 94304000
E8 6A000000
B8 98304000
B8 98304000
66:3D 3433
                                                                                                                                                      ControlID = 3ED (1005.)
hWnd = 003B0D44 ('Register Me 1',class='#3
                                                                      DWORD PTR DS:[403094]
  004010FB
004010FC
                                                                                                                       Assemble at 00401122
  0401101
0401106
040110B
                                                                       Register.00403098
                                                              PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[403094]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ▼
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       #3
                                                             CALL KUMP.&user32.GetDlgIt
MOV EAX,Register.00403098
MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]
CMP AX,3334
  30401111
                                                                                                                          Fill with NOP's
                                                                                                                                                                                         Assemble
00401121
00401122
                                                                                                                                                                                                                Cancel
                           B8 0
E8 0
C3
E8 C
0BC0
                                                             MOV EAX,0

JMP SHORT

MOV EAX,1
                                 00000000
                                                                                 Register.0040112F
                                 05
01000000
                                                             RETN
CALL Register.004010FC
OR EAX,EAX
                                 C7FFFFF
```

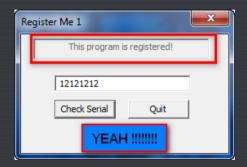
So now, the code will always fall through to moving zero into EAX and then jumping directly to the return. Now running the app:



and noticing that after the call to the serial check, we naturally jump to the goodboy:



and on the second check we will jump to the good boy as well:



So we have now found one patch that will register this program, no matter what the serial entered is. $\stackrel{(2)}{=}$. Congratulations.

ASCII Table Plugin

One thing you should do is try to find out what the password is (or what the requirements are for it). To help you, download and install the "Ascii Table" plugin and copy it into your plugin directory. After restarting, choose "Plugins" -> "Ascii table" and show the table. Even though it leaves a lot to be desired, it does give you a quick table of all ASCII values:

AS	SCII Ta	able	•	-	×
ll r	3D	061	075	00111101	=
Ш	3E	062	076	00111110	>
Ш	3F	063	077	00111111	?
Ш	40	064	100	01000000	6
Ш	41	065	101	01000001	> ? @ A B
Ш	42	066	102	01000010	В
Ш	43	067	103	01000011	C
Ш	44	068	104	01000100	D
Ш	45	069	105	01000101	E
Ш	46	070	106	01000110	F
	47	071	107	01000111	G
	48	072	110	01001000	H
	49	073	111	01001001	I
	4A	074	112	01001010	
	4B	075	113	01001011	K
	4C	076	114	01001100	L
	4D	077	115	01001101	M
	4E	078	116	01001110	N
	4 F	079	117	01001111	0
	50	080	120	01010000	P
	51	081	121	01010001	Ω
Ш	52	082	122	01010010	Q R S
Ш	53	083	123	01010011	S
Ш	54	084	124	01010100	T
Ш	55	085	125	01010101	U U
	56	086	126	01010110	V
Ш	57	087	127	01010111	W
Ш	58	088	130	01011000	X
	59	089	131	01011001	X Y Z
	5A	090	132	01011010	Z
	5B	091	133	01011011	
	5C	092	134	01011100	1
	5D	093	135	01011101	1
	5E	094	136	01011110	^
	5F	095	137	01011111	_
	60	096	140	01100000	<u> </u>
	61	097	141	01100001	<mark>a</mark>
	62	098	142	01100010	b
	63	099	143	01100011	<mark>C</mark> C
	64	100	144	01100100	d 🚽
Ľ					

***If anyone would like to take it upon themselves to update or re-do this plugin, I would be eternally grateful. For one, the text should not be highlighted nor editable (why would I want to edit the ASCII chart?). Secondly, making the window sizable would be really great. If anyone does it, please tell me and I will forever be in your debt ***

-Till next time

R4ndom