

The next lines are easy to decompile:


```
86 .text:004010B4      jnz     short loc_4010C6
87 .text:004010B6      mov     eax, [ebp+8]
88 .text:004010B9      mov     dword ptr [eax], offset byte_403140
89 .text:004010BF      mov     al, 1
90 .text:004010C1      pop     esi
91 .text:004010C2      mov     esp, ebp
92 .text:004010C4      pop     ebp
93 .text:004010C5      retn
```

What the lines basically do is to calculate a hash of the string in byte_403140 (the plaintext message). If the hash is equal to 0F891B218h (see line 85), then we get the success message, otherwise we get the failure code at loc_4010C6. We can only assume that the hash 0F891B218h is produced when the decryption leads to the correct plaintext.

Finding the Plaintext Message

It's time to have a look at the string in byte_403010. The string is hardcoded and has the following value:

```
ix lzctusdzetgc, ex n-fsb (nvfnjujuvsx-fsb) jn e fenjl lsatsxrux sw ncaaruzjl qrc ehdszjuga n pglg trwszsan nvfnjujuvsj. ix fhsqj lqgrzn, ugrc ezr uctjlehhc vnrm us snlvzr ugr zrhuejsxngit fruprx ugr qrc exm ugr lqgrzurbu.
```

We know that all lowercase character in this strings stem from a simple substitution cipher. Entering the correct key as the serial should produce a meaningful plaintext and hopefully lead to the success message. Breaking substitution ciphers is pretty easy. I'm using the Python script `break_simplesub` from the [Practical Cryptography webpage](#) [10]. The code uses a random optimization algorithm and the output varies each time you run the code. Here's my output:

```
$ python break_simplesub.py
1 Substitution Cipher solver, you may have to wait several iterations
2 for the correct result. Press ctrl+c to exit program.
3 best score so far: -1001.47696195 on iteration 1
4 best key: RATQNHWGEDMLCZJBKFXUSIPOVY
5 plaintext:
6 VSLNMCTUJNICHMISERUPEYRETOTYTTOUSRUPOEIRIEOLLUBCUSTUGEMBBATNOLDAMIFJUNOTHBEVHOLHCANGUNBEEYRETOTYTTOUSVSRFLOLOCHANETHAMINATMCOLIFFMYEAKTUURELYNATHANAFITOUSEHOCRATWAASTHADAMISKHALOCHANT
7
8 best score so far: -996.55579631 on iteration 3
9 best key: UAESNQPKZIBFDJLVYGCRTVMKHO
10 plaintext:
11 JHOISUADMICURSCHELDKEPLEANAPANDHLDKNECLCENOODBUHDHADVESBBTAINOFTSCYMDIARBEGRNORUTVIBEEPLEANAPANDJHLYDOFONURTIEARTSCITASUNOCYYSPETWADDLEOPITARTITYCANDHERNULTAGTTHARTFTSCHWARFONURIATIKU
12
13 best score so far: -827.410210054 on iteration 9
14 best key: EFLMRWDGJYQHAXSTOZNUVIPBCK
15 plaintext:
16 VNCRYPTOGRAPHYANSBOXSUBSTITUTIONBOXISABASICCOMPONENTOFSYMMETRICKEYALGORITHMSWHICHPERFORMSSUBSTITUTIONVNBLOCKCIPHERSTHEYARETYPICALLYUSEDTOOBSURETHERELATIONSHIPBETWEENTHEKEYANDTHECIPHERTEXT
```

The plaintext is not very readable because the script does not tackle special characters like spaces. However, you can clearly recognize meaningful text. The key to encrypt the message therefore `EFLMRWDGJYQHAXSTOZNUVIPBCK`. To decrypt it, we must enter the reverse of the key as the serial. The following Python script generates the decryption key, and also shows the resulting plaintext:

```
1 import string
2
3 crypt = ""ix lzctusdzetgc, ex n-fsb (nvfnjujuvsx-fsb) jn e fenjl lsatsxrux sw
4 ncaaruzjl qrc ehdszjuga n pglg trwszsan nvfnjujuvsj. ix fhsqj lqgrzn, ugrc
5 ezr uctjlehhc vnrm us snlvzr ugr zrhuejsxngit fruprx ugr qrc exm ugr
6 lqgrzurbu.""replace("n","")
7
8 key = "EFLMRWDGJYQHAXSTOZNUVIPBCK".lower()
9 mapping = {}
10 for k, c in zip(key, string.lowercase):
11     mapping[k] = c
12
13 msg = ""
14 for c in crypt:
15     msg += mapping.get(c, c)
16
17 print("the key is: [{}].format("".join([mapping[x] for x in string.lowercase]))
18 print("the plaintext is: [{}].format(msg))
```

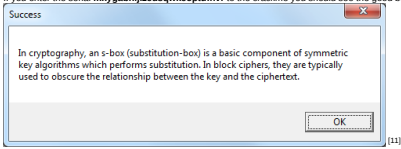
It produces the following output:

```
1 $ python decrypt.py
2 the key is: mxygabhljzcdsqwkeoptufnrv
3 the plaintext is: In cryptography, an s-box (substitution-box) is a basic component of symmetric key algorithms which performs substitution. In block ciphers, they are typically used to obscure the relationship between the key and the ciphertext.
```

The message therefore is

In cryptography, an s-box (substitution-box) is a basic component of symmetric key algorithms which performs substitution. In block ciphers, they are typically used to obscure the relationship between the key and the ciphertext.

If you enter the serial `mxygabhljzcdsqwkeoptufnrv` to the crackme you should see the good boy message:



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URL to article: <http://www.johannesbader.ch/2014/07/crackmes-de-browsesan01sukes-somecrypto01/>

URLs in this post:

- [1] www.crackmes.de: <http://www.crackmes.de>
- [2] here: <http://www.crackmes.de/users/san01suke/somecrypto01/>
- [3] Image: <http://www.johannesbader.ch/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/SomeCrypto-01-screenshot.png>
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- [8] Image: http://www.johannesbader.ch/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/self_modifying_2.png
- [9] Image: http://www.johannesbader.ch/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/self_modifying_3.png
- [10] Practical Cryptography webpage: <http://practicalcryptography.com/cryptanalysis/stochastic-searching/cryptanalysis-simple-substitution-cipher/>
- [11] Image: http://www.johannesbader.ch/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/success_message.png