



Reverse Engineering with Ghidra

Dr. Alexandros Kapravelos
akaprav@ncsu.edu

Aleksandr Napetyan
anahape@ncsu.edu

Slides adapted from John (Jack) Allison

Reverse Engineering 10: Takeaways

- Ghidra and other tools
- Sample CTF Challenges
- Practice -> Write Up -> repeat
- Where do you go from here?

Follow along!

go.ncsu.edu/rev101

A screenshot of a GitHub repository page. The repository name is Ale0x78/Rev101-Workshop, described as Public. The main tab is selected, showing the code view. There is 1 branch (main) and 0 tags. A commit from Alex and Alex titled "Final Push" was made 7 minutes ago, containing 3 commits. The commit details show files .vscode, release, src, Makefile, and README.md, all updated 7 hours ago. The README.md file contains the text: "Rev101-Workshop" and "These are the source files and binarier for a workshop I ran for NCSU's CSC405 class". The repository has 1 star, 2 watching, and 0 forks. It has no releases or packages published. The Languages section shows C at 74.0%, Python at 17.3%, and Makefile at 8.7%.

Flags are in the format workshop{(.+)}

“What’s a Ghidra?”

“A software reverse engineering (SRE) suite of tools developed by NSA's Research Directorate in support of the Cybersecurity mission”

*(It's a tool for reverse engineering stuff)
(declassified after it's existence was leaked by WikiLeaks ;))*

<https://ghidra-sre.org/CheatSheet.html>

What can it do?

- x86 **decompilation** (and ARM... and MIPS... and a lot more...)
 - Pretty much any architecture that's commonly used
- Debugging binaries under Windows and Linux (WinDbg and GDB)
- Scripting with Python (not covered here) to extend the feature set or automate tasks

Extending Ghidra

- <https://github.com/AllsafeCyberSecurity/awesome-ghidra>
- <https://github.com/topics/ghidra-scripts>
- <https://github.com/federicodotta/ghidra-scripts>

It's free and open source

- Possibly limited feature set compared to...
 - IDA Pro (multiple thousands), state of the art
 - Binary Ninja (\$300 personal license)
- Way easier than
 - Radare2
 - Cutter
- But, it's **free**
- And now has a debugger, which was a missing feature till recently

Some assembly required

Article — Guides

Installing Ghidra on Apple Silicon Macs, Properly



Lachlan Bell

30 Apr 2022 • 1 min read

Radare2

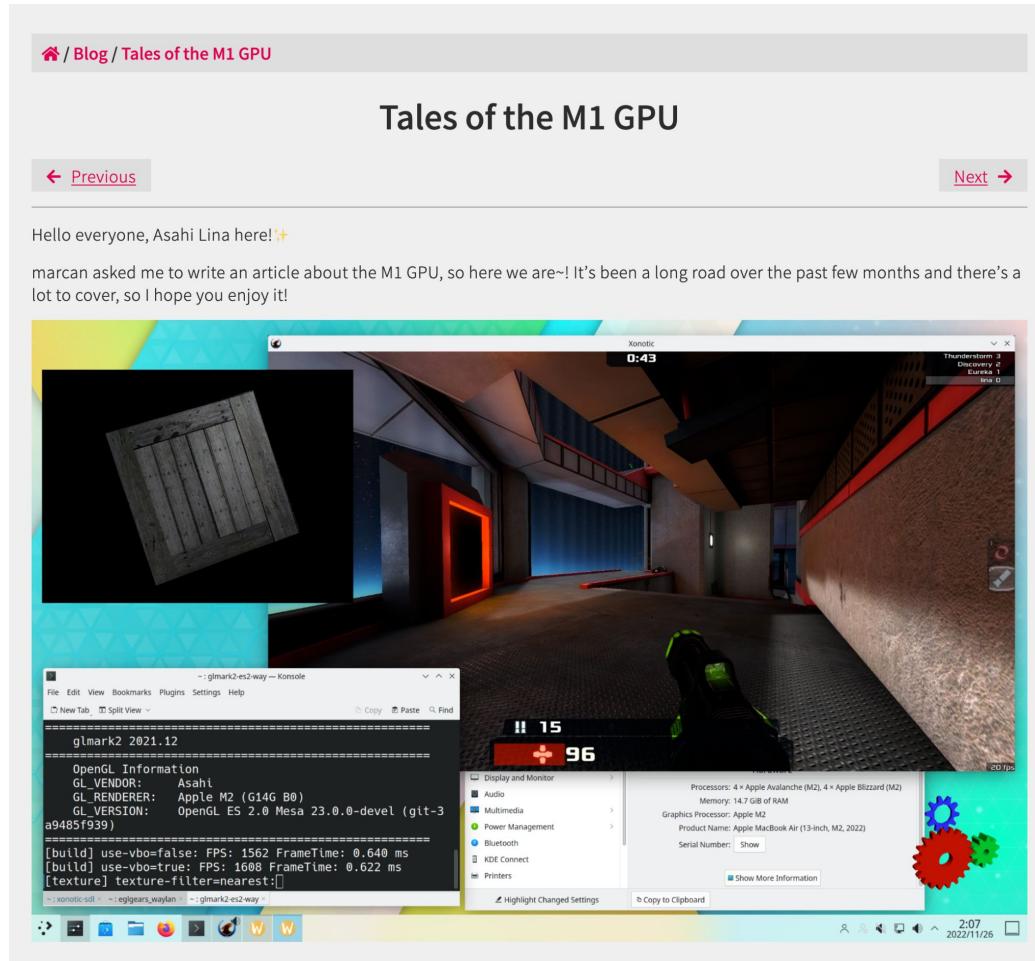
```
r2 level1 ~/F/r/release
0 (0.000s) < 23:37:09

l r2 level1
WARN: run r2 with -e bin.cache=true to fix relocations in disassembly
-- Prove you are a robot to continue ...
[0x000010e0]> aaaa
INFO: Analyze all flags starting with sym. and entry0 (aaa)
INFO: Analyze all functions arguments/locals (afva@@@F)
INFO: Analyze function calls (aac)
INFO: Analyze len bytes of instructions for references (aar)
INFO: Finding and parsing C++ vtables (avrr)
INFO: Type matching analysis for all functions (aft)
INFO: Propagate noreturn information (aanr)
INFO: Integrate dwarf function information
INFO: Scanning for strings constructed in code (/azs)
INFO: Finding function preludes (dap)
INFO: Enable anal.types.constraint for experimental type propagation
[0x000010e0]> pdf main
    ;-- section..text:
    ;-- .text:
    ;-- _start:
    ;-- rip:
46: entry0 (int64_t arg3);
    ; arg int64_t arg3 @ rdx
    0x000010e0    f30f1ef8    endbr64          ; [16] -r-x section size 517 named .text
    0x000010e4    31ed        xor    ebp, ebp
    0x000010e6    4989d1    mov    r9, rdx          ; arg3
    0x000010e9    5e          pop    rsi
    0x000010ea    4889e2    mov    rdx, rsp
    0x000010ed    4883e4f0    and    rsp, 0xfffffffffffff0
    0x000010f1    50          push   rax
    0x000010f2    54          push   rsp
    0x000010f3    4c8d05e60100. lea    r8, [sym.__libc_csu_fini] ; 0x12e0
    0x000010fa    488d0d6f0100. lea    rcx, [sym.__libc_csu_init] ; 0x1270
    0x00001101    488d3dc10000. lea    rdi, [dbg.main]       ; 0x11c9
    0x00001108    ff15d22e0000  call   qword [reloc.__libc_start_main] ; [0x3fe0:8]=0
[0x000010e0]>
```

What it can be used for

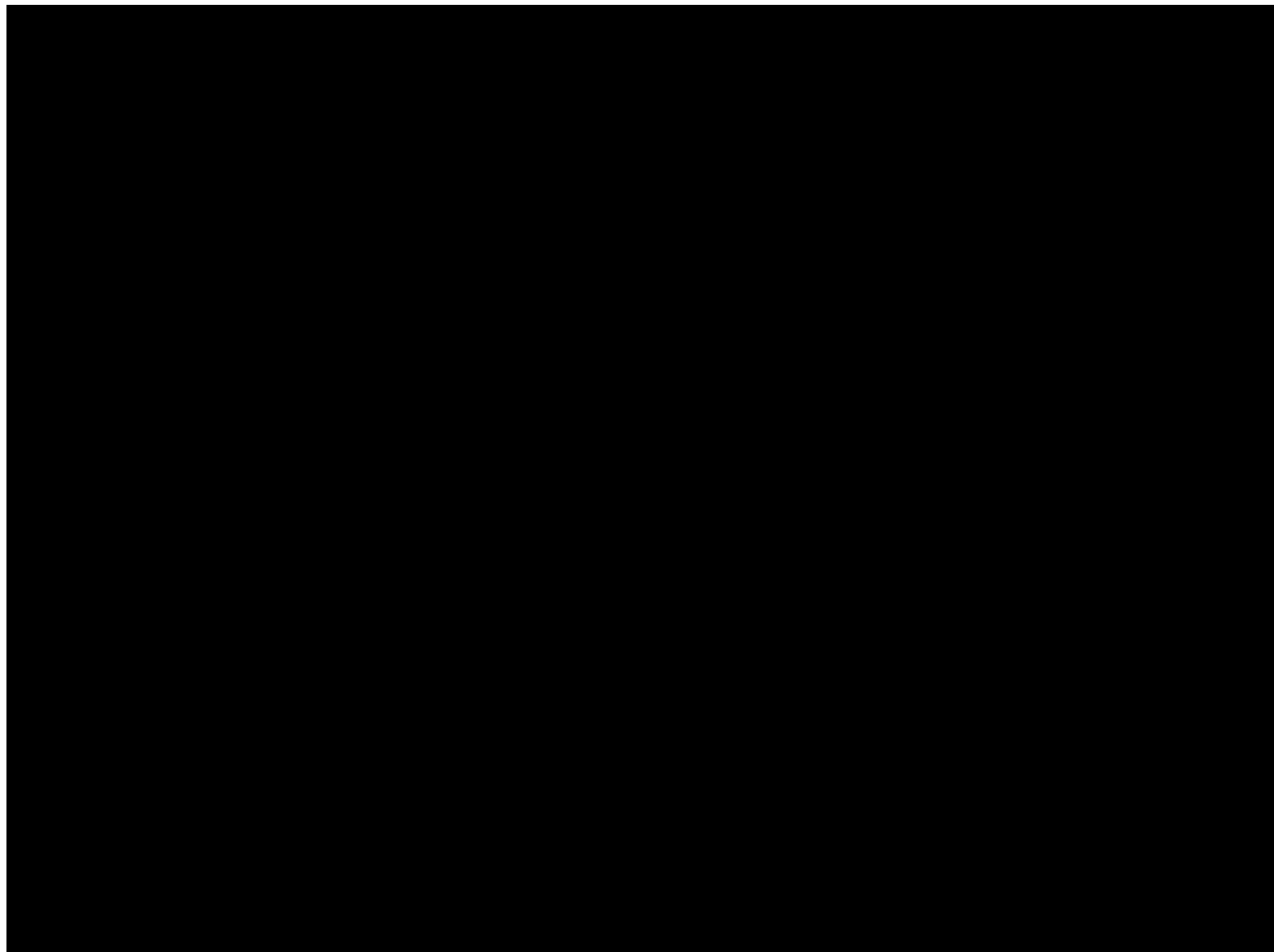
- Malware analysis
- CTF Challenges 
- Learning how your favorite program works, under the hood
- Want to run Linux on a new M1 Mac?

Asahi Linux



Let's do a quick demonstration.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

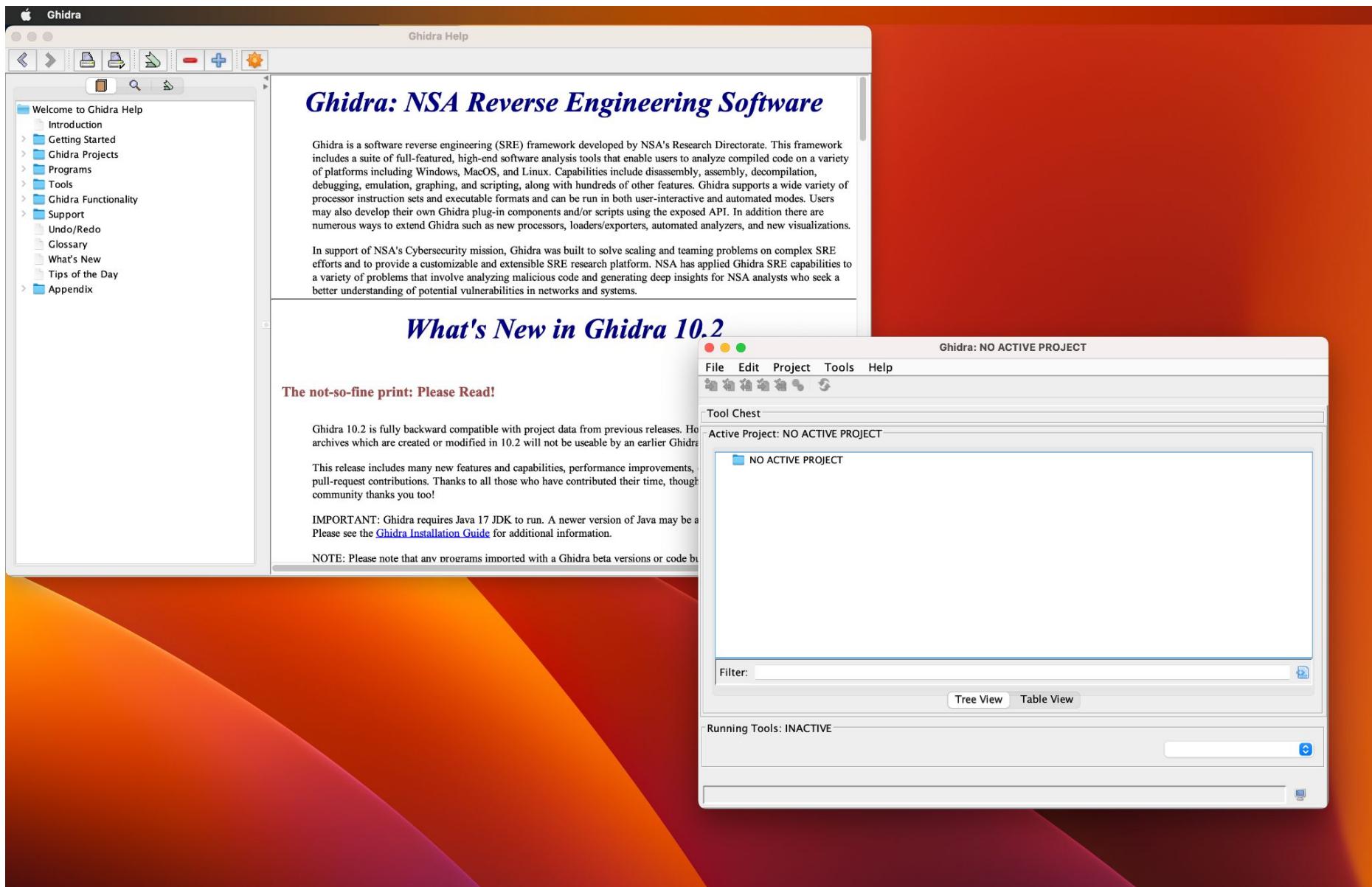


Level 1

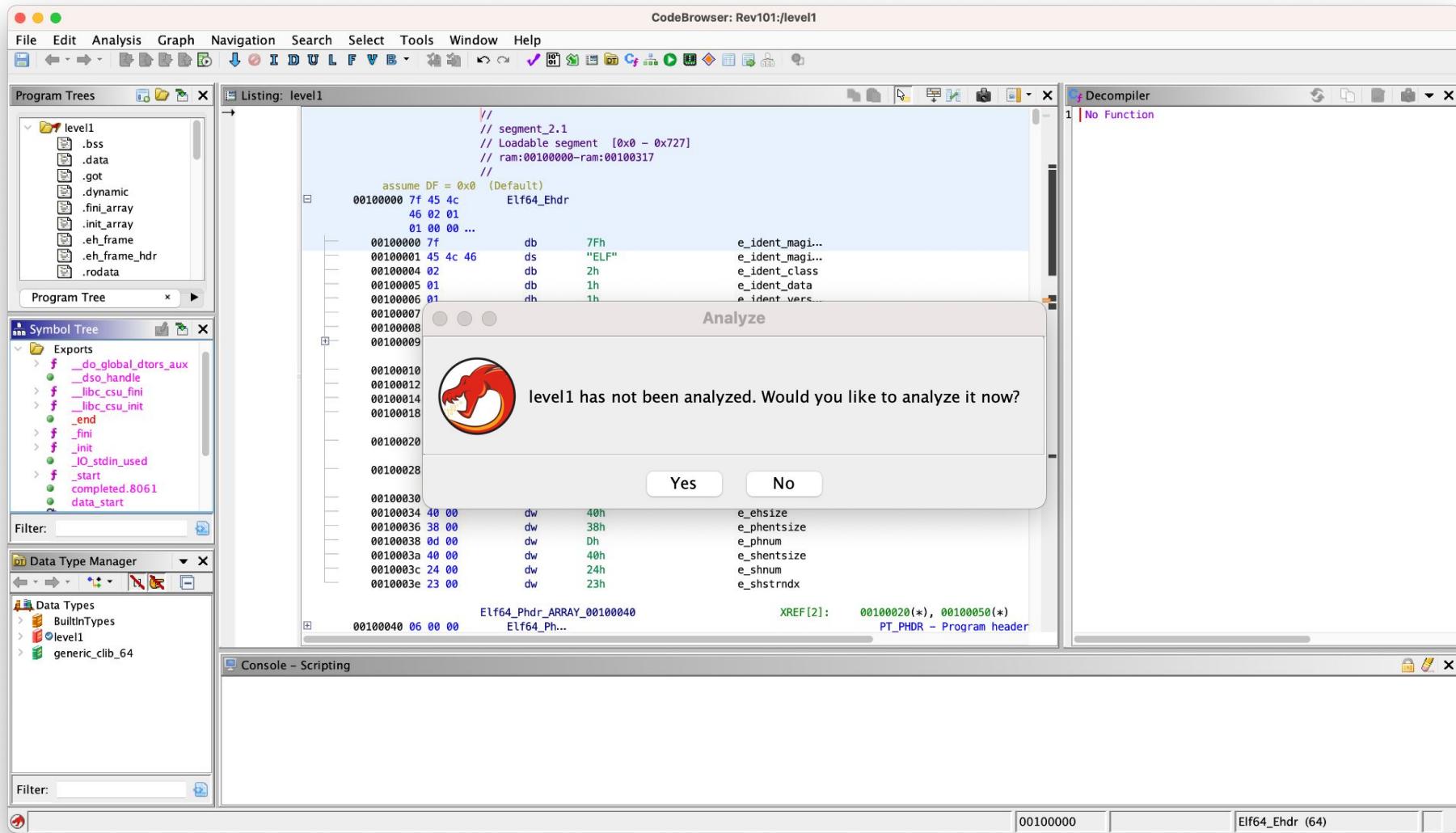


A screenshot of a macOS terminal window titled " ~/F/r/release". The window shows a command-line session where a user is attempting to crack a password for a file named "level1". The session starts with "ls", then "level1*", followed by a password attempt "HELLO WORLD". This attempt is flagged as "Incorrect password". A second attempt "alex" is successful, indicated by the prompt "Enter the password:". The terminal uses color coding for syntax: red for errors, green for directory paths, blue for file names, and purple for user names.

```
λ ls
level1*
└─ alex at Vah-Naboris in ~/Fold/rev101/release (main +1...3)
  λ ./level1
Enter the password: HELLO WORLD
Incorrect password
└─ alex at Vah-Naboris in ~/Fold/rev101/release (main +1...3)
  λ █
```



Let Ghidra do the magic



Decompiled code

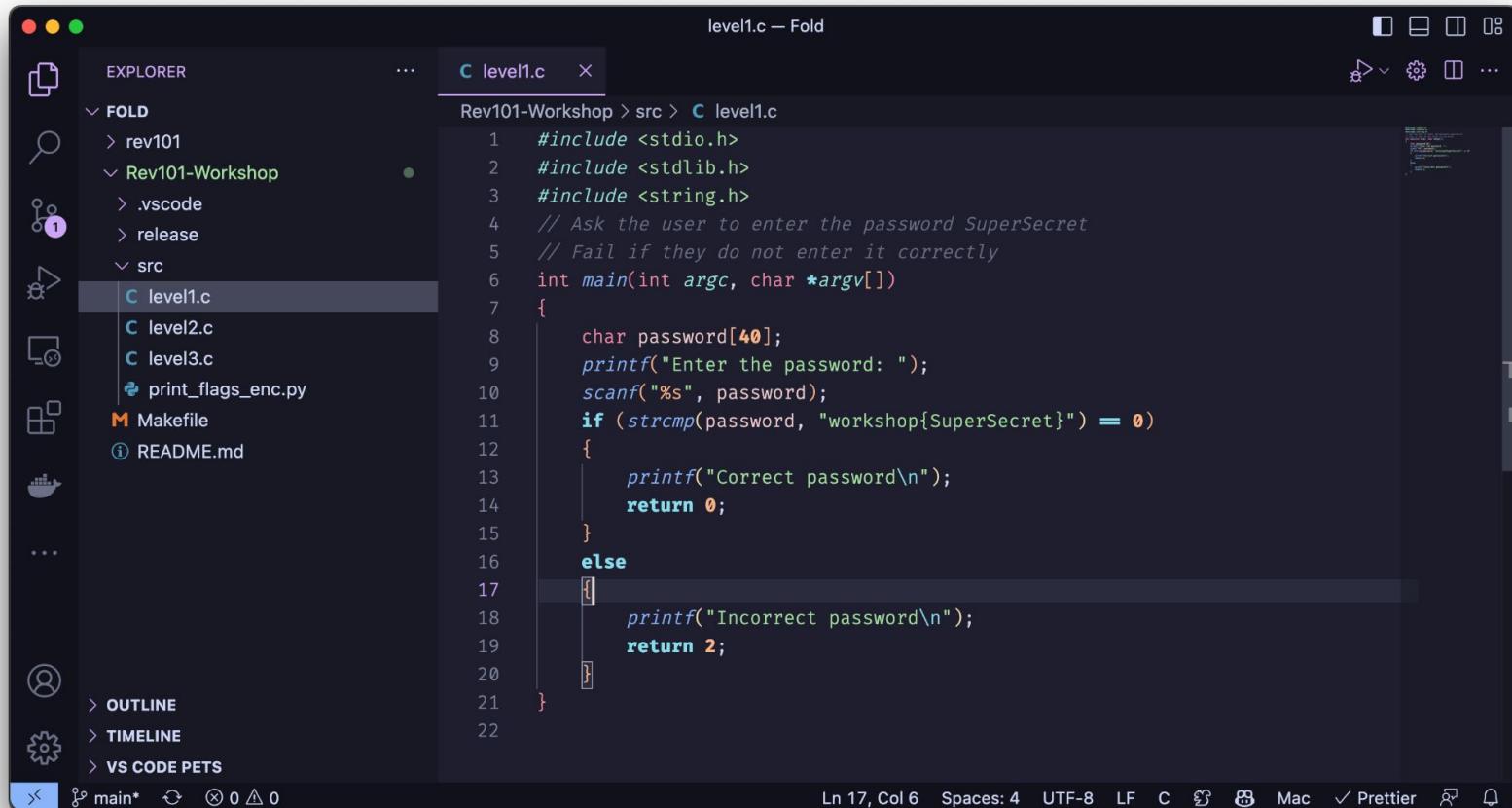
```
8 #include <stdio.h>
7
6 int main(void)
5 {
4     printf("Hello, world!\n");
3     return 0;
2 }
1
```



```
Cf Decompile: main - (hello_unstripped)
1
2 undefined8 main(void)
3
4 {
5     puts("Hello, world!");
6     return 0;
7 }
8
```

- Best effort attempt
- NOT 1:1
- Still, very helpful

Recall: C and Software Tools

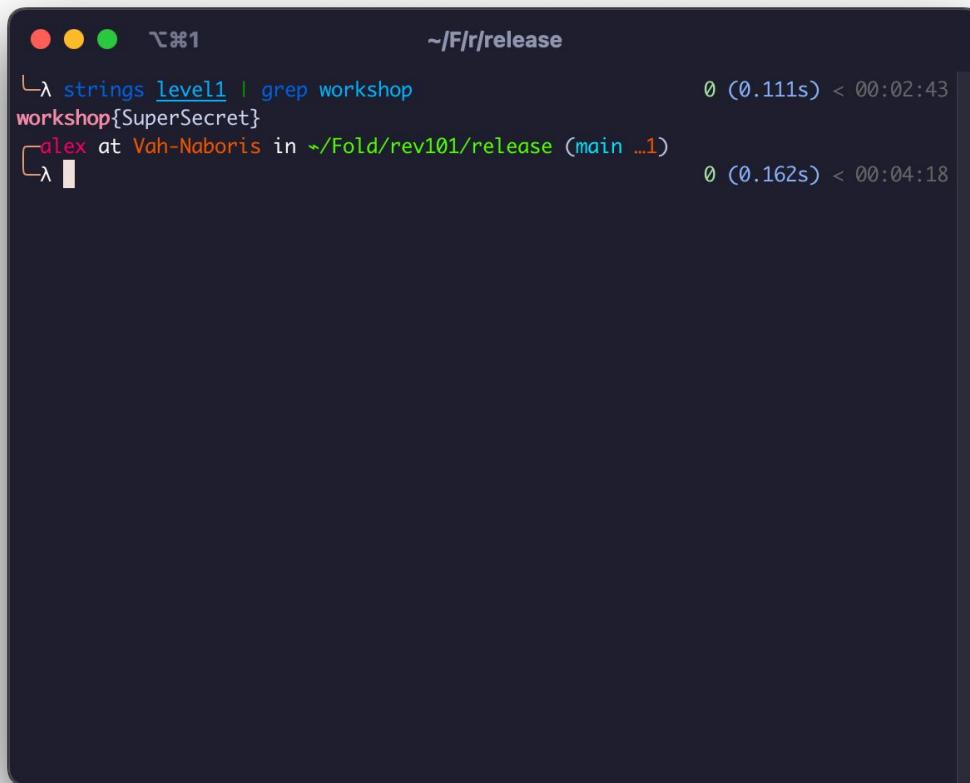


A screenshot of the Visual Studio Code (VS Code) interface. The title bar says "level1.c — Fold". The left sidebar shows a file tree with a dark theme. The "src" folder contains "level1.c", "level2.c", "level3.c", "print_flags_enc.py", "Makefile", and "README.md". "level1.c" is selected and highlighted in the tree. The main editor area displays the following C code:

```
level1.c — Fold
Rev101-Workshop > src > C level1.c
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <string.h>
4 // Ask the user to enter the password SuperSecret
5 // Fail if they do not enter it correctly
6 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    char password[40];
    printf("Enter the password: ");
    scanf("%s", password);
    if (strcmp(password, "workshop{SuperSecret}") == 0)
    {
        printf("Correct password\n");
        return 0;
    }
    else
    {
        printf("Incorrect password\n");
        return 2;
    }
}

Ln 17, Col 6  Spaces: 4  UTF-8  LF  C  ⚡  Mac  ✓ Prettier  ⌂  ⌂
```

Enter: `strings`



```
~/F/r/release
└ λ strings level1 | grep workshop          0 (0.111s) < 00:02:43
workshop{SuperSecret}
└ alex at Vah-Naboris in ~/Fold/rev101/release (main ...1) 0 (0.162s) < 00:04:18
└ λ █
```

Level 2

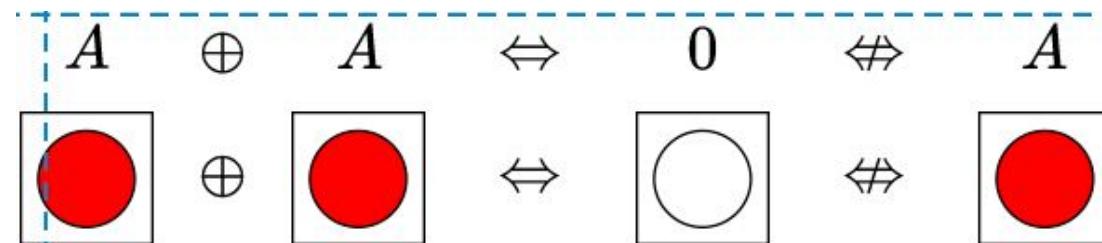
```
● ● ●  ~%1  ubuntu@tmc: ~/Workshop/Rev101-Workshop/release  
ubuntu@tmc:~/Workshop/Rev101-Workshop/release$ ./level2  
Enter the password: asd  
Incorrect passwordubuntu@tmc:~/Workshop/Rev101-Workshop/release$ █
```

Recall: XOR

Truth table [edit]

The [truth table](#) of A XOR B shows that it outputs true whenever the inputs differ:

A	B	$A \oplus B$
False	False	False
False	True	True
True	False	True
True	True	False



Enter GDB

```
ubuntu@tmc:~/Workshop/Rev101-Workshop$ ls
Makefile notebook.ipynb README.md release src
ubuntu@tmc:~/Workshop/Rev101-Workshop$ cd release/
ubuntu@tmc:~/Workshop/Rev101-Workshop/release$ ls
level1 level2 level3 level4
ubuntu@tmc:~/Workshop/Rev101-Workshop/release$ gdb level1
GNU gdb (Ubuntu 9.2-0ubuntu1~20.04.1) 9.2
Copyright (C) 2020 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
Type "show copying" and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "x86_64-linux-gnu".
Type "show configuration" for configuration details.
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>.
Find the GDB manual and other documentation resources online at:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation/>.

For help, type "help".
Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "word"...
Reading symbols from level2...
(gdb) b main
Breakpoint 1 at 0x128f: file src/level2.c, line 20.
(gdb) r
Starting program: /home/ubuntu/Workshop/Rev101-Workshop/release/level2

Breakpoint 1, main () at 0x128f: file src/level2.c, line 20
x$1 = 0x555555592a0 "workshop[Super_SecretLevel2]"
(gdb)
```

Sidenote: Level 2

```
>>> for c in a:  
...     print(chr(c ^ 0x23), end="")  
...  
fA } |~BIONMHLJF>>> |
```

AN

Give me hex escaped characters that if I were to xor every character with hex 0x23 I would get `workshop{SuperSecretLevel2}`



The hex escaped characters that would give you
`workshop{SuperSecretLevel2}` after XORing each character with 0x23 are:

Copy code

```
\x45\x62\x5c\x5e\x5f\x5d\x61\x6a\x6c\x6d\x6e\x6b\x6f\x69\x65
```



Level 3

CodeBrowser: Rev101:/level3

File Edit Analysis Graph Navigation Search Select Tools Window Help

Program Trees Listing: level3 Decomplier

Symbol Tree Imports <EXTERNAL> _libc_start_main

Filter: main

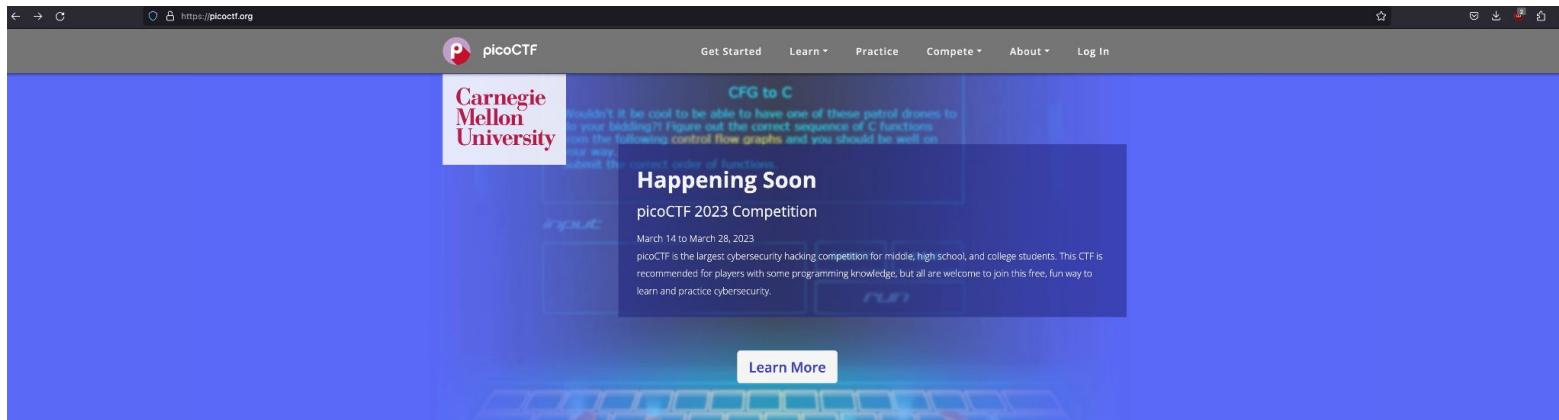
Data Type Manager

Data Types BuiltinTypes level3 generic_clib_64

Elf64_Phdr_ARRAY_00100040 Elf64_Phd... XREF[2]: 00100020(*), 00100050(*) PT_PHDR - Program header

Console - Scripting

Interested in Rev?



The screenshot shows the picoCTF website homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for "Get Started", "Learn", "Practice", "Compete", "About", and "Log In". A Carnegie Mellon University logo is visible. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "Happening Soon" and "picoCTF 2023 Competition". Below the banner, it says "March 14 to March 28, 2023" and describes the competition as a free cybersecurity hacking competition for students. A "Learn More" button is at the bottom of the banner. The background has a faint image of a keyboard.

What is picoCTF?



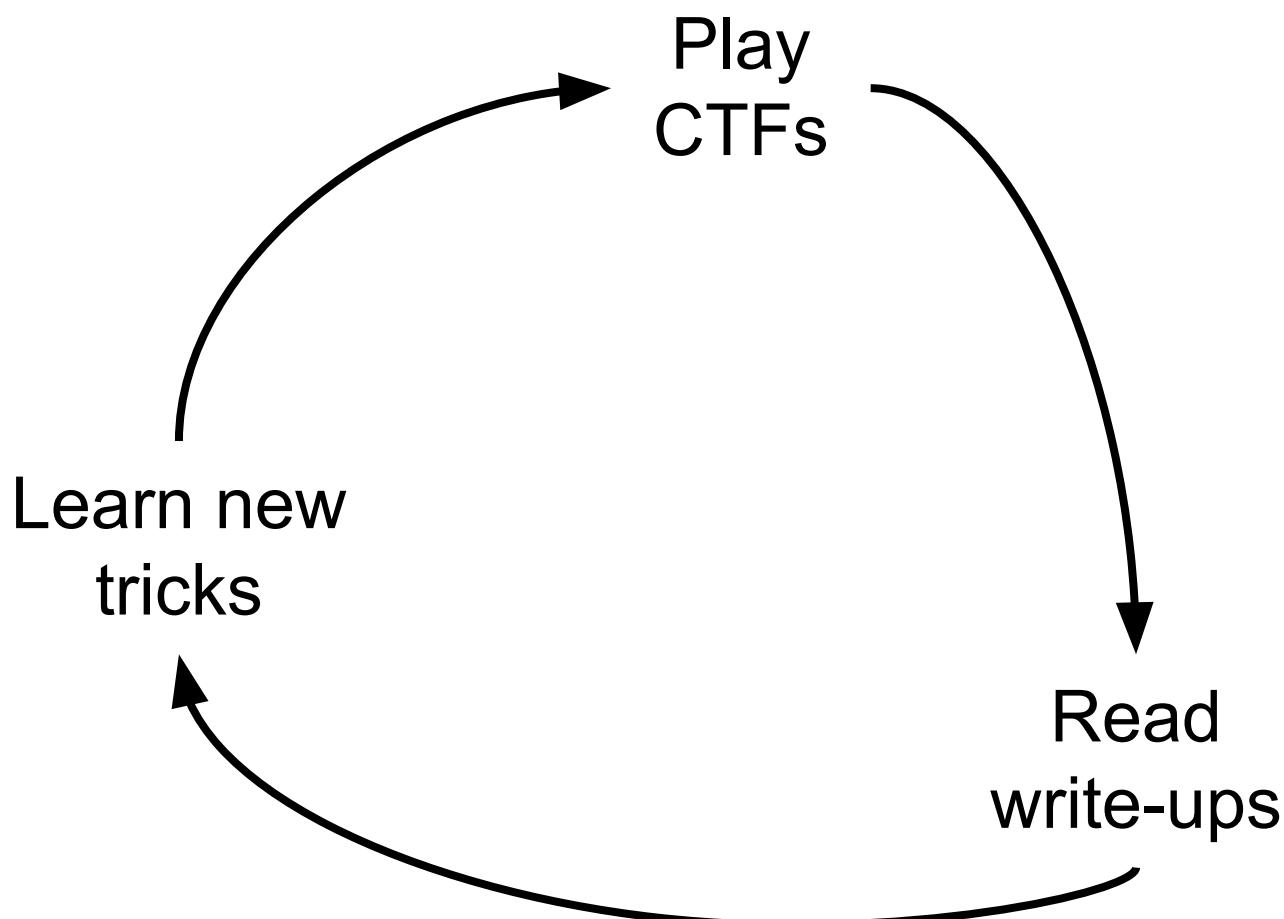
picoCTF is a free [computer security](#) education program with original content built on a capture-the-flag framework created by security and privacy experts at [Carnegie Mellon University](#).

Gain access to a safe and unique hands on experience where participants must reverse engineer, break, hack, decrypt, and think creatively and critically to solve the challenges and capture the flags.

Sign up now and explore picoCTF's year-round noncompetitive features where you can build skills in the picoGym and read about cybersecurity terminology and principles with the picoPrimer.

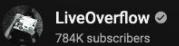
[About picoCTF](#)

Through picoCTF, learners can:





Let's Play/Hack - Pwn Adventure 3: Pwnie Island



LiveOverflow 784K subscribers

Join

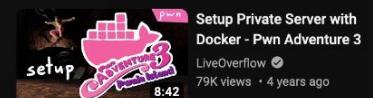
Subscribe

4K



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Pwn Adventure 3: Pwnie Island

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Setup Private Server with Docker - Pwn Adventure 3

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Recover Game Classes with gdb - Pwn Adventure 3

Hooking on Linux with LD_PRELOAD - Pwn Adventure 3

Flying and our first Flag! (Cow King) - Pwn Adventure 3

Teleporting and Hovering (Unbearable Revenge) - Pwn Adventure 3

Find the hidden Golden Eggs - Pwn Adventure 3

Developing a TCP Network Proxy - Pwn Adventure 3

Setup Private Server with Docker - Pwn Adventure 3

79K views • 4 years ago

Workshops

Welcome to reverse engineering workshops

PE Injection Study

This workshop will look at Cryptowall malware for the purposes of extracting information on the code injection technique in order to replicate for red team operation use.

[WINDOWS](#) [APC THREAD INJECTION](#) [GOLANG](#)

Published June 26, 2021

[START](#)

MacOS Dylib Injection

This workshop will cover macOS Mach-O executable header parsing, compiling Go dylibs, entrypoint manipulation, shellcode, and dynamically loading dylibs into memory.

[MACOS](#) [DYLIB](#) [SHELLCODE](#) [GOLANG](#)

Published April 4, 2020

[START](#)

Reverse Engineering 101

11 sections. This workshop provides the fundamentals of reversing engineering Windows malware using a hands-on experience with RE tools and techniques.

[X86](#)

Published May 14, 2019

[START](#)

Reverse Engineering 102

18 sections. This workshop build on RE101 and focuses on identifying simple encryption routines, evasion techniques, and packing.

[X86](#) [PACKING](#) [ENCRYPTION](#) [EVASION](#)

Published May 17, 2019

[START](#)

Flareon 6 2019 Writeups

This is a writeup of the 12 Challenges from the Flareon 6 CTF 2019.

[CTR](#) [WINDOWS](#) [LINUX](#) [ANDROID](#) [NES](#)

Published Sept 30, 2019

[START](#)

Anti-Analysis Techniques

This is a survey of anti-analysis techniques. Will include some tips to bypass.

[WINDOWS](#) [ANTI-REVERSING](#) [ANTI-DEBUGGING](#)
[ANTI-AUTOMATION](#)

Coming Soon!

[DISABLED](#)

```
4 import claripy
5
6 base_address = 0x00100000
7
8 success_address = 0x0010111d
9 failure_address = 0x00101100
10
11 flag_length = 15
12
13 project = angr.Project("./a.out", main_opts = {"base_addr" : base_address})
14 flag_chars = [ claripy.BVS(f"flag_char{i}", 8) ]
15
```

Show chat replay

- Google CTF - Authentication Bypass
- How the Best Hackers Learn Their Craft
- » 0x05 First Reverse Engineering
- Google CTF: Beginner Quest: GATEKEEPER (Reverse...)
- Mix - Google CTF - BEGINNER Reverse Engineering w/ ANGR
- Basic Buffer Overflow - VulnServer TRUN
- PicoCTF 2022
- Hands-on Hacking Demo | CTF - Capture the Flag in 15 Minutes!
- GoogleCTF - Cross-Site Scripting "Pasteurize"

Google CTF - BEGINNER Reverse Engineering w/ ANGR

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