



Inspiration for this talk



What is Ablation?

 Ablation is a tool that extracts information from processes as they execute.

It was designed to simplify the process of reverse engineering



What is Ablation?

• The original intention was to jump-start code audits by automating the more tedious aspects of reverse engineering.

It can also help find interesting code to audit.

Portable & easy to use



Where is it useful?

• Disassembling C++ often leaves newer reverse engineers feeling confused and overwhelmed.

• C++ binaries can be a pain to audit sometimes due to virtual calls.

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```
push
        ebp
        ebp, esp
mov
push
        ecx
push
        esi
        [ebp+this], ecx
mov
push
        0Ah
        eax, [ebp+this]
mov
        edx, [eax]
mov
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        eax, [edx]
mov
call
        eax
        esi, eax
mov
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        edx, [ecx]
mov
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        eax, [edx+0Ch]
mov
call
        eax
add
        esi, eax
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        edx, [ecx]
mov
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        eax, [edx+10h]
mov
call
```

 Instead of having to reverse engineer C++ classes, and figure out inheritance relationships

Ablation will resolve any observed virtual calls for you.

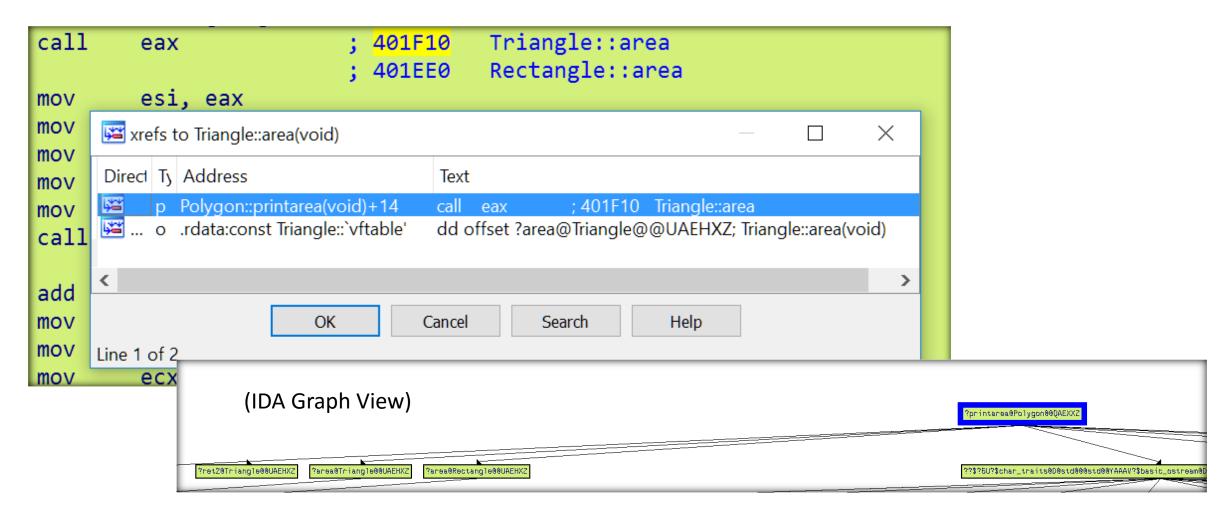
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```
push
        ebp
        ebp, esp
mov
push
        ecx
        esi
push
        [ebp+this], ecx
mov
        0Ah
push
        eax, [ebp+this]
mov
        edx, [eax]
mov
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        eax, [edx]
mov
call
                                   Triangle::area
        eax
                        ; 401F10
                        ; 401EE0
                                   Rectangle::area
        esi, eax
mov
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        edx, [ecx]
mov
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        eax, [edx+0Ch]
mov
call
                                   Triangle::ret4
                        ; 402630
        eax
                                   Triangle::ret2
                        : 402610
        esi, eax
add
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        edx, [ecx]
mov
        ecx, [ebp+this]
mov
        eax, [edx+10h]
mov
call
        eax
                        ; 402640
                                   Polygon::ret5
add
        esi, eax
```

Disassembled C++ reads like C!



• It also creates **fully interactive** x-refs in IDA





Using Ablation

- Launch
 - pin.exe -t Ablation.dll -module [modulename] -- application.exe
- Attach
 - pin.exe -pid [pid] -t Ablation.dll -module [modulename]
- Display help
 - Pin.exe -t Ablation.dll -h -- application.exe

Examples:

pin.exe -t Ablation.dll -module LibGLESv2 -verbose -- "c:\Program Files (x86)\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe" | AblationClientLite.exe LibGLESv2.ablation.py pin.exe -pid 1234 -t Ablation.dll -module vgx



What information can we gather at runtime?

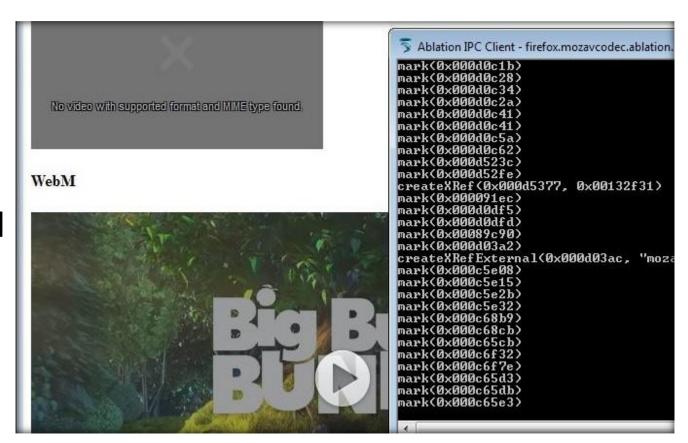
- Control flow data
- Execution frequency
- Resolve Virtual Calls
- Identify Interfaces

This information is then imported into the disassembly environment



Control flow data

- At runtime, record the first instance a basic block is executed
 - Only the first





Once Imported

Control flow data ends up looking like this →

```
add
                         esp, 14h
loc 2B48B7:
                                          ; CODE XREF:
                         ecx, [ebx+38h]
                mov
                push
                call
                         ?IsBaseOfType@ArType@@QAE NW
                test
                         al, al
                jz
                         short loc 2B48DE
                         [ebp+arg 4]
                push
                         offset aSInterfacesC 2;
                push
                push
                         0C26h
                                          ; unsigned i
                         [ebp+arg_0]
                                          ; struct Ars
                push
                         ebx
                                          ; this
                push
                call
                         ?Error@CParse@@IAAXPBUArSour
                add
                         esp, 14h
loc 2B48DE:
                                          ; CODE XREF:
                         ecx, [ebx+38h]
                mov
                lea
                         edx, [ebp+var_8]
                push
                         edx
                         eax, [ecx]
                mov
                call
                         dword ptr [eax+34h]; 2BD570
                                          ; 2BAE30
                                          : 2BA390
                                          ; 2BCEE0
                test
                         byte ptr [eax], 2
                jz
                         short loc 2B4956
                         eax, esi
                mov
                 and
                         eax 2
```



The Importance of choosing a good color!

```
.text:0008FF0C
.text:0008FF0C loc 8FF0C:
                                                       ; CODE XREF: CTreeNode
.text:0008FF0C
                               test
                                       eax, eax
                                                      Standard HTML
                                       loc 39C23F
.text:0008FF0E
                               inz
.text:0008FF14
.text:0008FF14 loc 8FF14:
                                                       : CODE XREF: CTreeNode
                                       ebx, [ecx+4Ch]
.text:0008FF14
                               mov
.text:0008FF17
                                       [ecx+4Ch], eax
                               mov
                                       ebx, ebx
.text:0008FF1A
                               test
.text:0008FF1C
                                       loc 115072
.text:0008FF22
                                       eax, ebx
                                       short loc 8FF31
.text:0008FF24
                                       eax, [ebx+8]
.text:0008FF26
                                                    Unique SVG sample
.text:0008FF29
                                       eax, eax
.text:0008FF2B
                                       loc 39C247
                               jnz
.text:0008FF31
.text:0008FF31 loc 8FF31:
                                                       ; CODE XREF: CTreeNode
.text:0008FF31
                                                       ; CTreeNode::SetTextB
.text:0008FF31
                                                       ; this
                                       ecx, ebx
                               mov
                                       ?Release@SmartObject@System@@QAEXXZ
.text:0008FF33
                                       loc 115072
.text:0008FF38
                               jmp
```

text:1001B443	TACH	odi Fosi (990h)
	sub	edi, [esi+23Ch]
ext:1001B449	fst	[esp+90h+var_58]
ext:1001B44D	fstp	[esp+90h+var_40]
text:1001B451	push	3 5
ext:1001B453	mov	[esp+94h+status], ebx
text:1001B457	fst	[esp+94h+var_50]
text:1001B45B	lea	eax, [esp+94h+pattern]
text:1001B45F	fstp	[esp+94h+var_48]
ext:1001B463	fild	[esp+94h+status]
ext:1001B467	mov	[esp+94h+status], edi
ext:1001B46B	pop	edi
ext:1001B46C	push	ecx ; clip
text:1001B46D	push	eax ; source
ext:1001B46E	fstp	[esp+98h+var_38]
ext:1001B472	fild	[esp+98h+status]
ext:1001B476	push	edi ; op
ext:1001B477	push	[esp+9Ch+surface] ; surface
ext:1001B47B	mov	[esp+0A0h+var_28], edi
ext:1001B47F	fstp	[esp+0A0h+var_30]
ext:1001B483	call	cairo_surface_paint
ext:1001B488	add	esp, 10h
ext:1001B48B	lea	esi, [esp+90h+array] ; array
ext:1001B48F	mov	ebx, eax
ext:1001B491	call	cairo_user_data_array_fini
ext:1001B496	стр	[esp+90h+pattern], 1
ext:1001B49B	jnz	loc 100852C7
ext:1001B4A1	mov	edi, [esp+90h+var_18]
ext:1001B4A5	test	edi, edi
ext:1001B4A7	jz	short loc 1001B4B8
ext:1001B4A9	стр	dword ptr [edi+10h], OFFFFFFFh
ext:1001B4AD	jz	short loc 1001B4B8
ext:1001B4AF	dec	dword ptr [edi+19h]

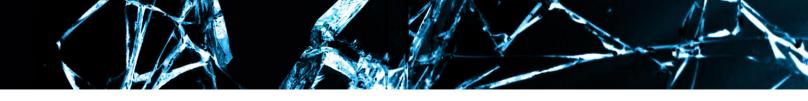
Resolving Virtual Calls

- For indirect call instructions
 - Maintain a list of observed call targets.

```
ferror@crarse@@iAAXrbuArSourceLocation@@iPbDZZ ; Crarse::error(A
сатт
        esp, 14h
add
                        ; CODE XREF: CParse::ValidateNewVariable(ArSource
        ecx, [ebx+38h]
lea
        edx, [ebp+var 8]
push
        edx
        eax, [ecx]
mov
        dword ptr [eax+34h]; 2BD570
                                       ArTypeQualifier::QueryProperties
                                   ArTypeCompound::QueryProperties
                                   ArTypeBasic::QueryProperties
                                   ArTypeMatrix::QueryProperties
                          2BCEE0
        byte ptr [eax], 2
jz
        short loc 2B4956
        eax, esi
and
        eax, 2
```

- During trace instrumentation, for each indirect call instruction,
 - If the target address has not been observed, add it to the list.





DEMO!



- Adds context by
 - Resolving virtual calls
 - Shows the various objects that are operating on data
 - If I never comment in another xref, it'll be too soon.



- Improves interactivity of the IDB
 - Imported data is displayed in x-ref lists and call graphs.
 - Being able to look at cross references for virtual calls is awesome!



- Adds *trace* info
 - Info is displayed to help the user understand the flow of data, code, and identify areas that may have been overlooked.



Displays object inheritance info that can be inferred

```
.text:004025B2
                                        eax, [edx]
                                mov
text:004025B4
                                call
                                                                     Triangle::area
                                                          ; 401F10
                                         eax
                                                                     Rectangle::area
text:004025B4
                                                          ; 401EE0
text:004025B6
                                        esi, eax
                                mov
                                        ecx, [ebp+this]
text:004025B8
                                mov
                                        edx, [ecx]
text:004025BB
                                mov
text:004025BD
                                        ecx, [ebp+this]
                                mov
                                        eax, [edx+0Ch]
text:004025C0
                                mov
                                call
                                                                     Triangle::ret4
text:004025C3
                                                          ; 402630
                                         eax
                                                                     Triangle::ret2
.text:004025C3
                                                          : 402610
                                        esi, eax
.text:004025C5
                                add
.text:004025C7
                                        ecx, [ebp+this]
                                mov
                                        edx, [ecx]
.text:004025CA
                                mov
                                        ecx, [ebp+this]
.text:004025CC
                                mov
.text:004025CF
                                        eax, [edx+10h]
                                mov
                                call
                                                                     Polygon::ret5
.text:004025D2
                                                          ; 402640
                                         eax
.text:004025D4
                                        esi, eax
                                add
```



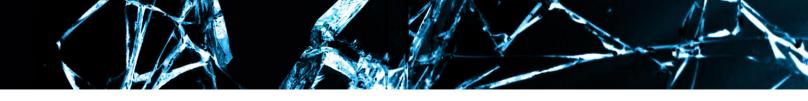


activity!

Observing Live Execution

- I like to use this feature to find samples that are worth looking at further.
- Run over a sample set, and then fiddle around till you see some new
 - You may have found yourself a sample that does something rare.
 - If you're really lucky, it may be an undocumented feature!





DEMO!



ExSample (Execution Sample)

- An ExSample is the set of unique basic blocks executed by processing a sample
 - An ExSample can be thought of as a subset of all basic blocks in a module
- Highlights where related samples diverge
- Comparing ExSamples can be used to determine if samples traverse different execution paths (has a different effect)



Examples of how Ablation can be used

- Calculate code coverage for a sample set
- Highlight untested features
- Auto-Generate new sample input (yah right... but I actually did this a while back)
- Simple Crash Analysis

Simple crash analysis

- Use ablation to displaying the live process. Then load 3 samples.
 - 1. A null sample
 - To traverse the code executed when loading additional samples
 - le. File -> Open... etc.
 - 2. The parent sample that does not crash
 - 3. The sample that crashes.
- The basic blocks displayed after sample 2 are likely related to the crash.
 - This gets you to a solid place to begin understanding. You still have to figure it out.



Examples of how it can be used

- Determining code that processes specific data
 - Ex. SVG related code in Internet Explorer
 - Launch IE, and render some sites that do not contain SVG
 - Once Ablation stops/slows reporting the execution of new basic blocks
 - Render an SVG sample
 - The new burst of basic blocks will be SVG related



Examples of how it can be used

• <u>CTF!</u>

- I've used Ablation to breeze through CTF problems
 - It really helps cut through the noise.



Examples of how it can be used

- Exploit analysis
 - Last weekend it was super helpful for analyzing a flash exploit
 - When I saw an indirect call resolve to Flash functionality, as well as KERNELBASE!VirtualProtect, mystery solved
 - Just debugging would definitely have taken longer



Ablative Fuzzing

Fuzzing what not to audit



To audit or to fuzz?

- Why do people audit?
 - It's how you find the good stuff.
- Why do people fuzz?
 - A computer can work while you sleep.

Researchers tend to have a preference for one or another.



Bug Hunting

- Try to hide a bug in 1 slide; good luck! In 100 slides?
- Let's say a fuzzer went at it, and didn't find the bug.
 - Using Ablation you can see what slides the fuzzer thoroughly tested.
 - Doesn't it make sense to start auditing the slides it missed first?



Auditing interesting code is more fun!

- Highly traversed code is not particularly interesting
 - Ex. The set of basic blocks used to render a SVG Circle element is **shared** across many samples.
 - Highly traversed
 - Not particularly interesting
- Infrequently executed code is more interesting to audit
 - Ex. Rendering a SVG Animated Font



Auditing interesting code is more fun!

- Highly traversed code is not particularly interesting
 - Ex. The set of basic blocks used to render a SVG Circle element is **shared** across many samples.
 - Highly traversed
 - Not particularly interesting
- Infrequently executed code is more interesting to audit
 - Ex. Rendering a SVG Animated Font
- By diffing 2 the ExSamples, you can identify the code related to SVG Animated Fonts
 - And exclude the code shared by common samples



Baseline Sample Set

• If you use Ablation to traverse a sample set, that will give you a baseline

• This is the union of basic blocks executed across the entire set of common samples.

 "Common samples" refers to W3C_SVG_12_TinyTestSuite or similar conformance test suites used during development.



Baseline Fuzzing

- If you proceed to fuzz that sample set, you're moving off the baseline
 - Fuzzing is going to heavily traverse error handling code
 - Lots of conditionals prior to unexplored code
- Depending on your fuzzer, infrastructure, input format, this may work great
 - But, it's more likely that it **looked** great initially
- You're going to hit new basic blocks that weren't executed by the baseline samples

Using Ablation to Show Initialization

- Code executed on startup, or loading "Hello World" samples
 - We're going to show this highly traversed code as grey

```
.text:0008FBF5
text:0008FBF8
                               db 5 dup(90h)
.text:0008FBFD
.text:0008FBFD
.text:0008FBFD
.text:0008FBFD
.text:0008FBFD ; public: static bool stdcall CSVGElement::IsSVGElement(enum ELEMENT TAG)
.text:0008FBFD ?IsSVGElement@CSVGElement@@SG NW4ELEMENT TAG@@@Z proc near
.text:0008FBFD
                                                        ; CODE XREF: Tree::CIE9DocumentLayout:
.text:0008FBFD
                                                        : Layout::InlineLayout::GetComposition
.text:0008FBFD
.text:0008FBFD : FUNCTION CHUNK AT .text:0039A1C2 SIZE 00000010 BYTES
.text:0008FBFD
.text:0008FBFD
                                        ecx, 89h
.text:0008FC03
                                        loc 39A1C2
text:0008FC09
.text:0008FC09 loc 8FC09:
                                                        ; CODE XREF: CSVGElement::IsSVGElement
.text:0008FC09
                                        eax, eax
.text:0008FC0B
                               retn
.text:0008FC0B ?IsSVGElement@CSVGElement@@SG_NW4ELEMENT_TAG@@@Z endp
.text:0008FC0B
```

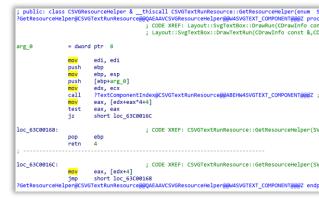
Default

Ablation

Using Ablation to Show the Baseline

- Code executed by iterating over the samples in a Test Suite (Ex. W3C_SVG_12_TinyTestSuite)
 - We're going to show this light green

```
public: class CSVGResourceHelper & thiscall CSVGTextRunResource::GetResourceHelper(enum SV
?GetResourceHelper@CSVGTextRunResource@@QAEAAVCSVGResourceHelper@@W4SVGTEXT_COMPONENT@@@Z proc
                                       ; CODE XREF: Layout::SvgTextBox::DrawRun(CDrawInfo con:
                                        ; Layout::SvgTextBox::DrawTextRun(CDrawInfo const &,CD:
arg 0
               = dword ptr 8
                        edi, edi
                        ebp, esp
                       ?TextComponentIndex@CSVGTextRunResource@@ABEHW4SVGTEXT COMPONENT@@@Z
                        eax, [edx+eax*4+4]
                        short loc 68016C
loc 680168:
                                        ; CODE XREF: CSVGTextRunResource::GetResourceHelper(SVG
                retn
loc 68016C:
                                        ; CODE XREF: CSVGTextRunResource::GetResourceHelper(SVG
                        eax, [edx+4]
                        short loc 680168
?GetResourceHelper@CSVGTextRunResource@@QAEAAVCSVGResourceHelper@@W4SVGTEXT_COMPONENT@@@Z endp
```



Default

Ablation



Using Ablation to Show the Mutated Baseline

- Code executed by mutating samples
 - We're going to show this light <u>Blue</u>

```
; int stdcall CSvgFormat::BuildStrokeStyleNoLinejoin(float, int, int)
?BuildStrokeStyleNoLinejoin@CSvgFormat@@QBEJMAAV?$TSmartPointer@UIDispStrokeStyle@@@@AA_N@Z proc near
                                        ; CODE XREF: Layout::SvgEllipseBox::DrawPrimitive(CDrawInfo d
                                        ; Layout::SvgLinePrimitiveBox::DrawPrimitive(CDrawInfo const
arg_0
                = dword ptr
arg_4
                = dword ptr 0Ch
                        edi, edi
                push
                        ebp, esp
                        ?GetDispCapStyle@CSvgFormat@@QBE?AW4DISP CAP STYLE@@XZ ; CSvgFormat::GetDispC
                        [ebp+arg 8]
                fld
                        [ebp+arg 0]
                push
                        [ebp+arg_4]
                push
                push
                        eax
                        [esp+18h+var 18]
                        ?BuildStrokeStyle@CSvgFormat@@QBEJMW4DISP CAP STYLE@@W4DISP LINE JOIN@@AAV?$7
                        ebp
?BuildStrokeStyleNoLinejoin@CSvgFormat@@QBEJMAAV?$TSmartPointer@UIDispStrokeStyle@@@@AA N@Z endp
```

```
int __stdcall CSvgFormat::BuildStrokeStyleNoLinejoin(float, int, int)
 PBuildStrokeStyleNoLinejoin@CSvgFormat@@QBEJMAAV?$TSmartPointer@UIDispSt
                                        ; CODE XREF: Layout::SvgEllipseE
                                        ; Layout::SvgLinePrimitiveBox::D
arg_0
                = dword ptr 8
arg_4
                = dword ptr 0Ch
arg 8
                        ?GetDispCapStyle@CSvgFormat@@QBE?AW4DISP_CAP_STY
                        [ebp+arg 8]
                        [ebp+arg_0]
                        [ebp+arg_4]
                push
                push
                push
                        [esp+18h+var 18]
                        ?BuildStrokeStyle@CSvgFormat@@QBEJMW4DISP CAP ST
                pop
                pop
 PBuildStrokeStyleNoLinejoin@CSvgFormat@@QBEJMAAV?$TSmartPointer@UIDispSt
```

Default

Ablation



Using Ablation to Show Not Executed

- Everything else
 - We're going to show this as default (no color)

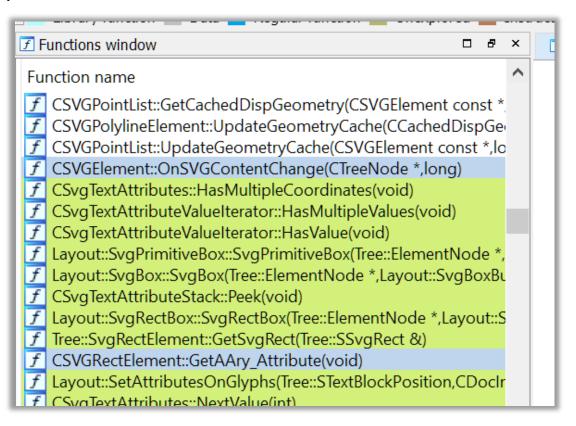
```
; char stdcall gl::IsShader(unsigned int shader)
                public ?IsShader@gl@@YGEI@Z
                                         ; CODE XREF: glIsShader(x)↓j
                                          : DATA XREF: _lambda_053a5399e5ee9fde
shader
                = dword ptr 4
                         ?GetValidGlobalContext@gl@@YAPAVContext@1@XZ ; gl::Ge
                         short loc 1000ADDE
                         [esp+shader], 0
                         short loc 1000ADDE
                         [esp+shader] ; handle
                                         ; this
                         ?getShader@Context@gl@@OBEPAVShader@2@I@Z ; gl::Conte
                         short loc 1000ADDE
                         short locret 1000ADE0
                                          ; CODE XREF: gl::IsShader(uint)+7<sup>†</sup>j
loc 1000ADDE:
                                         ; gl::IsShader(uint)+E<sup>†</sup>j ...
                                          ; CODE XREF: gl::IsShader(uint)+21<sup>†</sup>j
locret 1000ADE0:
?IsShader@gl@@YGEI@Z endp
```

Not Executed



Functions Window

In the functions list, items are colored as the first basic block is



Adjacent Code is more interesting

- Looking at code that is adjacent to the baseline will highlight areas more likely to be
 - Less scrutinized, untested, undocumented, or experimental
- The SVG test suite didn't hit this code.
- Looks like it could interesting function to audit.
- If you're looking at C++ classes, this includes uncolored methods that belong to colored classes.

```
ebx, [ebp+ebx*4+var 30]
                        [ebp+var 34], ecx
                        ebx, ebx
                test
                        short loc 681DC6
                iz
                                          By adjacent, I mean ~1
                        eax, [ebx]
                        edi, esp
                                          conditional away
                        ebx
                push
                        esi, [eax+4]
                        ecx, esi
                                        : void *
                call
                        ds: guard check icall fptr
                call
                        esi
                        edi, esp
                        loc 75AC35
                jnz
loc 681DC3:
                                        ; CODE XREF: .text:0075AC3Clj
                        ecx, [ebp+var 34]
                mov
                                        ; CODE XREF: CSVGPolygonElement::GetDisp
                        [ebp+var 34], ebx
                test
                        ecx, ecx
```



Ablative Fuzzing Overview

- Fuzzing to
 - Excluding code from an audit
 - Highlight adjacent code to include in an audit

Preferably a Genetic fuzzing algorithm, using the # of new basic blocks executed as a heuristic

.text:0064C081	jz	loc_7920BC	Highly traversed code
.text:0064C087	push	edi ;	Not of interest
.text:0064C088	call	?UpdateCounters@C0	Tvot of interest
.text:0068B79D	push	ecx ;	Sample Set
.text:0068B79E	call	?GetAAPointer@CSVG	Moderate interest
.text:0068B7A3	mov	edi, eax	
.text:00681DA2	mov	<pre>[ebp+var_34], ecx</pre>	Mutated Samples
.text:00681DA5	test	ebx, ebx	More interesting
.text:00681DA7	jz	short loc_681DC6	Wiore interesting
.text:00681DA9	mov	eax, [ebx]	Not Executed
.text:00681DAB	mov	edi, esp	Interesting in relation
.text:00681DAD	push	ebx	Theresting in relation



What to take away?

- It's easy to use.
- It's portable.
- It can save a lot of time

It doesn't do the interesting work for you, but it may help you get there;)



Questions?

Thank you