# Cryptography: MD5 Collision Attack Lab Batyi Amatov (amatobat@b-tu.de)

# **Table of Content**

	<u>Content</u>	Page number
	Abstract	1
1.	The Tasks Description	
	Task 1: Generating Two Different Files with the Same MD5 Hash	1 - 3
	Task 2: Understanding MD5's Property	4
	Task 3: Generating Two Executable Files with the Same MD5 Hash	5- 7
	Task 4: Making the Two Programs Behave Differently	8- 9
2.	Conclusion	10
	Annexure 1	11
	Annexure 2	12
	Reference	13

#### Abstract:

We know that it is very difficult to generate same hash function value from different content. But in this lab our main goal is to study and understand the impact of collision attacks. We have created two different files/programs which are not identical to each other. However from the different categories of files/program we are trying to generate collision attacks that share the same MD5 hash value but have completely different behaviors.

# 1. The Tasks Description:

# Task 1: Generating Two Different Files with the Same MD5 Hash

Our task is to generate two different files with the same MD5 hash values. For this purpose we have used the md5collgen program to generate two files with the same hash value where the same prefix has been shared.

In figure 1, we have our initial input file with share prefix.

```
prefix.txt X
000000000 | 48 65 6C 6C 6F 20 69 74 20 69 73 20 6D 65 21 0A | Hello it is me!.
```

Figure 1: A prefix file with arbitrary content

Based on the given prefix (prefix.txt), we are generating two different files (out1.bin, out2.bin), as shown in Figure 3 and 4, which will give the same MD5 hash.

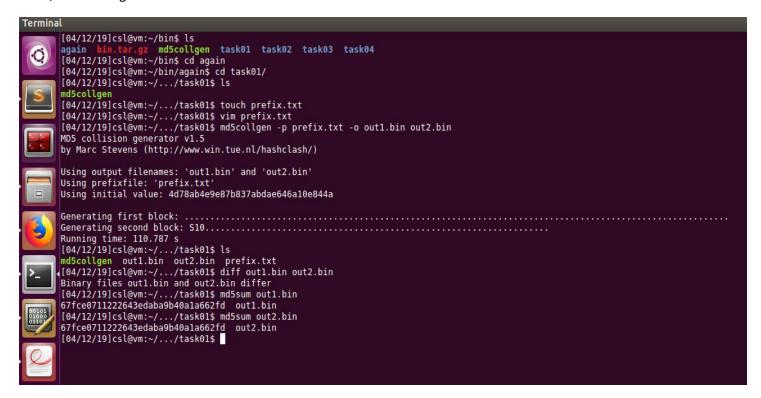


Figure 2: Command Line Instructions

prefix.txt 🗶	OL	ıt1.b	in 💥	0	ut2.l	bin \$	K																								
00000000	48	65	6C	6C	6F	20	69	74	20	69	73	20	6D	65	21	0 A	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0.0	00	00	00	00	00	00	Hello it is me!
0000001e	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000003c	00	00	00	00	CD	2F	31	E2	4C	30	C9	C7	2E	7A	F8	4D	В6	AF	98	7C	В6	СВ	1F	62	4F	F7	EB	В9	60	DE	/1.L0z.M b0`.
0000005a	81	9D	57	2A	1D	D7	7A	AB	BE	E5	5A	E8	8C	66	EB	EB	51	19	CC	ED	6F	1D	ВЗ	F8	54	F4	1C	AD	F5	78	W*zZfQoTx
00000078	24	98	76	75	E5	89	A3	D6	8D	49	8B	C3	80	D8	16	A1	29	56	5A	93	EC	88	10	1D	ВВ	A5	4F	78	70	5F	\$.vu
00000096	13	01	2B	C5	10	67	8A	5F	68	C6	D7	95	30	44	97	C5	DC	FB	3B	FF	0F	3B	50	9C	0D	CD	9D	7F	EC	F8	+ghOD;;P
000000b4	83	A3	CA	4C	15	F9	86	AF	A7	9E	04	76																			Lv
20																															

Figure 3: First output file - out1.bin

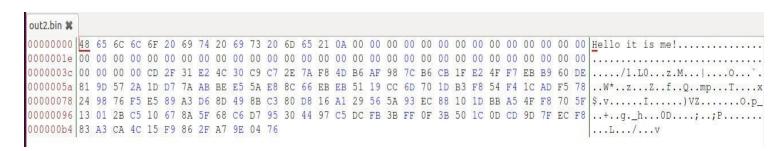


Figure 4: Second output file - out2.bin

# 1. If the length of your prefix file is not multiple of 64, what is going to happen?

In the previous case we showed that MD5 collision tool pads with zeros in order to make length of prefix files multiple of 64.

# 2. Create a prefix file with exactly 64 bytes, and run the collision tool again, and see what happens.

In the following figures 5 and 6, we observed that if the prefix file with exactly 64 bytes and MD5 collision tool didn't pad any zeros.

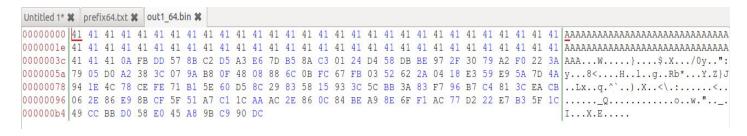


Figure 5: First output file - out1\_64.bin

```
Untitled 1* * prefix64.txt * out1_64.bin * out2_64.bin * o
```

# 3. Are the data (128bytes) generated by md5collgen completely different for the two output files? Please identify all the bytes that are different.

In figures 5 and 6, we observed a slight (i.e. 32 bits) change in the two output files. We have identify the following marked bytes were changed in the two output files in figure 7 and 8.

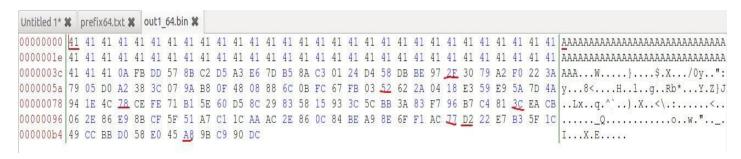


Figure 7: First output file - out1\_64.bin

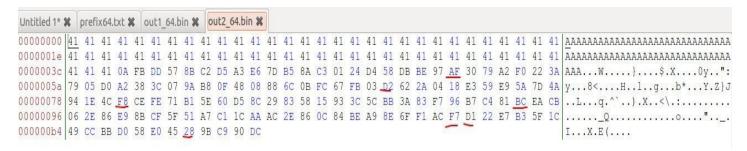


Figure 8: Second output file - out2 64.bin

# Task 2: Understanding MD5's Property

Our task to identify the properties of the MD5 algorithm.

In figure 9, we observed the property of the MD5 algorithm. If adding any input by concatenation to the existing two different files which share the same MD5 hash, we would be able to get a result in two outputs that have the same hash value.

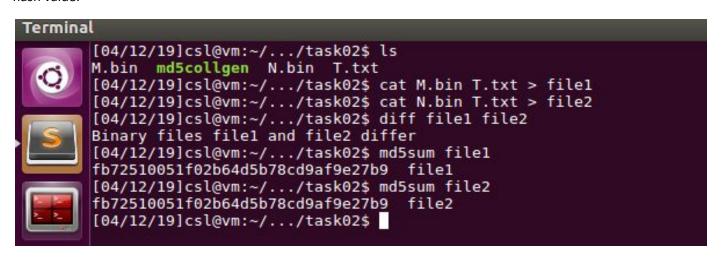


Figure 9: To understand the properties of the MD5 algorithm

# Task 3: Generating Two Executable Files with the Same MD5 Hash

Our task is to generate two executable files with the same MD5 Hash based on the C code provided in "Annexure 1". After compilation we got executable file which we need to divide into two parts: prefix which is multiple of 64 byte (which ends in the memory of array), then we left 128 byte untouched and get the rest as suffix which are shown in Figure 10, 11 and 12. For this purpose we used the following commands:

\$ head -c 4160 codeExecutable > prefix \$ tail -c 3348 codeExecutable > suffix

After generating by mdcollgen on prefix we get P and Q files which share the same MD5 hash, but have differences in the last 128 bytes.

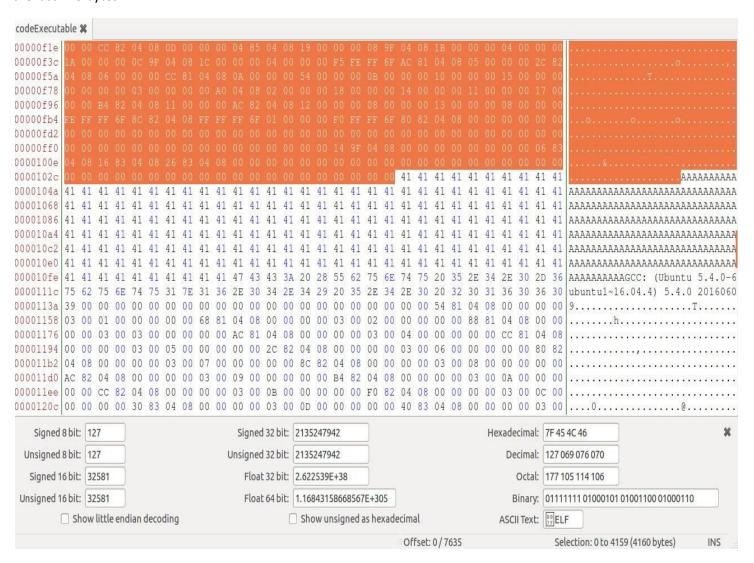


Figure 10: Executable file with prefix

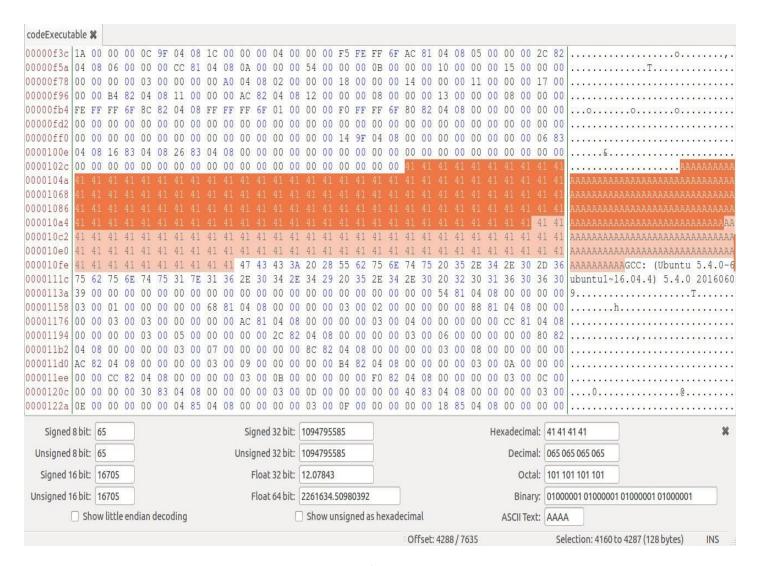


Figure 11: Executable file with 128-byte region

0.5252 32 USA W																														
codeExecutable :	×																													
00000f3c   1A	00 (	00	00	0C	9F	04	08	1c	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	F5	FE	FF	6F	AC	81	04	08	05	00	00	00	2C	82	
00000f5a 04			00							0A								0B	00	00				00			00			
00000f78 00			00	03	00	00	00	00	A0	04	08	02	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	14	00	00	00	11	00	00	00	17	00	
00000f96 00		В4	82	04	08	11	0.0	00	00	AC	82	04	08	12	0.0	00	00	0.8	0.0	00	00	13	0.0	00	00	0.8	00	00	00	
00000fb4 FE	FF I	FF	6F	8C	82	04	08	FF	FF	FF	6F	01	00	00	00	F0	FF	FF	6F	80	82	04	08	00	00	00	00	00		
00000fd2 00		00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000ff0 00		00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	14	9F	04	08	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		06		
0000100e 04			83	04	08	26	83	04	08	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000102c 00		00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	
TOTAL SECTION OF SECTION	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
000010a4 41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
000010c2 41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	
000010e0 41																													41	
000010fe 41																													36	AAAAAAAAAAGCC: (Uhuntu 5 4 0-6
0000111c 75																													30	mbuntul~16 04 4) 5 4 0 2016060
0000111c 39																													0.0	9 T
00001158 03																													333	
00001136 00																														
00001176 00																														
00001154 06																													2.3	
000011B2 00																														
000011d0 dc																													0.0	mait de mait localeus de mait de mait localeus de mait de ma
000011ee 00																													0.0	
																													37.3	
00001224	י טט	עט	vv	VV	טט	04	0.0	PU	UO	UU	VV	νν	טט	V.S	vv	10	טט	UU	VV	νν	טט	10	0.0	PU	UO	UU	VV	νν	טט	tartetarestarestarestarestarestares
Signed 8 bit:	-									Sic	gned	1321	oit:												He	xade	ecim	al: [-	_	×
			=										- 7					=										- 2		
Unsigned 8 bit:	-								- 1	Unsi	gned	32 t	oit:	_												De	cim	al:  -	-	
Signed 16 bit: —											Float	321	it-														Oct	al- [	_	
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Unsigned 16 bit: — Float 64 bit:								oit:	al des						Binary								у:  -	_						
☐ Sh	ow li	ittle	end	ian d	deco	ding	1							Sho	ow u	nsig	ned a	as he	xad	ecim	cimal ASCII Text:							t: -	2	
																				- 05	Ecot	763	c 170	225					c-	lasting 4399 to 7635 (3349 bytes) 115
																				- 01	sec.	763	0//0	335					56	election: 4288 to 7635 (3348 bytes) INS

Figure 12: Executable file with suffix

After it, we are adding suffix to both files in order to gather the program again and getting files: version1 and version2, as per using command in Figure 13. After checking by md5sum they share the same MD5 hash. So, we generate two executable files with the same MD5 Hash.

```
[04/12/19]csl@vm:~/.../task03$ ls
code.c codeExecutable md5collgen P.bin prefix Q.bin suffix version1
[04/12/19]csl@vm:~/.../task03$ cat P.bin suffix > version1
[04/12/19]csl@vm:~/.../task03$ cat Q.bin suffix > version2
[04/12/19]csl@vm:~/.../task03$ md5sum version1
aa45a6859179f28ba41aac36f4be02dc version1
[04/12/19]csl@vm:~/.../task03$ md5sum version2
aa45a6859179f28ba41aac36f4be02dc version2
[04/12/19]csl@vm:~/.../task03$
```

Figure 13: To generate two executable files with the same MD5 Hash

# Task 4: Making the Two Programs Behave Differently

Our task is to prepare two different programs. One program will work properly and will go for certification, while the other program will be malicious, but will have the same MD5 hash as the first normal program. The source C code is provided in "Annexure 2". After compilation we got executable file from which we need to get the prefix, which is multiple of 64 byte (which ends in the memory of array), then we left 128 byte untouched and got the rest as suffix. For this purpose we used the following commands:

```
$ head -c 4160 codeExecutable > prefix
$ tail -c 3548 codeExecutable > suffix
```

After compilation the prefix by mdcollgen, we got two files: "real" and "fake", which share the same MD5 hash, but had differences in the last 128 bytes, as shown in Figure 14.

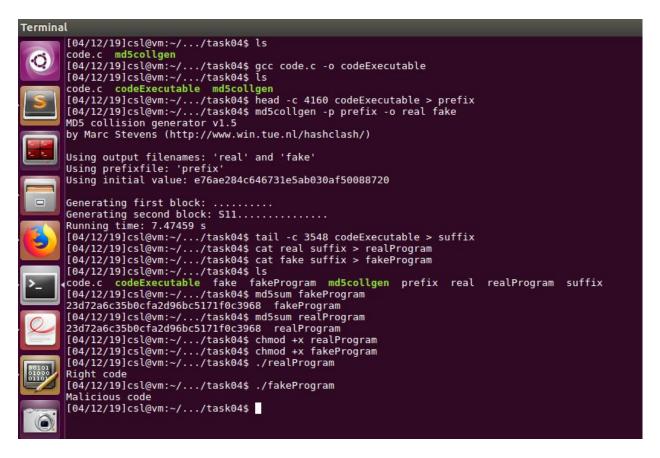


Figure 14: Process of generating two different programs with the same MD5 Hash

In Figure 15 and 16 describe that, from the "real" program we took the generated by mdcollgen tool - 128 bytes at the end and copied it into the first 128 bytes of the second array in suffix file.

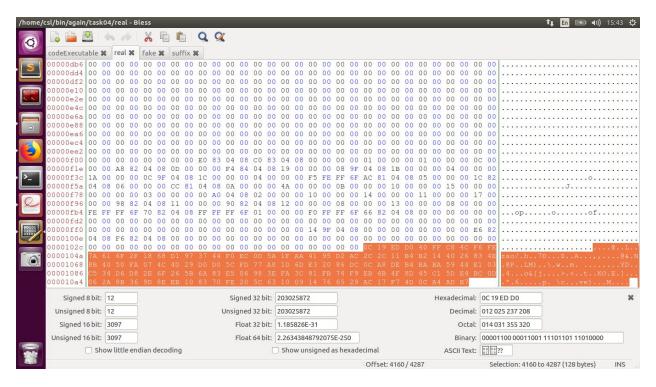


Figure 15: Copying the last 128 bytes from the real program

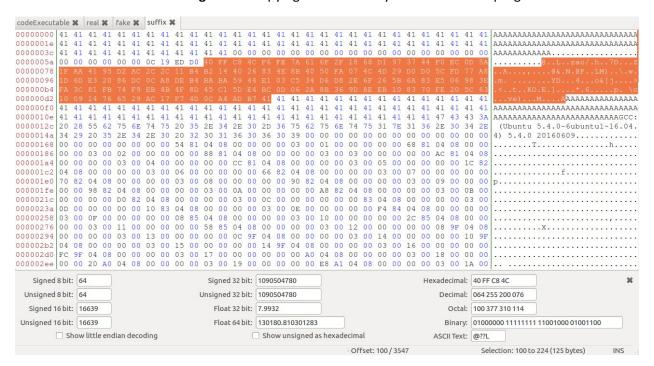


Figure 16: Putting the last 128 bytes from the real program into the first 128 bytes of the second array in suffix file.

After it, we are concatenating the updated suffix to both files (real, fake) in order to gather the program again and getting files: realProgram and fakeProgram. After checking by md5sum we have found that they shared the same MD5

hash, as shown in Figure 14. So, we generated two different behaviors of programs, based on the same source code, which share the same MD5 Hash.

### 2. Conclusion

Now a days the MD5 Hash function is a vulnerable hash function. The Lab is provide us the real life scenario based explanation, how the MD5 collision was happened, generating the same hash values for collision with different content and examined the properties of the hash function. Last but not the least, in the attacker point of view, it can also possible for us to generate a fake certificate with the help of real certificate whereas the content of the program were not the same that is one program is behaved and gave us correct output but the attacker program also can verify with the same certificate value due to generate same hash value (i.e collision occurs) though it will behave maliciously. So our observation is not to use the MD5 Hash function in any real world transactions.

#### **Annexure 1**

# Task 3: Generating Two Executable Files with the Same MD5 Hash

#### **Annexure 2**

# Task 4: Making the Two Programs Behave Differently

#### #include <stdio.h>

unsigned char x[200] =

# unsigned char y[200] =

# Reference

- [1] J. Black, M. Cochran, and T. Highland. "A Study of the MD5 Attacks: Insights and Improvements". In: Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Fast Software Encryption. FSE'06. Graz, Austria: Springer-Verlag, 2006, pp. 262–277. ISBN: 3-540-36597-4, 978-3540-36597-6. DOI: 10.1007/11799313\_17. URL: http://dx.doi.org/10. 1007/11799313\_17 (cit. on p. 1).
- [2] M. Stevens. "On collisions for md5". MA thesis. Eindhoven University of Technology, 2007 (cit. on p. 6).
- [3] M. Stevens, E. Bursztein, et al. The first collision for full SHA-1. Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2017/190. https://eprint.iacr.org/2017/190. 2017.