

Banjo

An Android Disassembler for Binary Ninja

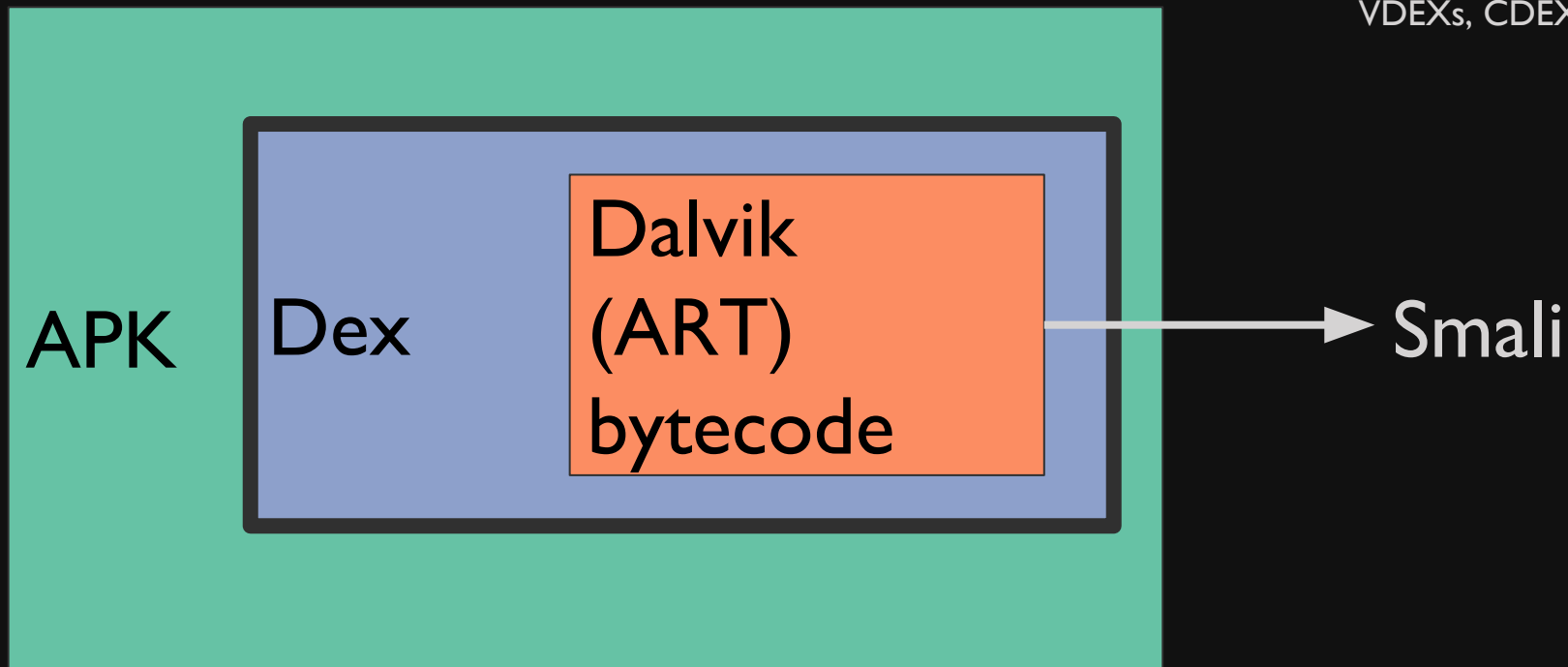
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github.com/carvesystems/banjo

github.com/carvesystems/presentations

We're ignoring ODEXs,
VDEXs, CDEXs, etc.



JAR

.class

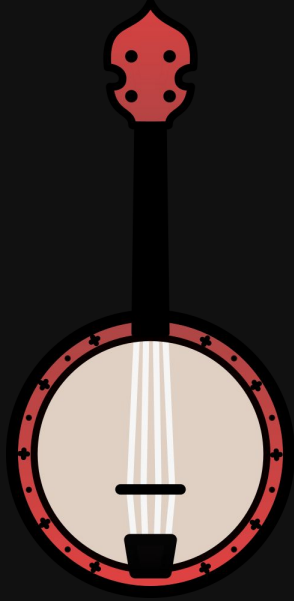
JVM bytecode

| (not intended to be comprehensive) | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Text disassembly | Interactive disassembly and graph view | Intermediate representation (lifting) | Decompilation |
| Compiled binaries | Objdump Capstone Udis86 ... | IDA Pro Binary Ninja Hopper ... | LLIL (Binary Ninja) LLVM (Mcsema) Falcon (Goblin) ... | Hex-Rays Ghidra RetDec |
| Android applications | baksmali | Graphviz PNG generators Radare2 JEB? | Jimple (Soot) | Jadx JD-GUI Dex2jar -> java decompiler JEB |

Goals

1. Be better for this specific task than r2
2. Open source a complex architecture plugin for Binary Ninja
3. Have a Python disassembler library

This is a research project



Disassembler library

Binary Ninja integration

Baksmali compatible-ish CLI

Demo

x86

Smali

90 nop 0000

31 c0 xor eax,eax b7 00

e8 eb ff ff ff call <offset> 70 10 71 00 01 00 (next slide)

nop

xor-int/2addr v0,v0

70 10 71 00 01 00 invoke-direct {v1}, Ljava/lang/Object;-><init>()V

70 invoke-direct

1_ one argument

71 00 method id 0x0071

_1 argument is register v1

-- unused arguments

How to find method 0x71

1. Go to file header, find `method_ids_off`
2. Jump to `0x71*8` bytes into this section to find `method_id`
3. `Method_id` has class, proto, and name indexes
4. Go back to file header, find `type_ids_off`
5. Jump to `class_id_idx*4` bytes into this section to find `string_idx`
6. Go back to file header, find `string_ids_off`
7. Jump to `string_idx*4` bytes into this section to find `string_data_off`
8. Find `string_data` section in `map_list`
9. Jump to `string_data_off` bytes in the `string_data` section to find the `string_data_item`
10. Parse the `string_data_item` to find the data field
11. The data field is a UTF-8-encoded string representing the class name ← (1/3 done with text disassembly!)
12. Go back to file header, find `proto_ids_off`
13. Jump to `proto_id_idx*12` bytes into this section to find a `proto_id_item`

Binary Ninja concepts

Binaryview (ELF, Dex)

Architecture (x86, Dalvik/Smali)

LLIL (lifting, intermediate representation)

Hacky workarounds

How do you read bytes at a specified offset in an Architecture?

Guess you need to precompute lookup tables for those.

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Guess you need to precompute lookup tables for those.

How do you access BinaryView data from an Architecture?

You can't... Use a side-channel (write to disk).

Hacky workarounds

How do you read bytes at a specified offset in an *Architecture*?

Guess you need to precompute lookup tables for those.

How do you access *BinaryView* data from an *Architecture*?

You can't... Use a side-channel (write to disk).

How do you cache file-specific data in an *Architecture* instance?

(Have not figured this one out yet, but most things work without it)

Things that were not obvious to me

What functions of the *Architecture* class do you actually need to implement?

How do you actually add a reference to another address?

How do you actually run background threads?



GitHub repos
with no code

Academic
projects

CTF solution
scripts

Unmaintained
projects that
don't compile

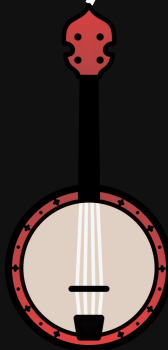
Unmaintained
projects that still
work fine

Popular
open source
projects

Space shuttle
software

Status: mostly works, with rough edges

Still in development



Shoutouts





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github.com/carvesystems/{banjo,presentations}