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6th Laboratory: IDAPro and IDC scripts

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1 Code Constructs

Code construct defines a functional property, but this does not give the details of its implementation, some code constructs include if statements, loops, switch. Programs can be done in blocks that combined give the structure and the functionality of the program. Nevertheless, the assembly code could change due to the compiler, and the language could be different, also the architecture can change some things of the assembly.

2 IDC scripts

Global and Local Variables

Global variables could be used by any function in a program, unlike local variables can be accessed only in the function where they are defined, commonly they are defined very similarly, although in the assembly they a lot of changes. On the other hand, global variables are referenced as memory addresses and local variables by stack addresses.

With *IDAPro* we obtained the assembly of codes done in C and analyzed the differences between these, one has global variables and the other has local variables.

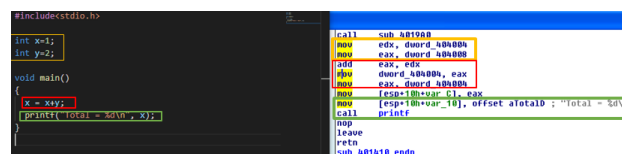
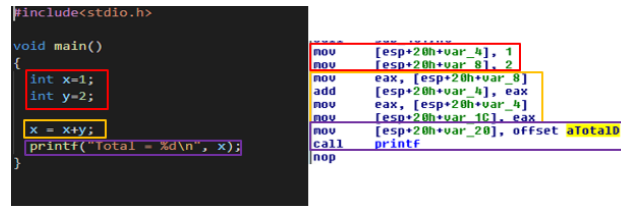


Figure 1: Global Variables represented in assembly

In Fig. 1 you can see the C code and its assembly, the structure of the code could be identified with the squares surrounding each part of it. The yellow square gives the global variables, we saw that the these in the assembly code are identified as a *dword* variable.



```

#include<stdio.h>

void main()
{
  int x=1;
  int y=2;
  x = x+y;
  printf("total = %d\n", x);
}

mov     [esp+20h+var_4], 1
mov     [esp+20h+var_8], 2
mov     eax, [esp+20h+var_8]
add     [esp+20h+var_4], eax
mov     eax, [esp+20h+var_4]
mov     [esp+20h+var_1c], eax
mov     [esp+20h+var_20], offset aTotal0
call    printf
nop
  
```

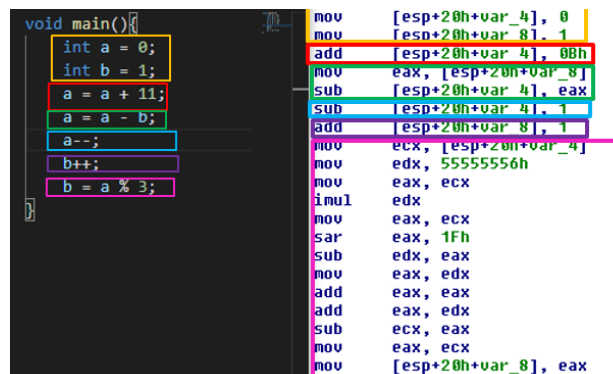
Figure 2: Local Variables represented in assembly

On the other hand, in Fig. 2 is represented a code with local variables, in the red square, you can see how are defined these variables, unlike the global variables these are identified with their names in the assembly code, due to they are variables storage in the stack, while the global variables are reference as memory addresses.

Moreover, in the images presented before, is possible to see how a value reassignment of a variables is done and how the *printf* works in the assembly code.

Arithmetic operations

In Fig. 3 you can see a C code and its assembly, it was obtained with *IDAPro*.



```

void main(){
  int a = 0;
  int b = 1;
  a = a + 11;
  a = a - b;
  a--;
  b++;
  b = a % 3;
}

mov     [esp+20h+var_4], 0
mov     [esp+20h+var_8], 1
add     [esp+20h+var_4], 0Bh
mov     eax, [esp+20h+var_8]
sub     [esp+20h+var_4], eax
sub     [esp+20h+var_4], 1
add     [esp+20h+var_8], 1
mov     ecx, [esp+20h+var_4]
mov     edx, 5555556h
mov     eax, ecx
imul    edx
mov     eax, ecx
sar     eax, 1Fh
sub     edx, eax
mov     eax, edx
add     eax, eax
add     eax, edx
sub     ecx, eax
mov     eax, ecx
mov     [esp+20h+var_8], eax
  
```

Figure 3: Arithmetic Operations in Assembly

The yellow square represents the definition of the variables *a* and *b*, we can see that the addition is done with the command *add* it has the next structure: *ADD <dest>, <source>* it adds source to dest, on the other hand, the *sub* command done the subtraction in this case of the variable $a = a - b$, it works pretty similar as *add*.

Moreover, for the operations $a --$ and $b ++$, the command mentioned before preserve its structure, the only change is that in this case the dest is 1. Finally, in the pink square is shown the structure of a modulo operation.

If statements

For the if statements were analyzed two codes one with an if, else statement and the other is nested if.



In Fig. 4a you can see the if, else block, we are interested in the yellow and red squares. Yellow square give the structure of the if, in the part of the assembly code, we can see a new commands, these are *cmp* and *jnz*, *cmp* compare the value $x == y$ if it is true, it performs the code of the if, if not the command *jnz* identified a zero value, these means something false, which is why it jumps into the else section, we could see in the assembly an arrow pointing to it, specifically it jumps from *00401436* direction to *004014446*.

On the other hand, the nested if works very similar, but it has to judge two statements one for the first and the other for the next if, nested to it, this also happens to the else.

Loops: for and while

First of all, we analyzed the for loop, in Fig. 6 is shown a C code and its assembly.

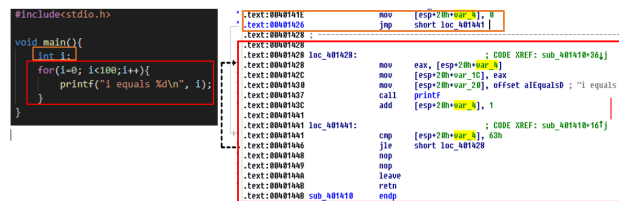


Figure 5: For loop

For this, the program first create the variable *i*, afterward it execute *jmp*, done this that we could identify a similar code saw before, nevertheless, it makes these instruction 100 times, due to the variable *i* were defined in the interval $[0, 99]$, for that reason, *IDAPro* makes an arrow appointing to the section that does this, specifically, it is between *loc_401428* and *loc_401441*.

| | |
|---|--|
| <pre> int status=0; int result = 0; while(status == 0){ result = performAction(); status = checkResult(result); } </pre> | <pre> 00401036 mov [ebp+var_4], 0 0040103D mov [ebp+var_8], 0 00401044 loc_401044: 00401044 cmp [ebp+var_4], 0 00401048 jnz short loc_401063 0040104A call performAction 0040104F mov [ebp+var_8], eax 00401052 mov eax, [ebp+var_8] 00401055 push eax 00401056 call checkResult 0040105B add esp, 4 0040105E mov [ebp+var_4], eax 00401061 jmp short loc_401044 </pre> |
|---|--|

Figure 6: While loop (images obtained from Practical Malware Analysis, The hands on Guide to Dissecting Malicious Software)

On the other hand, the while loop works pretty similar the biggest difference is that this block works with a preposition, in the example showed before, we can see that the while is working with the value `status == 0`, which is why the assembly code uses `cmp`, to evaluate the truth value.

Script codes

All the C codes were obtained in the book *Practical Malware Analysis, The hands on Guide to Dissecting Malicious Software*. Also, we identified that the assembly shown in the book is different from the one made by us, besides C is a compiled language, which is why the binary code must be different in all the structures.

References

- [1] Sikorski, Michael; Honig, Andrew. *Practical Malware Analysis, The hands on Guide to Dissecting Malicious Software*. No starch press, 2012.