

{a lot of x86-32} & {some of x86-64} Hands-On 0x01

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Sections: 600 | 601 | 602

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Learning Objectives*

- 1. Recognize and define x86 assembly language
- 2. Distinguish the difference between 16/32/64-bit assembly code
- 3. Explore sections of executable file
- 4. Differentiate Intel and AT&T syntax
- 5. Explain Stack and Heap memory allocations.

Native - vs. - Compiled

```
1 section .text
      global start
4 start:
           edx,len
                       ;message length
           ecx, msg
6
      mov ebx,1
                       ;file descriptor (stdout)
                       ;system call number (sys write)
      mov eax,4
8
      int 0x80
                       ;call kernel
10
                       ;system call number (sys exit)
           eax,1
11
12
      int 0x80
                       ;call kernel
13
    section .data
   msg db 'Hello, world!', 0xa ;string to be printed
16 len equ $ - msg
                    ;length of the string
```

```
;code segment
segment .text
                                                           Live Demo
                   :must be declared for linker
  global start
                   ;tell linker entry point
start:
  mov edx,len
                  ;message length
                  ;message to write
  mov ecx, msg
  mov ebx,1
                   ;file descriptor (stdout)
                   ;system call number (sys write)
  mov eax,4
                   ;call kernel
  int 0x80
                   ;system call number (sys_exit)
  mov eax,1
                   :call kernel
  int 0x80
segment .data
                  ;data segment
       db 'Hello, world!',0xa ;our dear string
msg
               $ - msg ;length of our dear string
len
       equ
```

https://www.tutorialspoint.com/assembly_programming/index.htm





Native – vs. - Compiled

```
1 section .text
                         ;must be declared for linker (ld)
       global start
 3
4 start:
           edx, len
                        ;message length
           ecx, msg
 6
                        ;file descriptor (stdout)
           ebx,1
       mov
                        ;system call number (sys write)
           eax,4
 8
                        ;call kernel
       int 0x80
9
10
                        ;system call number (sys_exit)
           eax,1
11
12
       int 0x80
                        ;call kernel
13
    section .data
14
   msg db 'Hello, world!', 0xa ;string to be printed
16 len equ $ - msg
                        ;length of the string
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
     printf("Hello, world!");
return 0;
```

```
.file
                 "hellow.c"
         .intel syntax noprefix
         .text
         .section
                      .rodata
     .LC0:
         .string "Hello, world!"
         .text
         .globl
                 main
                 main, @function
         .type
    main:
10
                 rbp
         push
         mov rbp, rsp
13
         lea rax, .LC0[rip]
         mov rdi, rax
14
15
         mov eax, 0
         call
                 printf@PLT
16
         mov eax, 0
         pop rbp
18
19
         ret
```

Hands-On 0x01

Target:

Write an assembly code that prompts the user to enter multiple positive grades. Whenever the user enters a number, the main function checks if that grade is less than 100. If the grade is not withing that range it print an error message. The main function should also check if the grade is equal to, or greater than 50 (pass course) and then calls another function to increase the counter of passed courses, otherwise it increases the counter of failed courses. The iteration stops when the user enters a negative grade (-1). Before exiting the program, the main function calls another function to print the result of the counters for passed and failed courses provided by the user.

Analyzing the requirements of the program:

1.Input Handling:

- 1. The program needs to prompt the user to enter multiple positive grades.
- 2. It should handle the input validation to ensure that the entered grade is within the range of 0 to 100.

2.Grade Evaluation:

- 1. Once a valid grade is entered, the main function should evaluate if the grade is within the passing range (greater than or equal to 50) or not.
- 2. Based on the evaluation, it should update counters for passed and failed courses accordingly.

3.Looping and Termination:

1. The iteration should continue until the user enters a negative grade (-1).

4.Output:

1. Before exiting the program, it should print the results of the counters for passed and failed courses.





Analyzing the requirements of the program:

- **Input/Output Operations:** The program must prompt the user for input and display messages.
- **Conditional Statements:** It should use conditions to check:
 - If a grade is within a certain range (less than 100).
 - If a grade is a passing grade (greater than or equal to 50).
- Loops: Implement a loop to continuously prompt for grades until a negative grade is entered.
- **Function Calls: Use functions to:**
 - Increase the counter of passed or failed courses.
 - Print the result of the counters.
- **Arithmetic Operations:** Perform basic increment operations on counters.
- Data Storage: Manage storage for grades, and counters for passed and failed courses.



Hands-on Task Breakdown:

- **Prompt for Grade Input:** Use system calls or platform-specific methods to read user input.
- **Validate Grade:** Check if the grade is less than 100. If not, output an error message.
- Check Pass/Fail Condition: Determine if the grade constitutes a pass or fail and increment the appropriate counter.
- **Implement a Loop:** Ensure the program continues to prompt for grades until a negative grade is entered.
- Function to Increase Counters: Implement functions to handle incrementing the pass and fail counters.
- Function to Print Results: Create a function that outputs the counts of passed and failed courses.
- **Negative Grade to Terminate:** Use a negative grade as a sentinel value to exit the loop.
- **Test and Debug**: Encourage testing with various inputs to ensure the program behaves as expected.



- 1. Task 1: Hello World Program
- 2. Task 2: Reading User Input
- 3. Task 3: Basic Arithmetic Operations
- 4. Task 4: Using Conditional Statements
- 5. Task 5: Loop Constructs
- 6. Task 6: Function Calls
- 7. Task 7: Implementing a Counter
- 8. Task 8: Combining Loops and Conditionals
- 9. Task 9: Advanced Input Validation
- 10. Task 10: Complete Program Assembly





Guidance for Completion

- Start Simple: Begin with basic programs to build your foundational skills.
- Incremental Learning: Each task builds upon the previous, so complete them in order.
- Test and Debug: Regularly test your programs for different scenarios to ensure they behave as expected.
- Consult Resources: Use course materials, textbooks, and online resources to aid in solving tasks.
- Seek Feedback: Discuss your solutions with peers or instructors to gain insights and improve your code.

Task 1: Hello World Program

- Objective: Learn the basic syntax of assembly language and how to output text.
- Task: Write an assembly/C program that outputs "Hello, World!" to the console
- Languages: C and Native Assembly
- Reverse Engineering: Compare the compiled C with the native code.

Task 1: Hello World Program

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    printf("Hello, world!\n");
    return 0;
}
```

```
$ gcc hello.c -o hello
Or
$gcc -m32 hello.c -o hello
Or
$ gcc -m32 -W -Wall -Wextra -
Wpedantic -fno-asynchronous-unwind-
tables -no-pie -O0 -fno-pie -fno-pic
hello.c -o hello_32_clean
```

```
section .data
  helloMessage db 'Hello, World!',0xA; Define the message with a newline character at the end
  helloLen equ $-helloMessage ; Calculate the length of the message
section .text
  global _start
                                   ; The entry point for the program
start:
                                   ; Write the message to stdout
                                   ; The system call number for sys_write (4)
  mov eax, 4
  mov ebx, 1
                                   ; File descriptor 1 is stdout
                                   ; The message to write
  mov ecx, helloMessage
  mov edx, helloLen
                                   ; The length of the message
  int 0x80
                                   ; Make the kernel call
  ; Exit the program
                                   ; The system call number for sys_exit (1)
  mov eax, 1
                                   : Exit code 0
  mov ebx, 0
  int 0x80
                                   ; Make the kernel call
```

section .data

section .text

_start:



section .data

helloMessage db 'Hello, World!',0xA; Define the message with a newline character at the end helloLen equ \$-helloMessage ; Calculate the length of the message

- **Data Section:** This is where your program's data (constants, strings, etc.) is defined. It's not executable but is accessed by the executable sections of your program.
- helloMessage: A label pointing to a byte array containing the "Hello, World!" string followed by a newline character (0xA, which is ASCII for newline).
- **helloLen:** Uses the equ directive to calculate the length of helloMessage by subtracting the current address (\$) from the address where helloMessage starts. This effectively gives the size of the helloMessage string in bytes.

section .text

global _start

; The entry point for the program

start:

Section Directive

section .text: This directive tells the assembler to place the following instructions in the .text section of the output file. The .text section is where executable code resides.

Global Directive

global _start: The global directive makes the symbol _start visible outside of this file, which is necessary for the linker to recognize _start as the entry point of the program.

Label

_start:: This line defines a label named _start. Labels in assembly language serve as markers or placeholders that represent addresses in memory. When the program is assembled and linked, _start will be associated with the memory address where the following instructions begin.





mov eax, 4 mov ebx, 1 mov ecx, helloMessage mov edx, helloLen int 0x80

; The system call number for sys_write (4)

; File descriptor 1 is stdout

; The message to write

; The length of the message

; Make the kernel call

What Does int 0x80 Do?

- int: This stands for "interrupt," a powerful feature of x86 CPUs.
- interrupt number 0x80 is designated for system calls.

Before int 0x80 is Executed:

The program sets up specific registers with the necessary information for the system call:

- EAX: Contains the system call number (e.g., 4 for sys_write, 1 for sys_exit).
- EBX, ECX, EDX, ...: These registers are used to pass arguments to the system call.



General System Call Number Summary (for x86 Linux)

- 1: sys_exit Terminates the current process.
- 2: sys_fork Creates a new process (child process).
- **3: sys_read** Reads data from a file descriptor into a buffer.
- **4: sys_write** Writes data from a buffer to a file descriptor.
- 5: sys_open Opens a file and returns a file descriptor.
- 6: sys_close Closes a file descriptor.
- 7: sys_waitpid Waits for a child process to change state.
- 8: sys_creat Creates a new file or rewrites an existing one.
- 9: sys_link Creates a new link (hard link) to an existing file.
- 10: sys_unlink Removes a directory entry (deletes a file name).
- 11: sys_execve Executes a program.
- 12: sys_chdir Changes the current working directory.
- 13: sys_time Gets the current time.
- 45: sys_brk Changes the space allocated for the calling process's data segment.
- 85: sys_readlink Reads the value of a symbolic link.
- 91: sys_munmap Unmaps a file or device from memory.
- 122: sys_uname Gets system information.
- 145: sys_readv Read vectors from a file descriptor.
- 146: sys_writev Write vectors to a file descriptor.
- 252: sys_exit_group Exits all threads in a process.

sys_write: System Call Number: 4

Purpose: Writes data to a file descriptor from a buffer.

sys_write (fd, buf, count)

Parameters:

- File Descriptor (fd): Think of it as a special number that your program gets when it opens a file or starts up. It tells the system where you want to write your data. For example, 1 always means "write to the terminal window."
- Buffer (**buf**): This is where your data is stored before it gets written. If you want to write "Hello", your buffer contains the letters of "Hello".
- 3. Count (count): This tells how many letters (or bytes) you want to write from your buffer.

Usage: mov eax, 4; mov ebx, fd; mov ecx, buf; mov edx, count; int 0x80



sys_read: System Call Number: 3

Purpose: Reads data from a file descriptor into a buffer.

Parameters:

- unsigned int fd: File descriptor to read from.
- 2. char *buf: Buffer to read the data into.
- 3. size_t count: Number of bytes to read.

```
Usage:
mov eax, 3;
mov ebx, fd;
mov ecx, buf;
mov edx, count;
int 0x80
```



; Exit the program

mov eax, 1

mov ebx, 0

int 0x80

; The system call number for sys_exit (1)

; Exit code 0

; Make the kernel call

mov eax, 1

The number 1 corresponds to the sys_exit system call, which is used to terminate a process.

mov ebx, 0

When making the sys_exit system call, ebx holds the exit status of the process. An exit status of 0 typically indicates that the program terminated successfully without any errors.

int 0x80

When this interrupt is triggered, the kernel looks at the value in the eax register to determine which system call to execute, and then it uses the values in other registers (ebx in this case) as arguments to that system call.





Resources:

Setup the environment on your VM:

https://www.tutorialspoint.com/assembly_programming/assembly_environment_setup.htm

Use online Emulators:

https://www.tutorialspoint.com/compile_asm_online.php

http://carlosrafaelgn.com.br/Asm86/

NASM website:

https://www.nasm.us/

Steps to Compile and Run

To compile and run this program on a Linux system, you would typically follow these steps:

Compile the Program: Use NASM to compile the assembly code. Open a terminal and run the following command:

\$nasm -f elf hello.asm

This command compiles the hello.asm file into an object file hello.o in ELF (Executable and Linkable Format).

Link the Object File: Link the object file to create an executable. You can use the ld linker for this step:

\$ld -m elf i386 -s -o hello hello.o

This creates an executable named hello. The -m elf_i386 option specifies the target architecture, which is important for compatibility reasons.

Run the Program: Finally, run the executable by typing:

\$./hello

This should display "Hello, World!" in the terminal.



; Make the kernel call

```
section .data
  helloMessage db 'Hello, World!',0xA; Define the message with a newline character at the end
  helloLen equ $-helloMessage ; Calculate the length of the message
section .text
                                                                            $nasm -f elf hello.asm
                                      ; The entry point for the program
  global start
                                                                            $Id -m elf_i386 -s -o hello hello.o
_start:
                                                                            $./hello
      ; Write the message to stdout
  mov eax, 4
                                      ; The system call number for sys_write (4)
  mov ebx, 1
                                      ; File descriptor 1 is stdout
                                      ; The message to write
  mov ecx, helloMessage
  mov edx, helloLen
                                      ; The length of the message
  int 0x80
                                      ; Make the kernel call
       ; Exit the program
  mov eax, 1
                                      ; The system call number for sys_exit (1)
  mov ebx, 0
                                      ; Exit code 0
```



int 0x80

Can we mix?:

```
section .data
```

helloMessage db 'Hello, World!', 0xA; Null-terminated string with a newline

```
section .text
```

global _start ; The entry point for the program

extern printf ; External declaration of printf

```
$ nasm -f elf32 -o hello.o hello.asm
```

\$ gcc -m32 -nostartfiles -no-pie -o hello hello.o

```
_start:
```

```
lea eax, [helloMessage] ; Load the effective address of helloMessage into EAX push eax ; Push the value in EAX (the address) onto the stack call printf ; Call the printf function ; Clean up the stack (pop the argument)
```

; Exit the program using sys_exit

mov eax, 1; The system call number for sys_exit (1)

mov ebx, 0 ; Exit code 0

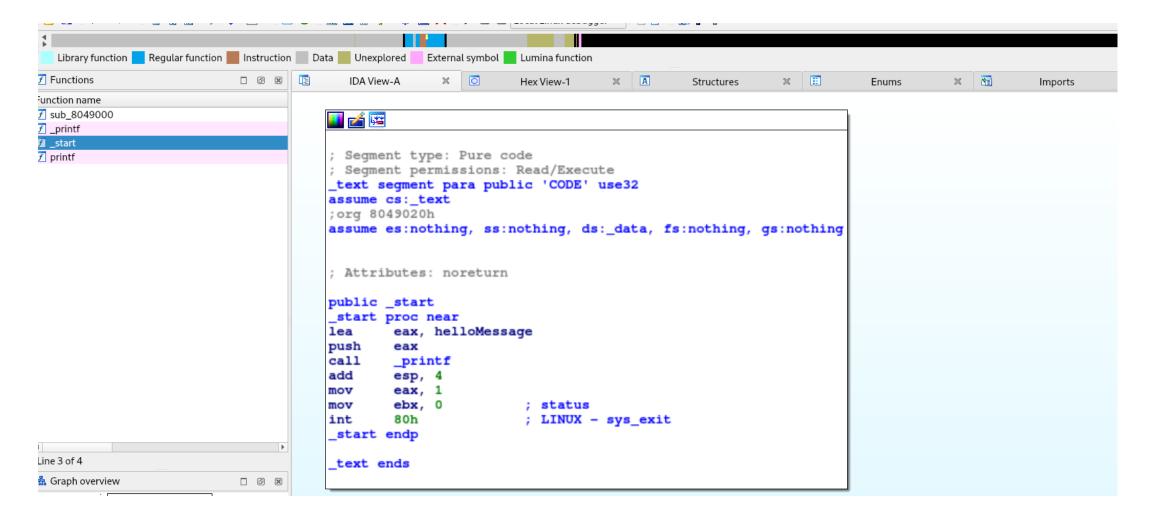
int 0x80 ; Make the kernel call

\$ sudo apt update

\$ sudo apt install gcc-multilib g++-multilib



Can we mix?:







Task 2: Reading User Input

- **Objective:** Understand how to read a single number input from the user.
- Task: Create an assembly/C program that prompts the user for a number and then displays that number back to the user.
- Reverse Engineering: Compare the compiled C with the native code.

Task 2: Reading User Input

```
C task2scan.c X
C task2scan.c
      #include <stdio.h>
      int main() {
          int grade;
          printf("Please enter your grade (0-100): ");
           scanf("%d", &grade);
  6
           printf("You entered this grade: %d\n", grade);
          return 0;
  8
  9
                                            –(kali⊛kali)-[~]
 10
                                           -$ gcc -m32 task2scan.c -o task2scan
```

section .data

section .bss

section .text global _start

_start:

- ; Display the prompt to the user
- ; Read the grade from user input
- ; Write the output message
- ; Echo the grade back to stdout
- ; Exit the program

```
C task2scan.c
1  #include <stdio.h>
2
3  int main() {
4    int grade;
5    printf("Please enter your grade (0-100): ");
6    scanf("%d", &grade);
7    printf("You entered this grade: %d\n", grade);
8    return 0;
9  }
10
```

section .data

msg db 'Please enter your grade (0-100): ', 0 lenMsg equ \$ - msg

outMsg db 'You entered this grade: ' lenOutMsg equ \$ - outMsg

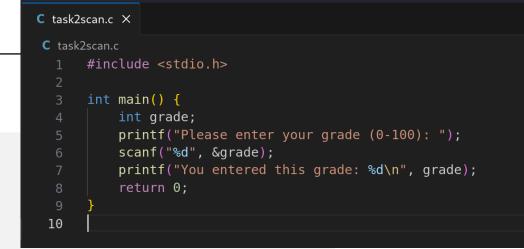
section .data

msg db 'Please enter your grade (0-100): ', 0 lenMsg equ \$ - msg outMsg db 'You entered this grade: ' lenOutMsg equ \$ - outMsg

section .bss

grade resb 5; Reserve space for grade input, including '\n' and null terminator

resb: This stands for "reserve byte(s)" in NASM syntax. It's an assembler directive used to allocate space in memory without initializing it. The space allocated is intended for byte-sized elements. Other similar directives include resw for word-sized elements (2 bytes), resd for double wo



```
section .data
section .bss
section .text
global _start
```

_start:

; Display the prompt to the user

```
mov eax, 4 ; sys_write system call mov ebx, 1 ; File descriptor 1 (stdout) mov ecx, msg ; Pointer to the message mov edx, lenMsg ; Message length int 0x80 ; Call kernel
```

```
C task2scan.c
1  #include <stdio.h>
2
3  int main() {
4    int grade;
5    printf("Please enter your grade (0-100): ");
6    scanf("%d", &grade);
7    printf("You entered this grade: %d\n", grade);
8    return 0;
9  }
10
```

section .data

section .bss

section .text global _start

_start:

; Read the grade from user input

```
mov eax, 3 ; sys_read system call mov ebx, 0 ; File descriptor 0 (stdin)
```

mov ecx , grade ; Pointer to the buffer where the input will be stored

mov edx, 5 ; Max number of bytes to read, accommodating up to 3 digits, newline, and null terminator

int 0x80 ; Call kernel

```
C task2scan.c X

C task2scan.c

1  #include <stdio.h>
2

3  int main() {
    int grade;
    printf("Please enter your grade (0-100): ");
    scanf("%d", &grade);
    printf("You entered this grade: %d\n", grade);
    return 0;
}

10
```



section .data

section .bss

section .text global _start

_start:

- ; Display the prompt to the user
- ; Read the grade from user input
- ; Write the output message
- ; Echo the grade back to stdout
- ; Exit the program

```
C task2scan.c
1  #include <stdio.h>
2
3  int main() {
4    int grade;
5    printf("Please enter your grade (0-100): ");
6    scanf("%d", &grade);
7    printf("You entered this grade: %d\n", grade);
8    return 0;
9  }
10
```

```
section .data
```

section .bss

section .text global _start

_start:

; Write the output message

mov eax, 4 ; sys_write system call

mov ebx, 1; File descriptor 1 (stdout)

mov ecx, outMsg ; Pointer to the output message

mov edx, lenOutMsg ; Output message length

int 0x80; Call kernel

```
C task2scan.c
1  #include <stdio.h>
2
3  int main() {
4    int grade;
5    printf("Please enter your grade (0-100): ");
6    scanf("%d", &grade);
7    printf("You entered this grade: %d\n", grade);
8    return 0;
9  }
10
```

```
section .data
```

section .bss

```
section .text
global _start
```

_start:

; Echo the grade back to stdout

```
mov eax, 4 ; sys_write system call
```

mov ebx, 1; File descriptor 1 (stdout)

mov ecx, grade ; Pointer to the buffer with the grade

mov edx, 5; Using 5 bytes as a maximum length to echo back

int 0x80; Call kernel

```
section .data
```

section .bss

section .text global _start

_start:

; Exit the program

mov eax, 1 ; sys_exit system call

xor ebx, ebx; Exit code 0

int 0x80 ; Call kernel

```
C task2scan.c
1  #include <stdio.h>
2
3  int main() {
4    int grade;
5    printf("Please enter your grade (0-100): ");
6    scanf("%d", &grade);
7    printf("You entered this grade: %d\n", grade);
8    return 0;
9 }
10
```

section .data

msg db 'Please enter your grade (0-100): ', ; Display the prompt to the user lenMsg equ \$ - msg outMsg db 'You entered this grade: ' lenOutMsg equ \$ - outMsg

section bss

grade resb 5

section .text

global _start

_start:

mov eax, 4 mov ebx, 1 mov ecx, msg mov edx, lenMsq int 0x80

; Read the grade from user input

mov eax, 3 mov ebx, 0 mov ecx, grade mov edx, 5 int 0x80

; Write the output message

mov eax, 4 mov ebx, 1 mov ecx, outMsg mov edx, lenOutMsg int 0x80

; Echo the grade back to stdout

mov eax, 4 mov ebx, 1 mov ecx, grade mov edx, 5 int 0x80 ; Exit the program

mov eax, 1 xor ebx, ebx int 0x80

\$ nasm -f elf32 -o task2scanasm.o task2scanasm.asm \$ gcc -m32 -nostartfiles -no-pie -o task2scanasm task2scanasm.o



Task 2 C+ native:

```
section .data
msg1 db 'Please enter your grade (0-100): ', 0
inputFormat db '%d', 0
msg2 db 'You entered this grade: %d', 10, 0
section .bss
grade resd 1
section .text
global main
extern printf
extern scanf
```

```
main:
; Print the first message
       push msg1
       call printf
       add esp, 4
; Read the grade
       push grade
       push inputFormat
       call scanf
       add esp, 8
; Print the second message with the grade
       push dword [grade]
       push msg2
       call printf
       add esp, 8
: Exit
                            ; sys_exit system call number
      mov eax, 1
       xor ebx, ebx
                            : Status 0
       int 0x80
```

\$ nasm -f elf32 -o task2scanasm.o task2scanasm.asm \$ gcc -m32 -nostartfiles -no-pie -o task2scanasm task2scanasm.o



- 1. Task 1: Hello World Program
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- 4. Task 4: Using Conditional Statements
- 5. Task 5: Loop Constructs
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- 7. Task 7: Implementing a Counter
- 8. Task 8: Combining Loops and Conditionals
- 9. Task 9: Advanced Input Validation
- 10. Task 10: Complete Program Assembly



5) Tasks 3:10 ...0x2BCON10U By Students ...



Installing NASM:

If you select "Development Tools" while installing Linux, you may get NASM installed along with the Linux operating system and you do not need to download and install it separately. For checking whether you already have NASM installed, take the following steps –

- Open a Linux terminal.
- Type whereis nasm and press ENTER.
- If it is already installed, then a line like, *nasm: /usr/bin/nasm* appears. Otherwise, you will see just nasm:, then you need to install NASM.

<u>Assembly - Environment Setup (tutorialspoint.com)</u> https://www.tutorialspoint.com/assembly_programming/assembly_environment_setup.htm





Installing NASM:

To install NASM, take the following steps –

- Check The netwide assembler (NASM) NASM website for the latest version.
- Download the Linux source archive nasm-X.XX.ta.gz, where X.XX is the NASM version number in the archive.
- Unpack the archive into a directory which creates a subdirectory nasm-X. XX.
- cd to nasm-X.XX and type ./configure. This shell script will find the best C compiler to use and set up Makefiles accordingly.
- Type make to build the nasm and ndisasm binaries.
- Type make install to install nasm and ndisasm in /usr/local/bin and to install the man pages.



Additional Reading (Optional):

- RE4B (Reverse Engineering 4 Beginners)
 - Covers Intel, ARM, MIPS assembler with concrete examples
 - Focus isn't on malware, but still a great reference
- Intel architecture manuals https://software.intel.com/en-us/articles/intel-sdm
- http://ref.x86asm.net/
- http://x86asm.net/articles/x86-64-tour-of-intel-manuals/index.html
- http://eli.thegreenplace.net/2011/09/06/stack-frame-layout-on-x86-64
- https://godbolt.org/



Course Overview

Title: "CSEC 202 - Reverse Engineering Fundamentals"

Instructor	Office	Phone	Email	Semester-Year
Emad Abu Khousa	D003		<u>eakcad@rit.edu</u>	Spring-2024
Office Hours:	M: 12:00-01:00 TR: 11:00-12:00			

600: 12:00-01:20, **Room B-107** 601: MW 01:05-02:25, **Room C-109** 01:30-02:50, **Room D-207 602**:

Thank You and Q&A