



CYBERSECURITY BOOTCAMP



Reverse Engineering 101



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Reverse
Engineering is the
process of
analysing a
product to
understand how it
works

What is reverse engineering

Why reverse engineering



Modifying software/hardware



Finding bugs



Finding security issues



Analyzing malware



Finding hidden features





How to perform reverse engineering

	Static analysis	Dynamic analysis
Identify	✓	✗
Execute	✗	✓



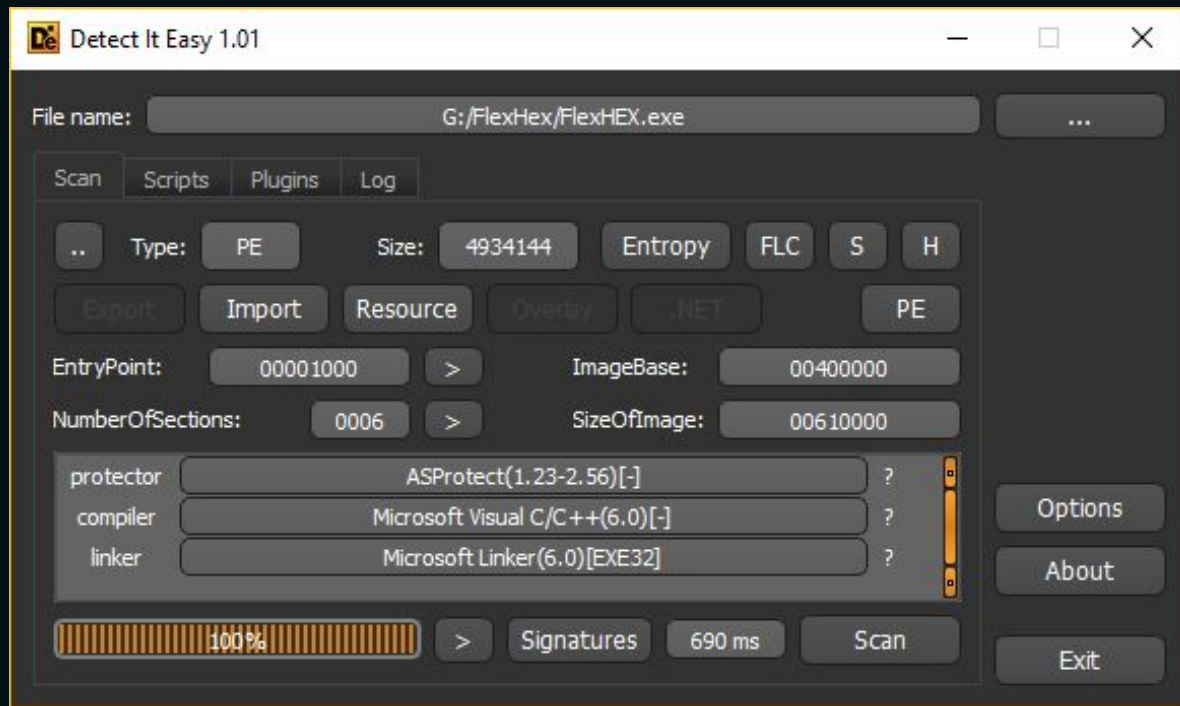
Static Analysis

The different techniques for analyzing the sample program without executing it

- Looking up VirusTotal to check if it's a known malware
- Looking at the strings inside the file
- Trying to know the runtime, compiler used (as well as any other packers)
- Trying to look at the code disassembly / decompilation



Detect it Easy on Windows





VirusTotal reporting malware

918b035fa23083286866d7ab947c9fc167e3e9c398b7e6e83cb7169056ae43d5

45 / 63

45 engines detected this file

918b035fa23083286866d7ab947c9fc167e3e9c398b7e6e83cb7169056ae43d5
emotet_e2_918b035fa23083286866d7ab947c9fc167e3e9c398b7e6e83cb7169056ae43d5_2021-01-04_195917
321027_doc

161.41 KB
Size

2021-01-25 00:00:40 UTC
23 hours ago

DOC

Community Score

checks-network-adapters create-file create-ole direct-cpu-clock-access doc macros malware runtime-modules

DETECTION	DETAILS	RELATIONS	BEHAVIOR	COMMUNITY 4
Ad-Aware	VB:Trojan.Valyria.3561	AegisLab	Trojan.MSOffice.SAgent.4lc	
AhnLab-V3	Downloader/MSOffice.Generic	ALYac	Trojan.Downloader.DOC.Gen	
Antiy-AVL	Trojan[Downloader]/MSOffice.Agent.gh	Arcabit	HEUR.VBA.CG.2	
Avast	VBS:Obfuscated-gen [Trj]	AVG	VBS:Obfuscated-gen [Trj]	
Avira (no cloud)	VBA/Dldr.Agent.psynw	BitDefender	VB:Trojan.Valyria.3561	
CAT-QuickHeal	W97M.Emotet.Heur	ClamAV	Doc.Dropper.EmotetRed1220-9816007-0	



Ghidra CodeBrowser view

The screenshot displays the Ghidra CodeBrowser interface for a function named `FUN_0000b674` in a file named `test:/RtspServer`. The interface is split into two main panes: the left pane shows the assembly code, and the right pane shows the decompiled C code.

Assembly Code (Left Pane):

```
0000b6b8 9c 00 ldr r0,[r11,#local_a0]
1b e5
0000b6bc 20 19 ldr r1=>s_videoSub_000ba314,[PTR_s_video... = "videoSub"
9f e5 = 000ba314
0000b6c0 fb fb bl <EXTERNAL>::strcmp int strcmp(ch
ff eb
0000b6c4 00 30 cpy r3,r0
a0 e1
0000b6c8 00 00 cmp r3,#0x0
53 e3
0000b6cc 26 00 bne LAB_0000b76c
00 1a

LAB_0000b6d0 XREF[1]: 0000b6b4(j)
01 30 mov r3,#0x1
a0 e3
0000b6d4 81 30 strb r3,[r11,#local_85]
4b e5
0000b6d8 08 39 ldr r3,[PTR_s_IP_Camera_Video_0000bfe8] = 000ba334
9f e5
0000b6dc 80 30 str r3=>s_IP_Camera_Video_000ba334,[r11,... = "IP Camera
0b e5
0000b6e0 00 30 mov r3,#0x0
a0 e3
0000b6e4 00 30 str r3,[sp,#0x0]=>local_b0
8d e5
0000b6e8 00 30 mov r3,#0x0
a0 e3
0000b6ec 04 30 str r3,[sp,#local_ac]
8d e5
0000b6f0 98 00 ldr r0,[r11,#local_9c]
1b e5
0000b6f4 9c 10 ldr r1,[r11,#local_a0]
1b e5
0000b6f8 9c 20 ldr r2,[r11,#local_a0]
1b e5
0000b6fc 80 30 ldr r3=>s_IP_Camera_Video_000ba334,[r11,... = "IP Camera
```

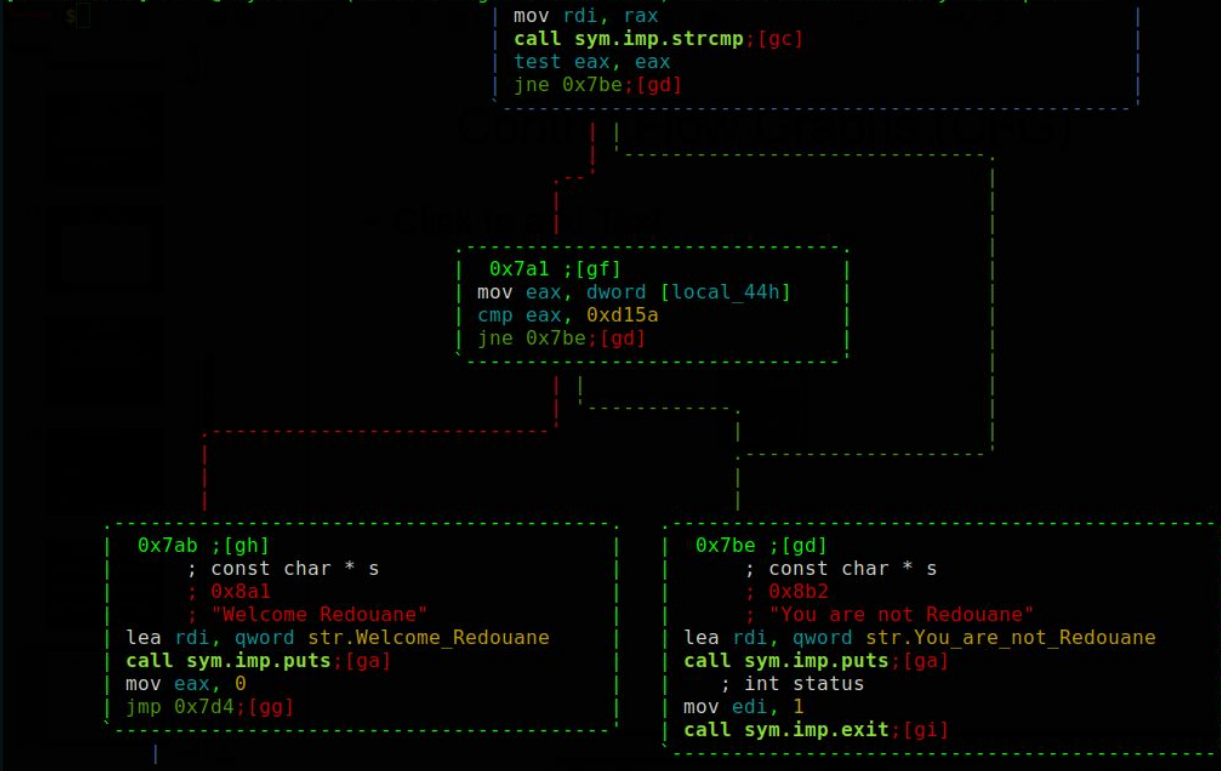
Decompile: FUN_0000b674 - (RtspServer)

```
1 undefined4 FUN_0000b674(undefined4 param_1,char *param_2,int param_3)
2
3
4 {
5     int iVar1;
6     undefined4 uVar2;
7     char *pcVar3;
8     undefined4 uVar4;
9     size_t sVar5;
10    int *piVar6;
11    undefined4 local_94;
12
13    local_94 = 0;
14    if (param_3 == 0) {
15        iVar1 = strcmp(param_2,"videoMain");
16        if ((iVar1 == 0) || (iVar1 = strcmp(param_2,"videoSub"), iVar1 == 0)) {
17            local_94 = FUN_000536f4(param_1,param_2,param_2,"IP Camera Video",0,0);
18            uVar2 = FUN_000d284(param_1,param_2,1);
19            FUN_00053f88(local_94,uVar2);
20            uVar2 = FUN_000f4d4(param_1,param_2,1,1);
21            FUN_00053f88(local_94,uVar2);
22        }
23        else {
24            iVar1 = strcmp(param_2,"audio");
25            if (iVar1 == 0) {
26                local_94 = FUN_000536f4(param_1,param_2,param_2,"IP Camera Audio",0,0);
27                uVar2 = FUN_000f4d4(param_1,param_2,1,1);
28                FUN_00053f88(local_94,uVar2);
29            }
30            else {
31                pcVar3 = strstr(param_2,".avi");
32                if (pcVar3 == (char *)0x0) {
33                    local_94 = FUN_000536f4(param_1,param_2,param_2,"IP Camera Record
34                    uVar2 = FUN_000c084(param_1,param_2,0);
35                    FUN_00053f88(local_94,uVar2);
36                }
37            }
38        }
39    }
```



Control flow graph on Radare2

[0x0000073a]> VV @ sym.main (nodes 6 edges 6 zoom 100%) BB-NORM mouse:canvas-y mov-speed:5





DnSpy decompiling a game anticheat

dnSpy v6.1.8 (64-bit, .NET)

File Edit View Debug Window Help [C#] Start

Assembly Explorer

- PE
- Type References
- References
-
- CodeStage.AntiCheat.Common
- CodeStage.AntiCheat.Detectors
 - ActDetectorBase @02000032
 - InjectionDetector @02000033
 - ObscuredCheatingDetector @02000035
 - SpeedHackDetector @02000036
 - TimeCheatingDetector @02000037
 - WallHackDetector @02000038
- CodeStage.AntiCheat.ObfuscatedTypes
- CodeStage.AntiCheat.Utils
- GameAnalyticsSDK
- GameAnalyticsSDK.Events
- GameAnalyticsSDK.Setup
- GameAnalyticsSDK.State
- GameAnalyticsSDK.Utilities
- GameAnalyticsSDK.Validators
- GameAnalyticsSDK.Wrapper
- I2
- I2.Loc
- I2.Loc.SimpleJSON
- MessengerExtensions
- MiniJSON
- tk2dRuntime
- tk2dRuntime.TileMap
- TMPro
- TMPro.Examples

mscorlib (2.0.0.0)

ObscuredCheatingDetector

```
147         Debug.LogWarning("[ACTk] Obscured Cheating Detector: was started without any ca
148             inspector, or pass the callback Action to the StartDetection method.", this);
149         base.enabled = false;
150         return;
151     }
152     this.detectionAction = callback;
153     this.started = true;
154     this.isRunning = true;
155 }
156
157 // Token: 0x060001FF RID: 511 RVA: 0x0000A4E0 File Offset: 0x000088E0
158 protected override void StartDetectionAutomatically()
159 {
160     this.StartDetectionInternal(null);
161 }
162
163 // Token: 0x06000200 RID: 512 RVA: 0x0000A4E9 File Offset: 0x000088E9
164 protected override void PauseDetector()
165 {
166     this.isRunning = false;
167 }
168
169 // Token: 0x06000201 RID: 513 RVA: 0x0000A4F2 File Offset: 0x000088F2
170 protected override void ResumeDetector()
171 {
172     if (this.detectionAction == null && !this.detectionEventHasListener)
173     {
174         return;
175     }
176     this.isRunning = true;
177 }
178
179 // Token: 0x06000202 RID: 514 RVA: 0x0000A512 File Offset: 0x00008912
180 protected override void StopDetectionInternal()
```



Dynamic Analysis

The techniques for analyzing the sample while it runs

NOTE: HAS TO BE DONE IN AN ISOLATED ENVIRONMENT (VM)

- Intercepting and analyzing network traffic generated by the application
- Analyzing the API calls made by the application
- Debugging the sample
- Intercepting the decrypted data/code at runtime
- Performing instrumentation (injecting code into the application)
- Faking network traffic by setting up a fake dns / server (dnscache, inetsim)



A debugging session in x64dbg



geany.exe - PID: 9904 - Module: geany.exe - Thread: Main Thread 15476 - x64dbg

File View Debug Tracing Plugins Favourites Options Help Apr 11 2022 (TitanEngine)

CPU Log Notes Breakpoints Memory Map Call Stack SEH Script Sys

RIP RAX RD 00007FF6A4C814B0 48:83EC 28 sub rsp,28
00007FF6A4C814B0 48:8B05 D52E0000 mov rax,qword ptr ds:[7F6A4C814B0]
00007FF6A4C814B0 C700 01000000 mov dword ptr ds:[rax],1
00007FF6A4C814B0 E8 BAFCFFFF call geany.7FF6A4C81180
00007FF6A4C814B0 90 nop
00007FF6A4C814B0 90 nop
00007FF6A4C814B0 48:83C4 28 add rsp,28
00007FF6A4C814B0 C3 ret
00007FF6A4C814B0 0F1F00 nop dword ptr ds:[rax],eax
00007FF6A4C814B0 48:83EC 28 sub rsp,28
00007FF6A4C814B0 48:8B05 B52E0000 mov rax,qword ptr ds:[7F6A4C814B0]
00007FF6A4C814B0 C700 00000000 mov dword ptr ds:[rax],0
00007FF6A4C814B0 E8 9AFCFFFF call geany.7FF6A4C81180
00007FF6A4C814B0 90 nop
00007FF6A4C814B0 90 nop
00007FF6A4C814B0 48:83C4 28 add rsp,28
00007FF6A4C814B0 C3 ret
00007FF6A4C814B0 0F1F00 nop dword ptr ds:[rax],eax
00007FF6A4C814B0 48:83EC 28 sub rsp,28

Hide FPU

RAX 00007FF6A4C814B0 <geany>
RBX 0000000000000000
RCX 000000CDDEB6C000
RDX 00007FF6A4C814B0 <geany>
RBP 0000000000000000
RSP 000000CDDEDF848
RSI 0000000000000000
RDI 0000000000000000
R8 000000CDDEB6C000
R9 00007FF6A4C814B0 <geany>
R10 0000000000000000
R11 0000000000000000
R12 0000000000000000
R13 0000000000000000
R14 0000000000000000
R15 0000000000000000

Default (x64 fastcall) 5 Unlocked

1: rcx 000000CDDEB6C000
2: rdx 00007FF6A4C814B0 <geany>
3: r8 000000CDDEB6C000
4: r9 00007FF6A4C814B0 <geany>
5: [rsp+28] 0000000000000000

rsp=000000CDDEDF848
28 '(
.text:00007FF6A4C814B0 geany.exe:\$14B0 #8B0 <EntryPoint>

Dump 1 Dump 2 Dump 3 Dump 4 Dump

Address Hex
00007FFB9E8F1000 CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC CC
00007FFB9E8F1010 48 89 5C 24 10 48 89 74 24 18 57 41 56 41 57 41
00007FFB9E8F1020 81 EC 80 00 00 00 48 8B 05 E3 14 18 00 48 33 00
00007FFB9E8F1030 48 89 44 24 70 4D 8B F9 41 8B F8 48 8B C1 85 00
00007FFB9E8F1040 0F 84 61 62 0A 00 83 FA 0A 0F 85 15 62 0A 00 00
00007FFB9E8F1050 33 C9 45 33 D2 4C 8D 7A 2A 61 48 8B 00 4C 8D 7A

000000CDDEDF848 00007FFB9E7070 return to
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000
000000CDDEDF848 00007FFB9E9426 return to
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000
000000CDDEDF848 0000000000000000

Command: Commands are comma separated (like assembly instructions): mov eax, ebx Default

Paused INT3 breakpoint "entry breakpoint" at <geany.EntryPoint> (00007FF6A4C814B0)! Time Wasted Debugging: 0:00:01:16





A debugging session in gdb



```
RBP: 0x7fffffffef10 --> 0x400640 (<__libc_csu_init>:      push    r15)
RSP: 0x7fffffffef0  --> 0x0
RIP: 0x4005f1 (<main+58>:      mov     rdi, rax)
R8 : 0x8
R9 : 0x1
R10: 0x0
R11: 0x246
R12: 0x4004e0 (<_start>:      xor     ebp, ebp)
R13: 0x7fffffffef0  --> 0x1
R14: 0x0
R15: 0x0
EFLAGS: 0x246 (carry PARITY adjust ZERO sign trap INTERRUPT direction overflow)
[-----code-----]
    0x4005e4 <main+45>:  mov     rcx, rcx
    0x4005e7 <main+48>:  mov     edx, 0x1
    0x4005ec <main+53>:  mov     esi, 0x2710
=> 0x4005f1 <main+58>:  mov     rdi, rax
    0x4005f4 <main+61>:  call    0x4004a0 <fread@plt>
    0x4005f9 <main+66>:  lea     rax, [rbp-0x2720]
    0x400600 <main+73>:  mov     rsi, rax
    0x400603 <main+76>:  lea     rdi, [rip+0xd0]          # 0x4006da
[-----stack-----]
0000| 0x7fffffffef0  --> 0x0
0008| 0x7fffffffef8  --> 0x0
0016| 0x7fffffffefa0  --> 0x0
0024| 0x7fffffffefb0  --> 0x0
0032| 0x7fffffffefc0  --> 0x0
0040| 0x7fffffffefd0  --> 0x0
0048| 0x7fffffffefe0  --> 0x0
0056| 0x7fffffffef0  --> 0x0
[-----]
Legend: code, data, rodata, value
0x00000000004005f1      7      fread(data, 10000, 1, f);
gdb-peda$ █
```





API monitor on Windows

Summary | 10,353 calls | 4.57 MB used | cheatengine-x86_64.exe

API Monitor Interface showing a list of API calls and their details.

#	Time of Day	Thre...	Module	API	Return
7984	6:58:05.487 ...	1	KERNEL32.DLL	RtlpEnsureBufferSize (0, 0x00000000022dd038, 130)	STATUS
7985	6:58:06.125 ...	1	cheatengine-x8...	OutputDebugStringA ("Retrieved the module list")	
7986	6:58:06.125 ...	1	cheatengine-x8...	OutputDebugStringA ("Base=7FF6CCB90000")	
7987	6:58:06.125 ...	1	cheatengine-x8...	ReadProcessMemory (0x000000000000091c, 0x00007ff6ccb90000, 0x000000001...	TRUE
7988	6:58:06.125 ...	1	cheatengine-x8...	OutputDebugStringA ("headersize=1024")	
7989	6:58:06.125 ...	1	cheatengine-x8...	ReadProcessMemory (0x000000000000091c, 0x00007ff6ccb90000, 0x000000000...	TRUE
7990	6:58:06.125 ...	1	cheatengine-x8...	OutputDebugStringA ("calling peinfo getEntryPoint")	

ser32.dll) Hex Buffer

Pre-Call Value Post-Call Value

er32.dll) Output

Categories: 835
Variables: 19678

API Loader Monitoring Output

513.31 MB Mode: Portable



ltrace log on Linux

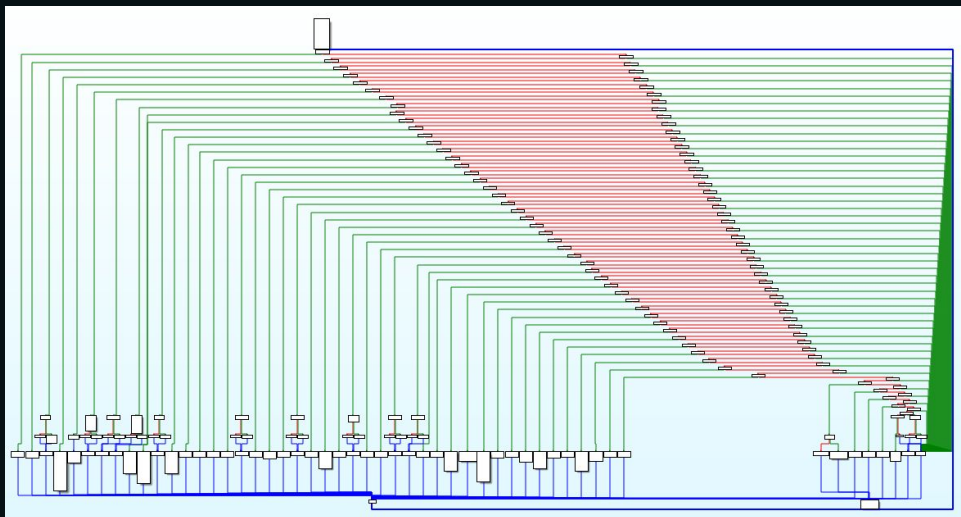


```
9475 [pid 315113] memset(0x7ffeaeb1d850, '\252', 144) = 0x7ffeaeb1d850
9476 [pid 315113] memcpy(0x311c00238b70, "\005\0\0\0\004\0\0\0", 8) = 0x311c00238b70
9477 [pid 315113] strlen("no-zygote-sandbox") = 17
9478 [pid 315113] memcmp(0x311c0029a9c1, 0x55f4d423fd50, 4, 16) = 1
9479 [pid 315113] memcmp(0x311c0029a971, 0x55f4d423fd50, 17, 0) = 0
9480 [pid 315113] memcmp(0x55f4d423fd50, 0x311c0029a971, 17, 0) = 0
9481 [pid 315113] sigfillset(~<31-32>) = 0
9482 [pid 315113] pthread_sigmask(2, 0x7ffeaeb1d520, 0x7ffeaeb1d5a0, 0x311c0020c01a) = 0
9483 [pid 315113] clock_gettime(1, 0x7ffeaeb1d500, 0, 0) = 0
9484 [pid 315113] fork() = 315116
9485 [pid 315113] clock_gettime(1, 0x7ffeaeb1d500, 1, 1) = 0
9486 [pid 315113] pthread_sigmask(2, 0x7ffeaeb1d5a0, 0x7ffeaeb1d6f0, 0xb3b633e00 <unfinished ...>
9487 [pid 315116] <... fork resumed> ) = 0
9488 [pid 315113] <... pthread_sigmask resumed> ) = 0
9489 [pid 315116] open64("/dev/null", 0, 00 <unfinished ...>
9490 [pid 315113] strlen("MPArch.ForkTime") = 15
9491 [pid 315113] memcpy(0x7ffeaeb1d4c9, "MPArch.ForkTime", 15 <unfinished ...>
9492 [pid 315116] <... open64 resumed> ) = 11
9493 [pid 315116] dup2(11, 0 <unfinished ...>
9494 [pid 315113] <... memcpy resumed> ) = 0x7ffeaeb1d4c9
9495 [pid 315113] pthread_mutex_trylock(0x55f4db266ea0, 15, 0, 50 <unfinished ...>
```



Mitigations and obstacles

Static analysis	Dynamic analysis
obfuscation	anti-debugging
encryption	ssl pinning
API hashing	VM detection
...	...



Obfuscated control flow as seen on IDA pro

Obfuscation

Techniques that aim to make it more difficult to read the code

⇒ just requires more effort and understanding from the reverser





```
17 local_c = 'W';
18 local_b = 0x53;
19 local_a = 0x41;
20 local_9 = 0x52;
21 local_8 = 0x65;
22 local_7 = 99;
23 local_6 = 0x76;
24 local_5 = 0;
25 if (DAT_1002955c == (FARPROC)0x0) {
26     lpProcName = &local_c;
27     hModule = FUN_10009790();
28     DAT_1002955c = GetProcAddress(hModule,lpProcName);
29 }
30 (*DAT_1002955c)(param_1,param_2,param_3,param_4,param_5,param_6,param_7);
31 return;
32 }
33
```

Example dynamic API lookup from PlugX malware

API Hashing

Instead of calling API functions directly, the sample uses a function that looks up API functions by hash

From static analysis, it's hard to figure out which function is being called.



```
$ cat /proc/self/status | grep TracerPid
TracerPid:      0
$
```

TracerPid on Linux, if a debugger is attached, it will be non-zero

Debugger detection

- Checking the process-list
- Trying to attach as a debugger
- Trying to trigger and handle exceptions
- Calculating timing to detect breakpoints
- Checking for integrity to detect software breakpoints



VM detection

- Checking the process-list / services
- Checking the MAC address
- CPUID instruction
- Timing measurement (RDTSC instruction)



Conclusion

- Mitigations don't "prevent" reverse engineering.
- They just make it require more time and effort.

Their goal: Make sure that:

The effort and resources required \geq Outcome from reverse engineering.



Practice time

Any questions?