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3 Character Secret String "p!/"

In order to find the unique strings that were generated from my Stevens ID, I used breakpoints to find where the registers were storing the string and commands to print out the list that they added it to. I put breakpoints on CHAR1, 2, and 3 as well as one on the TRANSFORM line (0x40041c) that adds each string to the list after each iteration. When observing these three functions and the registers that change with them, I was able to identify that the singular character addresses were stored in x12 and the full character string was stored in x0. After the program was done, I was able to print out 3 character bites of x0 using the command x/3cb \$x0, giving me "p", "!", and "/"

The screenshot shows a GDB terminal window with the following content:

```
Register group: general
x0 0x400080fa10 274886359568
x1 0x40008347c8 274886510536
x2 0x40008006b8 274886297272
x3 0x0 0
x4 0x14 20
x5 0x28 40
x6 0x30 48
x7 0x0 0
x8 0xffffffffffffff -1
x9 0xffffffffffffff 17592186044415
x10 0x800000000000 8796093022208
x11 0x0 0
x12 0x400084e208 274886615560

8> 0x400434 <_start> ldr x0, 0x400460 <_start+44>
0x40043b <_start+4> bl 0x400340 <printf@plt>
0x40043c <_start+8> ldr x0, 0x400460 <_start+52>
0x400440 <_start+12> ldr x1, 0x400458 <_start+36>
0x400444 <_start+16> bl 0x400320 <scanf@plt>
0x400448 <_start+20> bl 0x400350 <generate>
0x40044c <_start+24> mov x0, #0x0 // #
0x400450 <_start+28> mov w0, #0x5d // #
0x400454 <_start+32> svc #0x0
0x400458 <_start+36> .lnst 0x00411038 ; undefined
0x40045c <_start+40> .lnst 0x00000000 ; undefined
0x400460 <_start+44> .lnst 0x00411018 ; undefined
0x400464 <_start+48> .lnst 0x00000000 ; undefined

remote Thread 1.5176 In: start L?? PC: 0x400434
(gdb) b _start
Breakpoint 1 at 0x400434
(gdb) c
Continuing.

Breakpoint 1, 0x0000000000400434 in _start ()
=> 0x0000000000400434 <_start+0>: 60 01 00 58 ldr x0, 0x4004
00 <_start+44>
(gdb) x/3cb $x0
```

The right pane shows the command prompt output:

```
rodney@rodney-vm: ~/debug
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ cd debug/
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ qemu-aarch64 -L /usr/aarch64-linux-gnu/ -g 1234 secret
Error while loading secret: Permission denied
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ sudo qemu-aarch64 -L /usr/aarch64-linux-gnu/ -g 1234 a.out
[sudo] password for rodney:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for rodney:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for rodney:
sudo: 3 incorrect password attempts
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ ^C
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ sudo qemu-aarch64 -L /usr/aarch64-linux-gnu/ -g 1234 secret
[sudo] password for rodney:
Error while loading secret: Permission denied
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ chmod +x secret
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ sudo qemu-aarch64 -L /usr/aarch64-linux-gnu/ -g 1234 secret
qemu-aarch64: QEMU: Terminated via GDBstub
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ sudo qemu-aarch64 -L /usr/aarch64-linux-gnu/ -g 1234 secret
1234 secret
qemu-aarch64: QEMU: Terminated via GDBstub
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ sudo qemu-aarch64 -L /usr/aarch64-linux-gnu/ -g 1234 secret
1234 secret
Please type your Stevens ID:
10465631
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ sudo qemu-aarch64 -L /usr/aarch64-linux-gnu/ -g 1234 secret
1234 secret
Please type your Stevens ID:
10465631
rodney@rodney-vm:~/debug$ sudo qemu-aarch64 -L /usr/aarch64-linux-gnu/ -g 1234 secret
1234 secret
```

```

Activities Terminal Oct 27 5:50 PM
rodney@rodney-vm: ~/debug
Register group: general
x0 0x412ac0 4270784
x1 0x412ab0 4270768
x2 0x21 33
x3 0x412ad0 4270800
x4 0x412ac0 4270784
x5 0x3 3
x6 0x218 536
x7 0x0 0
x8 0x10 16
x9 0x4000800b0 274886297264
x10 0x0 0
x11 0x10 16
x12 0x400084e208 274886615560

b+> 0x4003f4 <CHAR1> lsl w19, w19, #3
0x4003f8 <CHAR1+4> b 0x400408 <TRANSFORM>
b+ 0x4003fc <CHAR2> and w19, w20, w21
0x400400 <CHAR2+4> b 0x400408 <TRANSFORM>
b+ 0x400404 <CHAR3> orr w19, w20, w21
0x400408 <TRANSFORM> sdiv w4, w19, w22
0x40040c <TRANSFORM+4> nsib w19, w4, w22, w19
0x400410 <TRANSFORM+8> add w19, w19, w23
0x400414 <TRANSFORM+12> add x12, x0, x24
0x400418 <TRANSFORM+16> strb w19, [x12]
b+ 0x40041c <TRANSFORM+20> add x24, x24, #0x1
0x400420 <TRANSFORM+24> b 0x4003d8 <L3>
0x400424 <L4> add sp, sp, #0x8

remote Thread 1.5176 In: CHAR1 L?? PC: 0x4003f4
(gdb) b
Note: breakpoint 1 also set at pc 0x400434.
Breakpoint 5 at 0x400434
(gdb) b *0x40041c
Breakpoint 6 at 0x40041c
(gdb) b *0x40044c
Breakpoint 7 at 0x40044c
(gdb) n
Single stepping until exit from function _start,
which has no line number information.

Breakpoint 2, 0x0000000004003f4 in CHAR1 ()
=> 0x0000000004003f4 <CHAR1+0>: 73 72 1d 53 lsl w19, w19,
#3
(gdb)

```

```

remote Thread 1.5176 In: TRANSFORM L?? PC: 0x40041c
0x000000000400408 in TRANSFORM ()
=> 0x000000000400408 <TRANSFORM+0>: 64 0e d6 1a sdiv w4, w19, w
22
(gdb) n
Single stepping until exit from function TRANSFORM,
which has no line number information.

Breakpoint 6, 0x00000000040041c in TRANSFORM ()
=> 0x00000000040041c <TRANSFORM+20>: 18 07 00 91 add x24, x24,
#0x1
(gdb) x/1cb $x12
0x412ac0: 112 'p'
(gdb) x/3cb $x0
0x412ac0: 112 'p' 0 '\000' 0 '\000'
(gdb)

```

```

remote Thread 1.5176 In: TRANSFORM L?? PC: 0x40041c
0x000000000400408 in TRANSFORM ()
=> 0x000000000400408 <TRANSFORM+0>: 64 0e d6 1a sdiv w4, w19, w
22
(gdb) n
Single stepping until exit from function TRANSFORM,
which has no line number information.

Breakpoint 6, 0x00000000040041c in TRANSFORM ()
=> 0x00000000040041c <TRANSFORM+20>: 18 07 00 91 add x24, x24,
#0x1
(gdb) x/1cb $x12
0x412ac1: 33 '!'
(gdb) x/3cb $x0
0x412ac0: 112 'p' 33 '!' 0 '\000'
(gdb)

```

```

remote Thread 1.5176 In: TRANSFORM                                L??   PC: 0x40041c
0x000000000000400408 in TRANSFORM ()
=> 0x000000000000400408 <TRANSFORM+0>:    64 0e d6 1a    sdiv    w4, w19, w
22
(gdb) n
Single stepping until exit from function TRANSFORM,
which has no line number information.

Breakpoint 6, 0x00000000000040041c in TRANSFORM ()
=> 0x00000000000040041c <TRANSFORM+20>:    18 07 00 91    add     x24, x24,
#0x1
(gdb) x/1cb $x12
0x412ac2:    47 '/'
(gdb) x/3cb $x0
0x412ac0:    112 'p' 33 '!' 47 '/'
(gdb) █

```

```

0x400424 <L4>          add     sp, sp, #0x8
0x400428 <L4+4>        ldr     x30, [sp, #8]
0x40042c <L4+8>        add     sp, sp, #0x10
0x400430 <L4+12>       br      x30
B+ 0x400434 <_start>    ldr     x0, 0x400460 <_start+44>
0x400438 <_start+4>    bl      0x400340 <printf@plt>
0x40043c <_start+8>    ldr     x0, 0x400468 <_start+52>
0x400440 <_start+12>   ldr     x1, 0x400458 <_start+36>
0x400444 <_start+16>   bl      0x400320 <scanf@plt>
0x400448 <_start+20>   bl      0x400350 <generate>
B+> 0x40044c <_start+24> mov     x0, #0x0                                // #
0x400450 <_start+28>   mov     w8, #0x5d                                // #
0x400454 <_start+32>   svc     #0x0

```

```

remote Thread 1.5176 In: _start                                L??   PC: 0x40044c
(gdb) n
Single stepping until exit from function L3,
which has no line number information.
0x000000000000400424 in L4 ()
=> 0x000000000000400424 <L4+0>:    ff 23 00 91    add     sp, sp, #0x8
(gdb) n
Single stepping until exit from function L4,
which has no line number information.

Breakpoint 7, 0x00000000000040044c in _start ()
=> 0x00000000000040044c <_start+24>:    00 00 80 d2    mov     x0, #0x0
// #0
(gdb) x/3cb $x0
0x412ac0:    112 'p' 33 '!' 47 '/'
(gdb)

```