High level constructs width IDA Pro. © DataRescue 2005

Data and operands available in the disassembly aren't always interpreted in the most suitable way.: IDA's interactivity allows you to change their type and representation. It even makes high level languages like constructs possible.

The C program.

To introduce these possibilities, let's analyze a small C program using particular data and constructions.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <alloc.h>
// our structures
// ========
// information about our customers
struct customer t { // a typical structure
 long id;
 char name[32];
 char sex; // 'm'ale - 'f'emale
};
// we sell books
struct book t {
 char title[128]; // an ASCII string
} ;
// and we sell computer softwares
struct software info t { // a structure containing various bitfields
 unsigned int plateform : 2; // 2 bits reserved for the plateform -
                           //
                               plateforms can be combined (0x03)
unsigned int category : 2; // 2 bits reserved for the category -
                           // categories can't be combined (0x60)
#define DISASSEMBLY 0x1 // 0x20 #define RECOVERY 0x2 // 0x40 #define CRYPTOGRAPHY 0x3 // 0x60
};
struct software t {
 software info t info;
 char name[32];
};
```

```
// generic products we're selling
enum product_category_t { // an enumerated type
 BOOK,
  SOFTWARE,
 HARDWARE // we actually don't sell hardware
union product_u { // an union to contain product information
                    // depending on its category
 book t
              book;
 software t software;
 // struct hardware t hardware; // we actually don't sell hardware
struct product t { // a structure containing another structure
 long id;
 product_category_t category;
 product u
                      p;
};
// our data
// ======
// our customers
customer t customers[] = { // an initialized array to memorize our customers
 { 1, "Peter", 'm' }, { 2, "John", 'm' },
 { 3, "Mary", 'f' },
 { 0 }
} ;
// our products
book t ida book = { "IDA QuickStart Guide" };
softwares t softwares = // an initialized variable length structure
{
  3,
  {
    { { PC, WINDOWS|DOS, DISASSEMBLY }, "IDA Pro" },
{ { PC|MAC, WINDOWS|OS_X, RECOVERY }, "PhotoRescue" },
{ { PC, WINDOWS, CRYPTOGRAPHY }, "aCrypt" }
  }
} ;
#define PRODUCTS COUNT 4
```

```
// our functions
// =======
// check software information
int check software(software info t software info)
 bool valid = true;
 if (software_info.plateform & PC)
   if (! (software info.plateform & MAC) && (software info.os & OS X))
     valid = false; // OS-X isn't yet available on PC ;)
  else if (software info.plateform & MAC)
   if (! (software info.plateform & PC) && ((software info.os & WINDOWS) ||
(software info.os & DOS)))
     valid = false; // Windows & DOS aren't available on Mac...
   valid = false;
 return valid;
// check product category
int check product(product category t product category)
 bool valid = true;
 if (product_category == HARDWARE)
   valid = false;
   printf("We don't sell hardware for the moment...\n");
 return valid;
// print customer information
void print customer(customer t *customer)
 printf("CUSTOMER %04X: %s (%c)\n", customer->id,
                                     customer->name,
                                     customer->sex);
}
// print book information
void print book(book t *book)
 printf("BOOK: %s\n", book->title);
```

```
// print software information
void print_software(software_t *software)
  printf("SOFTWARE: %s:", software->name);
  // plateform
  // we use 'if', as plateforms can be combined
  if (software->info.plateform & PC)
   printf(" PC");
  if (software->info.plateform & MAC)
   printf(" MAC");
  printf(";");
  // os
  // we use 'if', as os can be combined
  if (software->info.os & WINDOWS)
   printf(" WINDOWS");
  if (software->info.os & DOS)
   printf(" DOS");
  if (software->info.os & OS X)
   printf(" OS-X");
  printf(";");
  // category
  // we use 'switch', as categories can't be combined
  switch (software->info.category)
    case DISASSEMBLY:
      printf(" DISASSEMBLY");
     break;
    case RECOVERY:
      printf(" RECOVERY");
      break;
    case CRYPTOGRAPHY:
      printf(" CRYPTOGRAPHY");
      break;
  printf("\n");
// print product information
bool print product(product t *product)
{
  if (! check product(product->category))
    return false;
  printf("PRODUCT %04X: ", product->id);
  switch (product->category) {
    case BOOK:
      print book(&product->p.book);
      break;
    case SOFTWARE:
      print software(&product->p.software);
      break;
  }
  return true;
```

```
// our main program
// ========
void main()
 // print customers listing
 printf("CUSTOMERS:\n");
 customer_t *customer = customers;
 while (customer->id != 0)
   print customer(customer);
   customer++;
 // allocate a small array to store our products in memory
 product t *products = (product t*) malloc(PRODUCTS COUNT * sizeof(product t));
 // insert our products
 products[0].id
                        = 1;
 products[0].category = BOOK;
 products[0].p.book
                       = ida book;
                       = 2;
 products[1].id
 products[1].category = SOFTWARE;
 products[1].p.software = softwares.softs[0]; // we insert softwares from our
                                              // variable length structure
 products[2].id
                        = 3;
 products[2].category = SOFTWARE;
 products[2].p.software = softwares.softs[1];
 products[3].id = 4;
 products[3].category = SOFTWARE;
 products[3].p.software = softwares.softs[2];
 // verify and print each product
 printf("\nPRODUCTS:\n");
 for (int i = 0; i < PRODUCTS_COUNT; i++)</pre>
   // check validity of the product category
   if (! check product(products[i].category))
     printf("Invalid product !!!\n");
     break;
   // check validity of softwares
   if (products[i].category == SOFTWARE)
     if (! check software(products[i].p.software.info))
       printf("Invalid software !!!\n");
       break:
   // and print the product
   print_product(&products[i]);
 free (products);
```

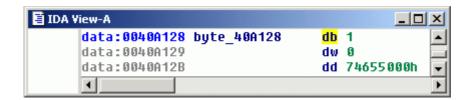
Running this program gives us the following result:

```
CUSTOMERS:
CUSTOMER 0001: Peter (m)
CUSTOMER 0002: John (m)
CUSTOMER 0003: Mary (f)
PRODUCTS:
PRODUCT 0001: BOOK: IDA QuickStart Guide
PRODUCT 0002: SOFTWARE: IDA Pro: PC; WINDOWS DOS; DISASSEMBLY
PRODUCT 0003: SOFTWARE: PhotoRescue: PC MAC; WINDOWS OS-X; RECOVERY
PRODUCT 0004: SOFTWARE: aCrypt: PC; WINDOWS; CRYPTOGRAPHY
```

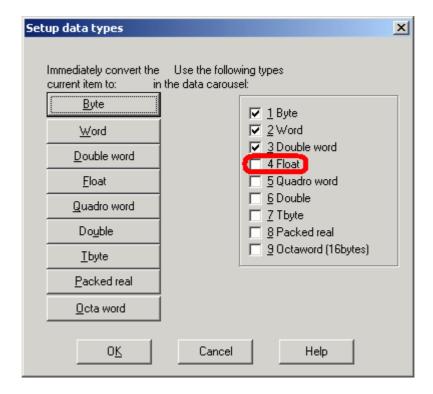
Let's load the compiled binary file in a database to analyze it.



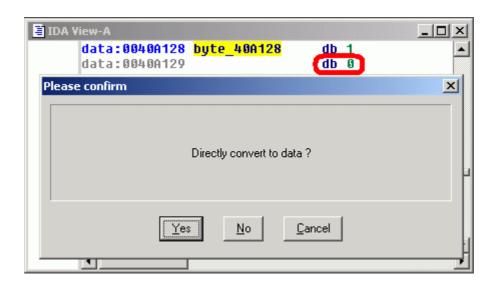
It is easy to associate a fundamental type to data: press 'D' on an undefined byte to cycle through the db, dw and dd data types.



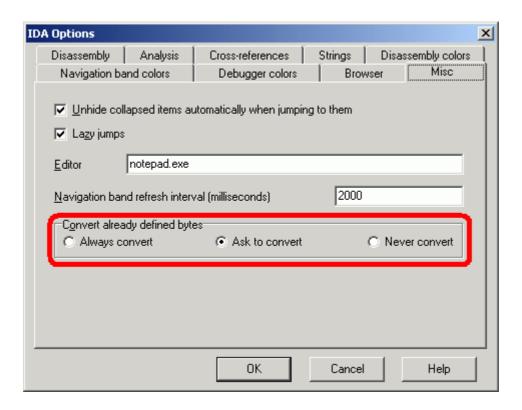
You can define how IDA cycles through data types through the *Setup data types* command in the Options menu. Just tick the data types you want IDA to cycle through. Let's add *Float* to the data carousel: pressing D on a data previously defined as *dd* will convert it to a float.



Notice that the size of the data changes according to its type. Here, we pressed 'D' on a defined byte (to convert it to a word), but since the next byte (db 0) is already defined IDA prompts us for a confirmation.



This default behavior can be modified through the *Convert already defined bytes* option in the *Options* dialog.

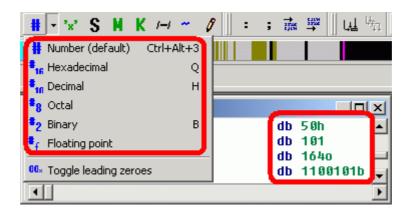


To undefine already defined data, press the 'U' key.

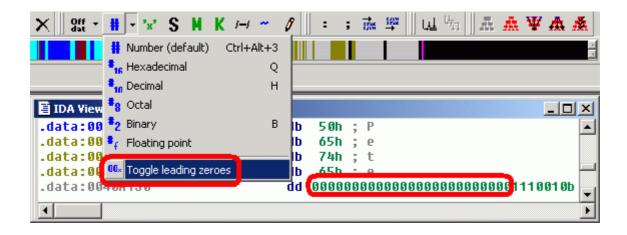
Operand formats.

Once the type of the data has been specified, one might want to display it using a particular format. IDA proposes different commands to change the format. Let's have a look at the more interesting ones. Please note that all these commands can also be applied to instruction operands.

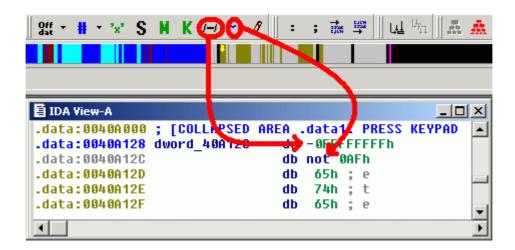
Through the *Number* commands found on the *Operands* toolbar, we switch from one numeric format to another.



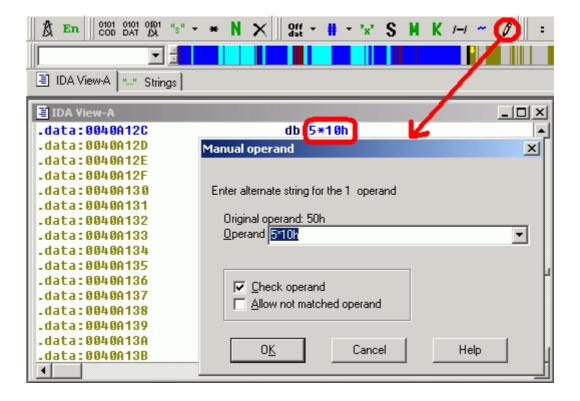
We can print leading zeros for numeric values.



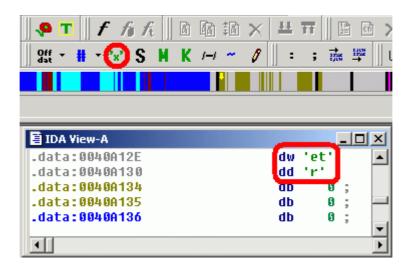
It is also possible to change the sign of an operand and to perform a bitwise negation.



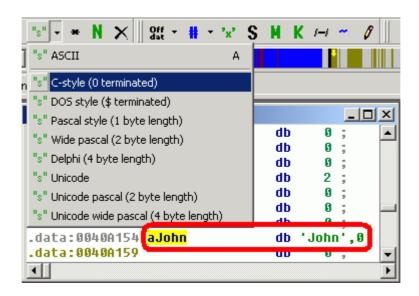
Finally, if the format you want isn't there, it can be manually defined.



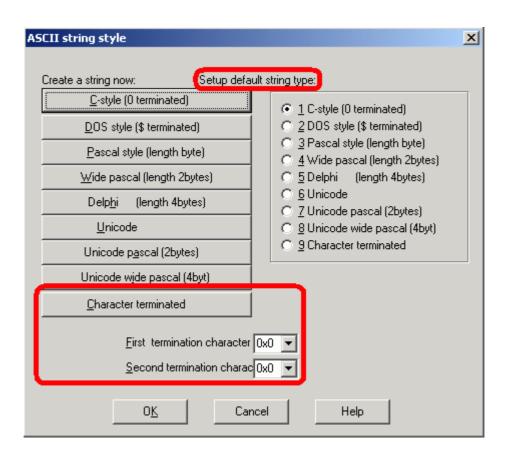
Most programs contain strings. To specify that defined data must be displayed as chars, we use the string command from the *Operands* toolbar.



There are, of course, lots of different string types. IDA supports most of them, through the *Strings* commands. Once you create a string, IDA automatically gives a name to its address. Let's apply this to some strings found in our C program.

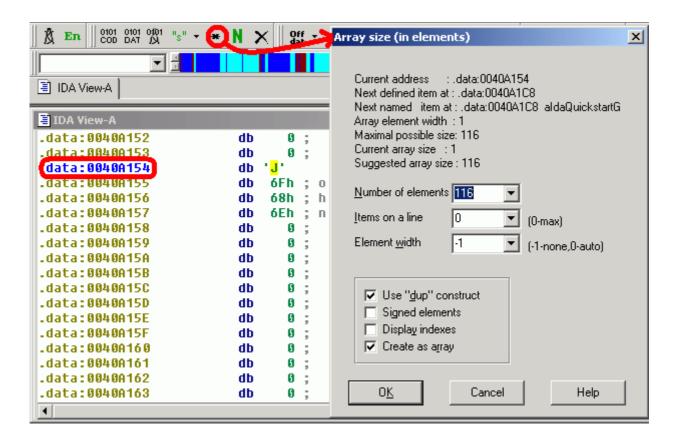


What if you aren't disassembling a C program? The ASCII string style item from the Options menu. allows you to change the default string type associated with the 'A' key, or to define special string formats with unusual termination characters.



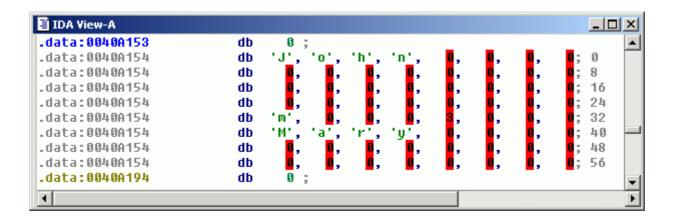
In C, ASCII strings are represented as arrays of chars. How does IDA deal with arrays?

We begin by defining the first element of the array with the usual commands. In this case, we set the first element type as byte and set its format as char. Then we press the '*' key or use the *Array* command from the *Edition* toolbar to create the actual array. A dialog box opens, allowing us to specify various settings.



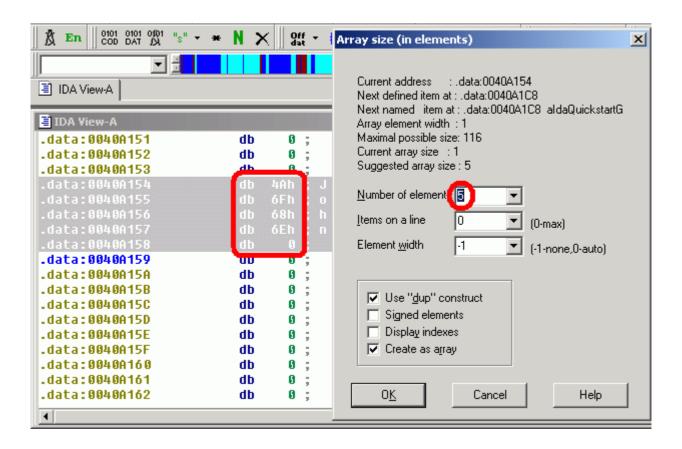
IDA suggests an array size, based on the maximum size it can use without undefining existing data. You can specify the number of elements to put on a line, and *Element width* allows you to align items. The *Use dup construct* option allows to group similar consecutive bytes and the *Display index option* displays array indexes as comments.

For example, if we create an array of 64 elements, with 8 elements on a line, a width of 4 for each element, without dup constructs, and with index comments, we obtain the following array:



When IDA Pro can't represent bytes in the selected type - chars in this case - it highlights them in red.

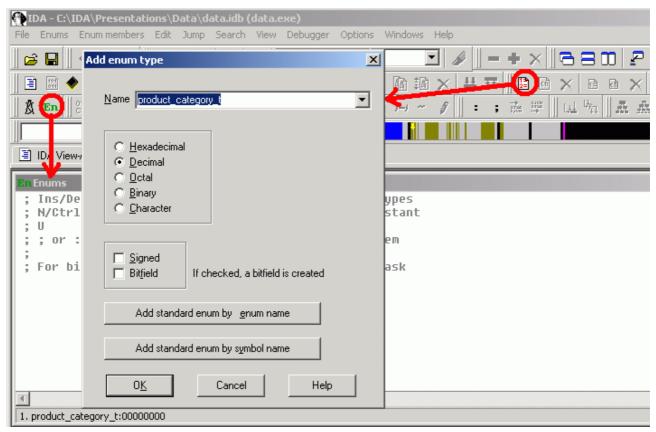
It is also possible to select a range: IDA will then propose to create an suitable array.



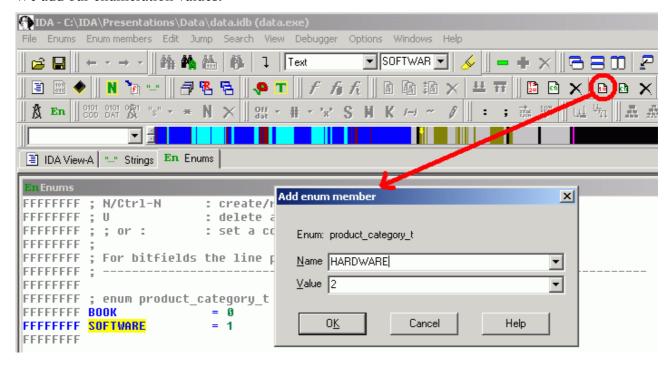
Enumerated types.

Remember the *product_category_t* type defined in the C program ? Let's try to define it in IDA by using *Enumerations*.

First, we open the *Enumerations* window and create a new enumeration type.



We add our enumeration values.



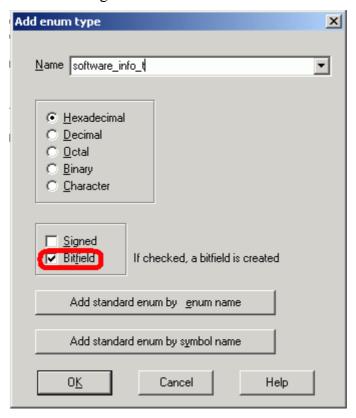
In the *check_product()* function, we can format operands using this enumeration. Right click on the numeric value to get the popup menu, and select *Symbolic constant*: IDA will list all enumeration values matching the current numeric value.

```
_UX
IDA View-A
                                                             ; CODE XREF: print_product+Alp
       004011C0 check_product
                                  proc near
                                                             ; main+D8lp
       00401100
       00401100
       004011C0 arg_0
                                  = dword ptr
       00401100
       00401100
                                  push
                                           ebp
       00401101
                                  MOV
                                           ebp,
                                                esp
       004011C3
                                  push
                                           ebx
       00401104
                                  mov
                                           b1, 1
                                           [ebp+arg_0], 2
       00401106
                                  cmp
                                           short loc_401 M Symbolic constant
       004011CA
                                   jnz
                                                                              HARDWARE
                                                                            B Use standard symbolic constant
       4
                                                          ₹2 10b
```

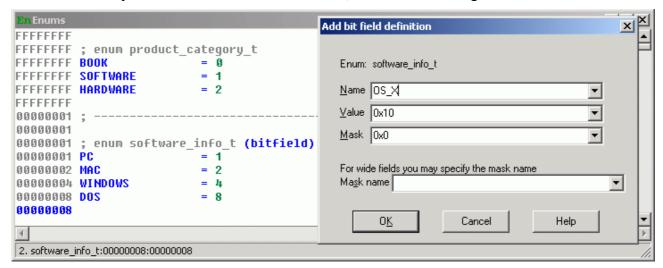
Once applied, we get the following result.

```
🖹 IDA View-A
                                                               004011CO check_product
                                                          ; CODE X
                                proc near
      00401100
                                                          ; main+D
      00401100
      004011C0 arg_0
                                = dword ptr
      00401100
      00401100
                                push
                                         ebp
      00401101
                                MOV
                                         ebp, esp
      00401103
                                push
                                         ebx
      004011C4
                                mov
                                         b1, 1
                                         [ebp+arg_0], HARDWARE
      00401106
                                cmp
      004011CA
                                         short loc 4011D9
                                 jnz
      4
                                                                    ١
```

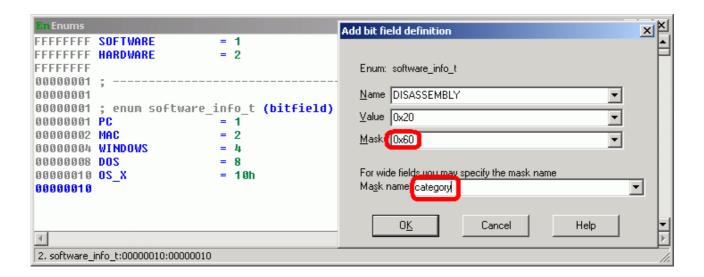
Now, let's try to define the bitfields defined in the *software_info_t* structure from our C program. From IDA's point of view, bitfields are only special enumeration types. We select the *Bitfield* option in the enumeration type creation dialog box.



Remark we have two different types of bitfields in our program. The *plateform* and *os* bitfields contain a mask of combined values (by using the *or* boolean operator): a product can exist on **several** plateforms or OS. On the other hand, the *category* bitfield contains a number representing one category: at the same time, a product can only belong to one category! For IDA, a bitfield can only contain **one** value in a specified mask. So, to represent the *plateform* and *category* bitfields, we have to create tiny bitfields of one bit for each value, to allow combining those.



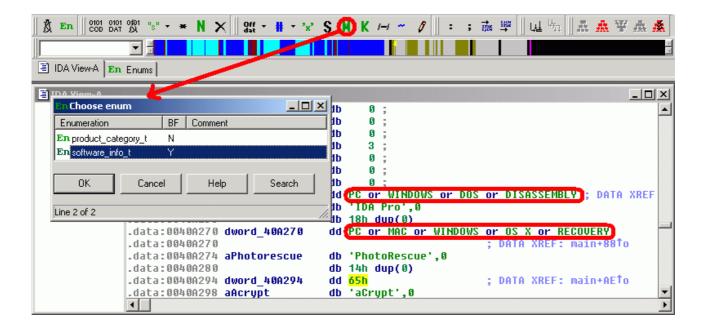
Now, we can create the *category* bitfield, with a mask value of 0x3 (2 bits). We specify a member name, a member value and the bitfield mask. We can also specify a mask name: this one will not be used by IDA, it is only intended as a memory helper.



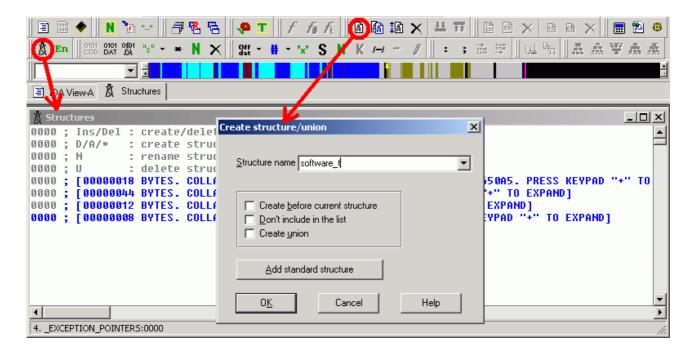
Once all bitfields are inserted, we get the following definition.

```
Enums
                                                _ | D | X |
00000001
00000001
00000001 ; enum <mark>software_info_t</mark> (bitfield)
000000001 PC
                              = 1
                              = 2
000000002 MAC
                              = 4
000000004 WINDOWS
                              = 8
000000008 DOS
                              = 10h
000000010 OS X
00000060 category
                              = 60h
00000060 DISASSEMBLY
                              = 20h
00000060 RECOVERY
                              = 40h
00000060 CRYPTOGRAPHY
                              = 60h
4
2. software_info_t:00000001:00000001
```

Use the the *Enum member* command from the *Operands* toolbar to apply those bitfield definitions to our software data.

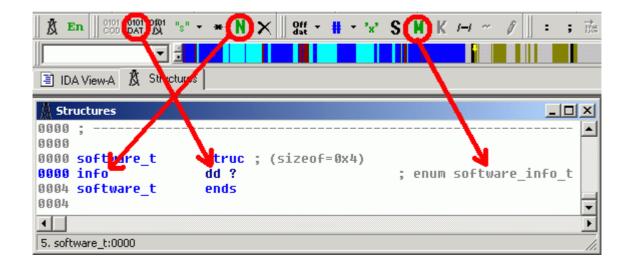


Our program contains lots of structures. Let's declare these in IDA, to see how it can improve the disassembly's readability. First, we must open the *Structures* window and create a new structure type.

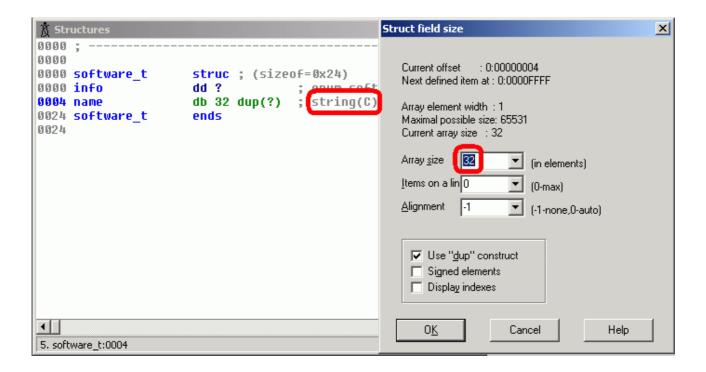


We define our structure members as if we were defining data in a disassembly view. Let's define the first member of the *software_t* structure. Press 'D' until we obtain a *dd*, indicating the value is stored in a *dword*.

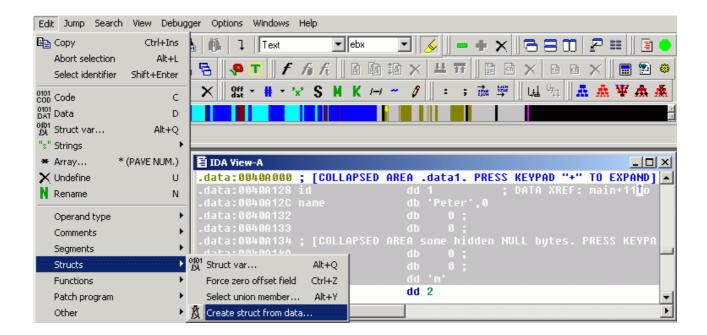
We specify its format as our previously defined *software_info_t* enumeration, and we give it an appropriate name, *info*, by using the *Rename* command.



We define the second member of our structure by using the usual *ASCII* command. In this case, IDA opens a special dialog box asking us the size of the string.



We can also create a structure type from already defined data. For example, suppose we defined data in a range with particular types and names precisely representing our *customer_t* structure. We can create this structure in IDA from these definitions, by selecting the adequate range and using the *Create struct from data* command.



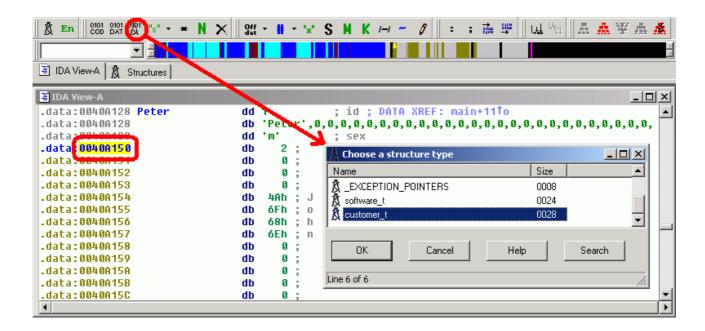
Once we run this command, IDA creates a corresponding structure and opens the Structures window. To obtain a perfect structure type, we just correct the length of the name member to 32 bytes (as defined in our source code) by pressing the 'A' key, and give the structure a more accurate name.

What can we do with these structure types? IDA offers us two possibilities:

- Apply structure types to initialized data in the program.
- Convert operands as offsets inside structures.

We will present both possibilities in the continuation of this tutorial.

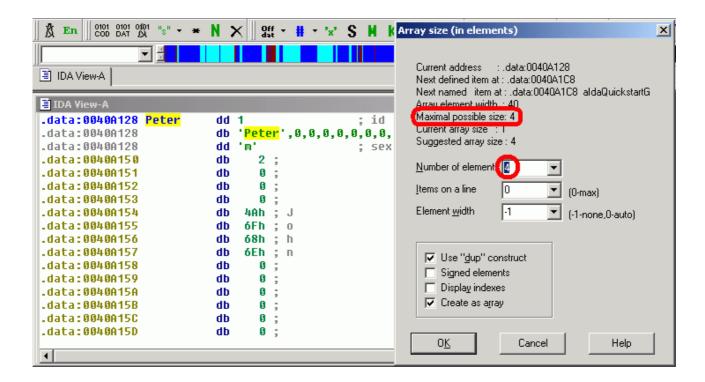
Let's define data containing information about one of our customer, John, as a *customer_t* structure. We put the cursor on the first byte of the data representing the structure, and use the *Struct var* command.



We obtain a new structure variable. Notice how IDA displays structure member names as comments.

```
IDA View-A
                                                0040A128 Peter
          dd 1
                      ; id ; DATA XREF: main+11<sup>†</sup>o
0040A128
          0040A128
          dd
            'm'
                      sex
          dd 2
                      id
0040A150
0040A150
          db
            0040A150
          dd
            'm'
                      ; sex
•
                                                  ١
```

By looking at our source code, we know *customers* is an array containing 4 elements. We also previously defined *Peter* and *John* as *customer_t* structures. Let's undefine the *John* structure, and create our *customers* array, by pressing the '*' key on the *Peter* structure. IDA opens the array settings dialog box and detects that the maximum array we can create contains a maximum of 4 elements.

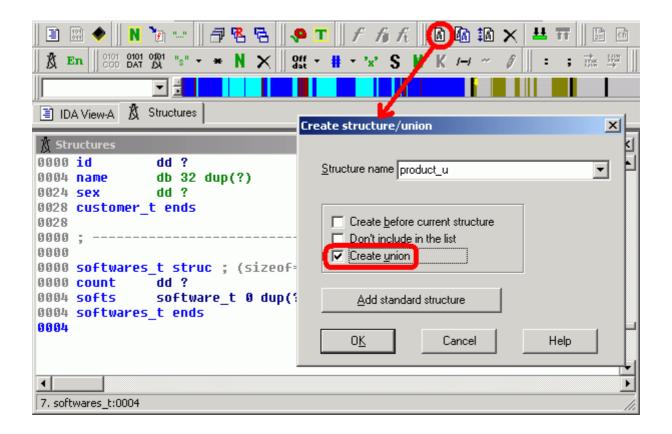


Let's create the array, and rename it properly.

```
IDA View-A
                                             .data:0040A128 customers dd 1
                              ; id ; DATA XREF: main+11↑o
                .data:0040A128
                dd 'm'
                             ; sex
.data:0040A128
.data:0040A128
                dd 2
                              id
.data:0040A128
                .data:0040A128
                dd 'm'
                             ; sex
.data:0040A128
                dd 3
                              id
.data:0040A128
                dd 'f'
.data:0040A128
                             ; sex
.data:0040A128
                dd 0
                              ; id
.data:0040A128
                .data:0040A128
                db 0
                             ; name
.data:0040A128
                dd 🛭
                              ; sex
```

IDA allows you to define unions as easily as you define classical structures.

Let's try to define the *product_u* union. We suppose the *book_t* and *software_t* structures are already defined. For IDA, unions are special structures: so we open the *Structures* window and click on the *Add struct type* command. In this dialog box, we select the *Create union* option.



We can create union members by using all regular data definition commands. In our case, we define a *book* member of *book* t type, and a *software* member of *software* t type.

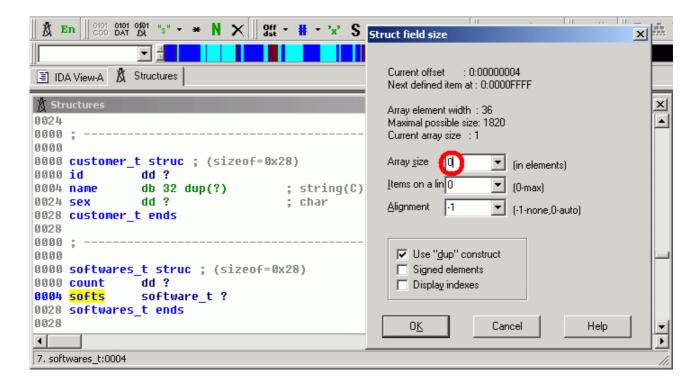
```
Structures
                                        0000 ; -----
0000
0080 book_t
          ends
0080
0000 ; -----
0000
0000 software_t struc ; (sizeof=0x24)
0000 info dd ? ; enum software_info_t
0004 name db 32 dup(?) ; string(C)
0024 software_t ends
0024
0000 ; ------
0000
0000 product_u union ; (sizeof=0x80)
0000 book book t?
0000 software software t ?
0000 product u ends
8. software_t:0024
```

It is also possible to nest structures within structures. In fact, we just did it to create our union members in the previous example. Remember: IDA considers unions are nothing more than special structures.

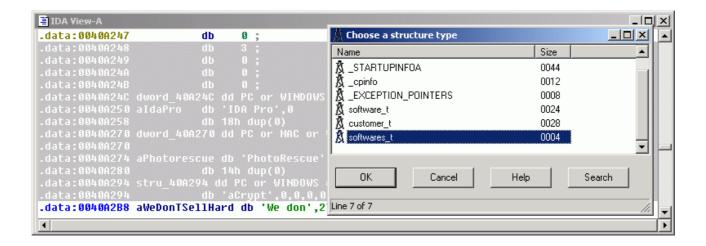
Simply put your mouse over a member's structure name to see how its associated structure type is declared.

```
Structures
0000 product u union ; (sizeof=0x80)
                                                           •
         book_t ?
0000 book
0000 software software_t ?
0000 product_u ends
               0000 : -----
0000
               0000
0000 ;
               0000 software_t struc ; (sizeof=0x24)
0000
               0024 software t ends
9. product_u:0001
               0024
```

Now, let's have a look at the *softwares_t* structure. The length of the *softs* field of this structure is not specified. To create such structures in a disassembly, we must create a special kind of structure called a variable sized structure. Such structures are created just as a normal structure: the only difference is that the last member of the structure should be declared as an array with 0 elements.



Since the structure size can't be calculated by IDA, we specify the desired structure size by selecting an area.



Notice how IDA applies all type information and add member names as comments.

Now that we know how to declare the unions and structures we need, let's have a look at how we can transform numeric operands to offsets inside those structures.

In the *print_customer()* function, we know that the only argument is a pointer to a *customer_t* structure. The EAX register is initialized with the value of this pointer: it points to a *customer_t* structure. Therefore, we deduce that all operands of the form [EAX+...] represent in fact offsets in the *customer_t* structure.

```
IDA View-A
                                                                    .text:004011E0 ; void
                         cdecl print customer(customer t *customer)
.text:004011E0 print customer proc near
                                                ; CODE XREF: main+191p
.text:004011E0
                          = dword ptr
.text:004011E0 customer
.text:004011E0
.text:004011E0
                          bush
                                 ebo
.text:004011E1
                          mov
                                 ebp, esp
                                 <mark>eax</mark>, [ebp+cust<u>omer</u>]
.text:004011E3
                          mov
                          movsx edx, byte ptr [eax+24h]
.text:004011E6
.text:004011EA
                          bush
                                 edx
                                 ecx, Teax+41
.text:004011EB
                          lea-
.text:004011EE
                          push
                                 ecx
.text:004011EF
                                 dword ptr [[eax]]
                          push
                                 offset aCuscomer04xSC; format
.text:004011F1
                          push
                                 printf
.text:004011F6
                          call
                                 esp, 10h
.text:004011FB
                          add
.text:004011FE
                          pop
                                 ebp
.text:004011FF
                          retn
.text:004011FF print_customer endp
```

To format each operand as a structure offset, we right click on it: IDA suggests all possible structure offsets.

```
.text:004011E0 print_customer proc near
                                              ; CODE XREF: main+191p
.text:004011E0
.text:004011E0 customer = dword ptr 8
.text:004011E0
.text:004011E0
                         push
                               ebo
.text:004011E1
                         mov
                                ebp, esp
                                eax, [ebp+customer]
.text:004011E3
                         MOV
                         movsx edx, byte ptr [eax+24h]
.text:004011E6
.text:004011EA
                                                    Off Structure offset
                                                                         Off byte ptr [eax+_STARTUPINFOA.dw\
                         push
                               edx
.text:004011EB
                         1ea
                                ecx, [eax+4]
                                                                         byte ptr [eax+customer_t.sex]
                                                     📕 Symbolic constant
.text:004011EE
                         push
                               ecx
                               dword ptr [eax]
.text:004011EF
                         bush
                                                     up byte ptr [eax+36]
                               offset aCustomer04x: * byte ptr [eax+44o]
.text:004011F1
                         push
.text:004011F6
                         call
                                _printf
                                                     2 byte ptr [eax+100100b]
                                                                        В
.text:004011FB
                         add
                                esp, 10h
.text:004011FE
                                                     "x" byte ptr [eax+'$']
                                                                        R
                         pop
                                ebp
.text:004011FF
                         retn
                                                                     Alt+F1
                                                     .text:004011FF print_customer endp
                                                     f Edit function...
                                                                     Alt+P
4
                                                                                                  ٠
                                                                - (PAVE NUM.)
```

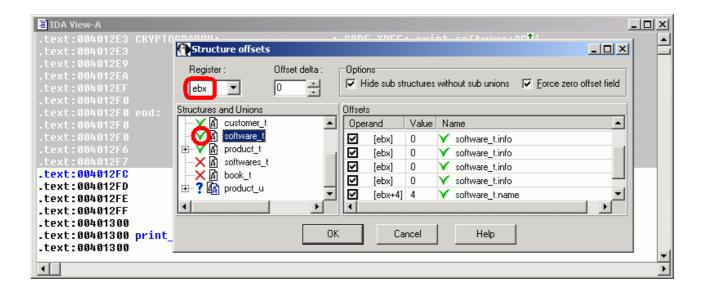
Once we have applied this command to each offset, the disassembly becomes more understandable.

```
IDA View-A
                                                                   .text:004011E0 ; void
                         cdecl print customer(<mark>customer t</mark> *customer)
.text:004011E0 print_customer proc near
                                               ; CODE XREF: main+191p
.text:004011E0
.text:004011E0 customer
                          = dword ptr
.text:004011E0
.text:004011E0
                          push
                                ebo
.text:004011E1
                          MOV
                                ebp, esp
.text:004011E3
                                eax, [ebp+customer]
                          MOV
                          movsx edx, byte ptr [eax+customer t.sex]
.text:004011E6
.text:004011EA
                          push
                                ecx, [eax+customer t.name]
.text:004011EB
                          lea
.text:004011EE
                          push
.text:004011EF
                                [eax+customer t.id]
                          push
                                offset aCustomer04xSC ; format
.text:004011F1
                          push
.text:004011F6
                          call
                                 printf
.text:004011FB
                          add
                                esp, 10h
.text:004011FE
                          pop
                                ebp
.text:004011FF
                          retn
.text:004011FF print_customer endp
```

The *print_software()* function is another example of this: the EBX register is initialized with the value of a pointer to a *software_t* structure. Remark this EBX register is used throughout the function to access this structure. Fear not, in a single operation IDA can change all the offsets in a selection: click on the *Offset (struct)* command in the *Operands* toolbar.

```
0101 0101 0101 "s" - * N X
                                   off - # - 'x' S
                                                                                    以临川孟燕 栗燕 桑
                                                                         3766 SP22
                                   Off Offset (data segment)
                                                             0
                                   Off Offset (current segment)
                                                          Ctrl+O
IDA View-A
                                   Off Offset by (any segment)...
                                   offset (user-defined)...
🗐 IDA View-A
                                                                                                     _ U ×
                         cdecl p off Offset (struct)...
 .text:00401218 ; void
                                                                oftware)
.text:00401218 print_software proc near
                                                  ; CODE XREF: print_product+441p
.text:00401218
.text:00401218 software = dword ptr 8
.text:00401218
.text:00401218
                            push
                                  ebp
.text:00401219
                                  ebp, esp
                            MOV
.text:0040121B
                            push
                                  ebx
.text:0040121C
                            push
                                  esi
.text:0040121D
                                  ebx, [ebp+software]
                            mov
                                  esi, offset aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe ; "We don't sell hardware
.text:00401220
                            MOV
 .text:00401225
                            1ea
                                  eax, [ebx+4]
.text:00401228
                            push
                                  eax
                                  edx, [esi+4Ch]
.text:00401229
                            1ea
                                                  ; format
.text:0040122C
                            bush
                                  edx
.text:0040122D
                            call
                                   printf
.text:00401232
                            add
                                  esp, 8
.text:00401235
                                  cl, [ebx]
                            MOV
```

The Structure offsets dialog box opens. Let's select the EBX register in the list of available registers. The tree view on the left of the dialog box shows all structures defined in IDA. The list on the right shows all operands related to EBX. If we select a structure in the tree view, IDA formats the selected operands as offsets into this structure. Different symbols help to determine if all selected operands match existing offsets for the selected structure. In our case, the software_t structure seems to match all our operands.

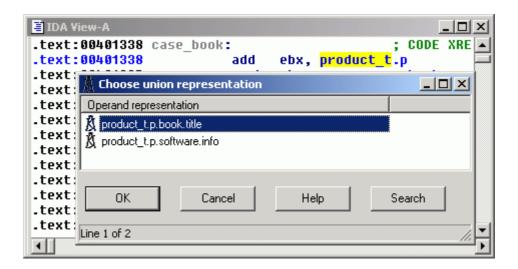


Once applied, we obtain the following result:

```
IDA View-A
                                                                                               .text:00401218 ; void __cdecl print_software(software_t *software)
.text:00401218 print_software proc near
                                                ; CODE XREF: print_product+44&p
.text:00401218
.text:00401218 software = dword ptr
.text:00401218
.text:00401218
                          push
.text:00401219
                          mov
                                 ebp, esp
.text:0040121B
                                 ebx
                          push
.text:0040121C
                          push
                                 esi
.text:0040121D
                          MOV
                                 ebx, [ebp+software]
                                 esi, offset aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe ; "We don't sell hardware
.text:00401220
                          mov
.text:00401225
                          1ea
                                 eax, [ebx+<mark>software_t</mark>.name]
.text:00401228
                          push
                                 eax
.text:00401229
                          1ea
                                 edx, [esi+4Ch]
.text:0040122C
                                                ; format
                          push
                                 edx
.text:0040122D
                          call
                                 _printf
.text:00401232
                          add
                                 esp, 8
.text:00401235
                                 cl, byte ptr [ebx+software_t.info]
                          MOV
```

The *print_product()* uses the EBX register to point to a *product_t* structure. At the end of this function, depending on the product category, we call the adequate function to print product information.

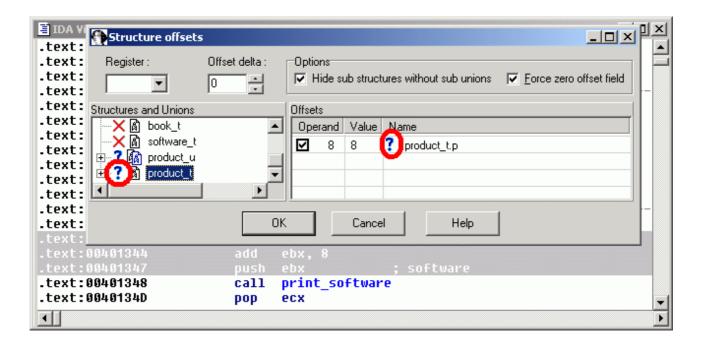
But the structure offset will have a different representation if it represents an offset in the first member of the *product_u* union or an offset in the second member of this union! To choose the adequate member, use the *Select union member* from the *Edit struct* menu. In the dialog, we select the desired union member.



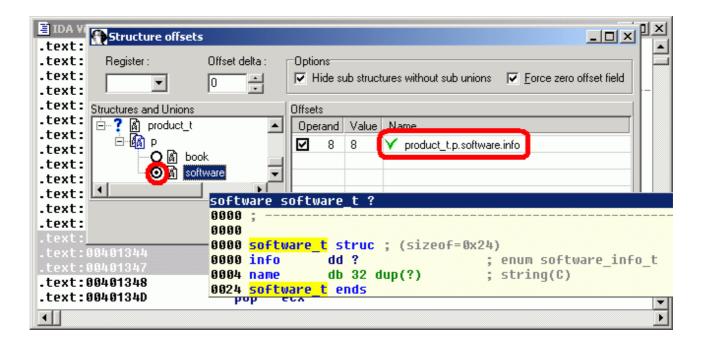
And here is the result.

```
IDA View-A
                                                                         _ | D | X |
.text:00401338 case_book:
                                                 ; CODE XREF: print_product
.text:00401338
                           add
                                 ebx, product t.p.book.title
.text:0040133B
                           push
                                 ebx
                                                 ; book
.text:0040133C
                           call
                                 print book
.text:00401341
                           pop
                                 ecx
.text:00401342
                                 short default
                           jmp
```

The *Structure offsets* dialog shows how choosing an union member affects the offset representation. If we select an area and open this dialog, we remark that union types are preceded by a ? symbol.



If we expand the adequate branch of the tree, we can choose the union member that represents operand offsets. Once a union member is selected (*software* in our case), IDA shows by a green symbol that the offset matches a record in this union member.



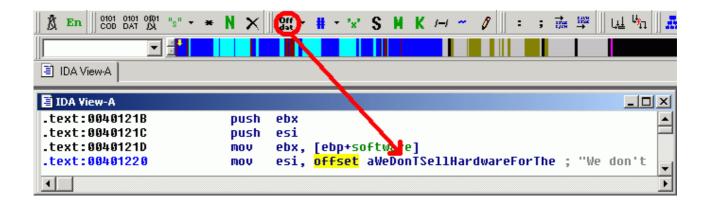
Finally, make full use of hints in the tree view to see structure type declarations, as in the previous screenshot.

Address offsets.

IDA can also represents operands as offsets in the disassembled program. In the following example, the orange color indicates a possible valid reference.



Use the Offset button from the Operands toolbar to convert this operand to an offset.



To end this tutorial, we propose our final interactively disassembled code.

```
customer t struc ; (sizeof=0x28)
id dd ?
name db 32 dup(?) ; string(C)
sex dd ? ; char
customer t ends
; ------
softwares t struc ; (sizeof=0x4, variable size)
count dd ?
softs software_t 0 dup(?)
softwares t ends
: -----
book t struc ; (sizeof=0x80)
title db 128 dup(?) ; string(C)
book t ends
: -----
software t struc ; (sizeof=0x24)
info dd?; enum software info t
name db 32 dup(?) ; string(C)
software t ends
; -----
product u union ; (sizeof=0x80)
book book t ?
software software t ?
product u ends
product t struc ; (sizeof=0x88)
id dd ?
category dd ? ; enum product category t
p product u ?
product t ends
; ------
; enum product category t
BOOK = 0
SOFTWARE = 1
HARDWARE = 2
; enum software info t (bitfield)
PC = 1
MAC = 2
WINDOWS = 4
DOS = 8
OS X = 10h
category = 60h
DISASSEMBLY = 20h
RECOVERY = 40h
CRYPTOGRAPHY = 60h
```

```
; | This file is generated by The Interactive Disassembler (IDA)
      Copyright (c) 2005 by DataRescue sa/nv, <ida@datarescue.com>
              Licensed to: Eric <eric@datarescue.be>
; File Name : C:\IDA\Presentations\Data\data.exe
           : Portable executable for IBM PC (PE)
; Section 1. (virtual address 00001000)
                      : 00009000 ( 36864.)
: 00008E00 ( 36352.)
; Virtual size
; Section size in file
; Offset to raw data for section: 00000600
; Flags 60000020: Text Executable Readable
; Alignment : 16 bytes ?
unicode
            macro page, string, zero
 irpc c, <string>
 db '&c', page
 endm
 ifnb <zero>
 dw zero
 endif
endm
 .686p
 .mmx
 .model flat
; Segment type: Pure code
; Segment permissions: Read/Execute
_text segment para public 'CODE' use32
 assume cs: text
 ;org 401000h
; [COLLAPSED AREA .text1. PRESS KEYPAD "+" TO EXPAND]
; Attributes: bp-based frame
; int cdecl check software (software info t software info)
check software proc near ; CODE XREF: main+108p
software info= byte ptr 8
 push ebp
 mov ebp, esp
 mov al, 1
 mov dl, [ebp+software info]
 and edx, PC or MAC
 test dl, PC
 jz short not PC
 mov cl, [ebp+software info]
 and ecx, PC or MAC
 test cl, MAC
 jnz short end
```

```
dl, [ebp+software_info]
 mov
 shr edx, 2
 and edx, (WINDOWS or DOS or OS_X) >> 2
 test dl, OS X \gg 2
      short end
 jΖ
 xor eax, eax
 jmp short end
not PC:
                ; CODE XREF: check software+Ej
 mov cl, [ebp+software info]
 and ecx, PC or MAC
 test cl, MAC
     short not MAC
 jz
 mov dl, [ebp+software info]
 and edx, PC or MAC
 test dl, PC
 jnz short end
 mov cl, [ebp+software info]
 shr ecx, 2
 and ecx, (WINDOWS or DOS or OS X) >> 2
 test cl, WINDOWS >> 2
 jnz short not windows
 mov dl, [ebp+software_info]
 shr edx, 2
 and edx, (WINDOWS or DOS or OS X) >> 2
 test dl, DOS >> 2
      short end
 jΖ
not_windows: ; CODE XREF: check_software+4Fj
 xor eax, eax
     short end
 jmp
; ------
not MAC:
               ; CODE XREF: check_software+36j
 xor eax, eax
                ; CODE XREF: check software+19j check software+27j ...
end:
     edx, edx
 xor
 mov
      dl, al
      eax, edx
 mov
 pop
      ebp
 retn
check software endp
 align 4
```

```
; Attributes: bp-based frame
; int cdecl check product(product category t product category)
check product proc near ; CODE XREF: print product+Ap main+D8p
product category= dword ptr 8
 push ebp
 mov ebp, esp
 push ebx
 mov bl, 1
 cmp [ebp+product category], HARDWARE
 jnz short not hardware
 xor ebx, ebx
 push offset aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe ; format
 call printf
 pop ecx
not hardware:
                ; CODE XREF: check product+Aj
 xor
     eax, eax
 mov
     al, bl
 pop
     ebx
      ebp
 pop
 retn
check product endp
; Attributes: bp-based frame
; void cdecl print customer(customer t *customer)
print customer proc near ; CODE XREF: main+19p
customer= dword ptr 8
 push ebp
 mov ebp, esp
mov eax, [ebp+customer]
movsx edx, byte ptr [eax+customer_t.sex]
 push edx
 lea ecx, [eax+customer_t.name]
 push ecx
 push [eax+customer_t.id]
 push offset aCustomer04xSC; format
 call _printf
 add esp, 10h
 pop
      ebp
 retn
print customer endp
```

```
; Attributes: bp-based frame
; void cdecl print book(book t *book)
print book proc near ; CODE XREF: print product+38p
book= dword ptr 8
 push ebp
 mov ebp, esp
 push [ebp+book]
 push offset aBookS ; format
 call printf
 add esp, 8
 pop ebp
 retn
print book endp
 align 4
; Attributes: bp-based frame
; void cdecl print software(software t *software)
print software proc near ; CODE XREF: print product+44p
software= dword ptr 8
 push ebp
 mov ebp, esp
 push ebx
 push esi
 mov ebx, [ebp+software]
      esi, offset aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe ; "We don't sell hardware for the
moment.."...
 lea eax, [ebx+software t.name]
 lea edx, (aSoftwareS - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]; "We don't sell
hardware for the moment.."...
 push edx ; format
 call _printf add esp, 8
 mov cl, byte ptr [ebx+software t.info]
 and ecx, PC or MAC
 test cl, PC
     short not pc
 jг
 lea eax, (aPc - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi] ; "We don't sell hardware
for the moment.."...
 push eax
               ; format
 call _printf
 pop ecx
```

```
not pc:
      dl, byte ptr [ebx+software t.info]
mov
      edx, PC or MAC
 and
 test dl, MAC
     short not mac
 jz
 lea ecx, (aMac - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]; "We don't sell hardware
for the moment.."...
                ; format
 push ecx
 call printf
 pop ecx
                 ; "We don't sell hardware for the moment.."...
not mac:
 lea eax, (asc 40A31B - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]
 push eax
                ; format
 call printf
 pop ecx
 mov dl, byte ptr [ebx+software t.info]
 shr edx, 2
 and edx, (WINDOWS or DOS or OS X) >> 2
 test dl, WINDOWS >> 2
      short not windows
 jΖ
 lea ecx, (aWindows - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]; "We don't sell
hardware for the moment.."...
 push ecx
               ; format
 call _printf
 pop ecx
not windows:
 mov al, byte ptr [ebx+software t.info]
 shr
       eax, 2
 and eax, (WINDOWS or DOS or OS X) >> 2
 test al, DOS >> 2
       short not dos
 jz
 lea edx, (aDos - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]; "We don't sell hardware
for the moment.."...
               ; format
 push edx
 call _printf
pop ecx
not dos:
 mov cl, byte ptr [ebx+software t.info]
       ecx, 2
      ecx, (WINDOWS or DOS or OS X) >> 2
 and
 test cl, OS X \gg 2
 jz short not_os_x
     eax, (aOsX - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]; "We don't sell hardware
 lea
for the moment.."...
              ; format
 push eax
 call _printf
 pop ecx
```

```
; "We don't sell hardware for the moment.."...
not os x:
 lea edx, (asc_40A331 - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]
 push edx ; format
 call _printf
 pop ecx
 mov cl, byte ptr [ebx+software t.info]
 shr ecx, 5
 and ecx, category >> 5
 dec ecx
 jz short DISASSEMBLY
 dec ecx
 jz short RECOVERY
 dec ecx
 jz short CRYPTOGRAPHY
 jmp short end
DISASSEMBLY: ; "We don't sell hardware for the moment.."...
 lea eax, (aDisassembly - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]
 push eax ; format
 call printf
 pop ecx
 jmp short end
          ; "We don't sell hardware for the moment.."...
RECOVERY:
 lea edx, (aRecovery - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]
 push edx ; format
 call _printf
 pop ecx
 jmp short end
CRYPTOGRAPHY: ; "We don't sell hardware for the moment.."...
 lea ecx, (aCryptography - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]
 push ecx
           ; format
 call _printf
 pop ecx
               ; "We don't sell hardware for the moment.."...
end:
 lea eax, (asc_40A358 - aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe)[esi]
 push eax
              ; format
 call _printf
 pop ecx
 pop esi
 pop ebx
 pop ebp
 retn
print software endp
align 4
```

```
; Attributes: bp-based frame
; int cdecl print product (product t *product)
print product proc near ; CODE XREF: main+128p
product= dword ptr 8
 push ebp
 mov ebp, esp
 push ebx
 mov ebx, [ebp+product]
 push [ebx+product t.category] ; product category
 call check product
 pop ecx
 test eax, eax
 jnz short check product ok
 xor eax, eax
 pop ebx
 pop ebp
 retn
check product ok: ; CODE XREF: print product+12j
 push [ebx+product t.id]
 push offset aProduct04x ; format
 call _printf
 add esp, 8
 mov edx, [ebx+product_t.category]
 sub edx, 1
 jb
     short case_book
 jz short case_software
 jmp short default
case book: ; CODE XREF: print_product+2Ej
 add ebx, product t.p.book.title
 push ebx ; book
 call print_book
 pop ecx
     short default
 qmj
case_software: ; CODE XREF: print_product+30j
 add ebx, product_t.p.software.info
 call print_software
 pop ecx
default:
              ; CODE XREF: print product+32j print product+3Ej
 mov al, 1
 pop ebx
 pop ebp
 retn
print product endp
; ------
 align 4
```

```
; Attributes: bp-based frame
; void cdecl main()
push ebp
      ebp, esp
 mov
 push ebx
 push esi
 push edi
 push offset aCustomers; format
 call printf
 pop ecx
 mov ebx, offset customers
 jmp short loc 401376
loop print customer: ; CODE XREF: main+25j
 push ebx
          ; customer
 call print_customer
 pop ecx
 add ebx, 40
                ; CODE XREF: main+16i
loc 401376:
 cmp [ebx+customer t.id], 0
      short loop print customer
 jnz
 push 544
                ; size
 call malloc
      ecx
 pop
      ebx, eax
 mov
      [ebx+product t.id], 1
 mov
               ; BOOK
      eax, eax
 xor
      [ebx+product t.category], eax
 mov
      esi, offset aIdaQuickstartG; "IDA QuickStart Guide"
 mov
      edi, [ebx+product t.p.book.title]
 lea
      ecx, 32
 mov
 rep movsd
     dword ptr [ebx+product t[1].id], 2
 mov
      dword ptr [ebx+product t[1].category], SOFTWARE
      esi, offset softwares.softs
      edi, [ebx+product t[1].p.software]
 lea
      ecx, 9
 mov.
 rep movsd
      dword ptr [ebx+product_t[2].id], 3
 mov
      dword ptr [ebx+product_t[2].category], SOFTWARE
 mov
      esi, (offset softwares.softs.info+24h)
 MOV
     edi, [ebx+product_t[2].p.software]
 lea
      ecx, 9
 MOV
 rep movsd
     dword ptr [ebx+product_t[3].id], 4
 mov
     dword ptr [ebx+product_t[3].category], SOFTWARE
 mov
 mov esi, (offset softwares.softs.info+48h)
 lea edi, [ebx+product_t[3].p.software]
 mov ecx, 9
 rep movsd
 push offset aProducts; format
 call printf
 pop ecx
 xor esi, esi
```

```
loop_verify_print_product: ; CODE XREF: main+132j
 mov eax, esi
 shl eax, 4
 add eax, esi
 push [ebx+eax*8+product t.category] ; product category
 call check product
 pop ecx
 test eax, eax
 jnz short product is valid
 push offset aInvalidProduct ; format
 call printf
 pop ecx
 jmp short exit
product is valid: ; CODE XREF: main+E0j
 mov edx, esi
 shl edx, 4
 add edx, esi
 cmp [ebx+edx*8+product t.category], SOFTWARE
 jnz short print product
 mov ecx, esi
 shl ecx, 4
 add ecx, esi
 push [ebx+ecx*8+product t.p.software.info]; software info
 call check_software
 pop ecx
 test eax, eax
 jnz short print_product
 push offset aInvalidSoftwar; format
 call _printf
 pop
       ecx
      short exit
 jmp
print product: ; CODE XREF: main+FBj main+110j
 imul eax, esi, 88h
 add eax, ebx push eax
                ; product
 call print product
 pop ecx
 inc
       esi
 cmp esi, 4
      short loop verify print product
 jl
                  ; CODE XREF: main+EDj main+11Dj
exit:
 push ebx
                 ; block
 call _free
 pop ecx
 pop edi
 pop esi
 pop ebx
 pop ebp
 retn
main endp
```

```
; [COLLAPSED AREA .text2. PRESS KEYPAD "+" TO EXPAND]
; Section 2. (virtual address 0000A000)
                     : 00003000 ( 12288.)
; Virtual size
; Section size in file
                              : 00002800 ( 10240.)
; Offset to raw data for section: 00009400
; Flags C0000040: Data Readable Writable
; Alignment : 16 bytes ?
; Segment type: Pure data
; Segment permissions: Read/Write
data segment para public 'DATA' use32
 assume cs: data
 ; org 40A000h
; [COLLAPSED AREA .data1. PRESS KEYPAD "+" TO EXPAND]
customers customer_t <1, 'Peter', 'm'> ; DATA XREF: main+11o
  customer_t <2, 'John', 'm'>
  customer t <3, 'Mary', 'f'>
  customer t <0>
aIdaQuickstartG db 'IDA QuickStart Guide', 0 ; DATA XREF: main+3Fo
  db 6Bh dup(0)
softwares dd 3
                           ; count ; DATA XREF: main+620
  dd PC or WINDOWS or DOS or DISASSEMBLY; softs.info
  dd PC or MAC or WINDOWS or OS X or RECOVERY; softs.info
  dd PC or WINDOWS or CRYPTOGRAPHY; softs.info
  aWeDonTSellHardwareForThe db 'We don',27h,'t sell hardware for the
moment...', 0Ah, 0
                    ; DATA XREF: check product+Eo print software+80 ...
aCustomer04xSC db 'CUSTOMER %04X: %s (%c)',0Ah,0 ; DATA XREF: print customer+110
aBookS db 'BOOK: %s', OAh, O ; DATA XREF: print book+60
aSoftwareS db 'SOFTWARE: %s:',0 ; DATA XREF: print software+11r
aPc db ' PC',0 ; DATA XREF: print_software+27r aMac db ' MAC',0 ; DATA XREF: print_software+3Br asc_40A31B db ';',0 ; DATA XREF: print_software:not_macr
aWindows db 'WINDOWS', 0; DATA XREF: print software+5Cr
aDos db ' DOS',0 ; DATA XREF: print_software+72r aOsX db ' OS-X',0 ; DATA XREF: print_software+89r
asc_40A331 db ';',0 ; DATA XREF: print_software:not_os_xr
aDisassembly db ' DISASSEMBLY',0 ; DATA XREF: print_software:DISASSEMBLYr
aRecovery db ' RECOVERY',0 ; DATA XREF: print software:RECOVERYr
aCryptography db ' CRYPTOGRAPHY',0 ; DATA XREF: print_software:CRYPTOGRAPHYr
asc_40A358 db 0Ah,0 ; DATA XREF: print_software:endr
aProduct04x db 'PRODUCT %04X: ',0 ; DATA XREF: print_product+1Bo
aCustomers db 'CUSTOMERS:', OAh, O ; DATA XREF: main+60
aProducts db 0Ah ; DATA XREF: main+C0o
 db 'PRODUCTS:', OAh, O
aInvalidProduct db 'Invalid product !!!',0Ah,0 ; DATA XREF: main+E2o
aInvalidSoftwar db 'Invalid software !!!',0Ah,0 ; DATA XREF: main+1120
; [COLLAPSED AREA .data2. PRESS KEYPAD "+" TO EXPAND]
; [00001000 BYTES: COLLAPSED SEGMENT tls. PRESS KEYPAD "+" TO EXPAND]
; [00001000 BYTES: COLLAPSED SEGMENT rdata. PRESS KEYPAD "+" TO EXPAND]
; [000000C4 BYTES: COLLAPSED SEGMENT _idata. PRESS KEYPAD "+" TO EXPAND]
```

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