

# RE Preprocessor

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## Constraints Essay

The RE Preprocessor doesn't have many constraints that seriously effect it's design. The nature of reverse engineering, and the role the tool is attempting to fill could cause potential professional and legal issues.

### **Professionalism**

This tool is intended to be used by security researchers in the hopes of speeding up their work. However, because the tool can automate away a common sticking point in reverse engineering it could make reverse engineers less aware of other file identification methods.

### **Legality/Security**

Another potential area of scrutiny is security and legality. The product itself has no legal issues, but plugins generated by users could violate intellectual property rules. Because some encryption/obfuscation techniques are proprietary, reverse engineering them to build an identification/extraction plugins could open the developer to legal issues. Reverse engineering to discover propriety information of programs is a legal gray area.

Similarly, knowing proprietary information about how a file is constructed could create security issues. While the intention is for security researchers to use the tool, the open source nature means that attackers could use this information for bad. This tool is far from the only one with this problem and it will be a continuous battle to stay in front of attackers.