





# Reverse Engineering with NSA's Ghidra

Jeremy Blackthorne

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<https://github.com/JeremyBlackthorne/Public-Presentations>

## For Cleared Audience Members

- All materials are from publicly released tool
- No classified information in this presentation

# Introduction

## ■ USMC

- 1st Battalion / 7th Marines, 2002 – 2006
- MOS 0311: 2003, 2005
- MOS 8541: 2006



## ■ Education

- BS in CS, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 2007 – 2011
- MS in CS, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2011 – 2015
- PhD candidate in CS, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



## ■ MIT Lincoln Laboratory

- Cyber System Assessments Group, 2015 – 2017
- Researched cyber survivability
- Trained Navy, Air Force, and SOCOM



# Boston Cybernetics Institute

- Public benefit corporation (PBC) founded 2017
- **Mission:** Provide cybersecurity training and research in support of national defense
- Located at 30 JFK St, Cambridge (Harvard Square)
- Public and Private Classes:
  - Malware Analysis
  - Reverse-Engineering
  - Vulnerability Assessment
  - Embedded Systems
- Contact
  - [Boston-Cyber.Eventbrite.com](https://www.BostonCyber.Eventbrite.com)
  - [www.BostonCyber.org](http://www.BostonCyber.org)
  - [@BosCybernetics](https://twitter.com/BosCybernetics)



# What is Ghidra?

- “A software reverse engineering (SRE) suite of tools...”
  - <https://ghidra-sre.org/>
- Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) Apache 2.0 License
- <https://github.com/NationalSecurityAgency/ghidra>
- Written in Java
  - Requires JDK 11+
  - Runs well on Windows, Linux, and Mac

# Demo!

- Example binary pulled from <http://reversing.kr>
- EasyCrack.exe

# Ghidra Release

■ March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

■ RSA Conference

- **Title:** Come Get Your Free NSA Reverse Engineering Tool!
- **Author:** Rob Joyce, Senior Advisor, National Security Agency
- <https://www.rsaconference.com/events/us19/agenda/sessions/16608-come-get-your-free-nsa-reverse-engineering-tool>





# Ghidra History?

```
user@gunmetal ~/D/ghidra-Ghidra_9.0.2_build> grep -r 199[0-9] * --include "*.java"
Ghidra/Framework/SoftwareModeling/src/main/java/ghidra/program/model/address/AddressOutOfBoundsException.java: * @version 1999-0
Ghidra/Framework/SoftwareModeling/src/main/java/ghidra/program/model/scalar/ScalarOverflowException.java: * @version 1999-03-31
Ghidra/Framework/SoftwareModeling/src/main/java/ghidra/program/model/scalar/ScalarFormat.java: * @version 1999/02/04
Ghidra/Framework/SoftwareModeling/src/main/java/ghidra/program/model/mem/MemoryAccessException.java: * @version 1999-03-31
Ghidra/Framework/Docking/src/test/java/docking/widgets/table/constraineditor/DateRangeConstraintEditorTest.java:
Ghidra/Framework/Docking/src/test/java/docking/widgets/table/constraineditor/DateRangeConstraintEditorTest.java:
Ghidra/Framework/Docking/src/test/java/docking/widgets/table/constraineditor/DateRangeConstraintEditorTest.java:
).getConstraintValueString());
Ghidra/Framework/Docking/src/test/java/docking/widgets/table/constraineditor/DateRangeConstraintEditorTest.java:
Ghidra/Framework/Docking/src/test/java/docking/widgets/table/constraineditor/DateRangeConstraintEditorTest.java:
Ghidra/Framework/Docking/src/test/java/docking/widgets/table/constraineditor/DateRangeConstraintEditorTest.java:
Ghidra/Framework/Docking/src/test/java/docking/widgets/table/constraineditor/DateRangeConstraintEditorTest.java:
Ghidra/Framework/Generic/src/main/java/generic/hash/SimpleCRC32.java: 0,1996959894,-301047508,-1727442502,124634137,
Ghidra/Framework/Generic/src/main/java/generic/hash/SimpleCRC32.java: -522852066,-1747789432,162941995,2125561021,-407
Ghidra/Framework/Generic/src/main/java/generic/hash/SimpleCRC32.java: 795835527,1483230225,-1050600021,-1234817731,199
Ghidra/Framework/Generic/src/main/java/generic/hash/SimpleCRC32.java: -1950435094,-54949764,1658658271,366619977,-1932
Ghidra/Framework/Generic/src/main/java/ghidra/util/exception/NotYetImplementedException.java: * @version 1999/02/05
Ghidra/Features/MicrosoftCodeAnalyzer/src/main/java/ghidra/app/cmd/data/exceptionhandling/EHFunctionInfoModel.java: public s
Ghidra/Features/MicrosoftCodeAnalyzer/src/main/java/ghidra/app/cmd/data/exceptionhandling/EHFunctionInfoModel.java: public s
Ghidra/Features/MicrosoftCodeAnalyzer/src/main/java/ghidra/app/cmd/data/exceptionhandling/EHFunctionInfoModel.java: public s
Ghidra/Features/Base/src/test.slow/java/ghidra/app/merge/listing/FunctionMergerThunk2Test.java: private final static String OVER
Ghidra/Features/Base/src/test.slow/java/ghidra/app/merge/listing/FunctionMergerThunkTest.java: private final static String OVER
Ghidra/Features/Base/src/test.slow/java/ghidra/app/merge/listing/FunctionMergerThunkTest.java: chooseVariousOptions("01
Ghidra/Features/Base/src/test.slow/java/ghidra/app/merge/listing/FunctionMergerThunkTest.java: chooseVariousOptions("01
Ghidra/Features/Base/src/main/java/ghidra/app/util/bin/format/pe/debug/DebugCodeViewConstants.java: /**Newer CV info, define
```

- @0xAlexei first showed me a version of this

# Related Tools

## ■ IDA Pro

- Free and commercial versions
- Static and dynamic analysis



## ■ Binary Ninja

- Student and commercial versions
- Static only analysis



## ■ Radare2 (r2)

- Free and open source
- Static and dynamic



# Detailed Tool Comparison

Architectures								
Architectures	Radare2	Binary Ninja Demo	Binary Ninja	Hopper Demo	Hopper	JEB	IDA Pro	IDA Pro Demo
arm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
arm64	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
avr	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
dalvik	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
java	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
mips	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
mips64	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
ppc	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
x86	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
x86_64	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

“Unfair comparison between r2, IDA Pro and Hopper.”

-<https://rada.re/r/cmp.html>

# Summary

## Ghidra:

- Free and open source: <https://ghidra-sre.org/>
- Extendable
- Scriptable
- Good disassembler and decompiler
- “Joyce promised, the NSA will release an integrated debugger, a powerful emulator, and improved analysis tools. ”
  - [https://www.theregister.co.uk/2019/03/06/nsa\\_ghidra\\_joyce/](https://www.theregister.co.uk/2019/03/06/nsa_ghidra_joyce/)

## Contact Info:

- jblackthorne@bostoncyber.org
- @0xJeremy