

Introduction to Reverse Engineering

REVERSE ENGINEERING

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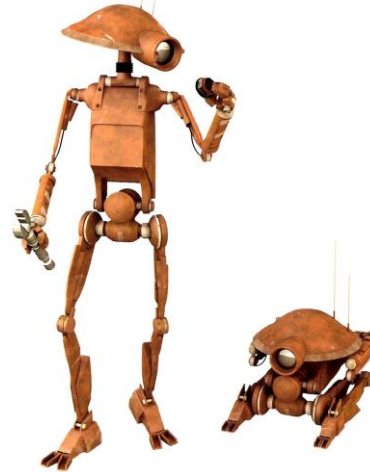
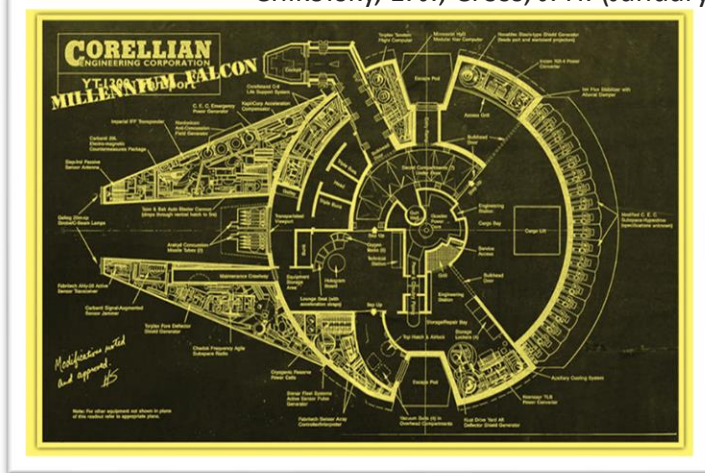
What is Reverse Engineering (RE)

- Reverse Engineering (RE) is the process of extracting features from any man-made artifact (Engineered)
 - Knowledge
 - Design blueprints
 - Function
- It's not purely scientific research: with RE the artifact was engineered
 - The scientific process doesn't generically focus on a product
 - Focus is on mechanisms, processes, events, phenomena
 - ... and we have no idea whether the universe was engineered or not 😊

What is Reverse Engineering (RE)

The process of **analyzing** a **subject system** to **identify** the system's **components** and their **interrelationships** and to **create representations** of the system in another form or at a higher level of abstraction

Chikofsky, E. J.; Cross, J. H. (January 1990). "Reverse engineering and design recovery: A taxonomy" (PDF). IEEE Software. 7: 13–17. doi:10.1109/52.43044



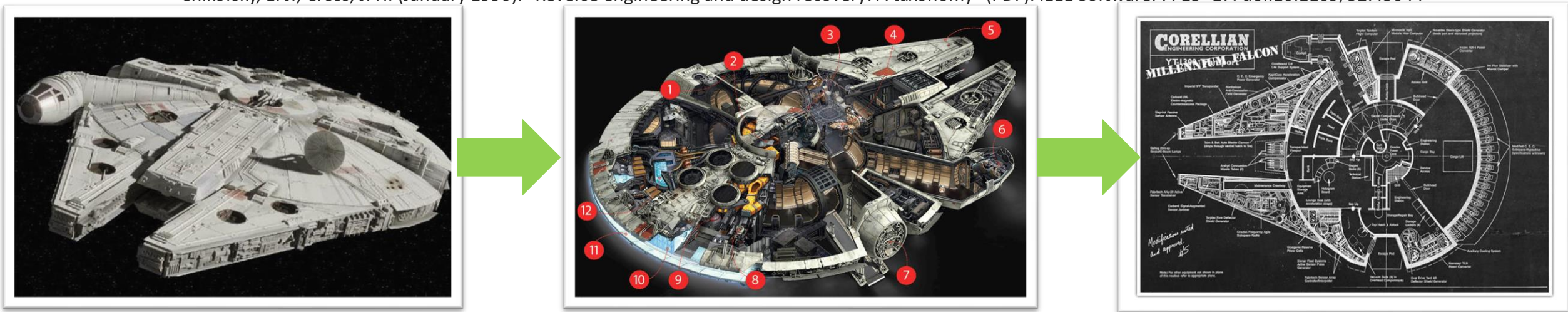
Forward Engineering

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What is Reverse Engineering (RE)

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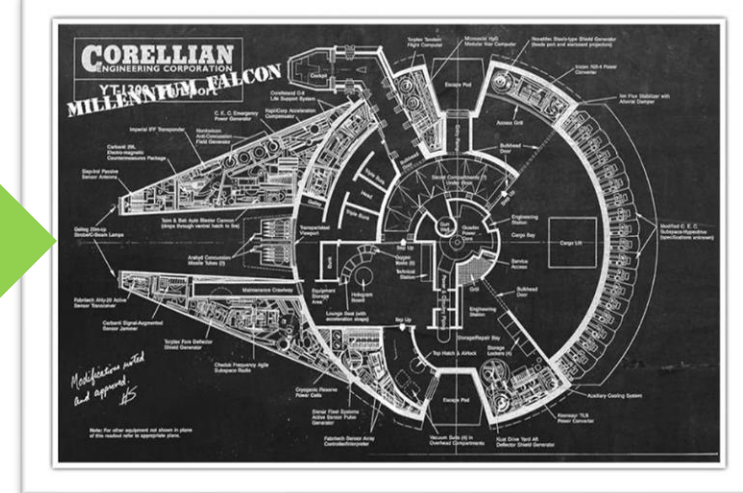
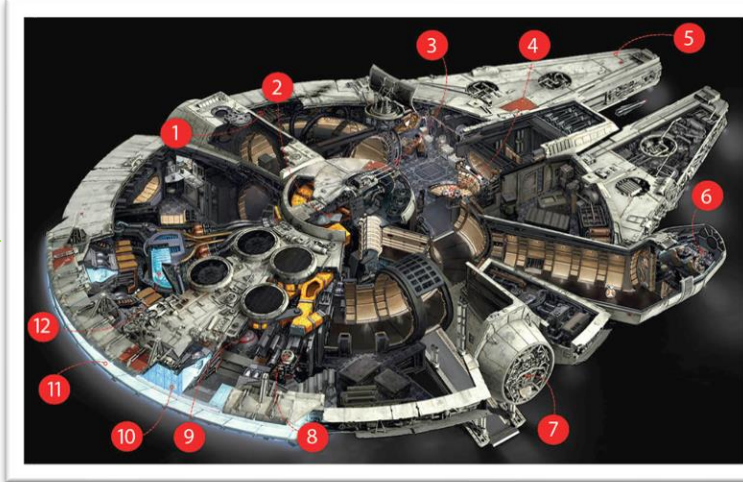
Reverse Engineering

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What is Reverse Engineering (RE)

The process of **analyzing a subject system to identify** the system's **interrelationships** and to **create representations** of the system in a **higher level of abstraction**

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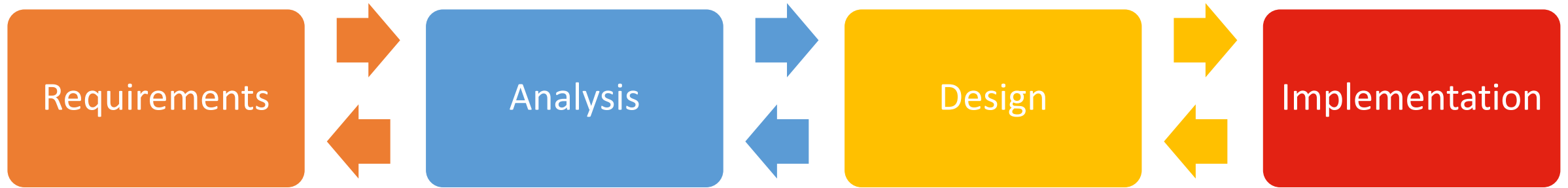


Reverse Engineering

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What is Reverse Engineering (RE)

Forward Engineering



Reverse Engineering

- Processes are not perfect, in either direction.
- Implementation may not fully comply with requirements, while reversed engineered analysis may not fully represent the implementation design, and design will be limited

RE Concepts

- **Abstraction Level**

- The result of a RE process will produce a design at a given abstraction level.
- The higher the better

- **Completeness**

- Level of detail at the abstraction level.
- The greater the better

- **Interactivity**

- How much humans are required for RE.
- The lesser the better (higher automation)

When do we have RE activities?

- RE **always evolved with engineering** and existed since its dawn
 - It is frequently done informally by everyone in their daily lives
- Every time **we look at a software/device/system** and try to understand how it works, or understand any aspect of its behavior and structure
 - Because we want to make a better one
 - Because we wish to estimate if it suits a purpose...
- Every time we **look at our code** and try to find what it was supposed to do
 - Especially when there is no documentation

Why RE is Relevant and Required

Personal Education

- Observing a product allows anyone to learn from its characteristics.
 - Why it behaves that way
 - What it does
 - How it does something
 - Why something doesn't happen
- One can **complement engineering** education by observing code/products made by others
 - Open-source software plays an important role here
 - Because if the source is available, it doesn't mean that structure, components, etc... are readily available or understood
 - Actually... instead of learning from patterns, **why not learn from its application as implemented by other professionals?**
 - There are a lot of “hidden” subtleties due to the experience of their authors

Why RE is Relevant and Required

Work around limitations

- Products are engineered in order to **provide some value**, and **turn profit**
 - Some value = value perceived by the buyers, in relation to other products
 - Profit = max price for the minimal cost
- Products are frequently built to promote further revenue
 - Support contracts, build an ecosystem, help sell other products
 - Closed in their interfaces and limited in their feature set
- Reverse engineering can be used **to increase the feature set**
 - After the product is made, and without cooperation from manufacturer

Why RE is Relevant and Required

Work around limitations



Magic Lantern extends existing Cameras with a huge amount of extra features

<https://magiclantern.fm/>



3D scanning vehicles enables aftermarket variants to produce alternative parts

<https://www.creaform3d.com/>



Observing existing parts allows new parts to be designed to improve reliability, performance, design..

Why RE is Relevant and Required

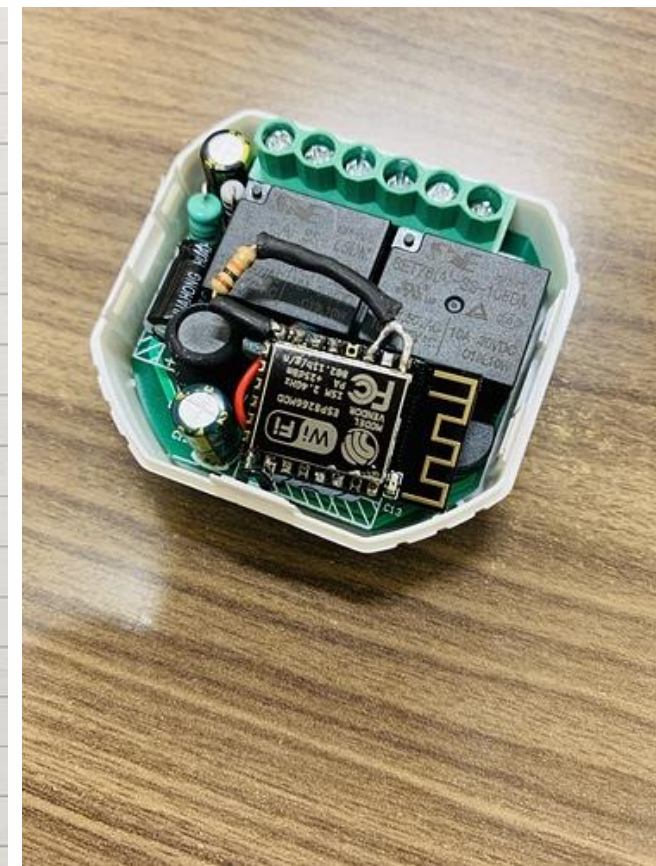
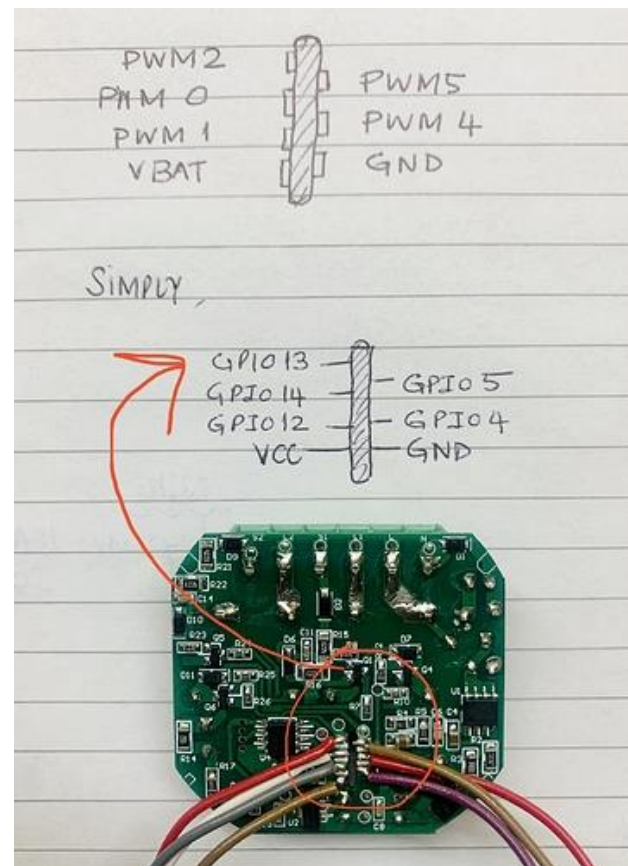
Make a product compatible

- A product is developed for a set of scenarios. **What if we want it to operate on another, unexpected, environment?**
- RE allows obtaining **relevant design/operation information**
 - To modify the product to fit the new environment
 - Some components may be reconstructed
 - To build adapters integrating the product
- In corporate world it's standard to have products adapted to a specific use case
 - Process takes a long time, and is expensive
 - RE may provide a simpler route
 - Especially relevant if the manufacturer doesn't provide that service
 - Or simply doesn't exist

Why RE is Relevant and Required

Make a product compatible

- Make/DIY movements are keen on RE
- Driven by integrating and enhancement
 - Mostly for personal use
 - Community driven
- Frequently without cooperation from manufacturers
 - Alarms: [ParadoxAlarmInterface/pai](https://github.com/ParadoxAlarmInterface/pai)
 - Sports bracelets: [Gadgetbridge](https://github.com/Gadgetbridge)
- Sometimes with some collaboration
 - [Magic Lantern](https://github.com/MagicLantern)



[Unkown tuy a chip - Hardware - Home Assistant Community \(home-assistant.io\)](https://home-assistant.io/hardware/unknown_tuya_chip/)

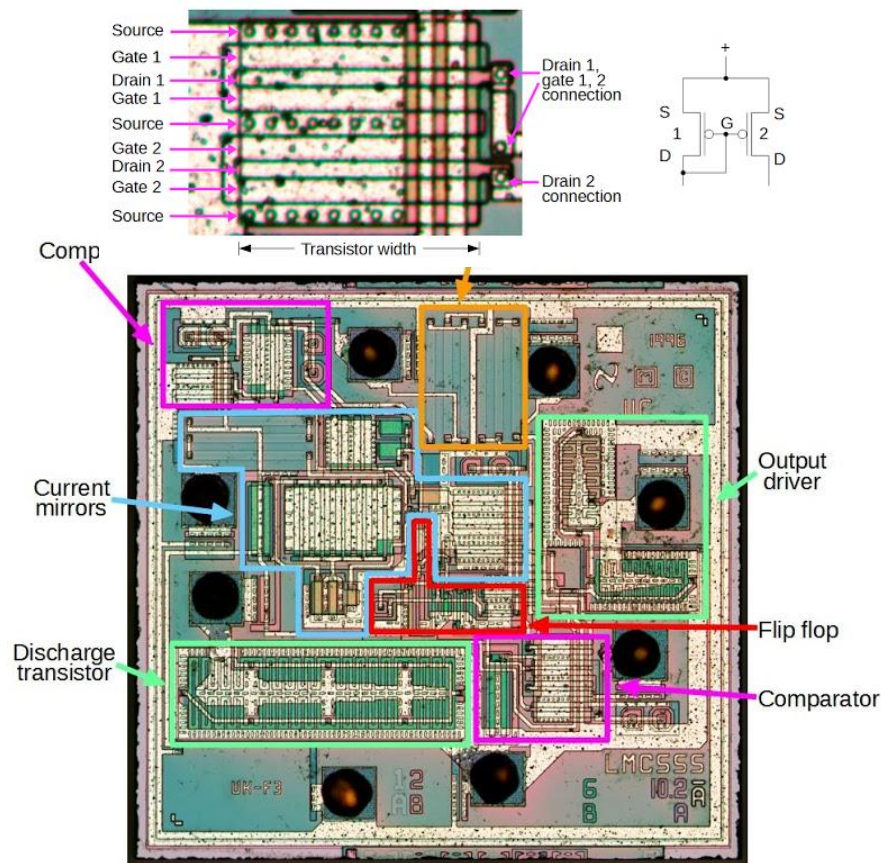
Why RE is Relevant and Required

Learn from other's products or from products of other domains

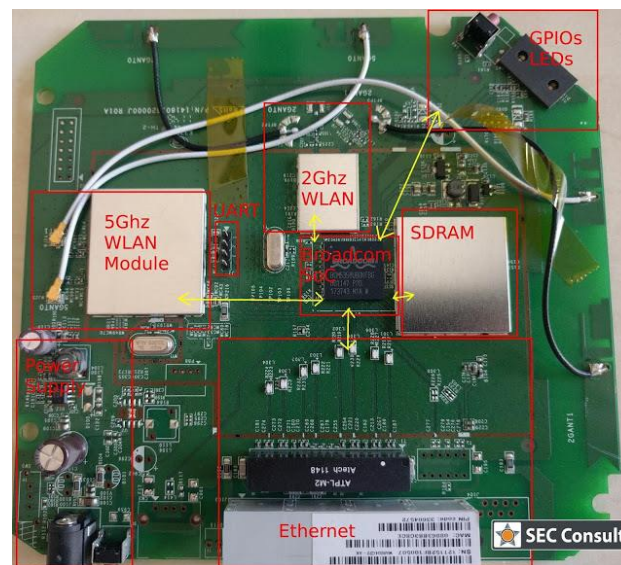
- Companies must determine the values/weaknesses of products in competing markets
 - What strategies/materials/methods/technology are used by competitors
 - Helps segmenting market and setting prices
 - Helps acquiring knowledge to develop new product
- Also: does a certain product violates a patent of ours?
 - Includes patented designs
- RE can be used for that purpose
 - and can feed information to engineering
 - determine the need for judicial actions protecting Intellectual Property

Why RE is Relevant and Required

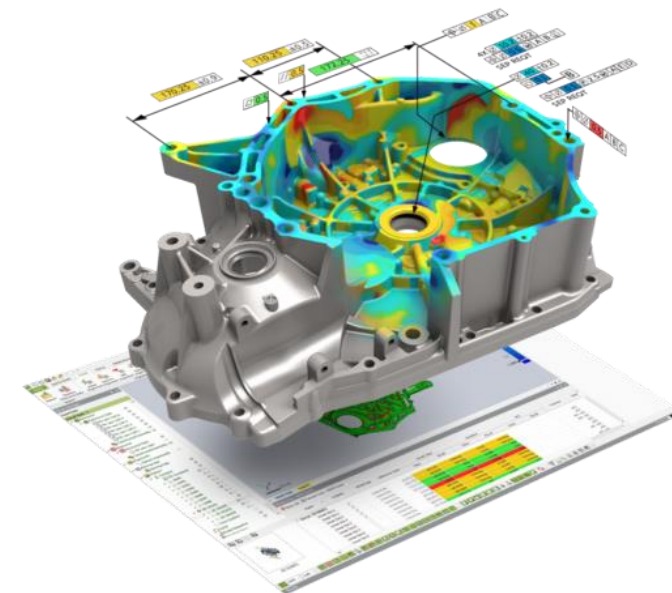
Learn from other's products or from products of other domains



<http://www.righto.com/2016/04/teardown-of-cmos-555-timer-chip-how.html>



<https://sec-consult.com/>



<https://dewyseng.com/>

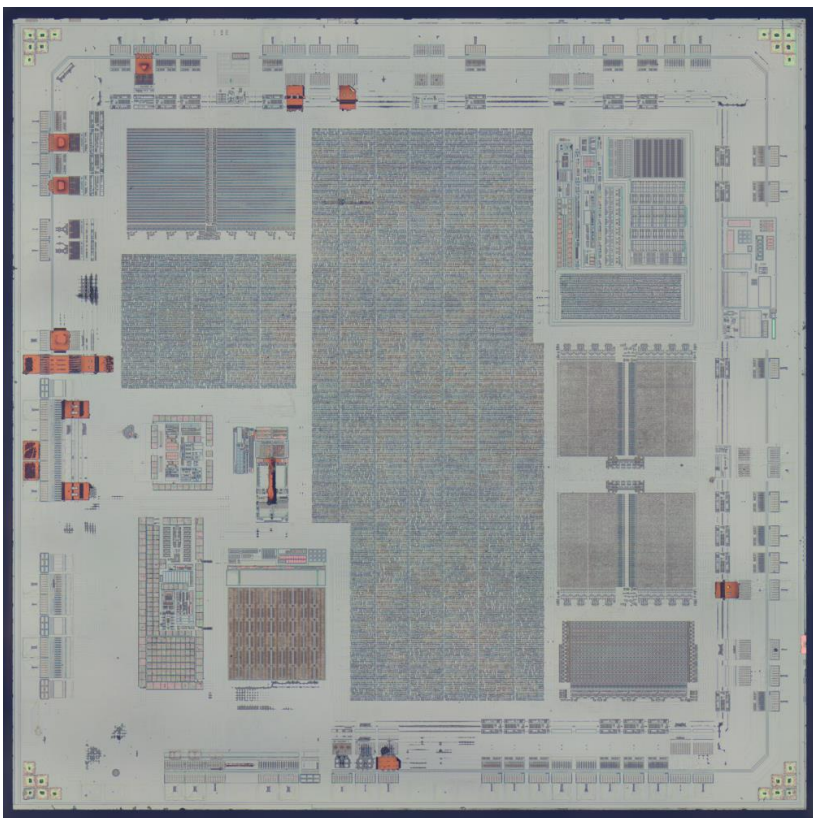
Why RE is Relevant and Required

Finding the purpose of a certain code/binary blob or part

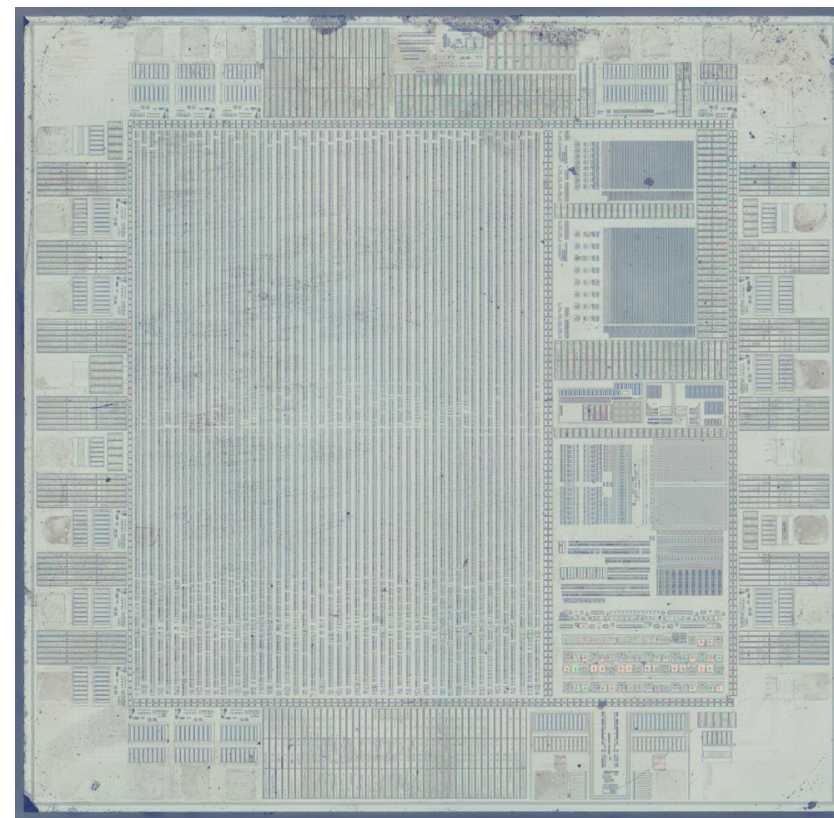
- Engineers frequently assume that an engineered entity is known (They trust dependencies)
 - That is... if you develop something, you know what it does
 - Also assume (or wish) that documentation exists
- What if:
 - documentation is lost?
 - the blob is external to the company?
 - the blob is misbehaving?
 - the blob was modified?
 - the engineer/supplier is not trusted?
 - the part is fake?
 - the company needs to validate the design process?
- RE can recover a similar design from the implementation, independently of the documentation, or the original design

Why RE is Relevant and Required

Finding the purpose of a certain code/binary blob or part



Fake FT232RL



Genuine FT232RL

<https://zeptobars.com/en/read/FTDI-FT232RL-real-vs-fake-supereal>

Why RE is Relevant and Required

Discovering flaws and faults

- Implementation may deviate from design
 - ... it always deviates
- Implementation may present flaws due to unseen aspects
 - Processes used
 - Technology used
 - Interaction with additional components
 - Manufacturing flaws
 - Knowledge and experience
- RE is used in the scope of software testing to validate systems
 - Symbolic execution and Fuzzy testing are ways of helping the reverse engineering
 - Characterize if a given implementation reproduces the expected design
 - Identify additional modes

Why RE is Relevant and Required

Find and analyze malicious code

- For Anti-Virus, and Malware researchers, source code is not available
 - Or for offensive/red teams in black box scenarios
- **Malware detection relies on reverse engineering** to understand programs
 - RE allows the identification of patterns of malicious code
 - May rely on:
 - Interaction patterns
 - Bytecode structure
 - Communication with external hosts
 - Binary structure
 - Text contents
 - ...
- Some RE is done in real time to find unknown malware
 - Or at least to identify suspect code, triggering further inspection

Limitations

- May be illegal in some cases, or lead to ambiguous situations
 - Higher risk of jeopardizing products developed
- Requires trained and experienced staff
 - Which is not abundant
- It's costly in terms of time, resources and money
 - Expensive tools, scarce number of researchers, lengthy process
- May lead to incomplete or incorrect designs.
 - No guaranteed result!
 - An RE activity may be a complete waste of resources (time, staff, money)

Legal Framework

- The legality of RE is not assured a priori
 - varies with jurisdiction
 - varies with what is being reversed
 - varies with the purpose of the RE activity
 - varies with the impact to the product owner
- Applicable legislation:
 - USA: Digital Millennium Copyright Act
 - EU: EU Directive 2009/24
- This only applies to third parties
 - Product owners are free to use their own products as they seem fit
 - RE for the purpose of Software Quality Control

Legal Framework

Allowed situations (Europe, Directive 2009/24/EC)

The unauthorized reproduction, **translation, adaptation or transformation** of the form of the code in which a copy of a computer program has been made available **constitutes an infringement of the exclusive rights of the author.**

- .. circumstances may exist when such a reproduction of the code and translation of its form are indispensable to obtain the necessary information **to achieve the interoperability of an independently created program with other programs.**
- .. in these limited circumstances only, performance of the acts of reproduction and translation by or on behalf of a **person having a right to use a copy of the program** is legitimate and compatible with fair practice...

Legal Framework

Allowed situations (Europe, Directive 2009/24/EC)

- Article 5 b): To learn

The person **having a right to use a copy of a computer program** shall be entitled, without the authorisation of the rightholder, to **observe, study or test the functioning** of the program **in order to determine the ideas and principles** which underlie any element of the program **if he does so while performing any of the acts** of loading, displaying, running, transmitting or storing the program **which he is entitled to do.**

- **Broad Interpretation:** if you own a legitimate copy of the software, and are able to load it/run it/etc... you may analyze it for the purpose of learning

Legal Framework

Allowed situations (Europe, Directive 2009/24/EC)

- Article 5 b): To learn
- Caveats:
 - Replicating an algorithm may not be allowed, as a copy of the work infringes the copyright
 - Copy protection mechanism cannot be overcome
 - If there is a copy protection and you cannot freely execute the program, you do not have authorization to use it
 - Methods for bypassing protections are not legal
 - Crackers, keygens
- EULAs cannot restrict RE tasks

Legal Framework

Allowed situations (Europe, Directive 2009/24/EC)

- Article 6: Decompilation is generally allowed for the purposes listed in this directive, but mostly focusing on interoperability
- (allowed when) indispensable to obtain the information necessary to achieve the interoperability of an independently created computer program with other programs
- Provided that the following conditions are met:
 - those acts are performed by the licensee or by another **person having a right to use a copy of a program**, or on their behalf by a person authorized to do so
 - the information necessary to achieve interoperability **has not previously been readily available** to the persons referred to in point (a); and
 - those **acts are confined** to the parts of the original program which are necessary in order to achieve interoperability.

Legal Framework

Allowed situations (USA, DMCA)

- **Interoperability:** even circumventing DRM
- **Encryption research:** if the protection prevents the evaluation of the technology
- **Security testing:** determine if a software is secure and to improve it
- **Regulation:** to limit what information is presented to minors
- **Government Investigation:** government agencies are not affected
- **Privacy protection:** users may reverse and circumvent data gathering technologies
- EULAs may restrict RE actions, although this is not guaranteed by law

Eldad Eilam, 2005

What RE Recovers?

- **System structure:** its components and their interrelationships, as expressed by their interfaces
- **Functionality:** what operations are performed on what components
- **Dynamic behavior:** system understanding about how input is transformed to output
- **Rationale:** design involves decision making between a number of alternatives at each design step
- **Construction:** modules, documentation, test suites, etc.

Software Reversing Levels

System Level Reversing

- Observe how the software is provided and how it operates
 - Involves analyzing the environment, packaging, dependencies, and then observed behavior
 - May require tools to intercept traffic, system calls, input/output
- End goal: collect information to direct further analysis
 - Important in order to select tools, processes, and overall strategy
 - Language use, packaging algorithms, encryption
 - Important to characterize behavior and identify external dependencies
 - Remote servers involved, files accessed, communication channels used

Software Reversing Process

Code Level Reversing

- Extract design concepts and algorithms from binaries
 - Compiled to binary code or bytecode.
- It's a complex, architecture dependent process
 - Some say “an art form”
 - Expensive enough that competitive RE is not usually pursued
 - To fully reverse and reassemble a given competing software (except in some cases)
- Makes use of tools capable of representing the low-level language in something “human compatible”
 - Compiler optimization and obfuscation make this process uncertain
 - Perfect reconstruction is frequently impossible as low-level languages do not use the same constructs as higher-level ones

Software Reversing Activities

- Understanding the processes
 - Large scale observation of the program at a process level
 - Identification of major components and their functionality
- Understanding the Data
 - Understand data structures used
- Understanding Interfaces
 - Which interfaces exist and how the process reacts to them

Software Reversing

- Programs are developed in a high-level programming languages
 - C, C++, C#, Java, Python, Go...
- A compiler converts the high-level instructions to low level instructions
 - Machine Code: instructions that are executed directly by the CPU
 - Bytecode: instructions that are executed by a middleware, VM or Interpreter
- Reverse Engineering involves understanding low level instructions
 - Which is not easy and is costly
 - Requires knowledge of the specific target being analyzed (the VM, the CPU)
 - Different CPUs have different opcodes and execution behavior

Low level languages

Machine Code

- Each CPU has a specific instruction set
 - Associated to rules regarding structure, execution flow,
- When a program is compiled to “binary”, the high-level logic is converted to a sequence of instructions
 - This sequence may be executed by a family of CPUs or a single model
 - Running this sequence on another CPU may involve binary translation (conversion)
- Humans are typically not capable of reading binary instructions, but instructions are always able to be translated to Assembly
 - Good: We can read binary code
 - Bad: each CPU has a specific variant of Assembly. Also, assembly is not simple.

Low level language

Machine Code

```
// Original C
int square(int num) {
    return num * num;
}
```

//ARM64 GCC 5.4

square(int):

```
    sub     sp, sp, #16
    str     w0, [sp, 12]
    ldr     w1, [sp, 12]
    ldr     w0, [sp, 12]
    mul     w0, w1, w0
    add     sp, sp, 16
    ret
```

//MIPS64 GCC 5.4

square(int):

```
    daddiu  $sp,$sp,-32
    sd      $fp,24($sp)
    move    $fp,$sp
    move    $2,$4
    sll     $2,$2,0
    sw      $2,0($fp)
    lw      $3,0($fp)
    lw      $2,0($fp)
    mult    $3,$2
    mflo    $2
    move    $sp,$fp
    ld      $fp,24($sp)
    daddiu  $sp,$sp,32
    j       $31
    nop
```

[Compiler Explorer \(godbolt.org\)](http://Compiler Explorer (godbolt.org))

//PowerPC GCC 4.8.5

square(int):

```
    stwu    1,-32(1)
    stw     31,28(1)
    mr      31,1
    stw     3,8(31)
    lwz     10,8(31)
    lwz     9,8(31)
    mullw   9,10,9
    mr      3,9
    addi    11,31,32
    lwz     31,-4(11)
    mr      1,11
    blr
```

//x86_64 gcc 5.4

square(int):

```
    push    rbp
    mov     rbp, rsp
    mov     DWORD PTR [rbp-4], edi
    mov     eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-4]
    imul    eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-4]
    pop     rbp
    ret
```

Low level languages

Machine Code

- For compiled programs, the RE tasks involves extracting information from the sequence of Assembly instructions
 - Disassembly is automatic, the rest frequently it isn't
- Reconstruction is never perfect!
 - Different level of abstraction: e.g., it is not trivial to recover C++ class structure and OOP relations from Assembly code
 - **Different compilers generate different assembly** for the same source code
 - **Same compiler may generate different assembly** for the same source code
 - Optimization flags, CPU matching, protection mechanisms, target object type...

Low level languages

Bytecode

- Some languages are compiled to a bytecode (!= machine code)
 - Intermediate language that is processed by a VM or framework
 - .NET, Java, Python, JS, LISP, LUA, Ocaml, Tcl, FoxPro, WebAssembly
- Bytecode contains a compact (optimized) representation of the higher layer structures
 - Framework/VM will execute bytecode in the target CPU
 - Same bytecode usually can be executed in multiple CPUs, provided there is a native VM implementation
 - The Java moto: Write Once, Run Anywhere
- Bytecode allows easier extraction of information, provided there is such route
 - May recover classes, function names, and even comments (but not always)
 - Traditional decompiling tools will not process bytecode (that easily)

Tools

System monitoring tools

- Allow observing application behavior as the application runs
 - To extract system level information
 - Know interfaces, and data files used, resource usage, communication methods
- Some relevant:
 - /proc/pid: kernel structures showing relevant information about a process
 - strace: logs system calls with their arguments
 - lsof: list open files (including folders, sockets, pipes...)
 - PyREBox: creates virtual environments to analyze an application running

Tools

System monitoring tools - strace

```
$ stract wget http://www.ua.pt
```

```
munmap(0x7fd09f21d000, 200704)      = 0
ioctl(0, TIOCGPGRP, [26769])      = 0
getpgrp()                        = 26769
```

```
write(2, "Connecting to www.ua.pt (www.ua."..., 59Connecting to www.ua.pt (www.ua.pt)|193.136.173.58|:443... ) = 59
```

```
socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, IPPROTO_IP) = 4
connect(4, {sa_family=AF_INET, sin_port=htons(443), sin_addr=inet_addr("193.136.173.58")}, 16) = 0
ioctl(0, TIOCGPGRP, [26769])      = 0
getpgrp()                        = 26769
write(2, "connected.\n", 11connected.
)                                  = 11
getrandom("\x30\x8d\x68\xe3\xfd\x69\x26\xfb\x02\xad\x85\xa4\x6d\x7d\x9d\x4a\x44\xae\xd5\x9f\xf2\xa6\xe9\x17\xc2\xbc\x48...
brk(0x55822c787000)               = 0x55822c787000
```

```
sendmsg(4, {msg_name=NULL, msg_namelen=0,
msg_iov=[{iov_base="\26\3\1\2\0\1\0\1\374\3\3\352\245z\277e\243\274\342\257\232\351_\301\246C\271\302\257t\366\203"... ,
recvfrom(4, "\26\3\3\0A", 5, 0, NULL, NULL) = 5
recvfrom(4, "\2\0\0=\3\30\264\262\264x\256&\22\350\371\346\267Z\212\243\217\335\350\223\325\272H\344\0\356\230"... ,
recvfrom(4, "\26\3\3\v\255", 5, 0, NULL, NULL) = 5
recvfrom(4, "\v\0\v\251\0\v\246\0\6\2410\202\6\2350\202\5\205\240\3\2\1\2\2\20\6\264\27\f\327\357\254"... ,
recvfrom(4, "\26\3\3\1M", 5, 0, NULL, NULL) = 5
```

Tools

System monitoring tools - pyREBox

```
[8] pyrebox>
```

Tools

Communication monitoring tools

- Intercept or observe traffic exchanged with the process
 - May also filter or change data units
- Some relevant tools:
 - ZAP, mitmproxy: conduits MITM attacks to analyse interactions
 - Wireshark: all purpose packet sniffer and powerful decoder
 - Logic Analysers: allow monitoring communication electronic communication buses
 - Automatic Protocol Reversers: extract structure from flows, sometimes supporting encrypted flow
 - For a comprehensive list: <https://github.com/techge/PRE-list>

Tools

Communication monitoring tools – Universal Radio Hacker

The screenshot displays the Universal Radio Hacker (URH) software interface, which is used for monitoring and analyzing radio signals. The interface is divided into several sections:

- File List (Left):** A list of files and folders, including 'anlernen3x3.t...', 'Backup.URHP...', 'Boeser14er.c...', 'decodings.txt', 'fernbedienun...', 'fernbedienun...', 'gen.complex', 'info.txt', 'old.tar.bz2', 'profile.fuzz', 'protocol_ke.txt', 'protocol.proto', 'protocol.txt', 'steckdose_a...', 'steckdose_a...', 'steckdose_anl...', 'tuersensor_an...', 'tuersensor_an...', 'tuersensor_an...', 'tuersensor_an...', 'tuersensor_an...', 'URHProject.x...', and 'versch_tag.e.t...'. The 'steckdose_a...' files are highlighted in orange.
- Interpretation Tab (Top):** The active tab for analyzing captured signals.
- Signal 1 (Top):** A complex signal analysis window. It shows a waveform plot with a blue background. The signal is identified as 'steckdose_anlernen'. The parameters are: Noise: 0.0111, Center: -0.0539, Bit Length: 104, Error Tolerance: 5, Modulation: FSK. The signal view is set to 'analog'. The signal is shown as a continuous waveform. The X-Zoom is set to 424195%.
- Signal 2 (Bottom):** A complex signal analysis window. It shows a waveform plot with a black background. The signal is identified as 'steckdose_anlernen2'. The parameters are: Noise: 0.0111, Center: 0.0000, Bit Length: 100, Error Tolerance: 5, Modulation: FSK. The signal view is set to 'analog'. The signal is shown as a continuous waveform. The X-Zoom is set to 100%.
- Signal View (Bottom):** A section for displaying the signal data. It shows the signal as a continuous stream of bits (0s and 1s). The signal is identified as 'steckdose_anlernen2'. The signal view is set to 'analog'. The signal is shown as a continuous stream of bits. The X-Zoom is set to 100%.
- Participants (Bottom Left):** A list of participants in the communication. The participants are: not assigned, Alice (A), Bob (B), and Carl (C). Bob (B) is highlighted in yellow.

Tools

Disassemblers

- Convert bytecode or machine code into a higher layer language
 - Using static analysis
 - For machine code, this is Assembly
 - For bytecode, an intermediate language is presented (e.g., smali in Java)
 - May extract higher layer constructs
 - Data structures
 - Function prototypes
 - Function call charts
- Some relevant tools:
 - IDA Pro, Ghidra, Radare2, BinaryNinja, Hopper: general purpose, feature rich disassemblers

Tools

Disassemblers – Cutter (A frontend to radare2)

The screenshot displays the Cutter disassembler interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Windows, Debug, and Help. Below the menu is a search bar labeled "Type flag name or address here". The main window is divided into three panes:

- Functions:** A list of functions with their names and sizes. The list includes: entry.fini0 (65), entry.init0 (153), entry0 (46), fcn.00002000 (27), fcn.00002130 (41), fcn.00002200 (863), fcn.00002630 (162), fcn.000026e0 (268), fcn.000027f0 (4876), fcn.0000344e (3643), fcn.000034e1 (4630), fcn.0000355c (4544), fcn.000035ce (4544), and fcn.00003b00 (6933).
- Graph (fcn.00004f00):** A control flow graph for the function fcn.00004f00 (int32_t arg1). The graph consists of three basic blocks connected by control flow edges. The first block contains assembly code: `(fcn) fcn.00004f00 128`, `fcn.00004f00 (int32_t arg1);`, `; arg int32_t arg1 @ rdi`, `push r12`, `push rbp`, `push rbx`, `mov rbx, rdi ; arg1`, `call qword [reloc.fileno] ; [0x8f68:8]=0`, `mov rdi, rbx`, `test eax, eax`, and `js 0x4f71`. The second block contains `call qword [reloc.__freanding] ; [0x8f88:8]=0`, `test eax, eax`, and `jne 0x4f50`. The third block contains `mov rdi, rbx`, `call qword [reloc.fileno] ; [0x8f68:8]=0`, `xor esi, esi`, `mov edx, 1`, and `mov edi, eax`.
- Graph Overview:** A small thumbnail view of the entire control flow graph.

The bottom status bar shows the current view is "Graph (fcn.00004f00)" and lists other available views: Disassembly, Dashboard, Hexdump, Strings, Imports, and Search.

Tools

Decompilers

- Attempt to recover structure at a medium or high level with Static Analysis
 - Result is a pseudo-language (e.g, smali) or pseudo-C
 - Decompilers from bytecode may produce valid code (can be compiled)!
 - Allows Reengineering
 - Process is prone to mistakes, but is extremely useful
 - Researchers do not have to fully understand Assembly (but helps)
- Some relevant tools:
 - dotPeek: .NET decompiler. Fully recovers source code from bytecode
 - Jadx: Java decompiler (fully recovers...)
 - Snowman: ARM, x86, and x86-64 decompiler to pseudo-C
 - ghidra: full disassemble/decompile environment

ASM

```
main:
push    rbp {__saved_rbp}
mov     rbp, rsp {__saved_rbp}
sub     rsp, 0x20
mov     dword [rbp-0x14 {var_1c}], edi
mov     qword [rbp-0x20 {var_28}], rsi
mov     dword [rbp-0x8 {var_10}], 0x0
mov     dword [rbp-0x4 {var_c}], 0x0
jmp     0x11b1
```

```
mov     eax, dword [rbp-0x4 {var_c}]
cmp     eax, dword [rbp-0x14 {var_1c}]
jl      0x1164
```

```
mov     eax, dword [rbp-0x4 {var_c}]
mov     esi, eax
lea     rdi, [rel data_2004]
mov     eax, 0x0
call    printf
mov     ecx, dword [rbp-0x4 {var_c}]
mov     edx, 0x66666667
mov     eax, ecx
imul    edx
sar     edx, 0x2
mov     eax, ecx
sar     eax, 0x1f
sub     edx, eax
mov     eax, edx
shl     eax, 0x2
add     eax, edx
add     eax, eax
sub     ecx, eax
mov     edx, ecx
test    edx, edx
jne     0x11ad
```

```
lea     rdi, [rel data_2008]
call    puts
```

```
add     dword [rbp-0x4 {var_c}], 0x1
```

```
mov     eax, 0x0
leave   {__saved_rbp}
retn    {__return_addr}
```

Medium Level

```
main:
push(rbp)
rbp = rsp {__saved_rbp}
rsp = rsp - 0x20
[rbp - 0x14 {var_1c}].d = edi
[rbp - 0x20 {var_28}].q = rsi
[rbp - 8 {var_10}].d = 0
[rbp - 4 {var_c}].d = 0
goto 8 @ 0x11b1
```

```
eax = [rbp - 4 {var_c}].d
if (eax < [rbp - 0x14 {var_1c}].d) then 10 @ 0x1164 else 32 @ 0x11b9
```

```
eax = [rbp - 4 {var_c}].d
esi = eax
rdi = data_2004
eax = 0
call(printf)
ecx = [rbp - 4 {var_c}].d
edx = 0x66666667
eax = ecx
temp0.d:temp1.d = muls.dp.d(eax, edx)
edx = temp0.d
eax = temp1.d
edx = edx s>> 2
eax = ecx
eax = eax s>> 0x1f
edx = edx - eax
eax = edx
eax = eax << 2
eax = eax + edx
eax = eax + eax
ecx = ecx - eax
edx = ecx
if (edx != 0) then 36 @ 0x11ad else 38 @ 0x11a1
```

```
eax = 0
rsp = rbp
rbp = pop
<return> jump(pop)
```

```
rdi = data_2008
call(puts)
goto 36 @ 0x11ad
```

```
[rbp - 4 {var_c}].d = [rbp - 4 {var_c}].d + 1
goto 8 @ 0x11b1
```

High Level

```
main:
int32_t var_c = 0
```

```
while (var_c < arg1)
```

```
printf(format: data_2004, zx.q(var_c))
int32_t temp0_1
int32_t temp1_1
temp0_1:temp1_1 = muls.dp.d(var_c, 0x66666667)
int32_t rdx_2 = (temp0_1 s>> 2) - (var_c s>> 0x1f)
int32_t rax_8 = (rdx_2 << 2) + rdx_2
if ((var_c - (rax_8 + rax_8)) == 0)
```

```
puts(str: data_2008)
```

```
var_c = var_c + 1
```

```
return 0
```

Pseudo C

```
undefined8 main(int param_1)

{
    uint local_c;

    local_c = 0;
    while ((int)local_c < param_1) {
        printf("%i\n", (ulong)local_c);
        if ((int)local_c % 10 == 0) {
            puts("mod");
        }
        local_c = local_c + 1;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Original Code

```
int main(int argc, char** argv){

    int i = 0;
    for(int i = 0; i<argc; i++){
        printf("%i\n", i);
        if(i % 10 == 0)
            printf("mod\n");
    }

    return 0;
}
```

Tools

Debuggers

- Enable live inspection of a program through Dynamic Analysis
 - Allow pausing program, changing control flow, inspecting RAM, variables, functions
 - Especially relevant with polymorphic code and unpackers, initial assessments, or debugging own code
 - As it allows to inspect the program behavior
 - May allow remote debugging to embedded systems (e.g, through OpenOCD)
- Some relevant tools:
 - gdb: gnu debugger is a general-purpose debugger for most OS
 - x86dgb: a windows based debugger for x86 and amd64
 - radare2: a multi platform debugger
 - IDA Pro: disassembler, decompiler, debugger

Tools

Debuggers

HeapDemo.exe - PID: 1E88 - Module: heapdemo.exe - Thread: Main Thread D04 - x32dbg

File View Debug Trace Plugins Favourites Options Help Sep 13 2018

CPU Graph Log Notes Breakpoints Memory Map Call Stack SEH Script Symbols Source

EIP ECX EDX 00891000 56 push esi
00891001 57 push edi
00891002 FF15 00208900 call dword ptr ds:[<&GetProcessHeap>]
00891008 68 00100000 push 1000
0089100D 8BF8 mov edi,eax
0089100F 6A 08 push 8
00891011 57 push edi
00891012 FF15 04208900 call dword ptr ds:[<&RtlAllocateHeap>]
00891018 68 BE010000 push 1BE
0089101D 8BF0 mov esi,eax
0089101F 68 18308900 push <heapdemo.enc>
00891024 56 push esi
00891025 E8 1F0C0000 call <heapdemo._memcpy>
0089102A 83C4 0C add esp,C
0089102D 33C9 xor ecx,ecx
0089102F 90 nop
00891030 803431 58 xor byte ptr ds:[ecx+esi],58
00891034 41 inc ecx
00891035 81F9 BE010000 cmp ecx,1BE
0089103B 7C F3 jl heapdemo.891030
0089103D 56 push esi
0089103E 6A 08 push 8
00891040 57 push edi
00891041 FF15 08208900 call dword ptr ds:[<&HeapFree>]
00891047 5F pop edi
00891048 33C0 xor eax,eax

esi=<heapdemo.wWinMain> (00891000)

.text:00891000 heapdemo.exe:\$1000 #400 <wWinMain>

Hide FPU

EAX 6B107084
EBX 00A21000
ECX 00891000 <heapdemo.wWinMain>
EDX 00891000 <heapdemo.wWinMain>
EBP 009EFA88
ESP 009EFAA8
ESI 00891000 <heapdemo.wWinMain>
EDI 00891000 <heapdemo.wWinMain>
EIP 00891000 <heapdemo.wWinMain>

EFLAGS 00000244
ZF 1 PF 1 AF 0
OF 0 SF 0 DF 0
CF 0 TF 0 IF 1

LastError 0000007E (ERROR_MOD_NOT_FOUND)
LastStatus C0000135 (STATUS_DLL_NOT_FOUND)

GS 002B FS 0053
ES 002B DS 002B

Default (stdcall) 5 Unlocked

1: [esp+4] 00A21000
2: [esp+8] 75698460 <kernel32.BaseT...>
3: [esp+C] 6B107084
4: [esp+10] 009EFB00
5: [esp+14] 773B2FEA ntdll.773B2FEA

009EFAA8 75698484 return to kernel32.75698484
009EFAAC 00A21000
009EFAB0 75698460 kernel32.75698460
009EFAB4 6B107084
009EFAB8 009EFB00
009EFABC 773B2FEA return to ntdll.773B2FEA fr
009EFAC0 00A21000
009EFAC4 C94AA9EC
009EFAC8 00000000
009EFACC 00000000
009EFAD0 00A21000
009EFAD4 00000000
009EFAD8 00000000
009EFADC 00000000

Address Hex ASCII
77351000 60 48 37 77 40 4A 37 77 60 36 37 77 20 36 37 77 H7w@17w 67w 6;
77351010 00 00 00 00 F0 72 44 77 E0 83 37 77 20 36 37 778rDw@.7w 6;
77351020 00 00 00 00 40 7E 44 77 00 67 37 77 C0 7E 44 77 ...@~Dw.g7wA~l
77351030 A0 4E 37 77 60 EF 39 77 00 00 00 00 N7w i9w.....
77351040 0C 00 0E 00 38 7A 35 77 00 00 02 00 90 5C 35 77825w.....\;
77351050 10 00 12 00 64 79 35 77 08 00 0A 00 C4 6D 35 77dy5w.....AmE
77351060 22 00 24 00 50 77 35 77 2A 00 2C 00 74 77 35 77 ".\$.Pw5w*...twE
77351070 6B 4C 73 45 00 00 00 01 20 5C 46 77 00 00 00 00 kL5E.....\Fw..
77351080 60 17 35 77 60 77 3B 77 18 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .5w w;w.....
77351090 84 17 35 77 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .5w@.....
773510A0 00 00 00 00 57 14 01 F2 46 15 C5 43 A5 FF 00 8D ...w...@F.Axh

Command: Default

Paused heapdemo.exe: 00891000 -> 00891000 (0x00000001 bytes) Time Wasted Debugging: 0:00:01:23

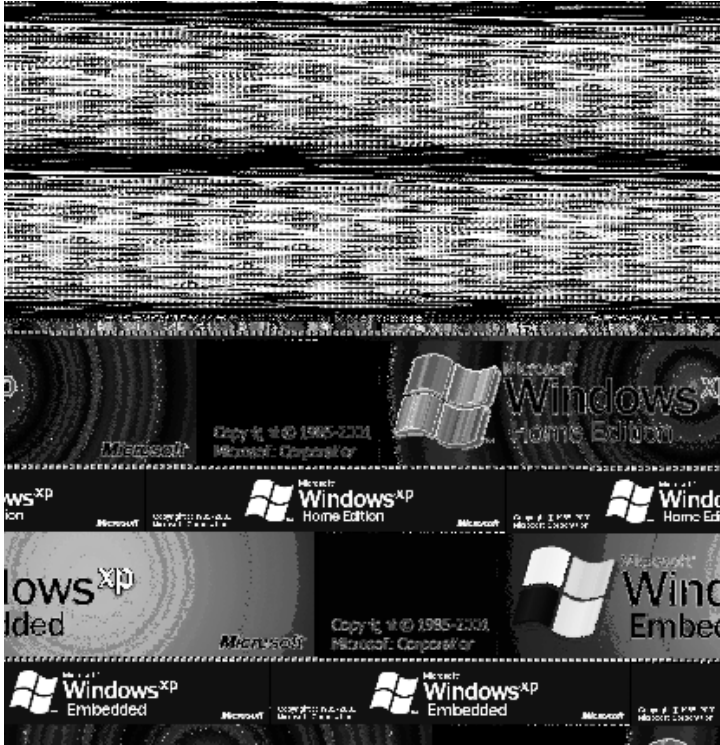
Tools

Binary editors, visualizers, extractors

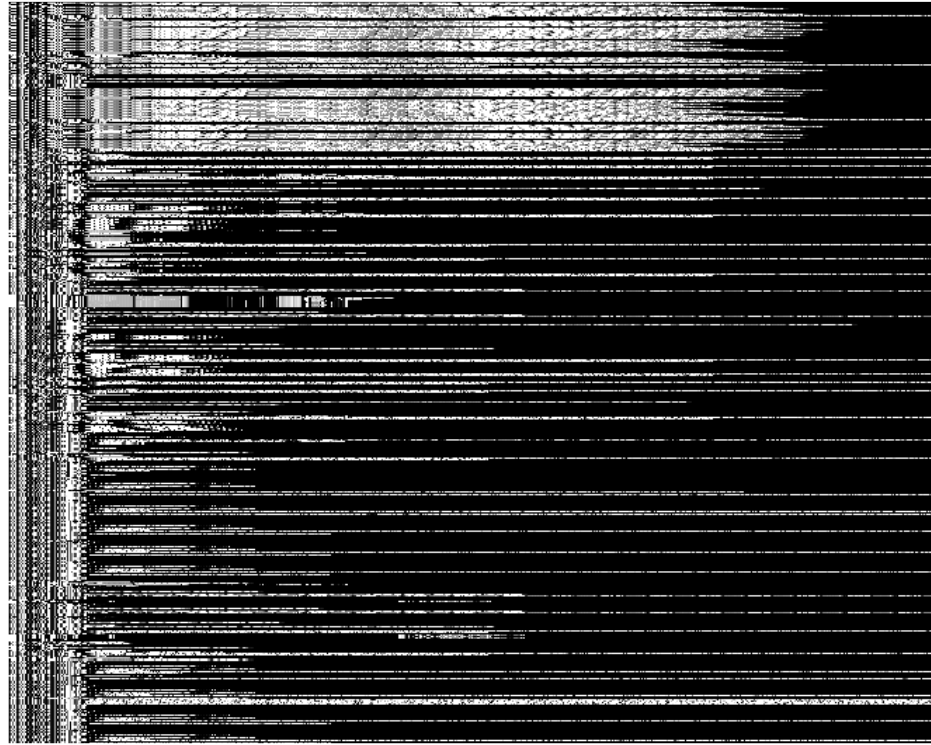
- Directly manipulate files, showing their content
 - May parse known structures and extract data
 - May display entropy maps
 - Allow viewing and editing
- Some relevant tools
 - Hexdump, hexedit, hexWorkShop: Hex/Text editors
 - Binwalk, foremost: extracts known structures from binary blobs
 - Binvis.io, Veles, Binwalk 3D: allow 2D/3D visualization

Tools

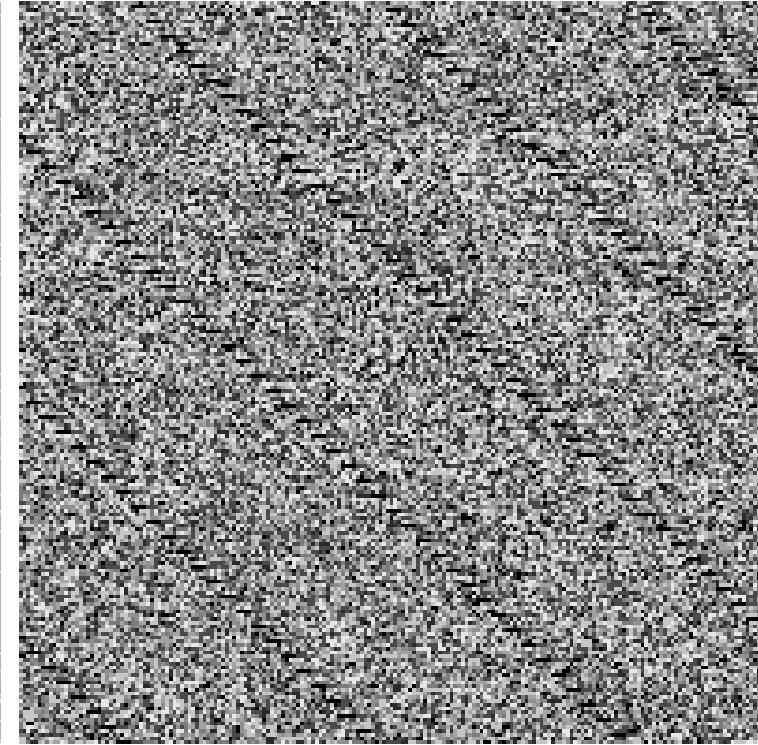
Binary editors, visualizers, extractors



shell32.dll



Network traffic



Compressed data

Greg Conti, Sergei Bratus, "Voyage of the Reverser A Visual Study of Binary Species"

Tools

Binary editors, visualizers, extractors

	Average Byte Value		Shannon Entropy	
		σ		σ
random	127.40	2.34	9.98	0.01
encrypt (AES256/text)	127.47	2.31	9.98	0.01
compress (bzip2/text)	126.68	4.23	9.98	0.01
compress (compress/text)	113.72	8.87	9.96	0.05
compress (deflate (png)	121.78	12.94	9.71	0.70
compress (LZW (gif) / image)	113.75	8.23	9.94	0.05
compress (mpeg/music)	126.26	7.22	9.87	0.44
compress (jpeg/image)	130.76	12.77	9.73	0.88
encoded (base64/zip)	84.46	0.74	9.76	0.02
encoded (uuencoded/zip)	63.71	0.69	9.70	0.02
machine code (linux elf)	116.42	14.97	7.61	0.44
machine code (windows PE)	107.39	18.46	8.06	0.73
bitmap	156.47	69.12	6.22	3.62
text (mixed)	88.52	7.48	7.43	0.24

Greg Conti, Sergei Bratus, "Voyage of the Reverser A Visual Study of Binary Species"