

Lab 2: GDB

Task Overview

In this lab, we explored various debugging and reverse engineering tools, including GDB, strace, GHIDRA, and ldd. The main objectives were to:

- Analyze a given application that requires a hardware-based license.
 - Implement two artifacts:
 1. A keygen to generate valid licenses.
 2. A binary patch to disable licensing checks completely.
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Step 1: Running the Application

We start by executing the provided hack application.

```
mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$ ./hack_app
Welcome to Lab2 super secure program!
Your HWID is EC060800FFFBEBBF.
Enter the license key: asd
Provided key is wrong! App is closing!
Press Enter to continue...
mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$
```

Step 2: Installing Required Libraries

The application depends on `libcrypto.so.1.1`, which must be installed manually. This is done using the following command:

```
wget http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu/pool/main/o/openssl/libssl1.1_1.1.0g-2ubuntu4_amd64.deb
```

After installation, we verify that all required libraries are correctly installed using `ldd`:

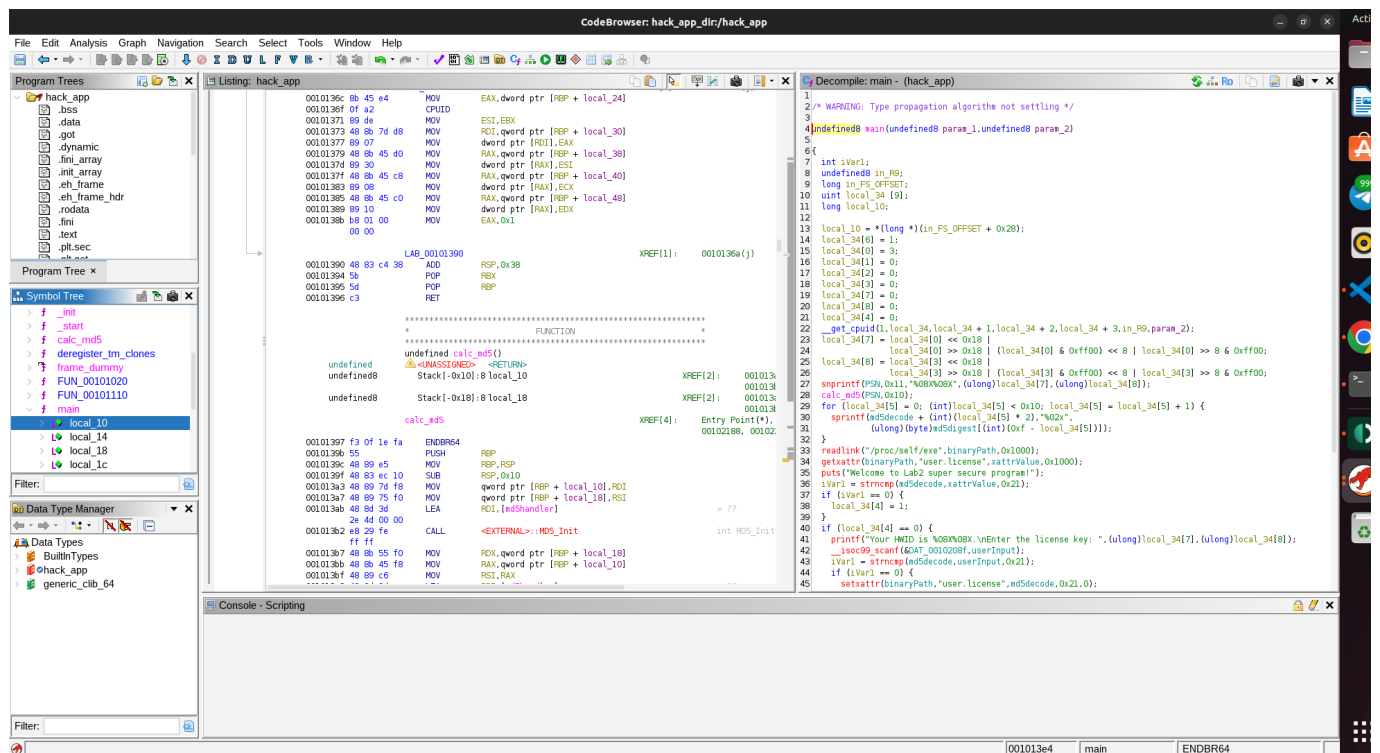
```
ldd hack_app
```

Output confirms all dependencies are resolved:

```
mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$ ldd hack_app
linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007ffd9c552000)
libcrypto.so.1.1 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libcrypto.so.1.1 (0x00007bc009e00000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 (0x00007bc009a00000)
libdl.so.2 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libdl.so.2 (0x00007bc00a5ff000)
libpthread.so.0 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpthread.so.0 (0x00007bc00a5fa000)
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 (0x00007bc00a621000)
```

Step 3: Reverse Engineering with GHIDRA

After installing GHIDRA, we create a project and import `hack_app` for analysis.



Keygen Implementation

We create a Python script to generate valid licenses based on the hardware ID:

```
import hashlib

def hash_hardware_id(hardware_id):
    hashed_id = hashlib.md5(hardware_id.encode()).digest()[::-1].hex()
    print("Your hashed id is: ", hashed_id)
    return hashed_id

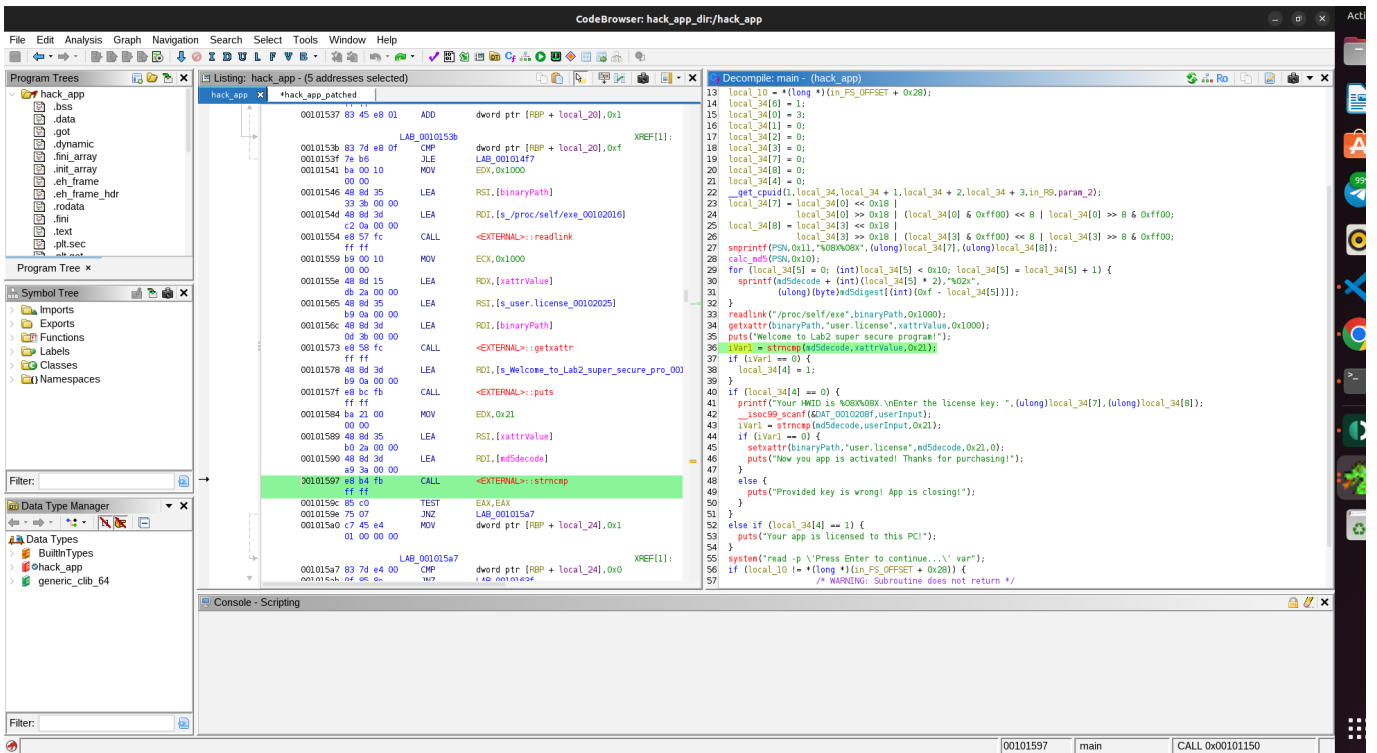
if __name__ == "__main__":
    hardware_id = input("Enter your HWID: ")
    if len(hardware_id) < 16:
        print("Invalid HWID. Please enter a valid HWID.")
    else:
        print("Your HWID is valid.")
        hash_hardware_id(hardware_id)
```

Modifying the Binary

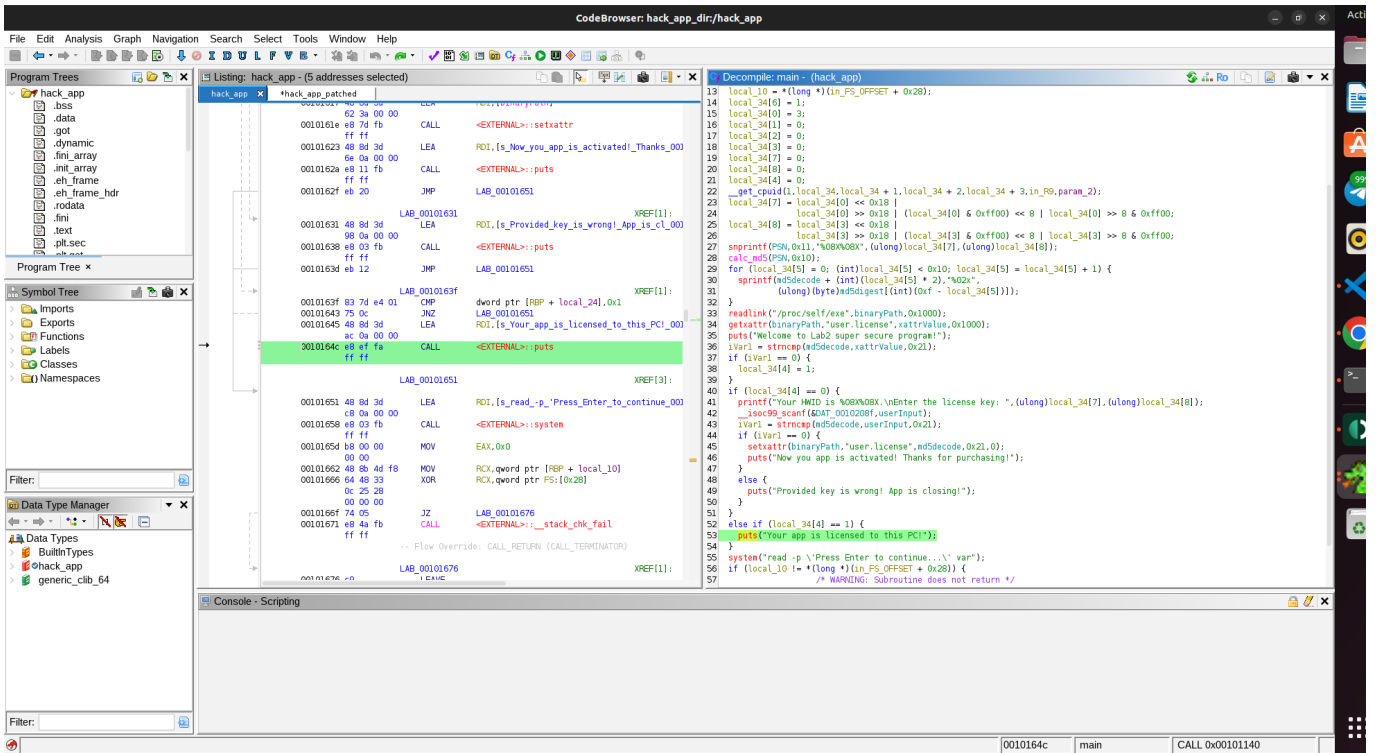
Using GHIDRA, we locate the variable `iVar1` and modify its value to zero. This change ensures that `local_34[4]` is set to `1`, triggering the following message:

```
puts("Your app is licensed to this PC!");
```

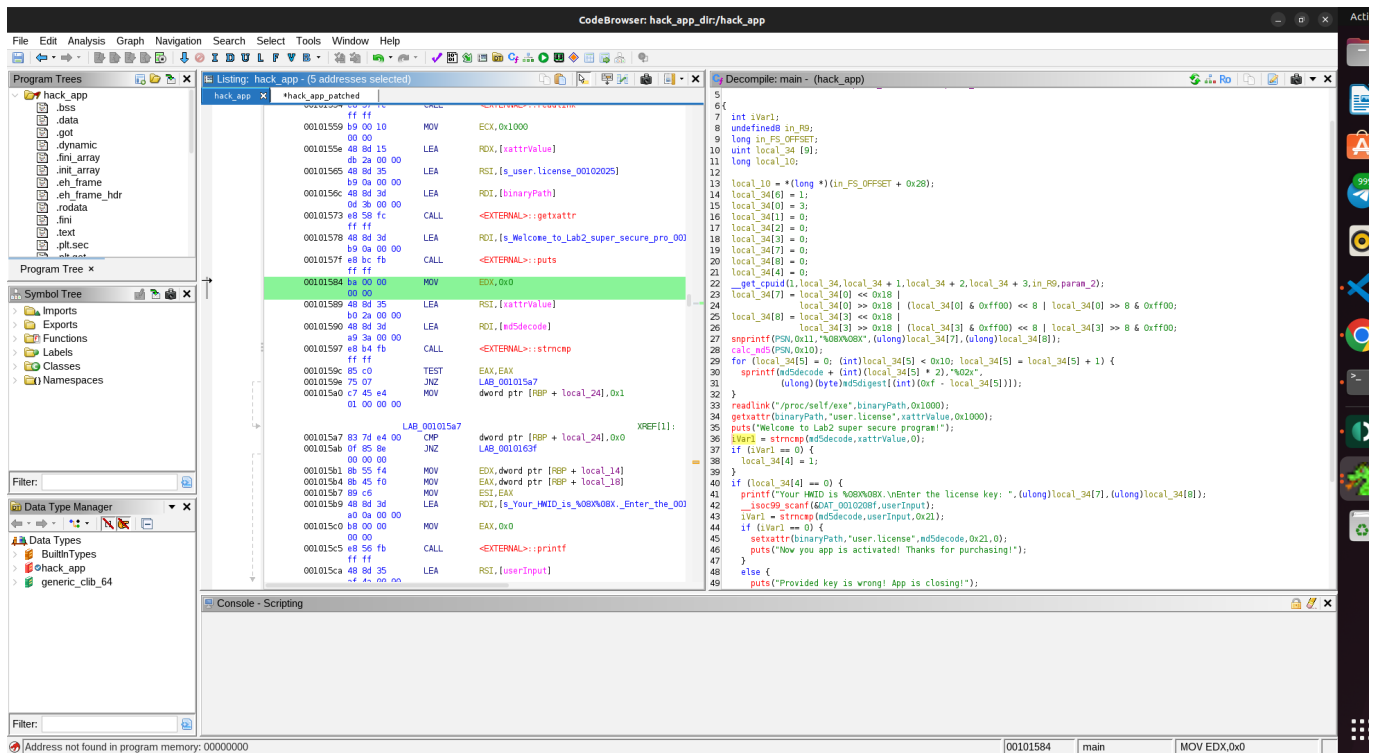
Before modification



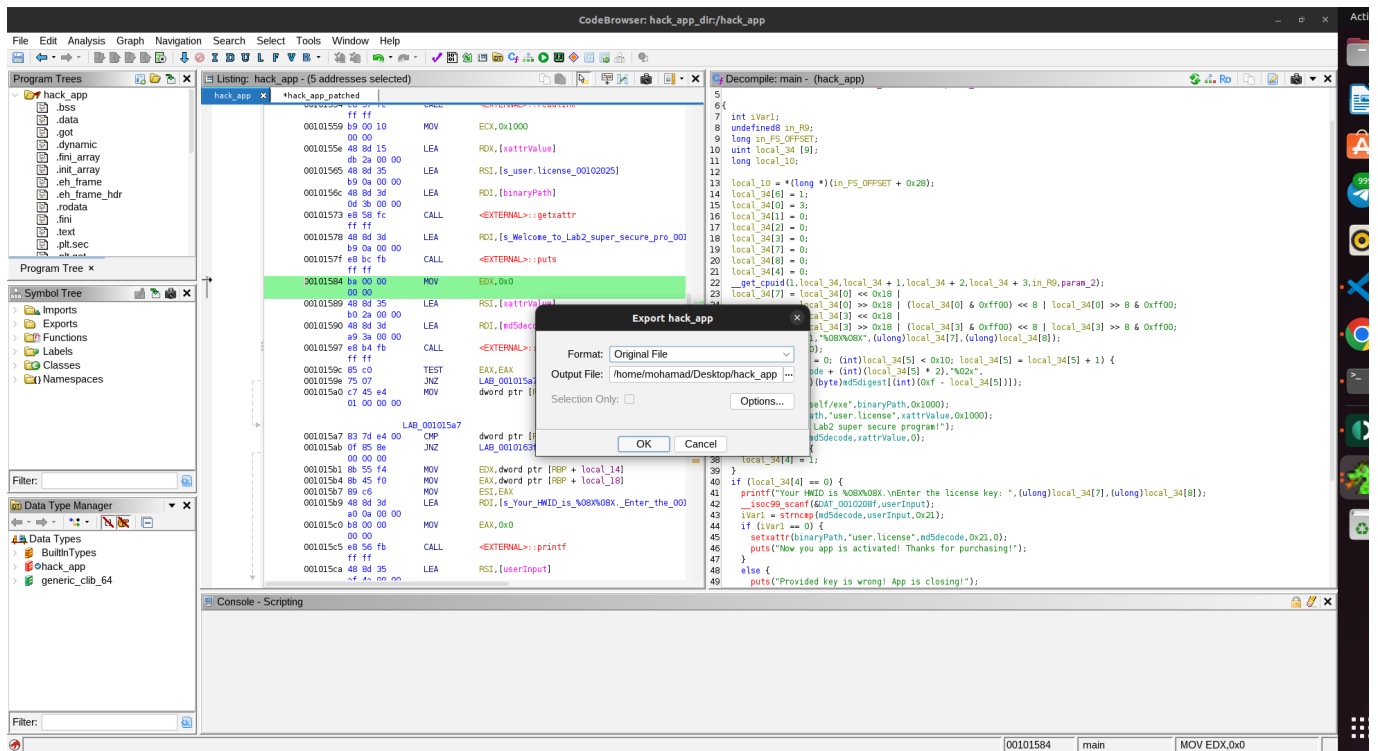
After modification



We update the instruction at 0x21 to 0x0 using a patch:



After making these changes, we export the patched binary:



Finally, we make the modified application executable and run it:

```

chmod +x hack_app
./hack_app

```

```

mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop$ chmod +x hack_app
mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop$ ./hack_app
Welcome to Lab2 super secure program!
Your app is licensed to this PC!
Press Enter to continue...
mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop$

```

Step 4: Testing the Keygen

We now test our keygen script with the original application:

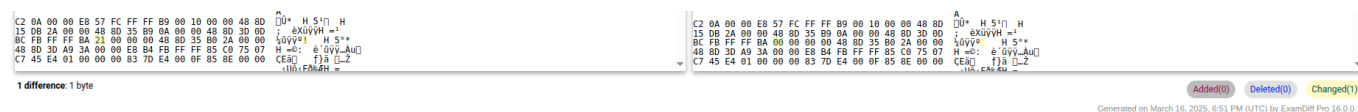
```

Your hashed id is: 32e606d9bce82e44e6682ac9dbec0c7
mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$ python3 keygen.py
Enter your HWID: EC060800FFBEBBF
Your HWID is valid.
Your hashed id is: f0362b076e56d567f88195808e939604
mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$ ./hack_app
Welcome to Lab2 super secure program!
Your HWID is EC060800FFBEBBF.
Enter the license key: f0362b076e56d567f88195808e939604
Now you app is activated! Thanks for purchasing!
Press Enter to continue...
mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$

```

Step 5: Creating a Binary Patch

To automate patching the original binary, we compare the original and patched files using diffnow.com:



1 difference: 1 byte

Generated on March 16, 2025, 6:51 PM (UTC) by [ExamDiff Pro](https://diffnow.com) 16.0.0.1

Using this difference, we write a Python script to modify the binary dynamically:

```

import sys

# Define original and replacement byte sequences
old_bytes = b'\xBA\x21\x00'
new_bytes = b'\xBA\x00\x00'

def patch_binary(filename):
    with open(filename, "rb") as f:
        data = f.read()

    # Find first occurrence
    index = data.find(old_bytes)
    if index == -1:
        print("Pattern BA 21 00 not found!")
        return

    # Replace only the first occurrence
    patched_data = data[:index] + new_bytes + data[index + len(old_bytes):]

    # Save the modified file
    patched_filename = "patched_" + filename

```

```
with open(patched_filename, "wb") as f:
    f.write(patched_data)

print(f"Patching complete: {patched_filename}")

# Usage: python script.py hack_app
if __name__ == "__main__":
    if len(sys.argv) < 2:
        print("Usage: python patch.py <filename>")
        sys.exit(1)

    patch_binary(sys.argv[1])
```

running the script :

```
● mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$ python3 patch.py hack_app
Patching complete: patched_hack_app
● mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$ chmod +x patched_hack_app
● mohamad@mohamad-HP-ProBook-430-G7:~/Desktop/thirdYear/second-semester/advanced-linux/lab2$ ./patched_hack_app
Welcome to Lab2 super secure program!
Your app is licensed to this PC!
Press Enter to continue...
```

[Github Lab02 link](#)