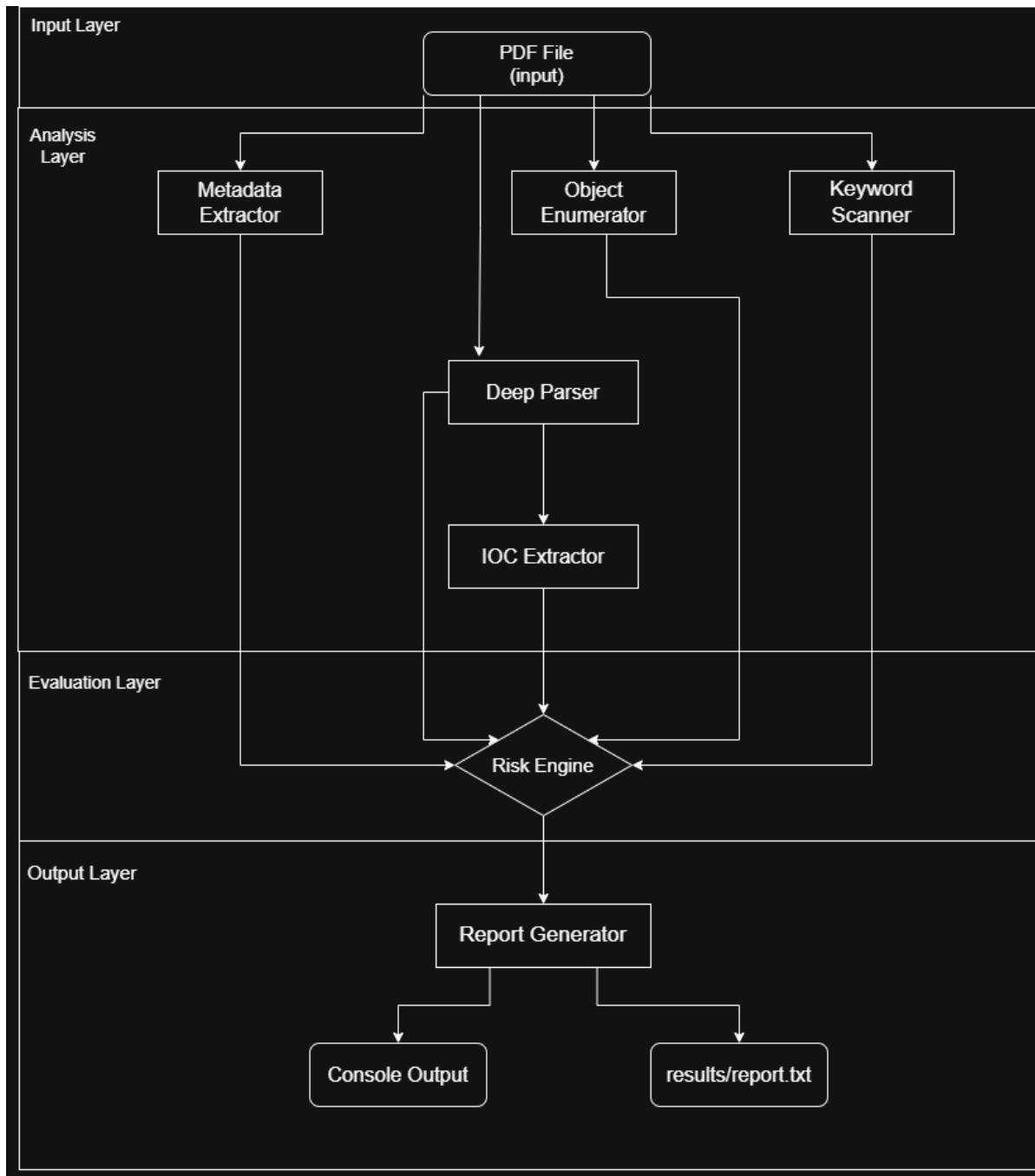


1. Workflow Diagram :



Explanation :

This **workflow diagram** represents the architectural design and data movement inside the Needle toolkit. It is divided into logical **layers**, where each layer performs a specialized function in analyzing a PDF file for malicious behavior.

Input Layer

- The process begins with a **PDF file** provided by the user.
- This layer acts as the entry point and forwards the file to multiple analysis components simultaneously.
- No analysis is done here; it only handles file intake and validation.

Analysis Layer

This is the core processing layer where different modules inspect the PDF from multiple perspectives:

- **Metadata Extractor**
Retrieves document properties such as author, creation date, producer software, and modification history. Suspicious or inconsistent metadata can indicate tampering or automated malware generation tools.
- **Object Enumerator**
Scans and lists all internal PDF objects (streams, fonts, JavaScript objects, embedded files, etc.). This helps in identifying hidden or abnormal structures often used by malicious PDFs.
- **Keyword Scanner**
Searches for high-risk keywords such as /JavaScript, /OpenAction, /Launch, or encoded strings that commonly appear in exploit-based PDFs.
- **Deep Parser**
Performs low-level structural parsing of the PDF file, decoding compressed streams and resolving object references. This step uncovers obfuscated or encrypted payloads that simple scanning might miss.
- **IOC (Indicator of Compromise) Extractor**
Collects potential threat indicators such as URLs, IP addresses, suspicious hashes, embedded executables, or shell commands. These indicators are crucial for threat intelligence correlation.

Evaluation Layer

- The **Risk Engine** aggregates outputs from all analysis modules.
- It applies scoring logic or rule-based evaluation to determine the **malicious probability or threat level** of the PDF.
- This layer acts as the decision-making unit of the toolkit.

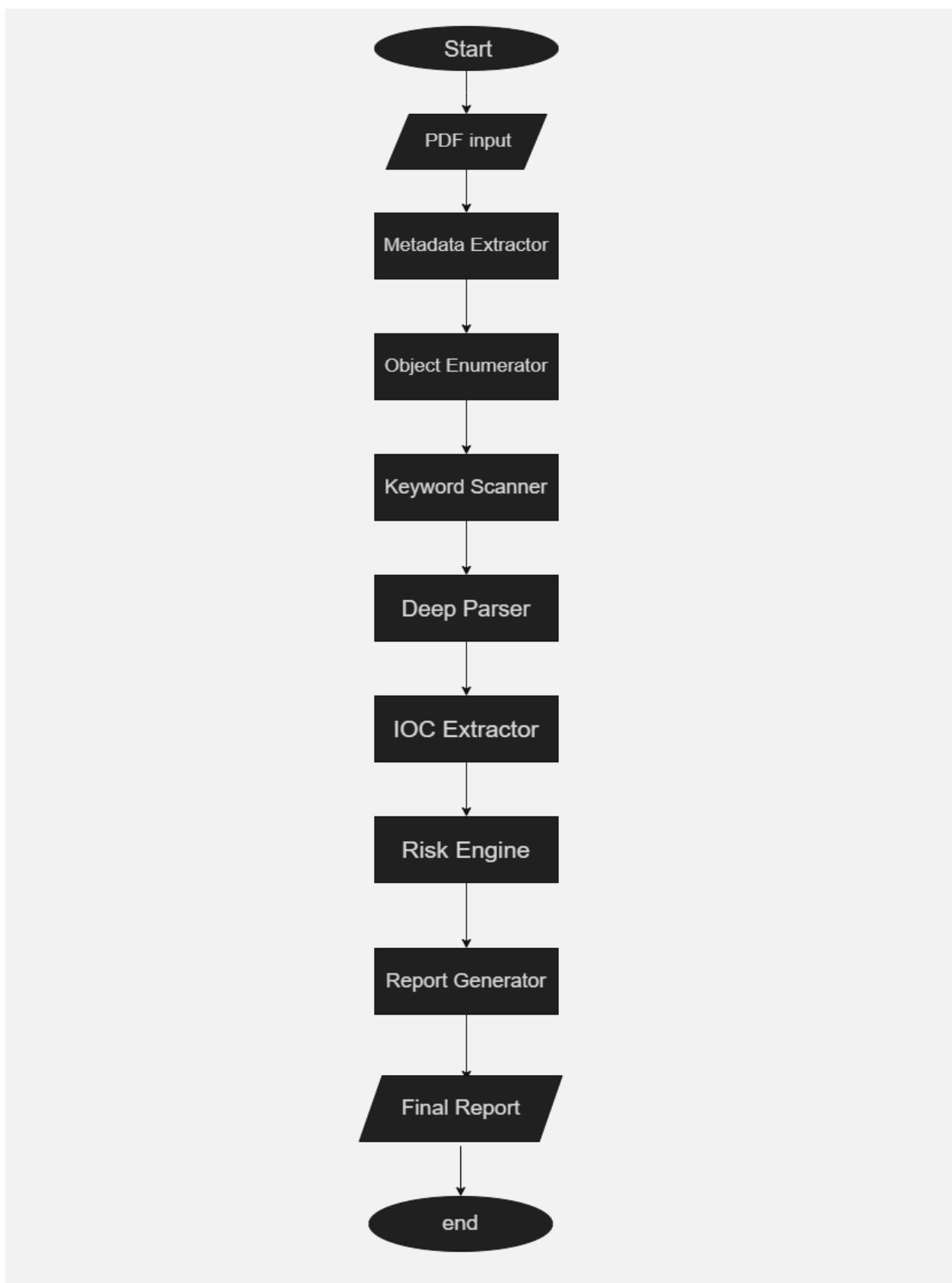
Output Layer

- The **Report Generator** converts analysis findings into a readable format.
- Results are delivered through:
 - **Console Output** for quick review.
 - **Text Report File** (e.g., results/report.txt) for documentation and future reference.

Overall Purpose:

The workflow diagram highlights how Needle performs **parallel, multi-module inspection** followed by centralized risk evaluation to ensure comprehensive PDF malware detection.

2. Flowchart – Needle Execution Process :



The **flowchart** illustrates the **sequential execution steps** followed by the Needle toolkit from start to finish. Unlike the workflow diagram, which focuses on architecture, the flowchart focuses on runtime order.

Step-by-Step Execution

1. Start

The toolkit execution is initiated by the user or command line trigger.

2. PDF Input

The target PDF file is loaded into the system memory for inspection.

3. Metadata Extraction

Basic document information is analyzed first to quickly detect anomalies or forged attributes.

4. Object Enumeration

All internal objects and streams are listed to understand the file's structural composition.

5. Keyword Scanning

The file content is searched for predefined suspicious or exploit-related keywords.

6. Deep Parsing

Advanced parsing is performed to decode compressed or encoded sections and reveal hidden scripts or payloads.

7. IOC Extraction

Any discovered URLs, IP addresses, embedded files, or suspicious commands are extracted as indicators of compromise.

8. Risk Engine Evaluation

All gathered evidence is assessed collectively to assign a **risk score or classification** (e.g., Safe, Suspicious, Malicious).

9. Report Generation

A structured report is produced summarizing findings, detected indicators, and the final risk assessment.

10. Final Report / End

The report is displayed or saved, and the analysis process terminates.

Overall Purpose:

The flowchart demonstrates a **linear and controlled execution pipeline**, ensuring that each analytical stage builds upon the previous one, leading to a systematic and reliable malware assessment of the PDF file.