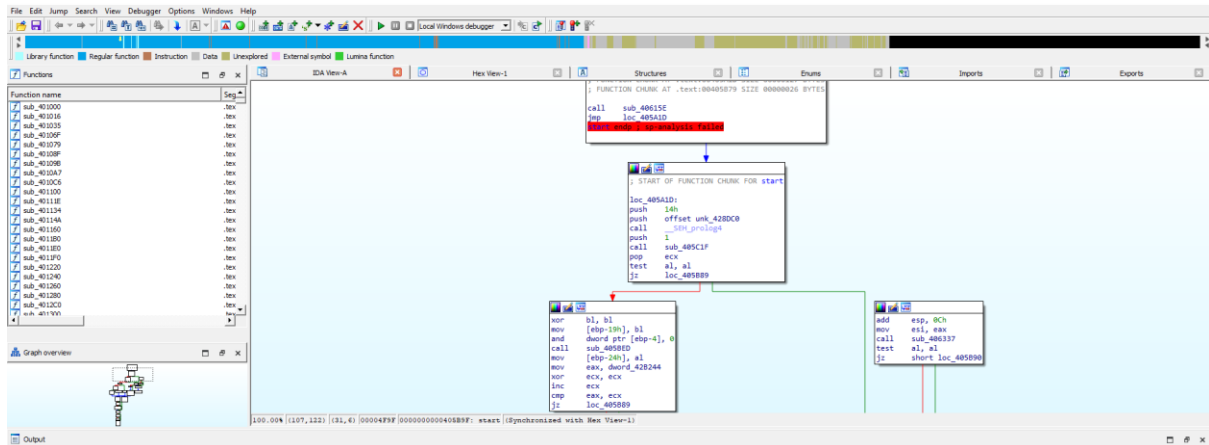
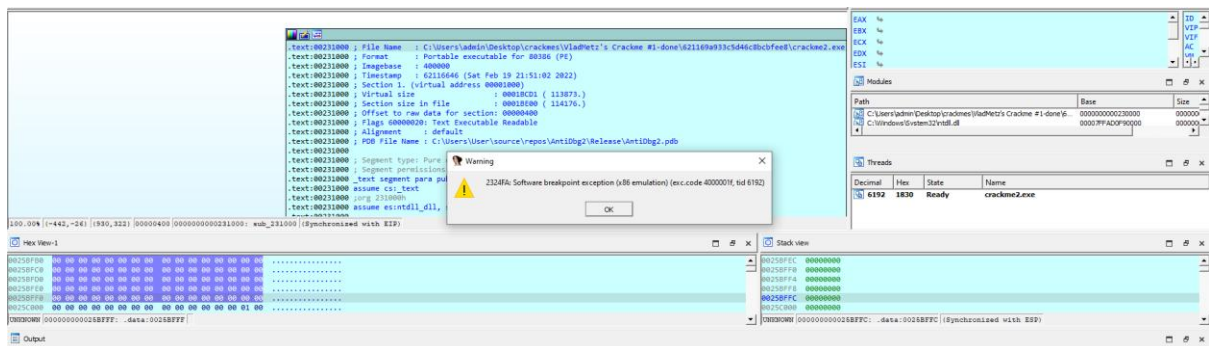


In this write up I will be using IDA Freeware 7.7 to solve this crackme.

Let's open this crackme in IDA and see what we have.



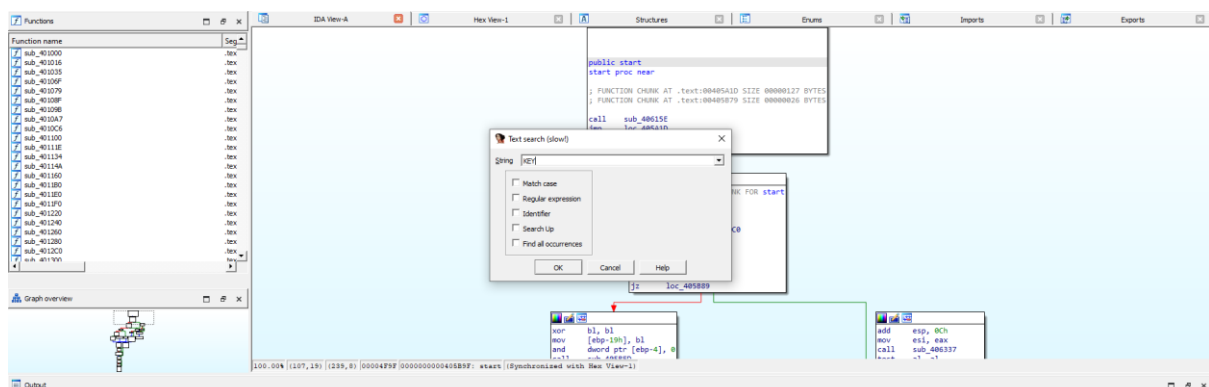
When tried to run the crackme in IDA I get this warning:



It looks like some anti-debugging algorithms are preventing the crackme from running in IDA.

My first try was to patch the crackme in order to bypass the anti-debugging algorithms but I failed and couldn't do it so I thought about other alternatives, my second plan was to try to run the crackme in command line and attach IDA to it and start debugging from there but another problem will arise which is to make a break point in the program so after entering the key the program flow needs to stop so we can debug it.

Now the first thing we'll have to do to achieve our goal is to locate the checking key algorithm and make a break point there, I used the "search for text" feature to try to search for some keywords that are used by the key checking algorithm, so when running the crackme in a command line we can see that there a "Input key:" message so let's search for the word "key", In IDA go to Search > Text:



We will be presented with the following code area:

.rdata:00427734	aIosBaseEofbitS	db 'ios_base::eofbit set',0	
.rdata:00427734			; DATA XREF: sub_402020+46f0
.rdata:00427749		align 4	
.rdata:0042774C	aInputKey	db 'Input key:',0	; DATA XREF: sub_4020F0+53f0 ←
.rdata:00427758	aYes	db 'Yes',0	; DATA XREF: sub_4020F0+86f0
.rdata:0042775C	aNiceGoodWork	db 'Nice, good work :)',0	
.rdata:0042775C			; DATA XREF: sub_4020F0+1EEf0
.rdata:0042776F		align 10h	
.rdata:00427770	aSorry	db 'Sorry :(',0	; DATA XREF: sub_4020F0:loc_4022FDf0
.rdata:00427779		align 4	
.rdata:0042777C	aEnd	db 'End',0Ah,0	; DATA XREF: sub_4024C0:loc_40254Cf0
.rdata:00427781		align 4	
.rdata:00427784	aIostreamStream	db 'iostream stream error',0	
.rdata:00427784			; DATA XREF: sub_4017D0+14f0
.rdata:0042779A		align 10h	
.rdata:004277A0	qword_4277A0	dq 3FE0000000000000h	; DATA XREF: sub_4020F0+175f0
.rdata:004277A0			; sub_415B6C+37f0
.rdata:004277A8	qword_4277A8	dq 409C200000000000h	; DATA XREF: sub_4020F0+1FFf0
.rdata:004277B0	qword_4277B0	dq 40C0620000000000h	; DATA XREF: sub_4020F0+1B0f0
.rdata:004277B8	qword_4277B8	dq 40C448E000000000h	; DATA XREF: sub_4020F0+1D4f0
.rdata:004277C0		; Debug Directory entries	
.rdata:004277C0		dd 0	; Characteristics
.rdata:004277C4		dd 62116646h	; TimeDateStamp: Sat Feb 19 21:51:02 2022
.rdata:004277C8		dw 0	; MajorVersion
.rdata:004277CA		dw 0	; MinorVersion
.rdata:004277CC		dd 2	; Type: IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_CODEVIEW
.rdata:004277D0		dd 51h	; SizeOfData
.rdata:004277D4		dd rva asc_4282A0	; AddressOfRawData
.rdata:004277D8		dd 274A0h	; PointerToRawData
.rdata:004277DC		dd 0	; Characteristics
.rdata:004277E0		dd 62116646h	; TimeDateStamp: Sat Feb 19 21:51:02 2022
.rdata:004277E4		dw 0	; MajorVersion
.rdata:004277E6		dw 0	; MinorVersion
.rdata:004277E8		dd 0Ch	; Type: IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_VC_FEATURE
.rdata:004277EC		dd 14h	; SizeOfData

Double click on the “sub_4020F0+53f0” to go to the subroutine where this variable is referenced:

```

; Attributes: bp-based frame
sub_4020F0 proc near

var_2C= dword ptr -2Ch
var_28= dword ptr -28h
var_18= dword ptr -18h
var_14= dword ptr -14h
var_10= dword ptr -10h
var_C= dword ptr -0Ch
var_4= dword ptr -4

push    ebp
mov     ebp, esp
push    0FFFFFFFh
push    offset SEH_4020F0
mov     eax, large fs:0
push    eax
sub     esp, 20h
mov     eax, __security_cookie
xor     eax, ebp
mov     [ebp+var_10], eax
push    ebx
push    esi
push    edi
push    eax
lea     eax, [ebp+var_C]
mov     large fs:0, eax
push    0
mov     [ebp+var_28], 0
lea     ecx, [ebp+var_28]
push    offset unk_4276D8
mov     [ebp+var_18], 0
mov     [ebp+var_14], 0Fh
mov     byte ptr [ebp+var_28], 0
call    sub_402050
mov     edx, offset aInputKey ; "Input key:"
mov     [ebp+var_4], 0
mov     ecx, offset unk_42AF80
call    sub_402ED0
lea     edx, [ebp+var_28]
mov     ecx, offset dword_42B0D0
sub     esp, 4

```

Now we have the algorithm responsible for processing the key.

Let's make a break point exactly after the code that takes the user input:

```

.text:002320F0 var_10= dword ptr -10h
.text:002320F0 var_14= dword ptr -14h
.text:002320F0 var_18= dword ptr -18h
.text:002320F0 var_C= dword ptr -0Ch
.text:002320F0 var_4= dword ptr -4

.text:002320F0
.text:002320F0 push    ebp
.text:002320F1 mov     ebp, esp
.text:002320F3 push    0FFFFFFFh
.text:002320F5 push    offset SEH_4020F0
.text:002320FA mov     eax, large fs:0
.text:00232100 push    eax
.text:00232101 sub     esp, 20h
.text:00232104 mov     eax, __security_cookie
.text:00232109 xor     eax, ebp
.text:0023210B mov     [ebp+var_10], eax
.text:0023210E push    ebx
.text:0023210F push    esi
.text:00232110 push    edi
.text:00232111 push    eax
.text:00232112 lea     eax, [ebp+var_C]
.text:00232115 mov     large fs:0, eax
.text:00232118 push    0
.text:0023211D mov     [ebp+var_28], 0
.text:00232124 lea     ecx, [ebp+var_28]
.text:00232127 push    offset unk_2576D8
.text:0023212C mov     [ebp+var_18], 0
.text:00232133 mov     [ebp+var_14], 0Fh
.text:0023213A mov     byte ptr [ebp+var_28], 0
.text:0023213E call    sub_232050
.text:00232143 mov     edx, offset aInputKey ; "Input key: "
.text:00232148 mov     [ebp+var_4], 0
.text:0023214F mov     ecx, offset unk_25AF80
.text:00232154 call    sub_232ED0
.text:00232159 lea     edx, [ebp+var_28]
.text:0023215C mov     ecx, offset dword_25B0D0
.text:00232161 call    sub_2335A0
.text:00232166 cmp     [ebp+var_18], 0Eh ←
.text:0023216A mov     edi, [ebp+var_14]
.text:0023216D mov     esi, [ebp+var_28]
.text:00232170 jb     loc_232315

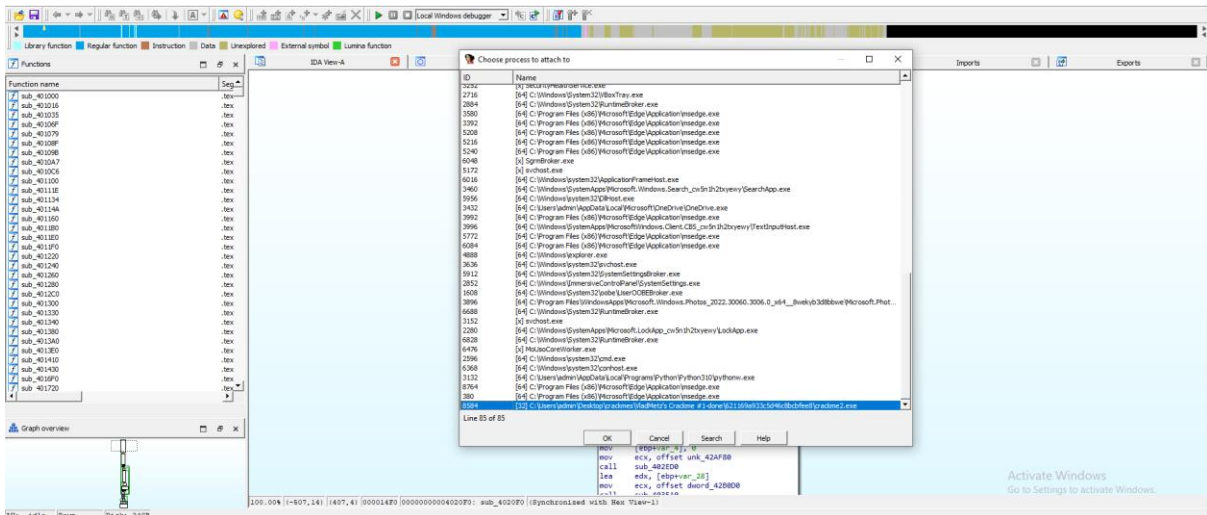
```

Now let's run the crackme in the command line :

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - crackme2.exe

C:\Users\admin\Desktop\crackmes\VladMetz's Crackme #1-done\621169a933c5d46c8bcbfee8>crackme2.exe
Input key: _
```

Let's attach IDA to this crackme, go to Debugger > Attach to process, and choose the running crackme:

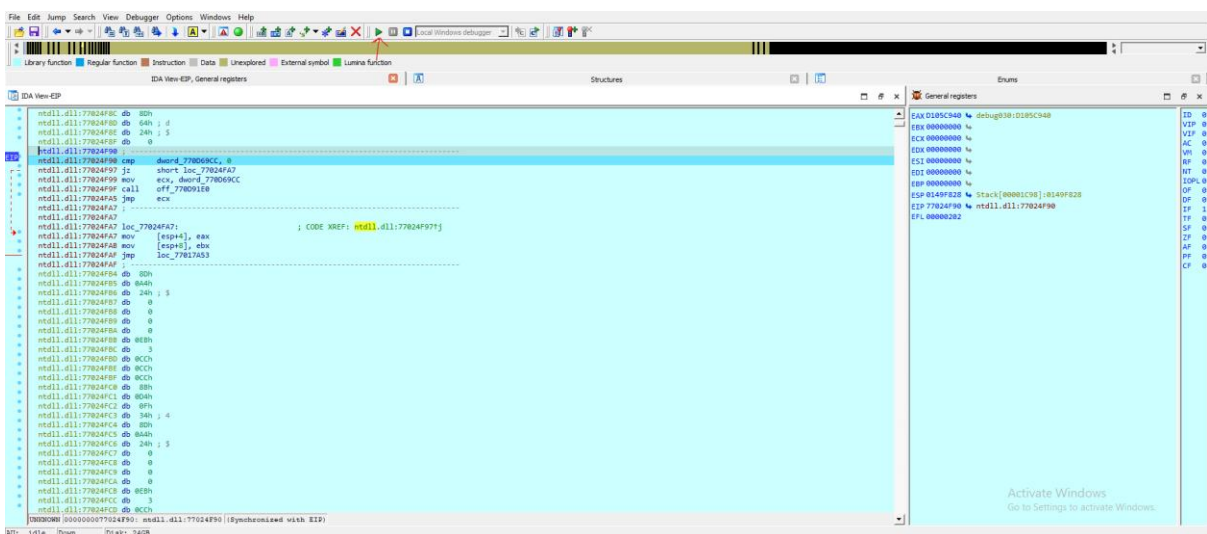


Input a random key in the command line and hit enter:

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - crackme2.exe

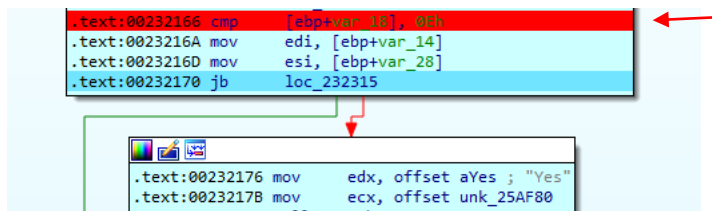
C:\Users\admin\Desktop\crackmes\VladMetz's Crackme #1-done\621169a933c5d46c8bcbfee8>crackme2.exe
Input key: randomkey
_
```

Go back to IDA and hit continue:



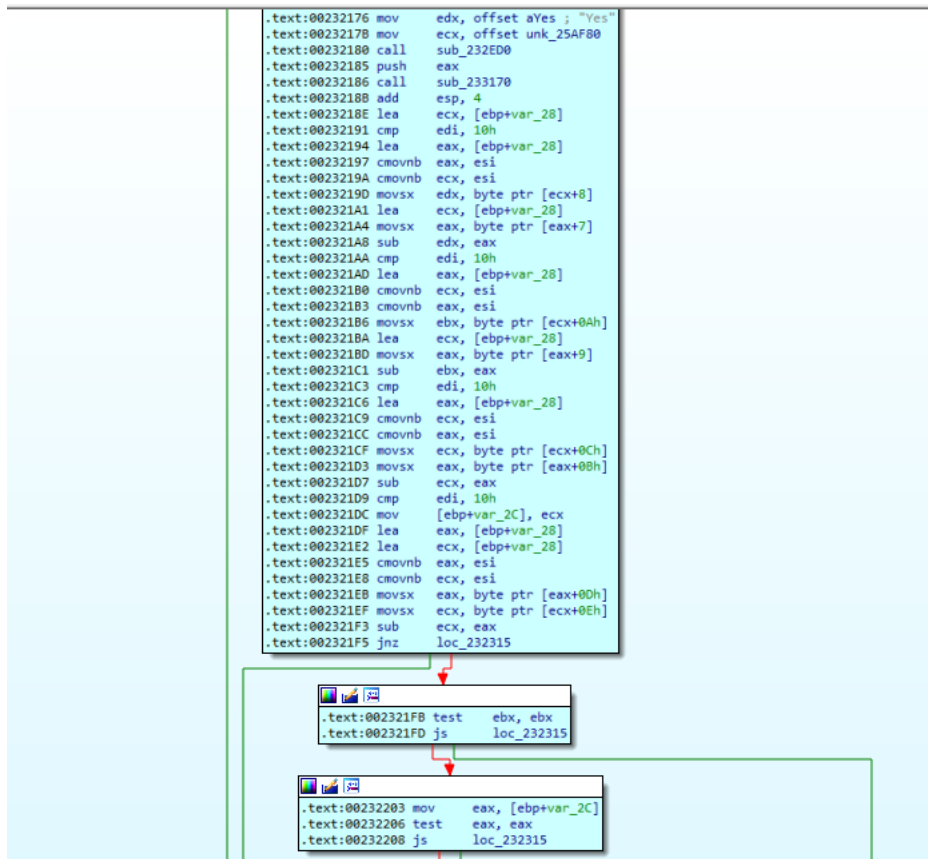
The program flow will stop and we can start debugging now.

The first check this crackme does after entering a key is to check the length of the key:



The code above checks the length of the key and to pass this check the key length must be greater than or equal to 14.

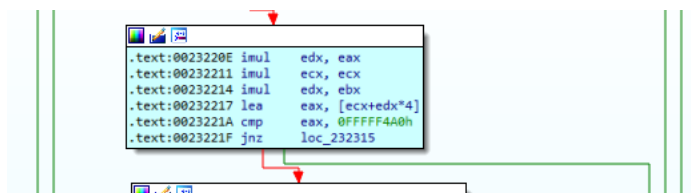
The second check:



The above code can be abstracted into the following python code:

```
if (ord(key[14])-ord(key[13])==0) and (ord(key[10])-ord(key[9]) > 0) and (ord(key[12])-ord(key[11])) > 0:
```

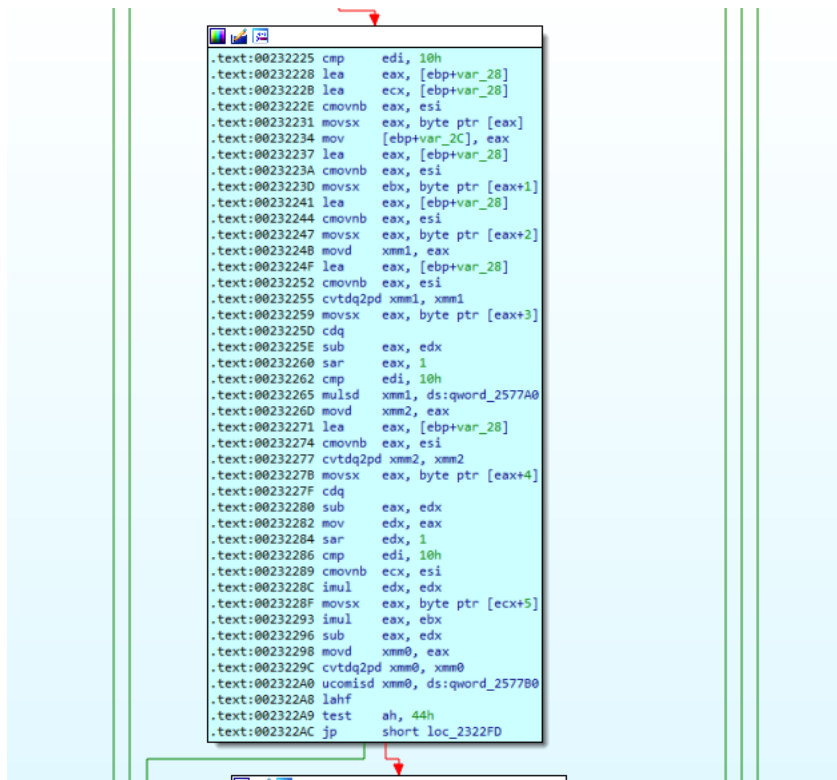
The third check:



Python abstraction for the code above:

```
edx= (ord(key[8]) - ord(key[7]) ) * (ord(key[12]) - ord(key[11]) )
ecx= (ord(key[14])-ord(key[13])) * (ord(key[14])-ord(key[13])) * (ord(key[14])-ord(key[13])) * (ord(key[14])-ord(key[13]))
edx=edx*(ord(key[10])-ord(key[9]))
eax=ecx+edx*4
if eax == -2912:
```

Fourth check:



Python abstraction for the code above:

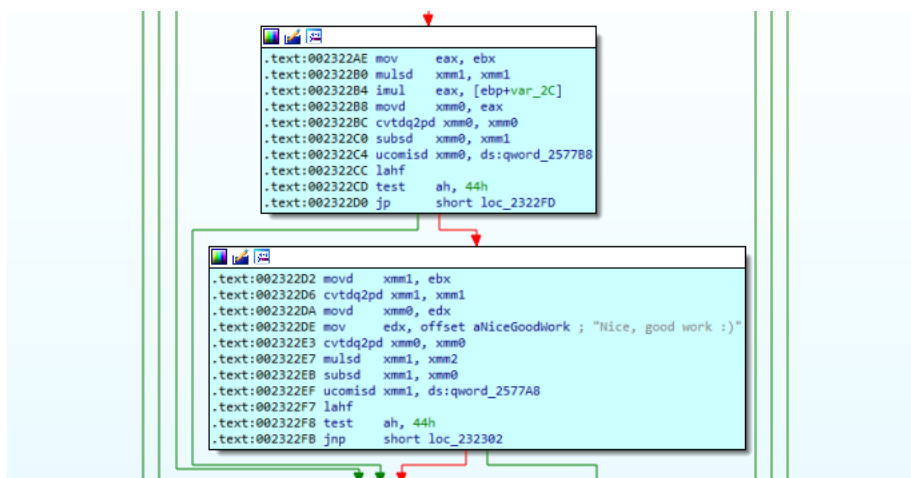
```

eax=ord(key[0])
var_2c = eax
ebx=ord(key[1])
eax=ord(key[2])
xmm1 = eax
eax = ord(key[3])
eax = eax >> 1
xmm1 = xmm1 * 0.5
xmm2 = eax
eax = ord(key[4])
edx = eax
edx = edx >> 1
edx = edx * edx
eax = ord(key[5])
eax = eax * ebx
eax = eax - edx
xmm0 = eax

if xmm0 == 8388:

```

Fifth check:



Python abstraction for the code above:

```
eax=ebx
xmm1 = xmm1*xmm1
eax=eax*var_2c
xmm0 = eax
xmm0 = xmm0 - xmm1

if xmm0 == 10391.75:

    xmm1 = ebx
    xmm0 = edx
    xmm1 = xmm1 * xmm2
    xmm1 = xmm1 - xmm0

    if xmm1 == 1800:
```

After passing all previous checks we get a valid key.

A keygen is provided along with this write up.