radare2 as a tool for ctf

Basic reference

Anton Kochkov (@akochkov)

June 4, 2017

KeenLab of Tencent, TCTF 2017

introduction

history

- Incepted in 2006 by Sergi Alvarez aka Pancake (@trufae) as Radare1
- Initially designed as a forensic tool
- Rewritten from scratch in 2009 for modular architecture
- Scriptable and extendable framework, not just a tool
- Gained popularity only a few years ago
- Participation in GSoC¹ and institutioning own RSoC²

3

¹Radare2 Team (2017a). *GSoC 2017*.

²Radare2 Team (2017g). *RSoC 2017*.

short overview

- Core part written in the pure C without dependencies
- Highly portable to different platforms
- UNIX (KISS) -like tools
- Around 1000 commands
- More than 400 configuration options
- Supports both static and dynamic analysis
- Own package manager and external plugins infrastructure
- Windows support from the box (and GSoC task)

installation

- First rule don't use packaged version
- sys/install.sh on *nix, including OS X
- prebuilt EXE on Windows (best in ConEmu)
- Current release version is 1.5.0
- Debian (and Ubuntu?) still ship 0.9.6
- Use version from git for bug-reporting

toolset review

- Radare2 the main tool, incorporate everything
- Rabin2 parsing binaries
- Radiff2 diffing binaries
- Rafind2 searching
- Ragg2 writing shellcodes
- Rahash2 calculating hashes
- Rarun2 setting up running environment
- Rasm2 CLI assembler/disassembler

short cheatsheet

commands concept

- Most of the commands are abbreviations
- Similar as in GDB (info registers -> i r) but w/o space³
- See registers dr (Debug), aer (ESIL)
- dr == debug register
- aer == analysis ESIL register
- Each command has internal help just add '?'
- Most of the commands has JSON output just add 'j'
- Case sensitive (see commands' count)

;

³Radare2 Team (2017e). Migration from IDA Pro, GDB or WinDbg.

basic disassembly⁴

- rasm2 -a arm -b 64 -d 058d00f8
- rasm2 -a arm "mov r0, 5"
- pd [N] linear disassembly of [N] insturctions
- pi [N] the same, just instructions

Those 3 below require functions defined first (analysis)

- pdf [function name] linear disassembly of function
- pdr recursive disassembly across function graph
- pdc basic C-like pseudocode

•

⁴Radare Team (2017c). R2 Book - Disassembly.

basic debug⁵

- Add "-d" option to radare2
- Or reopen it using ood command
- r2 -d /bin/ls

Debug commands are under "d" namespace - see d?

- db Setting breakpoint
- dc Continuing execution
- ds Single step
- ds [address] Step until
- Functional keys in visual mode, see V?

⁵Radare Team (2017b). R2 Book - Debugger.

visual debug

```
AB CD EF
                                                           0123456789ABCDEF
x7ffedc4997d0
x7ffedc4997e0
x7ffedc4997f0
x7ffedc499800
               f99e 49dc
rax 0x00000000
                          rbx 0x00000000
                                                     rcx 0x00000000
rdx 0x000000000
                           r8 0x000000000
                                                      r9 0x000000000
r10 0x00000000
                          r11 0x000000000
                                                     r12 0x000000000
r13 0x000000000
                          r14 0x000000000
                                                     r15 0x000000000
rsi 0x000000000
                          rdi 0x00000000
rbp 0x000000000
                                                     rflags I
rax 0x0000003b
           0x7f7341aa1cd0
                                                 mov rdi, rsp
                                e808400000
4989c4
           0x7f7341aa1cd3
                                                 call 0x7f7341aa5ce0
           0x7f7341aa1cd8
                                                 mov r12, rax
                                                 mov eax, dword [0x7f7341cc6c58] ; [0x7f7341cc6c58:4]=0
           0x7f7341aa1cdb
           0x7f7341aa1ce1
           0x7f7341aa1ce2
                                                 lea rsp, [rsp + rax*8]
                                                 sub edx, eax
           0x7f7341aa1ce6
           0x7f7341aa1ce8
           0x7f7341aa1ce9
                                                 mov rsi, rdx
           0x7f7341aa1cec
           0x7f7341aa1cef
                                                          0xfffffffffffffff
           0x7f7341aa1cf3
                                                 mov rdi, gword [0x7f7341cc7000] : [0x7f7341cc7000:8]=0
                                                 lea rcx, [r13 + rdx*8 + 0x10]; section_end..gnu_debuglink
lea rdx, [r13 + 8] : 8
           0x7f7341aa1cfa
           0x7f7341aa1cff
           0x7f7341aa1d03
                                                 xor ebp,
           0x7f7341aa1d05
                                                 call 0x7f7341ab1ac0
                                                 lea rdx, 0x7f7341ab1e50
           0x7f7341aa1d0a
           0x7f7341aa1d11
                                                 mov rsp, r13
           0x7f7341aa1d14
           0x7f7341aa1d17
                                                 nop word [rax + rax]
lea rax, 0x7f7341cc7f88
           0x7f7341aa1d20
           0x7f7341aa1d27
```

basic patching⁶

There are many searching options (see \cite{ROP} output), including ROP gadgets search (\cite{ROP})

- Add "-w" option to radare2 to open in write mode
- Or reopen it using oo+ command

Writing commands are under "w" namespace - see w?

- w Write ASCII string
- wx Write hexadecimal sequence
- wa Write assembly
- wtf Write to file

⁶Radare Team (2017a). R2 Book - Basic Commands - Write.

visual modes

- Can use UTF-8 and True color
- e scr.utf8=true ; e scr.truecolor=true
- All visual modes are under "V" namespace
- Just press V and loop forward/back using p/P
- VV ASCII graphs
- V HUD mode
- VF navigation through flags/symbols (supports p/P too)
- Ve navigation (and preview) of internal config variables
- Vt navigation through types
- Has different hotkeys see V?

ve - visual config

```
asm.esil = true
   asm.family = false
   asm.fcncalls = true
   asm.fcnlines = true
  asm.features =
   asm.filter = true
   asm.flags = true
  asm.flagsinbytes = false
  asm.flgoff = false
   asm.functions = true
   asm.hints = false
  asm.indent = false
  asm.indentspace = 2
   asm.invhex = false
   asm.imphints = true
Selected: asm.esil (Show ESIL instead of mnemonic)
 (fcn) main 265
           0x00003990
           0x00003992
           0x00003994
           0x00003996
                                            rdi, r12d, =, 0xfffffffff, r12, &=
           0x00003998
           0x0000399b
           0x0000399c
           0x0000399d
                                            rsi, rbx,=
                                            72, rsp, -=, $0, of, =, $s, sf, =, $z, zf, =, $p, pf, =, $b8, cf, = ; 'H'
           0x000039a0
           0x000039a4
                                            rsi,[8],rdi,=
                            64488b042528
                                            0x28,[8],rax,=
           0x000039a7
                            4889442438
           0x000039b0
                                            rax, 0x38, rsp, +, =[8]
                                            rax,eax,^=,$z,zf,=,$p,pf,=,$s,sf,=,$0,cf,=,$0,of,=,0xffffffff,rax,&=
           0x000039b5
           0x000039b7
                                            rip, 8, rsp, -=, rsp, =[], 62000, rip, = ; sub.stderr_240_230
                            488d35526401
           0x000039bc
                                            0x16452, rip, +, rsi, =
           0x000039c3
                                            6, rdi,=
                                            rip,8,rsp,-=,rsp,=[],14488,rip,= ; sym.imp.setlocale ; char *setlocal
           0x000039c8
                            488d354c3401.
           0x000039cd
           0x000039d4
                            488d3d2b3401.
```

vf - visual flagspaces

```
lags in flagspace 'functions'. Press '?' for help.
> 000 0x0000f230 165 sub.stderr 240 230
  001 0x000153e0
                 41 fcn.000153e0
  002 0x00010520 17 fcn.00010520
  003 0x000104c0
                  54 sub. errno_location_4c0
  004 0x000130e0
                 41 sub.memcpv e0
  005 0x00010500
                 17 fcn.00010500
  006 0x00010540
                  53 fcn.00010540
  007 0x00014080 113 sub.malloc 80
  008 0x0000c8b0 5 fcn.0000c8b0
  009 0x000084f0
                 45 fcn.000084f0
  010 0x00013130
                  56 sub.dcgettext_130
  011 0x000054d0
                 44 fcn.000054d0
  012 0x0000c470
                 34 sub.setlocale 470
  013 0x0000b620 278 sub.strlen 620
Selected: sub.stderr 240 230
(fcn) sub.stderr_240_230 165
  sub.stderr_240_230 ();
          0x0000f230
         0x0000f233
         0x0000f234
         0x0000f236
                        be2f000000
                                      mov esi, 0x2f
         0x0000f23b
                                      mov rbx, rdi
         0x0000f23e
                                      call sym.imp.strrchr ; char*strrchr(char *s, int c)
         0x0000f243
                                      test rax, rax
         0x0000f246
                                      0x0000f248
         0x0000f24c
         0x0000f24f
                                      sub rcx, rbx
         0x0000f252
                                      cmp rcx, 6
         0x0000f256
```

analysis

analysis options

- Located in e anal.* config var namespace
- For example enabling jump tables analysis e anal.jmptbl=true
- We don't enable all analysis by default
- r2 -A /bin/ls open with autoanalysis
- r2 -e bin.demangle=true /bin/ls open with demangling
- e asm.demangle=true show demangled symbols in disassembly
- e pdb. options related to loading/downloading PDBs
- e asm. options to control information shown in disasm

analysis commands

- There are a few autoanalysis commands: aa, aaa and aaaa
- Those offer different analysis depth
- All analysis commands are under "a" namespace see a?
- r2 -A, r2 -AA,... same with options
- af analyze the function (see also af?)
- av show virtual tables (C++)
- aa? particular commands for recursive analysis
- aac analyze function calls
- aad analyze data references
- ax? particular commands for analyzing references (e.g. axt)

ascii graph

```
9x000059b0]> VV @ sub.free 9b0 (nodes 20 edges 27 zoom 100%) BB-TINY mouse:canvas-y movements-speed:5
                                             0x5b2a ;[gt]
                                            mov ecx, 1
                                            imp 0x5adb:[qv]
                           0x5adb ; [qv]
                                  JMP XREF from 0x00005b2f (sub.free_9b0)
      [0x5ae0];[gx]
                                                                 0x5b31 ; [qu]
      lea rdi, [rbx + rbx*2]
                                                                call sub.dcgettext_130; [gz]
      shl rdi, 3
      call sub.malloc f20; [qw]
      ; [0x21fde0:8]=0xc80bbbaf4aa82441
mov rbx, qword [0x0021fde0]
      ; [0x21fdd8:8]=0xab8cc7925db7b0ce
mov qword [0x0021fdd8], rax
      lea rax, [rbx + rbx*2]
; [0x21fdd0:8]=0x80eceb6ee8e16e0e
mov qword [0x0021fdd0], rax
```

>

ascii/unicode graphs

- After analysis is done graph information is available
- agC generate Graphviz code
- agf show ASCII graph of the function
- VV visual ASCII graph
- It's possible to navigate through nodes using Tab/Shift+Tab
- There is support for "zoom" +/-
- Minimap support press p/P to scroll via all modes
- Also graphs information available via JSON (for WebUI)

minimap

```
0x000059b0]> VV @ sub.free_9b0 (nodes 20 edges 27 zoom 100%) BB-MINI mouse:canvas-y movements-speed:5
 0x5ae0 1
hl rdi, 3
all sub.malloc_f20;[gw]
ov rbx, qword [0x0021fde0]
; [0x21fdd8:8]=0xab8cc7925db7b0ce
ov gword [0x0021fdd8], rax
                                                                  5ac0
lea rax, [rbx + rbx*2]
; [0x21fdd0:8]=0x80eceb6ee8e16e0e
nov qword [0x0021fdd0], rax
mp 0x59ce;[gd]
                                                            5adb
```

types

- There is a support for C types
- All types commands are located in "t" namespace see t?
- to file.h parse C header file and load types from it
- td struct qwe {int a; char* b;}; parse type desc
- tp <typename> = <address> cast data at some addr to type
- tl <typename> = <address> permanently link type to addr
- tk raw requests to SDB database (types storage)
- Vt visual types navigation

arguments

- There is a support for function arguments
- All arguments commands are located in "afv" namespace see afv?
- afv show locals/arguments
- afvn rename argument/local
- afvr? manipulation of register based arguments
- afvs? manipulation of SP based arguments
- afvb? manipulation of BP based arguments
- afta analyze all arguments + types across file

esil⁸

- R2 has its own Intermediate Language and its VM
- It's RPN form (Reverse Polish Notation)⁷
- Allows to emulate parts of the programs
- Supported architectures are x86, ARM, MIPS, etc...
- Being used in the deep analysis for resolving indirect jumps
- ao esil shows the ESIL representation of current instruction
- ae eax,5,+= evaluate ESIL expression
- e asm.esil=true show ESIL instead of disassembly

⁷Radare2 Team (2015b). ESIL Instruction Set.

⁸Radare2 Team (2015a). ESIL description.

memory inspection

For this R2 need to be started in debug mode ("-d")

- dm? commands allows you to inspect the memory
- dmm shows loaded libraries
- dm inspecting the memory map
- dmh? commands to inspect the heap
- dmhg show the ASCII graph of the heap
- dmhb display parsed bins for selected heap arena
- dbta show the ASCII graph of call stack

stack visualization

```
33028401> dmh?
Usage: dmh # Memory map heap
                                              List chunks in heap segment
dmh [malloc state]
                                              List heap chunks of a particular arena
                                              List all malloc state instances in application
                                              Display all parsed Double linked list of main arena's bins instance
dmhh
dmhb [bin num|bin num:malloc state]
                                              Display parsed double linked list of bins instance from a particular arena
dmhbg [bin_num]
                                              Display double linked list graph of main_arena's bin [Under developemnt]
dmhc @[chunk addr]
                                              Display malloc chunk struct for a given malloc chunk
                                              Display all parsed fastbins of main arena's fastbiny instance
dmhf
dmhf [fastbin num|fastbin num:malloc state]
                                              Display parsed single linked list in fastbinY instance from a particular arena
dmha
                                              Display heap graph of heap segment
      [malloc state]
                                              Display heap graph of a particular arena
dmha
dmhi @[malloc state]
                                              Display heap info structure/structures for a given arena
                                              List all elements of struct malloc state of main thread (main arena)
dmhm
dmhm [malloc state]
                                              List all malloc state instance of a particular arena
dmh?
                                              Show map heap help
 :55f3983028401> dmhb
Bin 003:
```

stack visualization

```
L1518ecd0]> db sym.imp.free
  7f911518ecd01> db svm.imp.malloc
   f911518ecd0]> dc
Selecting and continuing: 12334
nit breakpoint at: 55f398302840
   5f398302840]> dbta
0x00007ffc6e722000 STACK END ^^^
0x00007ffc6e741898 STACK POINTER: rsp
0x00007ffc6e741898
                             [frame 0]
                                            l : size -702404264
                     rbp 0x000055f398302840
                                              ; return address
0x000055f39851ef40
0x00007ffc6e741898
                          [frame 1]
                                              : size 0
                     rsp
                     rbp 0x000055f398311f29
0x00007ffc6e741898
                                              : return address
                             [frame 2]
0x00007ffc6e7418a8
                                              ; size 16
                     rbp 0x000055f3983120f4
0x00007ffc6e741898
                                              ; return address
0x00007ffc6e7418c8
                                              : size 32
                     rsp [frame 3]
                     rbp 0x000055f39830f4ed
0x00007ffc6e7418a8
                                              ; return address
0x00007ffc6e7418e8
                     rsp [frame 4]
                                              ; size 32
0x00007ffc6e7418c8
                     rbp 0x000055f398302cee | ; return address
0x00007ffc6e741968
                             [frame 5]
                                              : size 128
```

debugging

native debugging

- For this R2 need to be started in debug mode ("-d" option)
- Or reopen using ood
- dr= to show the registers
- dbt display backtrace
- dt? tracing features
- dp? listing/attaching/etc to processes
- dk? working with signals

gdb remote connection

- Just connect using gdb:// protocol
- gdbserver /bin/ls
- r2 -D gdb gdb://localhost:1234
- Support the same commands as other debug engines
- Can be used to connect GDBserver of QEMU, VMWare, etc
- This year our GSoC student also working on improving⁹
- And also working on small gdbserver implementation

⁹Radare2 Team (2017c). GSoC 2017 Tasks - GDB server and protocol.

windbg remote connection

- Just connect using windbg:// protocol
- Run VBox or QEMU with Windows debug over pipes
- r2 -D wind windbg:///tmp/windbg.pipe
- Support the same commands as other debug engines
- This year another GSoC student also working on improving this 10
- For now it supports only connection via serial (pipe) no network
- Our own WinDbg protocol parser¹¹ can be reused in other projects

¹⁰Radare2 Team (2017d). GSoC 2017 Tasks - Windows platform support.

¹¹Radare2 Team (2015d). WinDbg protocol parser.

integration with frida¹³

- Just install Frida and r2frida¹² (r2pm -i r2frida)
- r2 frida://<phone_id>/Appname
- r2frida implements IO layer smoothly redirecting commands

¹²r2frida (2016).

¹³Frida (2015).

esil¹⁴ debugging

- aei initialize ESIL VM
- aeim initialise memory for selected parameters
- aeip point ESIL VM to current IP
- aer eax=0x5 set register value
- aes step using ESIL emulation
- aecu continue until using ESIL emulation
- Also stepping using ESIL is available in visual debug mode

¹⁴Radare2 Team (2015a). ESIL description.

timeless debug

R2 supports basic timeless debug. Moreover, this year GSoC^{15} student working on improving it.

- dts+ add the trace session
- dts show the active trace sessions
- dms? work with memory snapshots
- dsb single step back

¹⁵Radare2 Team (2017b). GSoC 2017 accepted projects.

signatures

native signatures

Radare2 has different searching capabilities¹⁶ including signatures:

- z show signatures status and z* to list them
- zb define signature in place
- zo manage signature files
- zos save the signature into file
- z/ search signatures
- zs manage singature spaces

¹⁶Radare Team (2017e). R2 Book - Searching.

flirt and yara

- R2 has support for loading FLIRT signatures (IDA < 6.8)
- zfs load FLIRT signature from the file and scan
- zfd dump the contents of the FLIRT file
- zfz convert FLIRT file to native signature format

R2 can support Yara via plugin: r2pm -i yara-lib; r2pm -i yara

- yara add load Yara rules from the file
- yara scan to scan the file for matches
- yara list show loaded Yara signatures
- yara clear clear all loaded rules

scripting

internal scripting¹⁷

- R2 has variables see ?\$? output
- R2 supports iterators see ?0? output
- pd 1; ao 1 sequence the commands
- ao | grep esil pipe into external commands
- #! tcpdump run system command
- px 10 @ 'ao ptr[1]' like shell backtick
- Redirecting output using > and »

¹⁷Radare Team (2017d). R2 Book - Scripting.

loops, macroses and aliases

- afi @@ fcn.* name grep through output of afi of matching
- ao @@=\$\$ \$\$2 looping over cur offset and cur offset +2
- pi 1 @@i looping over instructions in the funtion
- afi @@@ functions name[1] looping over functions
- (qwe, pd4, ao) add macro "qwe", call with .(qwe)
- (foo x y, pd 0; s +1) macro with arguments
- \$<aliasname>=<command> define an alias
- \$dis='pi 1;ao', then call \$dis

r2pipe

- R2 has a mechanism for interacting with scripts via pipe¹⁸
- pip install r2pipe, npm install r2pipe
- In python just do import r2pipe and use provided commands
- Python r2pipe scripts can be run from internal shell
- . myscript.py just use source command .

¹⁸Radare2 Team (2015c). *R2pipe repository*.

r2pipe

```
import r2pipe

r2 = r2pipe.open("/bin/ls")
r2.cmd('aa')
func_lst = r2.cmdj("aflj")
print(func_lst)
r2.quit()
```

angr

- R2 supports getting information from angr
- r2pm -i r2angr
- r2 angr:///bin/ls open the file via angr
- afl list all functions recognized by angr
- Can be extended see radare2-extras/r2angr/ directory¹⁹

43

¹⁹Radare2 Team (2017f). r2angr.

contact us

contacts

• Main site: http://rada.re

• Blog: http://radare.today

• Twitter: radareorg

• IRC on Freenode: #radare

• Telegram: #radare

contributing

contributing

- Main repo https://github.com/radare/radare2
- Extras https://github.com/radare/radare2-extras
- Qt GUI https://github.com/hteso/iaito
- WebUI https://github.com/radare/radare2-webui
- Radeco https://github.com/radare/radeco-lib
- You can pick up issues marked as "easy"
- Travis CI, AppVeyor, Jenkins, Coverity, etc

references

a lot of them I

references

- Frida (2015).
- r2frida (2016).
- Team, Radare (2017a). R2 Book Basic Commands Write.
- (2017b). R2 Book Debugger.
- 🏈 (2017c). R2 Book Disassembly.
- (2017d). R2 Book Scripting.
- (2017e). R2 Book Searching.
- Team, Radare2 (2015a). ESIL description.
- (2015b). ESIL Instruction Set.
- 🏈 (2015c). R2pipe repository.
- (2015d). WinDbg protocol parser.

a lot of them II

- Feam, Radare2 (2017a). GSoC 2017.
- (2017b). GSoC 2017 accepted projects.
- (2017c). GSoC 2017 Tasks GDB server and protocol.
- 🏈 (2017d). GSoC 2017 Tasks Windows platform support.
- (2017e). Migration from IDA Pro, GDB or WinDbg.
- (2017f). r2angr.
- (2017g). RSoC 2017.