

Reversing with Radare2

Starting Radare

The basic usage is **radare2** *executable* (on some systems you can use **r2** instead of **radare2**); if you want to run radare2 without opening any file, you can use **--** instead of an executable name.

Some command-line options are:

```
-d file          debug executable file
                  Warning: if there exists a script named file.r2,
                  then it gets executed after the others rc-files
-d pid          debug process pid
-A              analyze all referenced code (aaa command)
-R profile.rr2  specifies r2run2 profile (same as
                  -e dbg.profile=profile.rr2)
-w             open file in write mode
-p [prj]       list projects / use project prj
-h             show help message (-hh the verbose one)
```

Example: **r2 -dA /bin/ls**

General information

The command **?** prints the help. Command names are hierarchically defined; for instance, all **p**rinting commands start with **p**. So, to understand what a command does, you can append **?** to a *prefix* of such a command; e.g., to learn what **pdf** does, you can first try **pd?**, then the more general **p?**. You can get recursive help with **?***; e.g.: **p?***. Single-line comments can be entered using **#**; e.g. **s # where R we?**. Command **?** can also be used to evaluate an expression and print its result in various format; e.g. **? 5 * 8+2** (note the space after **?**). Commands **?v/?vi** print result only in hex/decimal. There are also some special **\$**-variables (list them all with: **?\$?**); e.g.:

```
$$    current virtual seek
$b    block size
```

Where an address *addx* is expected, you can provide any expression that evaluates to an address, e.g. a function name or a register name. In this cheatsheet we sometimes use *fn-name*, instead of *addx*, to emphasize that the argument is supposed to be a function starting address. As default address is (usually?) used the current seek: **\$\$**. All commands that:

- accept an optional size (e.g. **pd**), use the current block size by default (see: **b**)
- accept an optional address (e.g., **pdf**), use the current position by default (see: **s**)

Commands can be chained by using **;** as separator; e.g. **s fun; pd 2**

Internal grep-like filtering

You can filter command output by appending **~[!]*str***, to display only rows [not] containing string *str*; e.g. **pdf-rdx** and **pdf-!rdx**. You can further filter by appending

```
:r          to display row r ( $0 \leq r < \#rows$  or, backwards
              with:  $-\#rows \leq r \leq -1$ )
[c1, c2, ...] to display columns c1, c2, ... ( $0 \leq c_i < \#cols$ )
:r[c1, ..., cn] to display columns c1, ..., cn of row r
...          to pipe the output into less-like viewer
...          to pipe the output into HUD viewer
```

Examples: **af1-[0]**, **af1-malloc[0]**, **pdf~:2** and **pdf-mov:2**

There is much more (sorting, counting, ...); see: **~?**

Shell interaction

Command output can be redirected to a file by appending **>filename** or piped to an external command with **|progname [args]**. Examples: **af1 > all_functions** and **af1 | wc -l**.

External commands can be run with **!!progname [args]**.

Moreover, backticks can be used to send the output of r2-commands as arguments; e.g. **!!echo `? 42`**. Vice versa output of external programs can be used as arguments for internal commands; e.g. **pdf `echo 3` @ `echo entry0`**.

Some common Unix-like commands are implemented as built-ins; e.g. **ls**, **cd**, **pwd**, **mkdir** and **rm**.

Radare scripting

```
. filename      interpret r2 script filename
.! command     interpret output of command as r2 commands
```

Python scripting (via r2pipe)

You can script Radare2 with Python, by leveraging *r2pipe*, that can be easily installed (inside any Python 2 virtual environment) with: **pip install r2pipe**.

Then, you can spawn a Python interpreter, from inside r2, with:

```
#!pipe python [python-file]
or simply:
#. python-file
```

Once you are in Python-world, you can connect to r2 by importing **r2pipe** and initializing some variable, say **r2**, with **r2pipe.open("#!pipe")**, or simply **r2pipe.open()**.

Then you can interact with Radare by invoking method **cmd**; e.g. **print(r2.cmd('pdf @ entry0'))**.

You can make most Radare2 commands output in JSON format by appending a **j**; e.g. **pdfj** (instead of **pdf**).

Method **cmdj** can de-serialize JSON output into Python objects; e.g. **f = r2.cmdj('pdfj @ entry0')**
print f['name'], f['addr'], f['ops'][0]['opcode']

r2pipe: connecting to other r2 instances

You can connect to any web-listening instance of r2 by passing **r2pipe.open** a string of the form **'http://host:port'**. By using this approach you get your own seek-cursor: your seek commands won't affect others.

To open a background web-service in r2 use command **=h&**. You may also want to take a look at configuration variable **http.sandbox**.

Configuration

```
e??          list all variable names and descriptions
e?[?] var-name show description of var-name
e var-name   show the value of var-name
e var-name =?[?] print valid values of var-name [with descript.]
                  E.g. e asm.arch=??
e            show the value of all variables
eco theme-name select theme; eg. eco solarized
eco          list available themes
b            display current block size
b size       set block size
env [name [=value]] get/set environment variables
```

Some variables

asm.pseudo	enable pseudo-code syntax (in visual mode, toggle with: \$)
asm.bytes	display bytes of each instruction
asm.describe	show opcode description
asm.cmtright	comments at right of disassembly if they fit
asm.emu	run ESIL emulation analysis on disasm
asm.demangle	Show demangled symbols in disasm
bin.demangle	Import demangled symbols from RBin
cmd.stack	command to display the stack in visual debug mode (Eg: px 32)
dbg.follow.child	continue tracing the child process on fork
dbg.slow	show stack and regs in visual mode, in a slow but verbose (e.g. telescoping) mode
io.cache	enable cache for IO changes (AKA non-persistent write-mode)
scr.utf8	show nice UTF-8 chars instead of ANSI (Windows: switch code-page with chcp 65001)
scr.nkey	select seek mode (fun, hit, flag); affects commands n and N during visual mode
scr.wheel	enables mouse-wheel in visual mode
scr.breaklines	break lines in Visual instead of truncating them

Example: my ~/.radare2rc

```
e asm.bytes=0
e scr.utf8=true
e asm.cmtright=true
e cmd.stack=px 32
e scr.wheel=false
eco solarized
```

Searching: /

```
/ str        search for string str
/x hstr      search for hex-string hstr
/a asm-instr assemble instruction and search for its bytes
/R opcode    find ROP gadgets containing opcode;
              see: http://radare.today/posts/ropnroll/
              It seems you need to be in debug mode to use this (?!?)
/A type      find instructions of type type (/A? for the listof types)
Also: e??search for options
```

Seeking: s

s	print current position/address
s addx	seek to <i>addx</i>
s.. hex	changes least-significant part of current address to <i>hex</i>
s+ <i>n</i> and s- <i>n</i>	seek <i>n</i> bytes forward/backward
s++ and s--	seek block-size bytes forward/backward
s-	undo seek
s+	redo seek

Writing: w

wa <i>asm-instr</i>	assemble and write opcodes; for more instructions the whole command must be quoted: "wa <i>asm-instr</i> ₁ ; <i>asm-instr</i> ₂ ; ..."
wao ...	replace current instruction; see wao? for details
w[z] <i>str</i>	write string <i>str</i> [and append byte <code>\x00</code>]
wx <i>hex-pairs</i>	write hex-pairs
wc	list pending changes (see variable <code>io.cache</code>)
wc*	list pending changes in Radare commands
wtf [<i>file</i>] [<i>size</i>]	write to file

Analysis (functions and syscalls): a

aaa	analyze (aa) and auto-name all functions
afl[1]	list functions [with details]
afi <i>fn-name</i>	show verbose info for <i>fn-name</i>
afn <i>new-name</i> <i>addr</i>	(re)name function at address <i>addr</i>
asl	list syscalls
asl <i>name</i>	display syscall-number for <i>name</i>
asl <i>n</i>	display name of syscall number <i>n</i>
afvd <i>var-name</i>	output r2 command for displaying the address and value of arg/local <i>var-name</i>
.afvd <i>var-name</i>	display address and value of <i>var-name</i>
afvn <i>name</i> <i>new-name</i>	rename argument/local variable
afvt <i>name</i> <i>type</i>	change type for given argument/local
axt <i>addr</i>	find data/code references to <i>addr</i>

Graphviz/graph code: ag

ag <i>addr</i>	output graphviz code (BB at <i>addr</i> and children) E.g. view the function graph with: ag \$\$ xdot -
agc <i>addr</i>	callgraph of function at <i>addr</i>
agC	full program callgraph

Information: i (and S)

i	show info of current file
ie	entrypoint
iz[z]	strings in data sections [whole binary]
il	libraries
ii	imports
iS	sections
S	list segments (confusingly called sections!?)

Printing: p

ps [<i>@ addr</i>]	print C-string at <i>addr</i> (or current position)
pxr [<i>n</i>] [<i>@ addr</i>]	print with references to flags/code (telescoping)
px [<i>n</i>] [<i>@ addr</i>]	hexdump — note: x is an alias for px
px{h w q} ...	hexdump in 16/32/64 bit words
px{H W Q} ...	as the previous one, but one per line
pxl [<i>n</i>] [<i>@ addr</i>]	display <i>n</i> rows of hexdump
px/fmt [<i>@ addr</i>]	gdb-style printing <i>fmt</i> (in gdb see: help x from r2: !!gdb -q -ex 'help x' -ex quit)
pd [<i>n</i>] [<i>@ addr</i>]	disassemble <i>n</i> instructions
p8 [<i>n</i>] [<i>@ addr</i>]	print bytes
pD [<i>n</i>] [<i>@ addr</i>]	disassemble <i>n</i> bytes
pd -n [<i>@ addr</i>]	disassemble <i>n</i> instructions backwards
pdf [<i>@ fn-name</i>]	disassemble function <i>fn-name</i>
pc[p] [<i>n</i>] [<i>@ addr</i>]	dumps in C [Python] format
* <i>addr</i> [=value]	shortcut for reading/writing at <i>addr</i>

Debugging: d

?d <i>opcode</i>	description of <i>opcode</i> (eg. ?d jle)
dc	continue (or start) execution
dcu <i>addr</i>	continue until <i>addr</i> is reached
dcs [<i>name</i>]	continue until the next syscall (named <i>name</i> , if specified)
dcr	continue until ret (uses step over)
dr=	show general-purpose regs and their values
dro	show previous (old) values of registers
drr	show register references (telescoping)
dr <i>reg-name</i> = <i>value</i>	set register value
drt	list register types
drt <i>type</i>	list registers of type <i>type</i> and their values
db	list breakpoints
db[-] <i>addr</i>	add [remove] breakpoint
do <i>args</i>	(re)start debugging
ood	synonym for do
ds[o]	step into [over]
dbt	display backtrace
drx	hardware breakpoints
dm	list memory maps; the asterisk shows where the current offset is
dmp	change page permissions (see: dmp?)

Types: t

"td <i>C-type-def</i> "	define a new type
t <i>t-name</i>	show type <i>t-name</i> in pf syntax
.t <i>t-name</i> <i>@ addr</i>	display the value (of type <i>t-name</i>) at <i>addr</i>
t	list (base?) types
te / ts / tu	list enums/structs/unions
to <i>file</i>	parse type information from C header file
tl <i>t-name</i>	link <i>t-name</i> to current address
tl <i>t-name</i> = <i>addr</i>	link <i>t-name</i> to address <i>addr</i>
tl	list all links in readable format
tp <i>t-name</i> = <i>addr</i>	cast data at <i>addr</i> to type <i>t-name</i> , and prints it

Visual mode: V (q exits)

c	cursor-mode, <i>tab</i> switches among panels
:	+/- increment/decrement current byte
:	execute a normal-mode command; e.g. :dm
p and P	rotate forward/backward print modes
/str	highlight occurrences of string <i>str</i>
\$	toggle pseudo-syntax
0	toggle ESIL-asm
;	add/remove comments (to current offset)
x	browse xrefs-to current offset
X	browse xrefs-from current function
_	browse flags
d	define function, end-function, rename, ...
di{b o d h s}	define immediate bin/oct/dec/hex or str
V	enter block-graph viewer (<i>space</i> toggles visual/graph)
A	enter visual-assembler (preview must be confirmed)
n / N	seek next/previous function/flag/hit (see scr.nkey)
i	enter insert mode
e	configures internal variables
"	toggle the column mode

Seeking (in Visual Mode)

.	seeks to program counter
Enter	on jump/call instructions, follow target address
u	undo
U	redo
o	go/seek to given offset
0	seek to beginning of current function
d (a non-zero digit)	jump to the target marked [<i>d</i>]
m l (a letter)	mark the spot with letter <i>l</i>
'l	jump to mark <i>l</i>
n / N	jump to next/previous function

Debugging (in Visual Mode)

b or F2	toggle breakpoint
F4	run to cursor
s or F7	step-into
S or F8	step-over
F9	continue

Flags (AKA “bookmarks”): f

Note: in order to get your defined <i>names</i> appear in disassembly, you must include a prefix (fun , sub , obj , ...); e.g. f obj.foo @ 0x1234	
f <i>name</i> <i>@ addr</i>	or
f <i>name</i> = <i>addr</i>	associate name <i>name</i> to address <i>addr</i>
f- <i>@ addr</i>	remove the association at address <i>addr</i>
f- <i>name</i>	remove the association with name <i>name</i>

Comments: C

CC	list all comments in human friendly form
CCu <i>text</i> [<i>@ addr</i>]	set (update?) comment <i>text</i> at <i>addr</i>
CC <i>text</i> [<i>@ addr</i>]	append comment <i>text</i> at <i>addr</i>
CC- [<i>@ addr</i>]	remove comment at <i>addr</i>
CC. [<i>@ addr</i>]	show comment at <i>addr</i>
CC! [<i>@ addr</i>]	edit comment using cfg.editor (vim, ...)

Projects: P [unstable feature]

P1	list all projects
Ps [<i>prj-name</i>]	save project <i>prj-name</i>
Po <i>prj-name</i>	open project <i>prj-name</i>
Pd <i>prj-name</i>	delete project <i>prj-name</i>
Pc <i>prj-name</i>	show project script to console

Running in different environments: rarun2

rarun2 is used as a launcher for running programs with different environment, arguments, permissions, directories and overridden default file-descriptors. Usage:

rarun2 [-t|*script-name.rr2*] [*directives*] [--] [*prog-name*] [*args*]
rarun2 -t shows the terminal name, say *α*, and wait for a connection from another process. For instance, from another terminal, you can execute **rarun2 stdio=α program=/bin/sh** (use **stdin/stdout** to redirect one stream only). Run **rarun2 -h** to get a sample **.rr2** file. rarun2 supports *a lot* of directives, see the man page for details.

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<https://github.com/zxgio/r2-cheatsheet/>