CPS3 Sprites

A guide to CPS3 sprites. CPS3 in this context is for the sprites used in the Jojo's Bizarre Adventure and the Street Fighter III series. It is not known if Red Earth uses the same format.

Outline

CPS3 sprites are made up of separate components that form a sprite. We will outline each component from the pallet itself, all the way to how tiles and tile groups forms a sprite.

Pallet

A pallet for CPS3 is nothing out of the ordinary. It is made up of 64 unique colors, with the first index of the pallet used as a background color.

Here is Alex's pallet, which will be used throughout this example

Tile

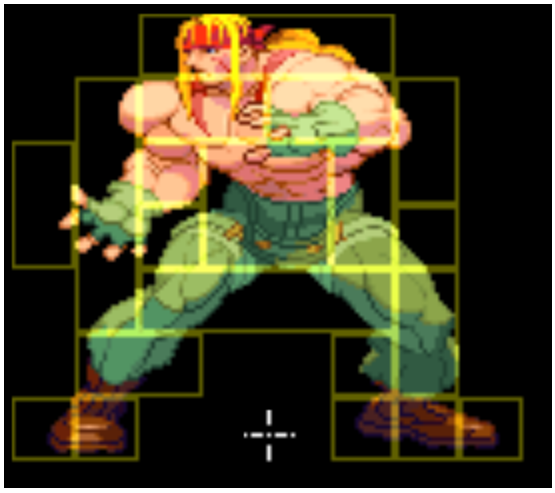
A tile is a 256 byte sequence that forms a 16 by 16 picture involved in a group of tiles. Each byte can be a value between 0 and 63 to refer to a position in the Pallet that is used by the sprite. The tile has no position relative to the sprite, as it is occupied by the group.

The tile is drawn from left to right, top to bottom, relative to its index in the sequence of bytes. This will be referred to as "raw tile data", as it is the de-compressed tile data and refers to indexes in the pallet at face value.

Tile Group

A tile group in this document will refer to ***a group of tiles aligned in a way that form a portion of a sprite***. The position of each sprite group is relative to the game's unit position. The tile group can be 1, 2 or 4 tiles in length and / or height. The group cannot use the amount of 3 as it's width or height.

Below is a sprite showing where it's tile groups are defined to form a sprite. As you can see, there are varying degrees of sizes and are defined for each portion of the sprite:



Sprite Data in the Rom

To know how tiles are decompressed, it is important to know how the sprite information is formed within the game. Sprites are defined in the program rom and are made up of 3 components. We will call these 3 components **Sprite Header, Tile Data Definition**, and **Tile Group Definition**.

A couple of notes before each item is defined:

- The Lookup Address or the Tile Data Address must go under a formula to get what is called its “real” address.The formula is:

  Address * 2 - 0x**400000 = Real Address**
  0x14D0000 * 2 - 0x400000 = 0x25A0000

  Address 0 is defined as the User Rom and its length depends on how many memory chips the game uses. Each User Rom chip uses 0x1000000 bytes, split to two roms and is dumped to roms as 30, 31, 40, 41 and so on. If you would like to find the rom file that the tile data is contained in relative to it’s real address, you would first gain the file index from the formula:

  Real Address / 0x800000 = File Index
  0x25A0000 / 0x800000 = 5

  And select the file based on it’s position in the User Rom

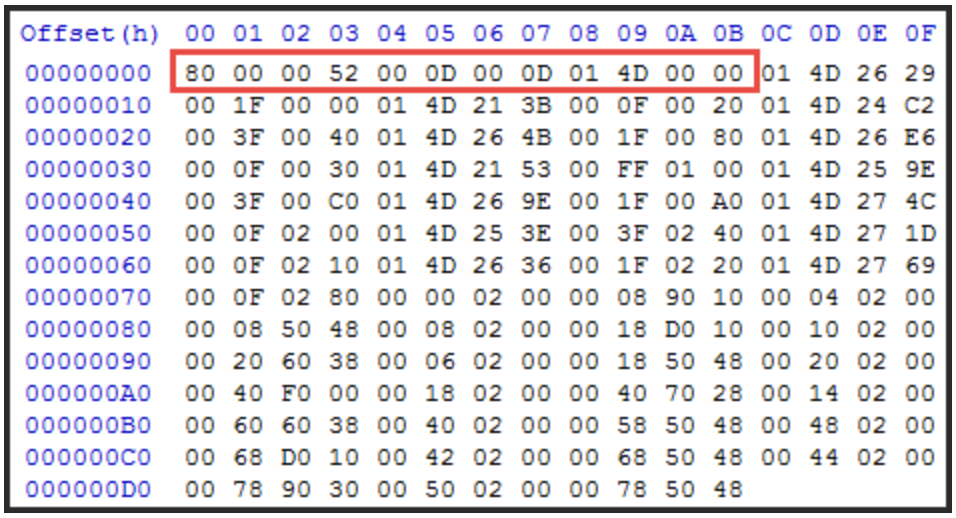
Index:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
File:	30	31	40	41	50	51	60	61

  And use the remainder of the Real Address divided by the file size:

  Real Address - (File Index * 0x800000) = File Offset
  0x25A0000 - (4 * 0x800000) = 0x5A0000

  Address 14D0000 is offset 5A0000 in file 51

Tile Header

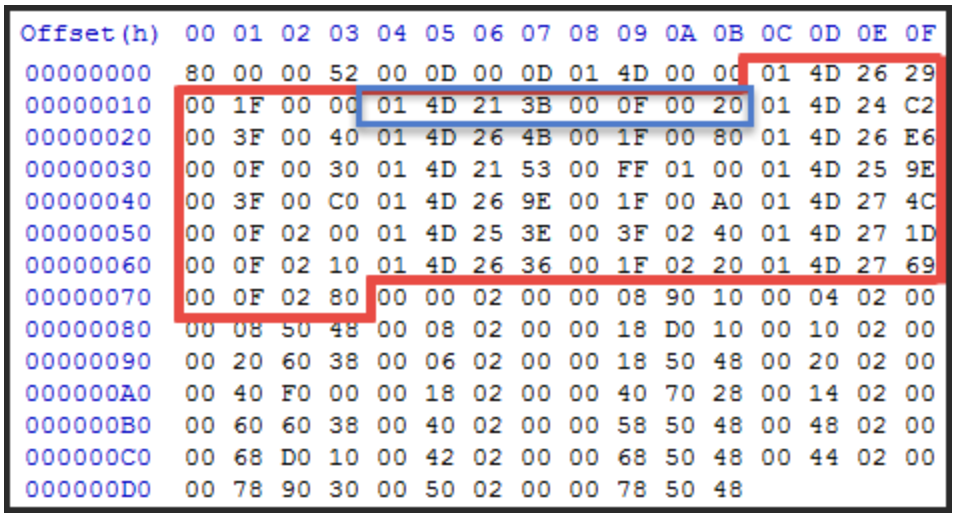


Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	80	00	00	52	00	0D	00	0D	01	4D	00	00	01	4D	26	29
00000010	00	1F	00	00	01	4D	21	3B	00	0F	00	20	01	4D	24	C2
00000020	00	3F	00	40	01	4D	26	4B	00	1F	00	80	01	4D	26	E6
00000030	00	0F	00	30	01	4D	21	53	00	FF	01	00	01	4D	25	9E
00000040	00	3F	00	C0	01	4D	26	9E	00	1F	00	A0	01	4D	27	4C
00000050	00	0F	02	00	01	4D	25	3E	00	3F	02	40	01	4D	27	1D
00000060	00	0F	02	10	01	4D	26	36	00	1F	02	20	01	4D	27	69
00000070	00	0F	02	80	00	00	02	00	00	08	90	10	00	04	02	00
00000080	00	08	50	48	00	08	02	00	00	18	D0	10	00	10	02	00
00000090	00	20	60	38	00	06	02	00	00	18	50	48	00	20	02	00
000000A0	00	40	F0	00	00	18	02	00	00	40	70	28	00	14	02	00
000000B0	00	60	60	38	00	40	02	00	00	58	50	48	00	48	02	00
000000C0	00	68	D0	10	00	42	02	00	00	68	50	48	00	44	02	00
000000D0	00	78	90	30	00	50	02	00	00	78	50	48				

Offset	Size	Description	Data as Shown
00	2 Bytes	Start Flag (No importance)	8000
02	2 Bytes	CRam Size	0052
04	2 Bytes	Number of Tile Data Definitions	000D
06	2 Bytes	Number of Tile Group Definitions	000D
08	4 Bytes	Lookup Block Address	014D0000

At the sprite's address, the tile header is within the first 12 bytes (Street Fighter 3) or 8 bytes (Jojo's Bizarre Adventure). The Jojo series does not define the Lookup Block in the sprite header

Tile Data Definition



Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	80	00	00	52	00	0D	00	0D	01	4D	00	00	01	4D	26	29
00000010	00	1F	00	00	01	4D	21	3B	00	0F	00	20	01	4D	24	C2
00000020	00	3F	00	40	01	4D	26	4B	00	1F	00	80	01	4D	26	E6
00000030	00	0F	00	30	01	4D	21	53	00	FF	01	00	01	4D	25	9E
00000040	00	3F	00	C0	01	4D	26	9E	00	1F	00	A0	01	4D	27	4C
00000050	00	0F	02	00	01	4D	25	3E	00	3F	02	40	01	4D	27	1D
00000060	00	0F	02	10	01	4D	26	36	00	1F	02	20	01	4D	27	69
00000070	00	0F	02	80	00	00	02	00	00	08	90	10	00	04	02	00
00000080	00	08	50	48	00	08	02	00	00	18	D0	10	00	10	02	00
00000090	00	20	60	38	00	06	02	00	00	18	50	48	00	20	02	00
000000A0	00	40	F0	00	00	18	02	00	00	40	70	28	00	14	02	00
000000B0	00	60	60	38	00	40	02	00	00	58	50	48	00	48	02	00
000000C0	00	68	D0	10	00	42	02	00	00	68	50	48	00	44	02	00
000000D0	00	78	90	30	00	50	02	00	00	78	50	48				

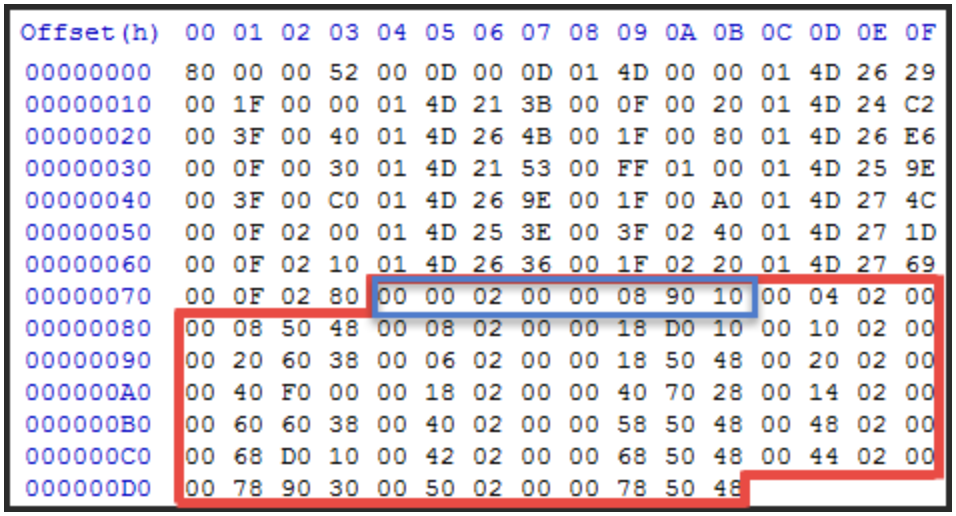
Offset	Size	Description	Data as Shown
00	4 Bytes	Tile Data Address	014D213B
04	2 Bytes	Size of Raw Tile Data	0F
06	2 Bytes	Start Position in CRam	20

After the sprite header, the sprite definition will contain each tile data definition (the 2nd one is highlighted in blue). Tile data definitions are in 8 byte lengths and are used to define where tile data is pulled from, and where it is decompressed to in the CRam. The number of tile data definitions are at offset 4 in the tile header.

Note: the size of raw tile data is a value that does not directly represent the number of bytes. It's a value that must go under a small formula

(Size * 2 + 2)* 8 = Number of bytes
(0x0F * 2 + 2) * 8 = 0x100

Tile Group Definition



Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	80	00	00	52	00	0D	00	0D	01	4D	00	00	01	4D	26	29
00000010	00	1F	00	00	01	4D	21	3B	00	0F	00	20	01	4D	24	C2
00000020	00	3F	00	40	01	4D	26	4B	00	1F	00	80	01	4D	26	E6
00000030	00	0F	00	30	01	4D	21	53	00	FF	01	00	01	4D	25	9E
00000040	00	3F	00	C0	01	4D	26	9E	00	1F	00	A0	01	4D	27	4C
00000050	00	0F	02	00	01	4D	25	3E	00	3F	02	40	01	4D	27	1D
00000060	00	0F	02	10	01	4D	26	36	00	1F	02	20	01	4D	27	69
00000070	00	0F	02	80	00	00	02	00	00	08	90	10	00	04	02	00
00000080	00	08	50	48	00	08	02	00	00	18	D0	10	00	10	02	00
00000090	00	20	60	38	00	06	02	00	00	18	50	48	00	20	02	00
000000A0	00	40	F0	00	00	18	02	00	00	40	70	28	00	14	02	00
000000B0	00	60	60	38	00	40	02	00	00	58	50	48	00	48	02	00
000000C0	00	68	D0	10	00	42	02	00	00	68	50	48	00	44	02	00
000000D0	00	78	90	30	00	50	02	00	00	78	50	48				

Offset	Size	Description	Data as Shown
00	1 Byte	Unknown	00
01	1 Byte	Tile Start Offset in CRam	00
02 (Bit 4)	1 Bit	Flip Group Horizontal	0
02 (Bit 5)	1 Bit	Flip Group Verfical	0
03	1 Byte	Unknown	0
04 (First 3 Nibbles)	12 Bits (2 bytes & 0x0FFF)	Group X Offset (Signed)	8
06 (First 3 Nibbles)	12 Bits (2 bytes & 0x0FFF)	Group Y Offset (Signed)	10
06 (Last Nibble, First 2 Bits)	2 Bits (1 byte & 0x30 >>4)	Number of Tiles Y	1
06 (Last Nibble, Last 2 Bits)	2 Bits (1 byte & 0xC0 >> 6)	Number of Tiles Y	2

After the list of tile data definitions, the sprite groups are defined. Each group is 8 bytes in length and outline what tiles to pull from the CRam, how big the group is and where it is placed relative to the position of the sprite. The number of tile group definitions are at offset 6 in the tile header.

Sprite Formation

Now we have all of the definitions for what the data represents in each portion of the sprite itself, we can go over how the sprite is formed.

Prepare the CRam

The CRam is the main buffer for the raw tile data for the sprite. It is where the raw tile data is decompressed to and stored **for the sprite as a whole**. Each tile group refers to the CRam data to determine what tile to pull and how many tiles from the CRam.

The CRam is a buffer where the size is a multiple of 256 bytes (the number of bytes for a tile). In this example, the CRam for this sprite is defined in the tile header as 0x52. It's real size is 0x2900. To get it's real size, perform the following formula:

(CRam Size / 2) * 256 = Real CRam Size
(0x52 / 2) * 0x100 = 0x2900

Tile data de-compression

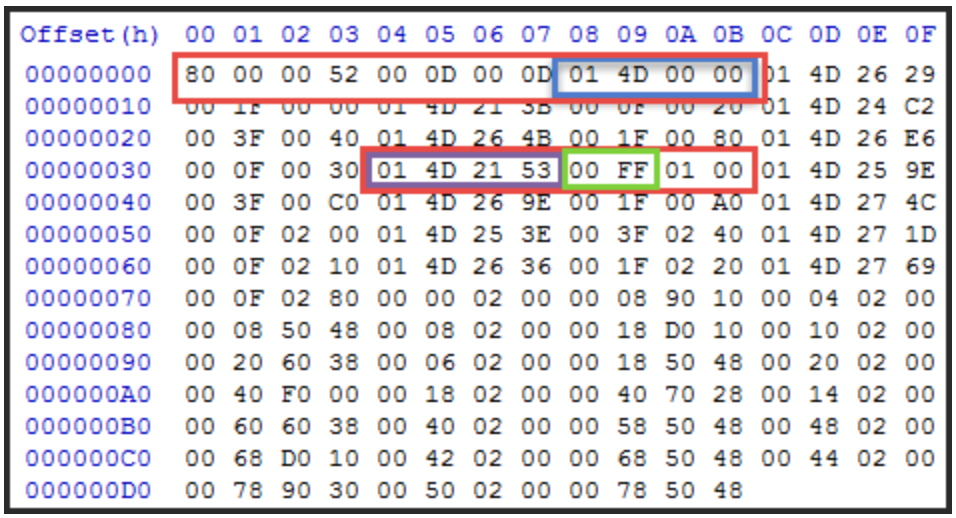
Compressed tile data is a sequence of bytes containing a real byte, an RLE byte, and a Lookup byte. The amount of bytes in the compressed tile data for the tile data definition is not defined explicitly. It is implied based on the length field in the tile data definition. Once the length is filled during decompression, the decompression is complete.

- 0x00 to 0x3F: Real byte
    - This is a direct reference to an index of the pallet
- 0x40 to 0x7F: RLE byte.
    - When Bit 7 is set and bit 8 is not set, the RLE byte fills the buffer at its current position with the last real byte, where the amount of the last real byte is filled at a count from the 6 first bits, (or by subtracting 0x40 from the RLE byte)
- 0x80 to 0xFF: Lookup byte
    - When Bit 8 is set, the first 7 bits are an index to the lookup table. The two bytes from the index of the lookup table are processed to fill data into the buffer's current position.

Decompress the Tile data definition, an example

Since the source of the tile data is in our tile data definition, we will outline the process of tile decompression from a tile data definition in our sample sprite. Lets revisit a tile data definition and the header:

The address of the lookup block is in the sprite header (0x14D0000 or 0x5A0000 in file 50) ,
The first 4 bytes of the tile data definition contains the location of the compressed data (0x14D2153 or 0x5A42A6 in file 50)
The length is at offset 4 of the tile data definition. (0xFF in this example, or a real length of 0x1000)

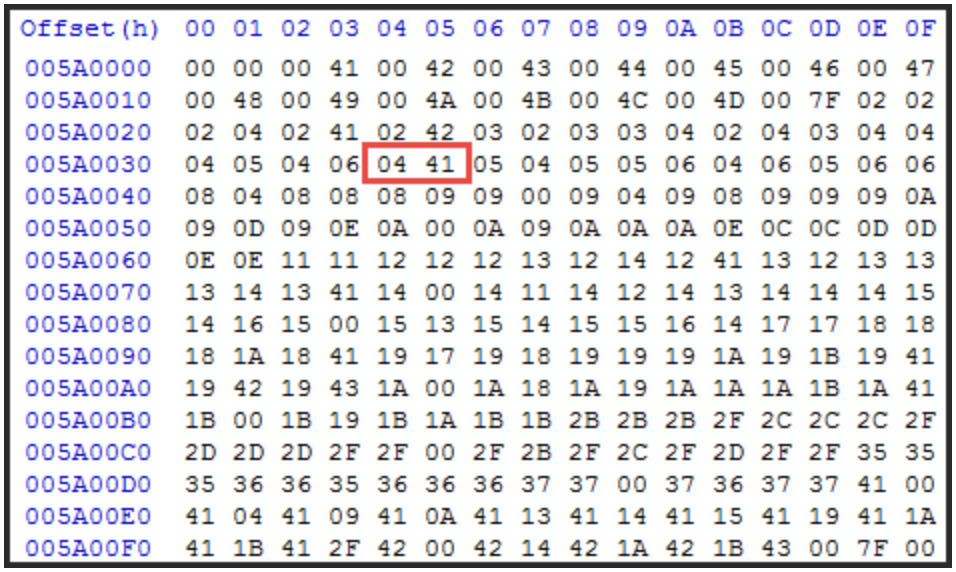


Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	80	00	00	52	00	0D	00	0D	01	4D	00	00	01	4D	26	29
00000010	00	1F	00	00	01	4D	21	3B	00	0F	00	20	01	4D	24	C2
00000020	00	3F	00	40	01	4D	26	4B	00	1F	00	80	01	4D	26	E6
00000030	00	0F	00	30	01	4D	21	53	00	FF	01	00	01	4D	25	9E
00000040	00	3F	00	C0	01	4D	26	9E	00	1F	00	A0	01	4D	27	4C
00000050	00	0F	02	00	01	4D	25	3E	00	3F	02	40	01	4D	27	1D
00000060	00	0F	02	10	01	4D	26	36	00	1F	02	20	01	4D	27	69
00000070	00	0F	02	80	00	00	02	00	00	08	90	10	00	04	02	00
00000080	00	08	50	48	00	08	02	00	00	18	D0	10	00	10	02	00
00000090	00	20	60	38	00	06	02	00	00	18	50	48	00	20	02	00
000000A0	00	40	F0	00	00	18	02	00	00	40	70	28	00	14	02	00
000000B0	00	60	60	38	00	40	02	00	00	58	50	48	00	48	02	00
000000C0	00	68	D0	10	00	42	02	00	00	68	50	48	00	44	02	00
000000D0	00	78	90	30	00	50	02	00	00	78	50	48				

Notes on the lookup block:

The lookup block is a 128 word array. The lookup block is comprised of the 128 most common 2 byte pairs found in decompressed tile data (this includes the RLE byte as well) for a group of sprites . Compressed tile data that that has the bit 7 set (or, if it is greater than 0x7F) is a lookup byte. The value to look up in the table can simply be obtained by subtracting the lookup byte by 0x80. The pair of bytes obtained from the lookup table is then placed into the tile data buffer at the time of decompression, saving 1 byte in the process.

Since words are 2 byte values, the lookup index value in the compressed tile data must be multiplied by 2. For example, 0x9A - 0x80 = 0x1A. 0x1A * 2 = **0x34**



Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
005A0000	00	00	00	41	00	42	00	43	00	44	00	45	00	46	00	47
005A0010	00	48	00	49	00	4A	00	4B	00	4C	00	4D	00	7F	02	02
005A0020	02	04	02	41	02	42	03	02	03	03	04	02	04	03	04	04
005A0030	04	05	04	06	04	41	05	04	05	05	06	04	06	05	06	06
005A0040	08	04	08	08	08	09	09	00	09	04	09	08	09	09	09	0A
005A0050	09	0D	09	0E	0A	00	0A	09	0A	0A	0A	0E	0C	0C	0D	0D
005A0060	0E	0E	11	11	12	12	12	13	12	14	12	41	13	12	13	13
005A0070	13	14	13	41	14	00	14	11	14	12	14	13	14	14	14	15
005A0080	14	16	15	00	15	13	15	14	15	15	16	14	17	17	18	18
005A0090	18	1A	18	41	19	17	19	18	19	19	19	1A	19	1B	19	41
005A00A0	19	42	19	43	1A	00	1A	18	1A	19	1A	1A	1A	1B	1A	41
005A00B0	1B	00	1B	19	1B	1A	1B	1B	2B	2B	2B	2F	2C	2C	2C	2F
005A00C0	2D	2D	2D	2F	2F	00	2F	2B	2F	2C	2F	2D	2F	2F	35	35
005A00D0	35	36	36	35	36	36	36	37	37	00	37	36	37	37	41	00
005A00E0	41	04	41	09	41	0A	41	13	41	14	41	15	41	19	41	1A
005A00F0	41	1B	41	2F	42	00	42	14	42	1A	42	1B	43	00	7F	00

Decompression in action

The compressed tile data:

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	8E	8A	38	38	EC	4A	38	EB	36	89	38	EB	EB	89	38	ED
00000010	32	38	89	38	ED	32	31	89	38	37	38	31	31	89	37	41
00000020	31	31	89	37	41	31	31	89	EE	38	34	34	89	EE	38	00
00000030	A3	48	38	EE	38	00	06	88	37	41	38	A4	88	ED	37	A3
00000040	A3	44	08	07	41	ED	37	A6	07	81	08	9B	03	42	EA	38
00000050	07	41	08	07	96	45	EA	38	07	F0	03	47	EA	A5	41	03
00000060	48	EB	04	A6	3E	03	48	EB	99	97	03	48	36	38	06	07
00000070	04	3D	03	48	36	38	A0	04	3C	03	48	37	0A	9A	3C	03
00000080	46	99	38	04	42	3C	03	43	99	07	08	0B	A4	43	06	43
00000090	0E	09	41	06	A4	43	0E	42	A6	06	42	0A	9D	42	0E	F1
000000A0	06	45	0A	9D	41	B0	09	06	47	09	9D	04	A7	A5	06	46
000000B0	07	AD	05	00	A9	0E	08	06	45	08	0E	AD	AB	0E	41	08
000000C0	45	B0	A7	0E	A9	49	09	0F	0F	A7	A9	48	09	0F	0F	09
000000D0	9F	A7	0E	45	A9	0F	0F	04	A2	09	06	AB	A7	42	0E	0A
000000E0	0F	0B	04	42	A6	0D	42	A9	0A	0F	0F	0B	14	9A	A8	44
000000F0	09	0F	41	0B	11	BE	9E	41	06	0D	42	09	0F	AA	11	F4
00000100	04	42	05	0D	F1	AA	00	11	41	B4	04	42	06	AF	A3	41
00000110	11	13	11	B4	04	42	05	AF	A3	F3	B1	B2	14	9A	05	AF
00000120	A3	41	B1	B5	14	9A	05	0D	A3	42	15	B2	B6	14	97	05
00000130	06	08	83	12	15	12	15	B4	9C	06	08	84	11	12	C4	B4
00000140	A1	A3	45	11	12	15	B2	BA	47	BB	12	16	C4	86	BC	F5

- The first byte is 0x8E. Since 0x8E is a byte with bit 7 set (or greater than 0x80), it is a reference to the lookup index. 0x8E - 0x80 = 0x0E. 0x0E * 2 = **0x1C**. 0x1C in the lookup table is 0x04 0x7F
    - 0x00 is less than 0x80 and less than 0x40. It is a real byte. 0x00 at this time is the last real byte

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	00															

    - 0x7F is an RLE byte, as bit 7 is not set and 8 is set (or, it is less than 0x40). 0x7F - 0x40 = 0x3F. Since the last real byte is 0x00, we fill the buffer at its current position 0x3F (or 63) times.

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000010	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

- The next byte is 0x8A. Another lookup byte. 0x8A - 0x80 = 0x0A. 0x0A * 2 = **0x14**. 0x14 in the lookup table is 0x00 0x4A
    - 0x00 is another real byte. Our last real byte is set to 0x00

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000010	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000040	00															

- 0x4A is an RLE byte. 0x4A - 0x40 = 0x0A. Repeat the last real byte 0x0A times (or 10)

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000010	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000040	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00					

- The next byte is 0x38. 0x38 is a Real byte.
- The next byte is another real byte, 0x38

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000010	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000040	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	38	38			

- The next byte is 0xEC. 0xEC is a Lookup byte. 0xEC - 0x80 = 0x6C. 0x6C * 2 = **0xD8**. 0xD8 in the lookup table is 0x37 0x00. These are both real bytes, with 0x00 being the last real byte.

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000010	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000040	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	38	38	37	00	

- The next byte is 0x4A. 0x4A is an RLE byte. 0x4A - 0x40 = 0x0A. Since the last real byte is 0x00, it is repeated 0x0A times (or 10)

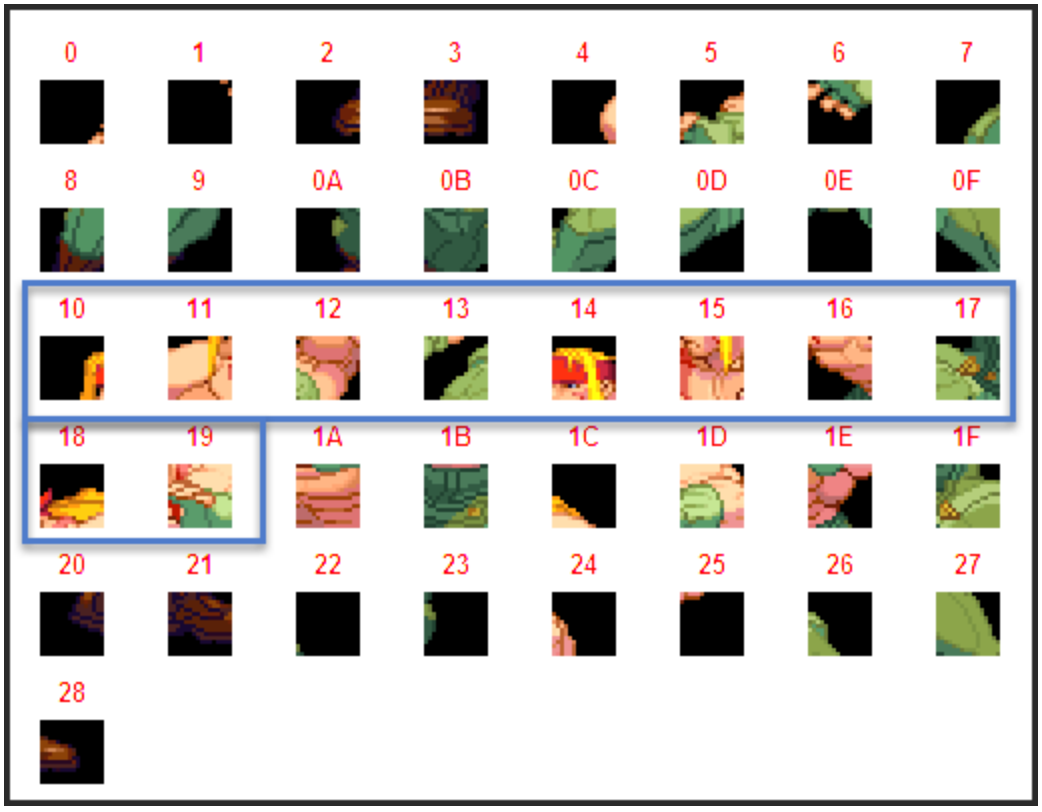
Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000010	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00000040	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	38	38	37	00	00
00000050	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00							

Repeat the process of decompression until the buffer is filled up to the real length.

Tile data placement

In our tile data definition, it is actually placed in the CRam buffer at a different position. Remember, the real CRam size is 0x2900 and the size of a tile is 0x100 bytes (or 256 bytes). That gives us 0x29 (or 41) tile slots. For simplicity's sake, we will use the first two bytes of the word to reference which slot we're using.

The Start Position in CRam value is 0x100 in the tile data definition. It's real position can be obtained by multiplying the value by 0x10, which results to 0x1000. Slot # 10 is where the data is placed. Since the real length is 0x1000 as well, it will fill up 10 slots.



Tile Group Formation

Let's go by the first definition we see here:

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00000000	80	00	00	52	00	0D	00	0D	01	4D	00	00	01	4D	26	29
00000010	00	1F	00	00	01	4D	21	3B	00	0F	00	20	01	4D	24	C2
00000020	00	3F	00	40	01	4D	26	4B	00	1F	00	80	01	4D	26	E6
00000030	00	0F	00	30	01	4D	21	53	00	FF	01	00	01	4D	25	9E
00000040	00	3F	00	C0	01	4D	26	9E	00	1F	00	A0	01	4D	27	4C
00000050	00	0F	02	00	01	4D	25	3E	00	3F	02	40	01	4D	27	1D
00000060	00	0F	02	10	01	4D	26	36	00	1F	02	20	01	4D	27	69
00000070	00	0F	02	80	00	00	02	00	00	08	90	10	00	04	02	00
00000080	00	08	50	48	00	08	02	00	00	18	D0	10	00	10	02	00
00000090	00	20	60	38	00	06	02	00	00	18	50	48	00	20	02	00
000000A0	00	40	F0	00	00	18	02	00	00	40	70	28	00	14	02	00
000000B0	00	60	60	38	00	40	02	00	00	58	50	48	00	48	02	00
000000C0	00	68	D0	10	00	42	02	00	00	68	50	48	00	44	02	00
000000D0	00	78	90	30	00	50	02	00	00	78	50	48				

If you go back to refer how the values of the groups are pulled, you will determine that the sequence of bytes highlighted in blue consist of the following (ignoring most 0 values):

Tile Start Offset in CRam: 00
Group X Offset: 8
Group Y Offset: 10
Number of Tiles X: 1
Number of Tiles Y: 2