

1 The HASP-HL Crack Solution

HASP-HL is the current protection hardware by Aladdin Knowledge Systems. This document explains how to crack and bypass the security of HASP-HL – “their so-called Next Generation of Software Protection”.

2 HASP-HL Envelope

The envelope encryption is done via a graphical user interface as shown in Figure 1. The encryption options are set by default to provide a high level of security. The selection of additional options (more encryption /anti debug modules, detection of user mode and system mode debuggers) has no influence on the analysis and mainly increases the size of the resulting executable and the startup time. Within the analysis there are no noticeable effects of these additional settings.

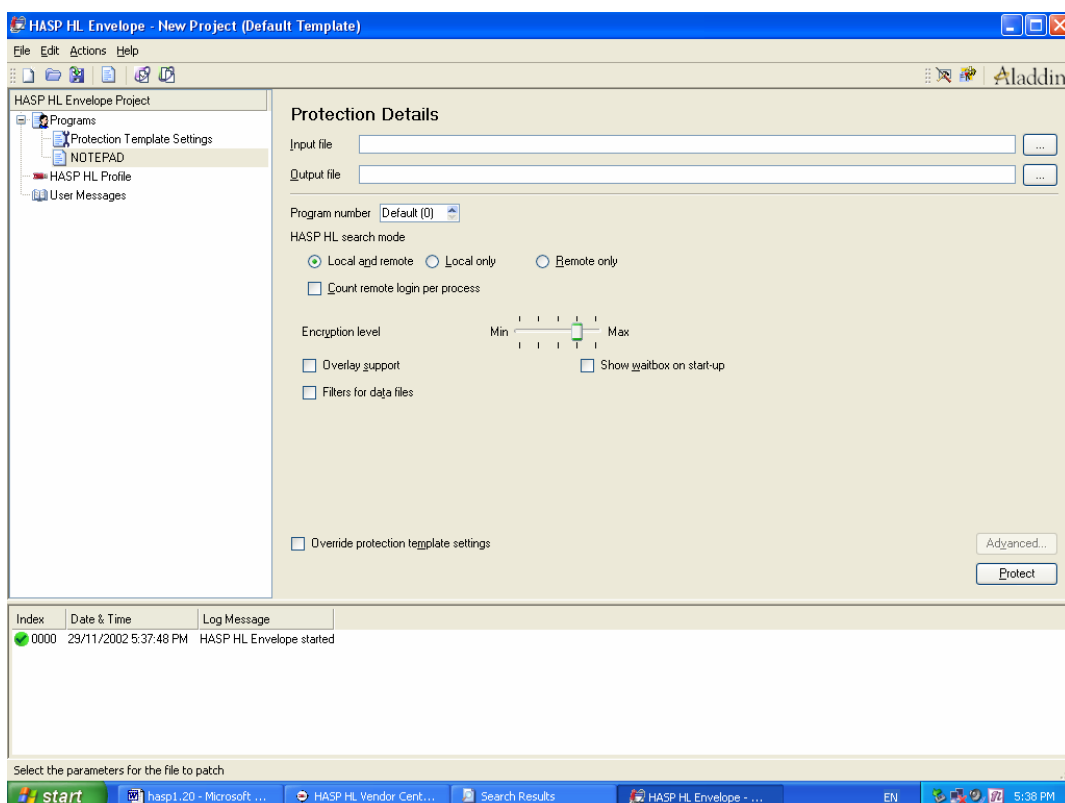


Figure 1 Automatic encryption window of HASP-HL

The Encryption itself encrypts code and data. Resources are not encrypted even if the resource section is included in the list of sections to be encrypted. The Import Address Table (IAT) is encrypted and some APIs are redirected to the security engine (see also the detailed list of the redirected 633 APIs in the appendix). For the runtime check a separate thread is initiated. Anti debugging measures are in place which are mainly active at program startup time. Once the Security engine has decrypted the program it can be dumped to disk. After the IAT of the dump is restored and the program is reset to the Original Entry Point (OEP) the executable can be run without the HASP-HL.

2.1 Locating the Original Entry Point (OEP)

The OEP can be located using the standard hacker tool OllyDbg. Due to anti-debug measures some hardening of the debugger is required.

2.1.1 Installing OllyDbg and the necessary plugins

OllyDbg is copied into a separate directory. There is no dedicated installation necessary. OllyDbg can be obtained from various websites including the homepage of OllyDbg:

<http://www.ollydbg.de/>

The current version 1.10 is the preferred version.

To analyze HASP-HL it is necessary to install two plugins into OllyDbg: IsDebuggerPresent and OllyDump. These plugins are available from:

<http://ollydbg.win32asmcommunity.net/stuph/>

The plugins are simply copied into the same directory as OllyDbg.

2.1.2 Hardening OllyDbg

OllyDbg will be recognized by one of the several text references to OllyDbg inside the code. The usual way to evade this kind of debugger detection is to replace all occurrences of the string OllyDbg inside the executable to something else with the same length. Also the filename of the executable should be changed to this alternate name. Due to the structure of the plugins it is necessary to keep an original copy of OllyDbg in the same directory as the modified version. The string replacement can be done with any usual hex-editor.

2.1.3 Setting the options

Start the hardened OllyDbg (here for simplicity still referenced as OllyDbg) and choose from the menu Options / Debugging Options. In the options dialog select the SFX-tab and select "Extend code section to include extractor", "Stop at entry of self-extractor", and "Pass exceptions to SFX extractor" as shown in Figure 2.

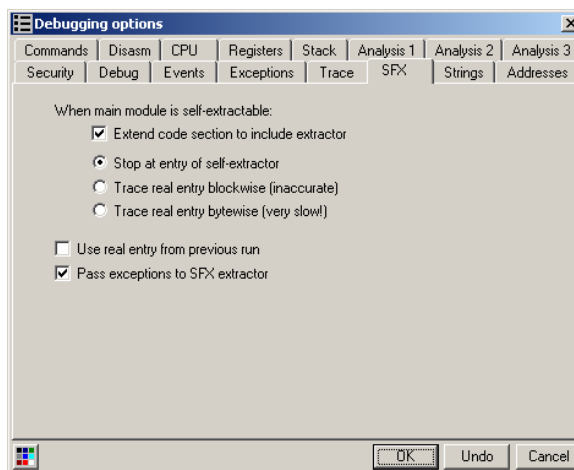


Figure 2: OllyDbg SFX Dialog

As shown in Figure 3, in the tab Exceptions select mostly everything that can be selected. This will disarm some anti-debugging involving illegal opcodes, illegal memory accesses, and some more.

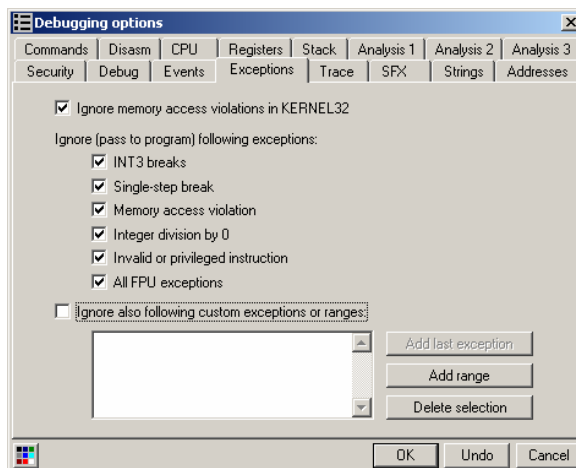


Figure 3: OllyDbg Exceptions Dialog

2.1.4 Tracing the OEP

Now load the protected application into the debugger using the File / Open from the menu. Be sure to have the original HASP-HL dongle attached to the computer when loading the program. After a short analysis and two warnings about encrypted programs etc. the debugger should halt on the entry point of the application. Turn on the debugger hiding by selecting "Plugins / IsDebuggerPresent / Hide". Alternatively you can set the "autohide" in Options Menu of the IsDebuggerPresent plugin. Switch to the hexdump section and go to the address of "ExitProcess" in Kernel32. To go to this Address use "<Ctrl> G" or the context menu. The entered Address is case sensitive. Select left topmost byte with the left mouse button. Then set a hardware breakpoint by clicking right, choosing "Breakpoint / Hardware on write / Byte". Now run the program using <F9> until it hits the breakpoint. Switch to the memory window by hitting "<Alt> M" or selection "View / Memory" from the menu and highlight the code section (usually named "text") of the protected program by left clicking it. Set a breakpoint on the section with <F2>. Your screen should look somewhat like Figure 4.

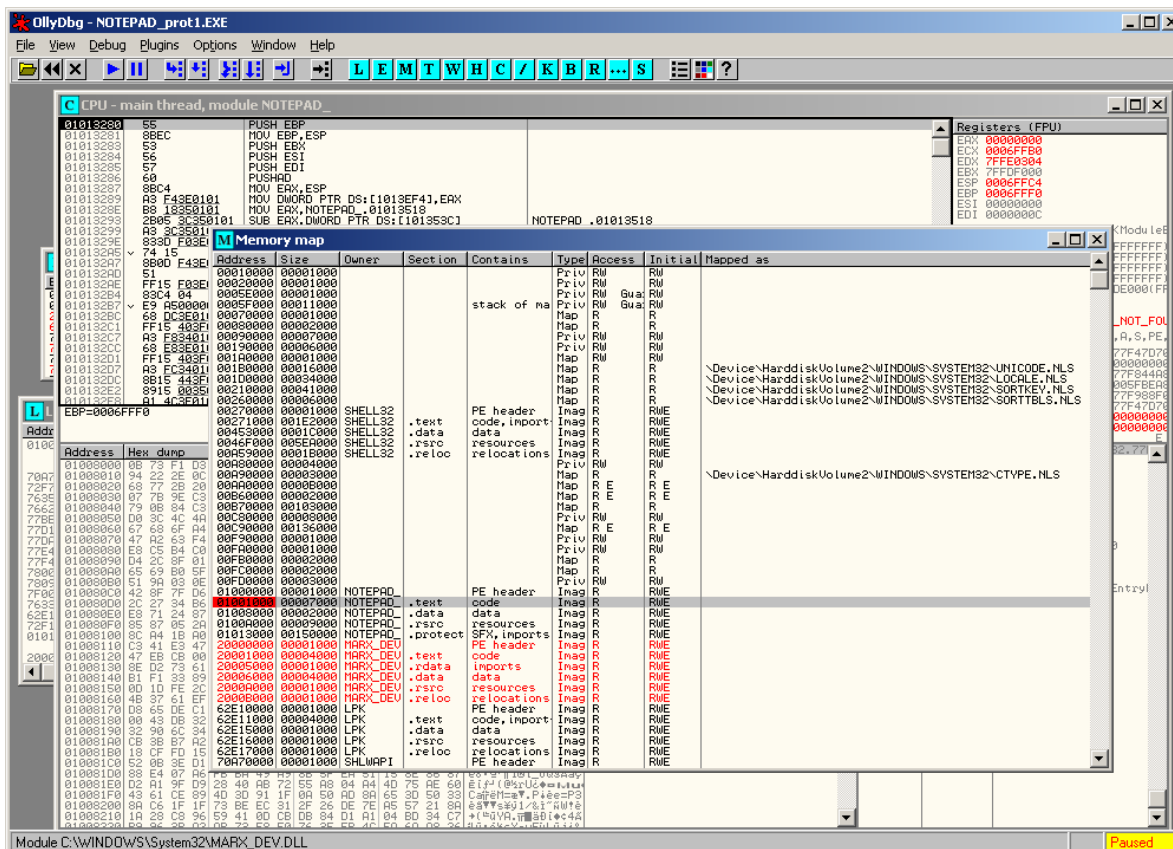
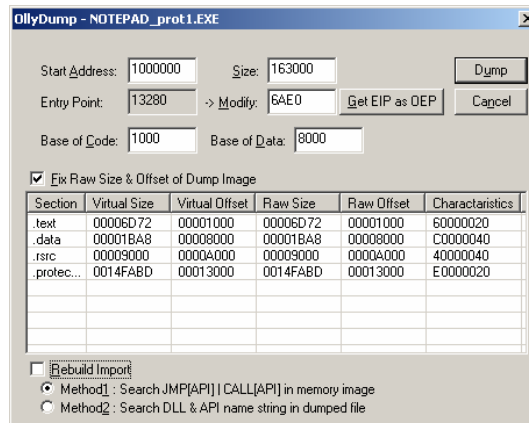


Figure 4: OllyDbg with Breakpoint on code section

If you <F9> (Run) now the Debugger will put the program at the Original Entry Point (OEP). To get the relative entry point from the module start the module base (address of PE header) from the “Memory” window has to be subtracted. In this case 1,000,000. This OEP is needed in the next steps. Please leave the window open as it is still needed for the dump.

2.2 Dumping the Executable

Once the program is halted at the Original Entry Point (OEP) the program can be dumped to disk. To do this click right into the disassembler window and select “Dump debugged process”. A dialog pops up in which you can save the program to disk. Please uncheck the “Rebuild Import” checkbox as this will not work correctly in this case. The entry point should be set automatically to the correct OEP. Otherwise please correct. The other setting should not be changed from the default values.



2.3 Rebuilding the Executable

To rebuild the executable it is necessary to create a new Import Address Table (IAT). The original table has been destroyed by the encryptor and the links are rebuilt in real-time by the startup code of the protection engine. The rebuilding process can be managed using another standard hacker tool (Import Reconstructor, ImpRec).

2.3.1 Installing ImpRec

ImpRec can be obtained from a number of pages including

<http://wave.prohosting.com/mack/!projects/imprec/ucfir16f.zip>

ImpRec does not require a dedicated installation. To install it copy it into an appropriate directory.

Be sure to select the Option “Fix EP to OEP” in the options menu (Figure 5)

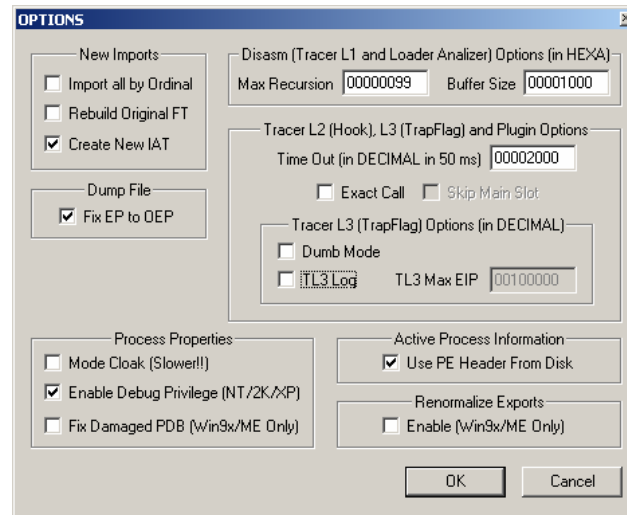


Figure 5: ImRec Options Menu

2.3.2 Rebuilding the IAT

Start the protected application. Once it is running start ImpRec. If ImpRec is running at program startup it will be detected as a Debugger. Do not forget to connect the dongle.

Attach ImpRec to the running process by selecting the correct entry in the drop down list.

Enter the OEP calculated above and hit the button "IAT AutoSearch". The button "Get Imports" delivers the list of imported APIs with still some entries invalid. To see the invalid entries hit the button "Show Invalid". This should result in a list similar to the list below (Figure 6) with some entries (in this case 74) are highlighted. As the following process might involve some iterations hit the "Save Tree" and store the results found so far in a text file. After restarting ImpRec and re-attaching to the executable this file can be loaded using "Load Tree".

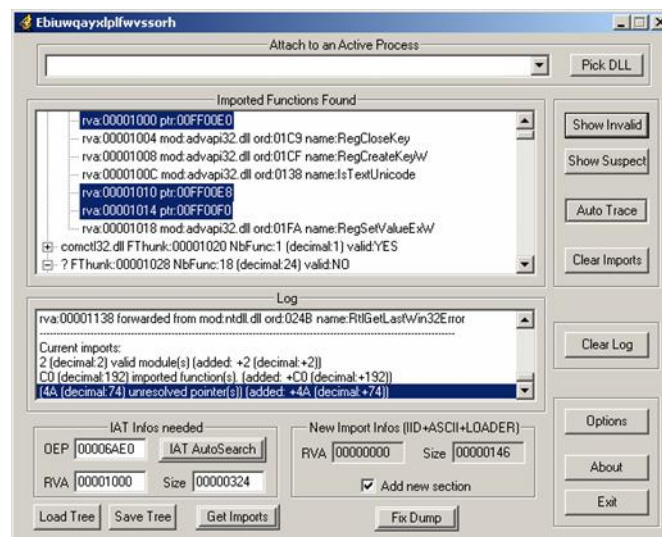


Figure 6: ImpRec invalid entries

Now right click on an invalid API and select "Trace Level3 (Trap Flag)". ImpRec should now resolve the invalid APIs one by one. Eventually the protected application will terminate or ImpRec is "unable to initialize the tracer". In this case save the tree again, exit ImpRec, restart the application, restart ImpRec, Attach to the process, load the tree, hit "Show Invalid", and manually deselect the first invalid entry (<Ctrl> <left click>) to stop ImpRec from resolving this entry again. If you have to restart multiply, you should successively deselect all problematic entries. With HASP-HL 1.20 there should be a maximum of 3 different problematic entries (out of several hundred redirected entries). The problematic entries are:

1. GetVersion
2. GetProcAddress

3. ExitProcess

2.3.3 Resolving the problematic 3 entries

Resolving these three entries requires either a little trial and error or a short debugging session. For the invalid entries ImpRec offers the Address to which the API has been redirected. In the example below (Figure 7) it would be the address "011D368". In a new debugger session (the old one will be detected as a debugger session because of the long delay) the address should be entered as a hardware breakpoint by calling <Ctrl G> in the disassembler window and then setting a hardware breakpoint on execution using a right click. A hardware breakpoint is needed here as the code has still to be decrypted. If a breakpoint occurs a short inspection reveals the correct entry. "GetVersion" is usually called at the beginning.

"GetProcAddress" has the Address of an API and a module handle on the stack (lower right in the CPU windows, see Figure 8, were the entry "RegisterPenApp" and a reference to kernel32 is passed on the stack). "ExitProcess" is called to terminate the program. In Delphi-applications some of these APIs can be referenced multiply. If all APIs have been identified they can be entered in ImpRec by double clicking the respective invalid API. A list of possible APIs pops up and the correct one can be selected (see Figure 9). This leads to a completed import tree.

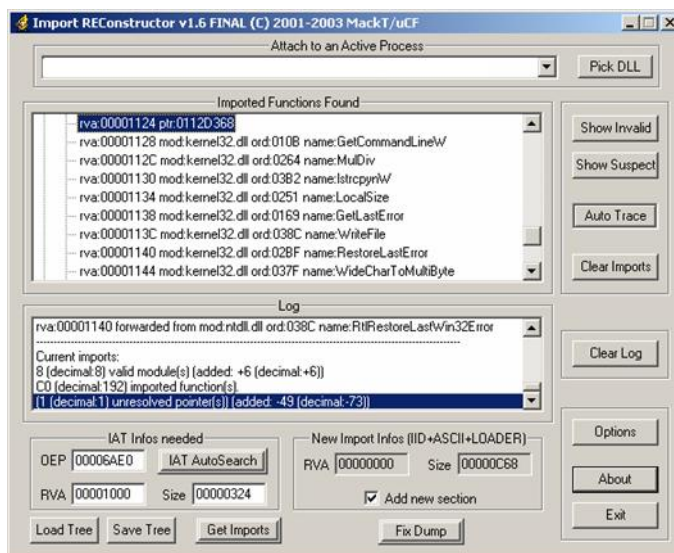


Figure 7: Address of redirected function

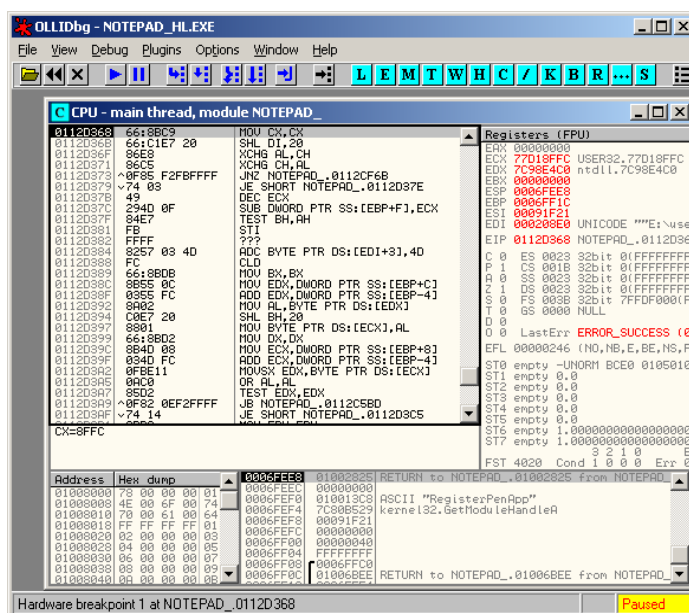


Figure 8: Resolving additional APIs

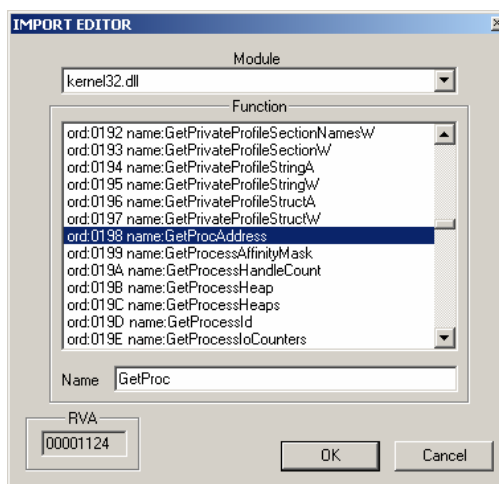


Figure 9: Selecting a resolved API

2.3.4 Fixing the executable

After all invalid entries have been fixed the dump can be adjusted to contain the correct OEP and a correct IAT. To fix the executable it is positively necessary to have ImpRec attached to the running program. Again due to debugger detection ImpRec has to be started after the protected program. If necessary load the completed tree file. Now hit the button “FixDump” and select the dump created in step 2.2 using OllyDebug. The new executable will contain an appended underscore and should be able to be run without a HASP-HL dongle.

3 Conclusion

The automatic protection by HASP-HL from Aladdin knowledge systems provides a limited protection that can be removed with some experience and prior knowledge within a few minutes of time. If no dongle is available a restoration is not possible due to the encryption. The large number of redirected APIs (up to several hundred) and the considerable number of anti-debugging modules (50) seems to provide absolutely no security. Even after a closer look the purpose of the anti-debugging modules is unclear as they show no effect at all. The large number of redirects can be reduced to 3 by use of automatic tools. Here too the reason for the large number remains unclear as it has no effect on the security.

4 Appendices

4.1 List of redirected APIs

Some APIs that are redirected by HASP-HL 1.20 are identified and are listed here for completeness

4.1.1 Kernel32.dll

kernel32.dll, WriteTapemark, WriteProcessMemory, WritePrivateProfileStructW, WritePrivateProfileStructA, WritePrivateProfileStringW, WritePrivateProfileStringA, WriteFileEx, WriteFile, WriteConsoleOutputW, WriteConsoleOutputCharacter, WriteConsoleOutputAttribute, WinExec, WideCharToMultiByte, WaitNamedPipeW, WaitNamedPipeA, WaitForDebugEvent, WaitCommEvent, VirtualUnlock, VirtualQueryEx, VirtualQuery, VirtualProtectEx, VirtualProtect, VirtualLock, VirtualFreeEx, VirtualFree, VirtualAlloc, VerifyVersionInfoA, VerSetConditionMask, VerLanguageNameA, UpdateResourceW, UpdateResourceA, UnlockFileEx, UnlockFile, TransmitCommChar, SystemTimeToFileTime, SuspendThread, SetupComm, SetWaitableTimer, SetVolumeLabelA, SetThreadPriorityBoost, SetThreadPriority, SetThreadExecutionState, SetThreadAffinityMask, SetTapePosition, SetTapeParameters, SetSystemTimeAdjustment, SetSystemTime, SetStdHandle, SetProcessWorkingSetSize, SetProcessPriorityBoost, SetPriorityClass, SetNamedPipeHandleState, SetMailslotInfo, SetLocaleInfoA, SetLocalTime, RestoreLastError, SetHandleInformation,

SetFirmwareEnvironmentVaria, SetFileValidData, SetFileTime, SetFileShortNameW, SetFilePointerEx, SetFilePointer, SetFileAttributesW, SetErrorMode, SetEnvironmentVariableW, SetEnvironmentVariableA, SetEndOfFile, SetCurrentDirectoryW, SetComputerNameW, SetComputerNameA, SetCommTimeouts, SetCommState, SetCommMask, SetCommConfig, SearchPathW, SearchPathA, ScrollConsoleScreenBufferW, ScrollConsoleScreenBufferA, ResumeThread, ResetWriteWatch, RemoveDirectoryW, ReadProcessMemory, ReadFileEx, ReadDirectoryChangesW, ReadConsoleW, ReadConsoleOutputW, ReadConsoleOutputCharacterW, ReadConsoleOutputAttribute, ReadConsoleOutputA, ReadConsoleA, RaiseException, QueueUserAPC, QueryPerformanceFrequency, QueryPerformanceCounter, QueryDosDeviceA, QueryDepthSList, PurgeComm, ProcessIdToSessionId, PrepareTape, OutputDebugStringW, OpenWaitableTimerW, OpenWaitableTimerA, OpenThread, OpenSemaphoreW, OpenSemaphoreA, OpenProcess, OpenMutexW, OpenMutexA, OpenFileMappingW, OpenFileMappingA, OpenEventW, OpenEventA, MultiByteToWideChar, MapViewOfFileEx, MapViewOfFile, LockFileEx, LockFile, LocalReAlloc, LocalLock, LocalFree, LocalAlloc, LCMapStringW, LCMapStringA, IsValidLocale, HeapWalk, HeapValidate, HeapUnlock, HeapSize, HeapSetInformation, HeapReAlloc, HeapQueryInformation, HeapLock, HeapFree, HeapDestroy, HeapCreate, HeapCompact, HeapAlloc, GlobalWire, GlobalUnfix, GlobalUnWire, GlobalMemoryStatusEx, GlobalMemoryStatus, GlobalFix, GetWriteWatch, GetVersionExA, GetVersion, GetUserGeoID, GetUserDefaultLCID, GetTimeFormatW, GetTimeFormatA, GetThreadTimes, GetThreadSelectorEntry, GetThreadPriorityBoost, GetThreadPriority, _hwrite, GetTempPathA, GetTempFileNameW, GetTempFileNameA, GetTapePosition, GetTapeParameters, GetSystemWindowsDirectoryA, GetSystemTimeAdjustment, GetSystemTime, GetSystemPowerStatus, GetSystemInfo, GetSystemDirectoryA, GetStringTypeExW, GetStringTypeExA, GetStringTypeA, GetQueuedCompletionStatus, GetProfileStringW, GetProfileStringA, GetProcessWorkingSetSize, GetProcessTimes, GetProcessPriorityBoost, GetProcessId, GetProcessHeaps, GetProcessAffinityMask, GetProcAddress, GetPrivateProfileStructW, GetPrivateProfileStructA, GetPrivateProfileStringW, GetPrivateProfileStringA, GetPrivateProfileSectionW, GetPrivateProfileSectionA, GetPrivateProfileIntW, GetPrivateProfileIntA, GetPriorityClass, GetNumberFormatA, GetNumaHighestNodeNumber, GetNamedPipeInfo, GetNamedPipeHandleStateW, GetNamedPipeHandleStateA, GetModuleHandleW, GetModuleFileNameA, GetMailslotInfo, GetLogicalDrives, GetLogicalDriveStringsW, GetLogicalDriveStringsA, GetLocaleInfoA, GetLocalTime, GetHandleInformation, GetFullPathNameA, GetFirmwareEnvironmentVaria, GetFileType, GetFileTime, GetFileSizeEx, GetFileSize, GetFileAttributesW, GetFileAttributesExW, GetExitCodeThread, GetExitCodeProcess, GetEnvironmentVariableW, GetEnvironmentVariableA, GetEnvironmentStrings, GetDriveTypeW, GetDiskFreeSpaceW, GetDiskFreeSpaceExW, GetDiskFreeSpaceExA, GetDiskFreeSpaceA, GetDevicePowerState, GetDateFormatW, GetDateFormatA, GetCurrencyFormatW, GetCurrencyFormatA, GetComputerNameW, GetComputerNameA, GetCompressedFileSizeW, GetCommTimeouts, GetCommState, GetCommProperties, GetCommModemStatus, GetCommMask, GetCommConfig, GetCPInfoExA, GetBinaryType, FormatMessageW, FormatMessageA, FoldStringW, FoldStringA, FlushViewOfFile, FlushInstructionCache, FlushFileBuffers, FindNextFileA, FindFirstFileExW, FindFirstFileExA, FindFirstFileA, FindFirstChangeNotification, FillConsoleOutputCharacterW, FillConsoleOutputAttribute, FileTimeToSystemTime, FileTimeToDosDateTime, FatalAppExitW, FatalAppExitA, ExpandEnvironmentStringsW, ExpandEnvironmentStringsA, ExitProcess, EscapeCommFunction, EraseTape, EndUpdateResourceW, DosDateTimeToFileTime, DisconnectNamedPipe, DeleteFileW, DeleteFiber, DefineDosDeviceW, DefineDosDeviceA, DebugSetProcessKillOnExit, CreateWaitableTimerA, CreateThread, CreateTapePartition, CreateSemaphoreW, CreateSemaphoreA, CreateProcessW, CreateProcessA, CreatePipe, CreateNamedPipeW, CreateNamedPipeA, CreateMutexW, CreateMutexA, CreateMailslotW, CreateMailslotA, CreateIoCompletionPort, CreateFileW, CreateFileMappingW, CreateFileMappingA, CreateFileA, CreateFiberEx, CreateEventW, CreateEventA, CreateDirectoryW, CreateDirectoryExA, CopyFileExA, CopyFileA, ContinueDebugEvent, ConnectNamedPipe, CompareStringW, CompareStringA, ClearCommError, CancellIo, CallNamedPipeA, BuildCommDCBW, BuildCommDCBAAndTimeoutsW, BuildCommDCBA, BeginUpdateResourceW, BeginUpdateResourceA, Beep, BackupWrite, BackupSeek, BackupRead, _hread, _hwrite, lstrcmapi, CreateWaitableTimerW

4.1.2 User32.dll

IsCharAlphaW, IsCharAlphaNumericW, IsCharAlphaNumericA, IsCharAlphaA, InsertMenuW, InsertMenuItemW, InsertMenuItemA, InsertMenuA, GrayStringW, GrayStringA, GetWindowThreadProcessId, GetUserObjectSecurity, GetUserObjectInformationA, GetThreadDesktop, GetTabbedTextExtentW, GetTabbedTextExtentA, GetMessageW, GetMessageA, GetMenuStringW,

GetMenuStringA, GetMenuItemInfoW, GetMenuItemInfoA, GetKeyboardType, GetKeyboardLayoutNameW, GetDlgItemTextW, GetClipboardData, GetClassNameW, GetClassInfoW, GetClassInfoExW, GetClassInfoExA, GetClassInfoA, FillRect, ExitWindowsEx, EnableMenuItem, DrawTextW, DrawTextExW, DrawTextExA, DrawTextA, DrawStateW, DrawStateA, DrawIconEx, DrawEdge, DlgDirSelectExA, DlgDirSelectComboBoxExA, DlgDirListW, DlgDirListComboBoxW, DialogBoxParamW, DialogBoxParamA, DialogBoxIndirectParamW, DialogBoxIndirectParamA, DefFrameProcW, DefFrameProcA, CreateWindowStationW, CreateWindowStationA, CreateWindowExW, CreateWindowExA, CreateMDIWindowW, CreateMDIWindowA, CreateIconFromResourceEx, CreateIcon, CreateDialogParamW, CreateDialogParamA, CreateDialogIndirectParamW, CreateDialogIndirectParamA, CreateDesktopW, CreateDesktopA, CreateCursor, CopyImage, CopyIcon, CheckMenuRadioItem, CheckMenuItem, CharUpperW, CharUpperBuffA, CharUpperA, CharToOemBuffW, IsCharUpperA, CharPrevW, CharPrevExA, CharPrevA, CharNextW, CharLowerW, CharLowerBuffA, CharLowerA, ChangeMenuW, ChangeMenuA, IsCharLowerA, ChangeDisplaySettingsExA, CascadeWindows, CallWindowProcW, CallWindowProcA, CallNextHookEx, CallMsgFilterW, CallMsgFilter, BroadcastSystemMessageW, BroadcastSystemMessage, AppendMenuW, AppendMenuA, MessageBoxExW, MessageBoxIndirectA, MessageBoxIndirectW, ModifyMenuA, ModifyMenuW, MsgWaitForMultipleObjects, MsgWaitForMultipleObjectsEx, OemToCharBuffW, OpenClipboard, OpenDesktopA, OpenDesktopW, OpenWindowStationA, OpenWindowStationW, PeekMessageA, PeekMessageW, PostMessageA, PostMessageW, PostThreadMessageA, RegisterClassA, RegisterClassW, RegisterClipboardFormatA, RegisterClipboardFormatW, RegisterClipboardFormatA, RegisterClipboardFormatW, RemovePropA, RemovePropW, ScrollDC, ScrollWindow, ScrollWindowEx, SendDlgItemMessageA, SendDlgItemMessageW, SendMessageA, SendMessageCallbackA, SendMessageCallbackW, SendMessageTimeoutA, SendMessageTimeoutW, SendMessageW, SendNotifyMessageA, SendNotifyMessageW, SetClassLongA, SetClassLongW, SetClipboardData, SetDlgItemInt, SetMenuItemBitmaps, SetMenuItemInfoA, SetMenuItemInfoW, SetPropA, SetPropW, SetRect, SetScrollPos, SetScrollRange, SubtractRect, TabbedTextOutA, TabbedTextOutW, TileWindows, ToAscii, ToAsciiEx, ToUnicode, ToUnicodeEx, TrackPopupMenu, UnionRect, UnregisterClassA, UnregisterClassW, VkKeyScanA, VkKeyScanExA, WaitForInputIdle, WinHelpA, WinHelpW, keybd_event, mouse_event, wvsprintfA, wvsprintfW, IsCharUpperW, IsDialogMessageW, LoadBitmapA, LoadCursorA, LoadCursorFromFileA, LoadIconA, LoadImageA, LoadImageW, LoadKeyboardLayoutA, LoadMenuIndirectA, LoadMenuIndirectA, ChangeDisplaySettingsExW, IsCharLowerW, LoadStringA, LookupIconIdFromDirectoryEx, MapVirtualKeyExA, MessageBoxExA

4.1.3 Advapi32.dll

SetFileSecurityW, SetFileSecurityA, RevertToSelf, RegisterEventSourceW, RegisterEventSourceA, RegUnLoadKeyW, RegUnLoadKeyA, RegSetValueW, RegSetValueA, RegSetKeySecurity, RegSaveKeyW, RegSaveKeyExW, RegSaveKeyExA, RegSaveKeyA, RegRestoreKeyW, RegRestoreKeyA, RegReplaceKeyW, RegReplaceKeyA, RegQueryValueW, RegQueryValueExW, RegQueryValueExA, RegQueryValueA, RegQueryMultipleValuesW, RegQueryMultipleValuesA, RegQueryInfoKeyW, RegQueryInfoKeyA, RegOpenUserClassesRoot, RegOpenKeyExW, RegOpenKeyExA, RegNotifyChangeKeyValue, RegLoadKeyW, RegLoadKeyA, RegGetKeySecurity, RegFlushKey, RegEnumValueW, RegEnumValueA, RegEnumKeyW, RegEnumKeyExW, RegEnumKeyExA, RegEnumKeyA, RegDeleteValueW, RegDeleteValueA, RegDeleteKeyW, RegDeleteKeyA, RegCreateKeyExW, RegCreateKeyExA, RegCreateKeyA, RegConnectRegistryW, RegConnectRegistryA, ReadEventLogW, ReadEventLogA, PrivilegedServiceAuditAlarm, PrivilegeCheck, OpenEventLogW, OpenEventLogA, OpenEncryptedFileRawA, OpenBackupEventLogW, OpenBackupEventLogA, ObjectPrivilegeAuditAlarmW, ObjectPrivilegeAuditAlarmA, ObjectOpenAuditAlarmW, ObjectOpenAuditAlarmA, ObjectDeleteAuditAlarmW, ObjectDeleteAuditAlarmA, ObjectCloseAuditAlarmW, ObjectCloseAuditAlarmA, MakeAbsoluteSD, LookupPrivilegeValueW, LookupPrivilegeValueA, LookupPrivilegeNameW, LookupPrivilegeNameA, LookupPrivilegeDisplayNameW, LookupAccountSidW, LookupAccountSidA, LookupAccountNameW, LookupAccountNameA, LogonUserW, LogonUserExW, LogonUserExA, LogonUserA, IsTokenUntrusted, IsTokenRestricted, InitiateSystemShutdownW, InitiateSystemShutdownExW, InitiateSystemShutdownExA, InitiateSystemShutdownA, ImpersonateNamedPipeClient, ImpersonateLoggedOnUser, GetTokenInformation, GetSecurityDescriptorSacl, GetSecurityDescriptorOwner, GetSecurityDescriptorGroup, GetSecurityDescriptorDacl, GetPrivateObjectSecurity, GetKernelObjectSecurity, GetFileSecurityW, GetFileSecurityA, GetEventLogInformation,

AbortSystemShutdownA, AccessCheck, AccessCheckAndAuditAlarmA, AccessCheckAndAuditAlarmW, AddAce, AddAuditAccessAce, AdjustTokenGroups, AdjustTokenPrivileges, AllocateAndInitializeSid, BackupEventLogA, BackupEventLogW, CheckTokenMembership, ClearEventLogA, ClearEventLogW, CreatePrivateObjectSecurity, CreateProcessAsUserW, FileEncryptionStatusA, EncryptFileA, DuplicateTokenEx, DecryptFileA, CreateRestrictedToken