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Cryptography and Network Security

Finding Passwords in executables using GDB
[Architecture : x64]

1. Cracking simple password checker using strcmp
2. Cracking the hashed passwords

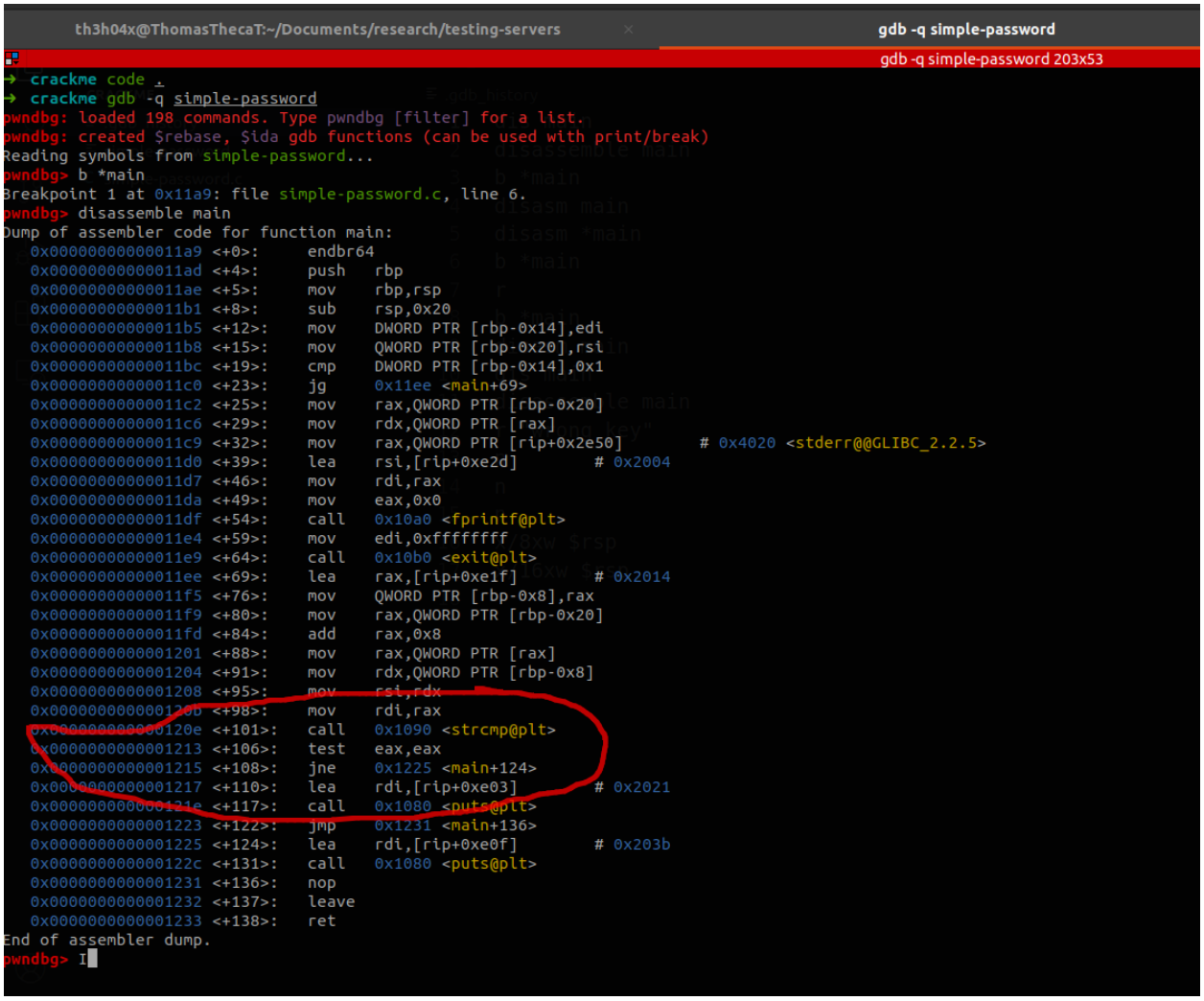
Cracking simple password checker using strcmp

C Code :

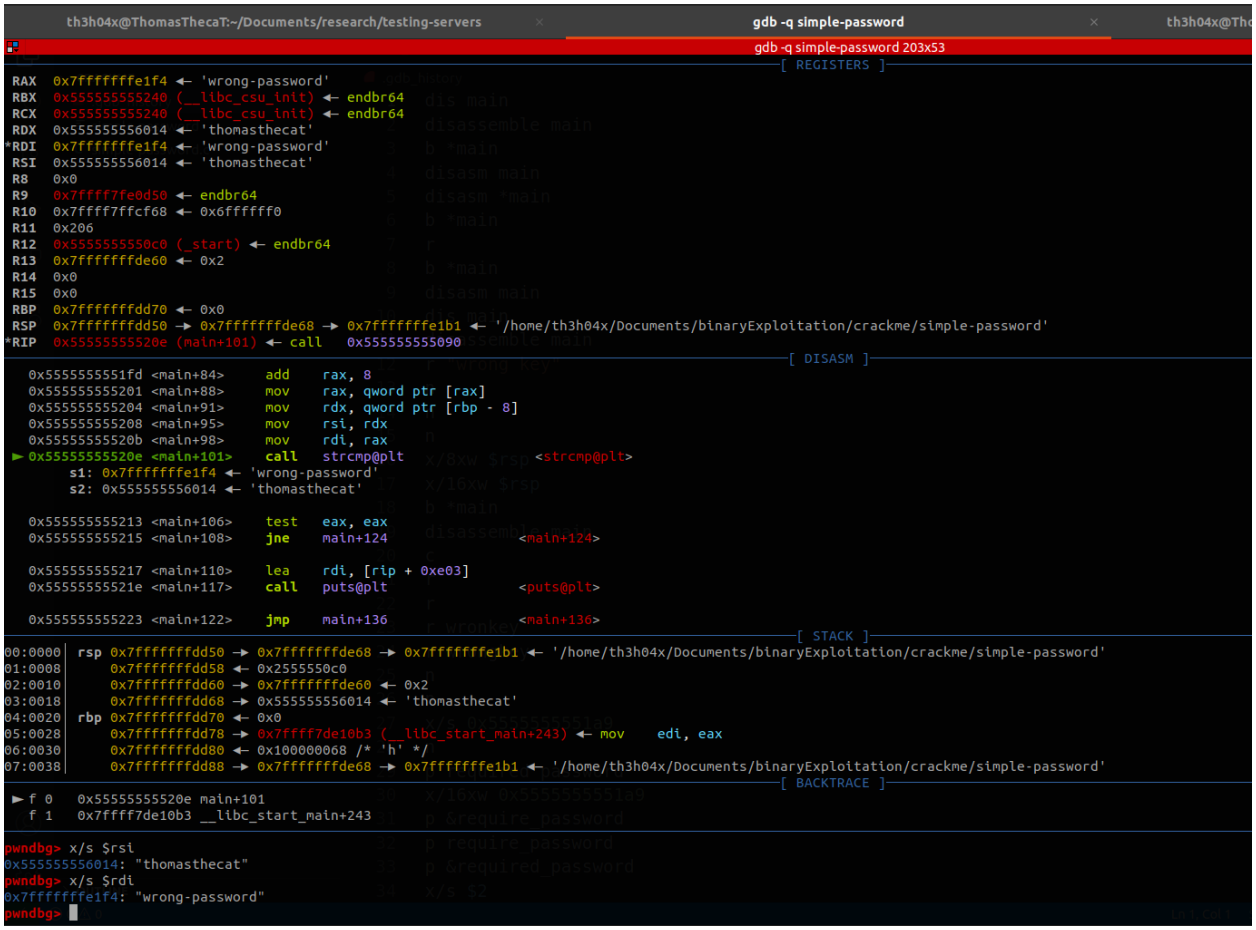
```c
#include<stdio.h>
#include<string.h>
#include<stdlib.h>


void main(int argc , char **argv){
   if(argc < 2){
       fprintf(stderr , "%s <Password> \n" , argv[0]);
       exit(-1);
   }

   char * required_password = "thomasthecat" ;

   if(strcmp(argv[1] , required_password) == 0){
       printf("Hurrah , You cracked it !\n");
   }
   else
       printf("Aaaahh You failed : ( \n") ;

}
```

Cracking the password using GDB(pwndbg plugin):

Disassemble the main and we can see the strcmp is used to compare the password



Before Calling the strcmp function the base address of the passed argument and the comparing password is moved into the rdi and rsi register . By examining the string we can see that the password is “thomasthecat”($rsi) and our custom input “wrong-password”($rdi) .



1. The user passed arg is at 0x7fffffffe1f4
2. The password is at 0x555555556014

In gdb , we can directly set the rsi register which currently points to “thomas thecat” to our custom input by using the set command . Thus the strcmp check passes and we successfully cracked the executable .

The password is “thomasthecat” , which can also be passed directly via the cmdline args .

```
pwndbg> set $rsi = 0x7fffffffe1f4
LEGEND: STACK | HEAP | CODE | DATA | RWX | RODATA
[ REGISTERS ]
 RAX  0x7fffffffe1f4 ◂— 'wrong-password'
 RBX  0x555555555240 (__libc_csu_init) ◂— endbr64
 RCX  0x555555555240 (__libc_csu_init) ◂— endbr64
 RDX  0x555555556014 ◂— 'thomasthecat'
*RDI  0x7fffffffe1f4 ◂— 'wrong-password'
*RSI  0x7fffffffe1f4 ◂— 'wrong-password'
 R8   0x0
 R9   0x7ffff7fe0d50 ◂— endbr64
 R10  0x7ffff7ffcf68 ◂— 0x6ffffff0
 R11  0x206
 R12  0x5555555550c0 (_start) ◂— endbr64
 R13  0x7fffffffde60 ◂— 0x2
 R14  0x0
 R15  0x0
 RBP  0x7fffffffdd70 ◂— 0x0
 RSP  0x7fffffffdd50 —▸ 0x7fffffffde68 —▸ 0x7fffffffe1b1 ◂— '/home/th3h04x/Documents/binaryExploitation/crackme/simple-password'
*RIP  0x55555555520e (main+101) ◂— call   0x555555555090
[ DISASM ]
   0x5555555551fd <main+84>     add    rax, 8
   0x555555555201 <main+88>     mov    rax, qword ptr [rax]
   0x555555555204 <main+91>     mov    rdx, qword ptr [rbp - 8]
   0x555555555208 <main+95>     mov    rsi, rdx
   0x55555555520b <main+98>     mov    rdi, rax
 ▶ 0x55555555520e <main+101>    call   strcmp@plt                <strcmp@plt>
       s1: 0x7fffffffe1f4 ◂— 'wrong-password'
       s2: 0x7fffffffe1f4 ◂— 'wrong-password'

   0x555555555213 <main+106>    test   eax, eax
   0x555555555215 <main+108>    jne    main+124                  <main+124>

   0x555555555217 <main+110>    lea    rdi, [rip + 0xe03]
   0x55555555521e <main+117>    call   puts@plt                  <puts@plt>

   0x555555555223 <main+122>    jmp    main+136                  <main+136>
[ STACK ]
00:0000| rsp 0x7fffffffdd50 —▸ 0x7fffffffde68 —▸ 0x7fffffffe1b1 ◂— '/home/th3h04x/Documents/binaryExploitation/crackme/simple-password'
01:0008|     0x7fffffffdd58 ◂— 0x2555550c0
02:0010|     0x7fffffffdd60 —▸ 0x7fffffffde60 ◂— 0x2
03:0018|     0x7fffffffdd68 —▸ 0x555555556014 ◂— 'thomasthecat'
04:0020| rbp 0x7fffffffdd70 ◂— 0x0
05:0028|     0x7fffffffdd78 —▸ 0x7ffff7de10b3 (__libc_start_main+243) ◂— mov    edi, eax
06:0030|     0x7fffffffdd80 ◂— 0x100000068 /* 'h' */
07:0038|     0x7fffffffdd88 —▸ 0x7fffffffde68 —▸ 0x7fffffffe1b1 ◂— '/home/th3h04x/Documents/binaryExploitation/crackme/simple-password'
[ BACKTRACE ]
 ▶ f 0   0x55555555520e main+101
   f 1   0x7ffff7de10b3 __libc_start_main+243

pwndbg>
```

As the password is hardcoded we can also directly use tools like strings and hexdump to see the strings directly .

```
→  crackme strings simple-password
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2
libc.so.6
exit
puts
stderr
fprintf
__cxa_finalize
strcmp
__libc_start_main
GLIBC_2.2.5
_ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable
__gmon_start__
_ITM_registerTMCloneTable
u+UH
[]A\A]A^A_
%s <Password>
thomasthecat
Hurrah , You cracked it !
Aaaahh You failed : (
:*3$"
GCC: (Ubuntu 9.4.0-1ubuntu1~20.04) 9.4.0
crtstuff.c
deregister_tm_clones
__do_global_dtors_aux
completed.8061
__do_global_dtors_aux_fini_array_entry
```

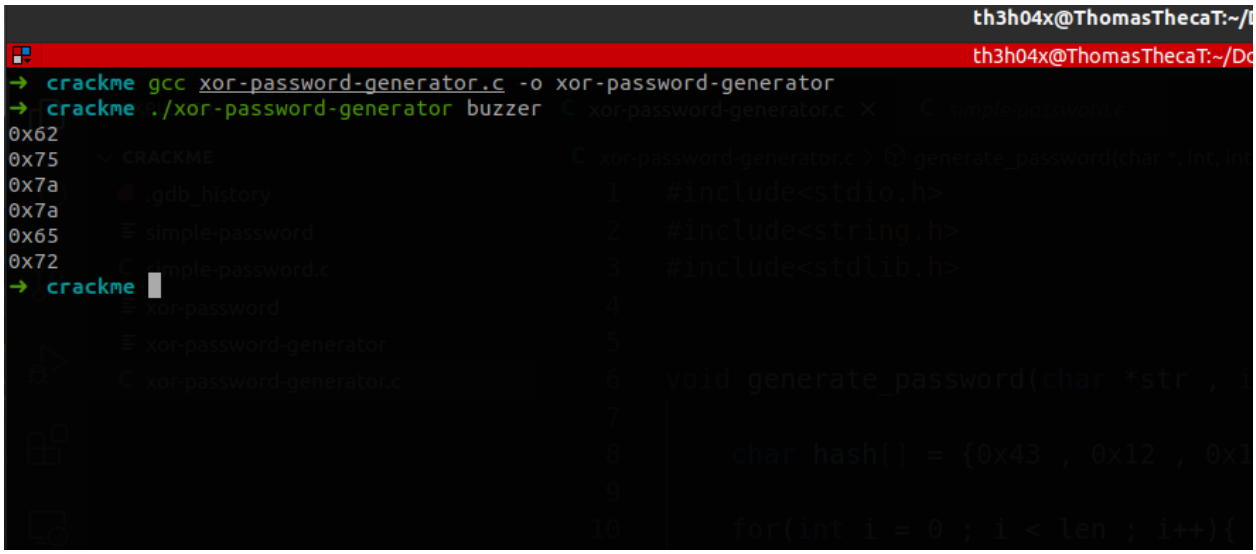
2. Cracking the hashed passwords

Instead of directly Hard coding the password in the executable , we can use some sort of algorithm to mangle the password . We use a simple hash array with random values which will be xor with the given key with n rotations to generate a new key .

C Code

```
void generate_password(char *str , int len , int
rotation_count){

   char hash[] = {0x43 , 0x12 , 0x17 , 0x42 , 0x18 , 0x12} ;

   for(int i = 0 ; i < len ; i++){
       for(int j = 0 ; j < rotation_count ; j++){
           str[i] = str[i] ^ hash[i] ;
       }
       printf("0x%x \n" , str[i]);
   }
}

void main(int argc , char **argv){
   if(argc < 2){
       fprintf(stderr , "%s <Password-to-encrypt> \n" ,
argv[0]);
       exit(-1);
   }
   generate_password(argv[1] , 6 , 2);

}
```

Generating the hashed password



Password Checker Code

```c
void password_checker(char *str, int len, int rotation_count)
{
   char hash[] = {0x43, 0x12, 0x17, 0x42, 0x18, 0x12};
   char pass[] = {0x62, 0x75, 0x7a, 0x7a, 0x65, 0x72};
   for (int i = 0; i < len; i++)
   {
       for (int j = 0; j < rotation_count; j++)
       {
           str[i] = str[i] ^ hash[i];
       }
   }
   for (int i = 0; i < len; i++)
   {
       if (str[i] != pass[i])
       {
```

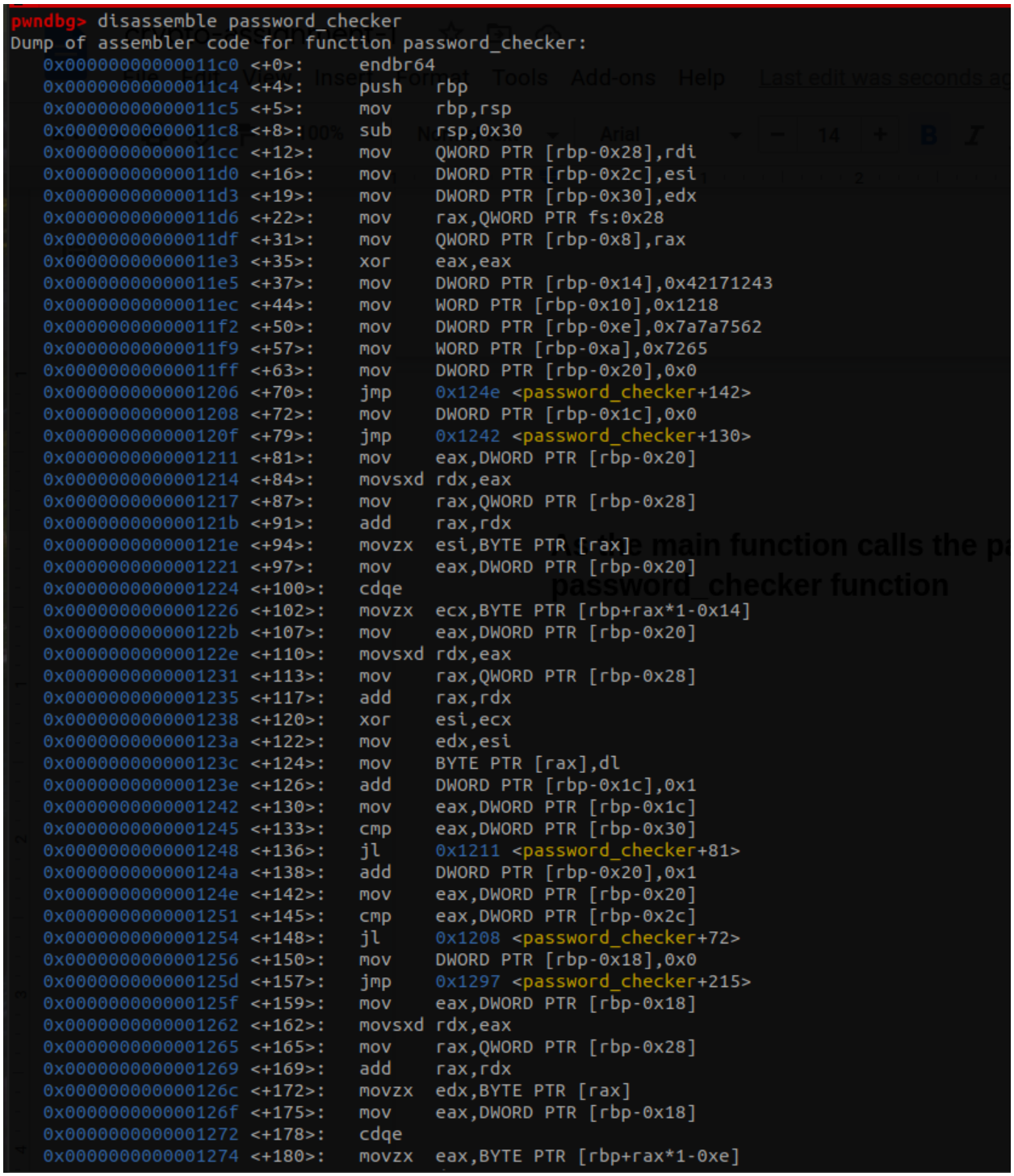
```
            printf("Password Checker Failed\n");
            exit(-1);
        }
    }
}
void main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    if (argc < 2)
    {
        fprintf(stderr, "%s <Password> \n", argv[0]);
        exit(-1);
    }
    succeed();
    password_checker(argv[1], 6, 2);
}
```

Reverse engineering the executable

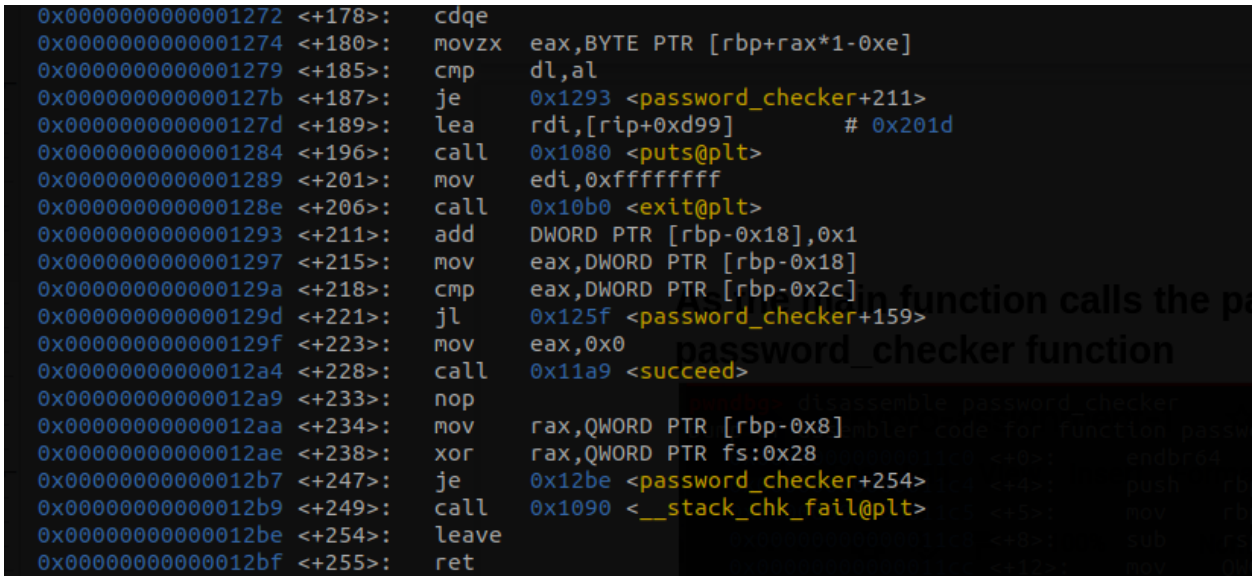
Disassemble of main

```
gdb -q xor-password 203x53
➜  crackme gdb -q xor-password
pwndbg: loaded 198 commands. Type pwndbg [filter] for a list.
pwndbg: created $rebase, $ida gdb functions (can be used with print/break)
Reading symbols from xor-password...
(No debugging symbols found in xor-password)
pwndbg> b *main
Breakpoint 1 at 0x12c0
pwndbg> disassemble main
Dump of assembler code for function main:
   0x00000000000012c0 <+0>:     endbr64
   0x00000000000012c4 <+4>:     push   rbp
   0x00000000000012c5 <+5>:     mov    rbp,rsp
   0x00000000000012c8 <+8>:     sub    rsp,0x10
   0x00000000000012cc <+12>:    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4],edi
   0x00000000000012cf <+15>:    mov    QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10],rsi
   0x00000000000012d3 <+19>:    cmp    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4],0x1
   0x00000000000012d7 <+23>:    jg     0x1305 <main+69>
   0x00000000000012d9 <+25>:    mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10]
   0x00000000000012dd <+29>:    mov    rdx,QWORD PTR [rax]
   0x00000000000012e0 <+32>:    mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rip+0x2d39]        # 0x4020 <stderr@@GLIBC_2.2.5>
   0x00000000000012e7 <+39>:    lea    rsi,[rip+0xd47]        # 0x2035
   0x00000000000012ee <+46>:    mov    rdi,rax
   0x00000000000012f1 <+49>:    mov    eax,0x0
   0x00000000000012f6 <+54>:    call   0x10a0 <fprintf@plt>
   0x00000000000012fb <+59>:    mov    edi,0xffffffff
   0x0000000000001300 <+64>:    call   0x10b0 <exit@plt>
   0x0000000000001305 <+69>:    mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10]
   0x0000000000001309 <+73>:    add    rax,0x8
   0x000000000000130d <+77>:    mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rax]
   0x0000000000001310 <+80>:    mov    edx,0x2
   0x0000000000001315 <+85>:    mov    esi,0x6
   0x000000000000131a <+90>:    mov    rdi,rax
   0x000000000000131d <+93>:    call   0x11c0 <password_checker>
   0x0000000000001322 <+98>:    nop
   0x0000000000001323 <+99>:    leave
   0x0000000000001324 <+100>:   ret
End of assembler dump.
pwndbg>
```

As the main function calls the password checker let disassemble the password_checker function



```
pwndbg> disassemble password_checker
Dump of assembler code for function password_checker:
   0x00000000000011c0 <+0>:     endbr64
   0x00000000000011c4 <+4>:     push   rbp
   0x00000000000011c5 <+5>:     mov    rbp,rsp
   0x00000000000011c8 <+8>:     sub    rsp,0x30
   0x00000000000011cc <+12>:    mov    QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28],rdi
   0x00000000000011d0 <+16>:    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x2c],esi
   0x00000000000011d3 <+19>:    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x30],edx
   0x00000000000011d6 <+22>:    mov    rax,QWORD PTR fs:0x28
   0x00000000000011df <+31>:    mov    QWORD PTR [rbp-0x8],rax
   0x00000000000011e3 <+35>:    xor    eax,eax
   0x00000000000011e5 <+37>:    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x14],0x42171243
   0x00000000000011ec <+44>:    mov    WORD PTR [rbp-0x10],0x1218
   0x00000000000011f2 <+50>:    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0xe],0x7a7a7562
   0x00000000000011f9 <+57>:    mov    WORD PTR [rbp-0xa],0x7265
   0x00000000000011ff <+63>:    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x20],0x0
   0x0000000000001206 <+70>:    jmp    0x124e <password_checker+142>
   0x0000000000001208 <+72>:    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x1c],0x0
   0x000000000000120f <+79>:    jmp    0x1242 <password_checker+130>
   0x0000000000001211 <+81>:    mov    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x20]
   0x0000000000001214 <+84>:    movsxd rdx,eax
   0x0000000000001217 <+87>:    mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28]
   0x000000000000121b <+91>:    add    rax,rdx
   0x000000000000121e <+94>:    movzx  esi,BYTE PTR [rax]
   0x0000000000001221 <+97>:    mov    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x20]
   0x0000000000001224 <+100>:   cdqe
   0x0000000000001226 <+102>:   movzx  ecx,BYTE PTR [rbp+rax*1-0x14]
   0x000000000000122b <+107>:   mov    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x20]
   0x000000000000122e <+110>:   movsxd rdx,eax
   0x0000000000001231 <+113>:   mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28]
   0x0000000000001235 <+117>:   add    rax,rdx
   0x0000000000001238 <+120>:   xor    esi,ecx
   0x000000000000123a <+122>:   mov    edx,esi
   0x000000000000123c <+124>:   mov    BYTE PTR [rax],dl
   0x000000000000123e <+126>:   add    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x1c],0x1
   0x0000000000001242 <+130>:   mov    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x1c]
   0x0000000000001245 <+133>:   cmp    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x30]
   0x0000000000001248 <+136>:   jl     0x1211 <password_checker+81>
   0x000000000000124a <+138>:   add    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x20],0x1
   0x000000000000124e <+142>:   mov    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x20]
   0x0000000000001251 <+145>:   cmp    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x2c]
   0x0000000000001254 <+148>:   jl     0x1208 <password_checker+72>
   0x0000000000001256 <+150>:   mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x18],0x0
   0x000000000000125d <+157>:   jmp    0x1297 <password_checker+215>
   0x000000000000125f <+159>:   mov    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x18]
   0x0000000000001262 <+162>:   movsxd rdx,eax
   0x0000000000001265 <+165>:   mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28]
   0x0000000000001269 <+169>:   add    rax,rdx
   0x000000000000126c <+172>:   movzx  edx,BYTE PTR [rax]
   0x000000000000126f <+175>:   mov    eax,DWORD PTR [rbp-0x18]
   0x0000000000001272 <+178>:   cdqe
   0x0000000000001274 <+180>:   movzx  eax,BYTE PTR [rbp+rax*1-0xe]
```



From the function password checker we can see , there is a function known as succeed , if we put the password correctly it will be called otherwise the exit function will be executed .

Important memory addresses to note

1. $rbp-0x28 ——----> contains our passed argument address

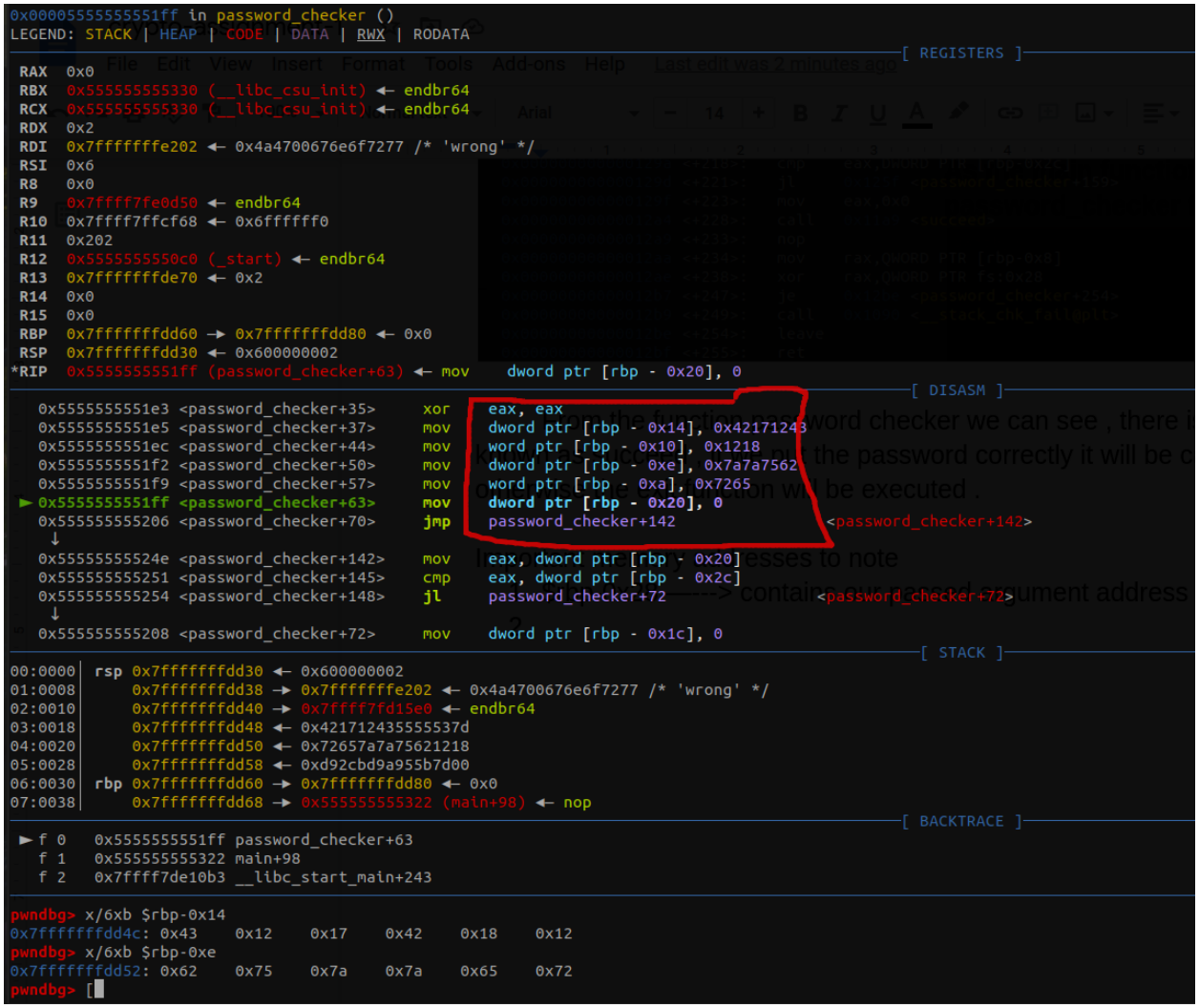
2. $rbp-0x14 ——-----> The passed password is xored two times with the bytes in this location

3. $rbp-0xe ——------> The hashed password is then compared with the bytes in this location

Thus our password must match after performing xor with $rbp-0x14 to $rbp-0xe

Reverse engineered algo :

```
while(2){
        Hash_pwd = (Passed_arg  , $rbp-0x14)
}
if(Hash_pwd == $rbp-0xe)   // success
```



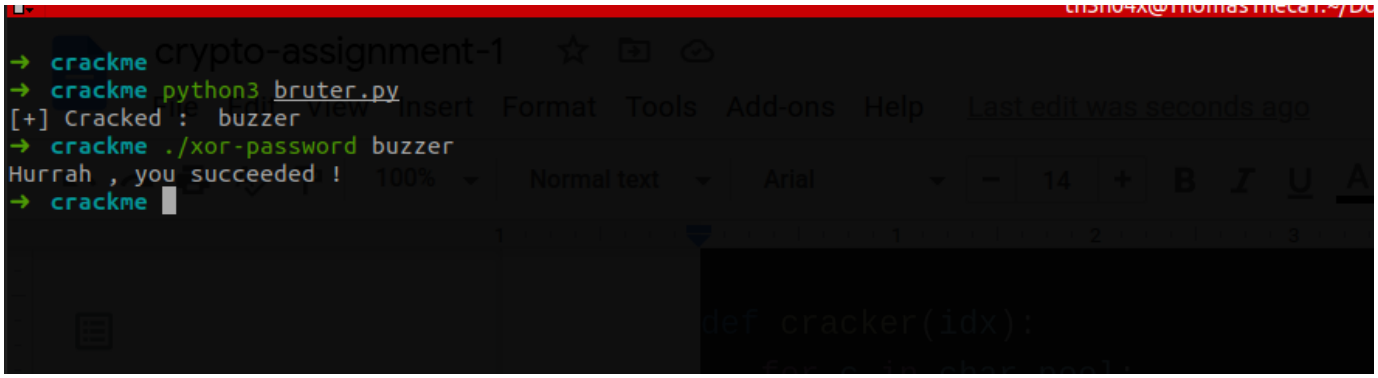
From the above disassembly we can see bytes at the two memory locations

Hash = {0x43 0x12 0x17 0x42 0x18 0x12}
Hashed_pwd = {0x62 0x75 0x7a 0x7a 0x65 0x72}

By writing a simple python bruteforcer we can crack the password

Python Script

```python
import string

hash_passwd = [0x62,    0x75, 0x7a, 0x7a,   0x65, 0x72]
hasher = [0x43, 0x12,   0x17,   0x42,   0x18,   0x12]
char_pool = string.ascii_letters + string.digits

def cracker(idx):
   for c in char_pool:
       temp = ord(c)  ^ hasher[idx]
       temp = temp ^ hasher[idx]
       if temp == hash_passwd[idx] :
           return chr(temp)

   return 0x0

passwd = ""
for idx in range(0,6):
   passwd += cracker(idx)

print("[+] Cracked : " , passwd)
```



The cracked password is buzzer