

running example

```
$ file mystery
```

```
mystery: ELF 64-bit LSB pie executable, x86-64,  
version 1 (SYSV), dynamically linked,  
interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2,  
BuildID[sha1]=9819a3cfb39d01ad2a376c54318f104139422a8f,  
for GNU/Linux 3.2.0, stripped
```

LSB = little endian

pie = position-independent executable

interpreter = program that loads this

aside: file(1)

```
$ man file
```

```
FILE(1)
```

General Commands Manual

```
NAME
```

```
file – determine file type
```

```
....
```

looks for “magic numbers” near beginning of file data

hand-managed database of common patterns

from file's source

```
0  name      elf-le
>16 leshort  0      no file type,
!mime application/octet-stream
>16 leshort  1      relocatable,
!mime application/x-object
>16 leshort  2      executable,
!mime application/x-executable
>16 leshort  3      ${x?pie executable:shared object},
```

...

```
0  string    \177ELF      ELF
!strength *2
>4  byte     0      invalid class
>4  byte     1      32-bit
>4  byte     2      64-bit
>5  byte     0      invalid byte order
>5  byte     1      LSB
>>0 use      elf-le
>5  byte     2      MSB
>>0 use      ^elf-le
>7  byte     0      (SYSV)
```

finding strings

```
$ hexdump -c mystery
```

```
00000000  7f 45 4c 46 02 01 01 00  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 |.ELF.....|
00000010  03 00 3e 00 01 00 00 00  c0 60 00 00 00 00 00 00 |..>.....`.....|
00000020  40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  08 5e 03 00 00 00 00 00 |@.....^.....|
00000030  00 00 00 00 40 00 38 00  0d 00 40 00 1e 00 1d 00 |....@.8...@.....|
```

```
[... many more lines ...]
```

```
00000e60  00 5f 49 54 4d 5f 64 65  72 65 67 69 73 74 65 72 |._ITM_deregister|
00000e70  54 4d 43 6c 6f 6e 65 54  61 62 6c 65 00 5f 5f 67 |TMCloneTable.__g|
00000e80  6d 6f 6e 5f 73 74 61 72  74 5f 5f 00 5f 49 54 4d |mon_start__._ITM|
00000e90  5f 72 65 67 69 73 74 65  72 54 4d 43 6c 6f 6e 65 |_registerTMClone|
00000ea0  54 61 62 6c 65 00 77 61  64 64 63 68 00 63 6c 65 |Table.waddch.cle|
00000eb0  61 72 6f 6b 00 6e 6f 65  63 68 6f 00 6d 76 70 72 |arok.noecho.mvpr|
```

```
[... many more lines ...]
```

exercise: heuristic?

could scan through pages of hexdump for something interesting...

good heuristic for automating this process?

strings utility (1)

```
$ strings mystery
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2
*7lT1
A9B*
m8m7
_ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable
__gmon_start__
_ITM_registerTMCloneTable
waddch
clearok
...
```

```
prints help
identify object
left
down
right
```

...

```
save game
quit
```

strings utility (2)

```
$ strings --bytes=40 mystery
character you want help for (* for all):
you feel a wrenching sensation in your gut
your armor appears to be weaker now. Oh my!
you feel a sting in your arm and now feel weaker
Level: %d  Gold: %-5d  Hp: %*d(%*d)  Str: %2d(%d)  Ac: %-2d  Exp: %d/%ld  %s
Ok, if you want to exit that badly, I'll have to allow it
Hello %s, just a moment while I dig the dungeon...
orry, but your terminal window has too few columns.
Sorry, but your terminal window has too few lines.
please specify a letter between 'A' and 'Z'

...
```


dedicated reverse engineering tools

specialized toolkits for specifically reverse engineering

more complex analyses than objdump/strings

primary example I'll look at: Ghidra

open source, developed by National Security Agency

has some commercial competitors

Binary Ninja (<https://binary.ninja>), IDA Pro
(<https://hex-rays.com/ida-pro>)

sometimes free/cheap for educational use

very expensive for full/commercial licenses

in Ghidra

(after making new project, loading mystery file, Window > Defined Strings)

The screenshot shows the Ghidra IDE interface with the 'Defined Strings' window open. The window displays a list of strings extracted from a file named 'mystery'. The list includes the location, string value, string representation, and data type for each entry.

Location	String Value	String Representation	Data Type
0012964a	Faint	"Faint"	ds
00129650	Level: %d Gold: %5d Hp: %*d(%...	"Level: %d Gold: %5d Hp: %*d(%...	ds
001296a0	ran out of memory after %d items	"ran out of memory after %d items"	ds
001296c1	really quit?	"really quit?"	ds
001296ce	You quit with %d gold pieces	"You quit with %d gold pieces"	ds
001296eb	ROGUEOPTS	"ROGUEOPTS"	ds
001296f5	Say, who the hell are you?	"Say, who the hell are you?"	ds
00129710	slime-mold	"slime-mold"	ds
0012971e	dosuser	"dosuser"	ds
00129726	Rogue's Name?	"Rogue's Name? "	ds
00129735	Rodney	"Rodney"	ds
0012973c	/bin/sh	"/bin/sh"	ds
00129744	SHELL	"SHELL"	ds
0012974d	shell	"shell"	ds
00129753	No shelly	"No shelly"	ds
00129760	Ok, if you want to exit that badly, I...	"Ok, if you want to exit that badly, ...	ds
001297a0	Hello %s, just a moment while I di...	"Hello %s, just a moment while I d...	ds
001297d8	Sorry, but your terminal window h...	"\n\nSorry, but your terminal wind...	ds
00129810	Your terminal has %d columns, ne...	"Your terminal has %d columns, n...	ds
00129840	Sorry, but your terminal window h...	"\n\nSorry, but your terminal wind...	ds
00129878	Your terminal has %d lines, needs...	"Your terminal has %d lines, need...	ds
0012989f	you found a trapdoor	"you found a trapdoor"	ds
001298b4	you found a beartrap	"you found a beartrap"	ds
001298c9	you found a sleeping gas trap	"you found a sleeping gas trap"	ds
001298e7	you found an arrow trap	"you found an arrow trap"	ds
001298ff	you found a teleport trap	"you found a teleport trap"	ds

libraries

```
$ objdump --all-headers mystery
```

```
...
```

```
Dynamic Section:
```

NEEDED	libncurses.so.6
NEEDED	libtinfo.so.6
NEEDED	libc.so.6

```
...
```

ncurses?

ncurses

🌐 20 languages ▼

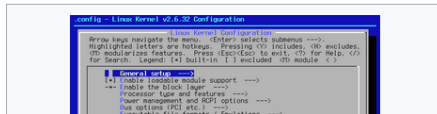
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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

ncurses (new [curses](#)) is a [programming library](#) for creating [textual user interfaces](#) (TUIs) that work across a wide variety of [terminals](#); it is written in a way that attempts to optimize the commands that are sent to the terminal, so as to reduce the [latency](#) experienced when

ncurses



tinfo? (1)

 **PACKAGES**

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libtinfo.so.6

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Search in [all architectures](#)

You have searched for paths that end with *libtinfo.so.6* in suite *bookworm*, all sections, and architecture(s) *amd64*. Found **2 results**.

File	Packages
/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libtinfo.so.6	libtinfo6
/lib32/libtinfo.so.6	lib32tinfo6

tinio? (2)

Package: libtinio6 (6.4-4)

shared low-level terminfo library for
terminal handling

The ncurses library routines are a terminal-independent
method of updating character screens with reasonable
optimization.

This package contains the shared low-level terminfo library.

library calls

```
$ objdump --dynamic-syms mystery
```

```
mystery:      file format elf64-x86-64
```

DYNAMIC SYMBOL TABLE:

0000000000000000	DF *UND*	0000000000000000	(GLIBC_2.3) __ctype_toupper_loc
0000000000000000	DF *UND*	0000000000000000	(GLIBC_2.2.5) getenv
0000000000000000	DF *UND*	0000000000000000	(NCURSES6_5.0.19991023) wattrset
0000000000000000	DF *UND*	0000000000000000	(GLIBC_2.2.5) free
0000000000000000	DF *UND*	0000000000000000	(NCURSES6_TINFO_5.0.19991023) flushingp
0000000000000000	DF *UND*	0000000000000000	(GLIBC_2.2.5) localtime
0000000000000000	DF *UND*	0000000000000000	(GLIBC_2.34) __libc_start_main

...

0000000000000000	DF *UND*	0000000000000000	(GLIBC_2.2.5) setuid
------------------	----------	------------------	----------------------

...

library calls (Ghidra)

The screenshot displays the Ghidra IDE interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Analysis, Graph, Navigation, Search, Select, Tools, Window, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations, analysis, and navigation.

The main workspace is divided into several panels:

- Program Trees:** Shows a tree structure with a folder named 'mystery' and a file named '.bss'.
- Program Tree:** A tabbed view showing the selected program tree.
- Symbol Tree:** Displays a list of external symbols under the '<EXTERNAL>' category. The symbols include:
 - __assert_fail
 - __ctype_b_loc
 - __ctype_tolower_loc
 - __ctype_toupper_loc
 - __cxa_finalize
 - __errno_location
 - __gmon_start__
 - __isoc99_sscanf
 - __libc_start_main
 - __printf_chk
 - __sprintf_chk
 - __stack_chk_fail
 - __vsprintf_chk
 - _ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable
 - _ITM_registerTMCloneTable
 - abort
 - atoi
 - calloc
- Defined Strings:** A panel on the right showing a list of defined strings. The strings are displayed in a table format with columns for offset, address, and the string value.

finding library call uses

objdump --disassemble --dynamic-reloc:

0000000000005b00 <setuid@plt>:

```
5b00:▶      f3 0f 1e fa      ▶ endbr64
5b04:▶      f2 ff 25 fd d3 02 00 ▶ bnd jmp *0x2d3fd(%rip)
                                # 32f08 <setuid@GLIBC_2.2.5>
5b0b:▶      0f 1f 44 00 00      ▶ nopl    0x0(%rax,%rax,1)
```

...

```
2764f:▶      e8 ec e3 fd ff      ▶ call    5a40 <open@plt>
27654:▶      89 05 fe 48 01 00      ▶ mov     %eax,0x148fe(%rip)
2765a:▶      31 c0                  ▶ xor     %eax,%eax
2765c:▶      e8 2f e1 fd ff      ▶ call    5790 <getuid@plt>
27661:▶      89 c7                  ▶ mov     %eax,%edi
27663:▶      31 c0                  ▶ xor     %eax,%eax
27665:▶      e8 96 e4 fd ff      ▶ call    5b00 <setuid@plt>
2766a:▶      31 c0                  ▶ xor     %eax,%eax
2766c:▶      e8 cf e2 fd ff      ▶ call    5940 <getgid@plt>
27671:▶      48 83 c4 08          ▶ add     $0x8,%rsp
```

disassembly issues (1)

```
.global main
main:
    call print_hello
    xorl %eax, %eax
    ret
.Lstr:
    .asciz "Hello!"
print_hello:
    leaq .Lstr(%rip), %rdi // RDI <- .Lstr address
    jmp puts
```

```
00000000000001139 <main>:
    1139:    e8 0a 00 00 00    call    1148 <print_hello>
    113e:    31 c0             xor     %eax,%eax
    1140:    c3              ret
    1141:    48              rex.W
    1142:    65 6c           gs insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
    1144:    6c             insb   (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
    1145:    6f            outsl  %ds:(%rsi),(%dx)
    1146:    2e            cs
    ...
00000000000001148 <print_hello>:
    1148:    48 8d 3d f2 ff ff ff  lea     -0xe(%rip),%rdi    # 1141 <main+0x8
    114f:    e9 dc fe ff ff      jmp     1030 <puts@plt>
```

disassembly issues

00000000000001139 <main>:

1139: e8 0a 00 00 00
113e: 31 c0
1140: c3
1141: 48
1142: 65 6c
1144: 6c
1145: 6f
1146: 2e

call 1148 <print_hello>
xor %eax,%eax
ret
rex.W
gs insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
outsl %ds:(%rsi),(%dx)
cs

...
00000000000001148 <print_hello>:

1148: 48 8d 3d f2 ff ff ff
114f: e9 dc fe ff ff
1139: e8 0a 00 00 00
113e: 31 c0
1140: c3
1141: 48
1142: 65 6c
1144: 6c
1145: 6f
1146: 2e 00 48 8d
114a: 3d f2 ff ff ff
114f: e9 dc fe ff ff

lea -0xe(%rip),%rdi # 1141 <main+0x8>
jmp 1030 <puts@plt>
call 1148 <__cxa_finalize@plt+0x108>
xor %eax,%eax
ret
rex.W
gs insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
outsl %ds:(%rsi),(%dx)
cs add %cl,-0x73(%rax)
cmp \$0xffffffff2,%eax
jmp 1030 <puts@plt>

finding assembly heuristics

objdump strategy, apparently:

- disassemble instructions starting at each symbol
- skip over strings of zero-bytes just before symbol

problem: can misidentify jumped to instructions

- especially if symbols stripped to save space/hinder reverse engineering

exercise: algorithm to fix?

- (Ghidra does this)

some tricky cases (1)

```
_start:
```

```
...
```

```
movq $main, %rdi
```

```
...
```

```
call __libc_start_main
```

```
...
```

```
struct DeviceTypeFuncs {
```

```
    void (*Send)(struct DeviceInfo*, char *);
```

```
    void (*Recv)(struct DeviceInfo, char *, size_t);
```

```
};
```

```
void SendToDevice(struct DeviceInfo* info, char *data) {
```

```
    (info->funcs->Send)(data);
```

```
}
```

some tricky cases (2)

table:

.int case1 - table

.int case2 - table

...

lea table(%rip), %rax

addq (%rax, %rdi, 4), %rax

jmp *%rax

movq \$function + 0x12340, %rax

movq \$0x1234, %r9

sll \$4, %r9

addq %r9, %rax

call *%rax

some tricky cases (3)

```
    call complex_func_returning_three
    lea next2-3(%rax), %rax
    jmp *%rax
    .byte 0x39, 0x59, 0x60, 0x89, 0xFF
next2:
    addq ...
```

```

LAB_00101139
00101139 e8 0a 00      CALL      FUN_00101148
          00 00
0010113e 31 c0          XOR      EAX,EAX
00101140 c3            RET

```

```

s_Hello._00101141
00101141 48 65 6c      ds      "Hello."
          6c 6f 2e 00

```

```

*****

```

```

*                                     FUNCTION

```

```

*****

```

```

undefined FUN_00101148()
          AL:1      <RETURN>

```

```

FUN_00101148
00101148 48 8d 3d      LEA      RDI,[s_Hello._00101141
          f2 ff ff ff
0010114f e9 dc fe      JMP      <EXTERNAL>::puts
          ff ff

```


cross-references (1)

```

                                LAB_00101139
00101139 e8 0a 00      CALL     FUN_00101148
          00 00
0010113e 31 c0      XOR      EAX,EAX
00101140 c3          RET

                                s_Hello._00101141
00101141 48 65 6c      ds      "Hello."
          6c 6f 2e 00

                                XREF[1]:      entry:00101068(*)
                                                undefined FUN_00101148()

                                *****
                                *                                *
                                FUNCTION                                *
                                *****

                                undefined FUN_00101148()
                                AL:1      <RETURN>
                                undefined
                                FUN_00101148
                                XREF[1]:      00101139(c)
                                                = "Hello."
00101148 48 8d 3d      LEA      RDI,[s_Hello._00101141]
          f2 ff ff ff
0010114f e9 dc fe      JMP      <EXTERNAL>::puts
          ff ff
                                                int puts(char * __s)

```

cross-references idea

cross-reference idea:

really useful to know where something is used

do-able 'by hand' with objdump and friends, but...
lots of bookkeeping, searching in text files, etc.

more cross-references

```

*****
undefined FUN_00122df0()
AL:1          <RETURN>
undefined8    Stack[-0x30]:8 local_30

FUN_00122df0

XREF[4]:      001231ae(W),
              001231d0(R),
              001236fd(W),
              00123707(R)

XREF[20]:     FUN_001061b0:00106280(c),
              FUN_001062f0:00106345(c),
              FUN_0010a7f0:0010ac37(c),
              FUN_0010a7f0:0010af3a(c),
              FUN_00110670:0011079e(c),
              FUN_00110b00:00110b9a(c),
              FUN_00110b00:00110c65(c),
              FUN_00110b00:00110cd1(c),
              FUN_00110d40:00110df7(c),
              FUN_00110d40:00110e24(c),
              FUN_00112ae0:00112be8(c),
              FUN_00112d00:00112e0e(c),
              FUN_00113780:00113a10(c),
              FUN_00123880:0012398a(c),
              FUN_00124470:001245c4(c),
              FUN_00125210:00125277(c),
              FUN_00125410:001254e2(c),
              FUN_001256b0:00125733(c),
              0012ca40, 00130078(*)

```

more cross-references (stack)

undefined FUN_00118a90()		
undefined	AL:1	<RETURN>
undefined8	Stack[-0x40]:8 local_40	XREF[2]: 00118ab6(W), 00118b31(R)
undefined4	Stack[-0x44]:4 local_44	XREF[3]: 00118c10(W), 00118c14(*), 00118c19(*)
undefined4	Stack[-0x48]:4 local_48	XREF[2]: 00118b90(*), 00118c0a(*)
undefined4	Stack[-0x4c]:4 local_4c	XREF[3]: 00118abd(*), 00118ac2(W), 00118ad3(R)
undefined8	Stack[-0x60]:8 local_60	XREF[2]: 00118bc4(W), 00118bce(R)
FUN_00118a90		XREF[2]: 0012c878, 0012f360(*)

more cross-references (global)

`pat_00142220`

XREF[197]:
FUN_00120f40:0012104a(R),
FUN_00120f40:001210a9(R),
FUN_00120f40:001210f8(R),
FUN_00120f40:00121148(R),
FUN_00120f40:0012118a(R),
FUN_00120f40:001211eb(R),
FUN_00120f40:00121230(R),
FUN_00120f40:00121280(R),
FUN_00120f40:001212d0(R),
FUN_00120f40:001213d0(R),
FUN_00120f40:0012141c(R),
FUN_00120f40:00121630(R),
FUN_00120f40:0012167c(R),
FUN_00120f40:00121873(R),
FUN_00120f40:001218c0(R),
FUN_00120f40:00121910(R),
FUN_00120f40:00121960(R),
FUN_00120f40:001219a1(R),
FUN_00120f40:001219ec(R),
FUN_00120f40:00121a38(R), [more]

00142220 00 00 00 00 undefined4 00000000h

function callers?

File Edit Analysis Graph Navigation Search Select Tools Window Help

Listing: mystery - (5 addresses selected)

```
001275fe 6f 67 75 65 35 32 2e ADD RAX,R12
00127601 4c 01 e0 MOV RDI=>DAT_00135cc0,RBP
00127604 48 89 ef MOV qword ptr [RAX],RCX=>DAT_00134cc0
00127607 c7 40 08 MOV dword ptr [RAX + 0x8],offset DAT_00134cc8
0012760e 73 63 72 00 CALL <EXTERNAL>::strcpy
00127613 e8 cd e0 CMP byte ptr [DAT_00135cc0],0x0
0012761a e6 00 00 00 JNZ LAB_001276a0
00127620 00 00 00 LAB_00127620 XREF[1]: 001276b
00127620 48 89 ef MOV RDI=>DAT_00135cc0,RBP
00127623 e8 38 e1 CALL <EXTERNAL>::strlen
00127628 fd ff MOV EDX,0x1b6
0012762d 00 00 MOV ESI,0x42
00127632 4c 89 e7 MOV RDI=>DAT_00134cc0,R12
00127635 48 01 c5 ADD RBP,RAX
00127638 48 b8 72 MOV RAX,0x2e32356575676f72
00127642 6f 67 75 MOV qword ptr [RBP],RAX=>DAT_00135cc0
00127644 65 35 32 2e XOR EAX,EAX
00127646 48 89 45 00 MOV dword ptr [RBP + 0x8],offset DAT_00135cc8
0012764f 6c 63 6b 00 CALL <EXTERNAL>::open
00127654 fd ff MOV dword ptr [DAT_0013bf58],EAX
0012765a 48 01 00 XOR EAX,EAX
0012765c 31 c0 CALL <EXTERNAL>::getuid
00127661 fd ff MOV EDI,EAX
00127663 89 c7 XOR EAX,EAX
00127665 e8 96 e4 CALL <EXTERNAL>::setuid
```

Function Call Trees: open - (mystery)

Incoming Calls

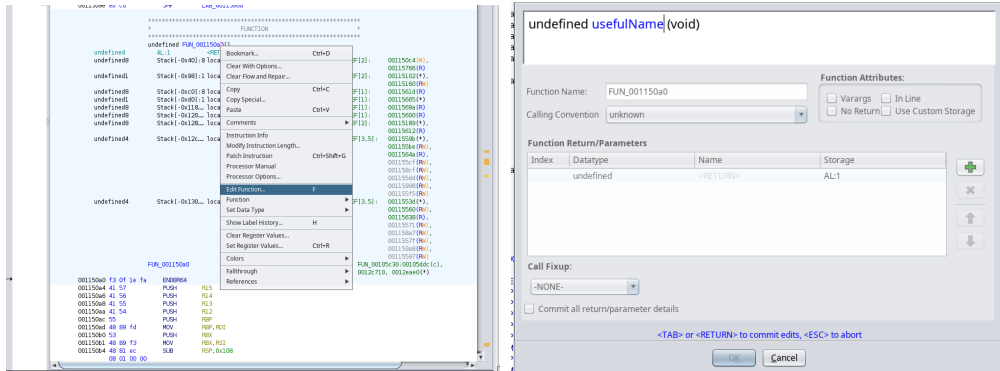
- Incoming References - open
 - open
 - FUN_001150a0
 - FUN_00105c30
 - FUN_001275a0
 - FUN_00105c30


Outgoing Calls

- Outgoing References - open

FUN_12345678

Ghidra names functions without symbols based on address
we can adjust that...





0011512e	83 f8 01	CMP	E/
00115131	76 43	JBE	L/
00115133	45 85 ed	TEST	R/
00115136	74 3e	JZ	L/
00115138	44 89 e9	MOV	E/
0011513b	4c 89 f8	MOV	R/
0011513e	48 8d 15	LEA	R/
	1b df 01 00		
00115145	4c 01 f9	ADD	R/
00115148	eb 0f	JMP	L/
0011514a	66	??	6/
0011514b	0f	??	0/
0011514c	1f	??	1/
0011514d	44	??	4/
0011514e	00	??	0/
0011514f	00	??	0/
		LAB_00115150	
00115150	48 83 c2 01	ADD	R/
00115154	48 39 c8	CMP	R/
00115157	74 1d	JZ	L/
		LAB_00115159	
00115159	48 83 c0 01	ADD	R/
0011515d	0f b6 32	MOVZX	E/
00115160	40 30 70 ff	XOR	b/
00115164	80 7a 01 00	CMP	b/
00115168	75 e6	JNZ	L/
0011516a	48 8d 15	LEA	R/
	ef de 01 00		
00115171	48 39 c8	CMP	R/
00115174	75 e3	JNZ	L/

decompiler

```
Decompile: FUN_001150a0 - (mystery)

1
2 undefined8 FUN_001150a0(char *param_1,undefined8 param_2)
3
4 {
5     ulong uVar1;
6     int iVar2;
7     int iVar3;
8     int iVar4;
9     uint __seed;
10    size_t sVar5;
...

25    local_40 = *(long *) (in_FS_OFFSET + 0x28);
26    if (((*param_1 == '-') && (param_1[1] == 'r')) && (param_1[2] == '\0')) {
27        param_1 = &DAT_0013d400;
28    }
29    iVar2 = open(param_1,0);
30    if (iVar2 < 0) {
31        perror(param_1);
32    }
33    else {
34        fflush(stdout);
35        sVar5 = strlen(s_@(#)vers.c_5.2_(Berkeley)_4/11/8_00133020);
36        uVar1 = sVar5 + 1;
37        sVar6 = read(iVar2,local_98,uVar1 & 0xffffffff);
38        if ((1 < (int)sVar6 + 1U) && ((int)uVar1 != 0)) {
39            pbVar12 = &DAT_00133060;
40            pbVar11 = local_98 + (uVar1 & 0xffffffff);
41            pbVar8 = local_98;
42            do {
43                while( true ) {
44                    pbVar7 = pbVar8 + 1;
```

refining decompile (1)

```
21 stat local_128;  
22 byte local_98 [88];  
23 long local_40;  
24  
25 local_40 = *(long *)(in_FS_OFFSET + 0x28);  
26 if (((*param_1 == '-') && (param_1[1] == 'r')) && (param_1[2] == '\\0')) {  
27     param_1 = &DAT_0013d400;  
28 }
```

```
29 iVal = ...  
30 if  
31 pe  
32 }  
33 else  
34 f  
35 s  
36 u  
37 s  
38 i  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44
```

Override Signature	
Rename Variable	L
Retype Variable	Ctrl+L
Split Out As New Variable	
Auto Create Structure	Shift+Open Bracket
Commit Params/Return	P
Commit Local Names	
Highlight	▶
Secondary Highlight	▶
Copy	Ctrl+C

```
    /11/8_00133020);  
ff);  
0)) {
```

refining decompile (2)

- can setup names, types for functions

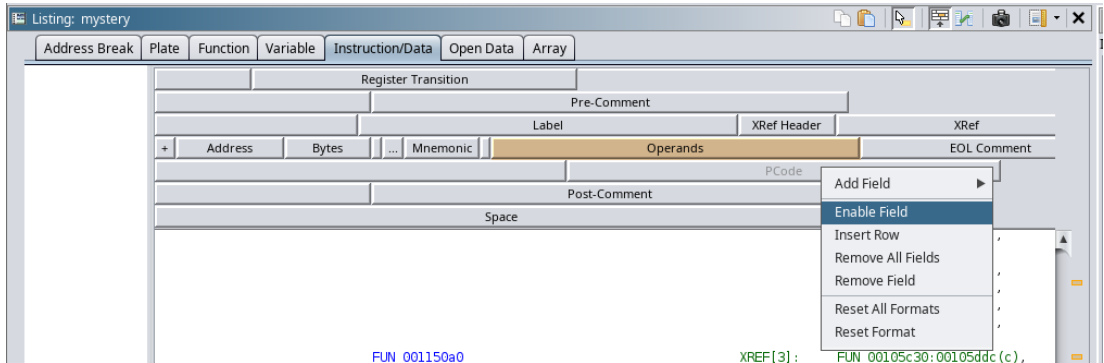
- types can include marking array

 - Ghidra doesn't seem great at inferring this all the time

- also for local/global variables

 - for globals, can right-click in listing view too

interlude: editing disassembly format



PCode

001150ce 80 3f 2d

CMP

byte ptr [RDI], 0x2d

```
..
$Ud980:1 = LOAD ram(RDI)
$U27080:1 = COPY $Ud980:1
CF = INT_LESS $U27080:1, 45:1
OF = INT_SBORROW $U27080:1, 45:1
$U27180:1 = INT_SUB $U27080:1, 45:1
SF = INT_SLESS $U27180:1, 0:1
ZF = INT_EQUAL $U27180:1, 0:1
$U15100:1 = INT_AND $U27180:1, 0xff:1
$U15180:1 = POPCOUNT $U15100:1
$U15200:1 = INT_AND $U15180:1, 1:1
PF = INT_EQUAL $U15200:1, 0:1
```

001150d1 75 0a

JNZ

LAB_001150dd

```
$Ue500:1 = BOOL_NEGATE ZF
CBRANCH *([ram]0x1150dd:8, $Ue500:1
```

001150d3 80 7f 01 72

CMP

byte ptr [RDI + 0x1], 0x72

```
$U4400:8 = INT_ADD RDI, 1:8
$Ud980:1 = LOAD ram($U4400:8)
$U27080:1 = COPY $Ud980:1
CF = INT_LESS $U27080:1, 0x72:1
OF = INT_SBORROW $U27080:1, 0x72:1
$U27180:1 = INT_SUB $U27080:1, 0x72:1
SF = INT_SLESS $U27180:1, 0:1
ZF = INT_EQUAL $U27180:1, 0:1
$U15100:1 = INT_AND $U27180:1, 0xff:1
$U15180:1 = POPCOUNT $U15100:1
$U15200:1 = INT_AND $U15180:1, 1:1
PF = INT_EQUAL $U15200:1, 0:1
```

Intermediate Representations

Ghidra converts instructions to this PCode language

- describes effects of each instruction for other parts of Ghidra

- allows 'easy' support for ARM, MIPS, ...

function graph we saw using PCode information, probably

decompiler is basically a PCode to C compiler

- does the same kind of optimizations/etc. normal compiler does
- different output language

Ghidra has 'find similar functions' tool that probably uses this

patch instruction?

```

00105d0a 48 09 72      MOV     RAX,0x01732e03/30/0172
        6f 67 75
        65 2e 73 61
00105d14 48 8d 3d      LEA     RDI,[s_ROGUEOPTS_001296eb]
        d0 39 02 00
00105d1b 48 8d 44      LEA     RAX,[RAX + RBP*0x1 + 0x1]
        28 01
00105d20 48 89 08      MOV     qword ptr [RAX],RCX
00105d23 66 89 50 08   MOV     word ptr [RAX + 0x8],DX
00105d27 c6 40 0a 00   MOV     byte ptr [RAX + 0xa],0x0
00105d2b e8 00 f9      CALL    <EXT
        ff ff
00105d30 48 89 c7      MOV     RDI,
00105d33 31 c0         XOR     EAX,
00105d35 48 85 ff      TEST    RDI,
00105d38 0f 84 90      JZ      LAB_
        02 00 00
00105d3e e8 5d a2      CALL    FUN_
        00 00
00105d43 80 3d 56      CMP     byte
        7a 03 00 00
00105d4a 48 8d 2d      LEA     RBP,
        4f 7a 03 00
00105d51 75 32         JNZ     LAB_
00105d53 31 c0         XOR     EAX,
00105d55 e8 36 fa      CALL    <EXT
        ff ff
00105d5a 89 c7      MOV     EDI,

```

= "ROGUEOPTS"

char * getenv(char * __name)

undefined FUN_0010ffa0()

__uid_t getuid(void)

Bookmark...	Ctrl+D
Clear Code Bytes	C
Clear With Options...	
Clear Flow and Repair...	
Copy	Ctrl+C
Copy Special...	
Paste	Ctrl+V
Comments	►
Instruction Info	
Modify Instruction Flow...	
Modify Instruction Length...	
Patch Instruction	Ctrl+Shift+G

patch instruction?

```
00105d23 66 89 50 08    MOV     word ptr [RAX + 0x8],DX
00105d27 c6 40 0a 00    MOV     byte ptr [RAX + 0xa],0x0
00105d2b b8 00 00      MOV     EAX, 0x0
00105d30 48 89 c7      MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d33 31 c0        XOR     EAX, EAX
00105d35 48 85 ff      MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d38 0f 84 90      MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d3e e8 5d a2      MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d43 80 3d 56      MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d4a 48 8d 2d      MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d51 75 32        MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d53 31 c0        XOR     EAX, EAX
00105d55 e8 36 fa      MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d5a 89 c7      MOV     ECX, ECX
00105d5c e8 df f9      MOV     ECX, ECX
```

```
b8 00 00 00 00
c7 c0 00 00 00 00
```

undefined FUN_0010ffa0()

__uid_t getuid(void)

passwd * getpwuid(__uid_t

why is this useful?

can export modified version of binary to test

ghidra has support for debugging or emulating running program

- emulation is another application of PCode representation

- debugging requires some work to configure

debuggers / emulators

major way to analyzing software — run it!

possibly using debugger to analyze memory/registers/etc.

possibly in restricted environment

- either limit access to system calls, *or*
run on virtual (okay-to-lose) hardware

selected debugger features (1)

watchpoint (GDB/LLDB watch)

breakpoint triggered by variable/expression changing

breakpoints on system calls (GDB catch syscall ...)

searching memory for strings (GDB find, LLDB memory find)

selected debugger fetures (2)

saving 'core' files (GDB generate-core-file NAME)

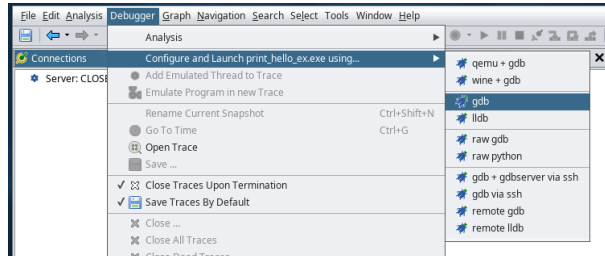
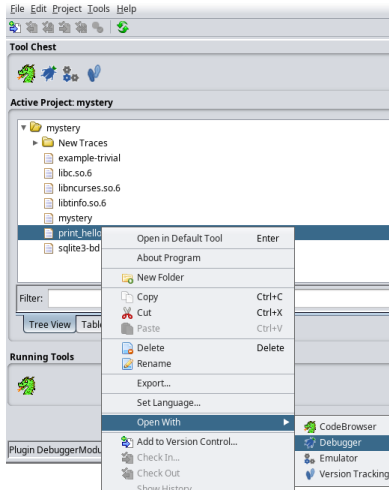
full copy of program's memory, can reload in debugger later

copying memory to/from file (GDB dump/append/restore;
LLDB memory read/write)

attaching to programs / remote debugging

forcing jump to address/return from function (GDB
jump/return)

Ghidra debugger integration

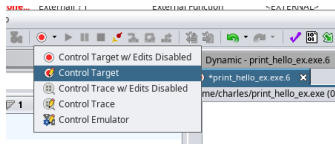


aside: Ghidra debugger installation

relies on GDB python support + some python packages installed

see installation docs

Ghidra traces



Ghidra — debugging session creates a ‘trace’

can be saved to look at later

creates a list of ‘snapshots’ for every time debugger stopped

snapshots are *incomplete*

need to force read of memory/etc. to have info included in snapshot

can switch between ‘Control Target’ and ‘Control Trace’ modes

Control Trace — go back to old snapshots, examine state

Control Target — control live program in debugger

Ghidra dynamic view

```
Dynamic - Auto PC, print_hello_exe.8
*print_hello_exe.8
lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2 pc = 7ffff7fe51d4

7ffff7fe51c5 1c      ??      1Ch
7ffff7fe51c6 01      ??      01h
7ffff7fe51c7 00      ??      00h
7ffff7fe51c8 31      ??      31h  1
7ffff7fe51c9 c0      ??      C0h
7ffff7fe51ca e8      ??      E8h
7ffff7fe51cb 41      ??      41h  A
7ffff7fe51cc ec      ??      ECh
7ffff7fe51cd fe      ??      FEh
7ffff7fe51ce ff      ??      FFh
7ffff7fe51cf 90      ??      90h
7ffff7fe51d0 f3      ??      F3h
7ffff7fe51d1 0f      ??      0Fh
7ffff7fe51d2 1e      ??      1Eh
7ffff7fe51d3 fa      ??      FAh
7ffff7fe51d4 55      PUSH    RBP
7ffff7fe51d5 48 8d 0d LEA     RCX, [0x7ffff7fc5000]
          24 fe fd ff
7ffff7fe51dc 48 8d 05 LEA     RAX, [0x7ffff7ffe2d8]
          f5 90 01 00
7ffff7fe51e3 66 48 0f MOVQ    XMM1, RCX
          6e c9
7ffff7fe51e8 66 48 0f MOVQ    XMM2, RAX
          6e d0
7ffff7fe51ed 66 0f 6c ca PUNPCKLQDQ XMM1, XMM2
7ffff7fe51f1 48 89 e5 MOV     RBP, RSP
7ffff7fe51f4 41 57     PUSH    R15
7ffff7fe51f6 41 56     PUSH    R14
7ffff7fe51f8 41 55     PUSH    R13
7ffff7fe51fa 41 54     PUSH    R12
```

Ghidra dynamic view

The screenshot shows the Ghidra Dynamic View window for the process 'print_hello_exe.8'. The address bar indicates the memory location 'lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2' and the program counter 'pc = 7ffff7fe51d4'. The main display area is divided into two sections: a memory dump on the left and a disassembly on the right. The memory dump shows a sequence of bytes from address 7ffff7fe51c5 to 7ffff7fe51fa. The disassembly shows instructions starting from address 7ffff7fe51d4. A blue box highlights the memory dump, and a red box highlights the disassembly. A green horizontal bar is positioned between the two sections.

Address	Hex	Disassembly
7ffff7fe51c5	1c	?? 1ch
7ffff7fe51c6	01	?? 01h
7ffff7fe51c7	00	?? 00h
7ffff7fe51c8	31	?? 31h 1
7ffff7fe51c9	c0	?? C0h
7ffff7fe51ca	e8	?? E8h
7ffff7fe51cb	41	?? 41h A
7ffff7fe51cc	ec	?? ECh
7ffff7fe51cd	fe	?? FEh
7ffff7fe51ce	ff	?? FFh
7ffff7fe51cf	90	?? 90h
7ffff7fe51d0	f3	?? F3h
7ffff7fe51d1	0f	?? 0Fh
7ffff7fe51d2	1e	?? 1Eh
7ffff7fe51d3	fa	?? FAh
7ffff7fe51d4	55	PUSH RBP
7ffff7fe51d5	48 8d 0d	LEA RCX, [0x7ffff7fc5000]
7ffff7fe51d6	24 fe fd ff	
7ffff7fe51d7	48 8d 05	LEA RAX, [0x7ffff7ffe2d8]
7ffff7fe51d8	f5 90 01 00	
7ffff7fe51e3	66 48 0f	MOVQ XMM1, RCX
7ffff7fe51e4	6e c9	
7ffff7fe51e8	66 48 0f	MOVQ XMM2, RAX
7ffff7fe51e9	6e d0	
7ffff7fe51ed	66 0f 6c ca	PUNPCKLQDQ XMM1, XMM2
7ffff7fe51f1	48 89 e5	MOV RBP, RSP
7ffff7fe51f4	41 57	PUSH R15
7ffff7fe51f6	41 56	PUSH R14
7ffff7fe51f8	41 55	PUSH R13
7ffff7fe51fa	41 54	PUSH R12

not disassembled by default

partial disassembly
(starting from program counter)

Ghidra dynamic view

select where in
memory to view

Dynamic - Auto PC, print_hello_exe.8

*print_hello_exe.8

lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2

pc = 7ffff7fe51d4

reread selected memory

```
7ffff7fe51c5 1c    ??    1Ch
7ffff7fe51c6 01    ??    01h
7ffff7fe51c7 00    ??    00h
7ffff7fe51c8 31    ??    31h    1
7ffff7fe51c9 c0    ??    C0h
7ffff7fe51ca e8    ??    E8h
7ffff7fe51cb 41    ??    41h    A
7ffff7fe51cc ec    ??    ECh
7ffff7fe51cd fe    ??    FEh
7ffff7fe51ce ff    ??    FFh
7ffff7fe51cf 90    ??    90h
7ffff7fe51d0 f3    ??    F3h
7ffff7fe51d1 0f    ??    0Fh
7ffff7fe51d2 1e    ??    1Eh
7ffff7fe51d3 fa    ??    FAh
7ffff7fe51d4 55    PUSH   RBP
7ffff7fe51d5 48 8d 0d LEA     RCX, [0x7ffff7fc5000]
          24 fe fd ff
7ffff7fe51dc 48 8d 05 LEA     RAX, [0x7ffff7ffe2d8]
          f5 90 01 00
7ffff7fe51e3 66 48 0f MOVQ    XMM1, RCX
          6e c9
7ffff7fe51e8 66 48 0f MOVQ    XMM2, RAX
          6e d0
7ffff7fe51ed 66 0f 6c ca PUNPCKLQDQ XMM1, XMM2
7ffff7fe51f1 48 89 e5 MOV     RBP, RSP
7ffff7fe51f4 41 57 PUSH   R15
7ffff7fe51f6 41 56 PUSH   R14
7ffff7fe51f8 41 55 PUSH   R13
7ffff7fe51fa 41 54 PUSH   R12
```

Ghidra dynamic view

Dynamic - Auto PC, print_hello_exe.8

*print_hello_exe.8

compare memory at different times

lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2

pc = 7ffff7fe51d4

7ffff7fe51c5	1c	??	1Ch	
7ffff7fe51c6	01	??	01h	
7ffff7fe51c7	00	??	00h	
7ffff7fe51c8	31	??	31h	1
7ffff7fe51c9	c0	??	C0h	
7ffff7fe51ca	e8	??	E8h	
7ffff7fe51cb	41	??	41h	A
7ffff7fe51cc	ec	??	ECh	
7ffff7fe51cd	fe	??	FEh	
7ffff7fe51ce	ff	??	FFh	
7ffff7fe51cf	90	??	90h	
7ffff7fe51d0	f3	??	F3h	
7ffff7fe51d1	0f	??	0Fh	
7ffff7fe51d2	1e	??	1Eh	
7ffff7fe51d3	fa	??	FAh	
7ffff7fe51d4	55	PUSH	RBP	
7ffff7fe51d5	48 8d 0d	LEA	RCX, [0x7ffff7fc5000]	
	24 fe fd ff			
7ffff7fe51dc	48 8d 05	LEA	RAX, [0x7ffff7ffe2d8]	
	f5 90 01 00			
7ffff7fe51e3	66 48 0f	MOVQ	XMM1, RCX	
	6e c9			
7ffff7fe51e8	66 48 0f	MOVQ	XMM2, RAX	
	6e d0			
7ffff7fe51ed	66 0f 6c ca	PUNPCKLQDQ	XMM1, XMM2	
7ffff7fe51f1	48 89 e5	MOV	RBP, RSP	
7ffff7fe51f4	41 57	PUSH	RL5	
7ffff7fe51f6	41 56	PUSH	RL4	
7ffff7fe51f8	41 55	PUSH	RL3	
7ffff7fe51fa	41 54	PUSH	RL2	

Ghidra snapshots/saved traces:

Time				
Snap	Timestamp	Event Thread	Schedule	Description
0	Jan 19, 2025 04:42 PM	1 process 177222 "print_hello_ex." (running)	0	Stopped
1	Jan 19, 2025 04:43 PM	1 process 177222 "print_hello_ex." (running)		Stopped
2	Jan 19, 2025 04:44 PM	1 process 177222 "print_hello_ex." (running)		Stopped
3	Jan 19, 2025 04:44 PM	1 process 177222 "print_hello_ex." (running)		Stopped
4	Jan 19, 2025 04:44 PM	1 process 177222 "print_hello_ex." (running)		Stopped
5	Jan 19, 2025 04:47 PM			Exited with code 0

automatic partial snapshots whenever pausing debugger

can force read of range of memory to make snapshot contain memory image

reverse debugging?

old idea: 'reverse debugging'

in addition to `step/continue`,
debugger could have `reverse-step/reverse-continue`

typically implemented by recording 'trace' of execution

some implementations (with varyingly middling performance

- <https://rr-project.org> for x86-64 Linux (needs sysadmin to set some things)

- QEMU for full virtual machines (not just one program)

- built-in to GDB, but not maintained/possibly broken with modern systems

unicorn as tool



Unicorn

The Ultimate CPU emulator

[Service](#)[Download](#)[Docs](#)[Showcase](#)[Contact](#)

Unicorn is a lightweight multi-platform, multi-architecture CPU emulator framework.

Highlight features:

- Multi-architectures: ARM, ARM64 (ARMv8), m68k, MIPS, PowerPC, RISC-V, S390x (SystemZ), SPARC, TriCore & x86 (include x86_64).
- Clean/simple/lightweight/intuitive architecture-neutral API.
- Implemented in pure C language, with bindings for Pharo, Crystal, Clojure, Visual Basic, Perl, Rust, Haskell, Ruby, Python, Java, Go, D, Lua, JavaScript, .NET, Delphi/Pascal & MSVC available.
- Native support for Windows & *nix (with macOS, Linux, Android, *BSD & Solaris confirmed).
- High performance by using Just-In-Time compiler technique.
- Support fine-grained instrumentation at various levels.

unicorn example (1)

```
$ cat test.s
    mov $10000, %edi
    imul $2, %rdi, %rdi
$ gcc -c test.s; objcopy -j .text test.o -O binary test.bin
```

```
code = Path('test.bin').read_bytes()
uc = Uc(UC_ARCH_X86, UC_MODE_64)
uc.mem_map(0x10000, 1024 * 1024)
uc.mem_write(0x10000, code)
uc.emu_start(0x10000, 0x10000 + len(code))
print("RDI",uc.reg_read(UC_X86_REG_RDI))
```

```
RDI 20000
```


unicorn example (2)

```
...
uc.hook_add(UC_HOOK_CODE, hook_code_func)
def hook_code_func(uc, addr, size, user_data):
    print(f"{addr:x} ({size} byte instruction): "
          f"{codecs.encode(
                uc.mem_read(addr, size), 'hex'
            ).decode()}")
uc.emu_start(0x10000, 0x10000 + len(code))
```

```
10000 (5 byte instruction): bf10270000
10005 (4 byte instruction): 486bff02
```

example tool: qiling

<https://qiling.io>

uses Unicorn emulator but adds...

emulation for a lot of system calls

including (hopefully) limiting file accesses to specific “virtual root”
directory

loaders for common executable/bootloader formats

idea: get log of malware activity / add custom behaviors

PANDA.re

fork of emulator QEMU

supports whole-system record+replay

idea: run virtual machine with malware

replay run with analyses that can look at all instructions run

examples:

- identify where data from a specific file was used
- search memory for string throughout execution
- function call history

backup slides