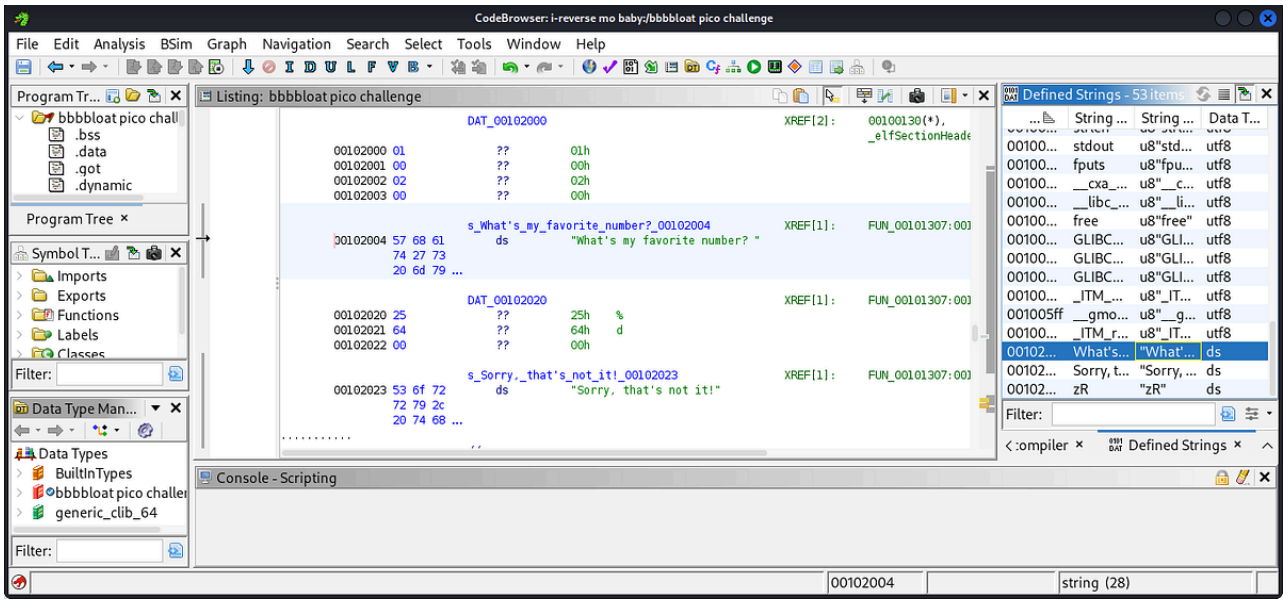
Pico-CTF : bbbbloat challenge Solution

Category: Reverse Engineering

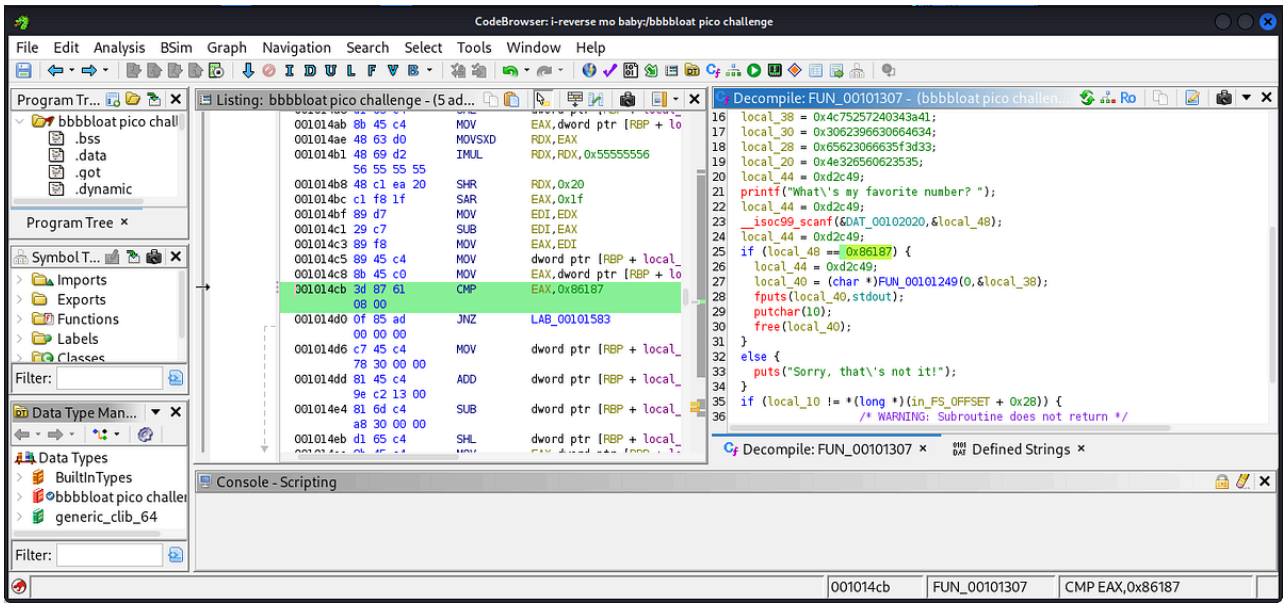
Tool Used: Ghidra

I started by trying to understand how the program worked. Upon inspection, I noticed that the program contains this one **function**, and within it, a key piece of code stood out.

```
if (local_48 == 0x86187) {
   local_44 = 0xd2c49;
   local_40 = (char *)FUN_00101249(0, &local_38);
   fputs(local_40, stdout);
   putchar(10);
   free(local_40);
} else {
   puts("Sorry, that's not it!");
}
```



Here’s what’s happening: the program checks if local_48 matches the hexadecimal value 0x86187. If it does, it calls a function that unscrambles the flag and prints it. Otherwise, it simply outputs: "Sorry, that's not it!".



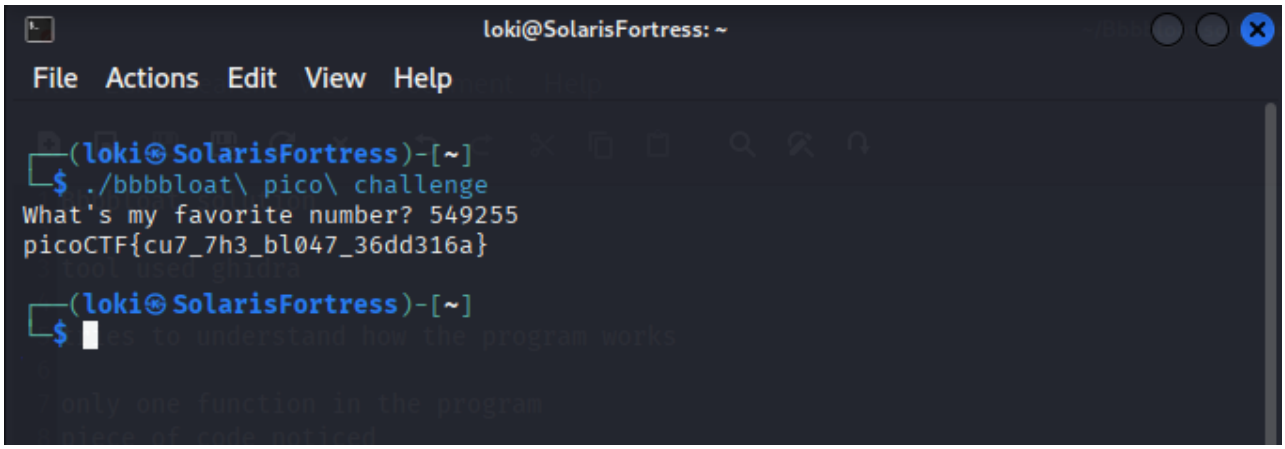
To get the correct input, I converted the hexadecimal value to decimal.

```
>>> hex_value = 0x86187
>>> int(hex_value)
549255
```

So, the answer to the prompt "What's my favorite number?" is 549255.

Running the program with this input reveals the flag:

Flag: picoCTF{cu7_7h3_bl047_36dd316a}



By Alexander Sapo on November 15, 2025.

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Exported from Medium on February 7, 2026.