

REVERSE ENGINEERING & MALWARE ANALYSIS

AIM: Reverse engineering malware using reverse engineering frameworks such as Radare2.

Step 1: Install Radare2 on your system using the following command:

- sudo apt install radare2

Step 2: Set up a secure analysis environment (VM or sandbox) to avoid executing malicious code.

- Loading the Malware Sample in Radare2
 1. Open the terminal and navigate to the folder containing the malware binary.
 2. Run the following command to load the binary into Radare2:
 - r2 -AA malware_sample.exe

The screenshot shows a terminal window with a dark background and light-colored text. The terminal is running as root on a Kali Linux system. The user has navigated to the directory /home/punit/Downloads/darkcomet. They first run 'ls' to see the contents of the directory, which are 'sample1.exe' and 'sample2.exe'. Then, they run 'r2 -AA sample2.exe' to load the second sample into Radare2. The output of this command includes several informational messages from the Radare2 analyzer, such as 'INFO: Analyze all flags starting with sym. and entry0 (aa)', 'INFO: Analyze imports (af@@@i)', and 'INFO: Analyze entrypoint (af@ entry0)'. A large watermark for 'KALI' is visible across the bottom of the terminal window.

```
root@kali:/home/punit/Downloads/darkcomet
# ls
sample1.exe sample2.exe

(root@kali)-[/home/punit/Downloads/darkcomet]
# r2 -AA sample2.exe
WARN: Relocs has not been applied. Please use `‐e bin.relocs.apply=true` or `‐e bin.cache=true` next time
INFO: Analyze all flags starting with sym. and entry0 (aa)
INFO: Analyze imports (af@@@i)
INFO: Analyze entrypoint (af@ entry0)
INFO: Analyze symbols (af@@@s)
INFO: Analyze all functions arguments/locals (afva@@@F)
INFO: Analyze function calls (aac)
INFO: Analyze len bytes of instructions for references (aar)
INFO: Finding and parsing C++ vtables (avrr)
INFO: Analyzing methods (af @@ method.*)
INFO: Recovering local variables (afva@@@F)
INFO: Type matching analysis for all functions (aift)
INFO: Propagate noreturn information (aanr)
INFO: Scanning for strings constructed in code (/azs)
INFO: Finding function preludes (aap)
INFO: Enable anal.types.constraint for experimental type propagation
[0x004c69c0]>
```

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Step 3: Analyzing the Binary Structure

- Use the `i` command to display basic binary information:



```
File Actions Edit View Help
root@kali: /home/punit/Downloads/darkcomet
[0x004c69c0]> i
fd      3
file   sample2.exe
size    0x47400
humansz 285K
mode    r-x
format  pe
iornr  false
block   0x100
type    EXEC (Executable file)
arch    x86
baddr  0x400000
binsz  291840
bintype pe
bits   32
canary  true
injprot false
retguard false
class   PE32
cmp.csum 0x0004cd91
compiled Mon Oct 31 01:52:14 2011
crypto   false
endian  little
havecode true
hdr.csum 0x00000000
laddr   0x0
lang    c
linenum true
lsyms   true
machine i386
nx      false
os      windows
overlay false
cc      cdecl
pic    false
relocs  true
signed  false
sanitize false
static   false
```

- List the functions detected in the binary using: **afl**



```
sanitize false
static  false
stripped false
subsys Windows GUI
va      true
[0x004c69c0]> afl
0x004c69c0 53 443 entry0
0x004837a0 3 19 fcn.004837a0
0x00487a5e 1 36 fcn.00487a5e
0x004c3695 1 87 int.004c3695
0x00481c2b 3 33 fcn.00481c2b
0x0048379c 1 4 fcn.0048379c
[0x004c69c0]>
```

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Step 4: Disassembling and Identifying Code Flow

- Run the following command to extract readable strings: **iz**

```
[root@kali: /home/junit/Downloads/darkcomet]
[804c69c0]> iz
[Strings]
nth paddr      vaddr      len size section type      string
0 0x00469e8 0x004c79e8 11 24 .rsrc  utf16le \nCHANGEDATE
1 0x0046a00 0x004c7a00 6 14 .rsrc  utf16le CHIDED
2 0x0046a0e 0x004c7a0e 26 54 .rsrc  utf16le CHIDEF\COMBOPATH\DIRATTRIB
3 0x0046a44 0x004c7a44 33 68 .rsrc  utf16le DVCCLAL\EDTDATE\EDTPATH\FILEATTRIB
4 0x0046a88 0x004c7a88 27 56 .rsrc  utf16le FWB\AGENCODE\INSTALL\KEYNAME
5 0x0046ac0 0x004c7ac0 4 10 .rsrc  utf16le MELT
6 0x0046aca 0x004c7aca 43 88 .rsrc  utf16le MUTEX\NETDATA\bOFFLINE\PACKAGEINFO\bPERSINST
7 0x0046b3a 0x004c7b3a 15 32 .rsrc  utf16le VS_VERSION_INFO
8 0x0046b96 0x004c7b96 14 30 .rsrc  utf16le StringFileInfo
9 0x0046bba 0x004c7bba 8 18 .rsrc  utf16le 049904b0
10 0x0046bd2 0x004c7bd2 8 18 .rsrc  utf16le Comments
11 0x0046be4 0x004c7be4 26 54 .rsrc  utf16le Remote Service Application
12 0x0046c22 0x004c7c22 11 24 .rsrc  utf16le CompanyName
13 0x0046c3c 0x004c7c3c 15 32 .rsrc  utf16le Microsoft Corp.
14 0x0046c62 0x004c7c62 15 32 .rsrc  utf16le FileDescription
15 0x0046c84 0x004c7c84 26 54 .rsrc  utf16le Remote Service Application
16 0x0046cc2 0x004c7cc2 11 24 .rsrc  utf16leFileVersion
17 0x0046cdc 0x004c7cdc 10 22 .rsrc  utf16le 1, 0, 0, 1
18 0x0046cfa 0x004c7cfa 12 26 .rsrc  utf16le InternalName
19 0x0046d14 0x004c7d14 8 18 .rsrc  utf16le MSRSAAPP
20 0x0046d2e 0x004c7d2e 14 30 .rsrc  utf16le LegalCopyright
21 0x0046d4c 0x004c7d4c 18 38 .rsrc  utf16le Copyright (C) 1999
22 0x0046d7a 0x004c7d7a 16 34 .rsrc  utf16le OriginalFilename
23 0x0046d9c 0x004c7d9c 11 24 .rsrc  utf16le MSRSAAP.EXE
24 0x0046dba 0x004c7dba 11 24 .rsrc  utf16le ProductName
25 0x0046dd4 0x004c7dd4 26 54 .rsrc  utf16le Remote Service Application
26 0x0046e12 0x004c7e12 14 30 .rsrc  utf16le ProductVersion
27 0x0046e30 0x004c7e30 10 22 .rsrc  utf16le 4, 0, 0, 0
28 0x0046e4e 0x004c7e4e 11 24 .rsrc  utf16le VarFileInfo
29 0x0046e6e 0x004c7e6e 11 24 .rsrc  utf16le Translation
30 0x0047100 0x004c8100 12 13 .rsrc  ascii KERNEL32.DLL
31 0x004710d 0x004c810d 12 13 .rsrc  ascii advapi32.dll
32 0x004711a 0x004c811a 12 13 .rsrc  ascii AVICAP32.DLL
33 0x0047127 0x004c8127 12 13 .rsrc  ascii comctl32.dll
34 0x0047134 0x004c8134 9 10 .rsrc  ascii gdi32.dll
35 0x004713e 0x004c813e 11 12 .rsrc  ascii gdiplus.dll
```

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Step 5: Disassembling and Identifying Code Flow

- Open the disassembler view using: **pdr @entry**

```
[0x004c69c0]> pdr @0x004c69c0
; CODE XREF from entry@0x4c6b73(x)
0x0049f92c c49efe4785f6 les ebx, [esi - 0x97ab802]
0x0049f932 cc int3

;-- eip: cracktv
443: entry@()
0x004c69c0 60 pushal
0x004c69c1 be00104800 mov esi, section.UPX1 ; 0x481000
0x004c69c6 8dbe0000f8ff lea edi, [esi - 0x80000]
0x004c69cc c787b0070a.. mov dword [edi + 0xa07b0], 0x7919e424 ; [0xa07b0:4]=-1
0x004c69d6 57 push edi
0x004c69d7 83cdff or ebp, 0xffffffff ; -1
; CODE XREF from int.004c3695 @ +0x3300(x)
0x004c69da eb0e jmp 0x4c69ea
// true: 0x004c69ea
; CODE XREF from entry@0x4c69f1(x)
0x004c69e0 8a06 mov al, byte [esi]
0x004c69e2 46 inc esi
0x004c69e3 8807 mov byte [edi], al
0x004c69e5 47 inc edi
// true: 0x004c69e6
; CODE XREFS from entry@0x4c6a9f(x), 0x4c6ab5(x)
0x004c69e6 01db add ebx, ebx
0x004c69e8 7507 jne 0x4c69f1
// true: 0x004c69f1 false: 0x004c69ea
; CODE XREF from entry@0x4c69d1(x)
0x004c69ea b81e mov ebx, dword [esi]
0x004c69ec 83efc sub esi, 0xffffffffc
0x004c69ef 11db adc ebx, ebx
// true: 0x004c69f1
; CODE XREF from entry@0x4c69e8(x)
0x004c69f1 72ed jb 0x4c69e0
// true: 0x004c69e0 false: 0x004c69f3
0x004c69f3 b801000000 mov eax, 1
// true: 0x004c69f8
; CODE XREF from entry@0x4c6a22(x)
0x004c69f8 01db add ebx, ebx
0x004c69fa 7507 jne 0x4c6a03
// true: 0x004c6a03 false: 0x004c69fc
```

Conclusion:

By following these steps, you can successfully reverse engineer a malware sample using Radare2. Reverse engineering helps security professionals understand malware behavior, detect threats early, and develop strategies to defend against cyberattacks. Always remember to work in a secure and isolated environment to avoid any risk of accidental execution of the malware.