

Workshop: Firmware Reverse Engineering

Tim Blazytko



About Tim

• Chief Scientist, Head of Engineering & Co-Founder of Emproof

• focused on advancing embedded security solutions

• PhD in binary program analysis & reverse engineering



• training and lectures at industry conferences & universities

Who are you?

Workshop Goals

• understanding fundamentals of reverse engineering

• exploring a wide variety of application scenarios

learning of state-of-the-art tools and techniques

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• understanding fundamentals of reverse engineering

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Focus on hands-on sessions.

Outline

- basic file/ELF analysis
- software cracking and keygenning
- string decryption & malware triage
- embedded-Linux firmware unpacking
- bare-metal analysis
- crypto detection
- obfuscation/anti-analysis techniques and how to bypass them

Workshop Format

- 14 self-contained tasks teaching various skills
- solutions are mostly build-in (e.g., source code)
- task-driven with demonstrations, group discussions & trainer support
- AARCH64 Docker execution and analysis environment: ./docker_run.sh
- native tools: Ghidra, Binary Ninja (Free)

https://github.com/emproof-com/workshop_firmware_reverse_engineering

Software Reverse Engineering

We want to understand what a given software does.

• program from an unknown source

- program from an unknown source
- malicious software analysis

- program from an unknown source
- malicious software analysis
- vulnerability analysis

- program from an *unknown* source
- malicious software analysis
- vulnerability analysis
- piracy and cracking

- program from an *unknown* source
- malicious software analysis
- vulnerability analysis
- piracy and cracking
- evaluation of software quality

0a 01 0a 00 0b 02 de ad

opcode register	constant
-----------------	----------

0a 01 0a 00 0b 02 de ad

opcode register constant

0a 01 0a 00 0b 02 de ad

add

mul

opcode register constant

0a 01 0a 00 0b 02 de ad

 $add \ \, \textcolor{red}{\textbf{R1}}$

mul R2

opcode	register	constant
opcode	register	Constant

0a 01 0a 00 0b 02 de ad

add R1, 0x0a00
mul R2, 0xdead

opcode register	constant
-----------------	----------

0a 01 0a 00 0b 02 de ad

add R1, 0x0a00 mul R2, 0xdead

The decoded machine code is called assembly code.

Disassembler: Decodes Machine Code

```
55 48 89 e5 89
7d fc 89 75 f8
8b 55 fc 8b 45
f8 01 d0 c1 e0
02 5d c3 00 00
```

Disassembler: Decodes Machine Code

```
55 48 89 e5 89
7d fc 89 75 f8
8b 55 fc 8b 45
f8 01 d0 c1 e0
02 5d c3 00 00
```

```
push
        rbp
mov
        rbp, rsp
        [rbp+var_4], edi
mov
        [rbp+var_8], esi
mov
        edx, [rbp+var_4]
mov
        eax, [rbp+var_8]
mov
add
        eax, edx
shl
        eax, 2
        rbp
pop
retn
```

Disassembler: Decodes Machine Code

```
push
                                                rbp
                                                rbp. rsp
                                          mov
55 48 89 e5 89
                                                [rbp+var_4], edi
                                          mov
                                                [rbp+var_8], esi
7d fc 89 75 f8
                                          mov
                                                edx, [rbp+var_4]
                                          mov
8b 55 fc 8b 45
                                                8 xevreday 8
   critical step in reverse engineering
                                          pop
                                                rbp
                                          retn
```

Decompiler: Reconstructs High-Level Code

```
push
          rbp
mov
          rbp, rsp
         [rbp+var_4], edi
[rbp+var_8], esi
edx, [rbp+var_4]
mov
mov
mov
          eax, [rbp+var_8]
mov
add
          eax, edx
shl
          eax, 2
          rbp
pop
retn
```

Decompiler: Reconstructs High-Level Code

```
push
        rbp
        rbp, rsp
mov
        [rbp+var_4], edi
mov
        [rbp+var_8], esi
mov
        edx, [rbp+var_4]
mov
        eax, [rbp+var_8]
mov
        eax, edx
add
shl
        eax, 2
        rbp
pop
retn
```

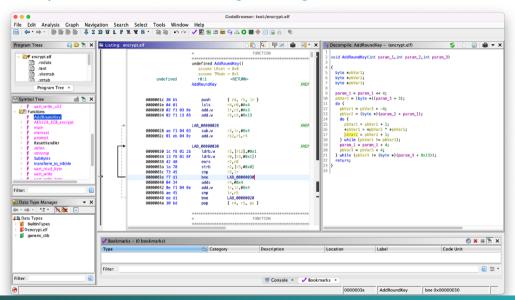


```
ulong calculate(int param_1,int param_2)
{
    return (ulong)(uint)((param_2 + param_1) * 4);
}
```

Decompiler: Reconstructs High-Level Code

```
push
      rbp
      rbp. rsp
mov
      [rbp+var 4], edi
mov
      [rbp+var 8], esi
                                            ulong calculate(int param 1.int param 2)
mov
      edx, [rbp+var 4]
mov
                                               return (ulong)(uint)((param_2 + param_1) * 4);
      eax, [rbp+var_8]
mov
add
    eases reverse engineering significantly
shl
pop
retr
```

Ghidra: Open Source Reverse Engineering Framework



Conclusion

https://github.com/emproof-com/workshop_firmware_reverse_engineering

https://github.com/emproof-com/webinars

Tim Blazytko

- ♥ @mr_phrazer
- ★ https://www.emproof.com/

