

# Hybrid Reptile

As always let's start by seeing what we're dealing with.

We got an ELF file and it is stripped.

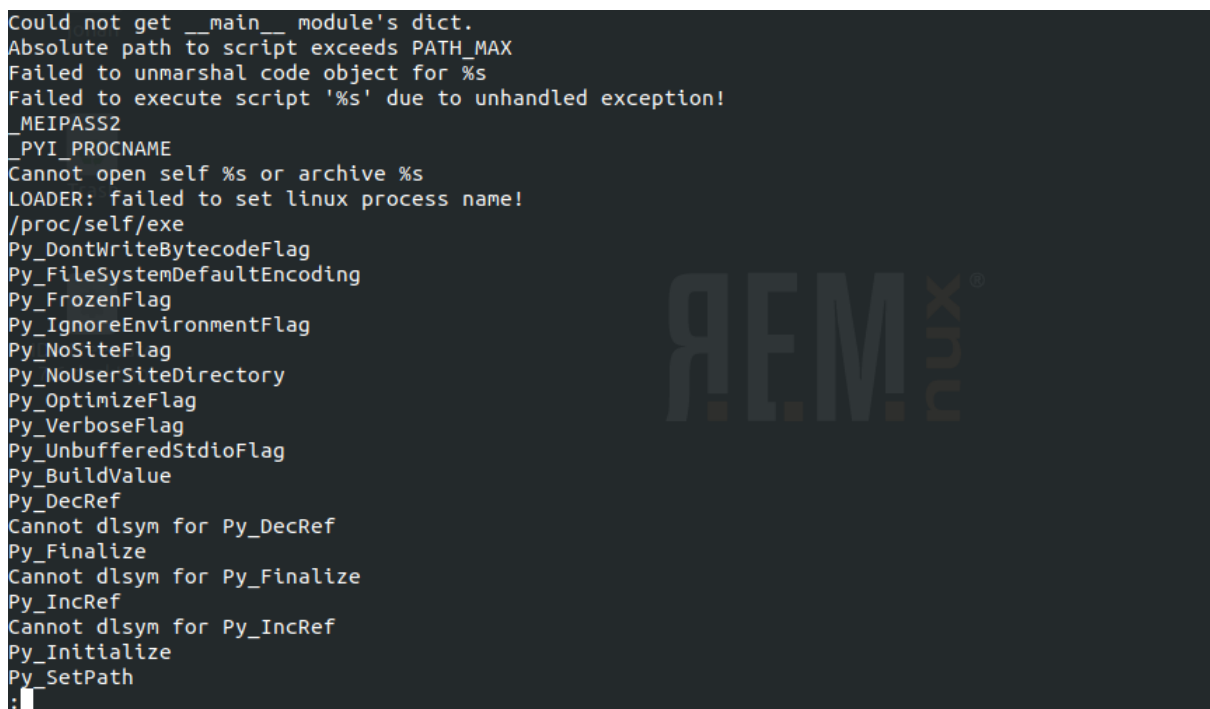
A terminal window titled 'tmux' showing a series of commands and their outputs. The user is in a directory 'Chall\_CTF/REV2/bin'. They run 'ls' and see 'hybrid\_reptile'. Then they run 'file hybrid\_reptile' and get the output: 'hybrid\_reptile: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), dynamically linked, interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2, BuildID[sha1]=f6af5bc244c001328c174a6abf855d682aa7401b, for GNU/Linux 2.6.32, stripped'.

```
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » ls  
hybrid_reptile  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » file hybrid_reptile  
hybrid_reptile: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), dynamically linked, interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2, BuildID[sha1]=f6af5bc244c001328c174a6abf855d682aa7401b, for GNU/Linux 2.6.32, stripped  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »
```

Let's see if there is any hard-coded text in the binary.

strings give us a lot of insight about this file.

We're seeing a lot of python related strings.

A terminal window showing the output of the 'strings' command. It lists various Python-related strings, including error messages and module names. The strings are: 'Could not get \_\_main\_\_ module's dict.', 'Absolute path to script exceeds PATH\_MAX', 'Failed to unmarshal code object for %s', 'Failed to execute script %s' due to unhandled exception!', '\_MEIPASS2', '\_PYI\_PROCNAME', 'Cannot open self %s or archive %s', 'LOADER: failed to set linux process name!', '/proc/self/exe', 'Py\_DontWriteBytecodeFlag', 'Py\_FileSystemDefaultEncoding', 'Py\_FrozenFlag', 'Py\_IgnoreEnvironmentFlag', 'Py\_NoSiteFlag', 'Py\_NoUserSiteDirectory', 'Py\_OptimizeFlag', 'Py\_VerboseFlag', 'Py\_UnbufferedStdioFlag', 'Py\_BuildValue', 'Py\_DecRef', 'Cannot dlsym for Py\_DecRef', 'Py\_Finalize', 'Cannot dlsym for Py\_Finalize', 'Py\_IncRef', 'Cannot dlsym for Py\_IncRef', 'Py\_Initialize', 'Py\_SetPath', and ':'.

```
Could not get __main__ module's dict.  
Absolute path to script exceeds PATH_MAX  
Failed to unmarshal code object for %s  
Failed to execute script %s' due to unhandled exception!  
_MEIPASS2  
_PYI_PROCNAME  
Cannot open self %s or archive %s  
LOADER: failed to set linux process name!  
/proc/self/exe  
Py_DontWriteBytecodeFlag  
Py_FileSystemDefaultEncoding  
Py_FrozenFlag  
Py_IgnoreEnvironmentFlag  
Py_NoSiteFlag  
Py_NoUserSiteDirectory  
Py_OptimizeFlag  
Py_VerboseFlag  
Py_UnbufferedStdioFlag  
Py_BuildValue  
Py_DecRef  
Cannot dlsym for Py_DecRef  
Py_Finalize  
Cannot dlsym for Py_Finalize  
Py_IncRef  
Cannot dlsym for Py_IncRef  
Py_Initialize  
Py_SetPath  
:
```

We see one interesting piece of string called `pydata` here. Why this is important? cuz this section usually exist in the binaries which were compiled from python script.

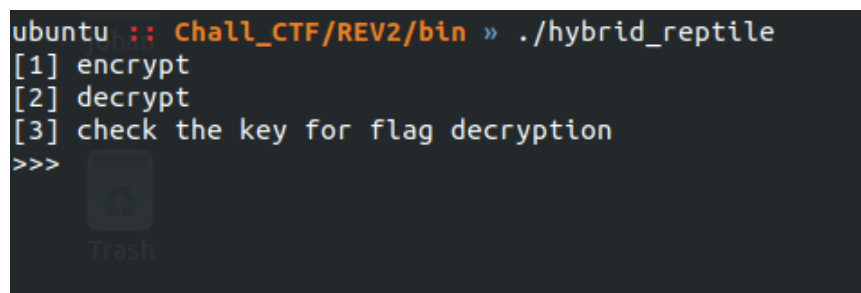
Mostly compiled using pyinstaller.



Now let's see what this binary does.

This binary starts with giving us some options to work with.

1. we can encrypt a text
2. decrypt a text
3. check the key for the flag.



The encrypt option will take plain text as input encrypt and give encrypted string and the key for the encryption. The decrypt function will take the encrypted text as input and ask for the key and give plain text as result.

The interesting function here is the 3rd one. It only gets the key as input and will tell us whether or not the key is correct one for decrypting the flag.

One awesome thing about python compiled binary is that we can easily obtain the source code of the program.

With `objcopy` utility we can dump sections of a binary. In our case we want pydata section as it holds all the information that we need.

```
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin 130 »  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin 130 »  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin 130 »  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin 130 »  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin 130 » objcopy --dump-section pydata=pydata.dump ./hybrid_reptile  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » ls  
hybrid_reptile pydata.dump  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »
```

And with the help of Pyinstxtractor we can extract the scripts and dependencies from the pydata dump.

```
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin 130 » objcopy --dump-section pydata=pydata.dump ./hybrid_reptile  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » ls  
hybrid_reptile pydata.dump  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » git clone https://github.com/extremecoders-re/pyinstxtractor  
Cloning into 'pyinstxtractor'...  
remote: Enumerating objects: 68, done.  
remote: Counting objects: 100% (12/12), done.  
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (8/8), done.  
remote: Total 68 (delta 4), reused 10 (delta 4), pack-reused 56  
Unpacking objects: 100% (68/68), 30.69 KiB | 268.00 KiB/s, done.  
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » cd pyinstxtractor  
ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor » python3 pyinstxtractor.py ../pydata.dump  
[+] Processing ../pydata.dump  
[+] Pyinstaller version: 2.1+  
[+] Python version: 38  
[+] Length of package: 9975473 bytes  
[+] Found 60 files in CArchive  
[+] Beginning extraction...please standby  
[+] Possible entry point: pyiboot01_bootstrap.pyc  
[+] Possible entry point: pyi_rth_pkgutil.pyc  
[+] Possible entry point: pyi_rth_multiprocessing.pyc  
[+] Possible entry point: pyi_rth_inspect.pyc  
[+] Possible entry point: hybrid_reptile.pyc  
[+] Found 301 files in PYZ archive  
[+] Successfully extracted pyinstaller archive: ../pydata.dump  
  
You can now use a python decompiler on the pyc files within the extracted directory  
ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor »
```

Now we have a new directory under the current directory.

```

ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor »
ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor »
ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor »
ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor » ls
LICENSE pydata.dump_extracted pyinstxtractor.py README.md
ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor »
ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor »
ubuntu :: REV2/bin/pyinstxtractor »

```

inside that directory we can see compiled python code

```

ubuntu :: bin/pyinstxtractor/pydata.dump_extracted »
ubuntu :: bin/pyinstxtractor/pydata.dump_extracted »
ubuntu :: bin/pyinstxtractor/pydata.dump_extracted » ls
base_library.zip      lib-dynload           libssl.so.1.1         pyi_rth_inspect.pyc
bcrypt                libexpat.so.1         libtinfo.so.6         pyi_rth_multiprocessing.pyc
_cffi_backend.cpython-38-x86_64-linux-gnu.so  libffi-c643fa1a.so.6.0.4  libz.so.1             pyi_rth_pkgutil.pyc
cryptography          libffi.so.7           pyiboot01_bootstrap.pyc  PYZ-00.pyz
cryptography-3.4.7.dist-info  liblzma.so.5         pyimod01_os_path.pyc    PYZ-00.pyz_extracted
hybrid_reptile.pyc      libmpdec.so.2         pyimod02_archive.pyc    struct.pyc
libbz2.so.1.0          libpython3.8.so.1.0  pyimod03_importers.pyc
libcrypto.so.1.1       libreadline.so.8     pyimod04_ctypes.pyc
ubuntu :: bin/pyinstxtractor/pydata.dump_extracted »

```

so now with frameworks like `uncompyle6` we can easily revert this file into python source code.

```

ubuntu :: bin/pyinstxtractor/pydata.dump_extracted » uncompyle6 hybrid_reptile.pyc > ../../decompiled_scrip.py
ubuntu :: bin/pyinstxtractor/pydata.dump_extracted » cd ../../
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » ls
decompiled_scrip.py  hybrid_reptile  pydata.dump  pyinstxtractor
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »

```

Let's take a look at the decompiled scrip now.

```
~/Chall_CTF/REV2/bin/decompiled_scrip.py - Sublime Text (UNREGISTERED)
File Edit Selection Find View Goto Tools Project Preferences Help
decompiled_scrip.py x
1 # uncomple6 version 3.7.4
2 # Python bytecode 3.8 (3413)
3 # Decompiled from: Python 3.8.10 (default, Jun 2 2021, 10:49:15)
4 # [GCC 9.4.0]
5 # Embedded file name: hybrid_reptile.py
6 from ctypes import *
7 from cryptography.fernet import Fernet
8 from base64 import b64decode
9 import os
10 the_obj = 'f0VMRgIBAQAIAAAAAAAAAAAAAAPgABAAAAQBAIAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAG2AAAAAAAAAAAAAAEAA0AALAEAAAGgAZAAEAAAAEAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAsAQAA'
11
12 def encrypt(s):
13     message = s
14     key = Fernet.generate_key()
15     fernet = Fernet(key)
16     enc = fernet.encrypt(message)
17     return (enc, key)
18
19 def decrypt(m, k):
20     fernet = Fernet(k)
21     dec = fernet.decrypt(m)
22     return dec
23
24 def check_real_key(key):
25     with open('/tmp/wutt.so', 'wb') as (f):
26         f.write(b64decode(the_obj))
27         f.close()
28     s_obj = '/tmp/wutt.so'
29     funcs = CDLL(s_obj)
30     funcs.check.restype = c_char_p
31     if funcs.check(bytes(key)) == b'000':
32         os.remove('/tmp/wutt.so')
33         return True
34
35 Line 14, Column 32 Tab Size: 4 Python
```

let's ignore the `encrypt()` and `decrypt()` functions for now. Take a look at the `check_real_key()` function.

```
25
26 def check_real_key(key):
27     with open('/tmp/wutt.so', 'wb') as (f):
28         f.write(b64decode(the_obj))
29         f.close()
30     s_obj = '/tmp/wutt.so'
31     funcs = CDLL(s_obj)
32     funcs.check.restype = c_char_p
33     if funcs.check(bytes(key)) == b'000':
34         os.remove('/tmp/wutt.so')
35         return True
36
```

what this function does is it decodes `the_obj` from base64 and writes the results to `/tmp/wutt.so`(shared object). And uses python ctype to access the shared functions from that object file. From the looks of it there is a function called `check` in that shared object and it takes string input. And after taking the key if the output is equal to `b'000'` then it decides that the function is valid. Finally it deletes the `wutt.so` from `/tmp`.

```
def check_real_key(key):
    with open('/tmp/wutt.so', 'wb') as (f): #opening file descriptor
        # writes base64decoded result on "/tmp/wutt.so"
        f.write(b64decode(the_obj))
        f.close()
    s_obj = '/tmp/wutt.so'
    funcs = CDLL(s_obj)
    funcs.check.restype = c_char_p # defining the ctype func input as char(str)
    if funcs.check(bytes(key)) == b'000':
```

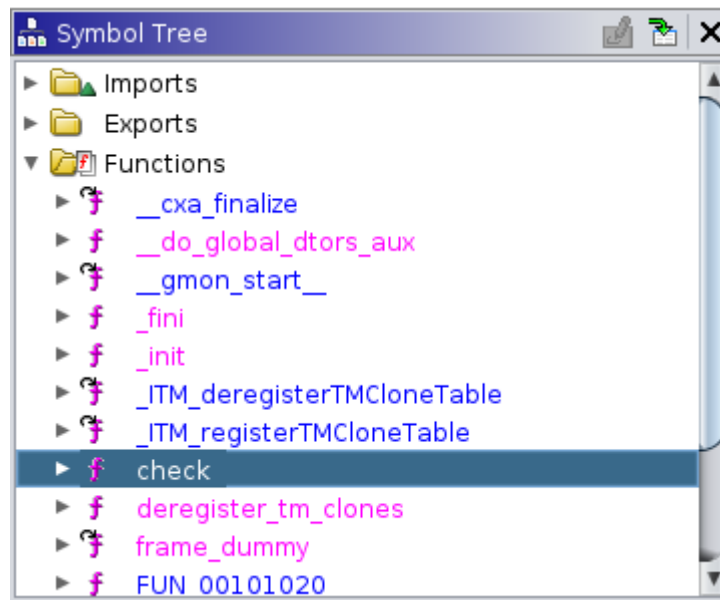
```
os.remove('/tmp/wutt.so') # removes after execution
return True
```

Let's manually decode the base64 encoded string and analyse `wutt.so`.

```
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » base64 -d wutt.b64 >wutt.so
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » file wutt.so
wutt.so: ELF 64-bit LSB shared object, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), dynamically linked, BuildID[sha1]=cd8d93d9c09548d0d737f6c21a0b4143ced
34850, not stripped
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »
```

We can analyse this file with Ghidra.

The shared object only have one user defined function.



When seeing decompiled version of this function.. we see some mangled array. And it is returning two things based on the condition. After changing the data type to char we can clearly see what it return. So based on what we have if our input matches with this conditions it returns `"000"` and if we remember from the `check_real_key()` function if the return type matches with `b"000"` it gives success message.

```

5  char *pcVar1;
6
7  if (((((((((param_1[0x15] == 'E') && (param_1[2] == '1')) && (param_1[0x11] == 'F')) &&
8      ((param_1[0x12] == '4' && (param_1[0x25] == 'u')))) &&
9      ((param_1[0x1c] == 'n' && ((param_1[0x29] == '7' && (param_1[0x1a] == 'J')))))) &&
10     (param_1[0x1b] == 'J')) &&
11     (((param_1[0x1f] == 'C' && (param_1[6] == 't')) && (param_1[0xd] == 'h')) &&
12     ((param_1[0x27] == 'W' && (param_1[0x28] == 'A')) &&
13     ((param_1[7] == 'U' && ((param_1[10] == 'L' && (param_1[0x2b] == '=')))))) &&
14     (((param_1[0x2a] == 's' &&
15     ((param_1[0x21] == '1' && (param_1[0xc] == 'u')) && (param_1[5] == 'E')))) &&
16     (((param_1[0xe] == 'o' && (param_1[0x23] == 'C')) &&
17     ((param_1[0x16] == 'N' && ((param_1[0x1d] == '6' && (param_1[0xb] == 'j')))) &&
18     (param_1[0x26] == 'B')))))) &&
19     (((((((((param_1[0x24] == 'l' && (*param_1 == 'Q')) && (param_1[3] == 'g')) &&
20         ((param_1[0x18] == 'C' && (param_1[4] == 'F')))) && (param_1[0x13] == 'e')) &&
21         ((param_1[0x10] == 't' && (param_1[0x22] == '6')) &&
22         ((param_1[0x14] == '8' &&
23         ((param_1[9] == 'w' && (param_1[1] == 'e')) && (param_1[0x1e] == 'h')))))))) &&
24         ((param_1[8] == 'X' && (param_1[0x17] == 'I')))) &&
25         ((param_1[0x20] == 'i' && ((param_1[0x19] == 'P' && (param_1[0xf] == 'k')))))))) {
26     pcVar1 = "000";
27 }
28 else {
29     pcVar1 = "";
30 }

```

So with reordering this array we can get our key for flag decryption.

With the following C script we can get the key easily.

```

#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main(){
    char param_1[43];

    param_1[0x15] = 'E';
    param_1[2] = '1';
    param_1[0x11] = 'F';
    param_1[0x12] = '4';
    param_1[0x25] = 'u';
    param_1[0x1c] = 'n';
    param_1[0x29] = '7';
    param_1[0x1a] = 'J';
    param_1[0x1b] = 'J';
    param_1[0x1f] = 'C';
    param_1[6] = 't';
    param_1[0xd] = 'h';
    param_1[0x27] = 'W';
    param_1[0x28] = 'A';
    param_1[7] = 'U';
    param_1[10] = 'L';
    param_1[0x2b] = '=';
    param_1[0x2a] = 's';
    param_1[0x21] = '1';
    param_1[0xc] = 'u';

```

```

param_1[5] = 'E';
param_1[0xe] = 'o';
param_1[0x23] = 'C';
param_1[0x16] = 'N';
param_1[0x1d] = '6';
param_1[0xb] = 'j';
param_1[0x26] = 'B';
param_1[0x24] = '1';
param_1[0] = 'Q';
param_1[3] = 'g';
param_1[0x18] = 'C';
param_1[4] = 'F';
param_1[0x13] = 'e';
param_1[0x10] = 't';
param_1[0x22] = '6';
param_1[0x14] = '8';
param_1[9] = 'w';
param_1[1] = 'e';
param_1[0x1e] = 'h';
param_1[8] = 'X';
param_1[0x17] = 'I';
param_1[0x20] = 'i';
param_1[0x19] = 'P';
param_1[0xf] = 'k';

int i;
for (i=0; i<sizeof(param_1)+1;i++){
    printf("%c", param_1[i]);
}
return 0;
}

```



```

37     param_1[0x18] = 'C';
38     param_1[4] = 'F';
39     param_1[0x13] = 'e';
40     param_1[0x10] = 't';
41     param_1[0x22] = '6';
42     param_1[0x14] = '8';
43     param_1[9] = 'w';
44     param_1[1] = 'e';
45     param_1[0x1e] = 'h';
46     param_1[8] = 'X';
47     param_1[0x17] = 'I';
48     param_1[0x20] = 'i';
49     param_1[0x19] = 'P';
50     param_1[0xf] = 'k';
51
52     int i;
53     for (i=0; i<sizeof(param_1)+1;i++){
54         printf("%c", param_1[i]);
55     }
56     return 0;
57 }

```

```

Qe1gFEtUXwLjuhoktF4e8ENICPJn6hCi16C1uBWA7s=
[Finished in 89ms]

```

Looks like a valid key. We can check if it is the correct key with the binary we have. And yep.. that's the correct key.

```

ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » ./hybrid_reptile
[1] encrypt
[2] decrypt
[3] check the key for flag decryption
>>> 3
Enter the key for encrypted flag
>>> Qe1gFEtUXwLjuhoktF4e8ENICPJn6hCi16C1uBWA7s=
Ooooooh.. That's the correct key ma boyy!!
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »

```

We can decrypt the encrypted message now.

```
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » cat enc
encrypted_flag = b'gAAAAABhJSCLStIQtSxtB9oh2CVVq1sKTYCgcry-8MX5cXKQv4SSf0z-7KS55HHRU2qohHmSpYfqrn6KJ14D_LQqqtNH7eYVJc7tnY0MheqcZUSMjk
u71AubNk9iJbCH6sOnxVWE7_YxVG94Zo2W5htXVLlky6CIA=='
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin » ./hybrid_reptile
[1] encrypt
[2] decrypt
[3] check the key for flag decryption
>>> 2
Enter the encrypted message: gAAAAABhJSCLStIQtSxtB9oh2CVVq1sKTYCgcry-8MX5cXKQv4SSf0z-7KS55HHRU2qohHmSpYfqrn6KJ14D_LQqqtNH7eYVJc7tnY0M
heqcZUSMjku71AubNk9iJbCH6sOnxVWE7_YxVG94Zo2W5htXVLlky6CIA==
Enter the key: Qe1gFetUXwLjuhoktF4e8ENICPJn6hC16C1uBWA7s=
b'Baaaabu!! Snake Baaaaaaaabu!!! 'TamilCTF{imaaaa_Snakeeeee!#$$%^}'
ubuntu :: Chall_CTF/REV2/bin »
```

Flag : TamilCTF{imaaaa\_Snakeeeee!#\$\$%^}