This project implements side channel analysis attack for the XTEA algorithm.
It is an entry for the NewAE 2018 contest.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XTEA
Because is a fairly small symmetric block cipher implementation it is a good candidate for boot-loaders and other embedded projects. With a 128bit key offers a good level of security. Question is how secure is when running on a 32bit microcontroller? Side channel attacks are like magic. First you don't believe your eyes when you recover something from an 8 bit processor. Then when you can convince people that is possible, arises the question of the 32bit architecture. Should be harder, if not impossible.
Harder?, yes, impossible No.
So lets build everything from ground up, and see how secure we are if we use XTEA in something.

The hardware:
For the tests i used a Mikroelektronika MIN-32
https://www.mikroe.com/mini-pic32mx
The board features a PIC32MX534F064H Microchip microcontroller. The board was programmed whit PICKIT3, erasing the Mikroelektronika bootloader.
Target software was developed in MPLAB X IDE , compiled with XC32 1.40 and legacy pic32 plib libraries (on Microchip`s website it is present in the archives).
Target is clocked from the chipwhisperer. Clock is routed on the target trough the PLL to further complicate things.

The target implements a simple XTEA decryption, using the Simpleserial protocol, baudrate 19200.
Trigger is wired from an IO toggle(RE6).
UART is connected to RD2 RD3 (UART1)
Power consumption is measured on the VCORE pin. Capacitor E3 is removed and connected trough a 1 OHM resistor. The voltage drop is amplified with the differential probe. To the capacitor is applied a 1.96v external power supply to overpower the internal regulator. The exact voltage depends on the chip.

A couple of words about the clock management. To replicate a more realistic scenario in the target the clock is routed trough the PLL and doubled. This not only introduces a clock doubling but also a significant phase shift. To overcome the effect we use an external clock divider before the target, and clock phase can be adjusted by routing trough logic gates. This could be a simple FPGA project, but building an FPGA project can be tedious. So I implemented it using the microchip express dev board in the PIC-s CLC-s. Clock enters on RA0, it is divided by the first CLC exiting on RC3. Also it is routed trough the other CLC-s to RC4 RC5 and RC6 each with a bit of delay. This is all peripherals. So the core is doing nothing. The project is ClockDivider.X

The algorithm is fairly simple, a couple of shits, additions and XORs.

```
for()
{
        v1 -= (((v0 << 4) ^ (v0 >> 5)) + v0) ^ (sum + key[(sum>>11) & 3]);
        sum -= delta;
        v0 -= (((v1 << 4) ^ (v1 >> 5)) + v1) ^ (sum + key[sum & 3]);
}
```

We could attack the algorithm after the first XOR HW((((v0 << 4) ^ (v0 >> 5)) + v0) ^ (sum + key[(sum>>11) & 3]))
but because of compiler optimizations the best place is after it is subtracted from v1 and v0 because the value is stored.

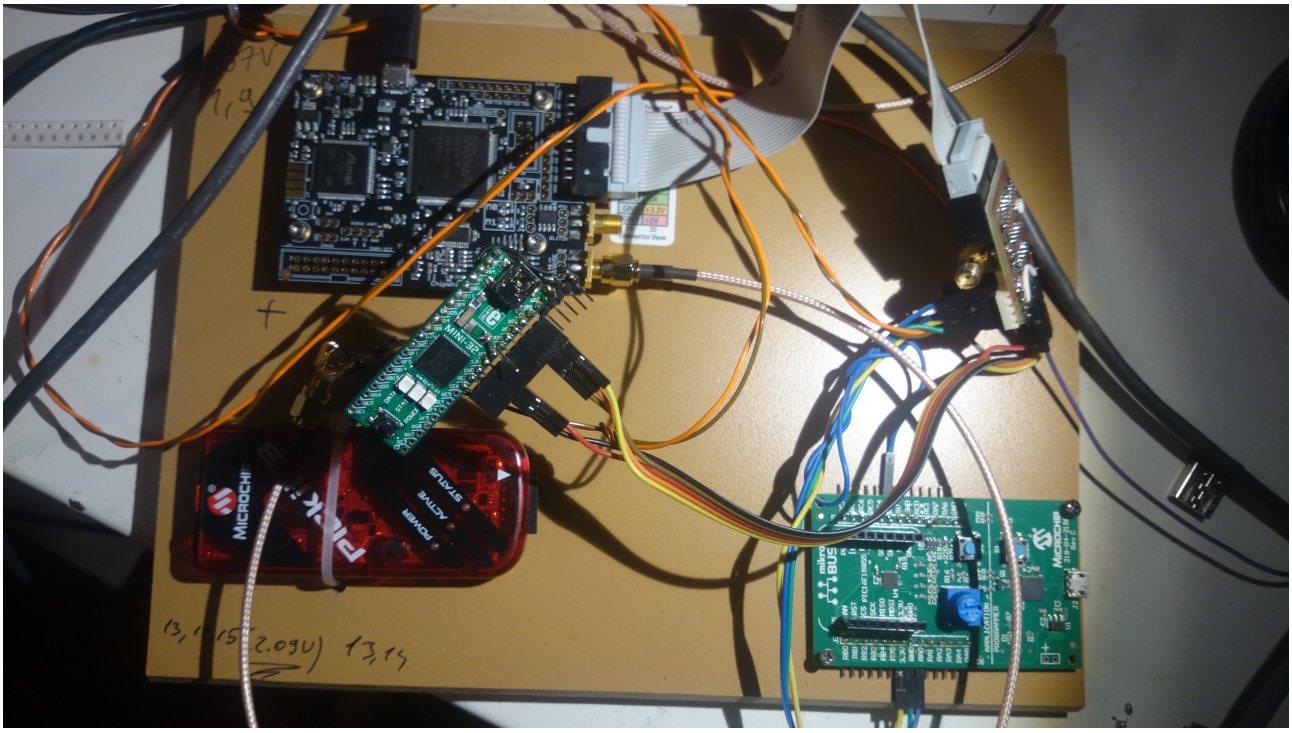
We only fuzz v0, v1 is always 0.

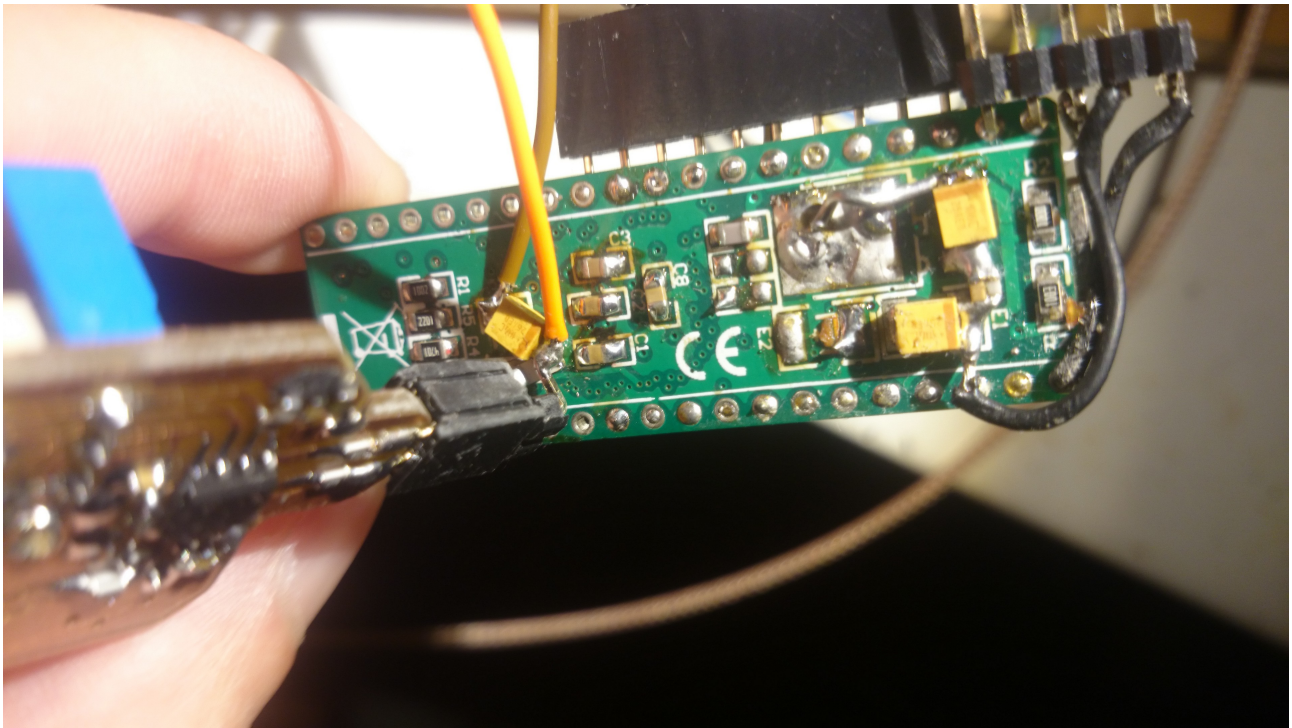
Because we are on a 32 bit micro, the calculated Hamming weight needs be for the whole 32 bits.
We have to attack the keys in the following order: 2,3,0,1

First we start from each key being 0xFFFFFFFF
Then after the attack we update this guess with the result. Usually after 2-3 iterations we arrive to the correct subkey.
To speed up the things we can restrict the point range, this also helps reducing the guessing noise.
To select the best range refer to Output vs. Point range diagram.

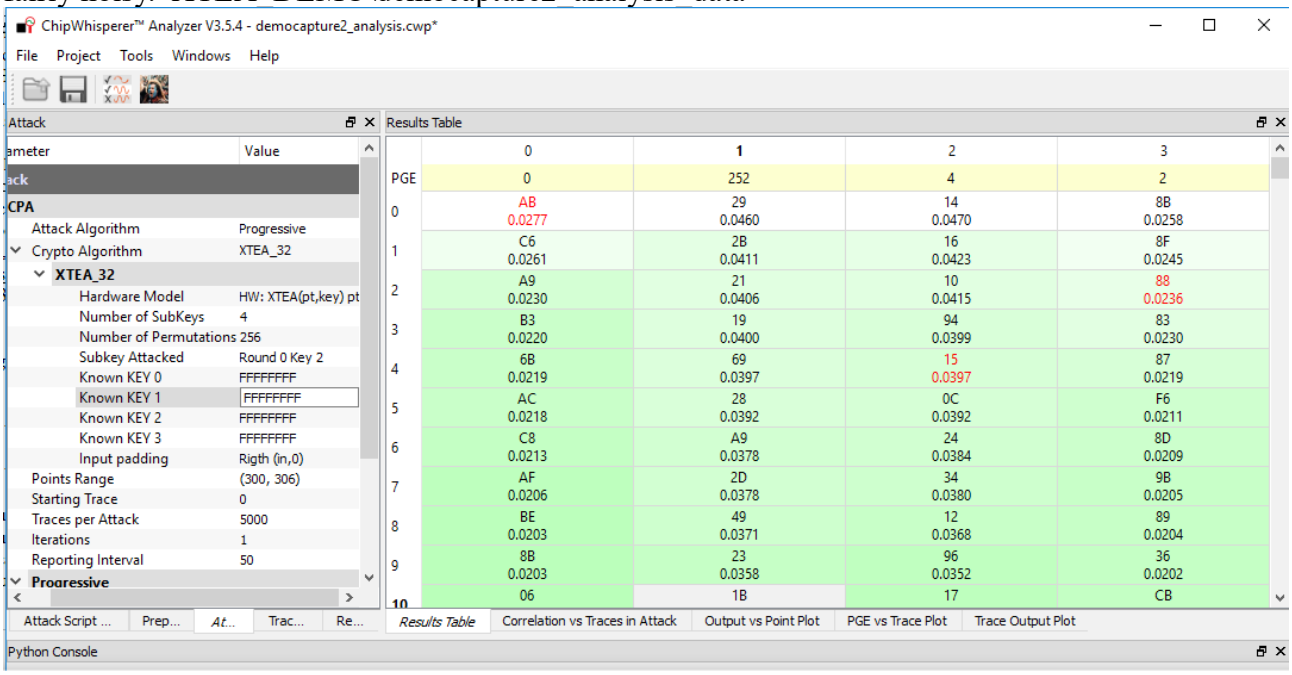
Python implementation of XTEA library inspired by
https://github.com/OpenXenManager/openxenmanager/blob/master/src/OXM/xtea.py

Conclusion. It a fairly slow attack, results heavily depend on noise and settings. But demonstrates that is not impossible.

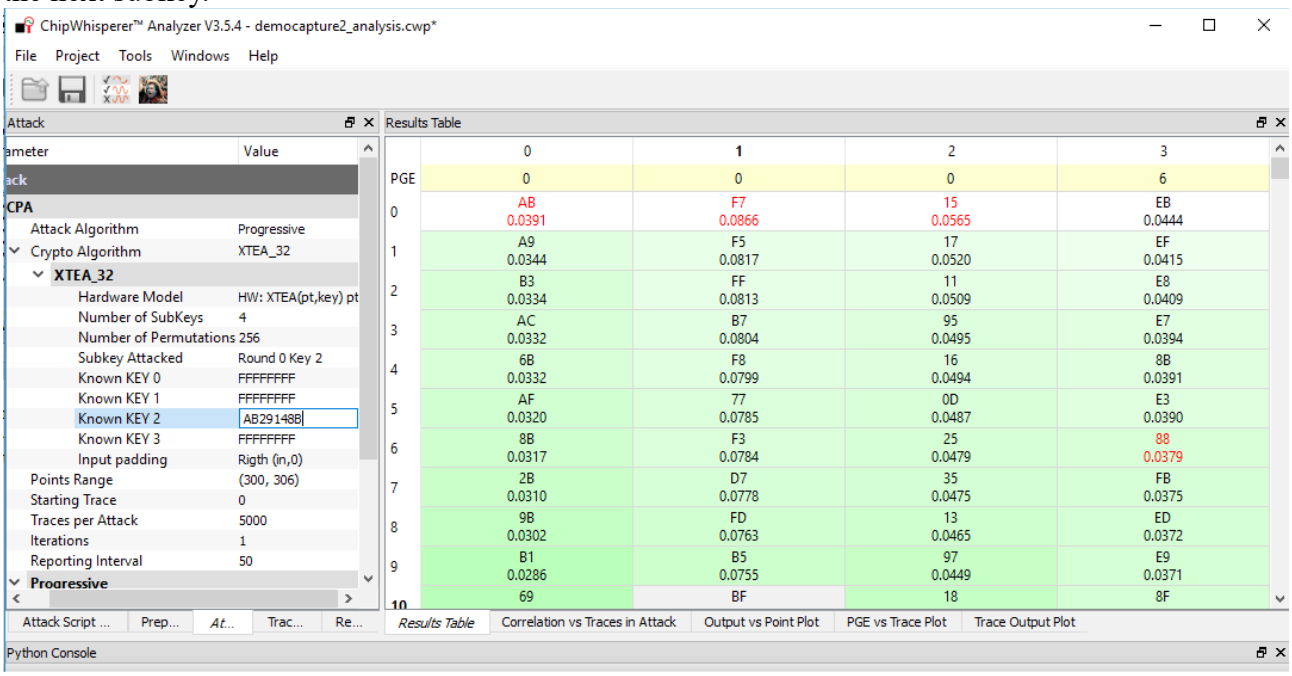




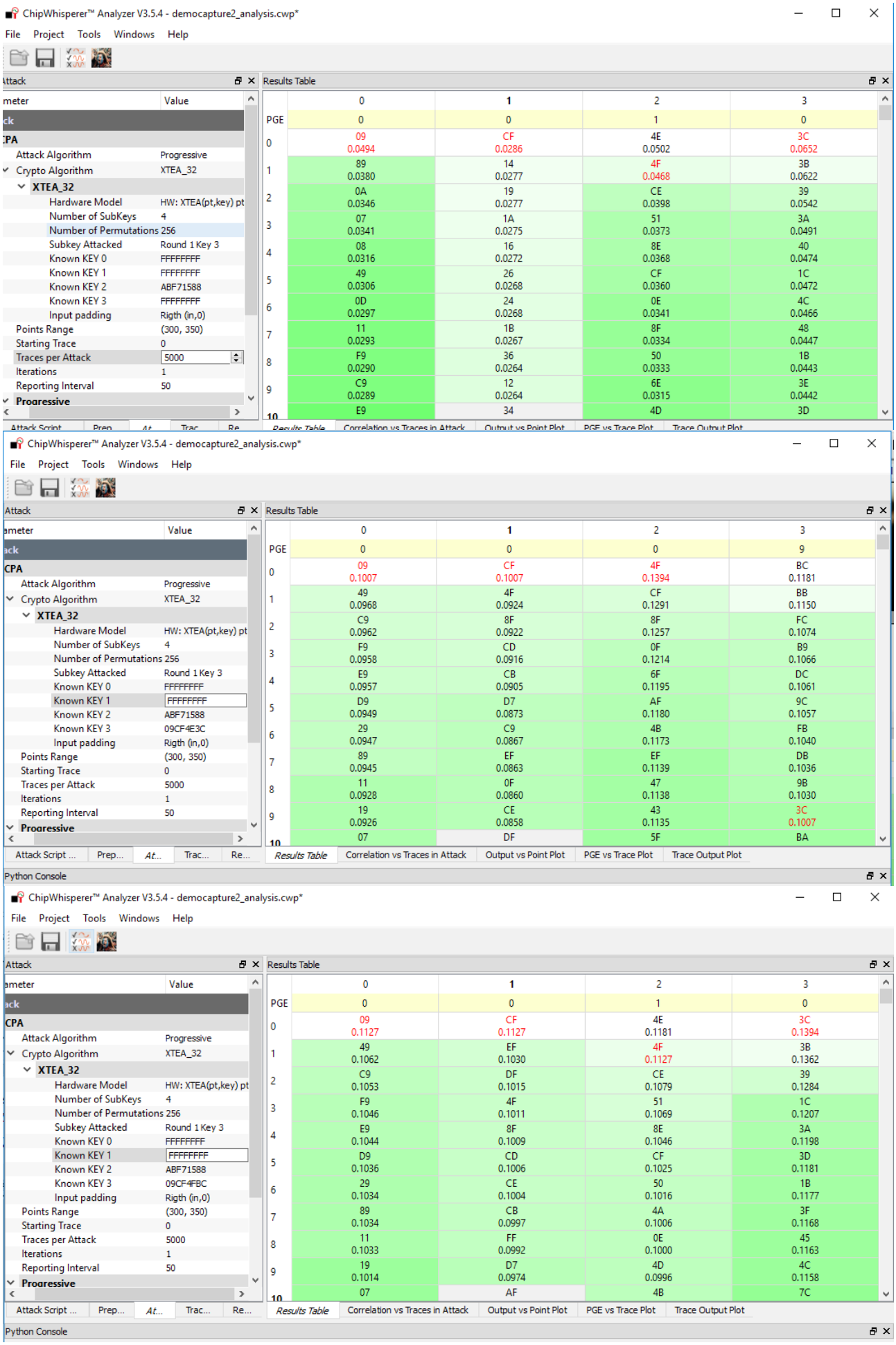
Example attack. Use the XTEA.py and XTEALIB.py from plugin folder. Simpleserial needs a slight modification to allow 4byte inputs. The captured data for this attack can be found in. This data is fairly noisy. XTEA_DEMO\democapture2_analysis_data



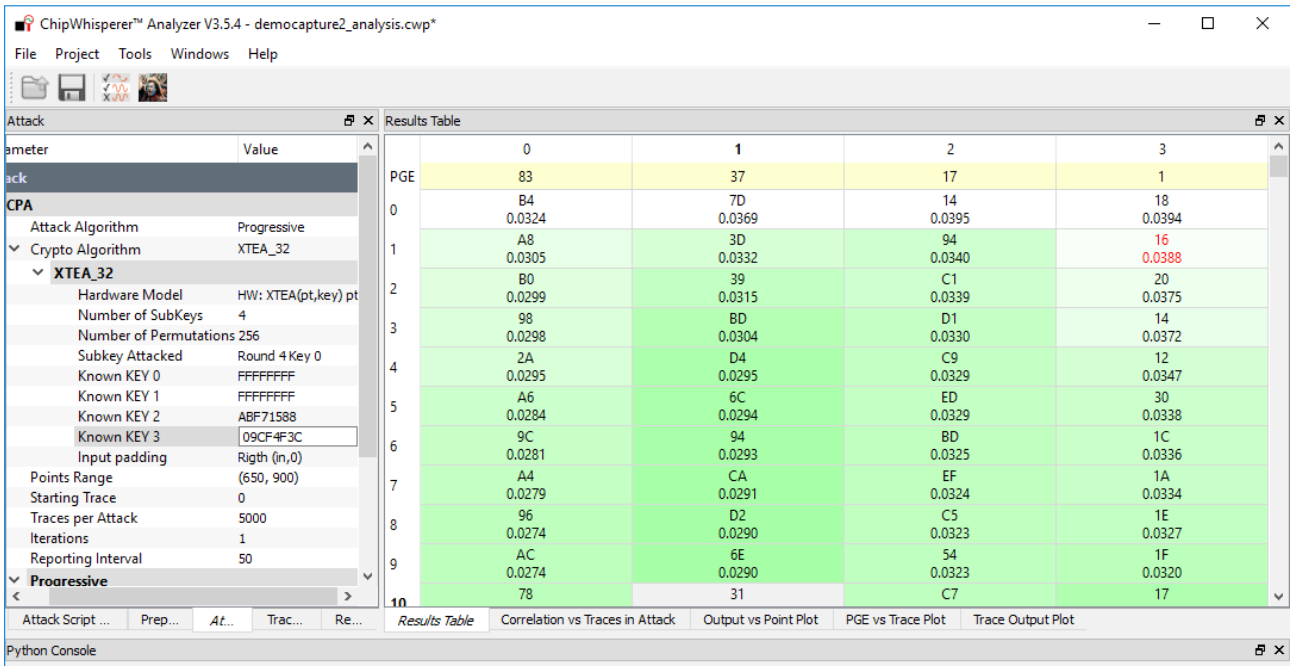
After the first attack we are still far from the truth. So we enter the guess AB29148B to the KnowKey 2 field and restart the attack. We repeat this 2-3 times then proceed to the next subkey.

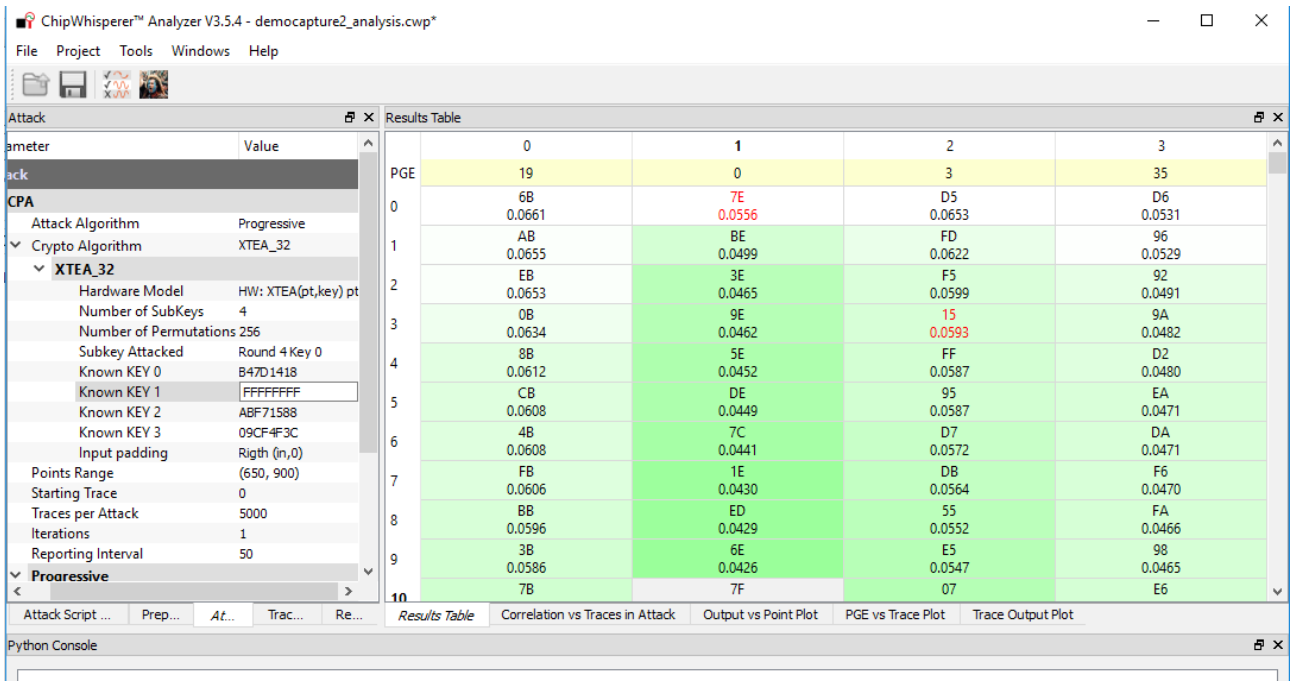


After the second round we are better off, but the last byte is still bad. But we are close. Lets cheat a bit and enter the correct key for the guess, and try the next key 3.We expand a bit the points range because the next operation happens later in time.

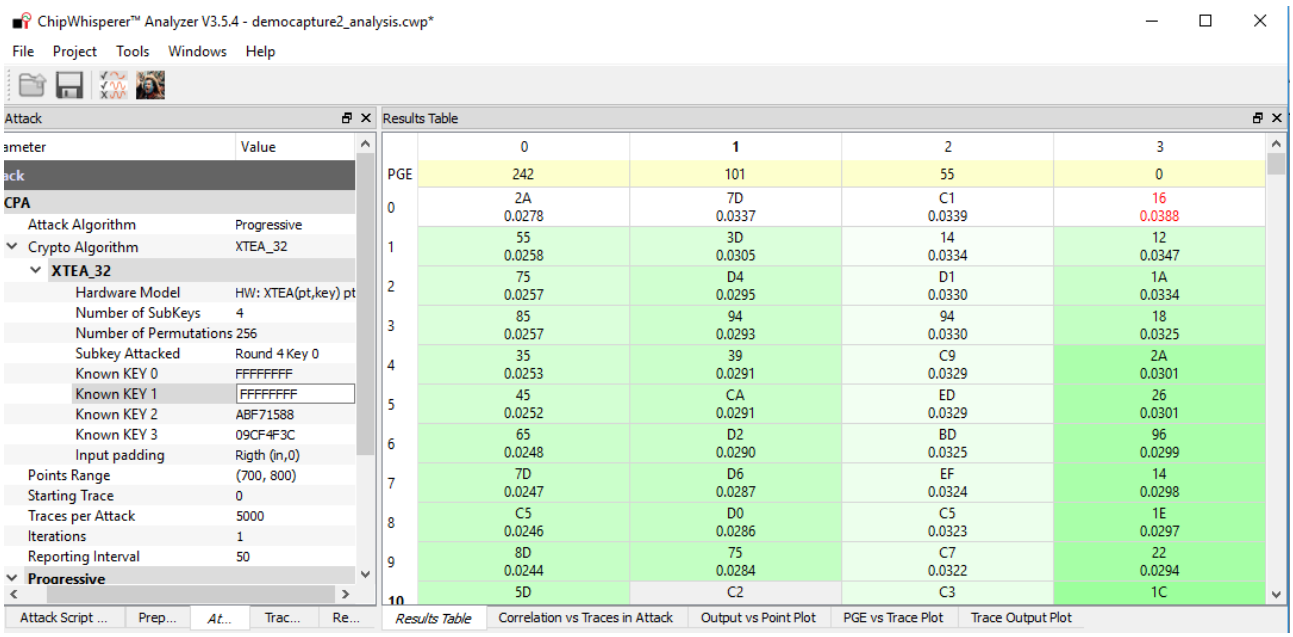


The same result like after the first iteration. But still we are pretty close. Lets cheat again a bit. And try the remaining keys. If attacking the next key fails. We can go back, and try the next guess.



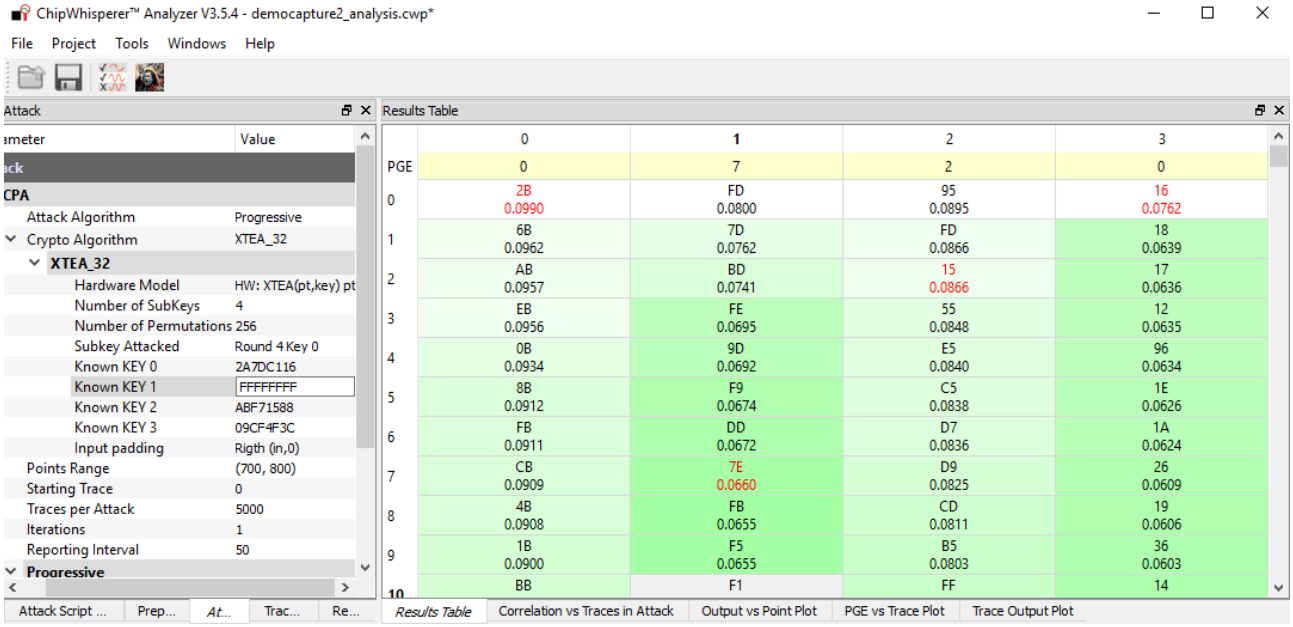


We are getting pretty much nothing . This means our range is too wide. We have to narrow down on POI-s better. Changing ranges and running again from 0xFFFFFFFF



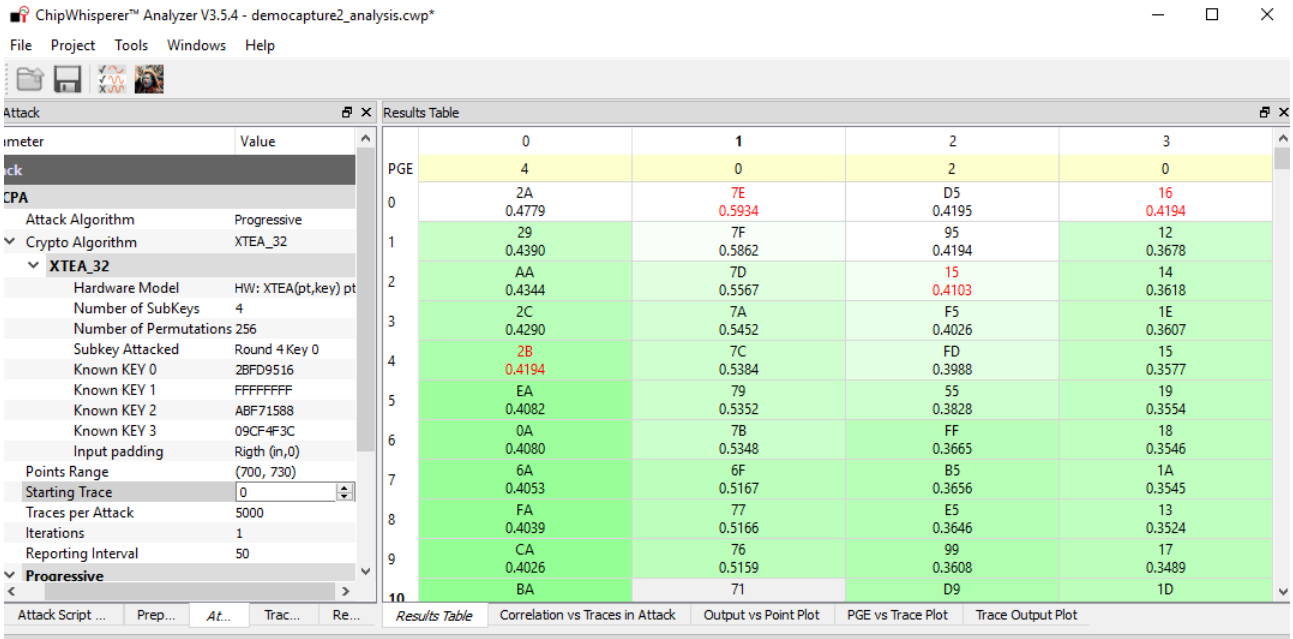
	0	1	2	3
PGE	242	101	55	0
0	2A 0.0278	7D 0.0337	C1 0.0339	16 0.0388
1	55 0.0258	3D 0.0305	14 0.0334	12 0.0347
2	75 0.0257	D4 0.0295	D1 0.0330	1A 0.0334
3	85 0.0257	94 0.0293	94 0.0330	18 0.0325
4	35 0.0253	39 0.0291	C9 0.0329	2A 0.0301
5	45 0.0252	CA 0.0291	ED 0.0329	26 0.0301
6	65 0.0248	D2 0.0290	BD 0.0325	96 0.0299
7	7D 0.0247	D6 0.0287	EF 0.0324	14 0.0298
8	C5 0.0246	D0 0.0286	C5 0.0323	1E 0.0297
9	8D 0.0244	75 0.0284	C7 0.0322	22 0.0294
10	5D	C2	C3	1C

Ok,



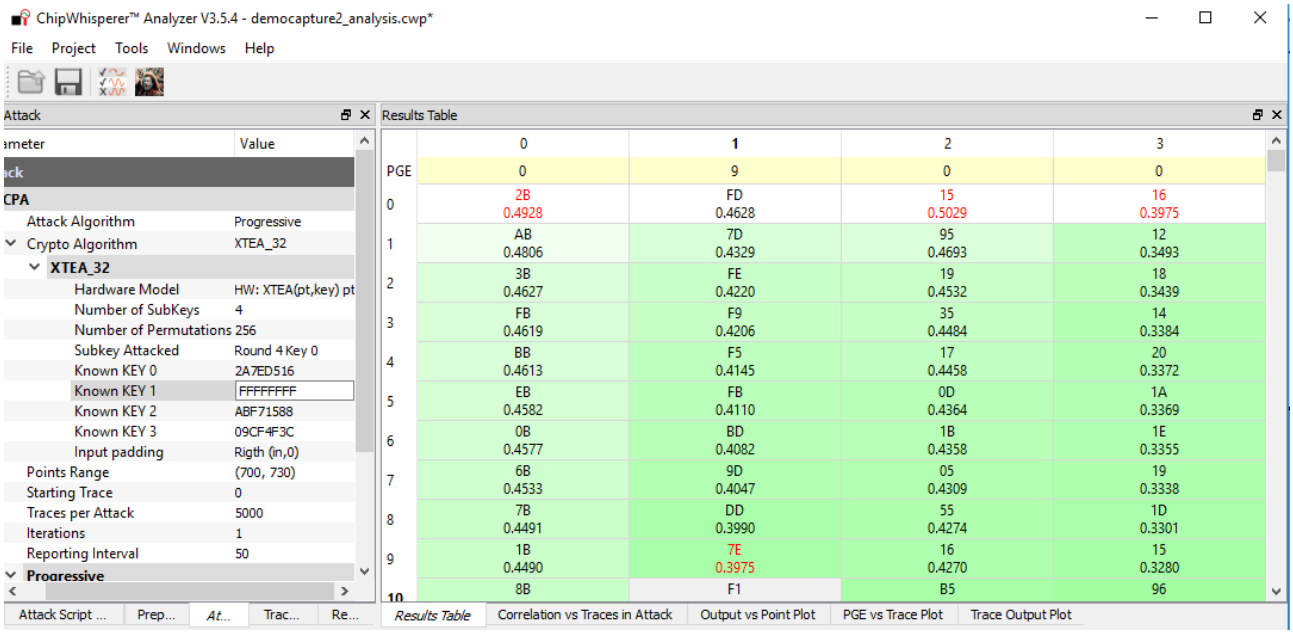
	0	1	2	3
PGE	0	7	2	0
0	2B 0.0990	FD 0.0800	95 0.0895	16 0.0762
1	6B 0.0962	7D 0.0762	FD 0.0866	18 0.0639
2	AB 0.0957	BD 0.0741	15 0.0866	17 0.0636
3	EB 0.0956	FE 0.0695	55 0.0848	12 0.0635
4	0B 0.0934	9D 0.0692	E5 0.0840	96 0.0634
5	8B 0.0912	F9 0.0674	C5 0.0838	1E 0.0626
6	FB 0.0911	DD 0.0672	D7 0.0836	1A 0.0624
7	CB 0.0909	7E 0.0660	D9 0.0825	26 0.0609
8	4B 0.0908	FB 0.0655	CD 0.0811	19 0.0606
9	1B 0.0900	F5 0.0655	B5 0.0803	36 0.0603
10	BB	F1	FF	14

Better

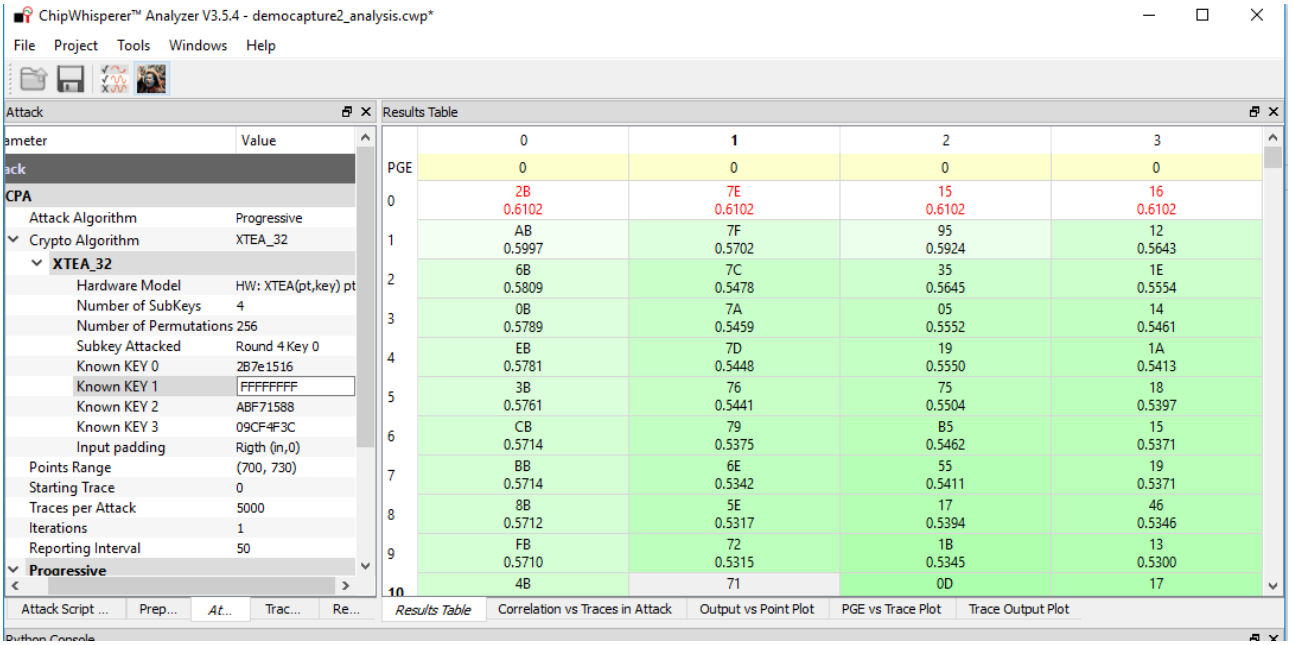


	0	1	2	3
PGE	4	0	2	0
0	2A 0.4779	7E 0.5934	D5 0.4195	16 0.4194
1	29 0.4390	7F 0.5862	95 0.4194	12 0.3678
2	AA 0.4344	7D 0.5567	15 0.4103	14 0.3618
3	2C 0.4290	7A 0.5452	F5 0.4026	1E 0.3607
4	2B 0.4194	7C 0.5384	FD 0.3988	15 0.3577
5	EA 0.4082	79 0.5352	55 0.3828	19 0.3554
6	0A 0.4080	7B 0.5348	FF 0.3665	18 0.3546
7	6A 0.4053	6F 0.5167	B5 0.3656	1A 0.3545
8	FA 0.4039	77 0.5166	E5 0.3646	13 0.3524
9	CA 0.4026	76 0.5159	99 0.3608	17 0.3489
10	BA	71	D9	1D

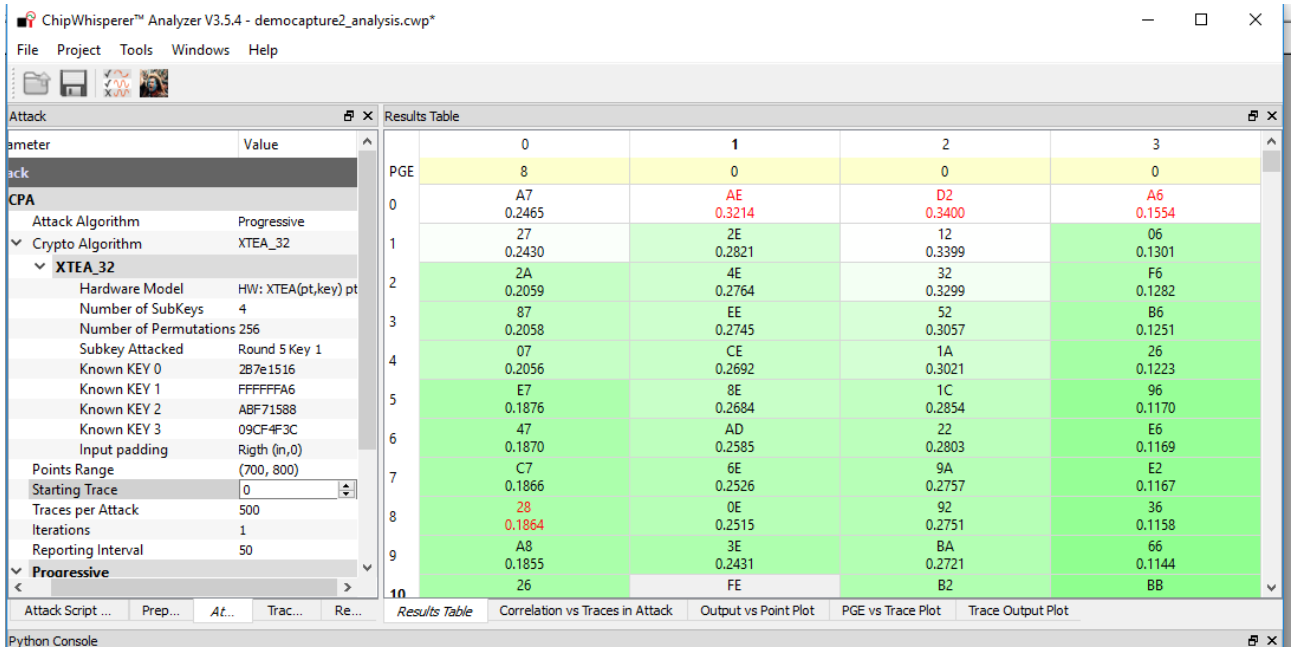
Oh



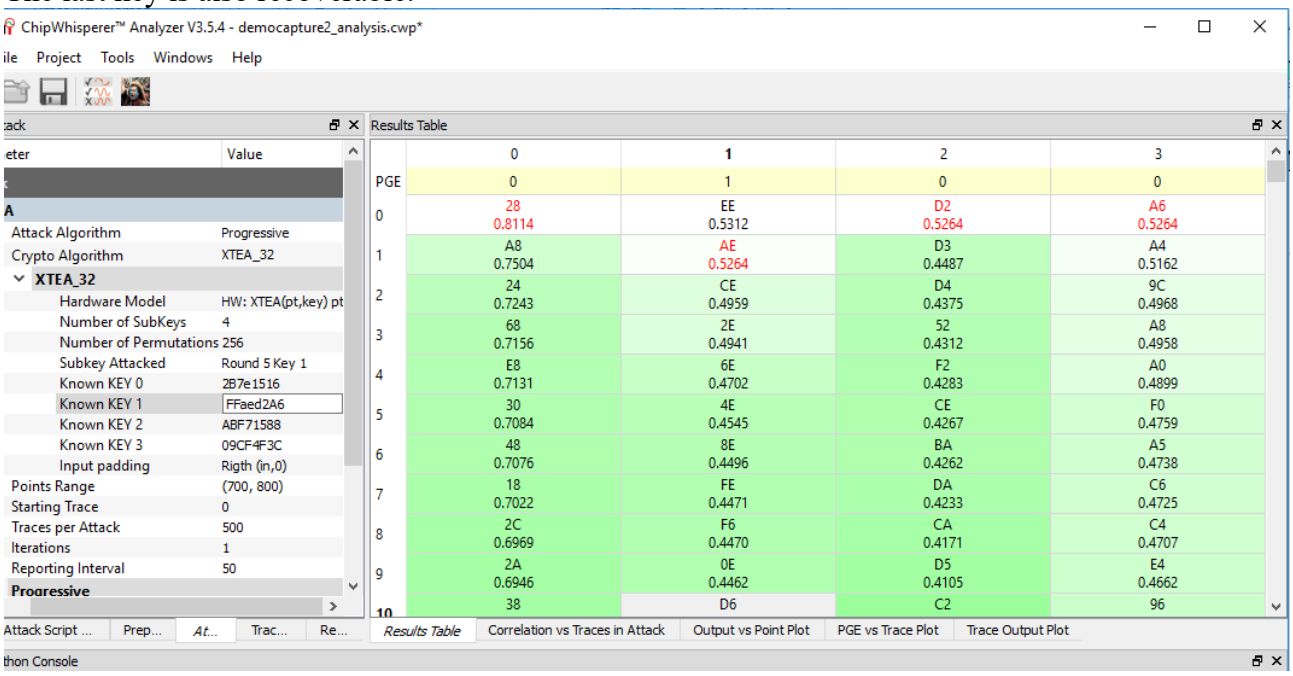
Perfect



Lets try the last key to.



The last key is also recoverable.



This data is not the best example, but demonstrates that is feasible to attack a 32bit system running XTEA.

Capture settings: