*What is John the Ripper?*

John the Ripper is a fast password cracker, currently available for many flavors of Unix, Windows, DOS, and OpenVMS. Its primary purpose is to detect weak Unix passwords. Besides several crypt(3) password hash types most commonly found on various Unix systems, supported out of the box are Windows LM hashes, plus lots of other hashes and ciphers in the community-enhanced version.

*How it functions*

* Does not run in the background
* Depends on the OS and it’s command shell
* Multiprocessing or distributed processing support
* Can distribute the work between a few nodes manually or set the amount of cores to be used

To run the utility program, simply download the version related to your OS and run the commands on the command line. You are able to put the hash file as an argument and put the results on another text files. The choice of what hash to be cracked is also available.