

DEFATING ENCRYPTION BY USING UNICORN ENGINE WORKSHOP



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Mantra Information Security

<https://mantrainfosec.com>



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BEFORE WE START

- Be efficient! Do not waste time on setup please.
- Ensure you have
 - A Github account
 - JDK & Ghidra installed (see repository)
 - Presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/2f4xv326>
- Lab repository: <https://github.com/mantrainfosec/unicorn-workshop-labs/>



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BIO / BALÁZS BUCSAY

- Trainer of this course
- Over two decades of offensive security experience
- 15+ years of research and consultancy
- Started learning assembly at the age of 13
- Software Reverse Engineer
- Certifications: OSCE, OSCP, OSWP (Prev: GIAC GPEN, CREST CCT Inf)



BIO / BALÁZS BUCSAY

- Previously developed:
 - Exploits for Windows & Linux applications
 - Shellcode payloads for multiple architectures
 - Kernel driver exploits
- Frequent speaker at IT-Security conferences:
 - US - Washington DC, Atlanta, Honolulu
 - Europe - UK, Belgium, Norway, Austria, Hungary...
 - APAC - Australia, Singapore, Philippines



BIO / BALÁZS BUCSAY

- Hobbies:
 - Travelling (been to 75+ countries)
 - Hiking, kayaking, cycling
 - IT Security
- Passionate about learning from others
- Kayaked the length of the Thames (300km)

- Twitter: [@xoreipeip](https://twitter.com/xoreipeip)
- Mantra on Twitter: [@mantrainfosec](https://twitter.com/mantrainfosec)
- Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/bucsayb/>

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- London based boutique consultancy
- Decades of experience and excellence
 - Specialised training delivery ([Software Reverse Engineering](#), ...)
 - Cloud, CI/CD, Kubernetes reviews
 - Red Teaming, EASM, Infrastructure testing
 - Web application and API assessments
 - Reverse-engineering, embedded devices and exploit development
 - ...
- Full stack consultancy: from identifying vulnerabilities to implementing fixes

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<https://mantrainfosec.com>

BOOK: THIS IS A SCAM! IT WILL NOT STAND!



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**THIS IS A
SCAM, IT WILL
NOT STAND!**

SCAM SURVIVAL
GUIDE

 **MANTRA**
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- Empower others to protect themselves
- 11 gripping and educational real-world stories
- Download and share it freely
- Absolutely free of charge
- Perfect for a non-technical audience

<https://mantrainfosec.com/scambook>



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GROUND RULES

- Please silence your phones
- **Interaction is encouraged** feel free to ask as many questions as you'd like
- The workshop may get intense at times
 - Don't hesitate to stop and ask for a recap if needed



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INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

- We will cover:
 - The theory behind Unicorn Engine
 - Scripting API
 - Executing code, platform-independently
 - Mapping memory
 - Passing parameters to functions
 - Debugging issues with our scripts



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INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

- Prerequisites
 - Proficiency in a programming language
 - Familiarity with Assembly language
 - Competence in using Linux operating systems
 - A Github account
 - JDK & Ghidra installed



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SOFTWARE REVERSE ENGINEER COURSES

- If you are interested in the full trainings:
 - [Software Reverse Engineering training](#)
- Choose your level:
 - Day 01-03: Beginner level (from scratch)
 - Day 04-05: Intermediate level
 - Day 06-10: Advanced level
- Feel free to find me after the workshop for more details.

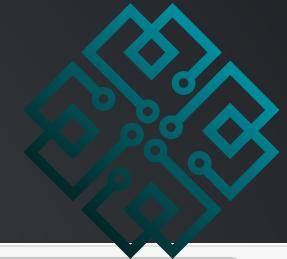
SETUP



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- Log into your Github account
- Open the lab's repository:
 - <https://github.com/mantrainfosec/unicorn-workshop-labs>
 -  the repository
 - Click on the  button
 - Select the "Codespaces" tab
 - Click on "Create codespace on main"
 - Don't forget to clone it to your computer as well!
 - Download the JDK and Ghidra as outlined in the README
- Ensure you have the slides in PDF format
- Remember to delete your codespace after the workshop!

GHITHUB CODESPACES



unicorn-workshop-labs [Codespaces: verbose fiesta]

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EXPLORER

UNICORN-WORKSHOP-LABS [CODESPACES: VE...]

- 00start
- 00start.py
- > 01caesar
- > 02cipher
- > 03encrypt
- > extra
- > solutions
- README.md
- requirements.txt

00start.py X

00start > 00start.py > ...

```
36     # emulate code in infinite time & unlimited instructions
37     uc.emu_start(ADDRESS, ADDRESS + len(X86_CODE32))
38
39     # now print out some registers
40     print("Emulation done. Below is the CPU context")
41
42     r_ecx = uc.reg_read(UC_X86_REG_ECX)
43     r_edx = uc.reg_read(UC_X86_REG_EDX)
44     print(">>> ECX = 0x%x" %r_ecx)
45     print(">>> EDX = 0x%x" %r_edx)
46
47     except UcError as e:
48         print("ERROR: %s" % e)
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

root@codespaces-d5b4d8:/workspaces/unicorn-workshop-labs#

GHIDRA



File Edit Project Tools Help

Tool Chest

Active Project: NO ACTIVE PROJECT

NO ACTIVE PROJECT

Filter:

Tree View Table View

Running Tools: INACTIVE

Ghidra startup complete (2432 ms)

A screenshot of the GHIDRA software interface. The window title is "GHIDRA". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Project", "Tools", and "Help". Below the menu is a toolbar with several icons. A "Tool Chest" section is visible, showing a message "Active Project: NO ACTIVE PROJECT" and a single entry "NO ACTIVE PROJECT". There is a "Filter:" input field and buttons for "Tree View" and "Table View". Below this is a "Running Tools" section labeled "INACTIVE". At the bottom, a status bar displays "Ghidra startup complete (2432 ms)".

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UNDERSTANDING AND FOLLOWING THE MATERIAL

- Reverse Engineering is a complex skill that demands a strong understanding of low-level concepts
- Don't worry if you don't understand everything right away
- Expect plenty of back and forth as we work through the material
- If something is not clear, refer to the slides for clarification (or raise your hands!)
- Feel free to ask questions if you are unsure, rather than falling behind.



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UNICORN ENGINE

- Quick theory, then we will dive into hands-on practice, including:
 - Exploring the capabilities of the Unicorn API (Python)
 - Loading and executing code
 - Calling functions
 - Hooking execution
 - Passing function parameters
 - And more.



QEMU

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- QEMU is a generic and open-source machine emulator and virtualizer
- Stands for Quick EMUlator
- It can emulate multiple architectures including:
 - x86/x64
 - ARM
 - PowerPC
 - RISC-V
 - ...
- QEMU supports two types of emulation:
 - **User-mode emulation:** runs a binary with minimal environment
 - **System emulation:** emulates a entire system including peripherals
- Supports Windows, macOS, Linux and other UNIX operating systems



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UNICORN ENGINE

- Next Generation CPU Emulator
- Based on QEMU
- It is capable to emulate code (multiple architecture)
- Provides an API for programming languages to create environments and run code
 - Supported languages include: C, Python, Java, Go, .NET, Rust, ...
- Offers an easy way to execute and debug code



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UNICORN ENGINE AS A SOLUTION

- Imagine you have a specific machine code
- This could be part of a program or just a code snippet
- Without the right hardware, how would you execute it?
- Without a full program, how would you run it?
- Unicorn Engine enables you to execute code snippets on ***any*** architecture.



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TOOLS TO USE:

- A web browser for Github/codespaces
 - Terminal
 - Text editor
- Disassembler/Decompiler (recommended [Ghidra](#))
- That is all we need



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- Execute the script: `python3 00start/00start.py`
- Read the code in Github Codespaces
- It creates an x86 environment and executes two instructions
- At the end, it prints the register values
- Let's go through it line by line



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- Imports Unicorn Engine and x86 constants

```
from unicorn import *
from unicorn.x86_const import *
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- Creates a binary string with two bytes
- These two bytes are x86 (Intel/AMD) machine code
- INC ECX and DEC EDX

```
X86_CODE32 = b"\x41\x4a" # INC ecx; DEC edx
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- Creates a variable, which will be used later as base address

```
ADDRESS = 0x1000000
```

- Just a "random" address



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- This is where the interesting part begins
- x86 architecture emulation is initialised
- 2 Megabytes memory are mapped at the base address

```
uc = Uc(UC_ARCH_X86, UC_MODE_32)
uc.mem_map(ADDRESS, 2 * 1024 * 1024)
```



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- The two instructions are written at the base address
- ECX register is set to 0x1234
- EDX register is set to 0x7890

```
uc.mem_write(ADDRESS, X86_CODE32)  
  
uc.reg_write(UC_X86_REG_ECX, 0x1234)  
uc.reg_write(UC_X86_REG_EDX, 0x7890)
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- Emulation starts at the base address

```
uc.emu_start(ADDRESS, ADDRESS + len(X86_CODE32))
```

- Emulation stops at 2 bytes after, at the end of the code.



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- Register values are saved and printed in Python

```
r_ecx = uc.reg_read(UC_X86_REG_ECX)
r_edx = uc.reg_read(UC_X86_REG_EDX)

print("">>>> ECX = 0x%x" %r_ecx)
print("">>>> EDX = 0x%x" %r_edx)
```



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UNICORN ENGINE INTRO

- The two instructions were executed
- The results were printed
- No skeleton program was needed to execute the instructions
- We could write machine code directly in Python and execute it immediately
- While this might seem simple, Unicorn can do so much more!



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

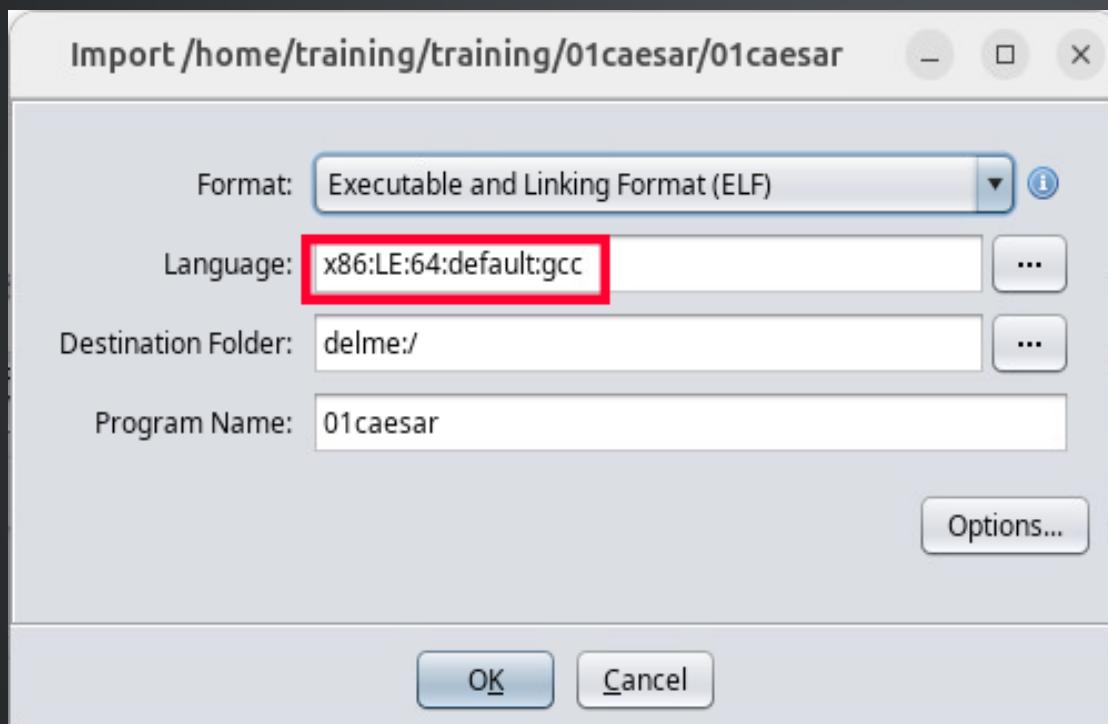
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- Execute `01caesar/01caesar`
 - It prints both the original and encoded strings
- Use Ghidra to take a look at the decompiled code
 - Start Ghidra on your computer: `ghidra_XX.X.X_PUBLIC/ghidraRun`
- Option 1: Reverse engineer the `caesar_cipher()` function
- Option 2: Research the Caesar cipher (and you should)
- Option 3: Execute the function via Unicorn Engine
- Let's go with Option 3



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Open the binary in Ghidra



- Architecture: AMD64/Intel x64

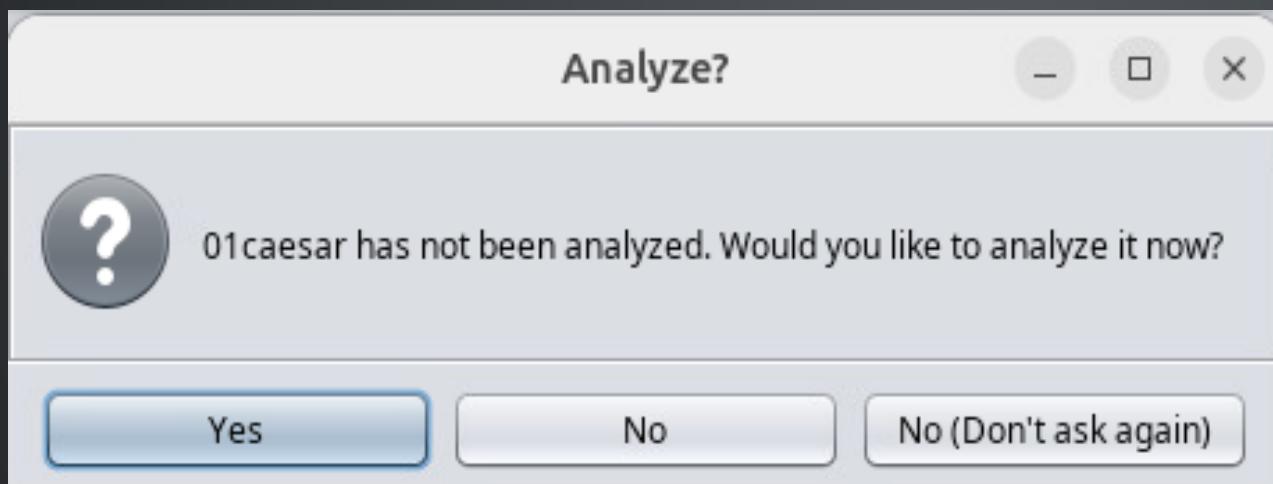
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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Analyze the code with Ghidra



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR



- Find the function and check the decompiled code:

Decompile: caesar_cipher - (01caesar)

```
1
2 void caesar_cipher(long param_1,int param_2,int param_3)
3
4 {
5     int iVarl;
6     int local_c;
7
8     for (local_c = 0; local_c < param_3; local_c = local_c + 1) {
9         if (((*(char *)param_1 + local_c) < 'A') || ('Z' < *(char *)param_1 + local_c))) {
10             if ('`' < *(char *)param_1 + local_c) && (*(char *)param_1 + local_c) < '{') {
11                 iVarl = param_2 + *(char *)param_1 + local_c + -0x61;
12                 *(char *)param_1 + local_c = (char)iVarl + (char)(iVarl / 0x1a) * -0x1a + 'a';
13             }
14         }
15         else {
16             iVarl = param_2 + *(char *)param_1 + local_c + -0x41;
17             *(char *)param_1 + local_c = (char)iVarl + (char)(iVarl / 0x1a) * -0x1a + 'A';
18         }
19     }
20     return;
21 }
22 }
```

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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Compare it to the source code under 01caesar/01caesar.c

```
17 void caesar_cipher(char *str, int offset, int length)
18 {
19     for (int i = 0; i < length; ++i)
20     {
21         if (str[i] >= 'A' && str[i] <= 'Z')
22         {
23             str[i] = (str[i] - 'A' + offset) % 26 + 'A';
24         }
25     else if (str[i] >= 'a' && str[i] <= 'z')
26     {
27         str[i] = (str[i] - 'a' + offset) % 26 + 'a';
28     }
29 }
30 }
```



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Check the assembly code and make a note of the function's address:

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caesar_cipher

```
00101189 f3 0f 1e fa    ENDBR64
0010118d 55              PUSH   RBP
0010118e 48 89 e5        MOV    RBP,RSP
00101191 48 89 7d e8    MOV    qword ptr [RBP + local_20],RDI
00101195 89 75 e4        MOV    dword ptr [RBP + local_24],ESI
00101198 89 55 e0        MOV    dword ptr [RBP + local_28],EDX
0010119b c7 45 fc        MOV    dword ptr [RBP + local_c],0x0
          00 00 00 00
001011a2 e9 f6 00        JMP    LAB_0010129d
          00 00
```



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Finally, make a note of the function's end address:

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00101299	83 45 fc 01	ADD	dword ptr [RBP + local_c], 0x1
LAB_0010129d			
0010129d	8b 45 fc	MOV	EAX, dword ptr [RBP + local_c]
001012a0	3b 45 e0	CMP	EAX, dword ptr [RBP + local_28]
001012a3	0f 8c fe fe ff ff	JL	LAB_001011a7
001012a9	90	NOP	
001012aa	90	NOP	
001012ab	5d	POP	RBP
001012ac	c3	RET	



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Open the following source in Codespaces: [01caesar/01skeleton.py](#)
- Identify the [HERE] insertion points that need to be figured out
- When properly configured, the code will run and produce the same output as the program
- You can execute the script by running: [python3 01caesar/01skeleton.py](#)



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- The insertion points should be filled out in logical order
- This may not necessarily be sequential
- First the binary needs to be read into memory
 - The path of the binary needs to be specified at [line 17](#)
- Then, set a base address at [line 21](#)
 - This address can be anything, but it's better to have space before and after
 - Let's stick with `0x1000000`
- Stack and Heap at [line 22 & 23](#)
 - These address can be anything, make sure these addresses do not overlap
 - Let's stick with `0x2000000` & `0x3000000` respectively



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Let's think about the memory layout
- We need to load the executable into memory
 - How big is the program?
 - Make a note of the size in Kb
- We need some memory for stack operations
 - Do we need a stack?
 - Check Ghidra, does the assembly interact with the stack?
 - Any ESP/RSP references? PUSH/POP?
- We will need some memory for heap
 - We need to pass a pointer to the function
 - The pointer should point to a string in memory
 - Where do you want to place that string?

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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Filesize to be loaded

```
training@unicorn:~/training/01caesar$ ls -la
total 36
drwxrwxr-x 2 training training 4096 Oct  1 15:01 .
drwxrwxr-x 8 training training 4096 Sep  8 19:42 ..
-rwxrwxr-x 1 training training 16088 Sep  8 17:40 01caesar
-rw-rw-r-- 1 training training 1097 Sep  6 11:12 01caesar.c
-rw-rw-r-- 1 training training 1340 Sep  6 11:14 01skeleton.py
-rw-rw-r-- 1 training training     28 Sep  8 17:49 secret.txt
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Stack usage (POP/PUSH; RSP, RBP references)

```
caesar_cipher

00101189 f3 0f 1e fa    ENDBR64
0010118d 55              PUSH    RBP
0010118e 48 89 e5        MOV     RBP,RSP
00101191 48 89 7d e8    MOV     qword ptr [RBP + local_20],RDI
00101195 89 75 e4        MOV     dword ptr [RBP + local_24],ESI
00101198 89 55 e0        MOV     dword ptr [RBP + local_28],EDX
0010119b c7 45 fc        MOV     dword ptr [RBP + local_c],0x0
00 00 00 00
```

LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR



- The memory layout we build should look something like this:

Address	Region
0x0100000	Program code starts
[...]	
0x0103FFF	Program ends starts
[...]	
0x0400000	Stack starts
[...]	
0x04FFFFFF	Stack ends
[...]	
0x0500000	Heap* starts
[...]	
0x05FFFFFF	Heap* ends

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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Allocate/map more memory than you need ([line 29, 30, 31](#))
 - Calculate it in bytes, 2MB should be enough
- Write the **string argument** to the **heap**, calculate address ([line 40](#))
- Use the **same address** for reading at the end of the program ([line 52](#))
- Look up the corresponding calling convention
 - What is used for the **first argument**? ([line 41](#))
 - What is used for the **second argument**? ([line 42](#))
 - What is used for the **third argument**? ([line 43](#))
- Set the arguments (pointer for string, value for integers) ([line 41, 42, 43](#))



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Calling Convention: System V AMD64 ABI

Argument register overview	
Argument type	Registers
Integer/pointer arguments 1-6	RDI, RSI, RDX, RCX, R8, R9
Floating point arguments 1-8	XMM0 - XMM7
Excess arguments	Stack
Static chain pointer	R10



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Calculate the **stack** address and set the correct register ([line 45](#))
- Use Ghidra to find the function's start and end addresses
 - Locate the **first instruction** of the function ([line 49](#))
 - Locate the **last instruction** of the function ([line 49](#))
- **Note:** The stack grows and shrinks with each instruction
 - Be aware that references might fall outside the stack bounds (eg. **EBP-0x10**)
- **Protip:** Set ESP/RSP to somewhere near the middle of the stack memory range.



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- Run your script, did it print the correct string?
- Try changing the input string to something else
- You can run the function standalone without modifying the binary!
- This is especially useful if you don't want to reimplement the code



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 01CAESAR

- All done? Well done!

```
training@unicorn:~/training/01caesar$ python3 01caesar.py
Encoded string: Khoor Xqlfruq!
training@unicorn:~/training/01caesar$ cat secret.txt
Jxkqox Fkclojxqflk Pbzrnofqv
```

- Now, try to decode the content of `secret.txt`
- Having issues? Let's solve them together!



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UNICORN ENGINE ERRORS

- Unicorn Engine might throw an error depending on the issue we encounter
- If we dereference memory that was not mapped to the application:
 - Invalid memory write (`UC_ERR_WRITE_UNMAPPED`)
 - Invalid memory read (`UC_ERR_READ_UNMAPPED`)
 - Invalid memory fetch (`UC_ERR_FETCH_UNMAPPED`)
- To avoid these errors, ensure:
 - Enough memory was mapped
 - The correct address is used



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UNICORN ENGINE HOOKS

- Hooks are special functions that can be registered before execution
- These functions are triggered at different scenarios:
 - **UC_HOOK_CODE** - Called on every instruction within a specified range
 - **UC_HOOK_MEM_*** - Triggered on memory-related actions
 - **UC_HOOK_BLOCK** - Invoked when a new block starts executing
 - **UC_HOOK_INSN** - Fires for a particular instruction
 - **UC_HOOK_INTR** - handles interrupts and syscalls



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UNICORN ENGINE HOOKS

- Hooks need to be added **before** `emu_start()` is called
- Each hook follows a specific format::
 - **UC_HOOK_BLOCK** and **UC_HOOK_CODE**:

```
def hook_func(uc, address, size, user_data)
```

- Where:
 - **uc**: Initialized Unicorn instance
 - **address**: Current instruction address
 - **size**: Instruction or data size
 - **user_data**: Optional user data



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UNICORN ENGINE HOOKS

- Memory hooking format:
 - **UC_HOOK_MEM_***:

```
def hook_mem_access(uc, access, address, size, value, user_data)
```

- Where:
 - ...
 - **access**: Access type (READ/WRITE/...)
 - **value**: Data value



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE MEMORY HOOK

- Let's add a memory hook that prints the access type and address
- Add this code **before** emulation being started:

```
uc.hook_add(UC_HOOK_MEM_WRITE, hook_mem_access)
uc.hook_add(UC_HOOK_MEM_READ,   hook_mem_access)
```

- Add this function **at the beginning** of the file:

```
def hook_mem_access(uc, access, address, size, value, user_data):
    print("[*] Memory access: {} at 0x{}, data size = {},
          data value = 0x{}"
          .format(access, address, size, value))
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE MEMORY HOOK

- Output:

```
[*] Memory access: 16 at 0x1064973, data size = 1, data value = 0x0
[*] Memory access: 16 at 0x1069044, data size = 4, data value = 0x0
[*] Memory access: 16 at 0x1069024, data size = 8, data value = 0x0
[*] Memory access: 16 at 0x1064973, data size = 1, data value = 0x0
[*] Memory access: 16 at 0x1069044, data size = 4, data value = 0x0
[*] Memory access: 17 at 0x1069044, data size = 4, data value = 0x14
[*] Memory access: 16 at 0x1069044, data size = 4, data value = 0x0
[*] Memory access: 16 at 0x1069016, data size = 4, data value = 0x0
[*] Memory access: 16 at 0x1069048, data size = 8, data value = 0x0
Encoded string: Khoor Xqlfruq!
training@re-training-linux:~/labs/day08/lab$
```



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE CODE HOOK

- Let's add a code hook that prints the **EIP/RIP** at every instruction
- Add this code **before** emulation being started:

```
uc.hook_add(UC_HOOK_CODE, hook_code, None,  
            ADDRESS + 0x1189, ADDRESS + 0x12AC)
```

- Add this function **at the beginning** of the file:

```
def hook_code(uc, address, size, user_data):  
    print("[*] Current RIP: 0x{}, instruction size = 0x{}".format(address, size))
```



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE CODE HOOK

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- Output:

```
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053230, instruction size = 0x3
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053233, instruction size = 0x2
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053235, instruction size = 0x2
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053337, instruction size = 0x4
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053341, instruction size = 0x3
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053344, instruction size = 0x3
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053347, instruction size = 0x6
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053353, instruction size = 0x1
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053354, instruction size = 0x1
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053355, instruction size = 0x1
Encoded string: Khoor Xqlfruq!
training@re-training-linux:~/labs/day08/lab$
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE BASICS

- At this point, we are capable to:
 - Create a Python script to use Unicorn Engine
 - Set and read registers values
 - Execute selected parts of the code
 - Hook into the execution
 - Debug our own script



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 02CIPHER

- Let's tackle a new challenge!
- This time, it's a substitution cipher
- Execute the binary: [02cipher/02cipher](#)
- Load it into Ghidra and analyze it!
- If you're curious, check out the source code: [02cipher/02cipher.c](#)



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE O2CIPHER

- Find and decompile the `main()` function
- Retype `uStack_78` (name might differ) to `char[100]`
- Make a note of the `strings` and copy them



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE O2CIPHER

- Find the `substitutionCiper()` function
 - How many arguments does it have?
 - What are its start and end address?
 - Does it use stack? Heap?
- Repeat the same steps for `substitutionDecipher()`



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE O2CIPHER

- Now that we have all the details we need, try to:
 - create a script for `substitutionCiper()` and the first string
 - print the output and compare it to the binary's output
 - create another script for `substitutionDeciper()` and 2nd string
- Feel free to use `O2skeleton.py`!



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 03ENCRYPT

- Let's tackle another new challenge!
- This time, it's AES encryption (OpenSSL)
- Execute the binary: `03encrypt/03encrypt testfile`
- It generated and printed its AES key and created the following file:
 - `output_file.encrypted`
 - Check its content with `xxd`!



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE O3ENCRYPT

- Our task is to decrypt the `secret.enc` file
- To speed up the process:
 - We can read the encryptor's source: `O3encrypt.c`
 - We can modify the `O3skeleton-getkey.py` source (to generate key)
 - We can modify the `O3skeleton-decrypt.py` source (to decrypt file)



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 03ENCRYPT

- The content of the encrypted file looks like this:
 - byte 0..7 - Seed
 - byte 8..X - Encrypted content
- The seed is used to generate the key
- Let's locate the key generation function



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 03ENCRYPT

- Use the Display Memory Map to get the Base Image Address

Memory Map – Image Base: 00400000						
Name	Start	End	Length	R	W	X
segmen...	00400000	0040026f	0x270	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.note.	00400000			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.note.	00400000			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.note.	00400000			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.rela.p				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.init				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
.plt				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
segmen...	004011f0	00401fff	0xe10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Base Image Address: 00400000

OK Cancel



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 03ENCRYPT

- Make a note of the IV:

```
argc_local = argc;
argv_local = argv;
local_20 = *(long *)(in_FS_OFFSET + 0x28);
keySize = 0x10,
iv = "AAAAABBBECCCCDDDD";
total_30 = 0x1;
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 03ENCRYPT

- Function used to generate the key:

```
puVar3 = aesKey;
keySize_00 = keySize;
seed = seed_00;
*((undefined*)(((long)pppcVar10 + -0x18) - 0x10184a));
generateAESKey(seed_00, puVar3, keySize_00);
*((undefined*)(((long)pppcVar10 + -0x18) - 0x10185e));
printf("Generated AES Key: ");
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 03ENCRYPT

- Find the `generateAESKey()` function
 - How many arguments does it take?
 - What are the start and end addresses?
 - Does it use stack? Or heap?
- What is the size of the binary?



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE 03ENCRYPT

- Now that we have all the details we need, try to:
 - use skeleton script for `generateAESKey()`
 - the `seed` should come from the encrypted file
 - print the `key` after the function returns



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE O3ENCRYPT

- After the key is generated:
 - use the [O3skeleton-decrypt.py](#) source to write your decryptor
 - specify the IV and the key in the source



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FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

- Tutorial for Unicorn
- Unicorn Engine Notes
- Unicorn Engine tutorial
- Unicorn Engine Reference (Unofficial)



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AFTER THE WORKSHOP

- Well done! You've successfully covered the workshop material
- If you'd like to take your learning further:
 - Continue with the following slides and explore more challenges
 - Join us for the full SRE training: [Software Reverse Engineering Training](#)
 - Follow us on twitter: [@MantraInfoSec](#)



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE + CAPSTONE DISASSEMBLER

- Can you create a disassembler?
- Sounds more complex than it is!
- Capstone is a lightweight multi-architecture disassembly framework
- It provides an API for C, Python, Java, PowerShell, Rust, etc...
- Combining it with Unicorn Engine makes it really powerful
- Use `01caesar` and `01caesar.py` for this



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE + CAPSTONE DISASSEMBLER

- First capstone needs to be imported:

```
from capstone import *
```

- A Capstone instance needs to be created:

```
capmd = Cs(CS_ARCH_X86, CS_MODE_64)
```



LAB: UNICORN ENGINE + CAPSTONE DISASSEMBLER

- The following function needs to be added and the hook replaced:

```
def disas_single(data, address):
    for i in capmd.disasm(data, address):
        print("0x%x:\t%s\t%s" % (i.address, i.mnemonic, i.op_str))

def hook_code(uc, address, size, user_data):
    print("[*] Current RIP: 0x{}, instruction size = 0x{}".
          format(address, size))
    mem = uc.mem_read(address, size)
    disas_single(bytes(mem), address)
```



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LAB: UNICORN ENGINE + CAPSTONE DISASSEMBLER

- Output:

```
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053217, instruction size = 0x3
0x101221:      mov     eax, dword ptr [rbp - 4]
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053220, instruction size = 0x3
0x101224:      movsxd  rdx, eax
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053223, instruction size = 0x4
0x101227:      mov     rax, qword ptr [rbp - 0x18]
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053227, instruction size = 0x3
0x10122b:      add    rax, rdx
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053230, instruction size = 0x3
0x10122e:      movzx   eax, byte ptr [rax]
[*] Current RIP: 0x1053233, instruction size = 0x2
```



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LAB: OBFUSCATED CIPHER: UNICORN

- Find your target under: [extra/05cipher-unicorn/05cipher-unicorn](#)
- Executable deciphers a ciphered message
- Create a Unicorn script that deciphers the message from [decipher.this](#)
- External function might cause an issue. Patch them from Unicorn!
- Use `mem_write()` and assemblers to create machine code



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