

# Lab 7. Hacking Minesweeper with Ollydbg

## What You Need

A Windows 2016 machine, real or virtual. Other Windows versions should also work.

## Purpose

To hack MineSweeper at the binary level. This gives you practice using the Ollydbg debugger, Procdump, and Python.

## Downloading OllyDbg

If you don't already have it, download OllyDbg 1.10 here:

<http://www.ollydbg.de/>

Right-click the file and click **Extract**, **"Extract All..."**.

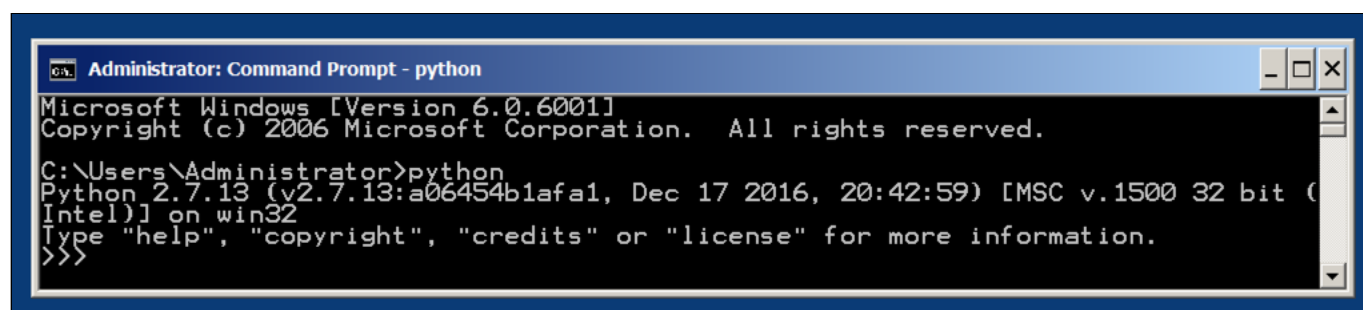
Double-click the red icon to launch it.

## Testing Python

To see if python 2.7 is already installed, open a Command Prompt and execute this command:

```
python
```

You should see a "Python 2.7" message, as shown below.



If python does not open, follow these instructions to install it:

<https://samsclass.info/124/proj14/python2.7-win.htm>

## Getting Minesweeper

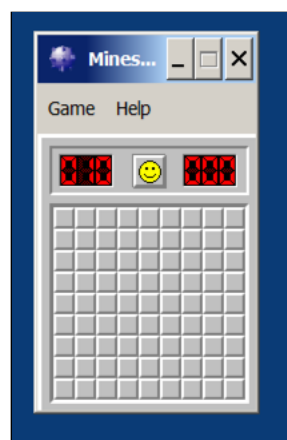
Download the minesweeper program from the link below.

[minesam.exe.zip](#)

Right-click the zipped file and click **"Extract All..."**, **Extract**.

Double-click the **minesam.exe** file to launch Minesweeper.

The game launches. Click **Game**, **Beginner** to see the small gameboard shown below. as shown below.



Click a cell. Some of the cells appear empty, and others are revealed with numbers in them, as shown below.



## Viewing the Game in OllyDbg

Close Minesweeper.

Launch OllyDbg. Click **File**, **Open** and open **minesam.exe**.

The program loads and pauses, as shown below.

OllyDbg - minesam.exe - [CPU - main thread, module minesam]

File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help

LEMTW H C / K B R ... S

Address	Hex dump	ASCII	Comment
01003E21	6A 70		PUSH 70
01003E23	68 90130001		PUSH minesam.01001390
01003E28	E8 DF010000		CALL minesam.0100400C
01003E2D	33DB		XOR EBX,EBX
01003E2F	53		PUSH EBX
01003E30	8B3D 8C100001		MOV EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetModuleHandleA
01003E36	FFD7		CALL EDI
01003E38	66:8138 4D5A		CMP WORD PTR DS:[EAX],5A4D
01003E3D	75 1F		JNZ SHORT minesam.01003E5E
01003E3F	8B48 3C		MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+3C]
01003E42	03C8		ADD ECX,EAX
01003E44	8139 50450000		CMP DWORD PTR DS:[ECX],4550
01003E4A	75 12		JNZ SHORT minesam.01003E5E
01003E4C	0FB741 18		MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR DS:[ECX+18]
01003E50	3D 0B010000		CMP EAX,10B
01003E55	74 1F		JE SHORT minesam.01003E76
01003E57	3D 0B020000		CMP EAX,20B
01003E5C	74 05		JE SHORT minesam.01003E63
01003E5F	895D E4		MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],EBX

Registers (FPU)

Register	Value	Comment
EAX	76A948FF	kernel32.76A948FF
ECX	00000000	
EDX	01003E21	minesam.01003E21
EBX	7FFDF000	
ESP	0006FF8C	
EBP	0006FF94	
ESI	00000000	
EDI	00000000	
EIP	01003E21	minesam.01003E21

Address Hex dump ASCII Comment

Address	Hex dump	ASCII	Comment
01005000	18 00 00 00 8F 00 00 00	↑.....	
01005008	8D 00 00 00 8E 00 00 00	...■...	
01005010	0A 00 00 00 09 00 00 00	.....	
01005018	09 00 00 00 28 00 00 00	....(...	
01005020	10 00 00 00 10 00 00 00	+...+...	
01005028	63 00 00 00 10 00 00 00	c...+...	
01005030	1E 00 00 00 58 00 59 00	...X.Y...	
01005038	5A 00 5A 00 59 00 00 00	Z.Z.Y...	
01005040	8D 00 00 00 E8 03 00 00	...èL...	
01005048	8E 00 00 00 E9 03 00 00	...éL...	
01005050	8F 00 00 00 F0 03 00 00	...àL...	

Analysing minesam: 77 heuristical procedures, 150 calls to known, 48 calls to guessed functions

Start OllyDbg - minesam.exe...

From the OllyDbg menu bar, click **View**, **Memory**.

The memory segments are shown, as shown below.

Right-click the **minesam.data** line and click **Dump**, as shown below.

OllyDbg - minesam.exe - [Memory map]

File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help

Address Size Owner Section Contains Type Access Initial Mapped as

00010000	00010000				Map	RW	RW	
00020000	00001000				Priv	RW	RW	
0006A000	00002000				Priv	RW	Guar	RW
0006C000	00004000			stack of ma	Priv	RW	Guar	RW
00070000	00004000				Map	R	R	
00080000	00002000				Map	R	R	
00090000	00003000				Map	R	R	
00150000	00003000							
00160000	00001000							
00170000	00002000							
00180000	00002000							
00190000	00001000							
001B0000	00002000							
001D0000	00003000							
00220000	0000A000							
00320000	00380000							
006A0000	00103000							
00970000	00008000							
00980000	00380000							
01000000	00001000	minesam		PE header				
01001000	00004000	minesam	.text	code, impor				
01005000	00001000	minesam	.data	data				
01006000	0001A000	minesam	.rsrc	resources				
01020000	0003B000							

Actualize  
Dump in CPU  
Dump  
Search  
Set break-on-access  
Set memory breakpoint on access  
Set memory breakpoint on write  
Set access  
Copy to clipboard  
Sort by  
Appearance

Ctrl+B  
F2

HarddiskVolume1\Windows\System32\oleaccrc.dll  
HarddiskVolume1\Windows\System32\loc2008.nls  
HarddiskVolume1\Windows\System32\loc2008.nls

In the Dump window, scroll down to show memory near 01005340.

This area contains only zeroes, as shown below.

Dump - minesam:.data 01005000..01005FFF

01005200	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005210	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005220	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005230	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005240	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005250	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005260	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005270	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005280	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005290	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010052A0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010052B0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010052C0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010052D0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010052E0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010052F0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005300	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005310	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005320	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005330	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005340	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005350	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005360	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005370	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005380	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005390	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010053A0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010053B0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010053C0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010053D0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010053E0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010053F0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005400	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005410	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005420	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005430	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005440	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005450	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005460	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005470	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005480	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
01005490	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010054A0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
010054B0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....

From the OllyDbg menu bar, click **View, CPU**.

From the OllyDbg menu bar, click **Debug, Run**.

If the lower-right corner of OllyDbg still shows a "Paused" message, click **Debug, Run** again.

A Minesweeper window opens, but does not come to the front. Click its button on the taskbar to bring it to the front, as shown below.

OlyDbg - minesam.exe - [CPU - main thread, minesam]

File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help

LEMTW H C / K B R ... S

Registers (FPU)

Register	Value	Comment
EAX	76A948FF	kernel32
ECX	00000000	
EDX	01003E21	minesam
EBX	7FFDF000	
ESP	0006FF88	
EBP	0006FF94	
ESI	00000000	
EDI	00000000	
EIP	01003E23	minesam

01003E21 \$ 6A 70 PUSH 70

01003E23 . 68 90130001 PUSH minesam.01001390

01003E28 . E8 DF010000 CALL minesam.0100400C

01003E2D . 33DB XOR EBX,EBX

01003E2F . 53 PUSH EBX

01003E30 . 8B3D 8C100001 MOV EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.G

01003E36 . FFD7 CALL EDI

01003E38 . 66:8138 4D5A CMP WORD PTR DS:[EAX],5A4D

01003E3D . 75 1F JNZ SHORT minesam.01003E5E

01003E3F . 8B48 3C MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+3C]

01003E42 . 03C8 ADD ECX,EAX

01003E44 . 8139 50450000 CMP DWORD PTR DS:[ECX],4550

01003E4A . 75 12 JNZ SHORT minesam.01003E5E

01003E4C . 0FB741 18 MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR DS:[ECX+18]

01003E50 . 3D 0B010000 CMP EAX,10B

01003E55 . 74 1F JE SHORT minesam.01003E76

01003E57 . 3D 0B020000 CMP EAX,20B

01003E5C . 74 05 JE SHORT minesam.01003E63

01003E5E . 895D E4 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],EBX

Address Hex dump ASCII

Address	Hex dump	ASCII
01005000	01 00 00 00 8F 00 00 00	.....
01005008	8D 00 00 00 8E 00 00 00	...■...
01005010	0A 00 00 00 09 00 00 00	.....
01005018	09 00 00 00 28 00 00 00	....(....
01005020	10 00 00 00 10 00 00 00	+...+...
01005028	63 00 00 00 10 00 00 00	c...+...
01005030	1E 00 00 00 58 00 59 00	...X.Y.
01005038	5A 00 5A 00 59 00 00 00	Z.Z.Y...
01005040	8D 00 00 00 E8 03 00 00	...èL..
01005048	8E 00 00 00 E9 03 00 00	...éL..
01005050	8F 00 00 00 F0 02 00 00	...àL..

0006FF8C 76A94911 RETURN to kernel32.76A94911

0006FF90 7FFDF000

0006FF94 0006FFD4

0006FF98 77B9E4B6 RETURN to ntdll.77B9E4B6

0006FF9C 7FFDF000

0006FFA0 777F068C SHELL32.777F068C

0006FFA4 00000000

0006FFA8 00000000

0006FFAC 7FFDF000

0006FFB0 00000000

0006FFB4 00000000

0006FFB8 00000000

Start OlyDbg - minesam.exe - ... Minesweeper

In Minesweeper, click a cell to change the display.

From the OllyDbg menu bar, click **Window,Dump**.

Compare the Minesweeper gameboard with the Dump window. You can see that the gameboard is stored in RAM, using an "A" for "1", and a "B" for "2", as shown below.





If we can read the RAM, we can cheat at the game.

Notice the highlighted region in the image above. If we can find this sequence of bytes in RAM, we can find the gameboard in a memory dump.

## Getting Procdump

In a Web browser, go to <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/procdump>

- Download Procdump.zip, and put it in your Downloads folder.
- Click **Start**, **Computer**. Navigate to your Download folder.
- Right-click **Procdump.zip** and click "Extract All...", **Extract**.

## Creating a Python Script

We can automate the process with Python.

Click **Start**. Type **CMD**. Open a Command Prompt window, and execute these commands:

```
cd Downloads\procdump
notepad cheat.py
```

If a license agreement pops up, agree to it.

A box pops up, saying "Do you want to create a ne file...?". Click **Yes**.

Paste in this code, as shown below.

```
import os

# Dump memory

cmd = "del mine.dmp"
os.system(cmd)
cmd = "procdump -ma minesam.exe mine"
os.system(cmd)

# Find gameboard

mark = '\x00\x10\x10\x10\x10\x10\x10\x10\x10\x10\x10\x0F'

line_length = 32
board_size = 500 # characters in whole board

with open("mine.dmp", "rb") as f:
```

```

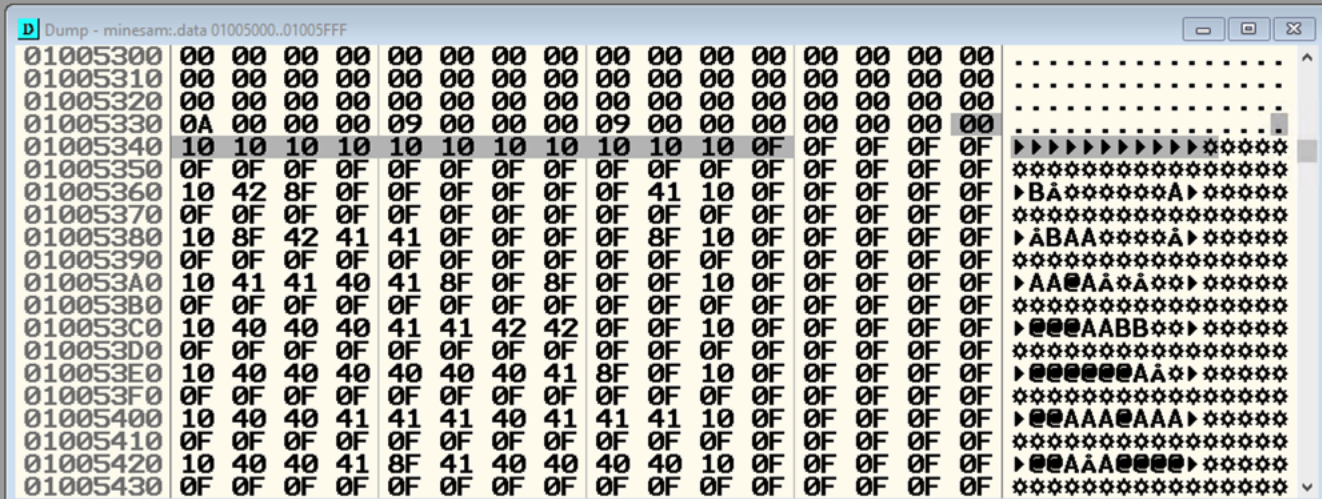
data= f.read()

start = data.find(mark)
if start <0:
    print "Gameboard not found"

# Print gameboard

for i in range(0, board_size, line_length):
    line = ''
    for j in range(line_length):
        g = data[start+i+j]
        if g == '\x10':
            c = "-"
        elif g == '\x0f':
            c = " "
        elif g == '\x8f':
            c = "*"
        elif g == '\x00':
            c = " "
        else:
            c = chr( ord(g) - 16 )
        line += c
    print line

```

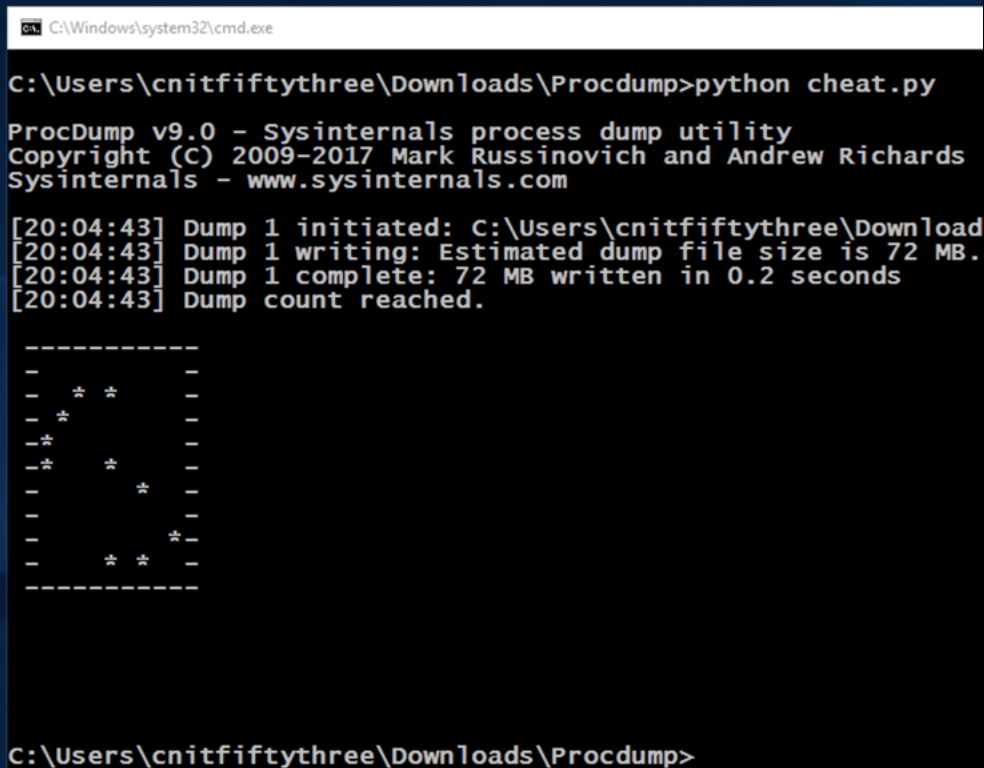


In the Notepad window, click **File**, **Save**.

In the Command Prompt window, execute this command:

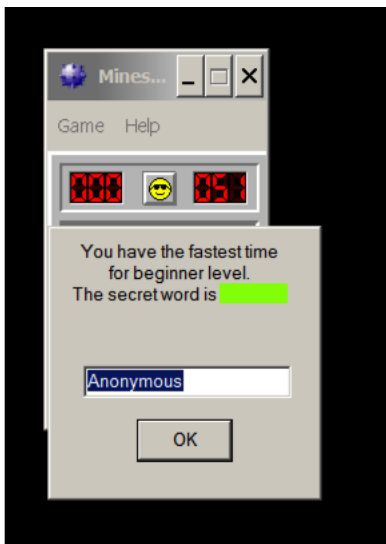
```
python cheat.py
```

The program shows the location of the mines. With this information, you should easily be able to click all the squares without mines, as shown below.



## Flag PMA 402.1: Beginner Level (15 pts)

When you win the game, a secret word will appear, which is covered by a green box in the image below. That's the flag.



## Flag PMA 402.2: Intermediate Level

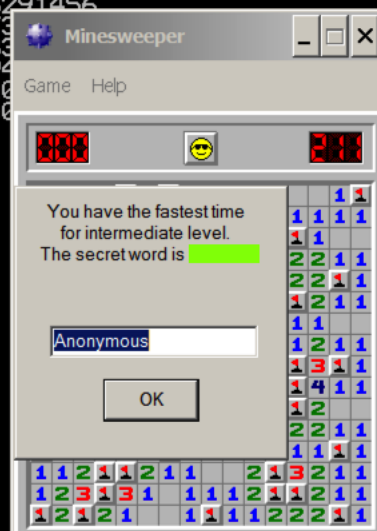
In Minesweeper, click **Game, Intermediate**.

Create a cheating tool that works for this level and win the game, as shown below.

[15:23:53] Dump count reached.

```
Looking at byte 0x100000 1048576
Looking at byte 0x200000 2097152
Looking at byte 0x300000 3145728
Looking at byte 0x400000 4194304
Looking at byte 0x500000 5242880
Looking at byte 0x600000 6291456
Looking at byte 0x700000 7340032
Looking at byte 0x800000 8388608
Looking at byte 0x900000 9437184
Looking at byte 0xa00000 10485760
Gameboard found at 0xabbc0
```

```
-1212~2~10000001*~
~2* 221100011111~
-122*10000001*100~
-001110001122 211~
-110011101* * *1~
~2222~1012* *211~
-12~311002 100~
-013~421001* 211~
-0013~10011 * *1~
-0002~420001 *411~
-00012~10001**200~
-11001 21001 211~
~1122 *1001 *1~
-1 **211002* 1~
-1 *3101112** 1~
~2~21001* 222~1~
-----
```



## Flag PMA 402.3: Expert Level (10 pts extra)

In Minesweeper, click **Game**, **Expert**.

Find the secret word for the Expert level.

*Hint: use a totally different technique; don't play the game.*

## Sources

[Game Hacking: WinXP Minesweeper](#)  
[\\_MINIDUMP\\_TYPE Enumeration](#)

Posted 9-18-18  
Revised for Win 2016 9-11-19  
OllyDbg download link fixed 10-1-20  
Updated in minor ways 2-23-21