

# MMO Reversing

Dave Kukfa

# /who

- Dave Kukfa
- 3rd year
- MMO master
- Web
- Pentesting
- Reversing
- <http://kukfa.co>



# Background

- Dungeon Runners
- Shut down in 2010
- Client still exists
- No servers to connect to



# Server emulator

- Efforts to build a server emulator over the past year
  - AKA private server
- Goal: mimic the functionality of the original game's server
- Server emulators exist for many online games
  - WoW
  - Everquest
  - Ultima Online
  - etc.

# DR server components

- Authentication server
  - Logins
  - World selection
- Game server
  - Gameplay
  - Game environment (towns etc.)
  - Creating and saving characters
  - and more

# Traffic flow

- Client initially connects to auth server
  - Sends back world list
- Player chooses a world to play on
- Passed to game server
- Select a character and start playing



# Lots of things to implement



# Easier said than done

- Protocol analysis
  - Analyzing traffic between the client and the server
  - Identifying what the data in each packet is controlling
  - Detecting patterns and structure
  - Encryption and custom data formatting make this difficult
- Extremely difficult without an example
  - Server was shut down years ago
  - No one has a network capture of actual gameplay
  - Resort to reverse engineering and guess-and-check
  - Long and tedious





# Protocol analysis

8	0.00144800	10.0.0.1	10.0.0.2	TCP	65	2110→49181	[PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 win=65536 Len=11
9	0.08348400	10.0.0.2	10.0.0.1	TCP	104	49181→2110	[PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=12 win=65536 Len=50
10	0.08392200	10.0.0.1	10.0.0.2	TCP	112	2110→49181	[PSH, ACK] Seq=12 Ack=51 win=65536 Len=58
11	0.27937400	10.0.0.2	10.0.0.1	TCP	60	49181→2110	[ACK] Seq=51 Ack=70 win=65536 Len=0

⊕ Frame 9: 104 bytes on wire (832 bits), 104 bytes captured (832 bits) on interface 0

⊕ Ethernet II, Src: Vmware\_19:5a:43 (00:0c:29:19:5a:43), Dst: Vmware\_eb:d2:55 (00:0c:29:eb:d2:55)

⊕ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.0.0.2 (10.0.0.2), Dst: 10.0.0.1 (10.0.0.1)

⊕ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 49181 (49181), Dst Port: 2110 (2110), Seq: 1, Ack: 12, Len: 50

⊖ Data (50 bytes)

Data: 32005fe7cf9fc64c3409e98169578334d1992c6f069539b5...

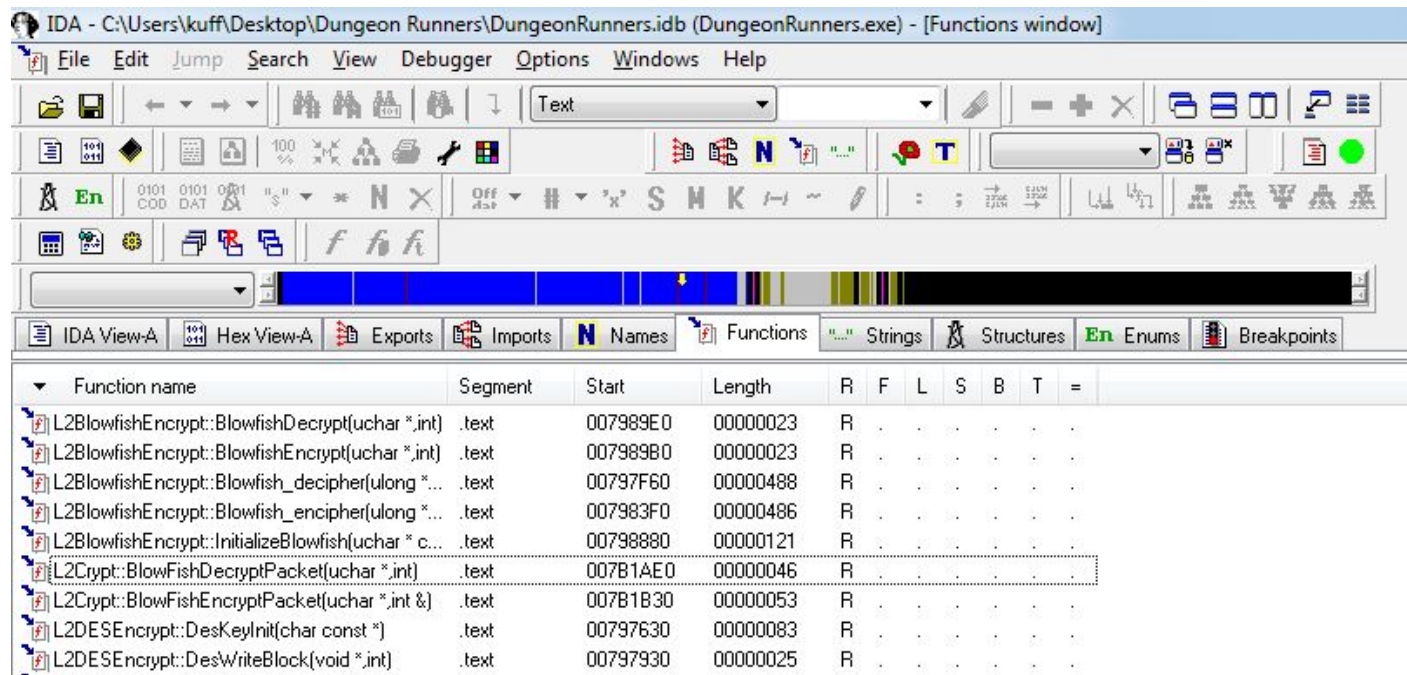
[Length: 50]

0000	00 0c 29 eb d2 55 00 0c	29 19 5a 43 08 00 45 00	..)..U.. ).ZC..E.
0010	00 5a 02 ae 40 00 80 06	e3 ed 0a 00 00 02 0a 00	.Z..@... .....
0020	00 01 c0 1d 08 3e 74 86	3c 53 23 a3 9b f3 50 18	.....>t. <S#...P.
0030	01 00 44 86 00 00 32 00	5f e7 cf 9f c6 4c 34 09	..D...2. ....L4.
0040	e9 81 69 57 83 34 d1 99	2c 6f 06 95 39 b5 61 09	..iW.4.. ,0..9.a.
0050	f3 28 72 52 c6 d9 b3 33	d5 a2 22 e2 bf a8 bd 3e	.(rR...3 ..>
0060	e5 37 57 5e 02 79 b7 f9		.7w^..y..

} ????

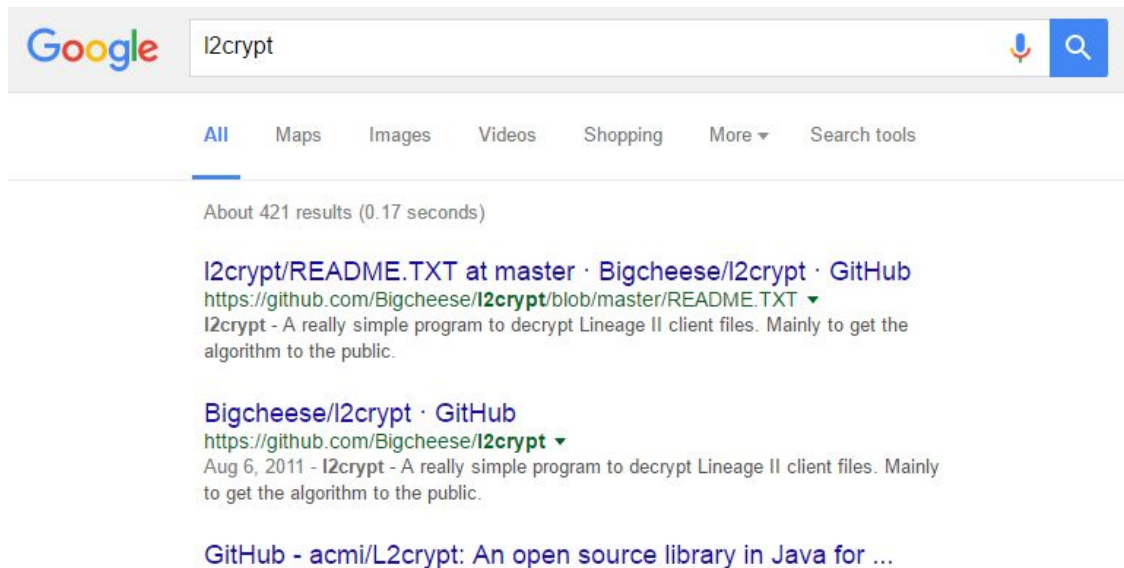
# Spring break

- Took another look at the client



# “L2”

- Dungeon Runners published by NCsoft
  - As are Lineage and Lineage II (other MMOs)
- Googling reveals..

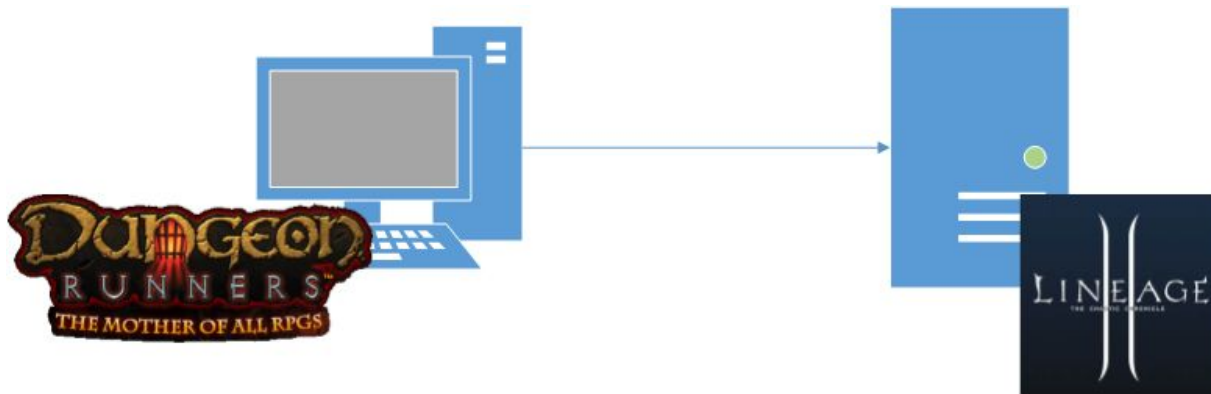


# Timeline

- Dungeon Runners
  - Developed in 2005
  - Entered closed beta in May 2006
- Lineage II
  - Several different versions
  - First (Prelude) launched April 2004
  - Followed by C1 (June 2004) and C2 (December 2004)

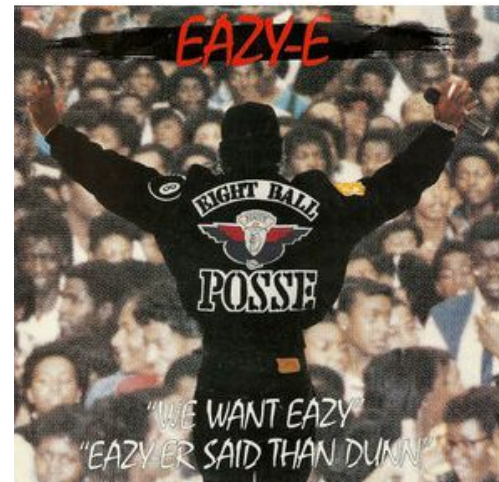
# Shot in the dark

- Set up a L2 server emulator
- Point the DR client at it
- See what happens



# Again, easier said than done

- Trying to find Prelude/C1/C2 servers
- Not fun trying to download obscure programs made 12 years ago
  - Surfing old forums
  - Many dead links
  - Searching for mirrors
- [web.archive.org](http://web.archive.org) is a life saver



# L2J

- One of the popular L2 server emulators
  - Comes with auth server and game server
- Ended up using a legacy version
  - C1/C2 compatible
  - November 2004
- Thankfully archived on Sourceforge

Used to seeing this...





# With L2J...



# After some tweaks...



# Aftermath

- Concluded that DR used L2 auth server protocols
- Clients could successfully connect to auth server
  - Passed to game server after selecting a world
- Ran into problems with the game server
  - Not responding to client packets
- Spring break ended

# Current point

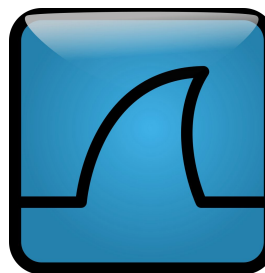


# Positives

- Now have a working authentication server
- Huge lead for determining the rest of the game protocols
- Met a ton of devs in L2 emulator community

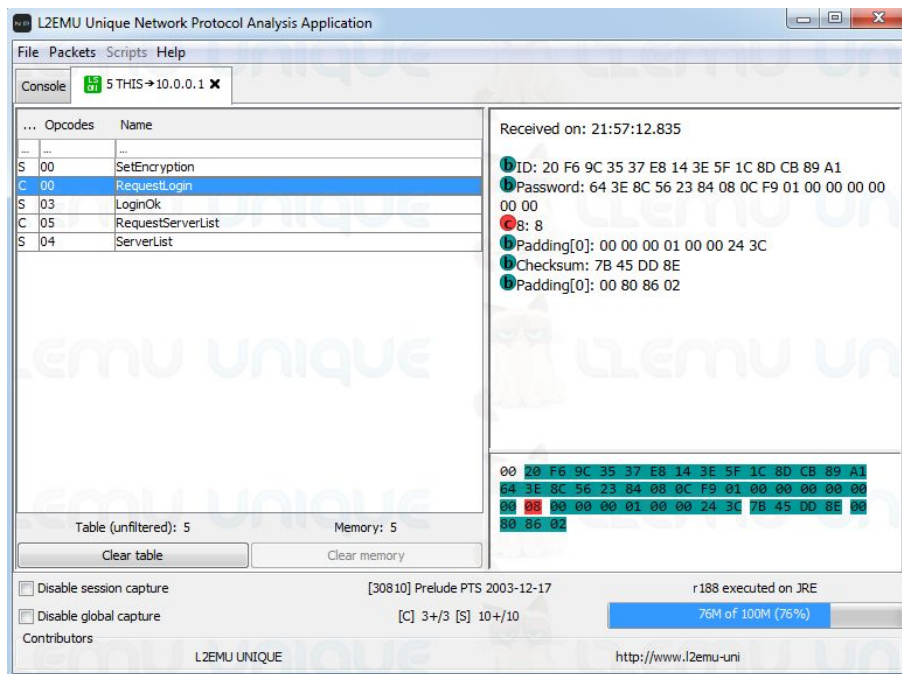
# Tools

- IDA
- Wireshark
- Hex editor
- Lots of work by hand
  - Roll your sleeves up



# Netpro

- L2 packet visualizer
  - Intercepts L2 traffic and analyzes it for you



# Future work

- Revisit the game server
  - Hammer out bugs
- Determine how often game server uses L2 protocols
- Eventually recreate the game world
  - NPCs
  - Monsters
  - Quests
  - etc.



# Questions?

- [dxk2652@rit.edu](mailto:dxk2652@rit.edu)