## FL STUDIO 11 UNLOCKER REPORT



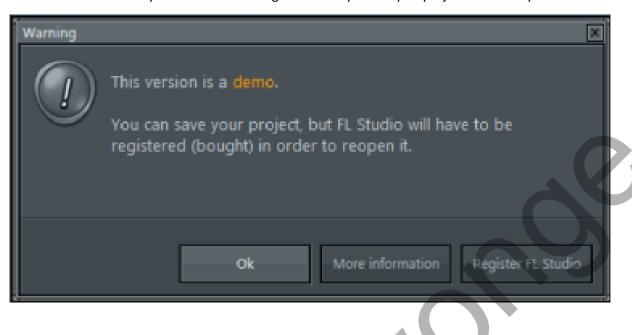
MARK MUWONGE

## **Unlocking Producer Edition**

The Producer Edition is the version of FL Studio 11 with the most features. After installing the software and running the executable (Image-Line\FL Studio 11\FL.exe), the user only has access to the demo version.

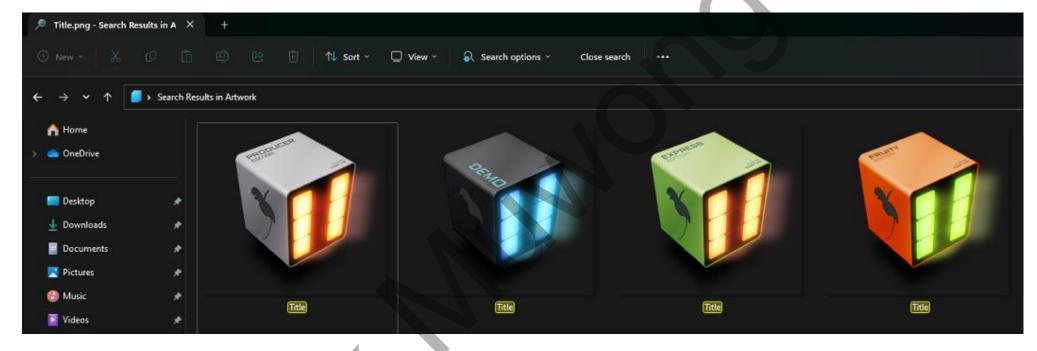


This comes with many limitations including the inability to re-open projects once they are saved.





Looking at the directory structure under "Image-Line\FL Studio 11\Artwork" there are several notable directories: FL Studio Demo, FL Studio Express, FL Studio Fruity Edition and FL Studio Producer Edition. These directories all contain a "Title.png" image file. These image files each have their own distinctive appearance.



Due to the "Title.png" image file under the "Image-Line\FL Studio 11\Artwork\FL Studio Demo" directory having the same appearance as the start-up splash image and the demo version of the software being loaded, it can be assumed that the FL studio 11 version that gets loaded is dependent on a certain condition and the "Title.png" image file is involved in it.

Using the "Rohitab API monitor" software and monitoring the Windows API calls that FL Studio 11 makes on start-up reveals that the "Title.png" image file is referenced in the "Image-Line\FL Studio 11\FLEngine.dll" module.

FLEngine.dl MultiByteToWideChar ( Western-European, 0, "C:\Program Files (x86)\|mage-Line\FL Studio 11\\/\text{Artwork\FL Studio Demo\Title.png", 79}

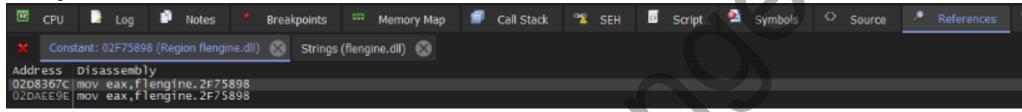
Using the "X32dbg" software, setting a breakpoint at the entry point (File offset: 0x3E22C8) to the "FLEngine.dll" module and looking for string references within it containing "Title.png" reveals a "MOV" instruction (File offset: 0x36F439, Arbitrary name: Instruction #1) involving a constant (File offset: 0x36F524) with the value "Title.png".



Upon setting a breakpoint at "Instruction #1", the EDX register holds an address to a string with the value "Image-Line\FL Studio 11\Artwork\FL Studio Demo". The EDX register comes to hold the address by getting the value at a hardcoded address (File offset: 0x3F3890, Arbitrary name: Address #1) which is another address (Arbitrary name: Address #2) and getting the value at "Address #2" which is the address of the string.

```
02D60028 64:FF30 push dword ptr [5]:[eax] eax:L"az-Latn-AZ"
02D60028 64:8920 mov dword ptr [5]:[eax],esp
02D6002E 8B15 9054DE02 mov edx,dword ptr ds:[2DE5490] edx:"C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Image-Line\\FL Studio 11\\Artwork\\FL Studio Demo\\"
02D60036 8D45 FC lea eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp-4]
02D60039 B9 2401D602 mov ecx,flengine.2D60124 2D60124:"Title.png"
```

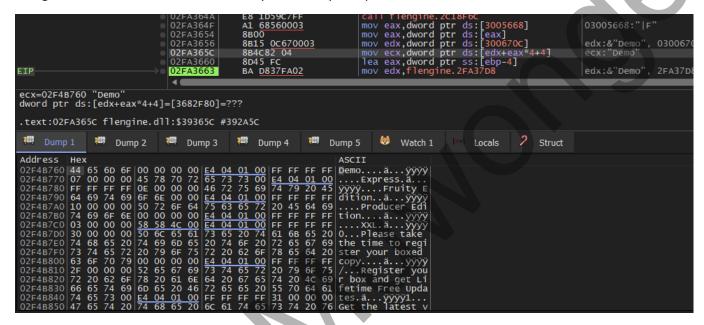
Searching references to "Address #2" reveals two instructions.



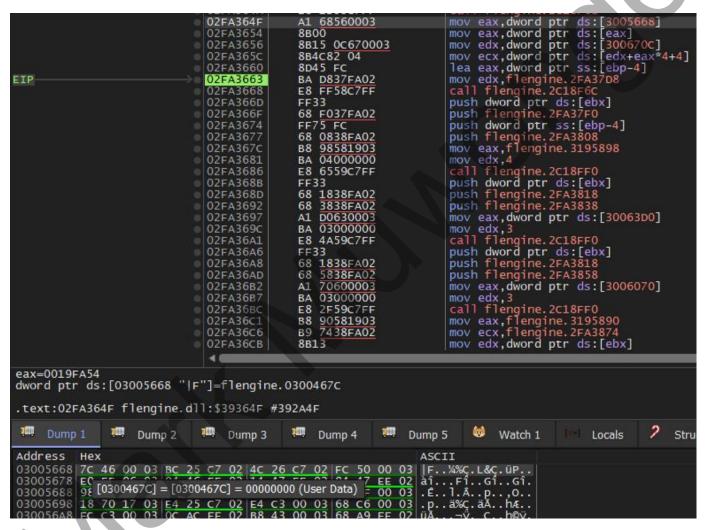
Restarting FL Studio 11 and setting a breakpoint at the first of the two instructions (File offset: 0x392A7C, Arbitrary name: Instruction #2), both the EAX and EDX register hold addresses to strings with the value "Demo". A "CALL" instruction appears five instructions before "Instruction #2" that may be responsible for setting the EAX and EDX registers. To be sure, a breakpoint before the "CALL" instruction can be set.

```
02FF364A
             E8 1D59C7FF
                                                                               eax: "Demo"
             A1 68560503
                                                        ds:[3055668]
                                         eax, dword ptr
             8B00
                                    mov eax, dword ptr ds:[eax]
                                                                               eax:"Demo"
02FF3654
                                                                               edx: "Demo"
             8B15 0C670503
                                         edx, dword ptr ds:[3056700]
             8B4C82 04
                                                       ds:[edx+eax*4+4]
                                                                                [ebp-4]:"FL Studio
             8D45 FC
                                         eax, dword ptr ss:[ebp-4]
             BA D837FF02
                                                                               edx: "Demo", 2FF37D8
                                        edx.flengine.ZFF37D8
             E8 FF58C7FF
                                          † engine, 2068F60
             FF33
                                     push dword ptr ds: [ebx]
             68 F037FF02
                                         flengine, 2FF37F0
                                    push dword ptr ss:[ebp-4]
             FF75 FC
             68 0838FF02
                                                                               eax:"Demo
```

Setting a breakpoint at the instruction before the "CALL" instruction (File offset: 0x392A63, Arbitrary name: Instruction #3) reveals the ECX register holds an address to a string with the value "Demo". Additionally, a memory dump at the ECX address reveals a list of the FL Studio 11 edition names.

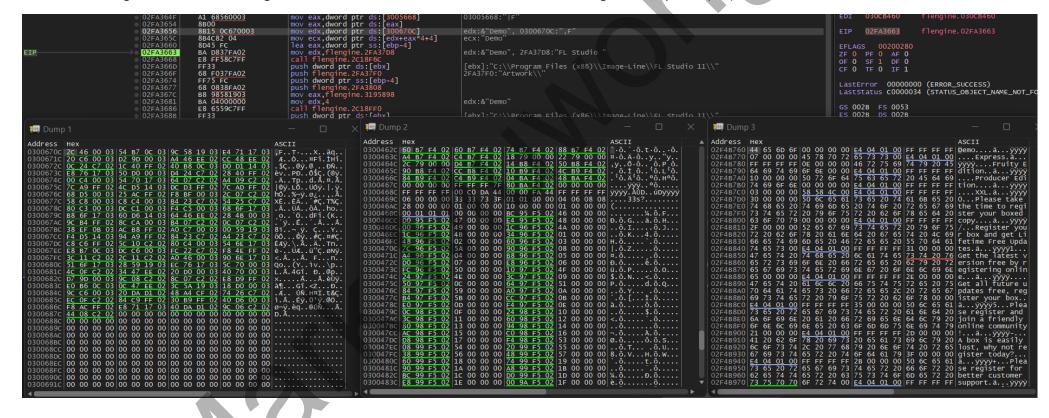


Five instructions before "Instruction #3", the EAX register is set with a value at a hardcoded address (File offset: 0x3F3A68, Arbitrary name: Address #3). This value is another address (Arbitrary name: Address #4) that holds the value zero which is stored in EAX.

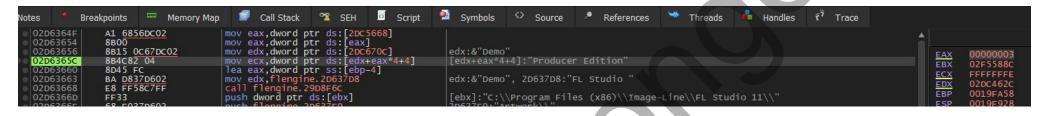


Three instructions before "Instruction #3" the EDX register is set with the value of a hardcoded address (Arbitrary name: Address #5). The value at "Address #5" is another address that points to the first character of the string value "Demo" ("D").

Two instructions before "Instruction #3" (File offset: 0x392A5C, Arbitrary name: Instruction #4) shows the ECX register being set. The address that comes from the dereferenced EDX register is used as a base and the numeric value that comes from the dereferenced EAX register is used as an offset to each of the FL Studio 11 edition names. When the EAX register is zero, the ECX register holds the address of the first character of the string value "Demo" ("D"). When the EAX register is one, the ECX register holds the address of the first character of the string value "Express" ("E") etc.



From here it can be assumed that restarting FL Studio 11, making a breakpoint at "Instruction #4", changing the EAX register value to three and resuming the application will cause the "Producer Edition" splash image to appear on start-up.

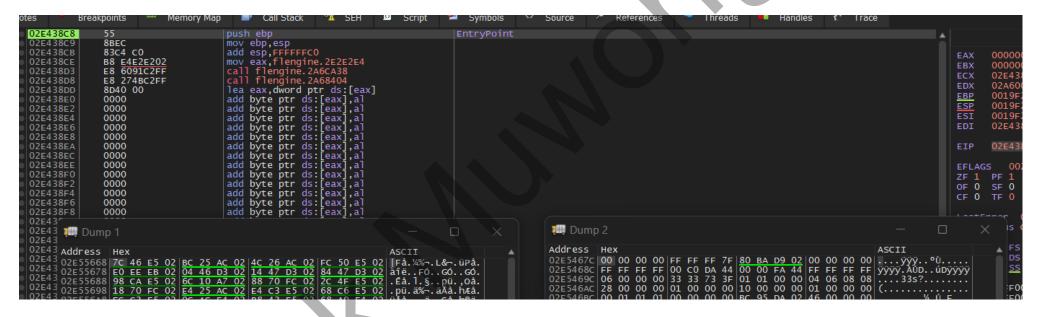


This is precisely what happens.

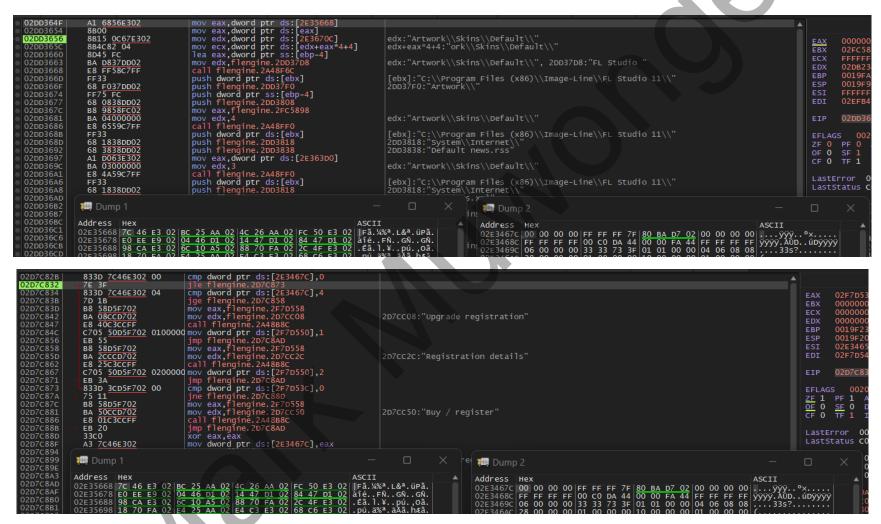


However as expected, the application is still the demo version. What can be deduced is that the numerical value at address "Address #4" is used to determine which splash image is presented and perhaps the loaded version. The reason the demo version was loaded could be due to the splash image selection sequence occurring after the version selection sequence occurs.

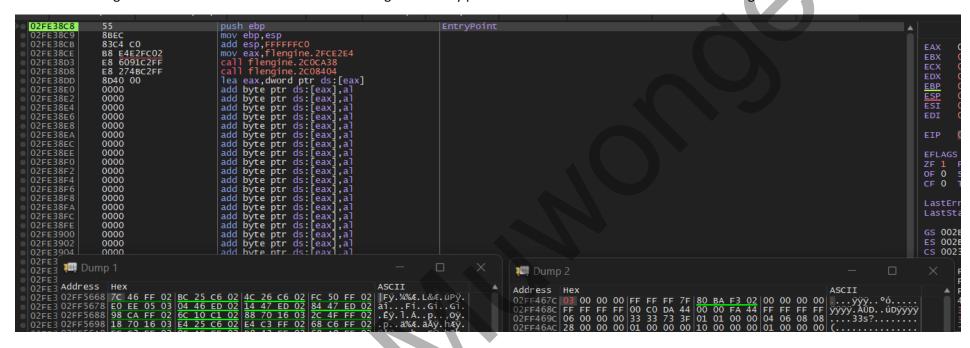
Restarting FL Studio 11 and setting a breakpoint at the entry point of FLEngine.dll, reveals that "Address #4" holds the value of zero by default. Therefore during the version selection sequence, it can be assumed that there would be no need to explicitly set the value at "Address #4" to zero after determining that the demo version should run.



This assumption proves to be true when setting a hardware breakpoint at "Address #4". The breakpoint gets triggered twice and at no point is "Address #4" written to.



Therefore setting the value at "Address #4" to "3" at the FLEngine.dll entry point will ensure FL Studio 11 Producer Edition gets loaded instead of the demo.



FL Studio 11 Producer Edition



## Creating the Producer Edition patch

The patch is a replacement FLEngine.dll file that ensures the Producer Edition version gets loaded instead of the demo version. This is done by setting the default value at "Address #4" to three instead of zero.

Near the FLEngine.dll entry point, there are multiple of "padding bytes" that can be overwritten without affecting the execution of the program.

3E38C8	55		PUSH EBP
3E38C9	8BEC		MOV EBP, ESP
3E38CB	83C4C0		ADD ESP, -0X40
3E38CE	B8E4E27C00		MOV EAX, 0X7CE2E4
3E38D3	E86091C2FF	_	CALL 0X40CA38
3E38D8	E8274BC2FF	4	CALL 0X408404
3E38DD	8D4000		LEA EAX, [EAX]
3E38E0	0000		ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
3E38E2	0000		ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
3E38E4	0000		ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
3E38E6	0000		ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL

Immediately transferring execution to the first byte of the "padding bytes" requires a two byte "short jump" instruction "0xEB, 0x16". This will overwrite the "PUSH EBP" instruction however will only part overwrite the "MOV EBP, ESP" instruction which will in turn ruin the integrity of the subsequent instructions. Following the "short jump" instruction with a single byte "NOP" instruction solves this issue.

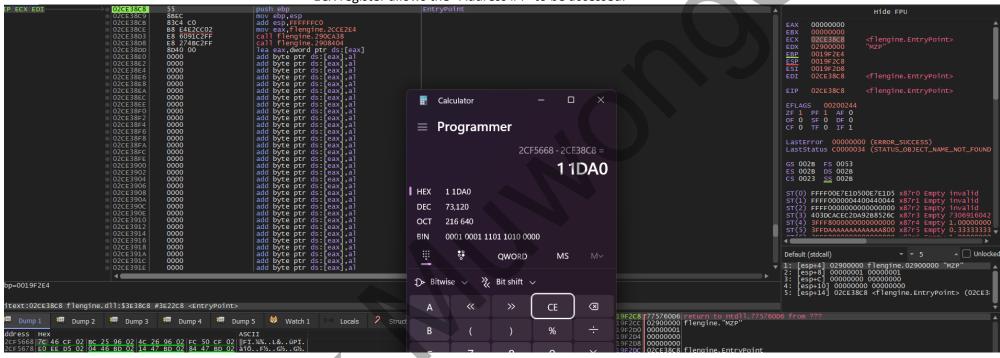
3E38C8	EB16	JMP SHORT 0X7E38E0
3E38CA	90	NOP
3E38CB	83C4C0	ADD ESP, -0X40
3E38CE	B8E4E27C00	MOV EAX, 0X7CE2E4
3E38D3	E86091C2FF 🔼	CALL 0X40CA38
3E38D8	E8274BC2FF 🔼	CALL 0X408404
3E38DD	8D4000	LEA EAX, [EAX]
3E38E0	0000	ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
3E38E2	0000	ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
3E38E4	0000	ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
2220EC	0000	ann nume non ceaus at

Once the "short jump" has been made, the overwritten "PUSH EBP" and "MOV EBP, ESP" instructions are restored to ensure no state changes. As the addresses of the "padding bytes" fall on addresses that are a multiple of two and the "PUSH EBP" instruction is a single byte, a single "NOP"

byte is placed after it.

	byte is placed	arter it.
3E38C8	EB16	JMP SHORT 0X7E38E0
3E38CA	90	NOP
3E38CB	83C4C0	ADD ESP, -0X40
3E38CE	B8E4E27C00	MOV EAX, 0X7CE2E4
3E38D3	E86091C2FF 🔼	CALL 0X40CA38
3E38D8	E8274BC2FF	CALL 0X408404
3E38DD	8D4000	LEA EAX, [EAX]
3E38E0	55	PUSH EBP
3E38E1	90	NOP
3E38E2	89E5	MOV EBP, ESP
3E38E4	0000	ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
3E38E6	0000	ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
3E38E8	0000	ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
202001	0000	AND DUMP DED CHAVE AT

The address of the FLEngine.dll entry point is conveniently present in the ECX register at the entry point. Calculating the difference between "Address #3" (holds the address to "Address #4" where the FL Studio 11 "version selector" is) and the FLEngine.dll entry point address and adding it to the value in the ECX register allows the "Address #4" to be accessed.



From there all that remains is to replace the "padding bytes" with instructions that set the value at "Address #4" to three and return to the third instruction from the FLEngine.dll entry point while maintaining byte alignment and the state of the registers.

3E38C8	EB16	W	JMP SHORT 0X7E38E0
3E38CA	90		NOP
3E38CB	83C4C0		ADD ESP, -0X40
3E38CE	B8E4E27C00		MOV EAX, 0X7CE2E4
3E38D3	E86091C2FF	<b>A</b>	CALL 0X40CA38
3E38D8	E8274BC2FF	<b>A</b>	CALL 0X408404
3E38DD	8D4000		LEA EAX, [EAX]
3E38E0	55		PUSH EBP
3E38E1	90		NOP
3E38E2	89E5		MOV EBP, ESP
3E38E4	51		PUSH ECX
3E38E5	90		NOP
3E38E6	81C1A01D0100		ADD ECX, 0X11DA0
3E38EC	8B09		MOV ECX, DWORD PTR [ECX]
3E38EE	C70103000000		MOV DWORD PTR [ECX], 3
3E38F4	59		POP ECX
3E38F5	90		NOP
3E38F6	EBD3	<b>A</b>	JMP SHORT 0X7E38CB
3E38F8	0000		ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL
3E38FA	0000		ADD BYTE PTR [EAX], AL