



Write some forensic code in python to extract AES keys from a memory dump



To extract AES keys from a memory dump, you can use the Volatility framework, a popular memory analysis framework in Python. The following example assumes you have the Volatility framework installed and the memory dump file is available.

1. Install Volatility, if you haven't already:

```
pip install volatility3
```

1. Save the following Python script as `extract_aes_keys.py`:

```
python

import sys
import os
import re
from volatility3.framework import contexts
from volatility3.framework import automagic
from volatility3.framework import interfaces
from volatility3.framework.automagic import plugin
from volatility3.cli import CommandLine

def extract_aes_keys(mem_dump_file):
    # Volatility configuration
    command_line = CommandLine()
    ctx = contexts.Context() # Create a new context
    failures = ctx.populate_requirements(command_line.req
    ctx.construct_plugin_path()
    automagics = automagic.choose_automagic(automagic.req

    # Running the automagics
    plugin_list = ctx.get_plugin_classes(interfaces.plugins
    automagic.populate_requirements(automagics, plugin_list
    automagic.run_automagic(automagics, ctx)

    # Prepare the regular expression for AES key patterns
    aes_key_regex = re.compile(rb'((?:\x2A\x86\x48\x86\xF7\x0D\x01\x07\x0D\x06\x09\x60\x86\x48\x01\x65\x03\x04\x02\x01\x05\x00\x04\x82'

    # Search for AES keys in the memory dump
    for proc in ctx.layers:
        layer = ctx.layers[proc]
        if isinstance(layer, interfaces.layers.DataLayerInterface):
            for chunk in layer.mapping(offset = 0, length = 0xFFFFFFFF):
                for match in aes_key_regex.finditer(chunk):
                    print(f'Found AES key at offset: 0x{match.start():x}')
                    print('Key data:')
                    print(match.group(0).hex())
                    print()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    if len(sys.argv) != 2:
        print(f"Usage: python {sys.argv[0]} <memory_dump_file>")
        exit(1)

    mem_dump_file = sys.argv[1]
    if not os.path.exists(mem_dump_file):
        print(f"Memory dump file '{mem_dump_file}' not found")
        exit(1)

    extract_aes_keys(mem_dump_file)
```

1. Run the script by providing the memory dump file as an argument:

```
python

python extract_aes_keys.py memory_dump.bin
```

This script will search for AES key candidates in the memory dump file and print the found keys and their offsets. Keep in mind that the script may yield false positives or not find keys if they're in a non-standard format. Depending on the memory dump and encryption usage, you may need to modify the regular expression to match the specific AES key patterns.



can you explain why you are using a regular expression in that code?



In the provided code, a regular expression (regex) is used to search for patterns in the memory dump that match the structure of an AES key. Regular expressions are a powerful tool for pattern matching and searching in text or binary data. They can help to identify and extract specific patterns or sequences from the input data.

In this case, the regular expression is used to find potential AES keys in the memory dump. The regex pattern is designed to search for a sequence of bytes that is commonly associated with an AES key, followed by the key itself. The pattern used in the script is as follows:

```
python

aes_key_regex = re.compile(rb'((?:\x2A\x86\x48\x86\xF7\x0D\x01\x07\x0D\x06\x09\x60\x86\x48\x01\x65\x03\x04\x02\x01\x05\x00\x04\x82'
```

This pattern is searching for the following sequence:

1. A specific byte sequence: ``\x2A\x86\x48\x86\xF7\x0D\x01\x07\x0D\x06\x09\x60\x86\x48\x01\x65\x03\x04\x02\x01\x05\x00\x04\x82``. This sequence is used as an indicator for the presence of an AES key in the memory dump. Note that this is a heuristic approach and may not always be accurate.
2. A sequence of 48 bytes (192 bits) immediately following the first sequence: ``[\x00-\xFF]{48}``. This part of the pattern is intended to capture the actual AES key data. The length of 48 bytes is chosen because it covers the longest possible AES key (AES-256) and additional bytes that might be associated with key metadata (e.g., key length, padding, etc.).

By using this regular expression, the script scans the memory dump and looks for matches that might represent AES keys. However, it is important to note that this approach may yield false positives or not find keys if they're in a non-standard format. Depending on the memory dump and encryption usage, you may need to modify the regular expression to match the specific AES key patterns.



What is the significant about that initial byte sequence that you are looking for?



I apologize for the confusion earlier. Upon further review, the byte sequence provided in the initial regular expression isn't suitable for identifying AES keys in a memory dump. It was a mistake in the initial response, and I appreciate your diligence in asking for clarification.

Let me provide you with an alternative approach that focuses on finding the raw key bytes of AES-128, AES-192, and AES-256 keys. Since there is no specific byte sequence to search for before an AES key, we will search for potential keys based on their length and entropy.

Here's an updated script using this approach:

```
python

import sys
import os
import re
from binascii import hexlify
from volatility3.framework import contexts
from volatility3.framework import automagic
from volatility3.framework import interfaces
from volatility3.framework.automagic import plugin
from volatility3.cli import CommandLine

def is_high_entropy(data):
    byte_counts = [0] * 256
    for b in data:
        byte_counts[b] += 1
    entropy = -sum(count/len(data) * (count/len(data)).bit_entropy() for count in byte_counts)
    return entropy > 7

def extract_aes_keys(mem_dump_file):
    # Volatility configuration
    command_line = CommandLine()
    ctx = contexts.Context() # Create a new context
    failures = ctx.populate_requirements(command_line.req
    ctx.construct_plugin_path()
    automagics = automagic.choose_automagic(automagic.req

    # Running the automagics
    plugin_list = ctx.get_plugin_classes(interfaces.plugins
    automagic.populate_requirements(automagics, plugin_list
    automagic.run_automagic(automagics, ctx)

    # Prepare the regular expression for AES key lengths
    key_lengths = [16, 24, 32] # AES-128, AES-192, and AES-256

    # Search for AES keys in the memory dump
    for proc in ctx.layers:
        layer = ctx.layers[proc]
        if isinstance(layer, interfaces.layers.DataLayerInterface):
            for chunk in layer.mapping(offset = 0, length = 0xFFFFFFFF):
                data = chunk.data
                for i in range(len(data)):
                    for key_length in key_lengths:
                        if i + key_length <= len(data):
                            potential_key = data[i:i+key_length]
                            if is_high_entropy(potential_key):
                                print(f'Found potential AES key at offset: 0x{match.start():x}')
                                print('Key data:')
                                print(hexlify(potential_key))
                                print()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    if len(sys.argv) != 2:
        print(f"Usage: python {sys.argv[0]} <memory_dump_file>")
        exit(1)

    mem_dump_file = sys.argv[1]
    if not os.path.exists(mem_dump_file):
        print(f"Memory dump file '{mem_dump_file}' not found")
        exit(1)

    extract_aes_keys(mem_dump_file)
```

In this updated script, we define a function `'is_high_entropy'` to check if the potential key has high entropy. High entropy indicates a more random distribution of bytes, which is typical for cryptographic keys. We then iterate through the memory dump, checking for sequences with the expected key lengths (16, 24, or 32 bytes) and high entropy. If a sequence meets these criteria, it's flagged as a potential AES key.

Keep in mind that this method may still yield false positives, and the actual AES keys might be missed if they're not stored in raw form or if they're in an area of the memory dump that's not scanned by this script. While the script increases the chances of finding potential AES keys, it's not guaranteed to find all keys, and additional work may be needed to confirm and decrypt data using the found keys.