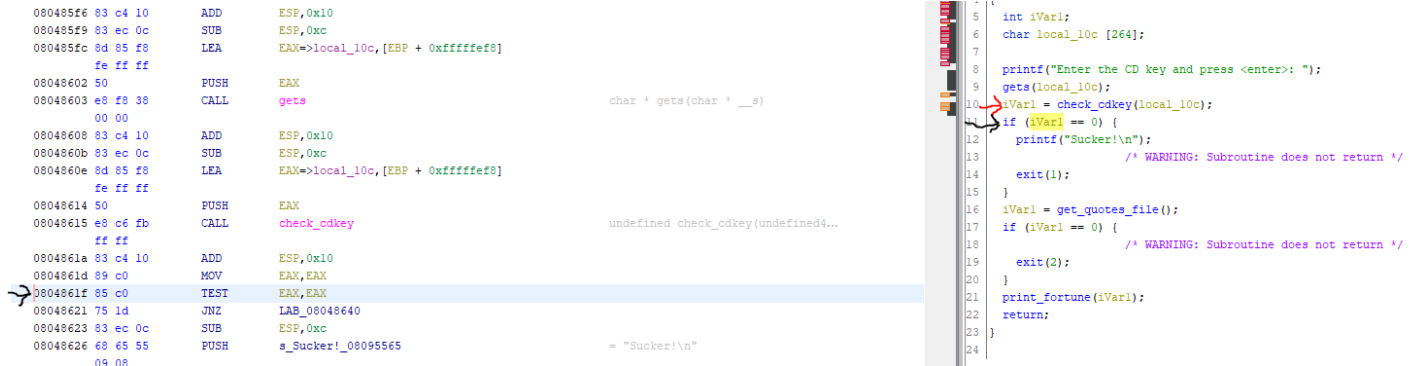


Project #8 – Extracting Secrets

The first step of my process was to look at the program in a RE tool called Ghidra. I saw that the printing of the secret was dependent on the return value of *check_cdkey()*.



```

000485f6 83 c4 10      ADD     ESP,0x10
000485f9 83 ec 0c      SUB     ESP,0xc
000485fc 8d 85 f8      LEA     EAX=>local_10c,[EBP + 0xfffffef8]
00048602 50           PUSH    EAX
00048603 e8 f8 38      CALL    gets
00048608 83 c4 10      ADD     ESP,0x10
0004860b 83 ec 0c      SUB     ESP,0xc
0004860e 8d 85 f8      LEA     EAX=>local_10c,[EBP + 0xfffffef8]
00048614 50           PUSH    EAX
00048615 e8 c6 fb      CALL    check_cdkey
0004861a 83 c4 10      ADD     ESP,0x10
0004861d 89 c0        MOV     EAX,EAX
0004861f 85 c0        TEST    EAX,EAX
00048621 75 1d        JNZ     LAB_00048640
00048623 83 ec 0c      SUB     ESP,0xc
00048626 68 65 55      PUSH    s_Sucker!_08095565
00048629 09 08        SCASB   s_Sucker!_08095565

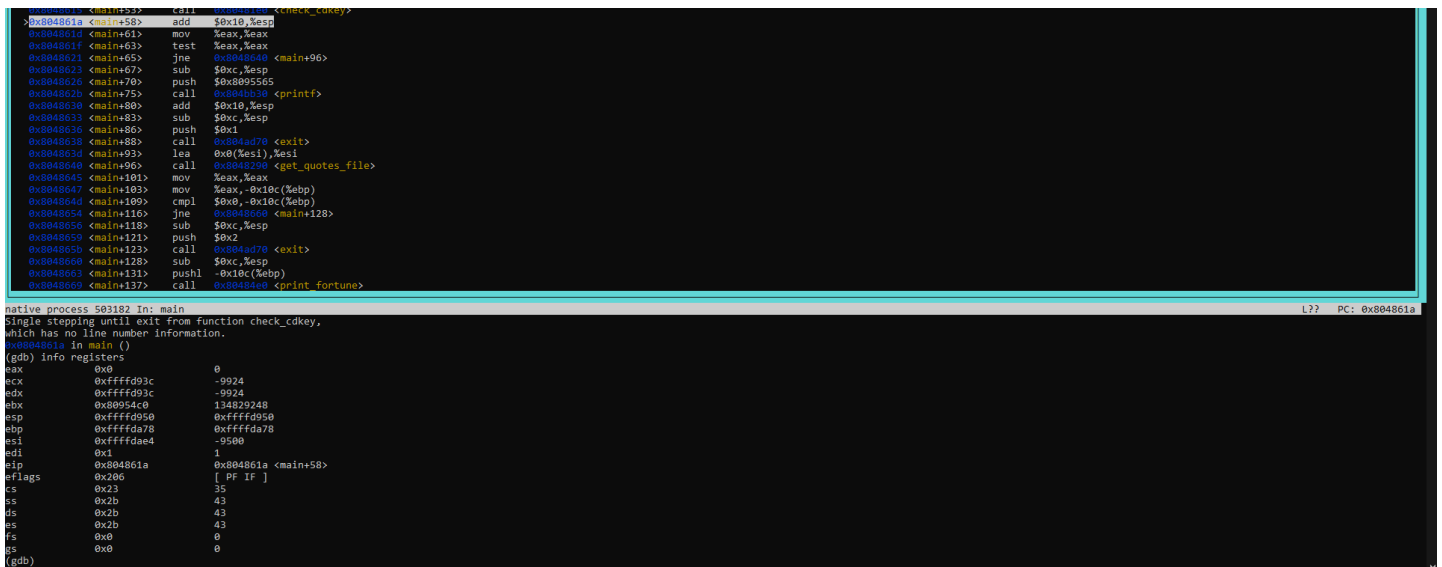
```

```

5  int iVar1;
6  char local_10c [264];
7
8  printf("Enter the CD key and press <enter>: ");
9  gets(local_10c);
10 iVar1 = check_cdkey(local_10c);
11 if (iVar1 == 0) {
12     printf("Sucker!\n");
13     /* WARNING: Subroutine does not return */
14     exit(1);
15 }
16 iVar1 = get_quotes_file();
17 if (iVar1 == 0) {
18     /* WARNING: Subroutine does not return */
19     exit(2);
20 }
21 print_fortune(iVar1);
22 return;
23 }
24

```

To test this, I ran the program in GDB and broke after the function returned. I then simply set the EAX register to 1 (using the ‘set \$eax = 1’ command) and the program printed out a fortune (**requirement 1**).



```

0004861a <main+58> add $0x10,%esp
0004861d <main+61> mov %eax,%eax
0004861f <main+63> test %eax,%eax
00048621 <main+65> jne 0x0048640 <main+96>
00048623 <main+67> sub $0xc,%esp
00048626 <main+70> push $0x08095565
0004862b <main+75> call 0x0048630 <printf>
00048630 <main+80> add $0x10,%esp
00048633 <main+83> sub $0xc,%esp
00048636 <main+86> push $0x1
00048638 <main+88> call 0x0048670 <exit>
0004863d <main+8d> lea 0x0(%eax),%esi
00048640 <main+90> call 0x0048620 <get_quotes_file>
00048645 <main+101> mov %eax,%eax
00048647 <main+103> mov %eax,-0x10c(%ebp)
0004864a <main+106> cmpl $0x0,-0x10c(%ebp)
0004864d <main+109> jne 0x0048660 <main+128>
00048650 <main+118> sub $0xc,%esp
00048655 <main+121> push $0x2
00048658 <main+123> call 0x0048670 <exit>
0004865d <main+128> sub $0xc,%esp
00048663 <main+131> pushl -0x10c(%ebp)
00048666 <main+137> call 0x0048640 <print_fortune>

```

```

(gdb) info registers
eax      0x0
ecx      0xffffd93c
edx      0xffffd93c
ebx      0x00954c0
esp      0xffffd950
ebp      0xffffda78
iopl     0xffffdae4
edi      0x1
eip      0x004861a
eflags   0x206
cs       0x23
ss       0x2b
ds       0x2b
fs       0x2b
gs       0x0

```

native process 503182 In: main
Single stepping until exit from function check_cdkey,
which has no line number information.
0x004861a In: main ()
(gdb) info registers
L?? PC: 0x004861a

```
mic@DESKTOP-F072T5:~$ gdb -tui ./f072t5
(gdb) run
Starting program: ./f072t5
0x00405000 <main>: push %ebp
0x00405001 <main+1>: mov %esp,%ebp
0x00405003 <main+3>: sub $0x118,%esp
0x00405008 <main+8>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x0040500c <main+12>: push $0x0095540
0x00405011 <main+17>: call 0x00401030 <printf>
0x00405016 <main+22>: add $0x10,%esp
0x00405018 <main+24>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x0040501c <main+28>: lea -0x108(%ebp),%eax
0x00405020 <main+32>: push %eax
0x00405021 <main+33>: call 0x00401000 <_IO_gets>
0x00405026 <main+38>: add $0x10,%esp
0x00405028 <main+40>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x0040502c <main+44>: lea -0x108(%ebp),%eax
0x00405030 <main+48>: push %eax
0x00405031 <main+49>: call 0x00401000 <_IO_gets>
0x00405036 <main+54>: add $0x10,%esp
0x00405038 <main+56>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x0040503c <main+60>: push $0x1
0x0040503d <main+61>: call 0x00401070 <exit>
0x00405040 <main+64>: lea 0x0(%esi),%esi
0x00405041 <main+65>: call 0x00401200 <get_quotes_file>
0x00405046 <main+70>: mov %eax,%eax
0x00405047 <main+71>: mov %eax,-0x10c(%ebp)
0x0040504d <main+79>: cmpl $0x0,-0x10c(%ebp)
0x00405050 <main+84>: jne 0x00405060 <main+128>
0x00405056 <main+90>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x00405059 <main+93>: push $0x2
0x0040505a <main+94>: call 0x00401070 <exit>
0x0040505d <main+97>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x00405060 <main+100>: pushl -0x10c(%ebp)
0x00405063 <main+103>: call 0x00401200 <print_fortune>
0x00405066 <main+106>: call 0x00401070 <exit>

native process 503182 in: main
L77 PC: 0x004061a
fs 0x0 0
gs 0x0 0
(gdb) set $eax = 1
(gdb) info registers
eax 1
ecx 0xffffd93c -9924
edx 0xffffd93c -9924
ebx 0x00954c0 134829248
esp 0xffffd950 0xffffd950
ebp 0xffffda78 0xffffda78
esi 0xffffdae4 9580
edi 0x1 1
eip 0x004061a 0x004061a <main+58>
[ P P IR ]
cs 0x23 15
ss 0x2b 43
ds 0x2b 43
es 0x2b 43
fs 0x0 0
gs 0x0 0
(gdb) _
```

```
mic@DESKTOP-F072T5:~$ gdb -tui ./f072t5
(gdb) run
Starting program: ./f072t5
0x00405000 <main>: add $0x10,%esp
0x00405001 <main+1>: push %ebp,%esp
0x00405003 <main+3>: mov %esp,%ebp
0x00405008 <main+8>: sub $0x118,%esp
0x0040500c <main+12>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x00405010 <main+16>: push $0x0095540 <get_quotes_file>
0x00405016 <main+22>: call 0x00401030 <printf>
0x00405018 <main+24>: add $0x10,%esp
0x0040501c <main+28>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x0040501e <main+30>: lea -0x108(%ebp),%eax
0x00405020 <main+32>: push %eax
0x00405021 <main+33>: call 0x00401000 <_IO_gets>
0x00405026 <main+38>: add $0x10,%esp
0x00405028 <main+40>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x0040502c <main+44>: lea -0x108(%ebp),%eax
0x00405030 <main+48>: push %eax
0x00405031 <main+49>: call 0x00401000 <_IO_gets>
0x00405036 <main+54>: add $0x10,%esp
0x00405038 <main+56>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x0040503c <main+60>: push $0x1
0x0040503d <main+61>: call 0x00401070 <exit>
0x00405040 <main+64>: lea 0x0(%esi),%esi
0x00405041 <main+65>: call 0x00401200 <get_quotes_file>
0x00405046 <main+70>: mov %eax,%eax
0x00405047 <main+71>: mov %eax,-0x10c(%ebp)
0x0040504d <main+79>: cmpl $0x0,-0x10c(%ebp)
0x00405050 <main+84>: jne 0x00405060 <main+128>
0x00405056 <main+90>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x00405059 <main+93>: push $0x2
0x0040505a <main+94>: call 0x00401070 <exit>
0x0040505d <main+97>: sub $0xc,%esp
0x00405060 <main+100>: pushl -0x10c(%ebp)
0x00405063 <main+103>: call 0x00401200 <print_fortune>
0x00405066 <main+106>: call 0x00401070 <exit>

No process in:
If you've got the job,
we've got the frob.
L77 PC: 22

Inferior 1 (process 503182) exited with code 013
(gdb)
```

In order edit the program to bypass the cdkey mechanism, I simply found (in Ghidra) that the *check_cdkey* function returned a one if the password was verified and a zero if the password was invalid.

```

00048253 83 c4 10    ADD     ESP,0x10
00048256 8b 45 e8     MOV     EAX,dword ptr [EBP + local_1c]
00048259 3b 45 98     CMP     EAX,dword ptr [EBP + local_6c]
0004825c 75 1a       JNZ     LAB_08048278
0004825e 8b 45 ec     MOV     EAX,dword ptr [EBP + local_18]
00048261 3b 45 9c     CMP     EAX,dword ptr [EBP + local_68]
00048264 75 12       JNZ     LAB_08048278
00048266 8b 45 f0     MOV     EAX,dword ptr [EBP + local_14]
00048269 3b 45 a0     CMP     EAX,dword ptr [EBP + local_64]
0004826c 75 0a       JNZ     LAB_08048278
0004826e 8b 45 f4     MOV     EAX,dword ptr [EBP + local_10]
00048271 3b 45 a4     CMP     EAX,dword ptr [EBP + local_60]
00048274 75 02       JNZ     LAB_08048278
00048276 eb 08       JMP     LAB_08048280

```

LAB_08048278

XREF[4]: 0804825c(j), 08048264(j), 0804826c(j), 08048274(j)

00048278 b8 00 00 00

MOV EAX,0x0

0004827d eb 06

JMP LAB_08048285

0004827f 90

?? 90h

LAB_08048280

XREF[1]: 08048276(j)

00048280 b8 01 00 00

MOV EAX,0x1

LAB_08048285

XREF[1]: 0804827d(j)

00048285 8b 7d fc

MOV EDI,dword ptr [EBP + local_8]

00048288 89 ec

MOV ESP,EBP

0004828a 5d

POP EBP

0004828b c3

RET

```

3
4 {
5     undefined4 uVar1;
6     int iVar2;
7     undefined4 *puVar3;
8     undefined4 local_5c [16];
9     int local_1c;
10    int local_18;
11    int local_14;
12    int local_10;
13
14    local_1c = 0;
15    local_18 = 0;
16    local_14 = 0;
17    local_10 = 0;
18    puVar3 = local_5c;
19    for (iVar2 = 0x10; iVar2 != 0; iVar2 = iVar2 + -1) {
20        *puVar3 = 0;
21        puVar3 = puVar3 + 1;
22    }
23    strcpy((char *)local_5c,param_1,0x3f);
24    MD5Transform(&local_1c,local_5c);
25    if (((local_1c == -0x45370905) && (local_18 == 0x3b94ab99)) && (loc
26        (local_10 == 0x471c86eb)) {
27        uVar1 = 1;
28    }
29    else {
30        uVar1 = 0;
31    }
32    return uVar1;
33 }
34

```

So I simply found the instruction responsible for setting the return value to zero (*b8 00 00 00 00* – which moves zero into the EAX register), opened the *fortune_static* binary in a hex editor, found the instruction, and changed it to move a one into the EAX register (with the instruction – *B8 01 00 00 00*).

LEB128 (+)

1

00000180

LEB128 (+)

1

00000190

MS-DOS DateTime

Invalid date

000001A0

OLE 2.0 DateTime

1899-12-30 00:00:00.000 UTC

000001B0

UNIX 32-bit DateTime

1970-01-01 00:00:01 UTC

000001C0

Macintosh HFS DateTime

1903-12-31 17:00:01 Local

000001D0

Macintosh HFS+ DateTime

1904-01-01 00:00:01 UTC

000001E0

Binary

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

000001F0

Data Inspector (Big-endian)

+

Go To

—

Current Address

0x00000279

Memo

Last Address

0x001AF562

Go to

00000200

Search

—

Search for

b8 00 00 00 00

Data Type

☐ 8-bit Integer
☐ 16-bit Integer
☐ 24-bit Integer
☐ 32-bit Integer
☐ 64-bit Integer

00000210

00 00 00 8D 7D A8 FC B8 00 00 00 00 B9 10 00 00

00000220

00 F3 AB C7 45 98 FB F6 C8 BA C7 45 9C 99 AB 94

00000230

3B C7 45 A0 F4 6C 65 52 C7 45 A4 EB 86 1C 47 83

00000240

EC 04 6A 3F FF 75 08 8D 45 A8 50 E8 70 C7 00 00

00000250

83 C4 10 83 EC 08 8D 45 A8 50 8D 45 E8 50 E8 2D

00000260

04 00 00 83 C4 10 8B 45 E8 3B 45 98 75 1A 8B 45

00000270

EC 3B 45 9C 75 12 8B 45 F0 3B 45 A0 75 0A 8B 45

00000280

F4 3B 45 A4 75 02 EB 08 B8 01 00 00 00 EB 06 90

00000290

B8 01 00 00 00 8B 7D FC 89 EC 5D C3 8D 74 26 00

000002A0

55 89 E5 53 81 EC 94 10 00 00 8D 45 F8 2D 60 10

000002B0

00 00 C6 85 98 EF FF FF 09 C6 85 99 EF FF FF 15

000002C0

C6 85 9A EF FF FF 15 C6 85 9B EF FF FF 0F C6 85

000002D0

9C EF FF FF 00 C6 85 9D EF FF FF 14 C6 85 9E EF

000002E0

FF FF 07 C6 85 9F EF FF FF 01 C6 85 A0 EF FF FF

000002F0

03 C7 85 94 EF FF FF 09 00 00 00 83 EC 08 68 00

00000300

55 09 08 68 02 55 09 08 E8 A3 39 00 00 83 C4 10

00000310

89 C0 89 85 84 EF FF FF 83 BD 84 EF FF FF 00 75

00000320

0F B8 00 00 00 00 E9 B0 01 00 00 90 8D 74 26 00

00000330

83 EC 04 6A 02 6A 00 FF B5 84 EF FF FF E8 CE 4D

This new binary, when ran, would accept all passwords given and will always print a fortune (requirement 2).

```
mrc621@illinois:~/ExtractingSecrets$ ./fortune_static_cracked
Enter the CD key and press <enter>: password123
Your fortune:

Win98 error 004: Virus activated from DOS Prompt - but the virus requires
Windows. Your system will be rebooted for the Virus to take effect. [ OK ]

mrc621@illinois:~/ExtractingSecrets$ ./fortune_static_cracked
Enter the CD key and press <enter>: test
Your fortune:

Frobtech, Inc.

"If you've got the job,
we've got the frob."

mrc621@illinois:~/ExtractingSecrets$ ./fortune_static_cracked
Enter the CD key and press <enter>: hello_world
Your fortune:

Win98 error 003: Illegal ASM instruction. If your modem worked properly, the
FBI would have been called.
```

Finally, we needed to extract all the possible secrets. I chose to run the cracked version in GDB and then break right after the call to *get_quotes_file*. I examined the registers and found the address 0x80ae410 in EAX. When examining that address, I got the number thirteen followed by what I assumed to be the first string:

```

0x00485e0 <main>      push    %ebp
0x00485e1 <main+53>      call    0x00485e0 <check_cdkey>
0x00485e2 <main+58>      add     $0x10,%esp
0x00485e3 <main+61>      mov     %eax,%eax
0x00485e4 <main+63>      test    %eax,%eax
0x00485e5 <main+65>      jne     0x00485e6 <main+96>
0x00485e6 <main+67>      sub     $0xc,%esp
0x00485e7 <main+70>      push    $0x0005565
0x00485e8 <main+75>      call    0x00485e9 <printf>
0x00485e9 <main+80>      add     $0x10,%esp
0x00485ea <main+83>      sub     $0xc,%esp
0x00485eb <main+86>      push    $0x1
0x00485ec <main+88>      call    0x00485ed <exit>
0x00485ed <main+93>      lea     0x0(%esi,%e1,%e1),%esi
0x00485ee <main+96>      call    0x00485ef <get_quotes_file>
0x00485ef <main+101>     mov     %eax,%eax
0x00485f0 <main+103>     mov     %eax,-0x10c(%ebp)
0x00485f1 <main+109>     cmpl    $0x0,-0x10c(%ebp)
0x00485f2 <main+116>     jne     0x00485f3 <main+128>
0x00485f3 <main+119>     push    $0xc,%esp
0x00485f4 <main+121>     push    $0x1
0x00485f5 <main+123>     call    0x00485f6 <exit>
0x00485f6 <main+128>     sub     $0xc,%esp
0x00485f7 <main+131>     push    $0x10c(%ebp)
0x00485f8 <main+137>     call    0x00485f9 <print_fortune>
0x00485f9 <main+142>     add     $0x10,%esp
0x00485fa <main+145>     mov     %ebp,%esp
0x00485fb <main+147>     pop     %ebp
0x00485fc <main+148>     ret
0x00485fd <main+149>     lea     0x0(%esi,%e1,%e1),%esi
0x00485fe <main+150>     lea     0x0(%edi,%e1,%e1),%edi
0x00485ff <main+151>     push    %ebp
0x0048600 <main+152>     mov     %esp,%ebp
0x0048601 <main+153>     sub     $0x10,%esp

```

native process 2462348 int: main

```

(gdb) c
^C
(gdb) info registers
eax             0x00ae410      134911472
ecx             0x00ae227      134915079
edx             0x7           7
ebx             0x0009d40      134829248
esp             0xffffd950     0xffffd950
ebp             0xffffda68     0xffffda68
esi             0xffffdad4     -9516
edi             0x1           1
eip             0x0048600      0x0048600 <main+128>
eflags          0x202        [ IF ]
cs              0x23         35
ss              0x2b         43
ds              0x2b         43
es              0x2b         43
fs              0x0           0
gs              0x0           0
(gdb) x/0x0ae410
0x00ae410: "13\n\nThaum is the basic unit of magical strength. It has been universally\nestablished as the amount of magic needed to create one small white pigeon\nor three normal sized billiard balls.\n"

```

This matches with what we see in Ghirdra, as it appears to number of strings is first used as a way of indexing and moding the random seed:

```

void __regparam1 print_fortune(char *param_1,time_t *param_1)
{
    int iVar1;
    uint __seed;
    int iVar2;
    char *pcVar3;
    time_t *__timer;
    int local_10;

    → iVar1 = atoi(param_1_00);
    __timer = param_1;
    param_1 = (time_t *)strstr((char *)param_1,"%\n");
    if (param_1 != (time_t *)0x0) {
        param_1 = (time_t *)((int)param_1 + 1);
    }
    __seed = time(__timer);
    random(__seed);
    iVar2 = rand();
    local_10 = 0;
    while ((local_10 < iVar2 % iVar1 && (param_1 != (time_t *)0x0)))
        param_1 = (time_t *)strstr((char *)param_1,"%\n");
        if (param_1 != (time_t *)0x0) {
            param_1 = (time_t *)((int)param_1 + 1);
        }
        local_10 = local_10 + 1;
    }
    if (param_1 != (time_t *)0x0) {
        pcVar3 = strstr((char *)((int)param_1 + 1),"%\n");
        if (pcVar3 != (char *)0x0) {
            *pcVar3 = '\0';
        }
        printf("Your fortune:\n\n%s\n", (char *)((int)param_1 + 1));
    }
    return;
}

```

I proceeded to dump the memory info a file (using [logging](#) and the “x /3600 0x80ae410” command) to find all the secret fortunes: **(requirement 3)**

A Thaum is the basic unit of magical strength. It has been universally established as the amount of magic needed to create one small white pigeon or three normal sized billiard balls.

-- Terry Pratchett, "The Light Fantastic"

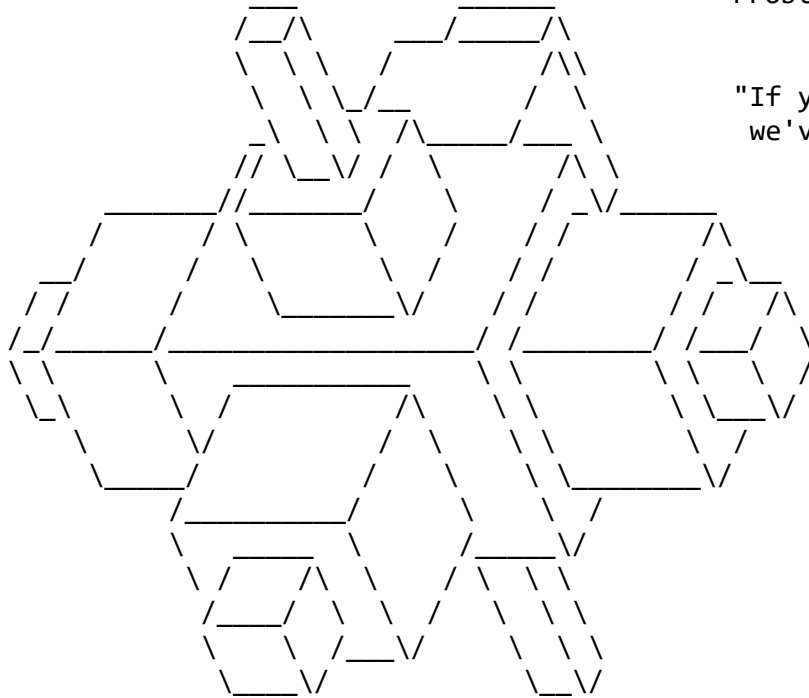
"A wizard cannot do everything; a fact most magicians are reticent to admit, let alone discuss with prospective clients. Still, the fact remains that there are certain objects, and people, that are, for one reason or another, completely immune to any direct magical spell. It is for this group of beings that the magician learns the subtleties of using indirect spells. It also does no harm, in dealing with these matters, to carry a large club near your person at all times."

-- The Teachings of Ebenezum, Volume VIII

"Do not meddle in the affairs of wizards, for you are crunchy and good with ketchup."

Rincewind had generally been considered by his tutors to be a natural wizard in the same way that fish are natural mountaineers. He probably would have been thrown out of Unseen University anyway--he couldn't remember spells and smoking made him feel ill.

-- Terry Pratchett, "The Light Fantastic"



Frobtech, Inc.

"If you've got the job,
we've got the frob."

Win98 error 001: Unexpected condition: booted without crashing.

Win98 error 002: Insufficient diskspace. You need at least 300 GB free memory.

Win98 error 003: Illegal ASM instruction. If your modem worked properly, the FBI would have been called.

Win NT error 001: Error recording error codes. All further errors not displayed.

Win98 error 004: Virus activated from DOS Prompt - but the virus requires Windows. Your system will be rebooted for the Virus to take effect. [OK]

Win98 error 005: Mouse not found. Click left mouse button on ok to continue.

Win98 error 006: Keyboard not found. Press F1 to continue.

- (1) Office employees will daily sweep the floors, dust the furniture, shelves, and showcases.
- (2) Each day fill lamps, clean chimneys, and trim wicks. Wash the windows once a week.
- (3) Each clerk will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's business.
- (4) Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to your individual taste.
- (5) This office will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. except on the Sabbath, on which day we will remain closed. Each employee is expected to spend the Sabbath by attending church and contributing liberally to the cause of the Lord.
-- "Office Worker's Guide", New England Carriage Works, 1872