



Architecture Analysis of VMProtect 3.8

Holger Unterbrink

Who am I ?



Holger Unterbrink

@hunterbr72



Technical leader - Security Researcher at Cisco Talos

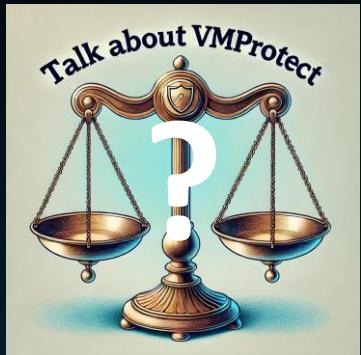


Malware Analysis, Threat hunting, Tool development and lately Big Data/Machine Learning
Won the IDA plugin contest 2020 with the Dynamic Data Resolver Instrumentation Plugin



Germany

Disclaimer



Question: What is the goal of the talk ?

Answer: Demystify the Virtual Machine of VMP. Get a starting point for own research.

Question: Can I crack VMProtect protected real world samples after the talk ?

Answer: Most likely, NO. Depends on the time you have and the VMP settings used.

Question: Will I be able to understand how the Virtual Machine work after the talk ?

Answer: Yes, I hope so.

Question: Why should I spend time on VMProtect ?

Answer: VMProtect 3.5 Source code leaked and VMProtect 3.8 binary, too. Latest version on 27th June is 3.8.8

Other research on VMProtect

Inside VMProtect (Samuel Chevet)

<https://webtv.univ-lille.fr/video/7566/inside-vmprotect> (2015)

VMProtect 2 - Detailed Analysis of the Virtual Machine Architecture

<https://blog.back.engineering/17/05/2021/> (2021)

<https://blog.back.engineering/21/06/2021/>

VMProtect 3.5: Virtualization-Based Software Obfuscation

<https://www.mitchellzakocs.com/blog/vmprotect3> (2021)

VMProtect 3.x Devirtualization

<https://github.com/JonathanSalwan/VMProtect-devirtualization> (~2022)

Other research on VMProtect

How To Unpack VMProtect Malware

(Paid - VMProtect 3 – Targets only misconfigured VMP protected malware)

<https://www.patreon.com/posts/how-to-unpack-1-61634765>

AllThingsIDA's Poor man's guide to de-obfuscating VMProtect's 32bit import obfuscation (2023)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhQUbjFbsTw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxOVbG-azIA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvWSa6HTINY>

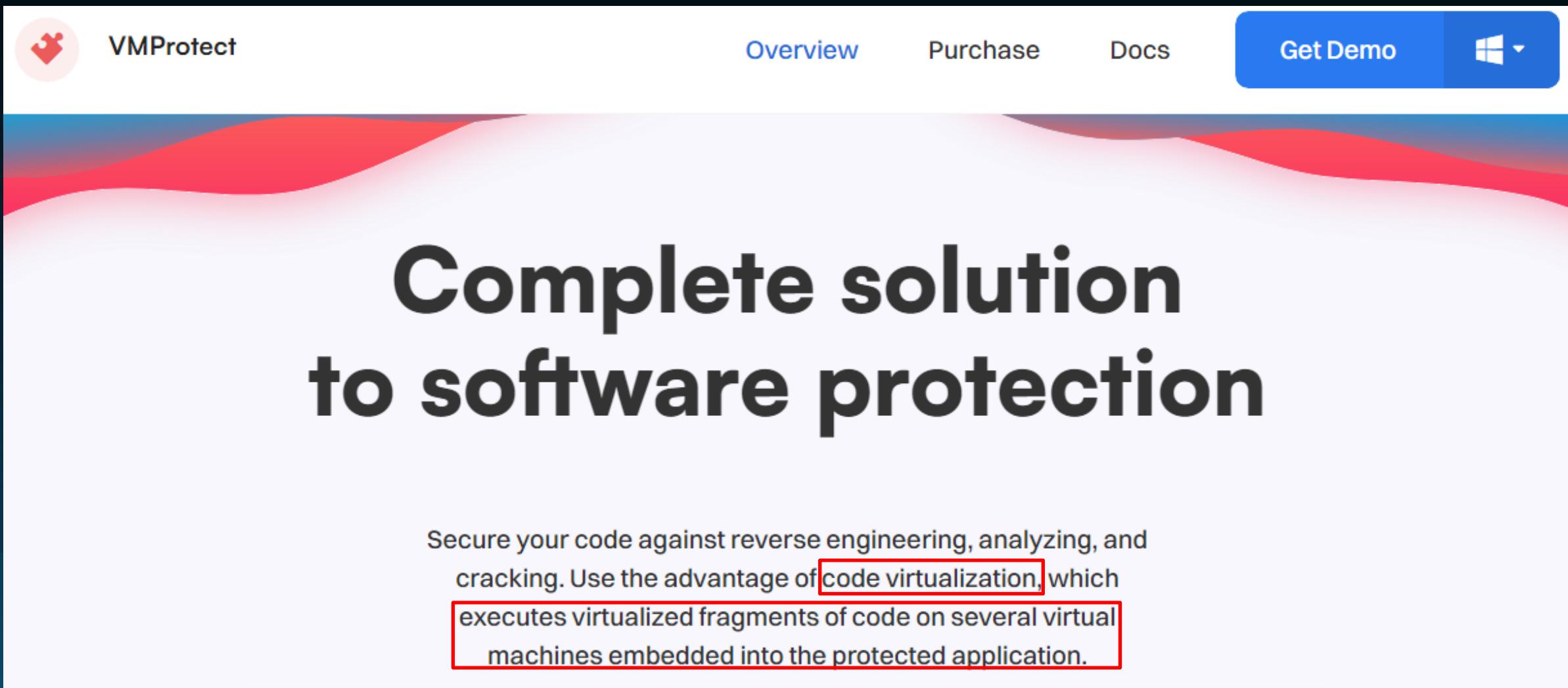
Analyzing Mutation-Coded - VM Protect and Alcatraz (2024)

<https://keowu.re/posts/Analyzing-Mutation-Coded-VM-Protect-and-Alcatraz-English/>

Intro

VMProtect

VPN to Singapore

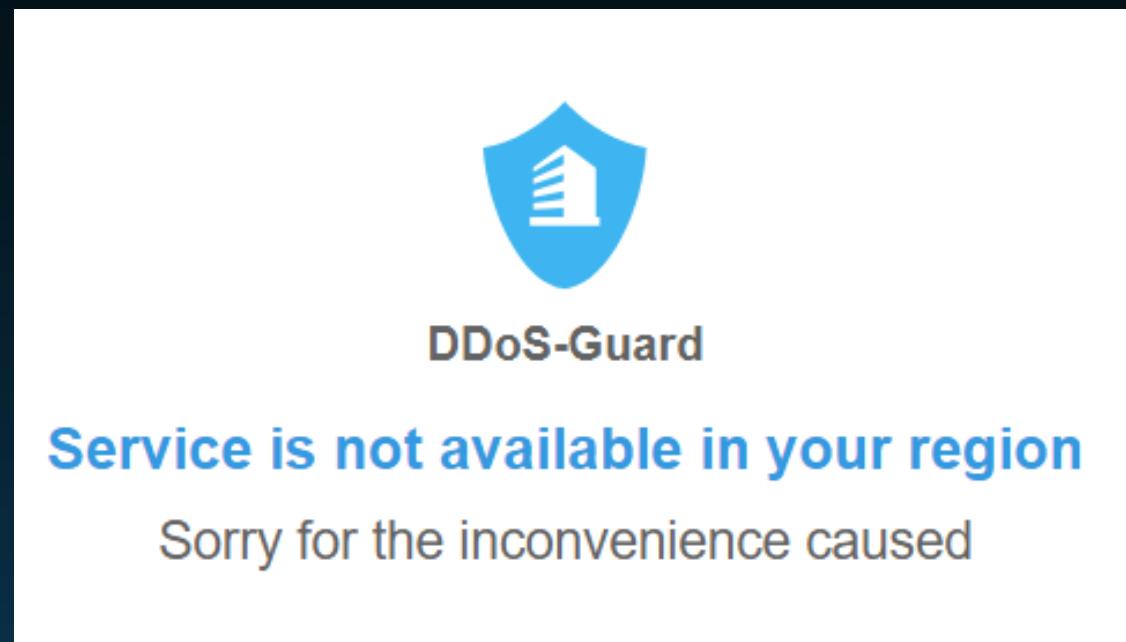


The screenshot shows the VMProtect website. At the top left is a red circular icon with a white gear and puzzle piece symbol. To its right is the brand name "VMProtect". Along the top navigation bar are links for "Overview", "Purchase", "Docs", a prominent blue "Get Demo" button, and a Windows logo with a dropdown arrow. The main headline below the navigation reads "Complete solution to software protection" in large, bold, dark gray font. Below this, a paragraph of text discusses security features, mentioning "code virtualization" and how it executes code on multiple virtual machines. The entire page has a light gray background with a subtle red-to-white gradient wavy pattern.

Secure your code against reverse engineering, analyzing, and cracking. Use the advantage of **code virtualization**, which executes virtualized fragments of code on several virtual machines embedded into the protected application.

VMProtect

Looks like they are also effected by the recent geo political issues – No Love for the West anymore



Recent IP	IP Country/Region	Prefix	ASN	Network Owner Description
185.178.208.164	RU	185.178.208.0/24	AS57724	DDOS-GUARD, RU 86400

<https://vmpsoft.com/>

Pricelist

For Individuals

For Companies



Lite

+1 year of free
updates

\$ 239.00

Obfuscation features:

Code virtualization



Professional

+1 year of free
updates

\$ 349.00

All the features in Lite,
and more:



Ultimate

+1 year of free
updates

\$ 699.00

All the features in
Professional, and more:



Updates Renewal

1 additional year
of updates

\$ 139.00

Renewal of updates for
existing license for one



How does it work ?

VMProtect 3.8 GUI – Compilation Type

Translation of CISC code to a RISC Virtual Machine

The screenshot shows the VMProtect 3.8 GUI interface. On the left is a sidebar with icons for Project, Functions for Protection (1), New markers and strings (1), VMProtectMarker1, Licenses, Files, and Help. The main area is titled 'Protection' and contains the following table:

Name	Value
Protection	
Compilation Type	Virtualization
Complexity	None Virtualization Mutation Ultra (Mutation + Virtualization)
Lock To Serial Number	
Details	
Type	Marker

Original Intel code Complex Instruction Set Computing (CISC)
instruction will be translated to multiple virtualized instructions

VMProtect VM uses Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC)

e.g. inc eax

→ v_add(v_reg, 1)

e.g. dec eax

→ v_add(v_reg, -1)

e.g. lea ecx, [esp + ebx * 8 + 23]

→ ... multiple RISC instructions

```
bool IntelFunction::Compile(const CompileContext &ctx)
{
    switch (compilation_type()) {
        case ctMutation: //bian yi
            CompileToNative(ctx);
            break;
        case ctVirtualization: //xu ni hua
            CompileToVM(ctx);
            break;
        case ctUltra://xu ni hua + bian yi
            Mutate(ctx, true);
            CompileToVM(ctx);
            break;
        default:
            return false;
    }
}
```

Order

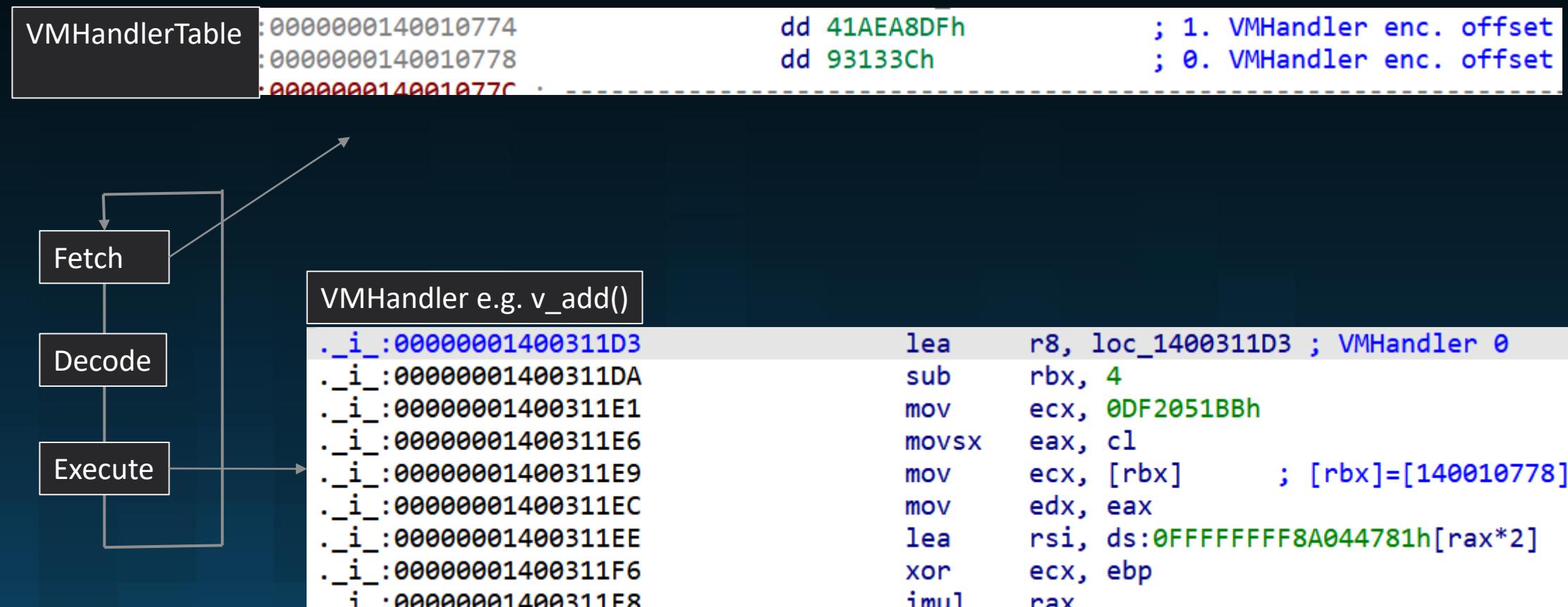
Very very simplified architecture

More or less a chain of VMHandlers



Very simplified VM Architecture – Stack Machine

But a bit more technical...



Virtual Machine Protection

- **Instances** - this option allows to specify the number of virtual machine copies (the default value is 10). Each virtual machine will have unique set of properties (different registers positions, different bytecode direction, different handlers of commands, etc.) that makes harder the analysis and hacking of virtualized code.
- **Complexity** - this option allows to specify the probability of creating complex handlers (consisting of several simple handlers) inside the virtual machine. This option also greatly complicates the analysis and hacking of virtualized code. As the complexity increases, the size of the protected file also increases.

VMProtect 3.8 GUI – Complexity and Instances

The screenshot shows the VMProtect 3.8 GUI interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for Project, Functions for Protection (1), Licenses, Files, Script, and Options*. The main area displays project settings for 'Asm2-10diff-instr.exe'. Under 'Virtual Machine', the 'Instances' setting is set to 1 (Default = 10) and 'Complexity' is set to 100% (None, 1%, 10%, 20%, 100%). Other settings include Memory Protection, Import Protection, Resource Protection, Pack the Output File, and an Output File path to Z:\VMprotect\vs\t2\Asm2\x64\Release\complexity_check\Asm2-10diff-instr.vmp-c100-i1.exe. The 'Detection' section includes Debugger and Virtualization Tools settings. The 'Additional' section has Segments set to .???. The 'Licensing Parameters' section contains error messages: Debugger Found (Debugger has been found running in your system. Please, unload it from memory and restart your program.), Virtualization Tools Found (Sorry, this application cannot run under a Virtual Machine.), File Corrupted (File corrupted! This program has been manipulated and maybe it's infected by a Virus or cracked. This file won't work anymore.), Serial Number Required (This code requires valid serial number to run. Program will be terminated.), and HWID Mismatched (This application cannot be executed on this computer.). The 'Compilation Log' section shows the message: 'Output file size is 290304 bytes (2465%)'.

Name	Value	Default
Instances	1	Default = 10
Complexity	100%	None, 1%, 10%, 20%, 100%
Memory Protection	No	
Import Protection	No	
Resource Protection	No	
Pack the Output File	No	
Output File	Z:\VMprotect\vs\t2\Asm2\x64\Release\complexity_check\Asm2-10diff-instr.vmp-c100-i1.exe	
Debugger	No	
Virtualization Tools	No	
Segments	.???	
Strip Debug Information	No	

Message	Description
Debugger Found	A debugger has been found running in your system. Please, unload it from memory and restart your program.
Virtualization Tools Found	Sorry, this application cannot run under a Virtual Machine.
File Corrupted	File corrupted! This program has been manipulated and maybe it's infected by a Virus or cracked. This file won't work anymore.
Serial Number Required	This code requires valid serial number to run. Program will be terminated.
HWID Mismatched	This application cannot be executed on this computer.

Compiling Log:

Output file size is 290304 bytes (2465%)

Licensed vs. Unlicensed Versions

```
if
#ifndef DEMO
    (true)
#else
    (ctx.options.flags & cpUnregisteredVersion)
#endif
{
    crypt_registr_ = (ctx.options.flags & cpEncryptBytecode) ? regEBX : 0;
    pcode_registr_ = regESI;
    stack_registr_ = regEBP;
    if (type_ == vtAdvanced)
        jmp_registr_ = regEDI;
    else if (cpu_address_size == osQWord)
        jmp_registr_ = regR11;
    else
        jmp_registr_ = 0;
}
else {
    IntelRegistrList work_registr_list;
    work_registr_list.push_back(regEBX);
    work_registr_list.push_back(regEBP);
    work_registr_list.push_back(regESI);
    work_registr_list.push_back(regEDI);
    if (cpu_address_size == osQWord) {
        for (i = 8; i < 16; i++) {
            work_registr_list.push_back((uint8_t)i);
        }
    }
    work_registr_list.remove(wrong_registr_list);

    crypt_registr_ = 0;
    if (ctx.options.flags & cpEncryptBytecode) {
        if (cpu_address_size == osDWord) {
            crypt_registr_ = regEBX;
            work_registr_list.remove(crypt_registr_);
        }
        else
            crypt_registr_ = work_registr_list.GetRandom();
    }
    pcode_registr_ = work_registr_list.GetRandom();
    stack_registr_ = work_registr_list.GetRandom();
    jmp_registr_ = (type_ == vtAdvanced || cpu_address_size == osQWord) ? work_registr_list.GetRandom() : 0;
}
```

Demo or unregistered version

Licensed version with random register assignment

Main-Function after protection

```
#include <iostream>
#include "VMProtectSDK.h"

int main()
{
    VMProtectBegin("Test marker");
    printf("Hello Protection\n");
    VMProtectEnd();
    printf("Hello\n");
    exit(0);
}
```

.text:000000140001000 main	proc near	; CODE XREF: __scrt_common_main_
.text:000000140001000		
.text:000000140001000 arg_8	= qword ptr 10h	
.text:000000140001000		
.text:000000140001005	call _CRT_INIT	
.text:000000140001006	push rbp	
.text:000000140001009	mov rbp, rsp	
.text:00000014000100D	sub rsp, 20h	
.text:00000014000100E	push rax	
.text:00000014000100F	push rcx	
.text:000000140001014	call loc_140001044	
.text:000000140001014 loc_140001014:		; DATA XREF: sub_140046423+1E↓r
.text:000000140001014	xchg ah, [rbx+0]	
.text:000000140001017	add [rax-4Fh], ch	
.text:00000014000101A	in al, dx	
.text:00000014000101B	sub eax, 0F7489C7Fh	
.text:000000140001020	and al, 8	
.text:000000140001020	-----	
.text:000000140001023	db 2Fh, 0D5h, 34h, 0F8h, 0Fh	
.text:000000140001028	-----	
.text:000000140001028	xchg eax, edx	
.text:000000140001029	and al, 8	
.text:00000014000102C	mov [rsp+arg_8], 376D405Ch	
.text:000000140001035	push qword ptr [rsp+0]	
.text:000000140001039	popfq	
.text:00000014000103A	lea rsp, [rsp+10h]	
.text:00000014000103F	call loc_14001E9F0	
.text:000000140001044	-----	
.text:000000140001044 loc_140001044:		; CODE XREF: main+F↑p
.text:000000140001044	push rbx	
.text:000000140001045	call loc_140012426	
.text:00000014000104A	stosb	
.text:00000014000104B	-----	
.text:00000014000104B loc_14000104B:		; DATA XREF: .vmH:00000001400466
.text:00000014000104B	cmp [rcx], al	
.text:00000014000104B	-----	
.text:00000014000104D	db 3 dup(0)	
.text:000000140001050	dq 0A50D8D485859B7C1h, 10E800002Fh	
.text:000000140001060	-----	
.text:000000140001060	xor ecx, ecx	
.text:000000140001062	call \$+5	
.text:000000140001062 main	endp ; sp-analysis failed	
.text:000000140001062		

Main-Function after protection

Anti-Disasm not fixed

```
.text:0000000140001000 main          proc near           ; CODE XREF: __scrt_common_main_seh+107
.text:0000000140001000
.text:0000000140001000 arg_8         = qword ptr 10h
.text:0000000140001000
.text:0000000140001000 call    _CRT_INIT
.text:0000000140001005 push   rbp
.text:0000000140001006 mov    rbp, rsp
.text:0000000140001009 sub    rsp, 20h
.text:000000014000100D push   rax
.text:000000014000100E push   rcx
.text:000000014000100F call   loc_140001044
.text:0000000140001014
.text:0000000140001014 loc_140001014:      ; DATA XREF: sub_140046423+1E↓r
.text:0000000140001014 xchg   ah, [rbx+0]
.text:0000000140001017 add    [rax-4Fh], ch
.in    al, dx
.text:000000014000101A sub    eax, 0F7489C7Fh
.text:000000014000101B and    al, 8
.text:0000000140001020
.text:0000000140001020 ; -----
.text:0000000140001023 db    2Fh, 0D5h, 34h, 0F8h, 0Fh
.text:0000000140001028
.text:0000000140001028 xchg   eax, edx
.text:0000000140001029 and    al, 8
.text:000000014000102C mov    [rsp+arg_8], 376D405Ch
.text:0000000140001035 push   qword ptr [rsp+0]
.text:0000000140001039 popfq
.text:000000014000103A lea    rsp, [rsp+10h]
.text:000000014000103F call   loc_14001E9F0
.text:0000000140001044
.text:0000000140001044 loc_140001044:      ; CODE XREF: main+F↑p
.push  rbx
.call  loc_140012426
.stosb
.text:000000014000104A
.text:000000014000104B loc_14000104B:      ; DATA XREF: .vmH:00000001400466B0↓o
 cmp   [rcx], al
.text:000000014000104B ;
.text:000000014000104D db 3 dup(0)
.text:0000000140001050 dq 0A50D8D485859B7C1h, 10E800002Fh
.text:0000000140001060
.text:0000000140001060 xor   ecx, ecx
.text:0000000140001062 call   $+5
.text:0000000140001062 main endp ; sp-analysis failed
.text:0000000140001062
```

Anti-Disasm fixed

```
.text:0000000140001000 main          proc near           ; CODE XREF: __scrt_common_main_seh+107↓p
.text:0000000140001000
.text:0000000140001000 arg_8         = qword ptr 10h
.text:0000000140001000
.text:0000000140001000 call    _CRT_INIT
.text:0000000140001005 push   rbp
.text:0000000140001006 mov    rbp, rsp
.text:0000000140001009 sub    rsp, 20h
.text:000000014000100D push   rax
.text:000000014000100E push   rcx
.text:000000014000100F call   loc_140001044 call/jmp to VMP Section
.text:0000000140001014 unk_140001014 db 86h ; DATA XREF: sub_140046423+1E↓r
.db 63h ; c
.db 0
.db 0
.text:0000000140001018
.text:0000000140001018 ; -----
.push 7F2DECB1h
.pushfq
.test qword ptr [rsp+8], 0xFFFFFFFF834D52Fh
.setb byte ptr [rsp+8]
.mov qword ptr [rsp+10h], 376D405Ch
.push qword ptr [rsp+0]
.popfq
.lea  rsp, [rsp+10h]
.call  loc_14001E9F0
.text:0000000140001044 loc_140001044:      ; CODE XREF: main+F↑p
.push  rbx
.call  loc_140012426
.text:000000014000104A db 0AAh
.text:000000014000104B db 38h ; 8
.text:000000014000104C db 1
.db 0
.db 0
.db 0
.db 0C1h
.db 0B7h
.text:0000000140001052
.text:0000000140001052 | pop   rcx
.pop  rax
.lea  rcx, fmtStr ; "Hello\n"
.call  printf
.xor  ecx, ecx
.$+5
.main endp ; sp-analysis failed
```

Asm2_single_instr-c1-i1.vmp.e									
Name	Virtual Size	Virtual Address	Raw Size	Raw Address	Reloc Address	Linenumbers	Relocations N...	Linenumbers ...	Characteristics
Byte[8]	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Word	Word	Dword
.text	00000F20	00001000	00001000	00000400	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	60000020
.rdata	00001056	00002000	00001200	00001400	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040
.data	00000140	00004000	00000200	00002600	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	C0000040
.pdata	000001D4	00005000	00000200	00002800	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040
.40!	00037CEC	00006000	00037E00	00002A00	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	68000020
.reloc	00000048	0003E000	00000200	0003A800	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040
.rsrc	000001D5	0003F000	00000200	0003AA00	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040

".vmp0"

PE64

Operation system: Windows(Vista)[AMD64, 64-bit, Console]

Linker: Microsoft Linker(14.36.33134)

Compiler: Microsoft Visual C/C++(19.36.33030)[C++]

Language: C/C++

Tool: Visual Studio(2022 version 17.6)

Packer: Packer detected(Heuristic)[Section 3 (" pdata ") compressed]

Detect it easy !

... but things can be different, depending on the VMP settings!

Fully protected sample

The screenshot shows the VMProtect software interface with the following details:

- Project:** Asm2_5incs_3mov.exe
- Functions for Protection:** New markers and strings (1) - VMProtectMarker1
- Licenses:** None listed.
- Files:** None listed.
- Script:** None listed.
- Options*** (selected tab):
 - Virtual Machine:**
 - Version: Default
 - Instances: Default
 - Complexity: 20%
 - File:**
 - Memory Protection: Yes
 - Import Protection: Yes
 - Resource Protection: Yes
 - Pack the Output File: Yes
 - Output File: Z:\VMprotect\vs\t2\Asm2\x64\Release\complexity_check\Asm2_5incs_3mov.vmp1-full_protected.exe
 - Detection:**
 - Debugger: User-mode + Kernel-mode
 - Virtualization Tools: Yes
 - Additional:**
 - Segments: ???
 - Strip Debug Information: Yes
 - Strip Relocations (for EXE files only): Yes
 - Shadow Stack Compatible: No
 - Watermark
 - Lock To HWID
 - Messages:**
 - Debugger Found: A debugger has been found running in your system.
Please, unload it from memory and restart your program.
 - Virtualization Tools Found: Sorry, this application cannot run under a Virtual Machine.
 - File Corrupted: File corrupted! This program has been manipulated and maybe
it's infected by a Virus or cracked. This file won't work anymore.
 - Serial Number Required: This code requires valid serial number to run.
Program will be terminated.
 - HWID Mismatched: This application cannot be executed on this computer.
 - Licensing Parameters:** None listed.
 - Compilation Log:** Output file size is 13488640 bytes (114543%)

Output file over 100 000% larger than input

Multiple random sections

Asm2_5inccs_3mov.vmp1-full_pro									
Name	Virtual Size	Virtual Address	Raw Size	Raw Address	Reloc Address	Linenumbers	Relocations N...	Linenumbers ...	Characteristics
Byte[8]	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Dword	Word	Word	Dword
.text	00000F60	00001000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	60000020
.rdata	00001056	00002000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040
.data	00000140	00004000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	C0000040
.pdata	000001D4	00005000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040
.oS"	0079EB12	00006000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	60000020
.fTJ	00000870	007A5000	00000A00	00000400	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	C0000040
.!PG	00CDC0DC	007A6000	00CDC200	00000E00	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	68000060
.rsrc	000001D5	01483000	00000200	00CDD000	00000000	00000000	0000	0000	40000040

Fully protected and packed sample

```
.PG:0000000140FE0DFE          db  48h ; H
._PG:0000000140FE0DFF ; -----
._PG:0000000140FE0DFF
._PG:0000000140FE0DFF         public start
._PG:0000000140FE0DFF start:
._PG:0000000140FE0DFF         call   loc_140F295F0
._PG:0000000140FE0E04         pop    rbp
._PG:0000000140FE0E05         pop    rsp
._PG:0000000140FE0E06         sub    [r15-6Ch], r12
._PG:0000000140FE0E06 ; -----
._PG:0000000140FE0E0A         db  82h
```

▼ PE64

Operation system: Windows(Vista)[AMD64, 64-bit, Console]

Protector: VMProtect(new 36 jmp 12)[DS]

Protection: Generic(Heuristic)[Strange sections]

Packer: Packer detected(Heuristic)[High entropy + Section 6 ("!.!PG") compressed]

Latest
DIE version

```
.7A_:0000000140774736 ; -----  
.7A_:0000000140774736  
.7A_:0000000140774736          public start  
.7A_:0000000140774736 start:  
.7A_:0000000140774736          push    0FFFFFFFE1BF151Fh  
.7A_:000000014077473B          pushfq  
.7A_:000000014077473C          xor     byte ptr [rsp+8], 32h  
.7A_:0000000140774741          push    3CBF67B9h  
.7A_:0000000140774746          sub     word ptr [rsp+0], 1F80h  
.7A_:000000014077474D          shl     qword ptr [rsp+10h], 7Eh  
.7A_:0000000140774753          mov     qword ptr [rsp+10h], 0xFFFFFFFF40D5F02h  
.7A_:000000014077475C          push    qword ptr [rsp+8]  
.7A_:0000000140774760          popfq  
.7A_:0000000140774761          lea    rsp, [rsp+10h]  
.7A_:0000000140774766          call   near ptr unk_140B77781  
.7A_:000000014077476B          cwde
```

Fully protected
But not packed
sample

▼ PE64

Operation system: Windows(Vista)[AMD64, 64-bit, Console]

Protector: VMProtect(new 25 jmp 9)[DS]

Protection: Generic(Heuristic)[Strange sections]

Packer: Packer detected(Heuristic)[High entropy + Section 3 (" pdata ") compressed]

▼ PE64

Operation system: Windows(Vista)[AMD64, 64-bit, Console]

Packer: Packer detected(Heuristic)[High entropy + Section 3 (" pdata ") compressed]

Not packed
No Anti-Dbg

How can we simplify the
complexity ?

```
main proc
    call _CRT_INIT
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
    sub rsp, 32

    push rax

    call VMProtectBegin
    mov rax, 0deadcafeh
    call VMProtectEnd

    pop rax
    lea rcx, fmtStr
    call printf

    xor ecx, ecx
    call exit
main endp

end
```

```
main proc
    call _CRT_INIT
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
    sub rsp, 32

    push rax
    push rcx
    call VMProtectBegin

    mov rax, 0deadbeefh
    mov rax, 0dead1337h
    add rax, 0aaaaaaaaah
    add eax, 0bbbbhh
    add ax, 0cch
    rol rax, 1
    ror rax, 2
    nop
    nop
    nop
    not rax
    neg rax
    xor rax, 0ffffh
    inc rax
    dec rcx

    call VMProtectEnd
    pop rcx
    pop rax

    lea rcx, fmtStr
    call printf

    xor ecx, ecx
    call exit
main endp
```

```
main proc
    call _CRT_INIT
    push rbp
    mov rbp, rsp
    sub rsp, 32

    push rax

    call VMProtectBegin
    mov rax, 0deadcafeh
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    mov rax, 0deadbeefh
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    mov rax, 0dead1337h
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    inc rax
    call VMProtectEnd

    pop rax
    lea rcx, fmtStr
    call printf

    xor ecx, ecx
    call exit
main endp
```

Sample code for testing

Control Flow Graphs to the rescue

```
$ head asm2_single_instr.vmp3-c0-i1-20240609-135638.log
0x0000000140001006 mov rbp, rsp
0x0000000140001009 sub rsp, 0x20
0x000000014000100D push rax
0x000000014000100E call 0x0000000140006580
0x0000000140006580 pushfq
0x0000000140006581 add qword ptr ss:[rsp+0x08], 0xFFFFFFFFBFFFED
0x000000014000658A push rbp
0x000000014000658B mov rbp, 0xD78290B4F6B57699
0x0000000140006595 push r9
0x0000000140006597 mov qword ptr ss:[rsp+0x18], 0x60228E5B
```

Code trace



```
1 import sys
2 import graphviz
3 import argparse
4 from pathlib import Path
5
6 cfg_instr = [ 'call','ret','ja','jae','jb','jbe','jc','jcxz','je','jg','jge','jl','jle','jmp','jna','jnae','jnb','jnbe','jnc','jne','jng','j
7
8 parser=argparse.ArgumentParser(description="This script takes an X64dbg instructions trace log file and generates a corresponding graph.")
9 parser.add_argument("tracelog_filename")
10 args=parser.parse_args()
11
12 trace_fname = args.tracelog_filename
13 graph_fname = f"{Path(trace_fname).stem}-graph"
14
15 print(f"[INFO] Loading trace from {trace_fname}")
16
17 with open(trace_fname) as file:
18     lines = file.readlines()
19
```

Python Script
builds CFG as
PDF



```

--- 0x0000000140001006 ---
0x0000000140001006 mov rbp, rsp
0x0000000140001009 sub rsp, 0x20
0x000000014000100D push rax
0x000000014000100E call 0x0000000140010E1A
bb_start = 0x0000000140001006
bb_end = 0x000000014000100E
jmp_addr = ['0x0000000140010E1A']
bb_idx = [0]
--- 0x0000000140010E1A ---
0x0000000140010E1A call 0x00000001400064D2
bb_start = 0x0000000140010E1A
bb_end = 0x0000000140010E1A
jmp_addr = ['0x00000001400064D2']
bb_idx = [1]
--- 0x00000001400064D2 ---
0x00000001400064D2 push r12
0x00000001400064D4 mov qword ptr ss:[rsp+0x10]
0x00000001400064DD lea rsp, ss:[rsp+0x10]
0x00000001400064E2 call 0x000000014001BF44
bb_start = 0x00000001400064D2
bb_end = 0x00000001400064E2
jmp_addr = ['0x000000014001BF44']
bb_idx = [2]
--- 0x000000014001BF44 ---
0x000000014001BF44 jmp 0x000000014001B544
bb_start = 0x00000001400064E2

```

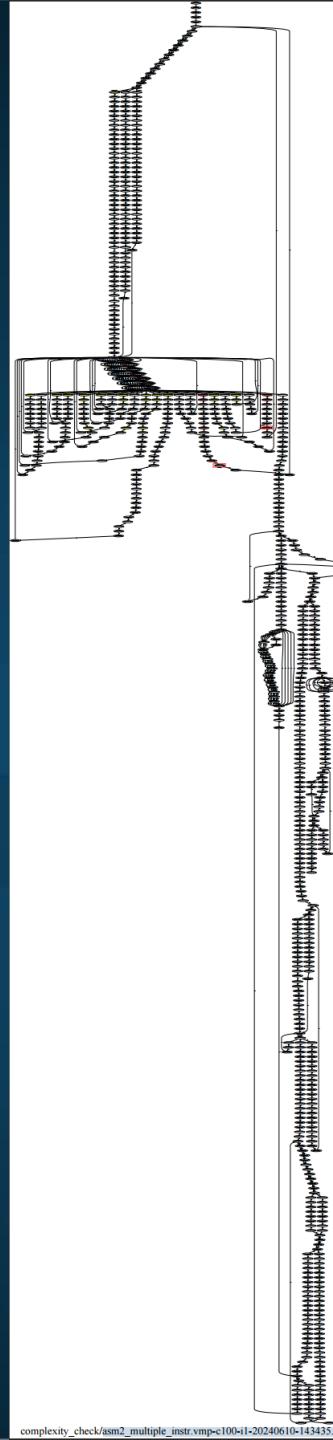
Code trace split into basic blocks
and than use Graphviz to build a Code Flow Graph (CFG)

- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp1-c0-i1-20240609-143630-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp1-c10-i1-20240609-150850-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp1-c20-i1-20240609-151402-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp2-c0-i1-20240609-144425-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp2-c10-i1-20240609-152026-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp2-c20-i1-20240609-152748-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp3-c0-i1-20240609-145114-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp3-c10-i1-20240609-153206-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_multiple_instr.vmp3-c20-i1-20240609-153725-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp1-c0-i1-20240609-132343-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp1-c10-i1-20240609-154406-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp1-c20-i1-20240609-154824-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp2-c0-i1-20240609-133133-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp2-c10-i1-20240609-155402-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp2-c20-i1-20240609-155947-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp3-c0-i1-20240609-135638-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp3-c10-i1-20240609-172813-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_single_instr.vmp3-c20-i1-20240609-173116-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_two_instr.vmp1-c0-i1-20240609-141257-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_two_instr.vmp1-c10-i1-20240609-173623-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_two_instr.vmp1-c20-i1-20240609-173946-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_two_instr.vmp2-c0-i1-20240609-141933-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_two_instr.vmp2-c10-i1-20240609-174334-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_two_instr.vmp2-c20-i1-20240609-174806-graph.pdf](#)
- [asm2_two_instr.vmp3-c0-i1-20240609-142756-aranh.ndf](#)

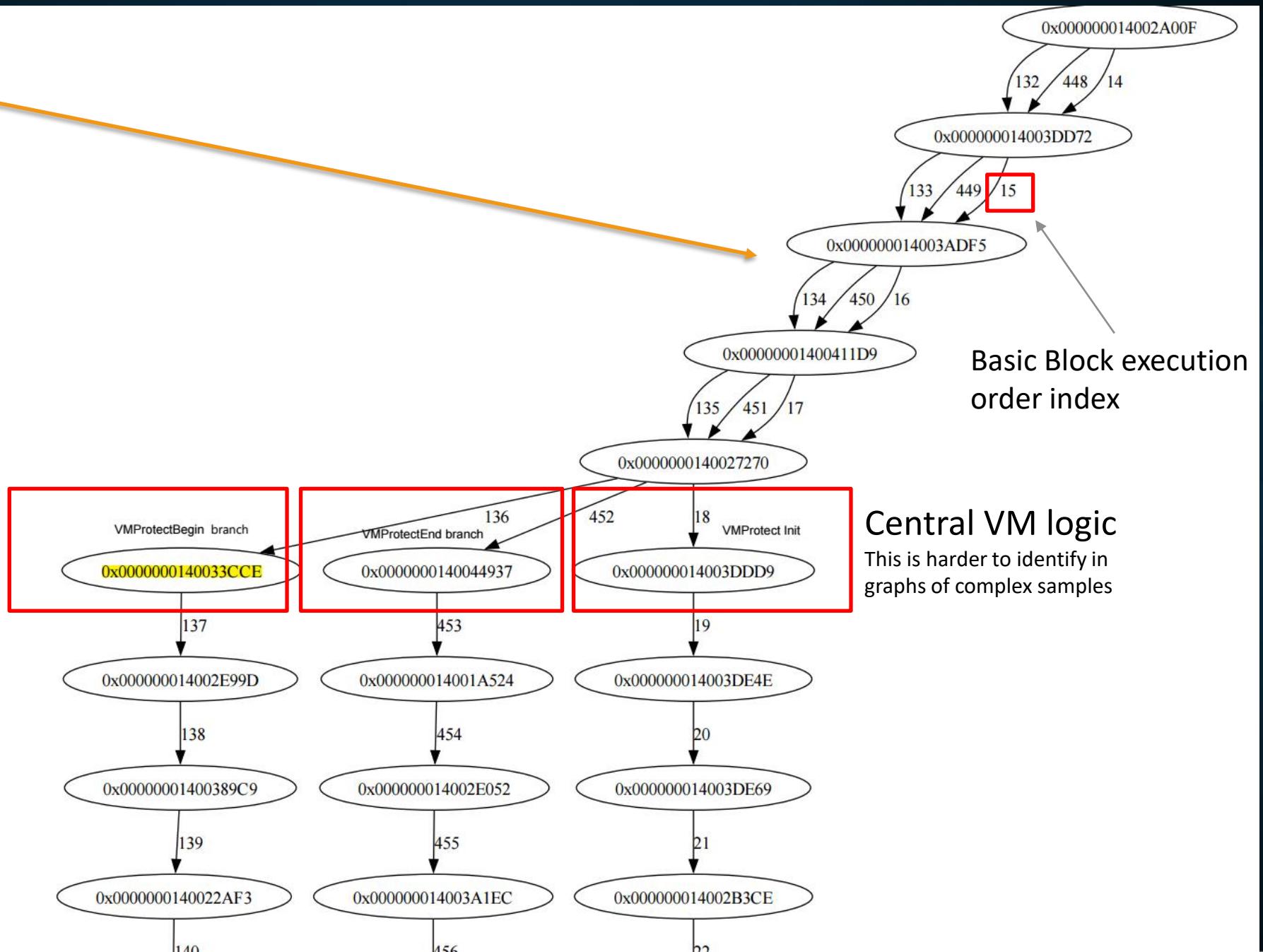
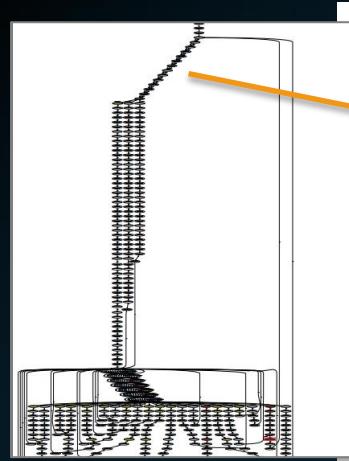
CFG in PDF Format

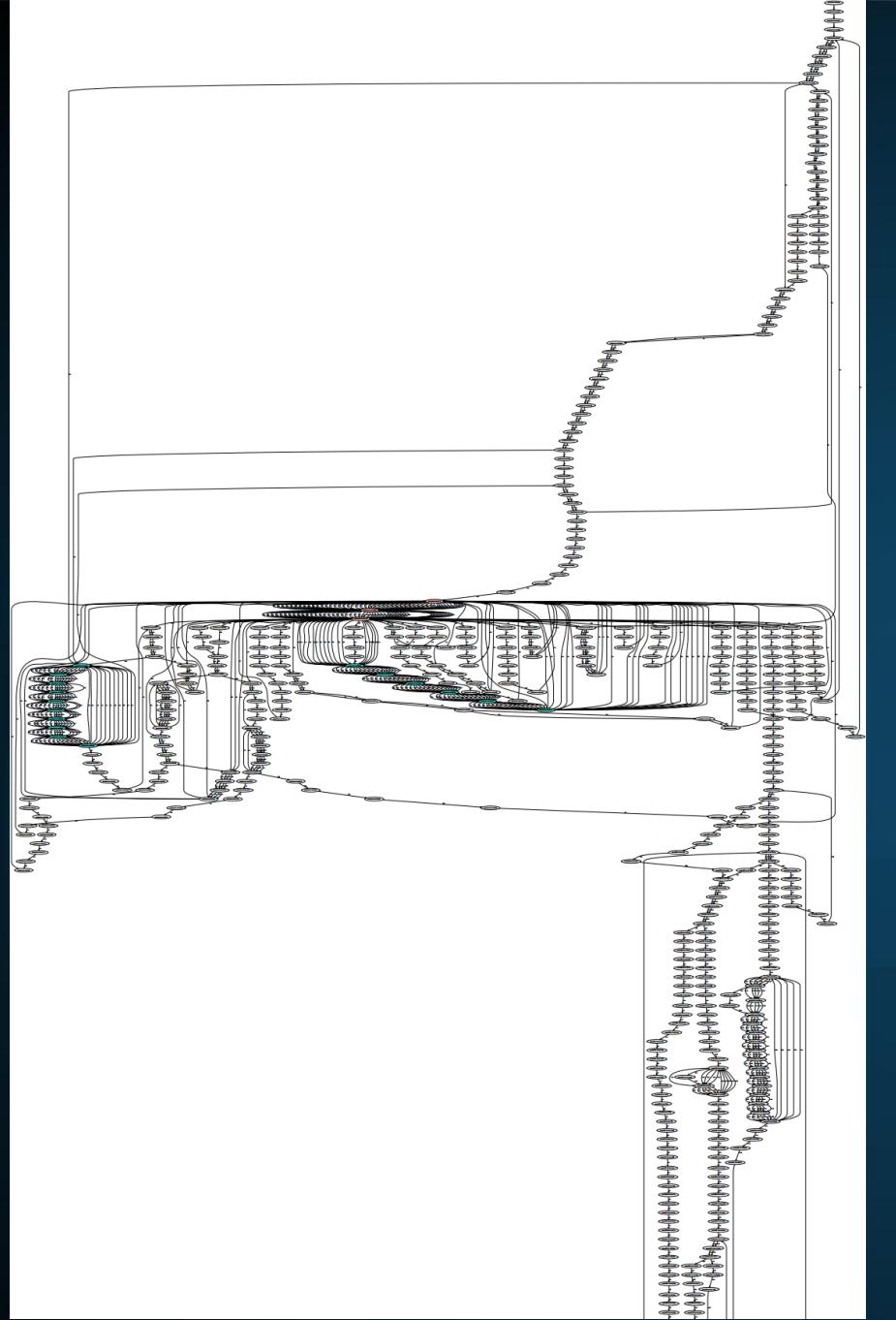
Execution
order

Central switch

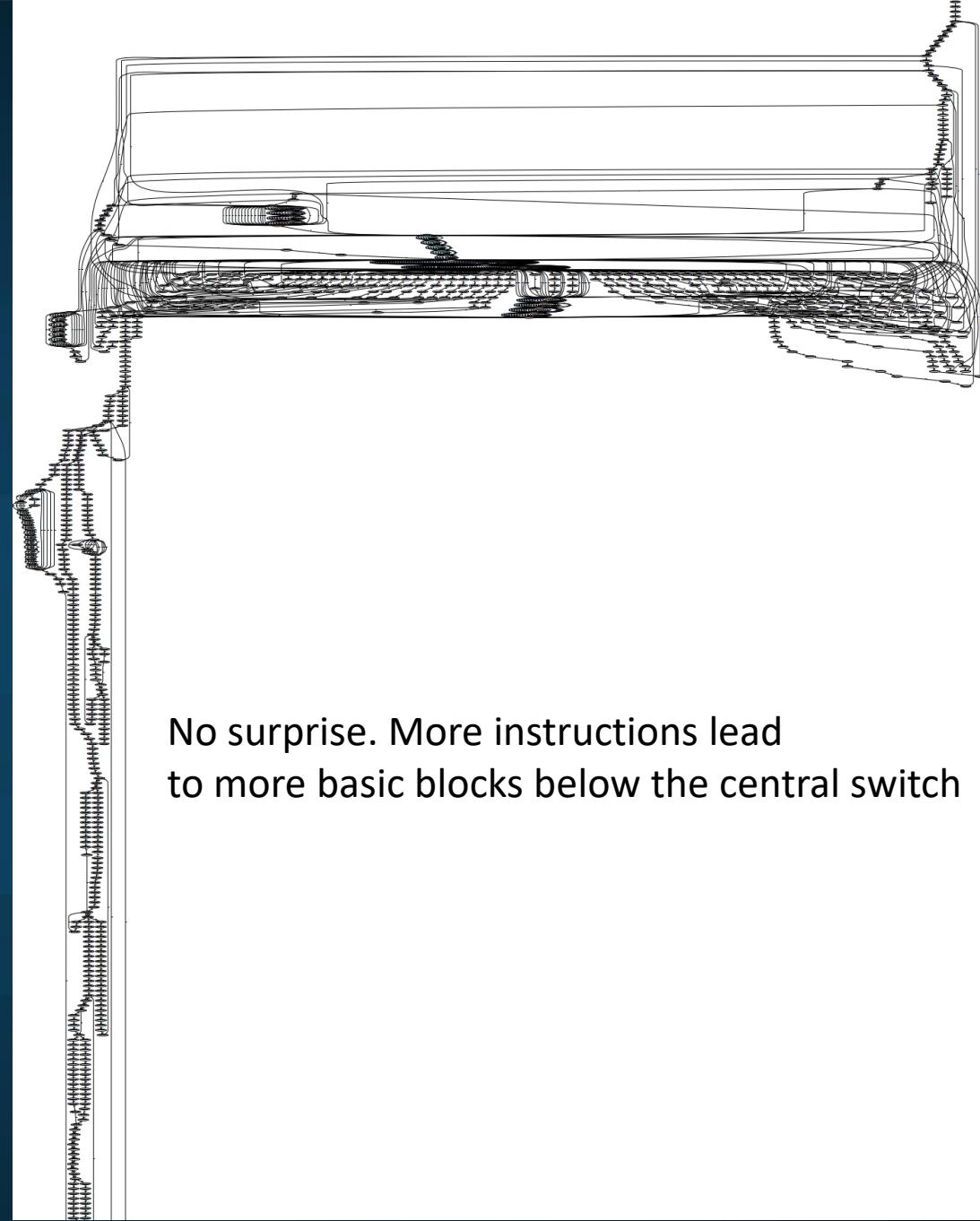


Initialization and central VM logic
(next slide)





asm2_single_instr-c1-i1.vmp-20240610-143947.log

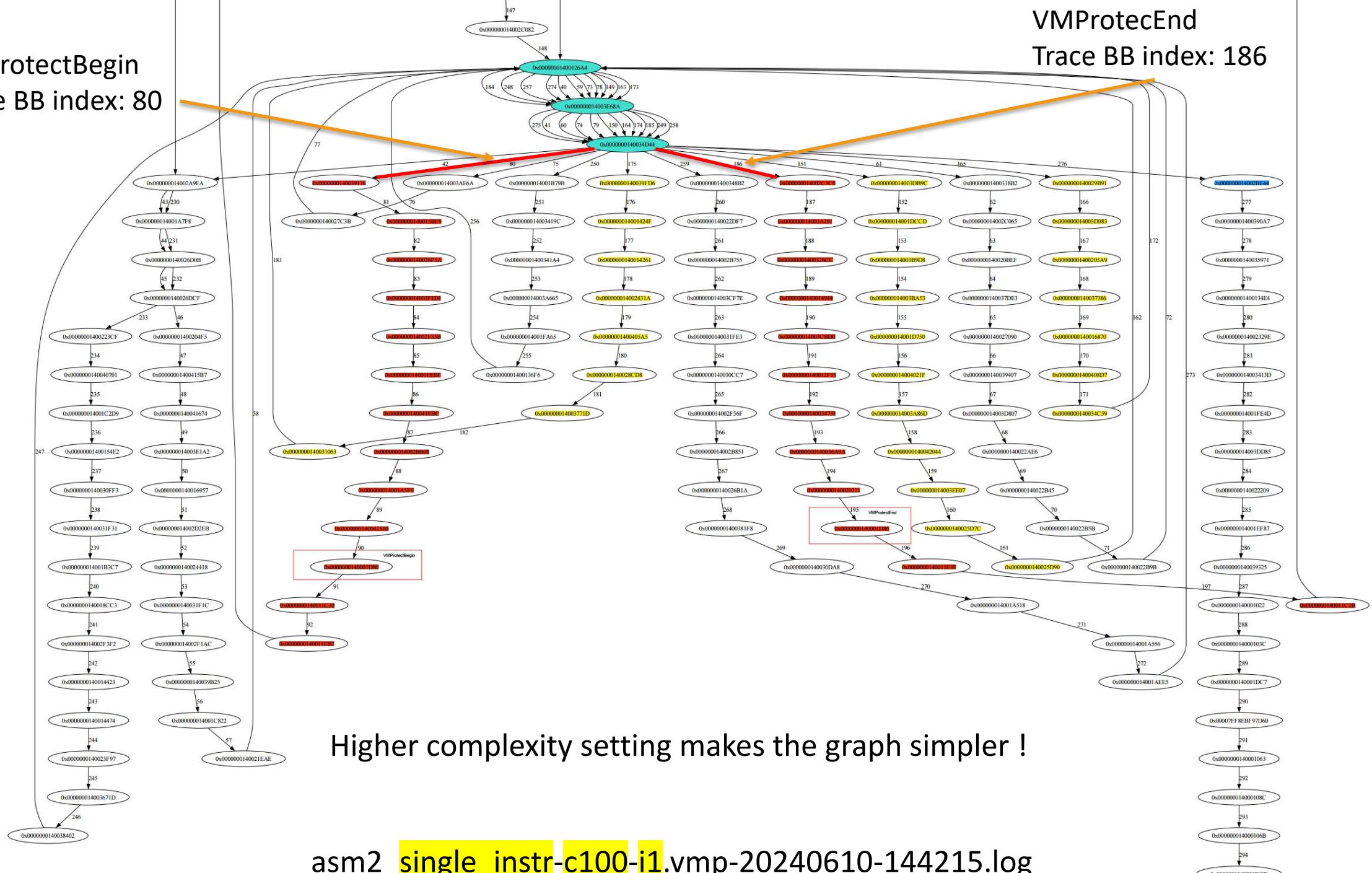


asm2_multiple_instr.vmp-c1-i1-20240610-142851.log

No surprise. More instructions lead
to more basic blocks below the central switch

VMProtectEnd
Trace BB index: 186

VMProtectBegin
Trace BB index: 80

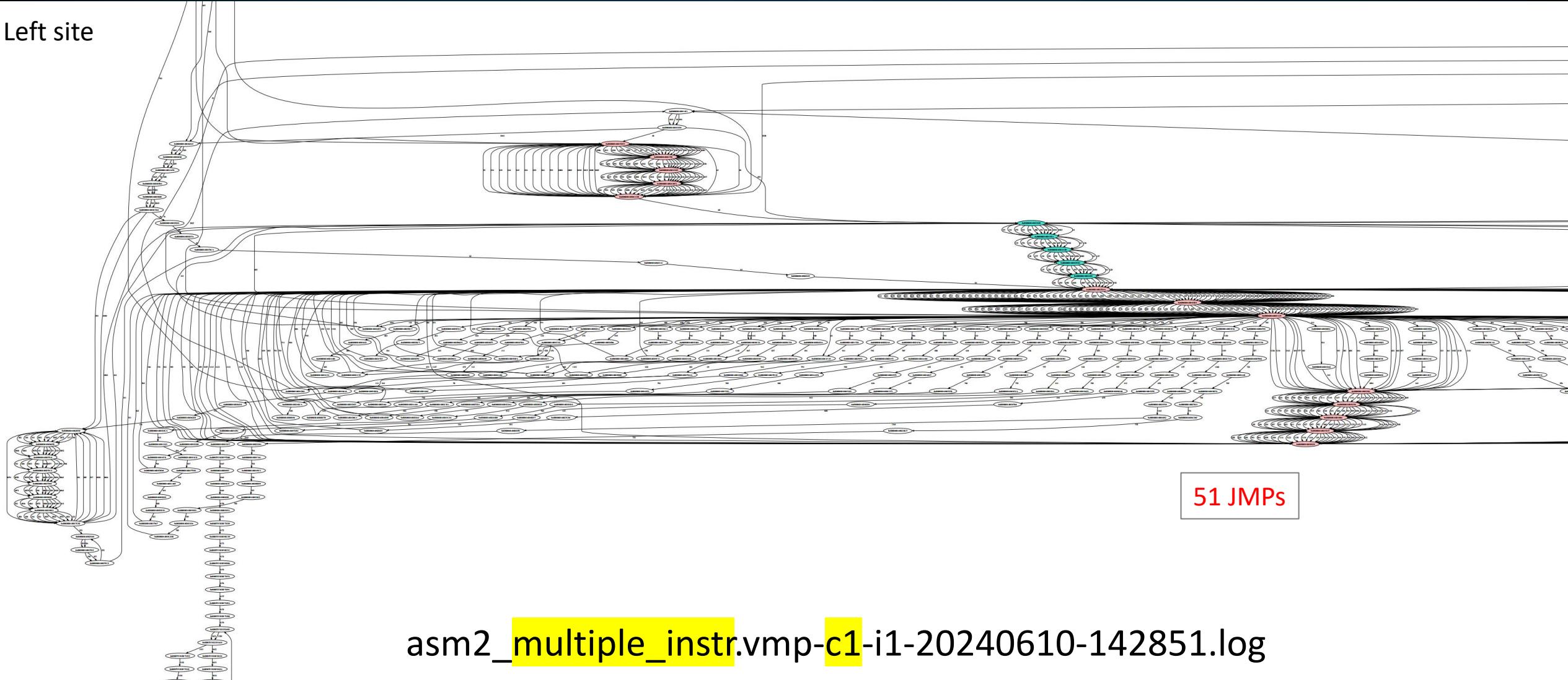


asm2_single_instr-c100-i1.vmp-20240610-144215.log

asm2_multiple_instr.vmp-c100-i1-20240610-143435.log

15 JMPs

Left site

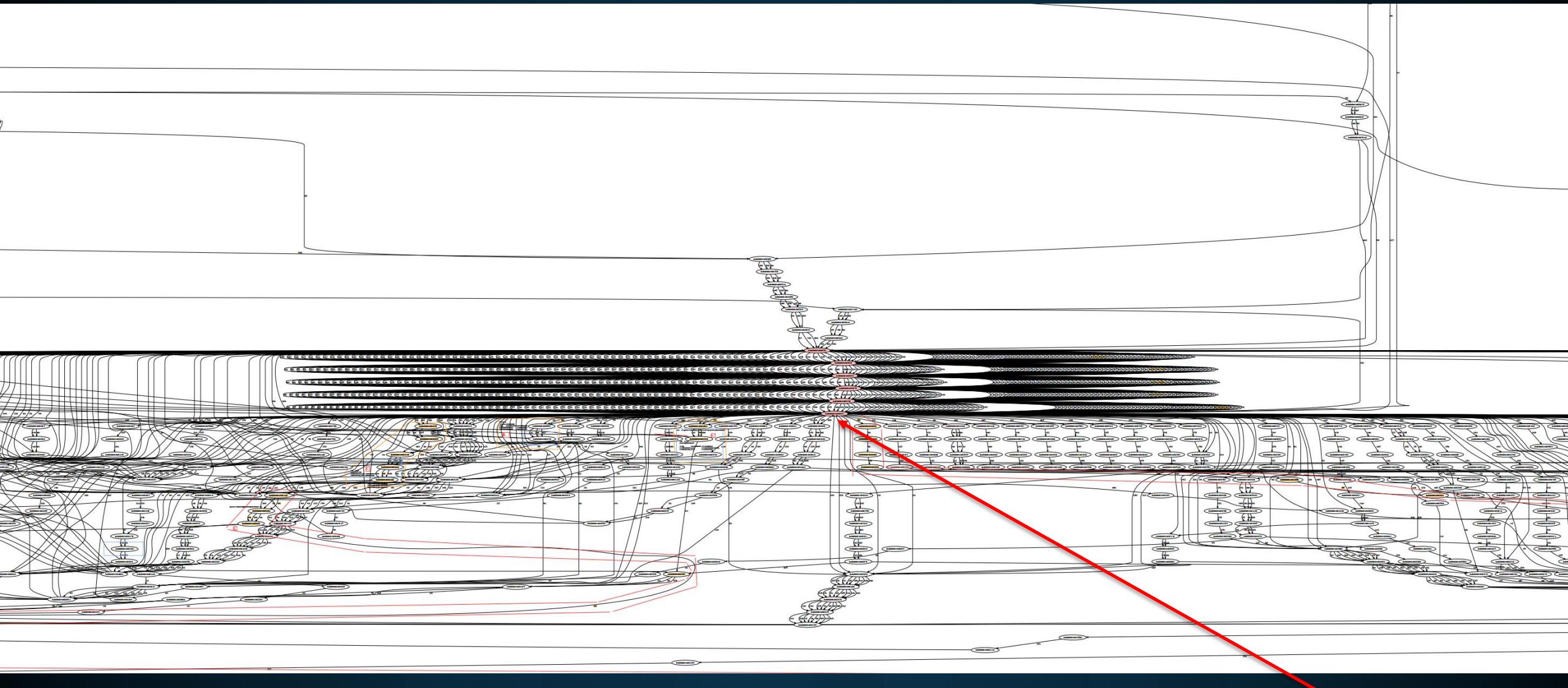


Right site

51 JMPs

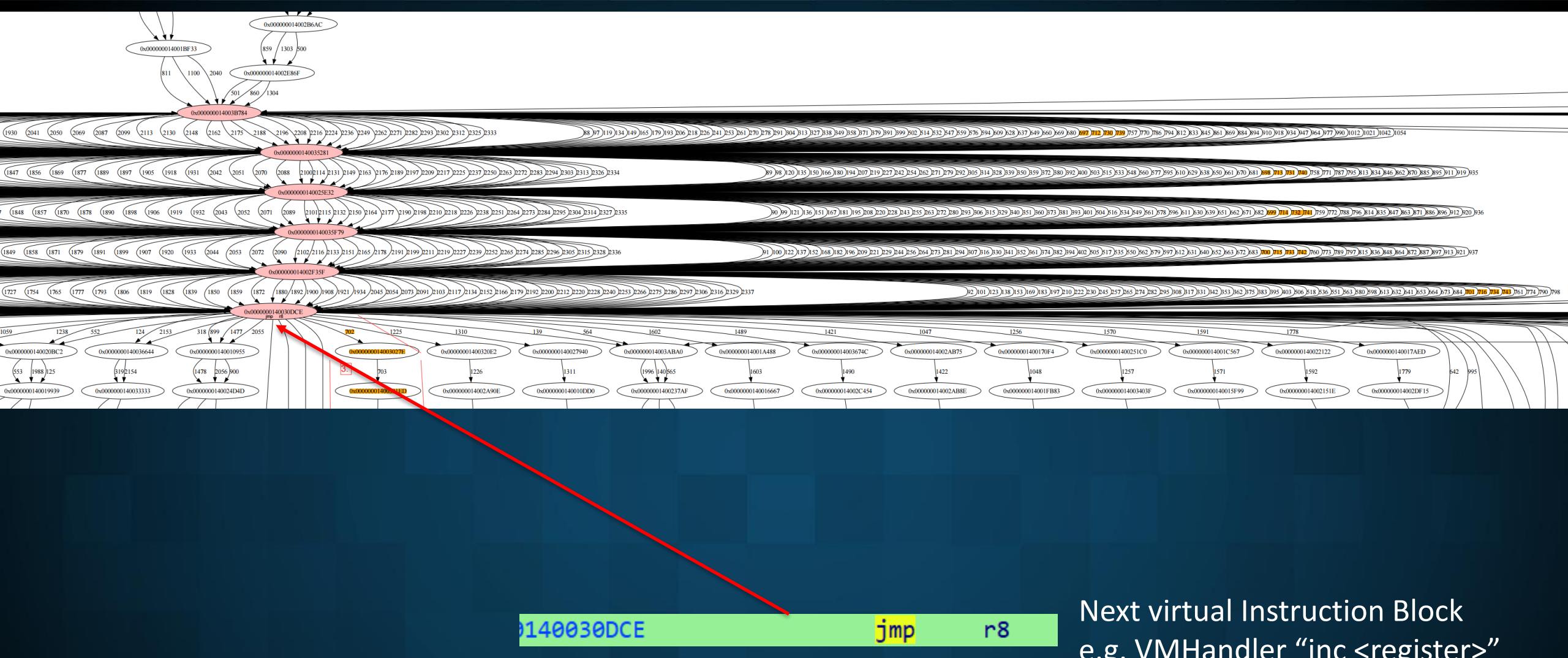
asm2_multiple_instr.vmp-c1-i1-20240610-142851.log

VMProtect Internals



asm2_5inCS_3mov.vmp1-c0-i1.exe

Main switch

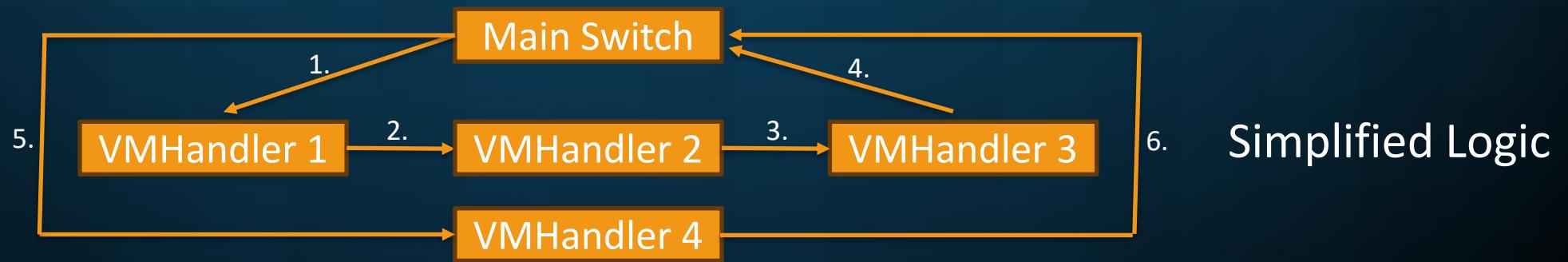
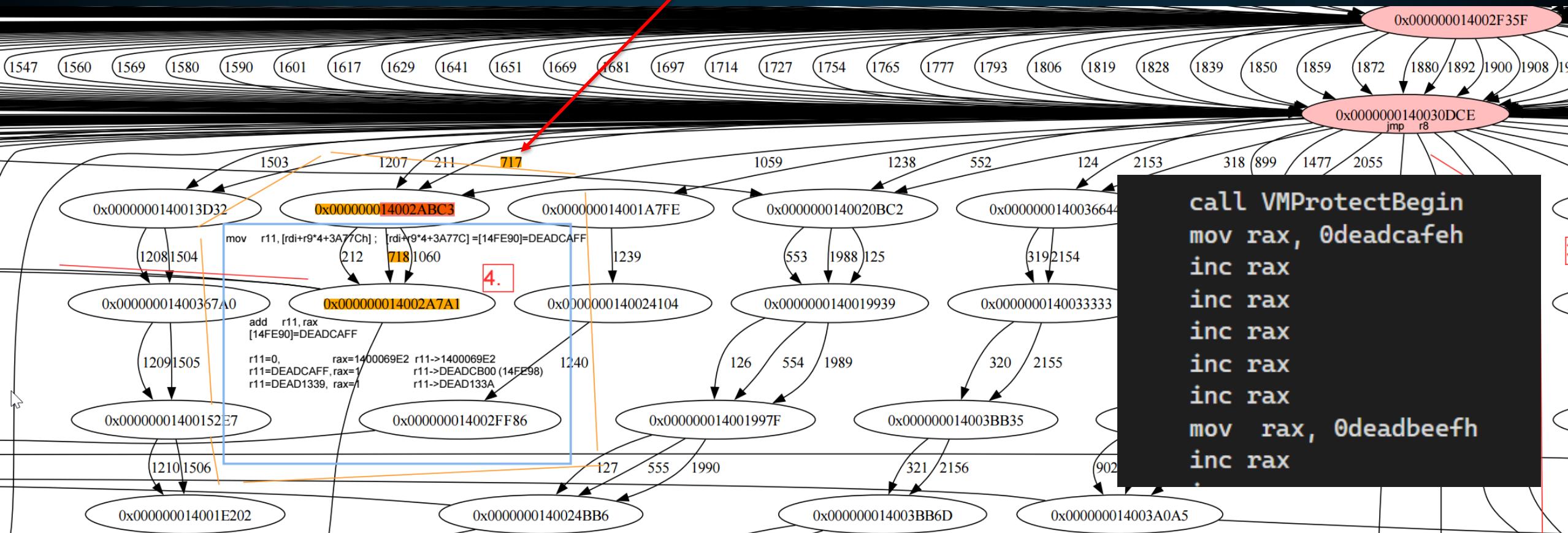


Next virtual Instruction Block
e.g. VMHandler “inc <register>”

In this case it is R8, but this is random, could also be another register

How are VMHandlers executed and connected ?

We are starting here on the next slide at block 717



Calculation of the next vlnstr Block – Block 14002ABC3 (717)

The code below is distributed over multiple lines of code, plus a lot of dead code and other instruction in-between

```
sub rbx, 4          ; next offset from PE
mov edx, [rbx+r9*8-74B78h] ; rbx=1400106B9 r9=E96F -> 1400106B9 -> 8F5A8928
                           ; rbx=1400068CF r9=E96F -> 1400068CF -> 11F3C063
                           ; rbx=14000678B r9=E96F -> 14000678B -> 11F3F9BA
xor edx, ebp          ; ebp=0x15834,    rdx -> 0x8f5bd11c
                           ; ebp=0x19eaf3830, rdx -> 0x8f5cf853
                           ; ebp=0x19eaf01e9, rdx -> 0x8f5cf853
neg r10w
movzx esi, r9w
neg edx
xor edx, 0F8185C2Fh
sub edx, 88BB4029h
movsx r11d, cx
neg edx
                           ; edx -> FFFEC05E      final EDX value
                           ; edx -> FFFFFE4A7
                           ; edx -> FFFFFE4A7
```

ByteCodePtr can be different e.g. `sub rbx,1`
Encrypted offset to next vlnstr ($E966F * 8 = 74B78 \rightarrow$ EDX ptr to offset) \rightarrow VMHandlerTableEntry
XOR EDX (VMHandlerTableEntry) with Rolling key in EBP

Do some math to calculate
final value for EDX (offset to next vlnstr handler)

```
push rbp          ; rsp=14FB0D8  rsp->14FBC8
xor [rsp+r10*2-18h+var_1FEC6], edx ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=00015834      XOR [RBP] with EDX
                           ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=9EAF3830
                           ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=9EAF01E9
                           ; rsp = 14FBC8 -> FFFF956A
                           ; rsp = 14FBC8 -> 16150DC97
                           ; rsp = 14FBC8 -> 16150E54E
pop rbp          ; rbp -> FFFF956A  [ move RSP to new RBP ]  new rolling key
                           ; rbp -> 16150DC97
                           ; rbp -> 16150E54E
```

New rolling
Key in EBP

```
add r8, rdx        ; r8=14002ABC3 rdx=FFFFFFFFEC05E r8->140017921
                           ; r8=14002ABC3 rdx=FFFFFFFFFFFFE4A7 r8->14002906A
                           ; r8=14002ABC3 rdx=FFFFFFFFFFFFE4A7 r8->14002906A
```

Next vlnstr handler

This vlnstr handler start

... next slide

Calculation of the next vlnstr Handler – Block 14002906A (720)

```

sub    rbx, 4          ; next 32bit vInstr offset from PE
mov    edx, [rbx]       ; rbx=14001075B -> A8C858C0
; rbx=1400069BC -> A8C908F6 encrypted offset to next vInstr block
; rbx=1400068CB -> 564EC3B3
; rbx=140006787 -> 87B4FB6A
; rbx=1400050CF -> 57347DD2

xor    edx, ebp         ; edx=A8C858C0 ebp=BFFE05AD edx -> 17365D6D XOR offset with rolling key in ebp
; edx=A8C908F6 ebp=BFFF559B edx -> 17365D6D
; edx=564EC3B3 ebp=6150DC97 edx -> 371E1F24
; edx=87B4FB6A ebp=6150E54E edx -> E6E41E24
; edx=57347DD2 ebp=400220BF edx -> 17365D6D

lea    edx, [rcx+rdx-35BA0A4Bh] ; rcx=78534C82 rdx=17365D6D -> 59CF9FA4
; rcx=78534C82 rdx=17365D6D -> 59CF9FA4
; rcx=78534C82 rdx=371E1F24 -> 79B7615B
; rcx=78534C82 rdx=E6E41E24 -> 1297D605B
; rcx=78534C82 rdx=17365D6D -> 59CF9FA4

bswap  edx
not    edx
mov    esi, 21B1E6A2h
xor    edx, 0A49EA93Bh ; edx=FFFE999D final value (offset from start of this block to next vInstr block)
; edx=FFFE999D
; edx=0000E1BD
; edx=00012BED
; edx=FFFE999D

push   rbp             ; rsp=14FBD0 -> 14FBC8 (=1BFFF559B)
xor    [rsp+r11-20h+var_1168D419], edx ; rsp=14FBC8 r11=1168D439 [rsp+r11*1-1168D439] = 14FBC8 -> 140009C30 XOR [RBP], EDX
; rsp=14FBC8 r11=1168D439 [rsp+r11*1-1168D439] = 14FBC8 -> 14001CC06
; rsp=14FBC8 r11=1168D439 [rsp+r11*1-1168D439] = 14FBC8 -> 161503D2A
; rsp=14FBC8 r11=1168D439 [rsp+r11*1-1168D439] = 14FBC8 -> 16151CEA3
; rsp=14FBC8 r11=1168D439 [rsp+r11*1-1168D439] = 14FBC8 -> 1BFFCB922

pop   rbp              ; 14001CC06

add    r8, rdx          ; r8=14002906A, rdx=FFFFFFFFFFFFFFE999D r8->140012A07 Next vlnstr Handler
; r8=14002906A, rdx=FFFFFFFFFFFFFFE999D r8->140012A07
; r8=14002906A, rdx=000000000000E1BD r8->140037227 This vlnstr Handler start

```

Remember the VMHandler table offset (`sub rbx,1`) ?

```
:0000000140010764          dd 2E202302h ; 4. VMHandler enc. offset (sub rbx, 1) at 14003B6BC
:0000000140010768          db 4Ch ; L
:0000000140010769          db 4Fh ; O
:000000014001076A          dd 0AC26A82h ; 3. VMHandler enc. offset (rbx=rbx lea rbx, [rbx] ; [rbx]=[14001076A]) at 14003420E
:000000014001076E          db 96h
:000000014001076F          dd 0AA925452h ; 2. VMHandler enc. offset (sub rbx, 4) at 14001C425
:0000000140010773          db 5Fh ;
:0000000140010774          dd 41AEA8DFh ; 1. VMHandler enc. offset (sub rbx, 4) at 1400304A1
:0000000140010778          dd 93133Ch ; 0. VMHandler enc. offset (sub rbx, 4) at 1400311D3
```

```
sub rbx, 4
mov edx, [rbx+r9*8-74B78h] ;
```

The VMHandler table is not linear.

Remember the rolling key ? What about R10 ?

```
push    rbp          ; rsp=14FBD0  rsp->14FBC8
xor    [rsp+r10*2-18h+var_1FEC6], edx ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=00015834      XOR [RBP] with EDX
;           ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=9EAF3830
;           ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=9EAF01E9
;           ; rsp = 14FBC8 -> FFFF956A
;           ; rsp = 14FBC8 -> 16150DC97
;           ; rsp = 14FBC8 -> 16150E54E
pop    rbp          ; rbp -> FFFF956A  [ move RSP to new RBP ]  new rolling key ?
; rbp -> 16150DC97
; rbp -> 16150E54E
```

New rolling
Key in EBP

... it's all just obfuscation:

```
mov    eax, 88807D21h ; --- new block 14002ABC3
lea    rcx, ds:0xFFFFFFFFDC26EF2Dh[rax*2] ; [rax*2-23D910D3]=[ED27 E96F]
neg    cx          ; rcx -> 00000000ED271691
movzx  r10d, cl
neg    r10w         ; r10 -> FF6F
xor    [rsp+r10*2-18h+var_1FEC6], edx ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=00015834
;           ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=9EAF3830
;           ; rsp=14FBC8, r10=FF6F*2=1FEDE, [rsp+r10*2-1FEDE]=[14FBC8]=9EAF01E9
```



Let's proof the assumption and get all connections of all VMHandlers...

```
dex@win11Dev UCRT64 /c/Users/dex/Desktop/vmp/python
$ python parse_bp.py
bp 0x000000014003D568; SetBreakpointLog 000000014003D568, "addr=000000014003D568,rbx={rbx},rdx={rdx},res={rbx+rdx}"
SetBreakpointCommand 0x000000014003D568, go
bp 0x000000014003D56F; SetBreakpointLog 000000014003D56F, "addr=000000014003D56F,rbx={rbx},rsi={rsi},res={rbx+rsi}"
SetBreakpointCommand 0x000000014003D56F, go
bp 0x000000014001AF15; SetBreakpointLog 000000014001AF15, "addr=000000014001AF15,r8={r8},rcx={rcx},res={r8+rcx}"
SetBreakpointCommand 0x000000014001AF15, go
```

The python script extracts all ‘add <reg1>, <reg2>’ statements and sets **breakpoints** on them to get their values at runtime.

```
regex1 = re.compile(r'(0x[01234567890ABCDEF]{16}) (ad[cd]) (r.{1,2}), (r.{1,2})'
```

add r8, rdx ; r8=14002906A, rdx=FFFFFFFFFFFFE999D r8->140012A07	Next vlnstr Handler
;	
;	
;	

... after feeding it into X64dbg:

Execution Order

```
addr=000000014003D568,rbx=4001077C,rdx=0,res=4001077C
addr=000000014003D56F,rbx=4001077C,rsi=100000000,res=14001077C
addr=000000014001AF15,r8=1400311D3,rcx=FFFFFFFFFFFF2CE,res=1400304A1
addr=00000001400338DF,rdx=0,r8=1400304A1,res=1400304A1
addr=0000000140030500,r8=1400304A1,r11=FFFFFFFFFEBF84,res=14001C425
addr=000000014001C4A9,r8=14001C425,r9=17DE9,res=14003420E
addr=000000014001C510,r10=70,rsp=14FBD0,res=14FC40
addr=000000014003428E,r8=14003420E,rsi=FFFFFFFFFE0A49,res=140014C57
addr=000000014003708A,rcx=0,rsp=14FBD0,res=14FBD0
addr=0000000140031BFC,r8=140014C57,r10=12E10,res=140027A67
addr=0000000140037041,r8=140027A67,rcx=1603,res=14002906A
addr=0000000140026A90,r8=14002906A,rdx=FFFFFFFFFE999D,res=140012A07
addr=0000000140017672,r8=140012A07,r9=C540,res=14001EF47
addr=0000000140021377,rax=110,rsp=14FBD0,res=14FCEO
addr=000000014002B5D0,r8=14001EF47,r9=19FF1,res=140038F38
addr=0000000140038FA8,r8=140038F38,r10=1A35,res=14003A96D
addr=000000014003A9AB,r9=D087EEFD,rax=D0870003,res=1A10EEF00
addr=000000014002F9C3,r8=14003A96D,rsi=FFFFFFFFFD70C4,res=140011A31
addr=000000014003C4AF,r8=140011A31,r11=CF42,res=14001E973
addr=0000000140026EF5,r9w=AD8F,r9w=AD8F,res=15B1E
addr=0000000140026F6A,r8=14001E973,r11=11B2E,res=1400304A1
addr=0000000140030500,r8=1400304A1,r11=DF3,res=140031294
addr=0000000140010DB6,r8=140031294,r11=FFFFFFFFFEB191,res=14001C425
```

False Positive
of the regex

Proofs our
assumption
it is always R8
(in this case)

... and cleaned up (including an anomaly check).

```
$ python parse_bp_out.py  
000000014001AF15: 1400311D3 - 1400304A1 <----- 14001AEC4 Start Block  
0000000140030500: 1400304A1 - 14001C425  
000000014001C4A9: 14001C425 - 14003420E  
000000014003428E: 14003420E - 140014C57  
0000000140031BFC: 140014C57 - 140027A67  
0000000140037041: 140027A67 - 14002906A  
0000000140036A00: 14002906A - 140012A07
```

Initialization

```
000000014002948B: 140038ED7 - 14002ECDD  
000000014002EE21: 14002ECDD - 140030A15  
0000000140015AF6: 140030A15 - 140031C62  
0000000140031C98: 140031C62 - 140031493  
000000014001AF15: 1400311D3 - 14001E973 <----- 14001AEC4 Start Block  
0000000140026F6A: 14001E973 - 1400304A1  
0000000140030500: 1400304A1 - 14001C425  
000000014001C4A9: 14001C425 - 14003420E  
000000014003428E: 14003420E - 140014C57
```

VMProtectStart

```
0000000140031C98: 140031C92 - 14002441D  
0000000140014F41: 14002441D - 140023A16  
0000000140011169: 140023A16 - 140015B02  
0000000140015B6F: 140015B02 - 14002AD95  
000000014001AF15: 1400311D3 - 140038F38 <----- 14001AEC4 Start Block  
0000000140038FA8: 140038F38 - 14003A96D  
000000014002F9C3: 14003A96D - 14001DC41  
0000000140021A1D: 14001DC41 - 140011A31  
0000000140036A00: 140011A31 - 140015073
```

VMProtectEnd

Breakpoint address	Start of VMHandler	Next VMHandler

Does it make a difference if we change the complexity rate ? No.

```
$ python parse_bp_out.py  
0000000140033957: 140031F48 - 140013CA7 <-- 140033957 Init Block (Anomaly: 1)  
000000014003C78C: 140013CA7 - 140013CA7  
000000014003C78C: 140013CA7 - 140013CA7  
000000014003C78C: 140013CA7 - 140036452  
000000014003ED68: 140036452 - 140034A5B  
0000000140019D90: 140034A5B - 14003C445  
000000014002AECD: 14003C445 - 14003999C  
0000000140016EF9: 14003999C - 140024FD7  
00000001400146F3: 140024FD7 - 140024FD7  
00000001400323FD: 140032378 - 140041975  
0000000140033957: 140031F48 - 140013CA7 <-- 140033957 VMProtectStart Block (Anomaly: 2)  
000000014003C78C: 140013CA7 - 140013CA7
```

```
00000001400146F3: 140024FD7 - 140024FD7  
00000001400146F3: 140024FD7 - 1400298B1  
0000000140033957: 140031F48 - 140013CA7 <-- 140033957 VMProtectEnd Block (Anomaly: 3)  
000000014003C78C: 140013CA7 - 140013CA7  
000000014003C78C: 140013CA7 - 140013CA7  
000000014003C78C: 140013CA7 - 140036452  
000000014003ED68: 140036452 - 140034A5B
```

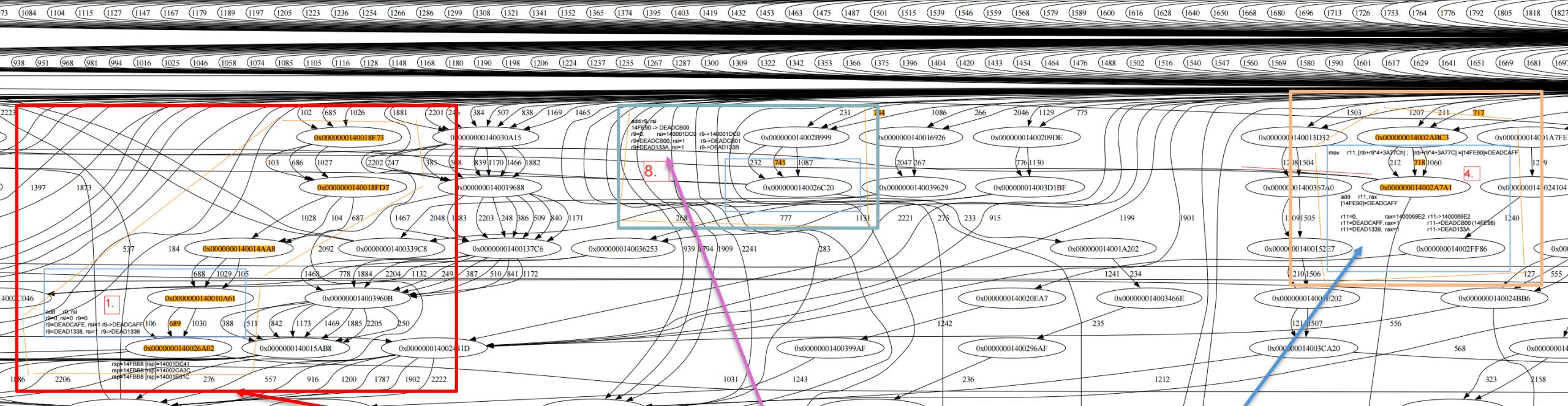
```
addr=00000001401C9F00,rbp=1400DE425,rcx=BF37B,res=14019D7A0           <-- Init
addr=00000001401EC7AB,rbp=14019D7A0,rcx=FFFFFFFFFFFFAD6CA,res=14014AE6A
addr=0000000140088459,rbp=14014AE6A,rcx=BC8CF,res=140207739
addr=0000000140227E25,rbp=140207739,r10=FFFFFFFFFE9576A,res=14009CEA3
addr=00000001400CC924,rbp=14009CEA3,r9=193ED8,res=140230D7B
addr=00000001400A8EFD,rbp=140230D7B,r10=FFFFFFFFFE9AB03,res=1400CB87E
addr=000000014013596B,rbp=1400CB87E,rbx=FFFFFFFFFA869A,res=140073F18
addr=000000014018757D,rbp=140073F18,rsi=16824A,res=1401DC162
addr=00000001400D70D7,rbp=1401DC162,r10=FFFFFFFFFFFA0DAA,res=14017CF0C
addr=00000001402207FE,rbp=14017CF0C,rcx=FFFFFFFFFB060,res=140138F6C <-- reg change VMProtectStart
addr=0000000140117833,r11=140141A73,r10=24317,res=140165D8A
addr=000000014009450D,r11=140165D8A,rbp=FFFFFFFF73D91,res=1400D9B1B
addr=00000001401FD1B5,r11=1400D9B1B,rbx=986A,res=1400E3385
addr=00000001400E9DED,r11=1400E3385,rsi=10100F,res=1401E4394
```

```
addr=00000001400D6817,r11=140108805,r10=114C2E,res=14021D433
addr=000000014012B8DE,r11=14021D433,rsi=FFFFFFFFFE7323,res=140204756
addr=000000014019BC54,r11=140204756,rcx=E427,res=140212B7D
addr=000000014007FD8B,r11=140212B7D,r10=FFFFFFFFFE5F036,res=140071BB3
addr=0000000140071C22,r11=140071BB3,r10=12163E,res=1401931F1           <-- reg change VMProtectEnd
addr=000000014008EF2F,rsi=14013430C,rcx=FFFFFFFFFB5CF7,res=1400EA003
addr=00000001400EA094,rsi=1400EA003,rcx=FFFFFFFFFB93EE,res=1400A3401
addr=00000001401895F7,rsi=1400A3401,r8=FFFFFFFFFC906,res=14006DD07
addr=00000001401D29C6,rsi=14006DD07,rbx=1/B829,res=1401E9530
addr=00000001402266E0,rsi=1401E9530,r8=45777,res=14022ECA7
addr=00000001400DD7D6,rsi=14022ECA7,rbx=FFFFFFFF7C5BC,res=1401AB263
addr=00000001401AB2D5,rsi=1401AB263,rcx=FFFFFFFFFE21FB,res=14008D45E
addr=00000001400B3C9B,rsi=14008D45E,rdx=2ACB8,res=1400B8116
```

VMHandler

Translation of “INC EAX”

1st : There is not just one “INC <Register>” VMHandler and they all look different!



```

call VMProtectBegin
mov rax, 0deadcafeh
inc rax
inc rax
inc rax
inc rax
inc rax
inc rax

```

```

0xdeadcafe -> 0xdeadcaff
0xdeadcaff -> 0xdeadcb00
; 0xdeadcb00 -> 0xdeadcb01
; 0xdeadcb01 -> 0xdeadcb02
; 0xdeadcb02 -> 0xdeadcb03

```

"INC <Register>" handler (likely add <p1,p2>) – VMHandler Nr. 4 in Graph

```
mov    r11, [rdi+r9*4+3A77Ch] ; e.g. [rdi+r9*4+3A77C] =[14FE90]=DEADCAFF Parameter 1
mov    rax, [rdi+r10*4-3FDACh] ; e.g. [rdi+r10*4-3FDAC]=[14FE98]=1 Parameter 2
add    r11, rax ; r11=0,      rax=1400069E2 r11->1400069E2
        ; r11=DEADCAFF, rax=1 r11->DEADCB00
        ; r11=DEAD1339, rax=1 r11->DEAD133A
mov    [rdi+r9*4+3A77Ch], r11 ; r11=1400069E2 rdi=14FEB0 r9=FFFFFFFFFFFF1621 -> 14FEB0
        ; r11=DEADCB00 rdi=14FE98 r9=FFFFFFFFFFFF1621 -> 14FE98
        ; r11=DEAD133A rdi=14FE98 r9=FFFFFFFFFFFF1621 -> 14FE98
```

Get Parameter 1 and 2
"inc eax"
(add p1,p2)
Store result

Next "INC" – VMHandler – Nr. 8 in Graph

```
mov    r9, [rdi+rax*2-462Ch] ; di=14FEA0 rax=2316 [rdi+rax*2-462c]=14FEA0 -> 0
        ; rdi=14FE90 rax=2316 [rdi+rax*2-462c]=14FE90 -> DEADCB00 (moved from 14FEB0)
        ; rdi=14FE90 rax=2316 [rdi+rax*2-462c]=14FE90 -> DEAD133A
```

```
add    r9, rsi ; add r9, rsi
        ; r9=0,      rsi=140001DC0 r9->140001DC0
        ; r9=DEADCB00, rsi=1 r9->DEADCB01
        ; r9=DEAD133A, rsi=1 r9->DEAD133B
```

```
mov    [rax+rdi-232Eh], r9 ; rax=232E rdi=14FEA8 [rax+rdi-232E]=14FEA8->140001DC0
        ; rax=232E rdi=14FE98 [rax+rdi-232E]=14FE98->1
        ; rax=232E rdi=14FE98 [rax+rdi-232E]=14FE98->1
```

Other "INC" - VMHandler

```
adc    rdx, rcx ; rdx=DEADCB02
```

Different "INC" VMHandler can have different instructions, other registers, other dead code, etc

? Next slide...

```
mov rax, 0deadca
inc rax
inc rax
inc rax
inc rax
inc rax
```

Stack is changed between VMHandlers

First mov of DEADCB00 from 14FE98 to 14FC00

```
mov    rsi, [rdi+r11*2-22D1A870h] ; rdi=14FE58 r11=1168D438 [rdi+r11*2-22D1A870] = 14FE58 -> 53AC6E  
      ; rdi=14FE60 r11=1168D438 [rdi+r11*2-22D1A870] = 14FE60 -> 0  
      ; rdi=14FE98 r11=1168D438 [rdi+r11*2-22D1A870] = 14FE98 -> DEADCB00
```

```
mov    [rdx+r11-1F3F29F5h], rsi ; rsi=56AC6E rdx=14FC70 r11=1F3F29F5 [rdx+r11-1F3F29F5] = 14FC70  
      ; rsi=0 rdx=14FC80 r11=1F3F29F5 [rdx+r11-1F3F29F5] = 14FC80  
      ; rsi=DEADCB00 rdx=14FC00 r11=1F3F29F5 [rdx+r11-1F3F29F5] = 14FC00
```

Second mov of DEADCB00 from 14FC00 to 14FE90

```
add    rdx, [rdx+rcx] ; rdx=0, rcx=14FC00, [rdx+rcx*1]=[14FC00]=DEADCB00  
mov    [rdi], rdx ; [rdi]=[14FE90]=DEADCAFF rdx=DEADCB00
```

Translation of MOV rax, 0xDEADCAFE Operation

Get and “Decode String” VMHandler (From Block 140019C53 – Block 140022639)

```
0000000140038BD8      mov    rdx, [rbx+rsi*4-2F650h] ; [rbx+rsi*4-2F650]=[14000692B]=F40000014379B84E
0000000140038BE0      xor    rdx, rbp          ; rbp=140030F62   rdx->F4000000037AB72C
0000000140038BE3      mov    eax, 0E49E8082h
0000000140038BE8      neg    rdx              ; rdx -> 0BFFFFFFFC8548D4
0000000140038BEB      bts    r9, 0Fh
0000000140038BF0      not    rdx              ; rdx -> F4000000037AB72B
0000000140038BF3      sbb    ecx, r9d
0000000140038BF6      rol    rdx, 6           ; rdx = 00000000DEADCAF0
00000001400268C9      inc    rdx              ; rdx -> 0xdeadcafe
000000014002264D      mov    [r9+rdi-55A1E187h], rdx ; [r9+rdi*1-55A1E187]=[14FEB0] rdx=DEADCAFE
```

Decode DEADCAFE value

Stack organization VMHandler (From Block 140027A67 – Block 140025CD4)

```
000000014002F059      mov    rcx, [rdi]       ; [rdi]=[14FEB0]=DEADCAFE
000000014002011C      mov    [rdx+rax*8-39620h], rcx ; [rdx+rax*8-39620]=[14FC88] , rcx=DEADCAFE
```

Move DEADCAFE from 14FEB0 to 14FC88

Actual “MOV” VMHandler (From Block 14001E330 – Block 14002BA0C)

```
000000014002E248      xor    rax, [r9+rax*2] ; [r9+rax*2]=[14FC88]=DEADCAFE rax=0
```

Write DEADCAFE to EAX

Helpful Tool – Execution Trace Viewer

Filtered ti ▾ ⏪ ⏴ 1 ⏵ Page: 1 / 1 regex=0xdeadcaff Filter Find: Registers ▾ ⏹ ⏷

#	address	opcodes	disasm	registers
2872	0x1401da1ed	4813d3	adc rdx, rbx	rdx: 0xdeadcaff eflags
2876	0x1401da1f9	4c8bd2	mov r10, rdx	r10: 0xdeadcaff
2938	0x140224d15	498bac0270ffdd	mov rbp, qword ptr [r10 + rxax - 0xa220090]	rbp: 0xdeadcaff
2939	0x140224d1d	488bdd	mov rbx, rbp	rbx: 0xdeadcaff

About

Execution Trace Viewer 1.0.0
(C) 2019 Teemu Laurila
<https://github.com/teemu-l/execution-trace-viewer>

OK

Trace into...
Break Condition: Example: eax == 0 && ebx == 0
Log Text: Example: 0x{p:cp} {:cp}
Log Condition: Example: eax == 0 && ebx == 0
Command Text: Example: eax=4;StepOut
Command Condition: Example: eax == 0 && ebx == 0
Maximum trace count: 500000
Record trace Log File... OK Cancel

X64dbg Hint: History is available in every text field with the Up/Down arrows!

reg	hex	dec
rax	0x11a81e7c	296230524
rcx	0xffffffff7e8...	18446744071537485979
rdx	0xdeadcafe	3735931646
rbx	0x1	1
rsp	0x14fbf0	1375216
rbp	0x1f20361d2	8355275218
rsi	0x3ff	16383
rdi	0x14fe70	1375856
r8	0x140006994	5368736148
r9	0x19ea38551	6956483921
r10	0xfffffffffe23...	18446744073210304153
r11	0x1401da1cb	5370651083
r12	0x0	0
r13	0x0	0
r14	0x0	0
r15	0x0	0
rip	0x1401da1ed	5370651117
eflags	0x212	530
dr0	0x0	0
dr1	0x0	0
dr2	0x0	0
dr3	0x0	0
dr6	0x0	0
dr7	0x0	0
flags	C:0 P:0 Z:0 S...	

What's next ?

- Blog post
- Tool release
- Collaboration ?
- VMP 4.0 ... I am a bit scared ☺



Q&A



blog.talosintelligence.com



@talossecurity

thank you!



blog.talosintelligence.com



@talossecurity

Stay Connected and Up To Date

Spreading security news, updates, and other information to the public.

ThreatSource Newsletter
cs.co/TalosUpdate



Social Media Posts
X: [@talossecurity](https://twitter.com/talossecurity)



White papers, articles & other information
[talosintelligence.com](https://talisintelligence.com)



Talos Blog
blog.talisintelligence.com



Videos
cs.co/talostube



Beers with Talos & Talos Takes
[talosintelligence.com/podcasts](https://talisintelligence.com/podcasts)

Talos publicly shares security information through numerous channels to help make the internet safer for everyone.



TALOSINTELLIGENCE.COM