

Code similarity analysis with r2 and diaphora

Fernando Domínguez // r2con2021





About me

\$ whoami

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Objectives

- Port <u>diaphora</u> to radare & MySQL
 - What is diaphora?
 - "Diaphora [...] version 2.0 is the most advanced program diffing tool, working as an IDA plugin, available as of today (2019). It was released first during SyScan 2015 and is actively maintained."
 - > Initial port Presentation (r2con 2017)
- Why?
 - Part of a bigger project



The bigger project

- Identify malware based on code similarity
- Mostly focused to IoT malware
 - Most families are open source or derived from them
 Open-source makes signature-based detection tedious
 - Packing is not usual in these platforms





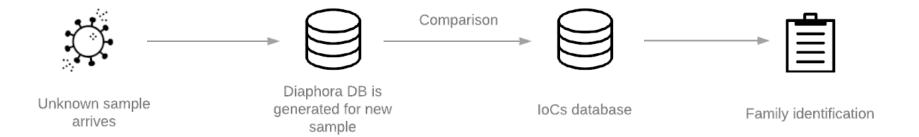




Analyst identifies IoCs (functions and strings)



IoCs are persisted to database





Objectives

- Why radare?
 - > It's OSS
 - It's free (and IDA is quite expensive)
 - Excellent support for all aimed architectures
- Why MySQL?
 - Enables to share the database across team members
 - > Better concurrent access
 - More robust DB engine to deploy a service over



Problems

- <u>Existing fork</u> was very old
 - > Python 2
 - Diaphora 1
 - > SQLite
 - Some features were incomplete
 - No decompiler
 - No Koret-Karamitas hash (CFG hash)
 - No info about switches, mnemonics_spp ...



First steps

- Port code to Python 3
- Port sqlite dialects to MySQL
- Trial and error until the crashes stop
- First "working" version took ~30m to analyze a Gafgyt sample



Optimization

- First approach:
 - Log executed commands and its execution time
 - Observations:
 - Several commands were repeated several times each
 - > Solution:
 - Implement a cache in r2pipe (by pancake)

```
r2 = r2pipe.open("/path/to/file")
r2.use_cache = True
```

- Cache is invalidated by hand (call r2.invalidate cache())
- Speedup increase of ~ 6x (depending on use case)
- Use r2pipe in native mode

```
r2pipe.open("ccall://path/to/bin")
```

- Speedup increase of ~ 4x
- Reduced execution time to 1010s with test sample



Optimization

pyinstrument

Forgot to create indexes for tables



RECORDED: 31/08/2021, 14:01:40 **DURATION:** 1,010 SECONDS

SAMPLES: 159440

CPU TIME: 151 SECONDS

Optimization

```
RECORDED: 31/08/2021, 14:56:00 DURATION: 143 SECONDS
pyinstrument
                                                                                                                       SAMPLES: 100430
                                                                                                                                                CPU TIME: 122 SECONDS
  143.170 <module>
                  141.044 export
                                 ▶ 44.016 get_func
                                 ▶ 16.788 diaphora decode
                                 ▶ 5.501 GetManyBytes
                                 ▶ 4.305 get_cmp_asm_lines
                                 ▶ 2.924 GetCommentEx
                                 ▶ 2.654 ItemSize
                                 ▶ 2.030 GetMnem
                          51.174 save_function
                             ▶ 32.534 get_instruction_id
                             ▶ 14.211 execute
                             ▶ 3.970 get_bb_id
```

get_func is the main bottleneck (afi). Attempt to substitute afi usages where possible



Optimization - r2ghidra

pyinstrument

```
77.051 <module>
                75.248 export
                    75.246 do export
                              ▶ 17.237 guess_type
                              ▶ 7.382 diaphora decode
                              ▶ 4.442 GetManyBytes
                              ▶ 2.515 get_cmp_asm_lines
                              ▶ 2.460 GetMnem
                              ▶ 2.379 GetCommentEx
                              ▶ 1.950 ItemSize
                                0.933 GetDisasm
                                    0.894 log exec r2 cmd
                                    0.850 log_exec_r2_cmdj
                                        0.805 cmdi
                        28.875 save_function
                          ▶ 16.849 get_instruction_id
                          ▶ 8.001 execute
                          ▶ 3.711 get_bb_id
                1.340 cmd
```

RECORDED: 04/09/2021, 12:58:44 DURATION: 77.1 SECONDS

CPU TIME: 64.7 SECONDS

SAMPLES: 55714

Optimization - pdc

pyinstrument

```
60.450 <module>
                58.776 export
                        30.691 inner
                            30.652 read function
                              ▶ 7.158 diaphora_decode
                              ▶ 4.403 GetManyBytes
                               ▶ 2.550 CodeRefsFrom
                              ▶ 2.464 guess_type
                              ▶ 2.400 GetMnem
                              ▶ 2.356 get cmp asm lines
                              ▶ 2.219 GetCommentEx
                               ▶ 0.908 GetDisasm
                              ▶ 0.907 block preds
                        27.998 save function
                          ▶ 16.460 get_instruction_id
                          ▶ 7.497 execute
                1.270 cmd
```

 RECORDED:
 04/09/2021, 14:14:23
 DURATION:
 60.5 SECONDS

 SAMPLES:
 54205
 CPU TIME:
 49 SECONDS

<string>:1



Further optimizations

- Use FLIRT signatures to detect library functions and skip them
 - > By default all .sig files on <diaphora_root>/signatures/flirt/ will be used
 - Matches are excluded from analysis
 - Used https://github.com/lridiumXOR/uclibc-sig for uclibc (frequent in IoT malware)



Usage

```
Step 1 - Install & configure radare / MySQL server
Step 3 - Install requirements (pip install -r requirements.txt)
$ ./diaphora r2.py -h
usage: diaphora r2.py [-h] [-f] [-o 0] file1 [file2]
positional arguments:
 file1 File to analyze
 file2 (Optional) File to diff against
optional arguments:
 -h, --help show this help message and exit
 -f Force DB override
 -o O Diff output file (HTML) - Default value: <db1name[0:10] > vs <db2name[0:10] > .html
Note: DB name is the SHA256 hash of the sample
```



Demo 1

Sakura samples (a Gafgyt variant)



132948bef56cc5b4d0e435f33e26632264d27ce7d61eba85cf3830fdf7cb8056: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, EABI4 version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, with debug info, not 136dbd3cfa947f286b972af1e389b2a44138c0013aa8060d20c247b6bcfdd88c: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, Intel 80386, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 17c62e0cf77dc4341809afceb1c8395d67ca75b2a2c020bddf39cca629222161: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, EABI4 version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, with debug info, not 19e0f329b5d8689b14d901b9b65c8d4fb28016360f45b3dfcec17e8340e6411e: ELF 32-bit MSB executable, Motorola m68k, 68020, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 4ccllffb368lebcedlf9d88e7lb70a87e6d4498abca823245cll8afead67b6a5: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, MIPS, MIPS-I version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 562b4c9a40f9c88ab84ac4ffd0deacd219595ab83ed23a458c5f492594a3a7ef: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, EABI4 version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, with debug info, not 594a6b2c1e9beac3ad5f84458b71c1b7ec05ee0239808c9a63bc901040e413a3: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 5fec87479a8d2fa7f0ed7c8f6ba76eeea9e86c45123173d2230149a55dcd760d: ELF 32-bit MSB executable, MIPS, MIPS-I version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 603d14671f97d12db879cc1c7cd6abfa278bf46431ac73aeb6b3a4c4c2b16b9f: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 6ce1739788b286cc539a9f24ef8c6488e11f42606189a7aa267742db90f7b18d: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, Intel 80386, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 770363f9fd334c3f3c4ba0e05a2a0d4701f56a629b09365dfe874b2a277f4416: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, version 1 (ARM), statically linked, with debug info, not stripped 7c8ba5f88b1c4689a64652f0b8f5e3922e83f9f73c7e165f3213de27c5fb4d05: ELF 32-bit MSB executable, PowerPC or cisco 4500, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 8090c3a1a930849df42f7f796d42e0211344e709a5ac15c2b4aca8ca41de2cd3: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, Intel 80386, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 94a279397b8c19ec7def169884a096d4f85ce0e21ff9df0be3ce264ef4565ea7: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped 96bb3e5209e083544ea6a78bc6fc4ebc456e135a786d747718d936af3b063298: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, EABI4 version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, with debug info, not a079dfd60b55a7d74dd32d49a984bea43665b8b225beceae5b272944889217f6: ELF 32-bit MSB executable, MIPS, MIPS-I version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped cef15aa60dc2c09fe117e37e07399f0ef89dca9f930ce13acle29f8cf63d9a31: ELF 32-bit MSB executable, Motorola m68k, 68020, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped

e984334bbddl179aadbde949f7c1b0fb02b6c18cb4a56d146150853b18adfa79: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, MIPS, MIPS-I version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped

File 1: [REDACTED]/samples/sakura/562b4c9a40f9c88ab84ac4ffd0deacd219595ab83ed23a458c5f492594a3a7ef
Type: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, EABI4 version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, with debug_info, not stripped
SHA256: 562b4c9a40f9c88ab84ac4ffd0deacd219595ab83ed23a458c5f492594a3a7ef

File 2: [REDACTED]/samples/sakura/770363f9fd334c3f3c4ba0e05a2a0d4701f56a629b09365dfe874b2a277f4416

Type: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, version 1 (ARM), statically linked, with debug_info, not stripped SHA256: 770363f9fd334c3f3c4ba0e05a2a0d4701f56a629b09365dfe874b2a277f4416

Found 40 matches across compared files

partial

partial

entry.fini0

sym.recvLine

0x0000810c

0x000092f4

Туре	Name	Address	BB1	Name 2	Address 2	BB2	Ratio	Description
best	symcall_via_r6	0x000080e8		sym.calldo_global_dtors_aux	0x00008128		1.000	Same cleaned pseudo-code
best	symcall_via_r5	0x000080e4		sym.call_frame_dummy	0x00008188		1.000	Same cleaned pseudo-code
best	symcall_via_r3	0x000080dc		sym.calldo_global_ctors_aux	0x0001686c		1.000	Same cleaned pseudo-code
best	sym.prints	0x000089a0	20	sym.prints	0x00008988	20	1.000	Same cleaned pseudo-code
partial	sym.getArch	0x0000c8d8		sym.getArch	0x0000ca4c		0.770	Same constants
partial	sym.init_rand	0x000081ec	4	sym.init_rand	0x000081cc	4	0.854	Same constants
partial	sym.getOurIP	0x00008540	21	sym.getOurIP	0x00008508	21	0.900	Same constants
partial	sym.getPortz	0x0000c8fc	10	sym.getPortz	0x0000ca68	10	0.912	Same constants
partial	sym.SendSTDHEX	0x0000a82c	6	sym.SendSTDHEX	0x0000a83c	6	0.904	Same MD Index and constants
partial	sym.SendSTD	0x0000b248	6	sym.SendSTD	0x0000b328	6	0.904	Same MD Index and constants
partial	sym.stdhexflood	0x0000b388	6	sym.stdhexflood	0x0000b47c	6	0.890	Same MD Index and constants
partial	sym.vseattack	0x0000abd4	41	sym.vseattack	0x0000ac2c	41	0.818	Same MD Index and constants
partial	sym.SendSTD_HEX	0x0000b4d8	6	sym.SendSTD_HEX	0x0000b5e0	6	0.902	Same KOKA hash and constants
partial	sym.printi	0x00008b28	18	sym.printi	0x00008b0c	18	0.876	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.processCmd	0x0000c9d0	205	sym.processCmd	0x0000cb34	205	0.888	Same MD Index and constants
partial	sym.getRandomIP	0x00008408		sym.getRandomIP	0x000083d8		0.800	Similar pseudo-code and names
partial	sym.print	0x00008d14	33	sym.print	0x00008cf4	33	0.848	Same rare KOKA hash
partial	sym.initConnection	0x0000e114	11	sym.initConnection	0x0000e274	11	0.910	Same rare KOKA hash
0.7167								

sym. do global ctors aux

sym.recvLine

0x00016838

0x00009298

0.948



Mnemonics small-primes-product

Same rare KOKA hash

partial

sym.processCmd

File 1: [REDACTED]/samples/sakura/136dbd3cfa947f286b972af1e389b2a44138c0013aa8060d20c247b6bcfdd88c
Type: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, Intel 80386, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped
SHA256: 136dbd3cfa947f286b972af1e389b2a44138c0013aa8060d20c247b6bcfdd88c

0x0804b686

205

sym.processCmd

0x0000c9d0

205

Same rare constant

File 2: [REDACTED]/samples/sakura/17c62e0cf77dc4341809afceblc8395d67ca75b2a2c020bddf39cca629222161

Type: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, EABI4 version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, with debug_info, not stripped SHA256: 17c62e0cf77dc4341809afceblc8395d67ca75b2a2c020bddf39cca629222161

Found 18 matches across compared files

Туре	Name	Address	BB1	Name 2	Address 2	BB2	Ratio	Description
partial	sym.trim	0x08048579	11	sym.trim	0x000087fc	11	0.762	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.initConnection	0x0804ce3b	11	sym.initConnection	0x0000e114	11	0.762	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.printi	0x08048740	18	sym.printi	0x00008b28	18	0.766	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.prints	0x08048666	20	sym.prints	0x000089a0	20	0.758	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.getOurIP	0x08048356	21	sym.getOurIP	0x00008540	21	0.738	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.rtcp	0x0804a756	21	sym.rtcp	0x0000b63c	21	0.726	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.SendSTD	0x0804a3d1	6	sym.SendSTD	0x0000b248	6	0.748	Same MD Index and constants
partial	sym.SendUDP	0x08049362	24	sym.SendUDP	0x00009d10	24	0.736	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.stdhexflood	0x0804a4f3	6	sym.stdhexflood	0x0000b388	6	0.744	Same MD Index and constants
partial	sym.print	0x0804887f	33	sym.print	0x00008d14	33	0.760	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.atcp	0x0804af39	36	sym.atcp	0x0000c0c8	36	0.730	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.vseattack	0x08049efa	41	sym.vseattack	0x0000abd4	41	0.740	Same rare constant
partial	sym.SendSTDHEX	0x08049c33	6	sym.SendSTDHEX	0x0000a82c	6	0.742	Same rare constant
partial	sym.getPortz	0x0804b5ec	10	sym.getPortz	0x0000c8fc	10	0.822	Same rare constant
partial	sym.ftcp	0x080496b4	36	sym.ftcp	0x0000a16c	36	0.732	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.audp	0x0804aade	37	sym.audp	0x0000bb34	37	0.744	Same rare MD Index
partial	main	0x0804cf89	54	main	0x0000e2a4	54	0.728	Same rare MD Index

SAT&T Business

File 1: /Users/fdd/dev/identikit/samples/sakura/594a6b2cle9beac3ad5f84458b71clb7ec05ee0239808c9a63bc901040e413a3
Type: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, not stripped
SHA256: 594a6b2cle9beac3ad5f84458b71clb7ec05ee0239808c9a63bc901040e413a3

File 2: /Users/fdd/dev/identikit/samples/yakuza/91392f5dbbfd4ad142956983208a484b91ac5e84c4f9a9fcb530a9b085644c93
Type: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, ARM, version 1 (ARM), statically linked, with debug_info, not stripped
SHA256: 91392f5dbbfd4ad142956983208a484b91ac5e84c4f9a9fcb530a9b085644c93

Found 11 matches across compared files

Туре	Name	Address	BB1	Name 2	Address 2	BB2	Ratio	Description
partial	sym.initConnection	0x00405444	11	sym.initConnection	0x0000df08	11	0.752	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.SendSTD	0x004027ae	6	sym.SendSTD	0x0000c254	6	0.736	Same MD Index and constants
partial	sym.trim	0x00400583	11	sym.trim	0x00008838	11	0.750	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.connectTimeout	0x0040118f	14	sym.connectTimeout	0x000097f8	14	0.734	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.printi	0x0040077a	18	sym.printi	0x00008b58	18	0.760	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.recvLine	0x00400f55	19	sym.recvLine	0x00009524	19	0.732	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.prints	0x0040069b	20	sym.prints	0x000089d4	20	0.750	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.SendUDP	0x0040165f	24	sym.SendUDP	0x0000c3a8	24	0.714	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.atcp	0x00403315	36	sym.SendTCP	0x0000c874	36	0.728	Same rare MD Index
partial	sym.init_rand	0x004001c0	4	sym.makeRandomStr	0x0000949c	4	0.770	Call address sequence
unreliable	sym.processCmd	0x00403ac4	203	sym.processCmd	0x0000d260	113	0.380	Same rare constant

Demo 2

Uptycs claims Mirai code is found in Gafgyt samples

https://www.uptycs.com/blog/mirai-code-re-use-in-gafgyt

1b3bb39a3d1eea8923ceb86528c8c38ecf9398da1bdf8b154e6b4d0d8798be49



if (!strcmp (pch,

"syn")) { tcph->syn = 1;

emo

Procedure

- 1 Download & compile source code for Mirai and Gafgyt
- 2 Add "most prominent" functions in both families as IoCs
- 3 Run r2diaphora comparing blog sample with IoC DB



```
description: Same rare MD Index
description: Same rare MD Index
description: Same rare constant
```

```
description: Same rare constant
```



If you search for the SendHTTP function prototype on Google -> https://ideone.com/fork/ADE7RJ



Future plans

- Keep optimizing performance
- Implement pseudocode primes hash
- Improve quality of matches
- Create a pip package



Links

Code: https://github.com/FernandoDoming/diaphora





We are hiring!

```
if questions or feedback:
    answer()
else:
    farewell()
```

