Introductory malware RE with radare

sha0 // r2con2024
@

Introduction

What Am I Doing Here?

- What is r2?
- How to use the shell
- Analyzing
- Debugging
- Patching
- Scripting

Why Radare2?

- It’s free and opensource
- Runs everywhere (Windows, Mac, Linux, QNX, iOS, ..)
- Easy to script and extend with plugins
- Embeddable
- Grows fast
- Supports tons of file-formats
- Handles gazillions of architectures
- Easy to hack
- Commandline cowboy-friendly
- Great community and even better leader
- Collaborative

Why I use Radare2?

- Unique features
- Reproduce a situation
- Multiple samples
- Patches
- Advanced surgery
- Quick automation (bash + r2 -c, @@=`iz~1024[1]`, r2pipe)
- Defeating anti-attachs
- Recognizing functions even with wiped PE structures
- Document the work with text instead of screenshots
- r2pm ecosystem
- Export bytes to c, python, etc.

What's Radare2?

- Reverse Engineering
  - Analyze Code/Data/..
  - Understanding Programs
- Low Level Debugging
  - Similar to olly
  - Multi-platform, and support for remote
- Forensics
  - File Systems
  - Memory Dumps
- Assembler/Disassembler
  - Several architectures
  - Multiplatform

Tools

Radare2 is composed by some core libraries and a set of tools that use those libraries and plugins.

radare2	r2pm	rarun2	ragg2
rabin2	radiff2	rax2	rahash2
rasm2	rafind2	r2agent	rasign2

History

Radare was born in 2006 as a forensic tool for performing manual and interactive carving to recover some files from disk or ram.

It grew quickly adding support for disassembler, debugger, code analyzer, scripting, …

And then I decided to completely rewrite it to fix the maintenance and monolithic design problems.

But First.. A Poll!

(who are you?)

Which is your main OS?

Do you know assembly?

Do you program? c? python?

How’s your UNIX foo?

Did you used r2 before?

Installation

(always use git)

PROTIP: Installing radare2 is recommended method to use it.

Installing from Git

```
$ git clone https://github.com/radareorg/radare2.git
$ cd radare2
$ sys/install.sh
    or
$ sys/user.sh
```

Package Management

```
$ r2pm update

$ r2pm -s yara

$ r2pm -i yara

$ r2pm -i r2ghidra

$ r2pm -i r2ghidra-sleigh
```

Package Management

Some of the most interesting packages:

- Yara (2 / 3)
- RetDec decompiler (@nighterman)
- Unicorn - code emulator
- Native Python bindings
- Duktape (Embedded javascript)
- Radeco decompiler (@sushant94)
- Baleful (SkUaTeR)
- r2pipe apis for NodeJS, Python and Ruby
- Vala/Vapi/Valabind/Swig/Bokken/...

Loading a binary

```
r2 -n sample.bin
r2 sample.bin
```

Parse structure

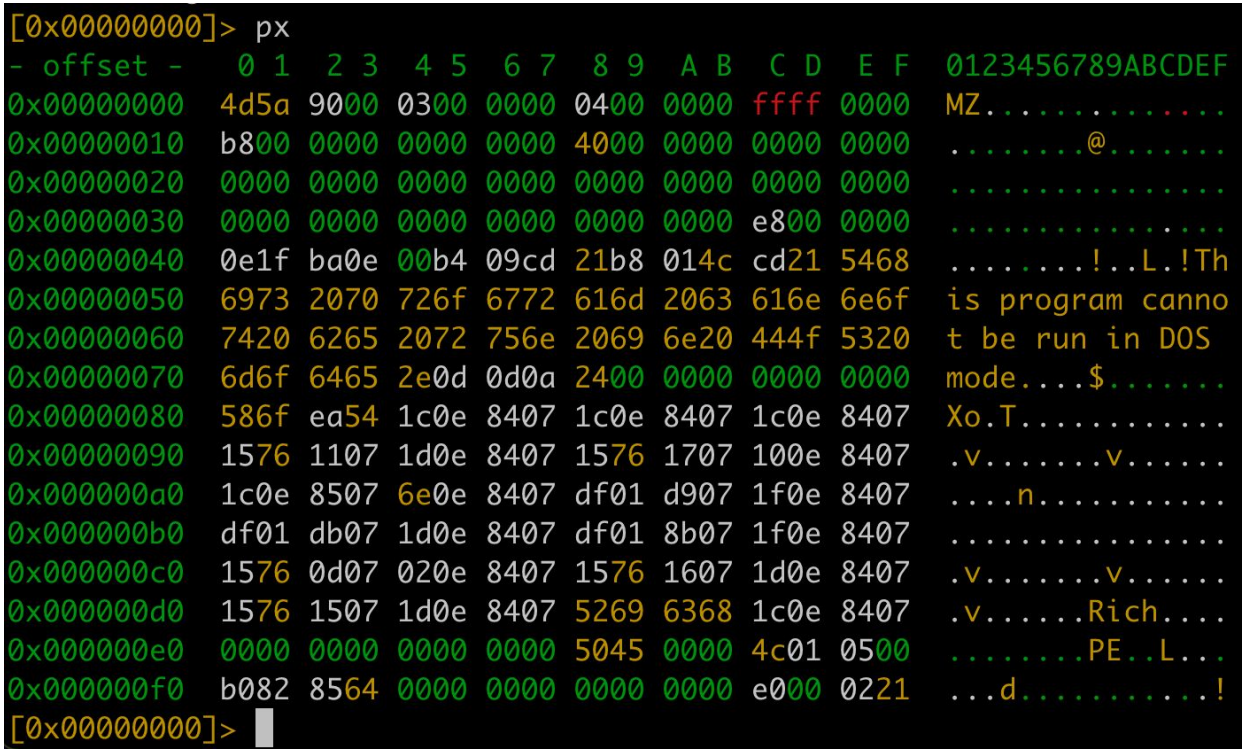
VS

Don’t parse.

-n Load the binary as is from disk.

Otherwise would parse the headers as the OS loader does. So will have virtual addresses, sections, etc.

-n mode


[0x00000000]> px
- offset - 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F 0123456789ABCDEF
0x00000000 4d5a 9000 0300 0000 0400 0000 ffff 0000 MZ..............
0x00000010 b800 0000 0000 0000 4000 0000 0000 0000 ....@.......
0x00000020 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 ....
0x00000030 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 e800 0000 ....
0x00000040 0e1f ba0e 00b4 09cd 21b8 014c cd21 5468 ....!..L.!Th
0x00000050 6973 2070 726f 6772 616d 2063 616e 6e6f is program canno
0x00000060 7420 6265 2072 756e 2069 6e20 444f 5320 t be run in DOS
0x00000070 6d6f 6465 2e0d 0d0a 2400 0000 0000 0000 mode....$.......
0x00000080 586f ea54 1c0e 8407 1c0e 8407 1c0e 8407 Xo.T............
0x00000090 1576 1107 1d0e 8407 1576 1707 100e 8407 .v.......v......
0x000000a0 1c0e 8507 6e0e 8407 df01 d907 1f0e 8407 ....n...........
0x000000b0 df01 db07 1d0e 8407 df01 8b07 1f0e 8407 ....
0x000000c0 1576 0d07 020e 8407 1576 1607 1d0e 8407 .v.......v......
0x000000d0 1576 1507 1d0e 8407 5269 6368 1c0e 8407 .v......Rich....
0x000000e0 0000 0000 0000 0000 5045 0000 4c01 0500 ........PE..L...
0x000000f0 b082 8564 0000 0000 0000 0000 e000 0221 ...d...........!
[0x00000000]>

Patch binary

Let’s write two nop (0x90) at offset 0xe7:

- r2 -n -w sample.bin
- s 0xe7
- wx 9090

- s 0
- px

Basic bash automations

What if we want to patch 200 samples?

```
for i in *.bin
do
    r2 -n -w -q -c ‘s 0xe7; wx 9090’ $i
done
```

Loading Executable

- r2 sample.bin
- iS # sections
- iE # exports
- ii # imports
- is # symbols
- iz # strings
- it # hash
- il # linked libs
- i?
- iz?

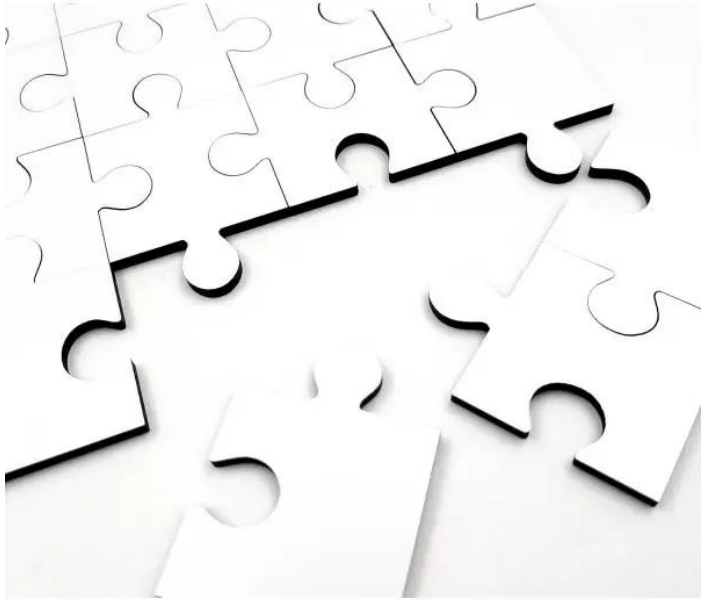
```
[0x00402050]> iS
[Sections]

nth paddr         size vaddr        vsize perm type name
_____________________________________________________
0   0x00000400  0x1c00 0x00401000  0x2000 -r-x ---- .text
1   0x00002000  0xc200 0x00403000  0xd000 -r-- ---- .rdata
2   0x0000e200  0x1600 0x00410000  0x2000 -rw- ---- .data
3   0x0000f800   0xa00 0x00412000  0x1000 -r-- ---- .rsrc

[0x00402050]>
```

Analyzing Executable

- aaaa
- afl
- afl ~main
- afl ~entry
- s entry0
- pdf
- pdg

```
[0x00402050]> afl
0x00402050   17   2527 entry0
0x00401e70    1    117 fcn.00401e70
0x00401b40    1    802 fcn.00401b40
0x00401a70    6    164 fcn.00401a70
0x00401f00   12    310 fcn.00401f00
0x00401ef0    1     11 fcn.00401ef0
0x00401b20    1     23 fcn.00401b20
0x004010a0    6     76 fcn.004010a0
0x00401a20    1     74 fcn.00401a20
0x00401000    1    156 fcn.00401000
0x00402a40    6     59 fcn.00402a40
0x004019a0    7    114 fcn.004019a0
0x004010f0    1   2212 fcn.004010f0
0x00402040    1      5 fcn.00402040
0x00402a80    1     20 fcn.00402a80
[0x00402050]>
```

Static analysis



How to start?

- `iz    # strings`
- `ii    # imports`

- `entry / main    # starting from the beginning`

Locating communications

- `ii ~connect              # ws2_32`
- `ii ~recv                 # ws2_32`
- `ii ~inet_addr            # ws2_32`
- `ii ~gethostbyname        # ws2_32`
- `ii ~InternetConnect      # wininet`
- `ii ~InternetReadFile# wininet`
- `ii ~HttpSendRequest      # wininet`
- `Ii ~WinHttpConnect       # winhttp`

Is it packed?

- iS entropy
- axt @@ str*
- axt @@ sub*
- ii
- afl |wc -l

```
[0x140001000]> iS entropy
[Sections]

nth paddr          size vaddr          vsize perm entropy    type name
―――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――――
0   0x00000400   0x5c00 0x140001000   0x6000 -r-x 5.47130092 ---- .code
1   0x00006000  0x10400 0x140007000  0x11000 -r-x 6.33395190 ---- .text
2   0x00016400   0x4c00 0x140018000   0x5000 -r-- 6.66207332 ---- .rdata
3   0x0001b000   0x1200 0x14001d000   0x2000 -r-- 4.88380910 ---- .pdata
4   0x0001c200   0x1600 0x14001f000   0x3000 -rw- 4.30052420 ---- .data
5   0x0001d800    0x600 0x140022000   0x1000 -r-- 5.83108534 ---- .rsrc

[0x140001000]>
```

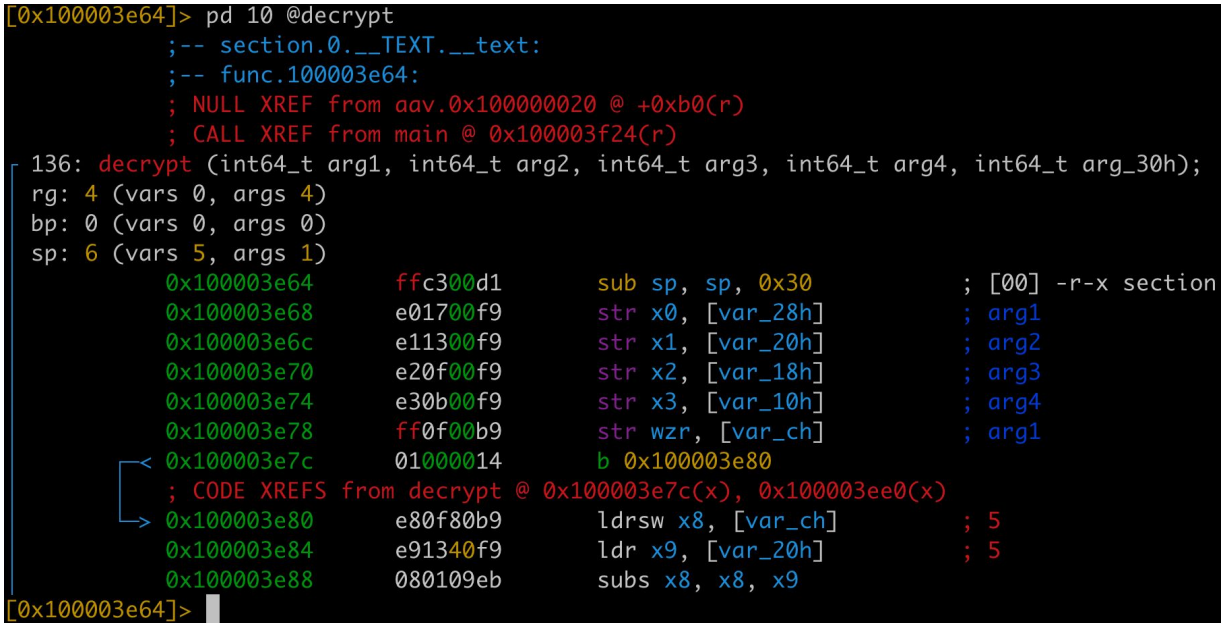
XRefs everything

- axt 0x100003f9c
- axt @@ str*
- axt @@=`afll~crypt[0]`

```
[0x100003f44]> iz
[Strings]
nth paddr      vaddr       len size section                type  string
-------------------------------------------------------------------------
0   0x00003f9c 0x100003f9c 11  12   2.__TEXT.__cstring ascii /etc/passwd
[0x100003f44]> axt 0x100003f9c
(nofunc) 0x100000170 [NULL:r--] invalid
main 0x100003f54 [STRN:-w-] add x8, x8, str._etc_passwd
[0x100003f44]>
```

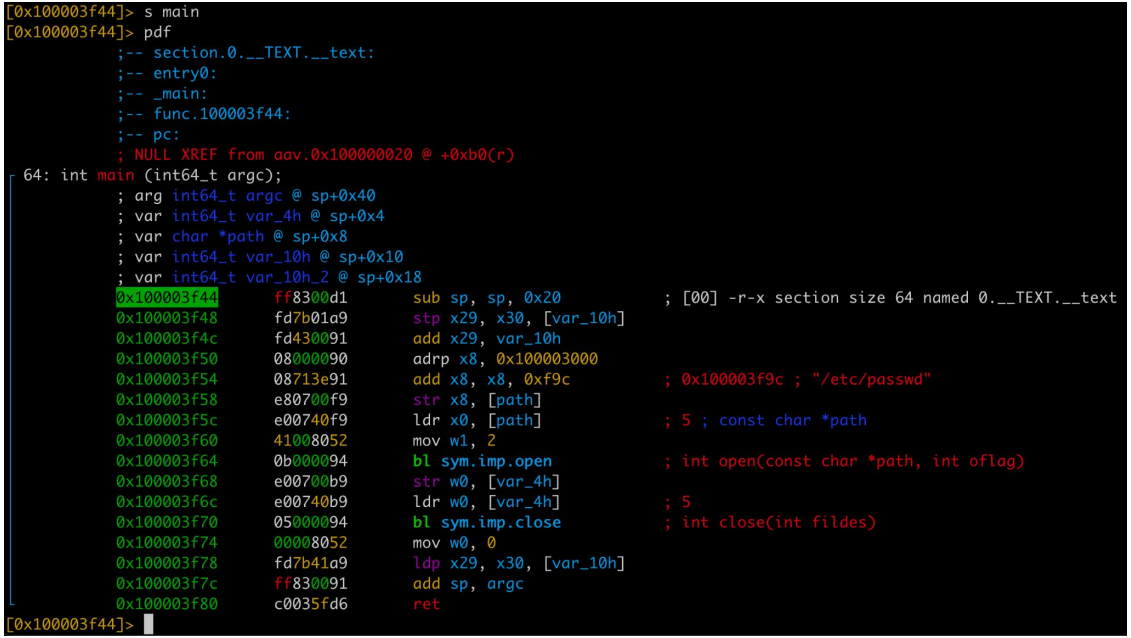
Renaming everything

- aaaa
- afn decrypt 0x100003e64



Viewing functions

- pdf
- pdc
- pdg
- pd 10 @somefunc
- axg



Visual mode

- V # to enter
- q # to quit
- pagUp / pagDown
- p # change mode
- G # seek to end
- g # seek to offset

Modes: hex, asm, asm + regs + mem, entropy, strings

And more …

Specifying architecture

```
-a <arch>    # specify architecture (RAsm Plugin name)

-b <bits>    # specify 8, 16, 32, 64 register size in bits
```

- e arch.bits=32
- e asm.bits=32
- e anal.arch=arm
- e arch.endian=little
- e ~arch

Printing data

- `px` `# print hexa bytes`
- `pxw` `# print list of 32bits`
- `pxq` `# print list of 64bits`
- `ps` `# print string`
- `psw` `# print wide string`
- `p?`
- `ps?`
- `px?`

Export bytes to c array, python array, etc.

- `pc` # c array
- `pcp` # python array
- `pc?` # view other formats

```
[0x100003f44]> pc 30
#define _BUFFER_SIZE 30
const uint8_t buffer[_BUFFER_SIZE] = {
  0xff, 0x83, 0x00, 0xd1, 0xfd, 0x7b, 0x01, 0xa9, 0xfd, 0x43,
  0x00, 0x91, 0x08, 0x00, 0x00, 0x90, 0x08, 0x71, 0x3e, 0x91,
  0xe8, 0x07, 0x00, 0xf9, 0xe0, 0x07, 0x40, 0xf9, 0x41, 0x00
};
[0x100003f44]>
```

Static decryption

- Locate decryption function
- Locate ciphertext
- Locate key
- export bytes to python

- Perform static decryption.

Custom crypto

```c
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void) {
    char msg[] = "\x29\x36\x28\x2a\x2e\x7f\x64\x2e\x2e\x24\x64\x27\x33\x36\x64\x3f\x2e\x26\x7b";
    char *key = "ASDF";

    char *p = msg;
    int len = 0;
    while (*p) {
        *p = *p ^ key[len++ % 4];
        p++;
    }

    printf("%s\n", msg);
}
```

Standard crypto

Symetric

- AES
- DES
- 3DES
- Serpent
- Blowfish
- RC4

Standard crypto

Asymetric

- RSA
- DSA
- ECC
- ElGamal
- Diffie-Hellman

Structure RE

```
[0x00000000]> px
- offset -   0 1  2 3  4 5  6 7  8 9  A B  C D  E F  0123456789ABCDEF
0x00000000  4a6f 686e 2044 6f65 0000 0000 0000 0000  John Doe........
0x00000010  0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000  ................
0x00000020  0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000  ................
0x00000030  0000 0000 1e00 0000 0000 e03f ffff ffff  ...........?....
```

```
typedef struct _Person {
    char name[50];
    int age;
    float height;
} Person;
```

Basic structure reversing

- `0xff          # 1 byte 2 nibble`
- `0xffff        # 16bits or word`
- `0x11223344# 32bits or dword`
- `0x1122334411223344 # 64bits or qword`

Basic structure reversing

- Magic number
- little endian dword Size
- Message
- eof

```
[0x00000000]> px
- offset -   0 1  2 3  4 5  6 7  8 9  A B  C D  E F  0123456789ABCDEF
0x00000000  1337 1400 0000 0102 0304 0506 0708 0910  .7..............
0x00000010  0b0c 0d0e 0f10 1112 1314 0000 0000 ffff  ................
```

It depends on the point of view

There is only code and data, and code is data.

- `AAAA       # ascii`
- `0x41414141 # hex dword`
- `1094795585 # decimal`
- `inc eax    #  x86 disasm`
- `0b10000010100000101000001010000001 # what it’s really`

Loading structures

Create or use a existing .h

- !cat person.h
- to person.h # load structure
- ts # view loaded structures
- tls # display the structure
- tp

```
[0x00000000]> tls
(Person)
   name : 0x00000000 = "John Doe"
    age : 0x00000032 = 0x0000001e
 height : 0x00000036 = 1.75
[0x00000000]>
```

Structures

pf - define function signatures

Can load include files with the t command.

010 templates can be loaded using 010 python script.

Load the bin with r2 -nn to load the struct/headers definitions of the target bin file.

Use pxa to visualize them in colorized hexdump.

Shellcode emulation

With r2 esil

Init esil

- aeim
- aei
- aeir rax=0

Stepping:

- aes

Visual emulation:

- V + p + p

Yara patterns

One of those in .radare2rc:

- (yara x; !yara -msgwr ~/yaras/all.yar `o.`)
- (yara x; !yara -$0w ~/yaras/all.yar `o.`)

From r2:

- .(yara m)

Zignatures

```
zq                # View zignatures

zaf addr name     # create zignature

zos filename      # save zignatures

zo filename       # load zignatures

z.                # scan from current offset

zi                # matches information
```

Zignatures

```
[0x100003e64]> zi
0x100003e64 136 sign.bytes_func.xor_decrypt_0
0x100003e64 136 sign.bbhash.xor_decrypt_1
0x100003e64 136 sign.types.xor_decrypt_2
[0x100003e64]> afl
0x100003eec    1    128 main
0x100003e64    6    136 sym.func.100003e64
0x100003f78    1     12 sym.imp.open
0x100003f84    1     12 sym.imp.write
0x100003f6c    1     12 sym.imp.close
[0x100003e64]>
```

Save project

- `Ps projectname  # save project`
- `P projectname  # load project`

Projects folder:

- `~/.local/share/radare2/projects/`

rasm2

Disassembling and assembling code can be done with pa/pad or using the rasm2 commandline tool.

```
$ rasm2 -a x86 -b 32 nop

$ rasm2 -a x86 -b 64 nop
```

Binary Info

(parsing fileformats)

RBin detects file type and parses the internal structures to provide symbolic and other information.

RBin Information

```
$ rabin2 -s

> is

> fs symbols;f
```

Symbols	Relocs	Classes	Entrypoints
Imports	Strings	Demangling	Exports
Sections	Libraries	SourceLines	ExtraInfo

Scripting

(automation)

The art of automating actions in r2 using your favourite programming language (or not).

Using R2Pipe For Automation

R2 provides a very basic interface to use it based on the cmd() api call which accepts a string with the command and returns the output string.

```
$ pip install r2pipe

r2 = r2pipe.open(‘sample.bin’)

data = r2.cmd(‘pxj’)
```

Analyzing Code

(and graphing)

Analyzing is the “art” of understanding the purpose of a sequence of instructions.

Analyzing From The Metal

R2 provides tools for analyzing code at different levels.

ae - emulates the instruction (microinstructions)

ao - provides information about the current opcode

afb - analyze the basic blocks

af - analyzes the function (or a2f)

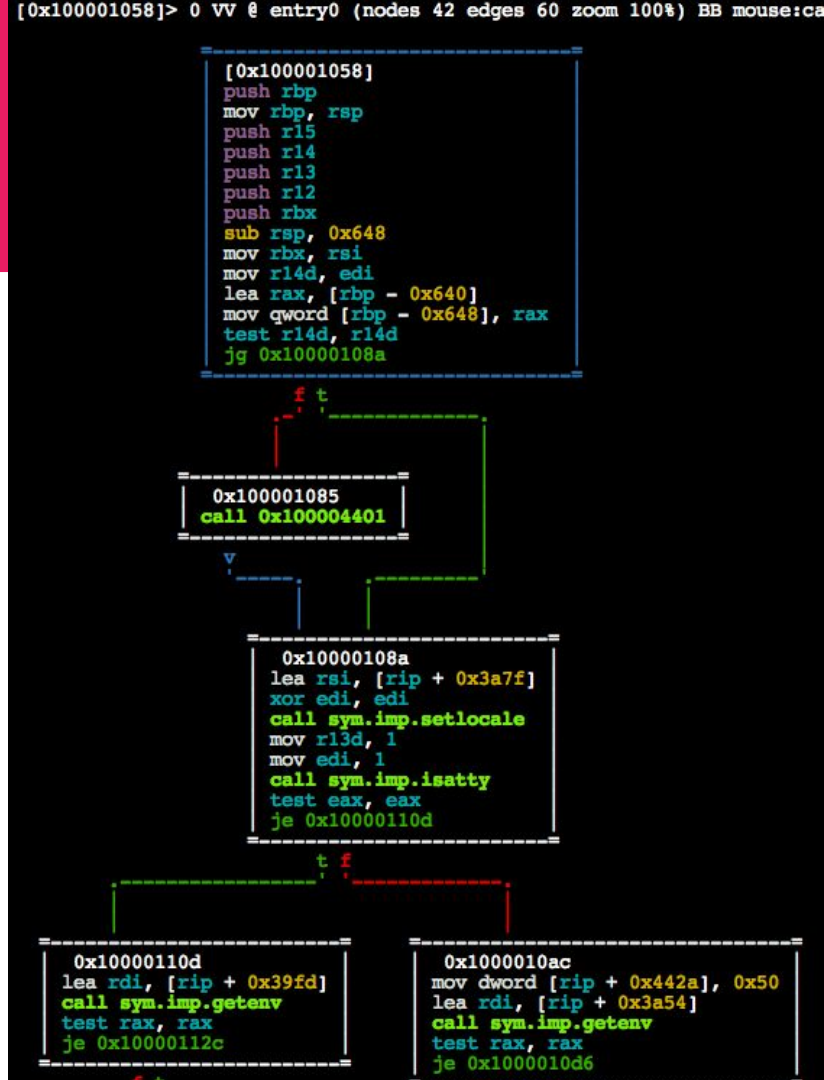
ax - code/data references/calls

Graphing Code

Functions can be rendered as an ascii-art graph using the ‘ag’.

Enter visual mode using the V key

Then press V again to get the graph view.



BinDiffing

(and graphing)

Finding differences
between two binaries
looking for bugfixes.

Debugging

(and emulation)

R2 supports native debugger for Linux, BSD, XNU and Windows.

But there’s more!

First Steps

R2 is a low level debugger (not a source debugger).

It provides much more low level information than source debuggers use to provide. Doesn’t competes with GDB/LLDB.

Basic Actions for a debugger are:

ds	step	db	breakpoint	dr	show regs
dso	step over	dcu	continue-until	dx	code-inject
dc	continue	dm	memory-maps	dd	file-desc

Remote Debugging

R2 supports WINDBG, GDB and native remote protocols. But, as long as r2 runs everywhere it is recommended to use it in place.

ESIL

ESIL stands for Evaluable Strings Intermediate Language.

A forth-like language (stack based language) using comma as a tokenizer and used for emulating and analyzing code.

Widely used for decrypting malware routines and analyzing shellcodes and other payloads.

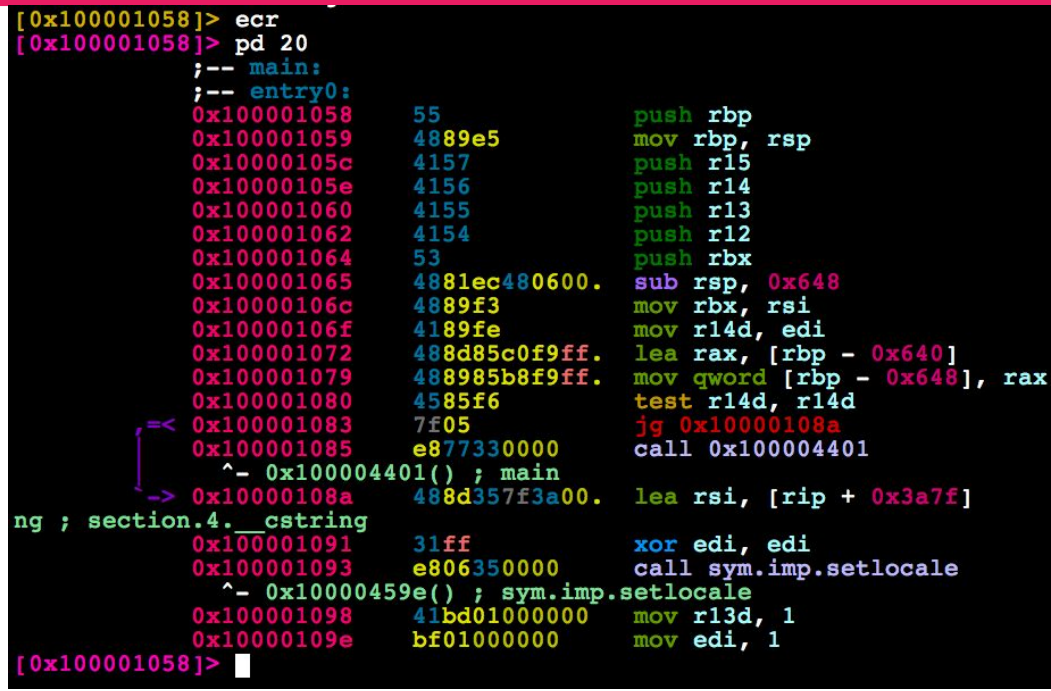
```
mov eax, 33        =>        33,eax,=
```

User Interface

- WebUI
- Bokken
- Iaito
- Visual Mode
- Visual Panels
- Commandline
- R2Pipe
- Colors!

Colors!

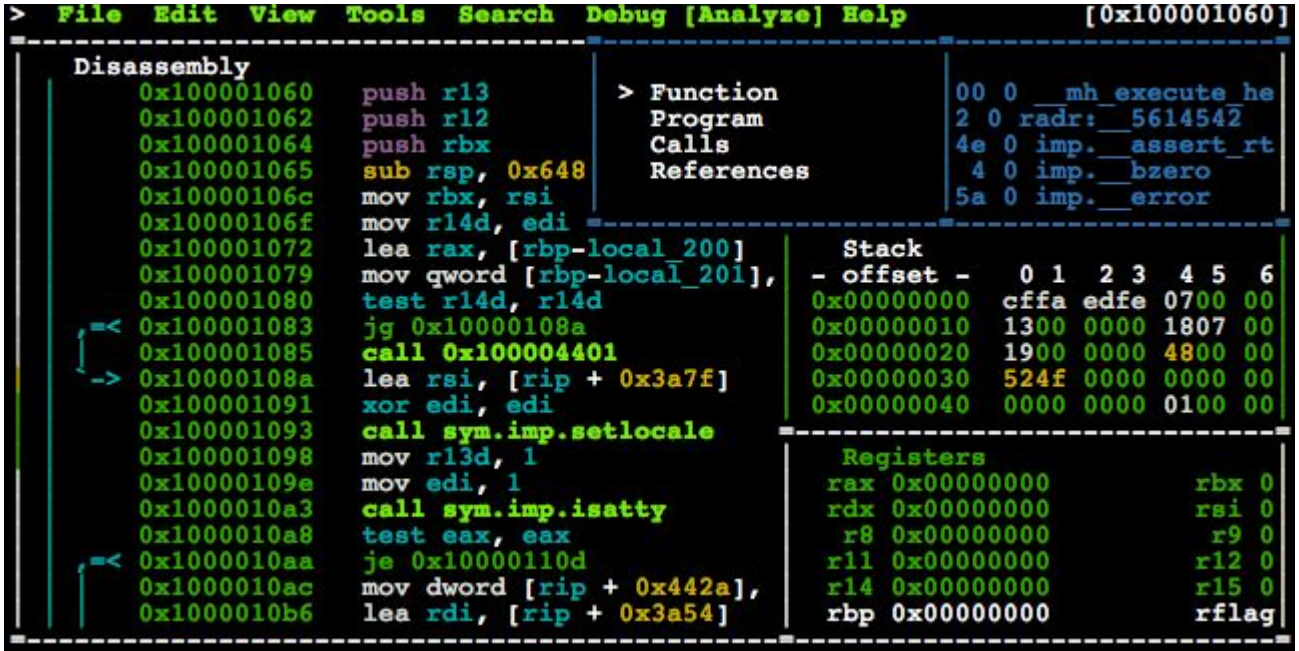
```
> e scr.color=true
> e scr.rgb=true
> e scr.truecolor=true
> e scr.utf8=true
```




```
> ecr     # Random colors
> eco X   # Select color palette
```

Visual Panels

Press ‘!’ in the Visual mode

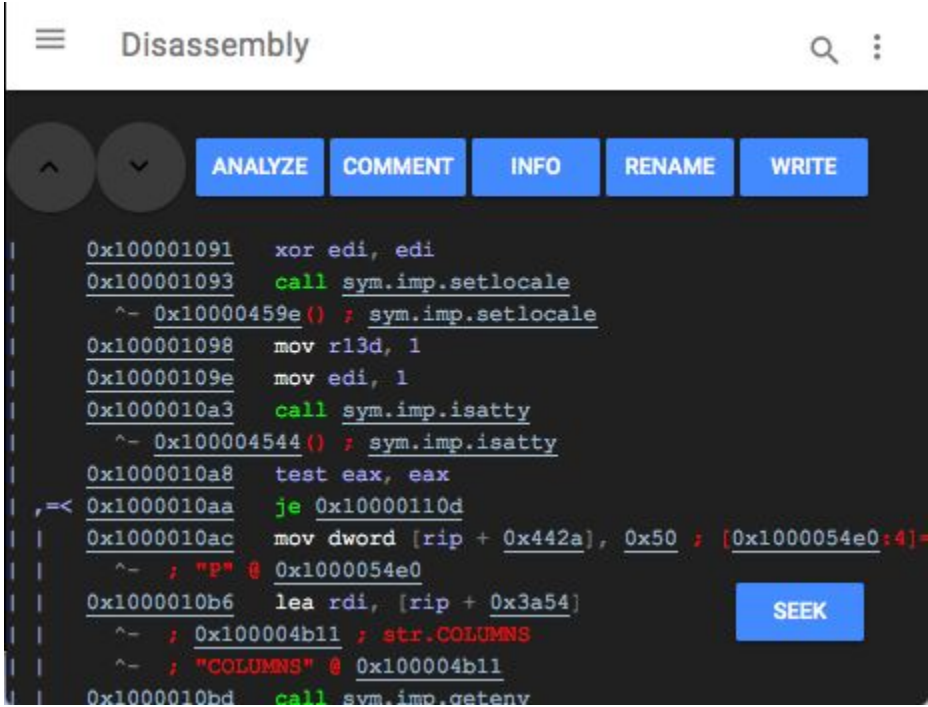


Web User Interface

Start the webserver with =h

Launch the browser with =H

See /m /p /t and /enyo



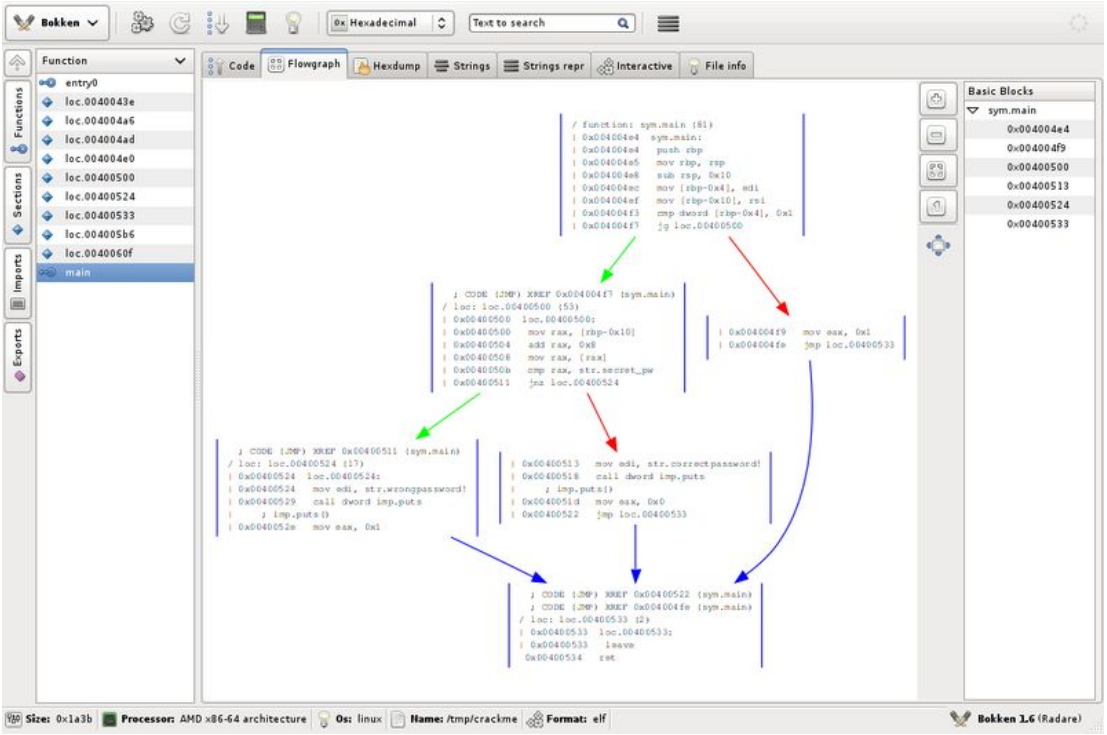
Bokken

Native Python/Gtk GUI

Binaries for Windows

Runs on OSX/Linux too

Author: Hugo Teso



Questions?

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Thanks For Watching!