Anti-Reversing Techniques

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Agenda

- What is meant by Anti-Reversing Techniques?
- Techniques Discussed
- Premise of the binary considered
- Explanation and Demo of the techniques
- Analysis of a Key Generator and Impact of Code Obfuscation
- Q&A

What is meant by Anti-Reversing Techniques?

- Anti-reversing techniques are techniques deployed which are meant to make the reverse engineering process difficult for a hacker or any malicious user.
- The main goal of various anti-reverse engineering techniques is simply to complicate the process of reversing as much as possible.
- An attacker can use the disassembly of a binary in order to get an insight of the logic of the code as well as reverse engineer their way into getting crucial information.
- In this project, if we try to understand some anti-reversing techniques in order to make our binaries difficult to crack and make as less exploitable as possible.

Techniques Discussed

- Avoiding the "-g" flag while compiling
- Use of -S flag to strip away the symbol table
- Use of "fvisibility = hidden"
- Use of LD_PRELOAD
- Changes to elf header
- Use of stack strings
- XOR stack strings

Premise Of The Binary Considered

- The project centers around the obfuscation of a bind shell.
- A Bind shell is a type of shell in which the target machine opens up a communication port or a listener on the victim machine and waits for an incoming connection.
- The attacker then connects to the victim machine's listener which then leads to code or command execution on the server.
- The bind shell requires a password to access the shell.
- In this project, we explore ways to hide as well as recover the shell's password in an iterative manner.
- We are using CMake to take care of the compilation and the build process. After every build, the process generates a new 32-bit password required to access the shell.
- If an attacker attempts to connect to the bind shell through netcat for example, and is able to enter the correct password, the attacker can gain the shell access to the victim's system.

Password Generated after Running the Build Process

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build$ cmake ..
-- Configuring done
-- Generating done
-- Build files have been written to: /home/sukriti/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build$ make
Scanning dependencies of target Technique1
[ 50%] Building C object CMakeFiles/Technique1.dir/tech1.c.o
[100%] Linking C executable Technique1
The bind shell password is: UllTjHhGoTmT81YYWmadYRBZHDVXt573
[100%] Built target Technique1
```

The -g Flag

- When we use the "-g" flag while compiling a C code with gcc, the -g option instructs the compiler to include debugging information in the binary.
- This generated several section headers with debugging information such as .debug_info.
- The contents of .debug_info can be viewed by using the "-dwarf=info" flag with objdump.
- Useful information from the point of view of a debugger is contained in the .debug_info section such as full path of the source file, the full path of the compilation directory and even exact line numbers where certain variables are declared.

Steps to exploit the presence of the -g flag

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1t1pdsCC-gF1HRbFmMwlpFLeSgsKGDALD

Steps to exploit the presence of the -g flag

- Compile the C file with the "-g" flag which will now include the debugging information and we can see the .debug_info section in the binary's section headers.
- By using objdump to view .debug_info, we are able to find out that there is a certain variable called o_password(might be the actual password) which is stored at the virtual address of 0x1000.
- If convert the virtual address into a file offset, we can extract the contents of o_password using hexdump. In order to achieve this, we find the program header the address falls in.
- The virtual address for o_password falls in the range for the first LOAD segment which covers 0x000000 to 0x01190. The first LOAD segment starts at the file offset of 0.
- Hence we are able to use hexdump to find the bind shell's password at 0x1000.
- Alternatively, now that we know about the o_password variable from examining the objdump, we can even use gdb to print the values of the variable.

Step 1. Running readelf -S ./Techinique1 to display section headers showing debug sections

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK: ~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique... 🥮 🗊 😵
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
  [24] .bss
                          NOBITS
                                            0000000000202020
                                                               00002010
       00000000000000010
                          00000000000000000
                                                                   32
  [25] .comment
                          PROGBITS
                                                               00002010
       000000000000002a 0000000000000001
                                             MS
  [26] .debug aranges
                          PROGBITS
                                            000000000000000000
                                                               0000203a
       00000000000000030
                          00000000000000000
  [27] .debua info
                          PROGBITS
                                                               0000206a
       000000000000073a 0000000000000000
  [28] .debug abbrev
                                            00000000000000000
                                                               000027a4
                          PROGBITS
       0000000000000164
                          00000000000000000
  [29] .debug line
                          PROGBITS
                                            00000000000000000
                                                               00002908
       00000000000001c2 0000000000000000
  [30] .debug str
                          PROGBITS
                                            00000000000000000
                                                               00002aca
       000000000000065c 000000000000001
                                             MS
  [31] .symtab
                          SYMTAB
                                            00000000000000000
                                                               00003128
       00000000000007f8 0000000000000018
                                                            51
                                                                   8
  [32] .strtab
                          STRTAB
                                            00000000000000000
                                                               00003920
       0000000000000348
                          00000000000000000
                                            00000000000000000
                                                               00003c68
  [33] .shstrtab
                          STRTAB
       000000000000013e 0000000000000000
                                                      0
                                                             0
Key to Flags:
  W (write), A (alloc), X (execute), M (merge), S (strings), I (info),
  L (link order), O (extra OS processing required), G (group), T (TLS),
  C (compressed). x (unknown). o (OS specific). E (exclude).
```

Step 2. Using objdump --dwarf=info on the binary to find the virtual address of o_password

```
<1><5e3>: Abbrev Number: 25 (DW TAG variable)
   <5e4>
          DW AT name
                           : (indirect string, offset: 0x27a): o password
          DW AT decl file
   <5e8>
          DW AT decl line
   <5e9>
                          : 11
                          : <0x5de>
   <5ea>
         DW AT type
          DW AT location : 9 byte block: 3 0 10 0 0 0 0 0
                                                             (DW OP addr: 1000)
   <5ee>
<1><5f8>: Abbrey Number: 26 (DW TAG subprogram)
```

Step 3 Find the segment in which the virtual address resides to determine the physical address of o_password

```
Program Headers:
             Offset.
                            VirtAddr
                                            PhysAddr
 Type
             FileSiz
                            MemSiz
                                            Flags Align
 PHDR
             0x00000000000001f8 0x0000000000001f8
                                                  0x8
 INTERP
             0x0000000000000238 0x000000000000238 0x000000000000238
             0x000000000000001c 0x000000000000001c R
                                                  0x1
    [Requesting program interpreter: /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2]
             LOAD
             0x0000000000001190 0x000000000001190
                                                  0x200000
             0x00000000001d48 0x000000000201d48 0x000000000201d48
 LOAD
             0x00000000000002c8 0x00000000000002e8
                                                  0x200000
```

Step 4 Use hexdump to print the contents at the address(prints the value of the saved password)

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build$ hexdump -C -s 0x1000 -n 64 ./Technique1
00001000 55 6c 6c 54 6a 48 68 47 6f 54 6d 54 38 31 59 59 |UllTjHhGoTmT81YY|
00001010 57 6d 61 64 59 52 42 5a 48 44 56 58 74 35 37 33 |WmadYRBZHDVXt573|
00001020 00 46 61 69 6c 65 64 20 74 6f 20 63 72 65 61 74 |.Failed to creat|
00001030 65 20 74 68 65 20 73 6f 63 6b 65 74 2e 00 42 69 |e the socket..Bi|
00001040
```

Step 5. We can also print the value of o_password in gdb

Step 6. Use the password to connect to the victim's shell

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~$ nc 172.16.218.1 1270
UllTjHhGoTmT81YYWmadYRBZHDVXt573
ls
CMakeCache.txt
CMakeFiles
Makefile
Technique1
cmake_install.cmake
whoami
sukriti
```

Removing the debugging information

- If we don't include the -g option in compile flags it will prevent the various .debug_ sections from being generated which also means that GDB and IDA won't receive the extra variable information to enrich their analysis.
- Since the debug sections are not generated, important debugging information like the path of the source file, the full path of the compilation directory and even exact line numbers where certain variables are declared.
- We won't be able to recover the virtual address and eventually the actual address of the original password.
- Without -g a GDB user won't be able to print o_password using "print" as was done earlier in this section.

Removing the symbol table using the -s file while compiling

- Even though the debugging information from the binary has been excluded, the symbol table makes finding and extracting the password easy. Hence the value of the o_password can be recovered using hexdump.
- There are two types of symbol tables: .dynsym(dynamic symbol table) and .symtab (symbol table).
- If we compare the two tables, we see that the .dynsym section has the "A" whereas the .symtab doesn't.
- The presence of the "A" flag, indicates that .dynsym will be loaded into memory when the program is started which means that .symtab is not loaded into memory and is therefore not necessary to execute the program.
- Hence the entire .symtab can be safely removed from the binary.

Getting the address of o_password using the .symtab

```
24: 0000000000202020
                        O SECTION LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   24
25: 0000000000000000
                        0 SECTION LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   25
26: 00000000000000000
                        0 FILE
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                  ABS crtstuff.c
27: 0000000000000c00
                        0 FUNC
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   14 deregister tm clones
28: 0000000000000c40
                        0 FUNC
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   14 register tm clones
29: 0000000000000c90
                                  LOCAL
                                                   14 do global dtors aux
                        0 FUNC
                                         DEFAULT
                         1 OBJECT
                                                   24 completed.7696
30: 0000000000202028
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
31: 0000000000201d48
                                                   20 __do_global_dtors_aux_fin
                        0 OBJECT
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
   0000000000000cd0
                                                   14 frame dummy
                        0 FUNC
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
33: 0000000000201d40
                        0 OBJECT
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   19 frame dummy init array
                                                  ABS tech1.c
34: 00000000000000000
                         0 FILE
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
35: 0000000000001000
                        33 OBJECT LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   16 o password
                        0 FILE
                                                  ABS crtstuff.c
36: 00000000000000000
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
37: 00000000000011ec
                        0 OBJECT
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   18 FRAME END
   00000000000000000
                         0 FILE
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                  ABS
39: 0000000000201d48
                        0 NOTYPE
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   19 init array end
                                                   23 dso handle
   0000000000202008
                        0 OBJECT
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
41: 0000000000201d50
                        0 OBJECT
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   21 DYNAMIC
                                                   19 init array start
42: 0000000000201d40
                         0 NOTYPE
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
43: 0000000000001084
                         0 NOTYPE
                                  LOCAL
                                         DEFAULT
                                                   17 GNU EH FRAME HDR
```

After Removing the Symbol Table by adding -s to the compiler flags

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build$ readelf --syms ./Technique1
Symbol table '.dynsym' contains 36 entries:
  Num: Value
                        Size Type
                                    Bind
                                           Vis
                                                    Ndx Name
    0: 00000000000000000
                          0 NOTYPE LOCAL
                                          DEFAULT UND
                           0 NOTYPE WEAK
                                           DEFAULT UND _ITM_deregisterTMCloneTab
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND stack chk fail@GLIBC 2.4 (2)
                                     GLOBAL DEFAULT UND htons@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND dup2@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND printf@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND htonl@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND close@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND read@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND __libc_start_main@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND memcmp@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND execve@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                           0 NOTYPE WEAK DEFAULT UND gmon start
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND listen@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND bind@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND perror@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND accept@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fwrite@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                                           DEFAULT UND ITM registerTMCloneTable
                                           DEFAULT UND cxa finalize@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                           0 FUNC
                           0 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fork@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND socket@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
   22: 0000000000202010
                           0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                    23 edata
   23: 0000000000202000
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                     23 __data_start
                           0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT 24 end
   24: 0000000000202030
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                    14 check password
   26: 0000000000202000
                           0 NOTYPE WEAK DEFAULT
                                                     23 data start
                           4 OBJECT GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                     16 _IO_stdin_used
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                     14 __libc_csu_init
                         101 FUNC
                          43 FUNC
                                     GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                     14 start
                          0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT
   30: 0000000000202010
                                                     24 bss_start
                         585 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 main
   32: 0000000000000000
                                     GLOBAL DEFAULT
   33: 0000000000202020
                                                    24 stderr@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                    14 __libc_csu_fini
                           2 FUNC
                                    GLOBAL DEFAULT 15 fini
                          0 FUNC
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/buildS
```

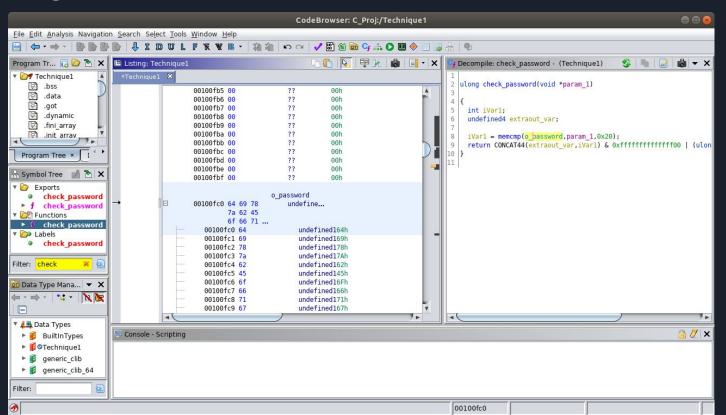
After Removing the Symbol Table

- As we can see in the previous screenshot, the entire .symtab is now gone.
- Not only does this make the binary smaller but it also has disabled easy access to o_password and removed the string "tech1.c" (the C file) from the binary altogether.
- Hence we can remove the .symtab in order to deny a reverse engineer useful data.
- However, this does not hide all the information which can be useful to an attack in order to reverse engineer as we will see in the furthur slides.

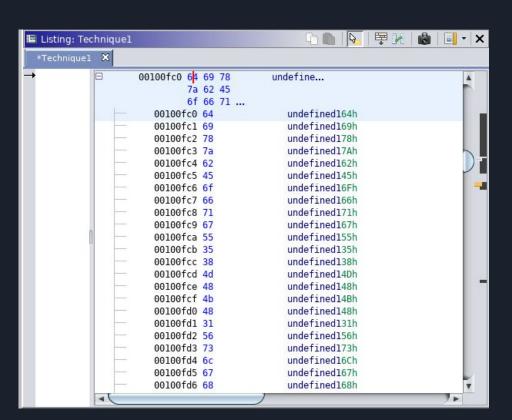
Using -fvisibility= hidden

- If we examine the .dynsym, we can still find useful information like the two symbols: check_password and main.
- The .dynsym provides both the starting address of the function as well as its size. These are really useful pieces of information for a dissasembler such as Ghidra.
- On double clicking the o_password variable, we can see all the characters in o_password in hexadecimal form in the disassembler.
- In order to hide the function symbols, we need to add the gcc flag -fvisibility=hidden to the compilation flag which hides all possible symbols.
- Hence this would prevent a reverse engineer from, yet again, easily dumping the password.

We can see the check_password Function Signature



Dissassembler showing the password characters in hexadecimal form



After adding the -fvisibility=hidden flag Main and check_password symbols missing

```
Symbol table '.dynsym' contains 34 entries:
          Value
                          Size Type
                                              Vis
                                                       Ndx Name
     0: 000000000000000000
                             0 NOTYPE LOCAL DEFAULT
                                                       UND
     1: 00000000000000000
                             0 NOTYPE WEAK
                                             DEFAULT
                                                       UND _ITM_deregisterTMCloneTab
                                                       UND _ stack_chk_fail@GLIBC_2.4 (2)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                      UND htons@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                                       UND dup2@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                       UND printf@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                                      UND htonl@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
     7: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                                       UND close@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                       UND read@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
     9: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                       UND libc start main@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
    10: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                                       UND memcmp@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                       UND execve@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 NOTYPE WEAK DEFAULT
                                                       UND
                                                            gmon start
                             0 FUNC
                                                       UND listen@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                                       UND bind@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
    15: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                       UND perror@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                                       UND accept@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                       UND fwrite@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                             0 NOTYPE WEAK
                                                       UND ITM registerTMCloneTable
                             0 FUNC
                                              DEFAULT
                                                       UND cxa finalize@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                                       UND fork@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                       UND socket@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
   21: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
    22: 0000000000202010
                             0 NOTYPE
                                      GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        23 _edata
    23: 0000000000202000
                             0 NOTYPE
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        23 __data_start
    24: 0000000000202030
                             0 NOTYPE
                                                        24 end
    25: 0000000000202000
                             0 NOTYPE
                                      WEAK DEFAULT
                                                        23 data start
    26: 00000000000000f80
                             4 OBJECT
                                      GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        16 IO stdin used
    27: 0000000000000f00
                           101 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        14 libc csu init
    28: 0000000000000b80
                            43 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        14 start
    29: 0000000000202010
                             0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        24 bss start
    30: 00000000000000a48
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        11 init
                             8 OBJECT GLOBAL DEFAULT
   31: 0000000000202020
                                                        24 stderr@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
   32: 0000000000000f70
                             2 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        14 libc csu fini
                                                        15 fini
   33: 00000000000000f74
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
```

After adding the -fvisibility=hidden flag



- After adding the fvisibility=hidden in the gcc flags, we again open the binary in Ghidra.
- Now if we try to search for check_password, we are not able to find the function in the symbol tree.
- Hence there is no way for us to recover the function signature and the value of the original password using the symbol tree.
- Similarly, we can also not find main and hence GDB no longer will be able to break at main()

Using LD_PRELOAD

- The resolving of functions at run time can also be useful from an attacker's point of view. In order to exploit this, we make use of the fact that functions whose implementations exist in external libraries that won't be loaded until runtime.
- These functions can be found by viewing the .dynsym and checking for functions with label UND(undefined). We find that memcmp() is one such function.
- Opening the binary in gdb, when we use "disassasmble memcmp", we can see that this command point to an address in the Procedure Linking Table(PLT).
- However if we try the above step once the binary has started executing, we see that memcmp now points to libc.so. By using the dynamic linker's LD_PRELOAD option, we can load our own library before the other shared objects, like libc.so, are loaded.
- This means that we can introduce our own code to handle memcmp() and our function will be executed instead of libc.so's. In our custom code, we print the values of the original and the provided password.

memcmp() is seen to point to address in the PLT(Procedure Linkage Table)

Memcmp's implementation exists in an external library

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build$ readelf --syms ./Technique1
Symbol table '.dynsym' contains 34 entries:
          Value
                          Size Type
                                              Vis
                                                       Ndx Name
     0: 00000000000000000
                             0 NOTYPE
                                      LOCAL
                                             DEFAULT UND
                             O NOTYPE WEAK
                                                      UND ITM deregisterTMCloneTab
                                              DEFAULT
     2: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                                      UND __stack_chk_fail@GLIBC_2.4 (2)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND htons@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                                      UND dup2@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                             0 FUNC
                                                      UND printf@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND htonl@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
     7: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND close@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
     8: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND read@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
       00000000000000000
                            0 FUNC
                                                      UND libc start main@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
       00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND memcmp@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND execve@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 NOTYPE WEAK
                                             DEFAULT
                                                      UND gmon start
   13: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                                      UND listen@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND bind@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND perror@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND accept@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fwrite@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                                      UND _ITM_registerTMCloneTable
   18: 00000000000000000
                             0 NOTYPE
                             0 FUNC
                                              DEFAULT UND cxa finalize@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
   20: 00000000000000000
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                      UND fork@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                                       UND socket@GLIBC_2.2.5 (3)
                             0 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
   22: 0000000000202010
                             0 NOTYPE
                                      GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        23 edata
   23: 0000000000202000
                             0 NOTYPE
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        23 __data_start
                             0 NOTYPE
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        24 end
   24: 00000000000202036
   25: 0000000000202000
                             0 NOTYPE
                                      WEAK
                                              DEFAULT
                                                        23 data start
   26: 00000000000000f80
                             4 OBJECT
                                      GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        16 _IO_stdin_used
                           101 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        14 libc csu init
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                            43 FUNC
                                                        14 _start
   29: 0000000000202010
                             0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        24 bss start
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                             0 FUNC
                                                        11 init
   31: 000000000020202020
                             8 OBJECT
                                      GLOBAL DEFAULT
                                                        24 stderr@GLIBC 2.2.5 (3)
                                                        14 libc csu fini
   32: 00000000000000f76
                             2 FUNC
                                       GLOBAL DEFAULT
                             0 FUNC
                                                        15 fini
```

Disassembling memcmp after running the binary

```
(gdb) disassemble memcmp
Dump of assembler code for function memcmp ifunc:
   0x00007fffff7a82c10 <+0>:
                                        0x34c241(%rip),%rax
                                                                   # 0x7fffff7dcee58
                                MOV
   0x00007fffff7a82c17 <+7>:
                                        0xb4(%rax),%ecx
                                mov
   0x00007fffff7a82c1d <+13>:
                                        0x78(%rax),%edx
                                mov
   0x00007fffff7a82c20 <+16>:
                                        %ecx,%eax
                                MOV
   0x00007fffff7a82c22 <+18>:
                                        $0x20400, %eax
                                and
   0x00007fffff7a82c27 <+23>:
                                        $0x400,%eax
                                CMD
   0x00007fffff7a82c2c <+28>:
                                        0x7fffff7a82c58 <memcmp ifunc+72>
   0x00007fffff7a82c2e <+30>:
                                        $0x80000, %edx
                                                                  # 0x7ffff7b73fc0 < memcmp sse4 1>
   0x00007fffff7a82c34 <+36>:
                                lea
                                        0xf1385(%rip),%rax
   0x00007fffff7a82c3b <+43>:
                                jne
                                        0x7fffff7a82c52 <memcmp ifunc+66>
   0x00007fffff7a82c3d <+45>:
                                and
                                        $0x2,%dh
   0x00007fffff7a82c40 <+48>:
                                lea
                                        0xd629(%rip),%rax
                                                                 # 0x7fffff7a90270 < memcmp sse2>
   0x00007fffff7a82c47 <+55>:
                                lea
                                        0xf4ca2(%rip),%rdx
                                                                  # 0x7ffff7b778f0 < memcmp ssse3>
   0x00007fffff7a82c4e <+62>:
                                cmovne %rdx,%rax
   0x00007fffff7a82c52 <+66>:
                                repz retq
   0x00007fffff7a82c54 <+68>:
                                nopl
                                       0x0(%rax)
   0x00007fffff7a82c58 <+72>:
                                test
                                       $0x400000,%edx
   0x00007fffff7a82c5e <+78>:
                                ie
                                        0x7fffff7a82c2e <memcmp ifunc+30>
   0x00007fffff7a82c60 <+80>:
                                and
                                        S0x8.%ch
   0x00007fffff7a82c63 <+83>:
                                        0xebf36(%rip),%rax
                                                                  # 0x7ffff7b6eba0 < memcmp avx2 movbe>
                                lea
   0x00007fffff7a82c6a <+90>:
                                        0x7ffff7a82c2e <memcmp ifunc+30>
   0x00007fffff7a82c6c <+92>:
                                repz retq
End of assembler dump.
(gdb)
```

The custom memcpy function definition

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdib.h>
#include <dlib.h>
#include <dlfcn.h>

int memcmp(const void *s1, const void *s2, size_t n)
{
    printf("memcmp(%s, %s, %u)\n", s1, s2, (int)n);
    return 0;
}
```

Demo

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1EbVRPeU3sJerMVIUv3RVFYohxH-ehvI6

Attempt to connect to the bind shell providing bogus password, using LD_PRELOAD to get get memcmp to return 0 so we are granted access to the bind shell

The original as well as the provided password gets printed also

Use of -static flag

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build$ readelf -d ./Technique1

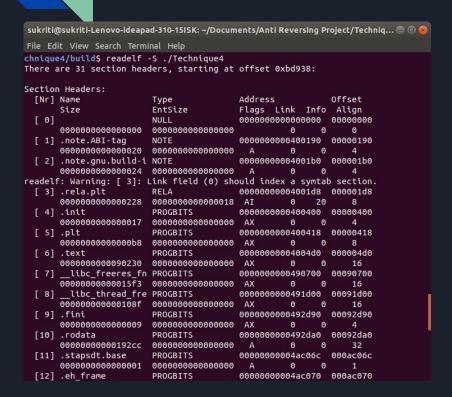
There is no dynamic section in this file.
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build$
```

In order to prevent the use of LD_PRELOAD to exploit the binary, we should use the -static flag during compilation which prevents linking with the shared libraries,

Modifying the ELF Header To Prevent Discovery, Parsing and the Display of the Section Header Table

- In order find, parse and display the section headers table, four variables are needed:-
 - Start of sections headers
 - Size of section headers
 - Number of section headers
 - Section header string table index
- On studying the elf header format, we notice the following facts:-
 - Location at the offset of 0x28, points to the start of the section header table(8 bytes).
 - Location at the offset of 0x3A, contains the size of a section header table entry(2 bytes).
 - Location at the offset of 0x3C, contains the number of entries in the section header table(2 bytes).
 - \circ Location at the offset of 0x3E, contains index of the section header table entry that contains the section names(2 bytes).
- If we use a hex editor to zero out the values at these locations, then locating or parsing the section header table would be impossible.

Section Headers



The section headers table is useful for a reverse engineer because it breaks down the binary's address space into very specific chunks. However, the section headers table isn't actually needed for execution.

The Elf Header

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK: ~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique... 🖨 🗊 😵
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Tech
nique4/build$ readelf -h ./Technique4
ELF Header:
  Magic:
           7f 45 4c 46 02 01 01 03 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
  Class:
                                      ELF64
                                      2's complement, little endian
  Data:
  Version:
                                      1 (current)
  OS/ABI:
                                      UNIX - GNU
  ABI Version:
                                      0
                                      EXEC (Executable file)
  Type:
  Machine:
                                      Advanced Micro Devices X86-64
  Version:
                                      0x1
  Entry point address:
                                      0x400a30
  Start of program headers:
                                      64 (bytes into file)
  Start of section headers:
                                      776504 (bytes into file)
  Flags:
                                      0x0
  Size of this header:
                                      64 (bytes)
  Size of program headers:
                                      56 (bytes)
  Number of program headers:
                                      6
  Size of section headers:
                                      64 (bytes)
  Number of section headers:
                                      31
  Section header string table index: 30
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Tech
nique4/build$
```

Demo

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1rko8_xrwpz8dA_Xhm0592TiAE1MjYRgD

After The Required Bytes have been set to Zero Using a Hex Editor

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Tech
nique4/build$ readelf -S ./Technique4
```

There are no sections in this file.

Use of Stack Strings

- Use of strings command is one of the most common tools used by reverse engineers for string analysis.
- This process can be made difficult by hiding the strings by constructing it with code.
- The goal is to add each byte of the string onto the stack one at a time.
- For example, instead of using: execve("/bin/sh", empty, empty);
 We should use

```
char binsh[] = { '/', 'b', 'i', 'n', '/', 's', 'h', 0 }; execve(binsh, empty, empty);
```

Use of strings to Display the Password

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK: ~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique... 🦱 📵 🔕
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Tech
nique1/build$ strings -a -n 32 ./Technique1
7z42skm66JiFi5f8THHdP1Nfh1qd5k0j
GCC: (Ubuntu 7.3.0-27ubuntu1~18.04) 7.3.0
/home/sukriti/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1
/usr/lib/qcc/x86 64-linux-qnu/7/include
/usr/include/x86 64-linux-gnu/bits
/home/sukriti/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/tech1.c
GNU C11 7.3.0 -mtune=generic -march=x86-64 -g -std=gnu11 -fstack-protector-stron
/home/sukriti/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique1/build
do global dtors aux fini array entry
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Tech
nique1/buildS
```

Disassembly of check _password showing the memory address where the password string is stored.

```
(gdb) disassemble check password
Dump of assembler code for function check password:
   0x0000000000000c8a <+0>:
                                push
                                       %rbp
   0x0000000000000c8b <+1>:
                                       %rsp.%rbp
                                mov
  0x0000000000000c8e <+4>:
                                sub
                                       $0x10,%rsp
                                       %rdi,-0x8(%rbp)
  0x0000000000000c92 <+8>:
                                mov
  0x0000000000000c96 <+12>:
                                      -0x8(%rbp),%rax
                                MOV
  0x0000000000000c9a <+16>:
                                       $0x20,%edx
                                mov
   0x0000000000000c9f <+21>:
                                       %rax,%rsi
                                mov
  0x0000000000000ca2 <+24>:
                                lea
                                       0x2f7(%rip),%rdi
                                                               # 0xfa0 <o password>
  0x0000000000000ca9 <+31>:
                                calla
                                       0xae0 <memcmp@plt>
  0x0000000000000cae <+36>:
                                       %eax.%eax
                                test
  0x0000000000000cb0 <+38>:
                                      %al
                                setne
   0x0000000000000cb3 <+41>:
                                leaveg
   0x000000000000cb4 <+42>:
                                retq
End of assembler dump.
(dbp)
```

After using Stack Strings, strings command cannot be used to view the password.

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK: ~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique... 🖨 🗊 🔕
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Tech
nique4/build$ strings -a -n 32 ./Technique4
GCC: (Ubuntu 7.3.0-27ubuntu1~18.04) 7.3.0
do global dtors aux fini array entry
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Tech
nique4/build$
```

Even if other obfuscation flags are absent, the disassembly of check_function doesn't directly show the password string

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK: ~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique4/build
                                                                                                                                         A A A
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique4/buildS adb -g Technique4
Reading symbols from Technique4...(no debugging symbols found)...done.
(gdb) disassemble check_password
Dump of assembler code for function check password:
   0x0000000000000c8a <+0>:
                               push %rbp
   0x0000000000000c8b <+1>:
                               MOV
                                      %rsp.%rbp
   0x00000000000000c8e <+4>:
                               sub
                                      $0x40,%rsp
                                      %rdi.-0x38(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000c92 <+8>:
                               MOV
   0x0000000000000c96 <+12>:
                               MOV
                                      %fs:0x28,%rax
   0x0000000000000c9f <+21>:
                                      %rax,-0x8(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000ca3 <+25>:
                               хог
                                       %eax, %eax
   0x00000000000000ca5 <+27>:
                                       S0x68.%eax
                               MOV
   0x0000000000000caa <+32>:
                                      %al,-0x30(%rbp)
                               mov
  0x0000000000000cad <+35>:
                                      $0x75,%eax
   0x0000000000000cb2 <+40>:
                                      %al.-0x2f(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000cb5 <+43>:
                                      $0x41,%eax
   0x0000000000000cba <+48>:
                                      %al.-0x2e(%rbp)
                               mov
   0x0000000000000cbd <+51>:
                               MOV
                                      $0x37.%eax
   0x0000000000000cc2 <+56>:
                                      %al,-0x2d(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000cc5 <+59>:
                               mov
                                       S0x32.%eax
   0x00000000000000cca <+64>:
                                      %al,-0x2c(%rbp)
                               mov
   0x0000000000000ccd <+67>:
                                      $0x34,%eax
                               MOV
   0x0000000000000cd2 <+72>:
                                      %al,-0x2b(%rbp)
                               MOV
   0x0000000000000cd5 <+75>:
                                      S0x64.%eax
   0x000000000000cda <+80>:
                                       %al.-0x2a(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000cdd <+83>:
                                       $0x33,%eax
                               mov
---Type <return> to continue, or a <return> to guit---
   0x0000000000000ce2 <+88>:
                               MOV
                                       %al,-0x29(%rbp)
   0x00000000000000ce5 <+91>:
                                       S0x66.%eax
   0x0000000000000cea <+96>:
                                       %al,-0x28(%rbp)
                               MOV
   0x0000000000000ced <+99>:
                                       S0x51.%eax
                               MOV
   0x0000000000000cf2 <+104>: mov
                                      %al,-0x27(%rbp)
   0x000000000000cf5 <+107>: mov
                                       $0x44,%eax
   0x0000000000000cfa <+112>: mov
                                       %al.-0x26(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000cfd <+115>: mov
                                       $0x5a,%eax
   0x00000000000000d02 <+120>: mov
                                       %al.-0x25(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000d05 <+123>:
                               mov
                                       S0x48, %eax
  0x0000000000000d0a <+128>:
                                       %al,-0x24(%rbp)
```

XOR Strings

- Using strings stacks complicates the recovery process of the password string but the password can still be recovered since the each character's hex representation is visible in the disassembly.
- Since can be complicated further by XORing each byte so that the reverse engineer can't just read the values straight from the disassembly

After Using XOR strings, the password isn't quite as clear in the disassembly.

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK: ~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique4/build
                                                                                                                                           File Edit View Search Terminal Help
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Technique4/build$ gdb -q Technique4
Reading symbols from Technique4...(no debugging symbols found)...done.
(gdb) disass check password
Dump of assembler code for function check password:
   0x0000000000000d07 <+0>:
                                       %гьь
   0x000000000000d08 <+1>:
                                mov
                                       %rsp.%rbp
   0x0000000000000d0b <+4>:
                                sub
                                       $0x40,%rsp
   0x000000000000d0f <+8>:
                                       %rdi.-0x38(%rbp)
                                mov
   0x0000000000000d13 <+12>:
                                mov
                                       %fs:0x28,%rax
                                       %rax.-0x8(%rbp)
   0x000000000000d1c <+21>:
   0x0000000000000d20 <+25>:
                                       %eax, %eax
                                XOL
   0x000000000000d22 <+27>:
                                       $0x0,-0x30(%rbp)
   0x000000000000d2a <+35>:
                                       $0x0,-0x28(%rbp)
   0x000000000000d32 <+43>:
                                       $0x0,-0x20(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000d3a <+51>:
                                       $0x0.-0x18(%rbp)
                                mova
   0x0000000000000d42 <+59>:
                                mov
                                       $0x6d,%eax
   0x0000000000000d47 <+64>:
                                       S0xffffffaa.%eax
                                хог
   0x0000000000000d4a <+67>:
                                       %al,-0x11(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000d4d <+70>:
                                mov
                                       S0x36.%eax
   0x000000000000d52 <+75>:
                                       S0xffffffaa,%eax
                                XOL
   0x000000000000d55 <+78>:
                                       %al,-0x12(%rbp)
                                mov
   0x000000000000d58 <+81>:
                                       S0x30.%eax
                                mov
   0x000000000000d5d <+86>:
                                       $0xffffffaa,%eax
                                       %al,-0x13(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000d60 <+89>:
                                mov
   0x000000000000d63 <+92>:
                                       $0x6c,%eax
                                mov
   0x000000000000d68 <+97>:
                                       S0xffffffaa.%eax
   0x0000000000000d6b <+100>:
                                       %al.-0x14(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000d6e <+103>:
                                       $0x39, %eax
   0x0000000000000d73 <+108>:
                                       S0xffffffaa.%eax
   0x0000000000000d76 <+111>:
                                mov
                                       %al,-0x15(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000d79 <+114>:
                                       S0x35.%eax
   0x0000000000000d7e <+119>:
                                       $0xffffffaa,%eax
                                XOL
   0x000000000000d81 <+122>:
                                mov
                                       %al,-0x16(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000d84 <+125>:
                                       S0x61.%eax
   0x0000000000000d89 <+130>:
                                       $0xffffffaa,%eax
                                       %al.-0x17(%rbp)
   0x0000000000000d8c <+133>:
                                mov
   0x000000000000d8f <+136>:
                                mov
                                       $0x66,%eax
   0x0000000000000d94 <+141>:
                                       S0xffffffaa.%eax
```

Analysis of a Key-Generator

- We are given a binary, for which we try to decode the password. The binary is initially compiled without any of the obfuscation techniques.
- Viewing the code decompilation in ghidra, we see that the values of all the characters are summed up and compared to the value "800".
- If the sum equals 800, it prints that it is the correct password.
- In order to decode this, we right a python script to generate eligible passwords which equal this value,
- We then test one of the eligible keys with the binary to check if it is a valid password.
- We see the impact of using the obfuscation techniques in cracking this logic.

Decompilation of The Main Password Checking Function Before Obfuscation

```
Decompile: main - (program5)
2 undefined8 main(int param 1,long param 2)
     size t sVarl;
     int local 20;
     int local 1c;
     if (param 1 == 2) {
       local 20 = 0:
       local 1c = 0;
       while( true ) {
         sVar1 = strlen(*(char **)(param 2 + 8));
         if (sVar1 <= (ulong)(long)local lc) break;
         local 20 = local 20 + (int)*(char *)((long)local 1c + *(long *)(param 2 + 8));
16
         local 1c = local 1c + 1;
       if (local 20 == 800) {
         puts("Correct Password!");
20
       else {
         puts("Incorrect Password!"):
     return 0:
26
```

Key Generator Script

```
import random
def check password(key):
    sum = 0
    for c in key:
        sum += ord(c)
    return sum
key = ""
while True:
    key += random.choice("abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ0123456789- ")
    s = check password(key)
    if s > 800:
        key = ""
    elif s==800:
        print "Eligible Key option: {0}".format(key)
```

Eligible Passwords Received by the Key Generator

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK: ~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Key-gen
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Key-gen$ python key-generator.py
Eligible Key option: eBPNYUcB0X
Eligible Key option: o2Ke4jmlX
Eligible Key option: trYygUjB
Eligible Key option: z9 Ezk6VX
Eligible Key option: IUdX0 LIJX
Eligible Key option: u2GvS-etc
Eligible Key option: L5TvBcB1fW
Eligible Key option: KsTf 2wYG
Eligible Key option: If-IyOLY6X
Eligible Key option: JNyocXMGO
Eligible Key option: 4P02J sClo
Eligible Key option: ToEvVjc1N
Eligible Key option: ss5qsL2VM
Eligible Key option: aWB9dj7tt
Eligible Key option: iIDergsy
Eligible Key option: am6CLeEJSF
Eligible Key option: GW-vrtJCi
Eligible Key option: a0KFXMpARV
Eligible Key option: hSNTNw2eg
Eligible Key option: 2yvLATp47C
Eligible Key option: XywqDtmB
Eligible Key option: GoUE-9C4NPU
Eligible Key option: 9MQOmdLyd
Eligible Key option: zeUPShhy
Eligible Key option: Kku0jqVG6
Eligible Key option: 76vzbWTTb
Eligible Key option: hK-GKipat
Eligible Key option: MIpcYv98w
Eligible Key option: szxpm7Cd
Eligible Key option: Z4bzK-H5Mt
Eligible Key option: UXwnlRNP2
Eligible Key option: migcKV7NY
Eligible Key option: ylXz404Dn
Eligible Key option: BH8zy03oz
Eligible Key option: gI3BYcvtU
Eligible Key option: 6jqBji8Zr
Eligible Key option: RC06zJXhLU
```

Password Cracked

```
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Key-
gen$ ./program1 VtASg6hmP
Correct Password!
sukriti@sukriti-Lenovo-ideapad-310-15ISK:~/Documents/Anti Reversing Project/Key-
gen$
```

Code Snippet after Obfuscating the Code Making it Difficult to Decipher the Logic

```
C Decompile: FUN 00400f10 - (program3)
   LAB 00401028:
     do {
       if ((DAT 006bbdf4 & 0x100) != 0) {
73
         DAT 006bbe2c = DAT 006bbe2c | 0x4000;
74
75
       if ((DAT 006bbdf4 & 0x8000) != 0) {
         DAT 006bbe2c = DAT 006bbe2c | 0x8000;
76
77
       DAT 006bbel8 = local d0;
78
       DAT 006bbelc = local cc;
       FUN 0044c5d0(0,local b8,FUN 0044d3d0);
80
       FUN 0044c5d0(0xb,&local b0,0);
81
       DAT 006bbe40 = lbcal b0;
       FUN 0044c5d0(0x13,&local a8,0);
       DAT 006bbe30 = local a8;
       FUN 0044c5d0(0xc,&local a0.0):
85
       DAT 006bbdc8 = 2;
       DAT 006bbe38 = local a0;
       if (DAT 006bbde0 == 1) goto LAB 0040131c;
   LAB 004010e8:
       iVar9 = &PTR PTR FUN 004001d8;
       while (iVar9 = (int) iVar9, iVar9 < FUN 00400400) {
         puVar1 = (undefined8 *)* iVar9;
92
         if (*(int *)( iVar9 + 1) != 0x25) goto LAB 00401310;
         uVar6 = (*(code *) iVar9[2])();
         iVar9 = iVar9 + 3;
          *puVarl = uVar6:
96
97
       FUN 00401720();
```

References

- https://www.apriorit.com/dev-blog/367-anti-reverse-engineering-protection-techniques
 -to-use-before-releasing-software
- https://www.codeproject.com/Articles/30815/An-Anti-Reverse-Engineering-Guide#VirtualMachines
- http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1127760/FULLTEXT02
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- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhixgUqwRTjxgllswKp9mpkfPNfHkzyeN

Thankyou! Feel Free to Ask Questions!