Study Guide

Intro to Malware Analysis and Reverse Engineering

Created By: Pratyay Milind, Teaching Assistant

Module 1: Introduction

Lesson 1.1: Intro Part 1

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Malware, Types of Malware, Analysis

- About the Instructor:
    - Sean Pierce
        - Certifications: CISSP
        - Twitter: @secure_sean
        - He is a Malware Analyst
        - Employer: iSIGHT Rep
- What is Malware Analysis and why is it useful?
    - Anti-Virus can't be relied on
    - 50% to 97% of Breaches involve malware
    - Breach happens – Now what?
        - Typical
            - Reimage the machine
        - Advanced: Incident Response
            - Analyze Logs, network traffic, strange processes etc.
            - Is it any where else?
            - How did it get there?
        - Mature: Gather Intelligence
            - What is the Impact?
            - What is the Risk?
            - Financially Motivated? Hacktivism? Opportunistic? Advanced Persistent Threat (APT)?
- Scope
    - Beginner's intro to:

        - Windows Malware Analysis
        - Basic Forensics / Incident Response / Malware Discovery
        - Basic Reverse Engineering
    - Recommended Background:
        - Networking – TCP / IP
        - Operating System Internals
        - Programming (C, C++)
        - Software Vulnerabilities
        - Hacking
- What is Malware
    - **Ma**licious Soft**ware**
    - Executes without permission or Knowledge
    - Software Problems like every other product:
        - Compatibility Issues
        - Bugs
        - Customer service
        - Versions / Updating Issues
        - Team Development / Source Code Control
- Malware Types / Functionality
    - General:
        - Virus (File Infector Rare)
        - Trojan (Common)
        - Worm (Rare)
        - Bot (Very Common)
        - Rootkits (Uncommon)
        - RAT (Very Common)
    - More Specialized:
        - Scareware
        - Spyware
        - Adware
        - Backdoors
        - Credential Stealers
        - Anti-Analysis
        - Defenses

        - Stealth
        - Loader / Downloader
- Other (Malicious) Software
    - Builders
    - Exploit Kit
    - Packer / Crypter
- Types of Analysis
    - Dynamic Analysis
        - Executing the Malware. Simple, Fast. Easy to miss things.
    - Static Analysis
        - Reverse Engineering. Slow, Deep technical knowledge. With enough time anything can be reversed.
    - Hybrid Static / Dynamic
        - Most Analysis is a mixture: You can find something in the disassembly then you confirm / investigate while the malware is executing.
        - Memory Forensics. Can be very useful, but is not the end-all-be-all

Lesson 1.2: Intro Part 2
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Tools, Malware, Analysis

- Basic Tools
    - SysInternals - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/
    - MAP Pack – http://sandsprite.com/CodeStuff/map_setup.exe
    - 010 – http://www.sweetscape.com/010editor/
    - PE viewer: CFF Explorer, PE Explorer, PE View, PE Studio
    - Disassembler: IDA Pro, x64_dbg, Hopper, etc.
    - Other:
        - Cygwin – md5sum, gcc, xxd, file, strings, python https://cygwin.com/install.html
        - Notepad++ - https://notepad-plus-plus.org/downloads/
        - 7zip

Lesson 1.3: Intro Part 3
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Malware Samples, Malware, Analysis

- Get Samples

- Contagio Malware Dump: Free; password required
  - http://contagiodump.blogspot.com/
- KernelMode.info: Free; registration required
  - https://www.kernelmode.info/
- Malshare: Free
  - https://malshare.com/
- Malwares.lu's AVCaesar: Free; registration required
  - https://avcaesar.malware.lu/
- MalwareBlacklist: Free; registration required
- Malware DB: Free
  - https://thezoo.morirt.com/
- Malwr: Free; regisatration required
  - https://malwr.com/
- Open Malware: Free
- SecuBox Labs: Free
- VirusShare: Free
  - https://virusshare.com/
- Catch your own: Honey Pot
- Make your own:
  - Program Based on Description
  - Download a 'Builder'

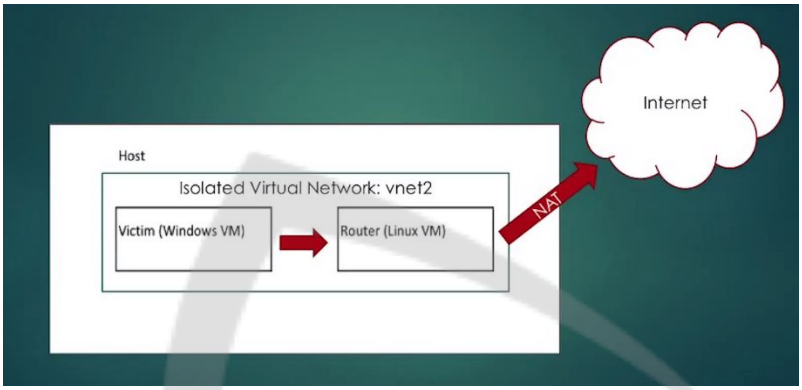
- Note for the Paranoid:
  - Some Malware can Execute upon:
    - Being Scanned
    - Viewing Icon
      - Word
      - PDF
      - System Icon
    - Extracting the file from an Archive
  - MD5 vs. SHA256

Module 2: Lab Setup

Lesson 2.1: Lab Setup Part 1

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Lab, Analysis, Malware

- Industry Standard Setup



    - Basic Setup
        - Install VMWare
        - Install Windows XP
            - Install VMware tools
            - Install Analysis tools
        - Setup Kali
            - Install VMWare tools
            - Setup Network

Lesson 2.2: Lab Setup Part 2

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Downloading, Malware, Setup

- Steps:
    - Download and Install VMWare WorkStation
        - https://www.vmware.com/
    - VM Notes provided by the instructor

```
Operating Systems:
- Windows XP 32-bit (SP2 if possible and SP3)
- Windows XP (Chinese 32-bit SP2 if possible and SP3)
- Windows 7 32-bit (SP1, not fully patched and fully patched)
- Windows 7 32-bit (Chinese SP1, not fully patched and fully patched)
- Windows 7 64-bit (Just SP1, not fully patched and fully patched)
- Windows 7 64-bit (Chinese Just SP1, not fully patched and fully patched)

Auto updates off and time updates off.

Internet Explorer:
- IE8, 9, 10. (Unpatched and fully patched on each version).

Office:
- 2003 (Unpatched and fully patched)
- 2007 (Unpatched and fully patched)
- 2010 (Unpatched and fully patched)
- Macro setting, low

Flash:
- Flash 10, 11 (Unpatched and fully patched)

Adobe Acrobat Reader:
- 9 (Unpatched, fully patched)
- 10 (Unpatched, fully patched)
- 11 (Unpatched, fully patched)

Java:
-JRE6 (Unpatched, fully patched)
-JRE7 (Unpatched, fully patched)


Make sure plugins are IE ActiveX no prompts to run things.
disable shadow volume & copy and defrag on XP
Run everything run at least once
Settings changed:
-Auto login
-Turned off, 'Hide extensions for known types'
-Turned off, 'Hide protected operating system files'
-Removed the, 'These files are hidden' banners.
-turned off firewall
-disabled pop-blocking,
-disabled IE privacy stuff
-turned off all the visual effects
-snapshot after reboot
```

Lesson 2.3: Lab Setup Part 3

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Dynamic, Analysis, Tools,

- Dynamic Analysis Tools for Virtual Machine
    - For Dynamic Analysis
        - Capture BAT
        - RegShot
        - PEid
        - LordPE
        - Import Reconstructor

        - OllyDbg 2.0
- Levels of Automating / Outsourcing
    - Local VM
    - Scripting Local VM
    - Automating ESX (i), Zen, Hyper-V
    - Cuckoo Sandbox
    - Malware Farm
    - Virus Total, Anubis
    - Joe Sandbox, Hybrid Analysis, ThreatGrid
    - FireEye
- Notes for the Paranoid
    - Vulnerabilities in VMWare
    - Some malware will detect it's in a VM and act differently
        - VMWare tools
        - Easy: MAC address, timings. Advanced: v-instructions. Very Advanced: bluepill
    - Some malware will check / rely on correct DNS resolutions
    - Some malware will do an external IP check
    - Checks name for 'malware', or 'sample' or username of 'user'
    - You can route the connections through a logless VPN

Module 3: Dynamic Analysis Part 1

Lesson 3.1: Dynamic Analysis Part 1.1

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Dynamic, Analysis, Malware

- What is Dynamic Malware Analysis
    - Execute the Malware
    - First Response / Triage
    - Virtual Machine vs. Native Hardware
    - Characteristics:
        - Easy
        - Fast
        - Code may not execute
    - Goals:
        - Generate Indicators of Compromise (IoC's)

        - Determine Malware Type / Family
        - Assess Risk and Impact
        - Attribution

Lesson 3.2: Dynamic Analysis Part 1.2
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Snapshot, Dynamic Analysis, Malware Samples

- Get Samples
    - theZoo aka Malware DB: https://github.com/ytisf/theZoo
        - Dyre: https://github.com/ytisf/theZoo/blob/master/malwares/Binaries/Dyre/Dyre.zip

Lesson 3.3: Dynamic Analysis Part 1.3
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Dynamic, Analysis, Malware Samples

- Demo
    - Download Malware from https://malshare.com/
        - Snapshot
            - CaptureBAT
            - RegShot
            - Autoruns
        - More Advanced:
            - SysAnalyzer
            - ProcMon
            - OllyDbg
- Note for the Paranoid:
    - Some Malware will detect:
        - Executing / Installed Analysis Tools
        - Virtual Machine Containment
        - Sandbox Containment
        - Security Products
    - Other Reasons why it might not run correctly:
        - Incorrect environment:
            - Software Versions

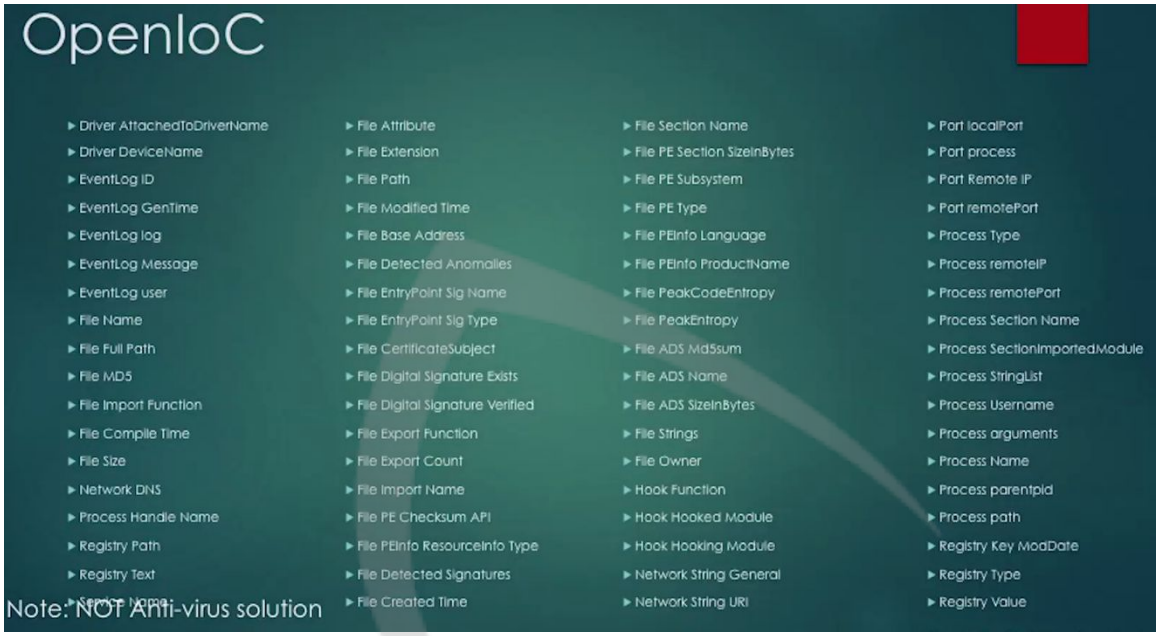
        - Installed OS Language
        - Multiple components
        - Disabled networking
    - Bugs in the Malware
    - Dependencies not met
    - ‘Kill dates’
    - Specific Target
- Note for the Paranoid
    - Malware Repo should be non-execute:
        - Windows Host:
            - icacls C:\malware /deny “Everyone: (OI)(IO)(X)”
        - Linux Host:
            - chmod 600 /malware <file_name>
    - User interaction

Module 4: Dynamic Analysis Part 2

Lesson 4.1: Dynamic Analysis Part 2.1

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Dynamic Analysis, Malware, Indicators of Compromise

- Dynamic Malware Analysis
    - Indicators of Compromise (IoC’s)
        - File Hashes
        - Strings
        - Registry Keys
        - File Names
        - File Paths
        - Process Names
        - IP Addresses
        - Domains
        - URLs
        - Network Traffic
- OpenIoC



- Good Resources:
  - https://github.com/rshipp/awesome-malware-analysis
  - https://www.malware-analyzer.com/
  - http://opensecuritytraining.info/MalwareDynamicAnalysis.html

Lesson 4.2: Dynamic Analysis Part 2.2

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Dynamic Analysis, Demo, Analyzing IllusionBot

- Demo
  - Download:
    - https://github.com/ytisf/theZoo/blob/master/malwares/Binaries/IllusionBot_May2007/IllusionBot_May2007.zip
  - Network Traffic
    - Wireshark
    - Strings -> YARA sigs

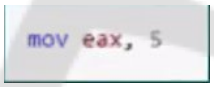
Module 5: Basic Static Analysis

Lesson 5.1: Basic Static Analysis Part 1

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Static Analysis, Malware, Assembly Code

- What is Static Analysis?
    - Reading the assembly code
    - Use tools such as
        - Debuggers
        - Disassemblers
    - Characteristics:
        - Slow
        - Detail oriented
        - Technical Knowledge Required
    - Goals:
        - Confirm Dynamic Analysis
        - Understand Behavior
        - Find more Indicators of Compromise
            - Encrypted Strings / Payloads
            - Domain Generation Algorithms (DGA's)
            - Network Traffic Encryption Algorithms
        - Determines Defenses
            - Anti-Debugging
            - Anti-VM
        - Determine Capabilities for Assess Risk and Impact
        - Determine Sophistication
        - Attribution
- What is Assembly?
    - Human readable machine code for a particular chip
        - Intel invented the 8086 chips in 1978
            - Used in the IBM PC
            - Originally 16-bit
        - Focus on x86 code (aka 'i486' architecture or '32-bit')
        - Examples of other Architectures:
            - AMD x64 – common in PC's also known as 'x64' or '64-bit' most x64 chips also have the circuitry to execute x86 code

- ARM – common in phones and tablets
- MIPS – common in printers

- More Details about x86 Assembly
  - 14 Instructions make up 90% of cache
  - Syntax
    - Intel
      - mov eax, 5
      - 

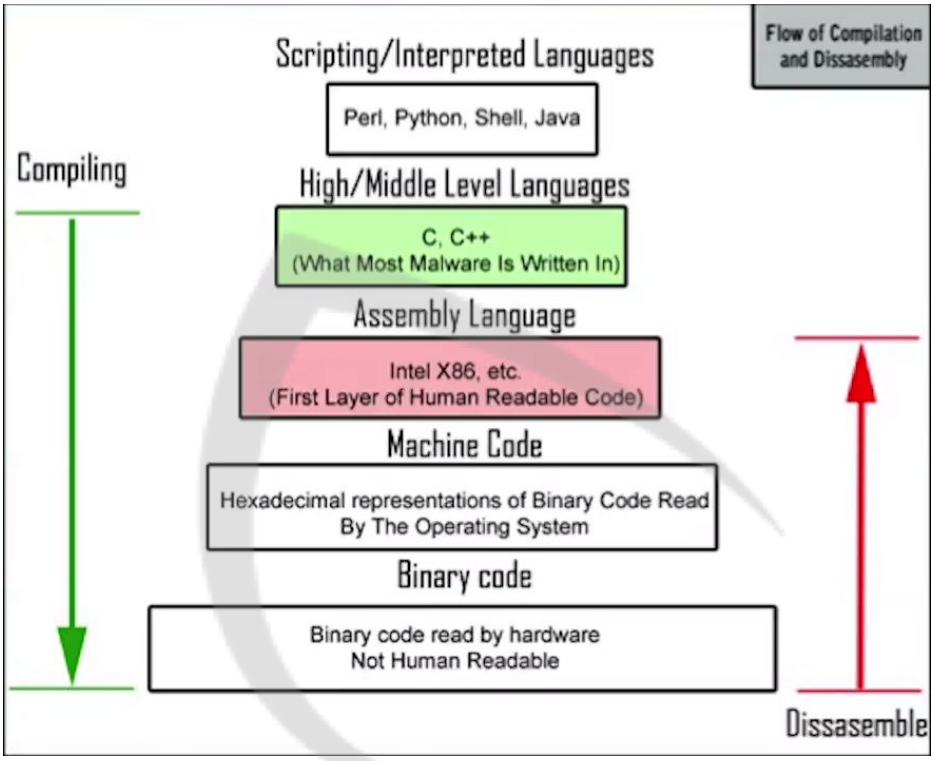
    - AT&T
      - mov $5, %eax
      - 

  - Programming Knowledge is needed
    - Functions
    - Local Variables
    - Application Programming Interfaces (API's)
  - Math
    - Binary
    - Hex
    - Decimal

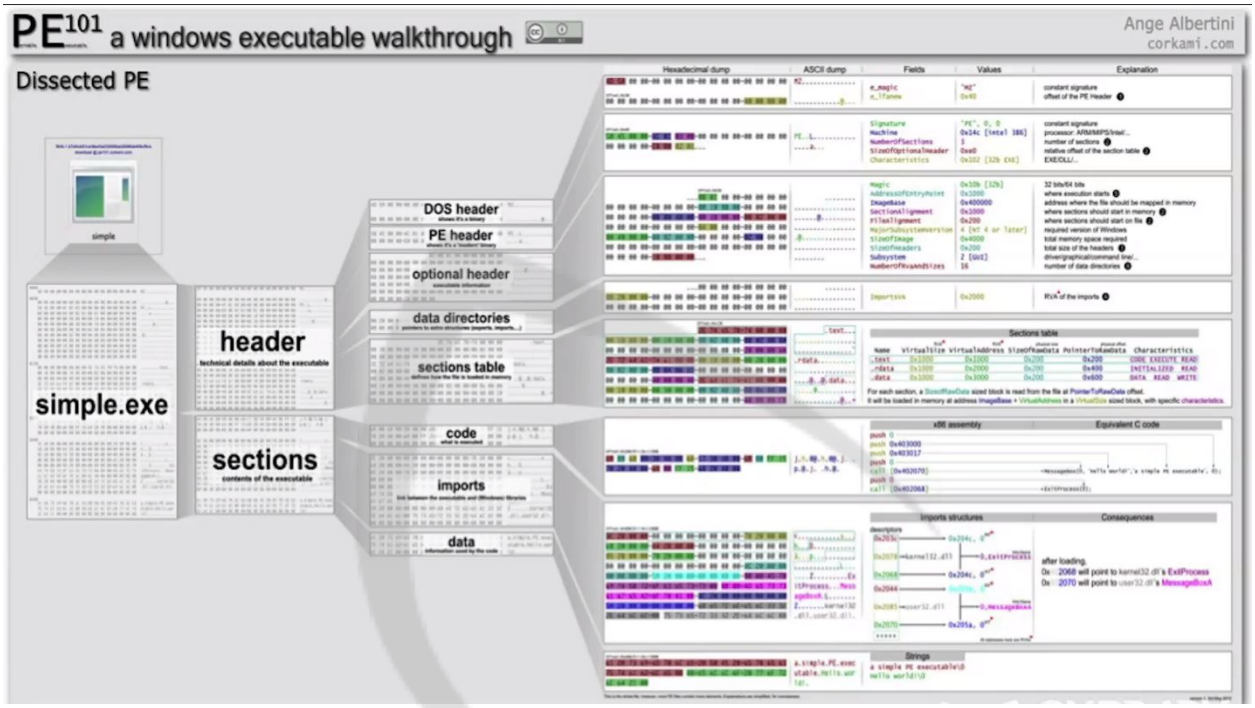
1. MOV
2. PUSH
3. CALL
4. CMP
5. ADD
6. POP
7. LEA
8. TEST
9. JE
10. JMP
11. RET

12. INC

- Demo: Compiling ‘C’ Code
    - C is a lower level language
    - Demo:
        - gcc -S hello.c
        - cl /FA hello.c
        - Visual Studio
            - Project Settings -> C / C++ -> Output Files -> ASM List Location
            - Change “Assembly Output” to “Assembly With Source Code”
        - Place a break point in the debugger right click and find “Go to Assembly”
        - OllyDbg



Lesson 5.2: Basic Static Analysis Part 2
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Static Analysis, PE, Malware, Assembly Code

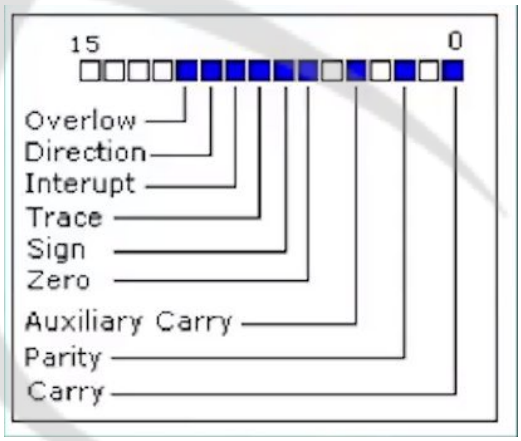


- PE file Parsers
    - PE Explorer
    - COFF Explorer
    - PEiD
    - PE Studio
    - 010 Hexeditor with the PE Binary Templates
    - Make your own:
        - Malware Analysis Cookbook
- Portable Executables
    - Most modern Windows executables use the ‘PE’ format
        - .exe
        - .dll
        - .src
        - .cpl
        - .ocx

- .sys
- .drv
- .efi
- .fon

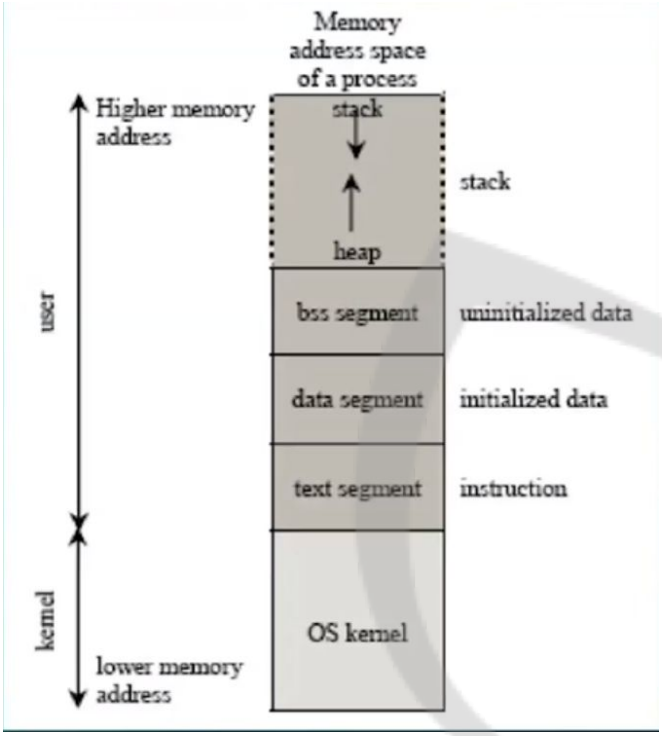
- EFLAGs Register

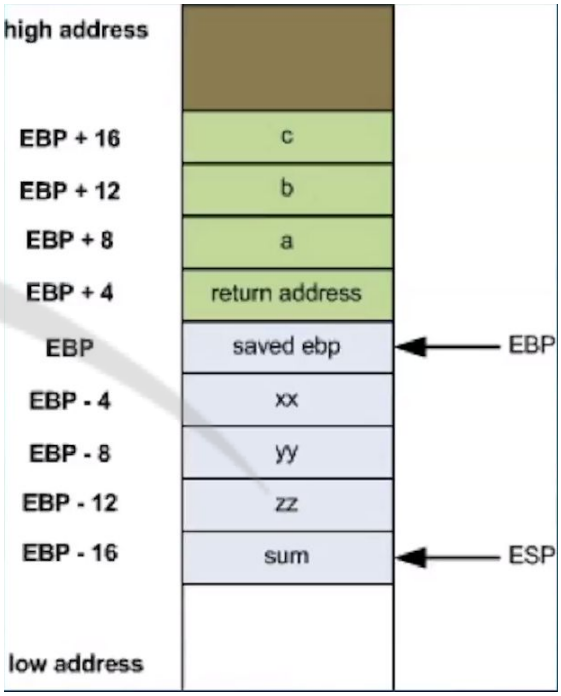
Flag	Mean	Type
ID	ID Flag	X
VIP	Virtual Interrupt Pending	X
VIF	Virtual Interrupt Flag	X
AC	Alignment Check	X
VM	Virtual 8086 Mode	X
RF	Resume Flag	X
NT	Nested Task	X
IOPL	IO Privilege Level	X
OF	Overflow Flag	X
DF	Direction Flag	C
IF	Interrupt Enable Flag	X
TF	Trap Flag	X
SF	Sign Flag	S
ZF	Zero Flag	S
AF	Auxiliary Carry Flag	S
PF	Parity Flag	S
CF	Carry Flag	S
	X - System Flags	
	C - Control Flags	
	S - Status Flags	




```
1  mov eax, 1
2  cmp eax, 2
3  jz  istwo
4  isnot:
5  mov eax, 2
6  istwo:
7  mov eax, 0
```

- The Stack

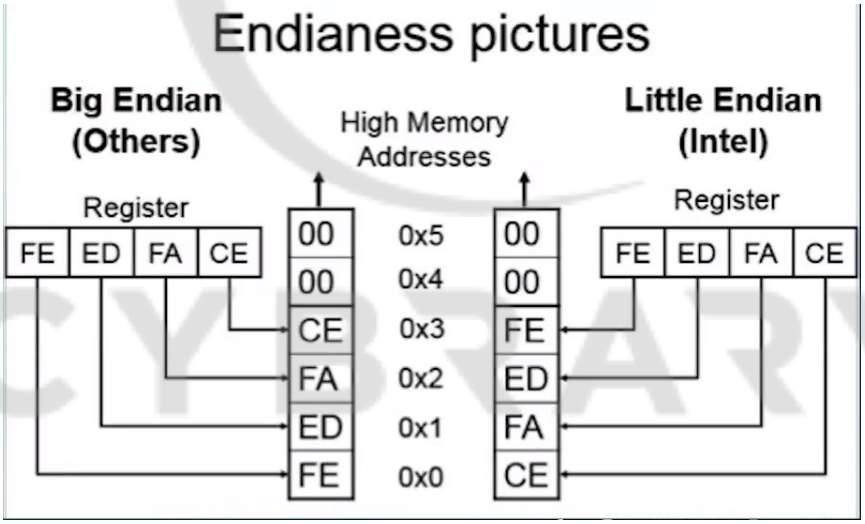




  - At the top of the memory
  - Grows downward
  - Normally holds local variables
  - ESP Points the top of the stack (The lowest memory address)
  - EBP – Extended Base Pointer, always points to the bottom of the stack (The highest memory address)
  - PUSH Instruction – DECrements ESP (stack pointer) by 4, and MOV'es 4 bytes at that location.
  - POP – MOV'es the ESP value and increments the stack by 4.
  - CALL – PUSH'es EIP, and JMP's to the function address.
  - RET – JMP's to the return address which was pushed on to the stack during the CALL instruction just before the
- Misc.

- NOP Instruction
- Flags
  - Example: Zero Flag
- Bit masks:
  - Example:
    - 0010 AND 1110 = 0010
    - 0x0000FF00 AND 0xA0AB2AA01 = 0X0000AA00
- Endianness
  - Big Endian in Intel Registers. Little Endian in storage
- Size of datatypes such as WORD, DWORD, QWORD
- One's Complement – flip all bits
- Two's Complement – flip all bits + 1
- Negative numbers are the Two's Complement of the positive number

- Endian



- Little Endian – 0x12345678 stored in RAM "little end" first. The least significant byte of a word or larger is stored in the lowest address.
  - E.g. 0x78563412
    - Intel is Little Endian

- Big Endian – 0x12345678 stored as is
  - Network traffic is Big Endian
  - Most everyone else you've heard of (PowerPC, ARM, SPARC, MIPS) is either Big Endian by default or can be configured as either (Bi-Endian)
- Visual Representation

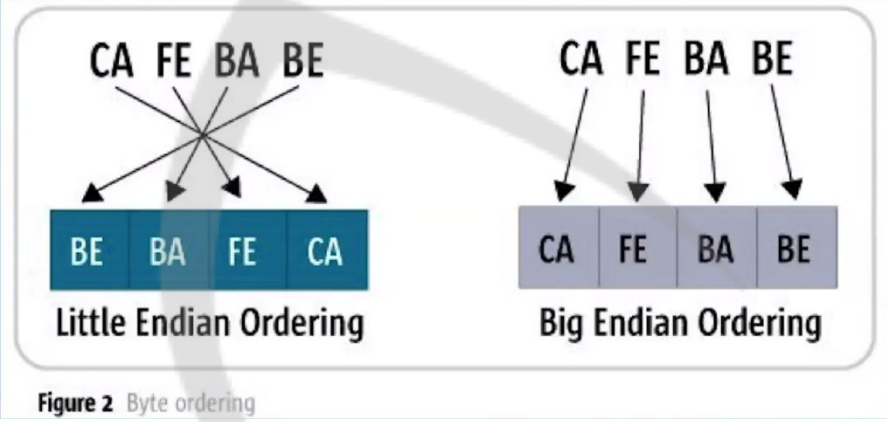


Figure 2 Byte ordering

- Little Endian Example
  - 11AB44FFAADD1221
  - 0x11AB44FF 0xAADD1221
  - 0xFF44AB11 0x2112DDAA
  - 0xFF44AB112112DDAA
- Notes for the Paranoid
  - Disassemblers can be wrong
    - Without running the code it's impossible to know what instructions will actually be executed
    - Malware will use code that tricks / breaks disassemblers / debuggers such as switching from x86 to x64 code. And JMP'ing into the middle of other instructions.
    - Malware will sometimes modify its own code while executing
  - Some malware will statically compile library's in to itself. This will make the malware much larger and difficult to analyze. IDA Pro automatically tries to identify statically compiled libraries.

    - Malware will have 'junk code' which does nothing or as no functional impact
    - Malware could not follow conventions. Such as using MOV's and SUB's instead of PUSH for API parameters
    - Malware sometimes corrupts its own stack to mess up disassemblers
- Recap & List of Good Resources
    - Goals of Static Analysis
    - Assembly
    - The IDA Pro Book: The Unofficial Guide
        - Chris Edge
    - Professional Assembly Language
        - Richard Blum
    - Reversing: Secrets of Reverse Engineering
        - Eldad Eilam
    - Corkami
        - https://github.com/corkami
    - http://opensecuritytraining.info/IntroX86.html
        - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL038BE01D3BAEFDB0
    - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86_assembly_language
    - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86_calling_conventions

Lesson 5.3: Basic Static Analysis Part 3

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Static Analysis, PE, Malware, Assembly Code

- Calling Conventions
    - cdecl
        - "C declaration"
        - Most common
        - Push reverse order parameters
        - Caller is responsible for cleaning up the stack
    - stdcall
        - Microsoft API
        - Push reverse order parameters
        - Callee is responsible for cleaning up the stack
- Demo

- stdcall vs. cdecl
- Different ways to put data on the stack
  - gcc
  - Visual studio (36:47)

Lesson 5.5: Basic Static Analysis Part 4B
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Static Analysis, Tricks, Malware

- Tricks
  - Why are we doing this?
    - Understand the Malware
    - Discover Indicators of Compromise
    - Confirm Dynamic analysis
    - Discover Anti-Debugging code
  - Tricks used by Malware so far:
    - Stack Corruption
    - Import Hiding
      - Dynamic Function Resolving
    - String Obfuscation

Lesson 5.6: Basic Static Analysis Part 5
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Static Analysis, Basics, Tips

- Tips and Tricks
  - Dealing with Obfuscated Strings
    - The Hard way: Fully reverse engineer the code, re-implement it, then apply the same process to the strings.
    - The Easy way: Use the native code.

Lesson 5.7: Basic Static Analysis Part 6
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Static Analysis, Basics, Tips

- Enumerating Capabilities
  - Find Command Processing Subroutines
  - Configuration Processing Subroutines
  - Document everything!
  - Test afterwards via Dynamic Analysis

- *Note: There is no 'Undo' in IDA!*

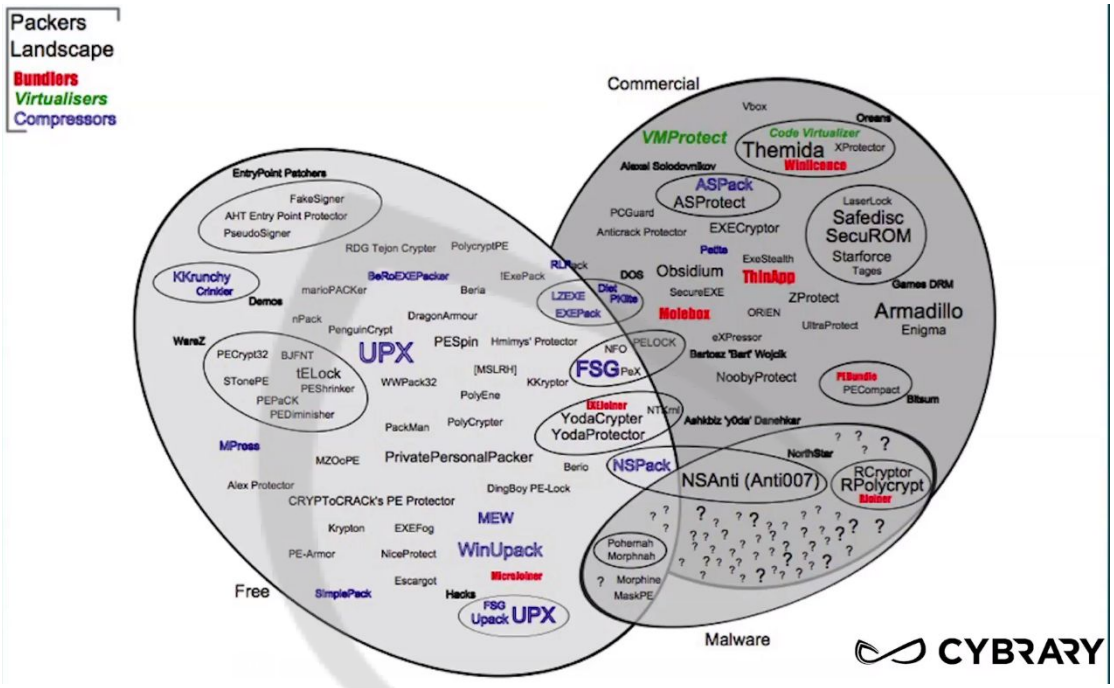
Module 6: Packers

Lesson 6.1: Packers Part 1

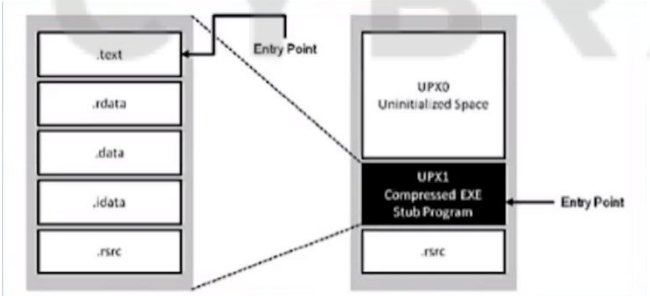
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Packers, Introduction, Theory

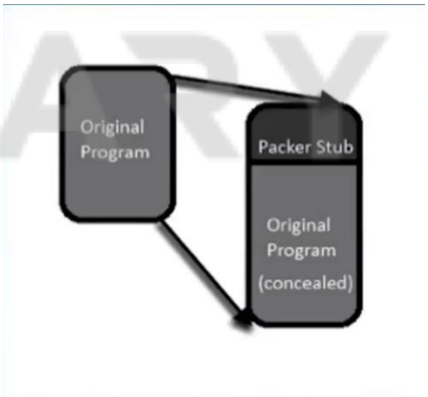
- What are Packers?
  - Self-decrypting executables
  - Originally made for compressing code size
  - Use tools such as
    - Debuggers
    - Memory Dumpers
  - Characteristics:
    - Packer strings/advertisements
    - Few strings
    - Few imports
    - High entropy data
    - Large virtual sections with small raw disk size
  - Goals:
    - Hide strings
    - Change the hash
    - Mask binary signatures
- Legitimate Users
  - Code Compression
  - Intellectual Property Protection
  - Anti-Reverse Engineering
  - Anti-Cheat
  - Digital Rights Management (DRM)
    - Licensing
- Common Packers
  - UPX
  - Armadillo
  - ASPack
  - VMProtect

- Themida



- Changes in Code





Lesson 6.3: Packers Part 3
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Packers, Packing, Demo

- Packing Example
  - Before Packing
    - Illusion Bot Strings
    - Illusion Bot AV Detections
    - Illusion Bot PE Sections
  - After Packing
    - No Strings
    - Fewer AV Detections
    - Different PE Sections

Lesson 6.4: Packers Part 4
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Packers, Unpacking, Demo

- Unpacking Demo
  - UPX Packed Regshot
    - Strings
    - PEiD
  - Pack Regshot (run)
    - Strings after
    - PeiD -> deep. Data base from SANS
  - Unpack Regshot “upx -d”
    - OllyDbg 1.10 (OllyDbg 2 will auto unpack)
    - Find OEP
  - Dump
    - OllyDump or
    - OllyDbg PE Dumper 3.03 or
    - LordPE
  - Reconstruct IAT
    - ImpREC 1.7e

Lesson 6.5: Packers Part 5
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Packers, Advanced, Theory

- More Advanced Packers
    - Multiple Layers
    - Adds Junk Code
    - Built in defenses
        - Anti-Analysis Code
        - Anti-Debugging Code
    - Custom Encryption
    - Create Small Virtual Machine

Module 7: Malware Defenses

Lesson 7.1: Malware Defenses Part 1

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Malware, Defenses, Introduction

- Defense Categories
    - Anti-Debugging
        - API
        - Process and Thread
        - Hardware and Register Based
        - Exception Based
        - Modified Code Based
        - Timing Based
    - Anti-Virtual Machine
        - API
        - Memory Constants
        - File/Process Names
    - Anti-Disassembly
        - Tricky Assembly
        - Dynamic Code Generation/Calling
    - Misc.
        - Anti-Analysis Tools
    - Malware Goals:
        - Stop Automated Analysis
        - Slow down Malware Analysts
- Basic Anti-Debugging Example

- if(IsDebuggerPresent() == TRUE) {
    - exit(0); // Debugger is detected
- }

Lesson 7.3: Malware Defenses Part 3

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Malware, Anti-Debugging, Techniques

- Anti-Debugging Techniques
    - IsBeingDebugged()
    - CheckRemoteDebuggerPresent()
    - FindWindow()
    - OutputDebugString()
    - NtQueryInformationProcess(ProcessDebugFlags)
    - NtQueryInformationProcess(ProcessDebugObjectHandle)
    - NtQueryInformationProcess(ProcessDebugPort)
    - NtSetInformationThreadDebuggerDetaching
    - SeDebugPrivilege OpenProcess
    - DebugActiveProcess()
    - NtGlobalFlag
    - PEB ProcessHeap Flag Debugger
    - LDR_Module Flags
    - Vista TEB System DLL Pointer
    - GetTickCount and TimeGetTime
    - Process names check
    - int 0Xcc scanning
    - and many more
- Anti-Virtual Machine Techniques
    - Process name check
    - LDR_Module
    - VMWare LDT Register Detection
    - VMWare STR Register Detection
    - VMWare special I/O instruction
    - Checks special VT-x or VMM instructions
    - Timing checks
    - Registry Checks

- Virtual MAC address
- Virtual hardware names
- Anti-Cuckoo
- Checks common VM drive ID's
- And many more

- Anti-Disassembly Examples
  - From: https://blog.sevagas.com/?Fun-combining-anti-debugging-and
  - ```
    __asm
    {
        xor eax,eax     // Will always set zero flag
        jz valid        // Insert long jump opcode
        __asm __emit(0xea)
    valid:
    // This will be obfuscated when disassembled
    }
    ```
    ```
    __asm
    {
        /* Get address of changeMe label in eax*/
        mov eax, changeMe
        /* Replace first byte in changeMe by a NOP*/
        mov [eax], 0x90
    changeMe:
    // This will be obfuscated when disassembled
    }
    ```

- Anti-Anti-Debugging Techniques
  - Modify (Patch) the Malware
    - Patch the memory
    - Anti-Anti-Anti-Debugging: Integrity Checking Malware
  - Hook Function Calls
  - Run without a Debugger
    - Log API calls
    - Dumps memory
    ```