running example

```
$ file mystery
mystery: ELF 64-bit LSB pie executable, x86-64,
version 1 (SYSV), dynamically linked,
interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2,
BuildID[sha1]=9819a3cfb39d01ad2a376c54318f104139422a8f,
for GNU/Linux 3.2.0, stripped
```

LSB = little endian

pie = position-independent executable

interpreter = program that loads this

aside: file(1)

```
$ man file
FILE(1)                          General Commands Manual

NAME
       file – determine file type

....
```

looks for “magic numbers” near beginning of file data

hand-managed database of common patterns

from file's source

```
0   name        elf-le
>16 leshort     0       no file type,
!:mime  application/octet-stream
>16 leshort     1       relocatable,
!:mime  application/x-object
>16 leshort     2       executable,
!:mime  application/x-executable
>16 leshort     3       ${x?pie executable:shared object},

...
0   string      \177ELF     ELF
!:strength *2
>4  byte        0       invalid class
>4  byte        1       32-bit
>4  byte        2       64-bit
>5  byte        0       invalid byte order
>5  byte        1       LSB
>>0 use     elf-le
>5  byte        2       MSB
>>0 use     \^elf-le
>7  byte        0       (SYSV)
```

finding strings

```
$ hexdump -c mystery
00000000  7f 45 4c 46 02 01 01 00  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  |.ELF............|
00000010  03 00 3e 00 01 00 00 00  c0 60 00 00 00 00 00 00  |..>.....`......|
00000020  40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  08 5e 03 00 00 00 00 00  |@........^......|
00000030  00 00 00 00 40 00 38 00  0d 00 40 00 1e 00 1d 00  |....@.8...@.....|
[... many more lines ...]
00000e60  00 5f 49 54 4d 5f 64 65  72 65 67 69 73 74 65 72  |._ITM_deregister|
00000e70  54 4d 43 6c 6f 6e 65 54  61 62 6c 65 00 5f 5f 67  |TMCloneTable.__g|
00000e80  6d 6f 6e 5f 73 74 61 72  74 5f 5f 00 5f 49 54 4d  |mon_start__._ITM|
00000e90  5f 72 65 67 69 73 74 65  72 54 4d 43 6c 6f 6e 65  |_registerTMClone|
00000ea0  54 61 62 6c 65 00 77 61  64 64 63 68 00 63 6c 65  |Table.waddch.cle|
00000eb0  61 72 6f 6b 00 6e 6f 65  63 68 6f 00 6d 76 70 72  |arok.noecho.mvpr|
[... many more lines ...]
```

exercise: heuristic?

could scan through pages of hexdump for something interesting...

good heuristic for automating this process?

strings utility (1)

```
$ strings mystery
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2
*7lT1
A9B*
m8m7
_ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable
__gmon_start__
_ITM_registerTMCloneTable
waddch
clearok
…
        prints help
        identify object
        left
        down
        right
…
        save game
        quit
```

strings utility (2)

```
$ strings --bytes=40 mystery
character you want help for (* for all):
you feel a wrenching sensation in your gut
your armor appears to be weaker now. Oh my!
you feel a sting in your arm and now feel weaker
Level: %d  Gold: %-5d  Hp: %*d(%*d)  Str: %2d(%d)  Ac: %-2d  Exp: %d/%ld  %s
Ok, if you want to exit that badly, I'll have to allow it
Hello %s, just a moment while I dig the dungeon...
orry, but your terminal window has too few columns.
Sorry, but your terminal window has too few lines.
please specifiy a letter between 'A' and 'Z'

…
```

dedicated reverse engineering tools

specialized toolkits for specifically reverse engineering

more complex analyses than objdump/strings

primary example I'll look at: Ghidra

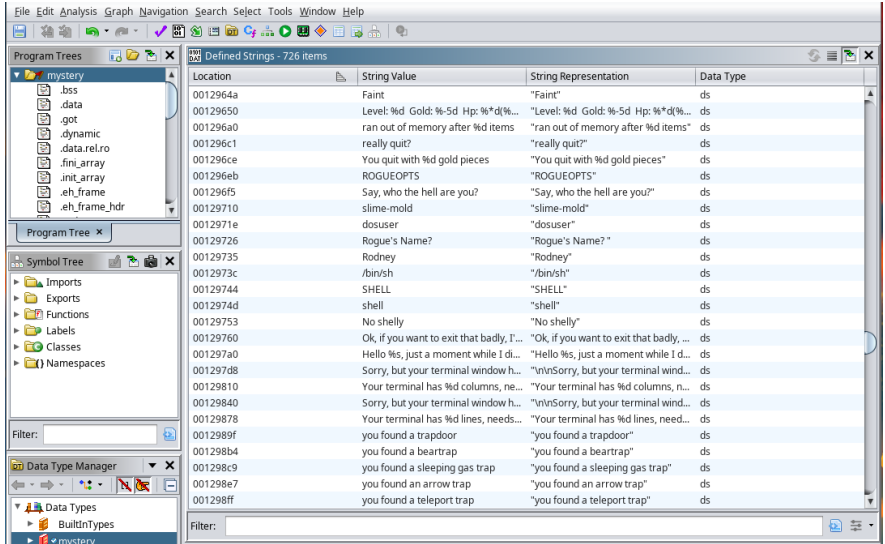
- open source, developed by National Security Agency

has some commercial competitors

- Binary Ninja (`https://binary.ninja`), IDA Pro (`https://hex-rays.com/ida-pro`)
- sometimes free/cheap for educational use
- very expensive for full/commercial licenses

in Ghidra

(after making new project, loading mystery file, Window > Defined Strings)



libraries

```
$ objdump --all-headers mystery

…
Dynamic Section:
  NEEDED               libncurses.so.6
  NEEDED               libtinfo.so.6
  NEEDED               libc.so.6

…
```

ncurses?

ncurses

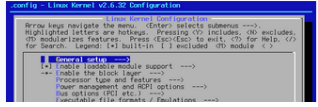
20 languages

Article Talk Read Edit View history Tools

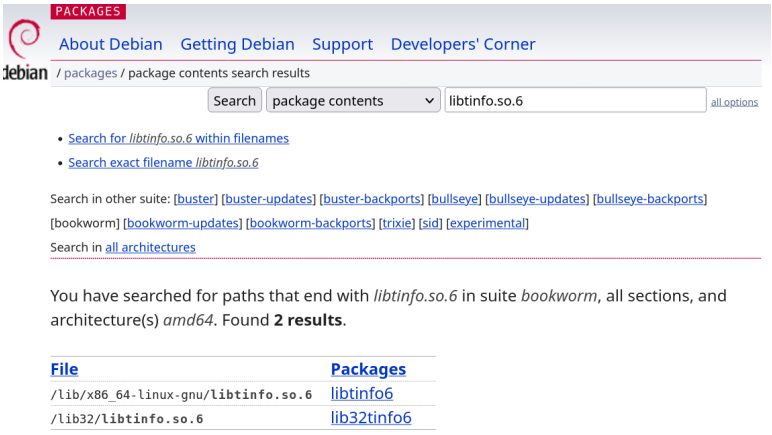
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

ncurses (new curses) is a programming library for creating textual user interfaces (TUIs) that work across a wide variety of terminals; it is written in a way that attempts to optimize the commands that are sent to the terminal, so as reduce the latency experienced when

ncurses



tinfo? (1)



PACKAGES

About Debian Getting Debian Support Developers' Corner

/ packages / package contents search results

Search | package contents | libtinfo.so.6 | all options

- Search for *libtinfo.so.6* within filenames
- Search exact filename *libtinfo.so.6*

Search in other suite: [buster] [buster-updates] [buster-backports] [bullseye] [bullseye-updates] [bullseye-backports] [bookworm] [bookworm-updates] [bookworm-backports] [trixie] [sid] [experimental]

Search in all architectures

You have searched for paths that end with *libtinfo.so.6* in suite *bookworm*, all sections, and architecture(s) *amd64*. Found **2 results**.

File	Packages
/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/**libtinfo.so.6**	libtinfo6
/lib32/**libtinfo.so.6**	lib32tinfo6

tinfo? (2)

Package: libtinfo6 (6.4-4)

shared low-level terminfo library for terminal handling

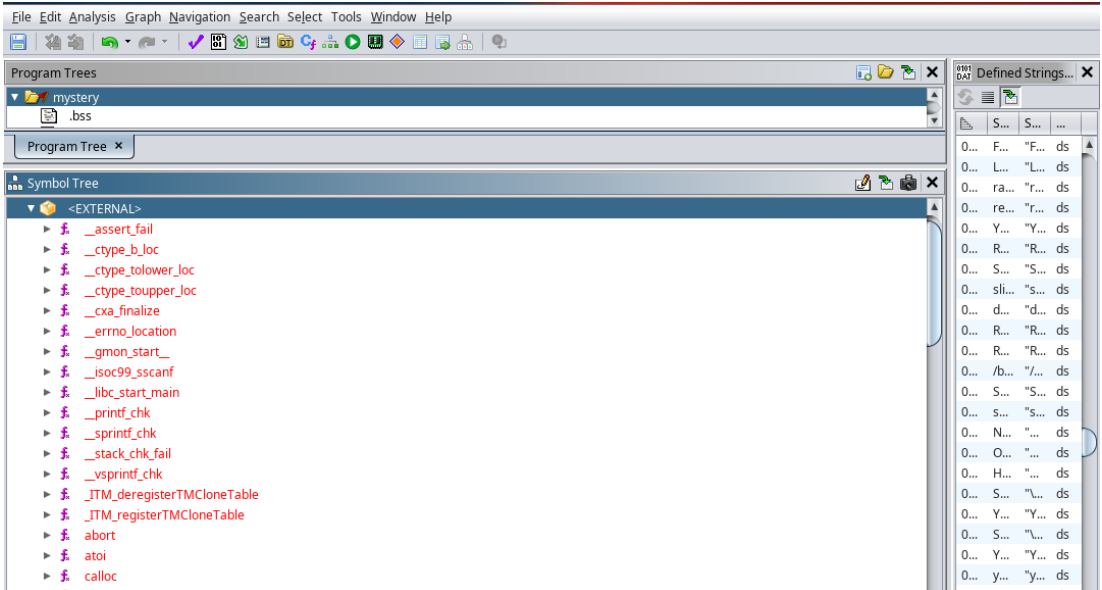
The ncurses library routines are a terminal-independent method of updating character screens with reasonable optimization.

This package contains the shared low-level terminfo library.

library calls

```
$ objdump --dynamic-syms mystery

mystery:     file format elf64-x86-64

DYNAMIC SYMBOL TABLE:
0000000000000000      DF *UND*  0000000000000000 (GLIBC_2.3)  __ctype_toupper_loc
0000000000000000      DF *UND*  0000000000000000 (GLIBC_2.2.5) getenv
0000000000000000      DF *UND*  0000000000000000 (NCURSES6_5.0.19991023) wattrset
0000000000000000      DF *UND*  0000000000000000 (GLIBC_2.2.5) free
0000000000000000      DF *UND*  0000000000000000 (NCURSES6_TINFO_5.0.19991023) flushinp
0000000000000000      DF *UND*  0000000000000000 (GLIBC_2.2.5) localtime
0000000000000000      DF *UND*  0000000000000000 (GLIBC_2.34) __libc_start_main

...
0000000000000000      DF *UND*  0000000000000000 (GLIBC_2.2.5) setuid

...
```

library calls (Ghidra)



finding library call uses

objdump --disassemble --dyanmic-reloc:

```
0000000000005b00 <setuid@plt>:
    5b00:►      f3 0f 1e fa           ►  endbr64
    5b04:►      f2 ff 25 fd d3 02 00  ►  bnd jmp *0x2d3fd(%rip)
                        # 32f08 <setuid@GLIBC_2.2.5>
    5b0b:►      0f 1f 44 00 00        ►  nopl   0x0(%rax,%rax,1)

…
   2764f:►      e8 ec e3 fd ff        ►  call   5a40 <open@plt>
   27654:►      89 05 fe 48 01 00     ►  mov    %eax,0x148fe(%rip)        # 3bf58 <
   2765a:►      31 c0                 ►  xor    %eax,%eax
   2765c:►      e8 2f e1 fd ff        ►  call   5790 <getuid@plt>
   27661:►      89 c7                 ►  mov    %eax,%edi
   27663:►      31 c0                 ►  xor    %eax,%eax
   27665:►      e8 96 e4 fd ff        ►  call   5b00 <setuid@plt>
   2766a:►      31 c0                 ►  xor    %eax,%eax
   2766c:►      e8 cf e2 fd ff        ►  call   5940 <getgid@plt>
   27671:►      48 83 c4 08           ►  add    $0x8,%rsp
```

disassembly issues (1)

```
.global main
main:
    call print_hello
    xorl %eax, %eax
    ret
.Lstr:
    .asciz "Hello!"
print_hello:
    leaq .Lstr(%rip), %rdi  // RDI <- .Lstr address
    jmp puts
```

```
0000000000001139 <main>:
    1139:       e8 0a 00 00 00          call   1148 <print_hello>
    113e:       31 c0                   xor    %eax,%eax
    1140:       c3                      ret
    1141:       48                      rex.W
    1142:       65 6c                   gs insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
    1144:       6c                      insb   (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
    1145:       6f                      outsl  %ds:(%rsi),(%dx)
    1146:       2e                      cs
        ...
0000000000001148 <print_hello>:
    1148:       48 8d 3d f2 ff ff ff    lea    -0xe(%rip),%rdi        # 1141 <main+0x8
    114f:       e9 dc fe ff ff          jmp    1030 <puts@plt>
```

disassembly issues

```
0000000000001139 <main>:
    1139:       e8 0a 00 00 00              call   1148 <print_hello>
    113e:       31 c0                       xor    %eax,%eax
    1140:       c3                          ret
    1141:       48                          rex.W
    1142:       65 6c                       gs insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
    1144:       6c                          insb   (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
    1145:       6f                          outsl  %ds:(%rsi),(%dx)
    1146:       2e                          cs
            ...
0000000000001148 <print_hello>:
    1148:       48 8d 3d f2 ff ff ff        lea    -0xe(%rip),%rdi        # 1141 <main+0x8
    114f:       e9 dc fe ff ff              jmp    1030 <puts@plt>
```

```
    1139:       e8 0a 00 00 00              call   1148 <__cxa_finalize@plt+0x108>
    113e:       31 c0                       xor    %eax,%eax
    1140:       c3                          ret
    1141:       48                          rex.W
    1142:       65 6c                       gs insb (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
    1144:       6c                          insb   (%dx),%es:(%rdi)
    1145:       6f                          outsl  %ds:(%rsi),(%dx)
    1146:       2e 00 48 8d                 cs add %cl,-0x73(%rax)
    114a:       3d f2 ff ff ff              cmp    $0xfffffff2,%eax
    114f:       e9 dc fe ff ff              jmp    1030 <puts@plt>
```

finding assembly heuristics

objdump strategy, apparently:

- disassemble instructions starting at each symbol
- skip over strings of zero-bytes just before symbol

problem: can misidentify jumped to instructions

- especially if symbols stripped to save space/hinder reverse engineering

exercise: algorithm to fix?

- (Ghidra does this)

some tricky cases (1)

```
_start:
    ...
    movq $main, %rdi
    ...
    call __libc_start_main
    ...
```

```
struct DeviceTypeFuncs {
    void (*Send)(struct DeviceInfo*, char *);
    void (*Recv)(struct DeviceInfo, char *, size_t);
};
void SendToDevice(struct DeviceInfo* info, char *data) {
    (info->funcs->Send)(data);
}
```

some tricky cases (2)

```
table:
    .int case1 - table
    .int case2 - table
...

    lea table(%rip), %rax
    addq (%rax, %rdi, 4), %rax
    jmp *%rax
```

```
    movq $function + 0x12340, %rax
    movq $0x1234, %r9
    sll $4, %r9
    addq %r9, %rax
    call *%rax
```

some tricky cases (3)

```
    call complex_func_returning_three
    lea next2-3(%rax), %rax
    jmp *%rax
    .byte 0x39, 0x59, 0x60, 0x89, 0xFF
next2:
    addq ...
```

```
                    LAB_00101139
00101139 e8 0a 00       CALL        FUN_00101148
         00 00
0010113e 31 c0          XOR         EAX,EAX
00101140 c3             RET

                    s_Hello._00101141
00101141 48 65 6c       ds          "Hello."
         6c 6f 2e 00

                    ****************************************
                    *                          FUNCTION
                    ****************************************
                    undefined FUN_00101148()
    undefined         AL:1          <RETURN>
                    FUN_00101148
00101148 48 8d 3d       LEA         RDI,[s_Hello._00101141
         f2 ff ff ff
0010114f e9 dc fe       JMP         <EXTERNAL>::puts
         ff ff
```

cross-references (1)

```
                    LAB_00101139                                    XREF[1]:     entry:00101068(*)
00101139 e8 0a 00       CALL        FUN_00101148                                 undefined FUN_00101148()
         00 00
0010113e 31 c0          XOR         EAX,EAX
00101140 c3             RET

                    s_Hello._00101141                               XREF[1]:     FUN_00101148:00101148(*)
00101141 48 65 6c       ds          "Hello."
         6c 6f 2e 00

                    *************************************************************
                    *                          FUNCTION                         *
                    *************************************************************
                    undefined FUN_00101148()
     undefined          AL:1           <RETURN>
                    FUN_00101148                                    XREF[1]:     00101139(c)
00101148 48 8d 3d       LEA         RDI,[s_Hello._00101141]                      = "Hello."
         f2 ff ff ff
0010114f e9 dc fe       JMP         <EXTERNAL>::puts                             int puts(char * __s)
         ff ff
```

cross-references idea

cross-reference idea:

really useful to know where something is used

do-able ‘by hand’ with objdump and friends, but...

- lots of bookkeeping, searching in text files, etc.

more cross-references

```
                    *************************************************************
                    undefined FUN_00122df0()
     undefined          AL:1           <RETURN>
     undefined8         Stack[-0x30]:8 local_30                    XREF[4]:     001231ae(W),
                                                                                001231d0(R),
                                                                                001236fd(W),
                                                                                00123707(R)
                    FUN_00122df0                                   XREF[20]:    FUN_001061b0:00106280(c),
                                                                                FUN_001062f0:00106345(c),
                                                                                FUN_0010a7f0:0010ac37(c),
                                                                                FUN_0010a7f0:0010af3a(c),
                                                                                FUN_00110670:0011079e(c),
                                                                                FUN_00110b00:00110b9a(c),
                                                                                FUN_00110b00:00110c65(c),
                                                                                FUN_00110b00:00110cd1(c),
                                                                                FUN_00110d40:00110df7(c),
                                                                                FUN_00110d40:00110e24(c),
                                                                                FUN_00112ae0:00112be8(c),
                                                                                FUN_00112d00:00112e0e(c),
                                                                                FUN_00113780:00113a10(c),
                                                                                FUN_00123880:0012398a(c),
                                                                                FUN_00124470:001245c4(c),
                                                                                FUN_00125210:00125277(c),
                                                                                FUN_00125410:001254e2(c),
                                                                                FUN_001256b0:00125733(c),
                                                                                0012ca40, 00130078(*)
```

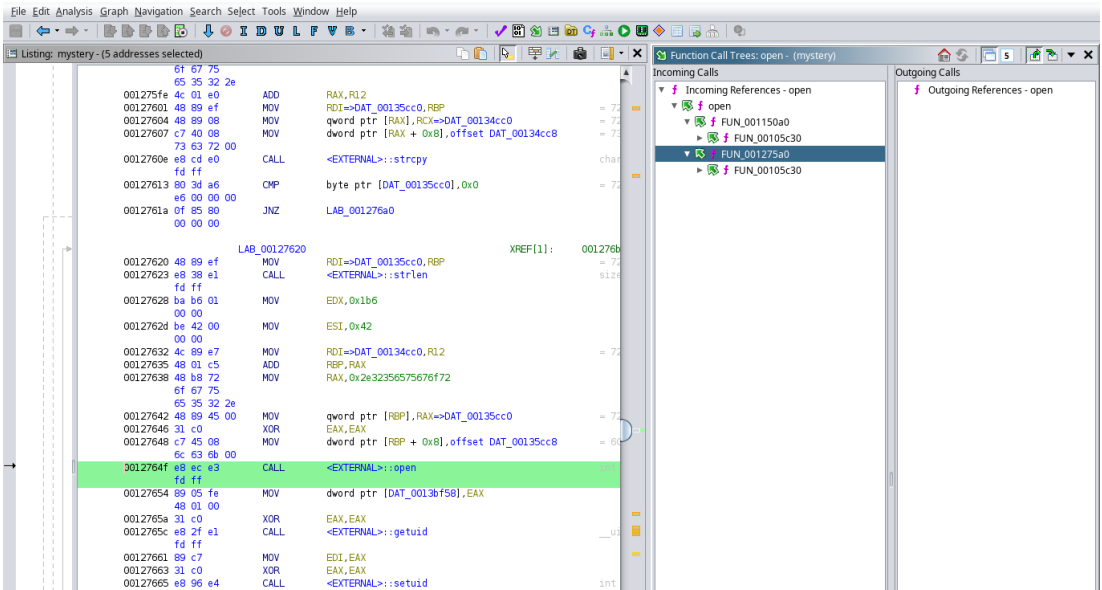
more cross-references (stack)

```
                undefined FUN_00118a90()
  undefined         AL:1          <RETURN>
  undefined8        Stack[-0x40]:8 local_40                 XREF[2]:     00118ab6(W),
                                                                         00118b31(R)
  undefined4        Stack[-0x44]:4 local_44                 XREF[3]:     00118c10(W),
                                                                         00118c14(*),
                                                                         00118c19(*)
  undefined4        Stack[-0x48]:4 local_48                 XREF[2]:     00118b90(*),
                                                                         00118c0a(*)
  undefined4        Stack[-0x4c]:4 local_4c                 XREF[3]:     00118abd(*),
                                                                         00118ac2(W),
                                                                         00118ad3(R)
  undefined8        Stack[-0x60]:8 local_60                 XREF[2]:     00118bc4(W),
                                                                         00118bce(R)
                FUN_00118a90                          XREF[2]:     0012c878, 0012f360(*)
```

more cross-references (global)

```
                    DAT_00142220                    XREF[197]:   FUN_00120f40:0012104a(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:001210a9(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:001210f8(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:00121148(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:0012118a(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:001211eb(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:00121230(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:00121280(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:001212d0(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:001213d0(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:0012141c(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:00121630(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:0012167c(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:00121873(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:001218c0(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:00121910(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:00121960(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:001219a1(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:001219ec(R),
                                                                 FUN_00120f40:00121a38(R), [more]
00142220 00 00 00 00     undefined4 00000000h
```

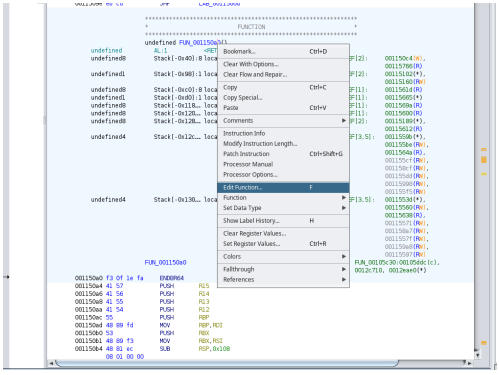
function callers?

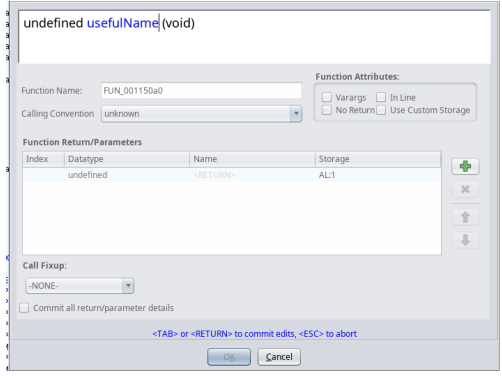


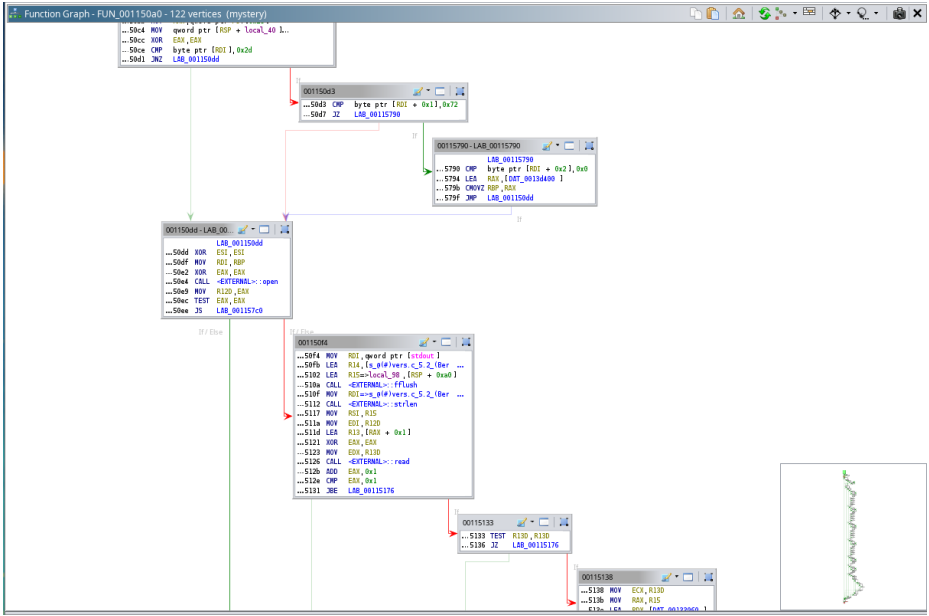
FUN_12345678

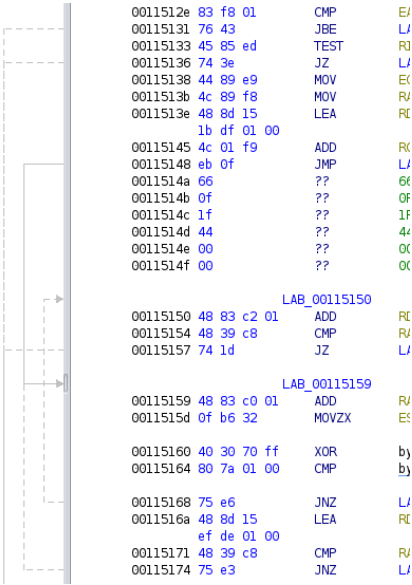
Ghidra names functions without symbols based on address

we can adjust that...






Function Graph - FUN_001150a0 - 122 vertices (mystery)
...50c4 MOV qword ptr [RSP + local_40]..
...50cc XOR EAX,EAX
...50ce CMP byte ptr [RDI],0x2d
...50d1 JNZ LAB_001150dd
001150d3
...50d3 CMP byte ptr [RDI + 0x1],0x72
...50d7 JZ LAB_00115790
00115790 - LAB_00115790
LAB_00115790
...5790 CMP byte ptr [RDI + 0x2],0x0
...5794 LEA RAX,[DAT_0013d400]
...579b CMOVZ RBP,RAX
...579f JMP LAB_001150dd
001150dd - LAB_00...
LAB_001150dd
...50dd XOR ESI,ESI
...50df MOV RDI,RBP
...50e2 XOR EAX,EAX
...50e4 CALL <EXTERNAL>::open
...50e9 MOV R12D,EAX
...50ec TEST EAX,EAX
...50ee JS LAB_001157c0
If / Else
00115014
...50f4 MOV RDI,qword ptr [stdout]
...50fb LEA R14,[s_a@#9vers_c_5_2_(Ber ...
...5102 LEA R15=>local_58 ,[RSP + 0xa0]
...510a CALL <EXTERNAL>::fflush
...510f MOV RDI=>s_a@#9vers_c_5_2_(Ber ...
...5112 CALL <EXTERNAL>::strlen
...5117 MOV RSI,R15
...511a MOV EDI,R12D
...511d LEA R13,[RAX + 0x1]
...5121 XOR EAX,EAX
...5123 MOV EDX,R13D
...5126 CALL <EXTERNAL>::read
...512b ADD EAX,0x1
...512e CMP EAX,0x1
...5131 JBE LAB_00115176
00115133
...5133 TEST R13D,R13D
...5136 JZ LAB_00115176
00115138
...5138 MOV ECX,R13D
...513b MOV RAX,R15


0011512e 83 f8 01 CMP E/
00115131 76 43 JBE LA
00115133 45 85 ed TEST RI
00115136 74 3e JZ LA
00115138 44 89 e9 MOV E(
0011513b 4c 89 f8 MOV RA
0011513e 48 8d 15 LEA RI
1b df 01 00
00115145 4c 01 f9 ADD R(
00115148 eb 0f JMP LA
0011514a 66 ?? 6(
0011514b 0f ?? 0F
0011514c 1f ?? 1F
0011514d 44 ?? 4(
0011514e 00 ?? 0(
0011514f 00 ?? 0(
LAB_00115150
00115150 48 83 c2 01 ADD RI
00115154 48 39 c8 CMP RA
00115157 74 1d JZ LA
LAB_00115159
00115159 48 83 c0 01 ADD RA
0011515d 0f b6 32 MOVZX ES
00115160 40 30 70 ff XOR by
00115164 80 7a 01 00 CMP by
00115168 75 e6 JNZ LA
0011516a 48 8d 15 LEA RI
ef de 01 00
00115171 48 39 c8 CMP RA
00115174 75 e3 JNZ LA

decompiler

Decompile: FUN_001150a0 - (mystery)

```
1
2  undefined8 FUN_001150a0(char *param_1,undefined8 param_2)
3
4  {
5    ulong uVar1;
6    int iVar2;
7    int iVar3;
8    int iVar4;
9    uint __seed;
10   size_t sVar5;
```

...

```
25   local_40 = *(long *)(in_FS_OFFSET + 0x28);
26   if (((*param_1 == '-') && (param_1[1] == 'r')) && (param_1[2] == '\0')) {
27     param_1 = &DAT_0013d400;
28   }
29   iVar2 = open(param_1,0);
30   if (iVar2 < 0) {
31     perror(param_1);
32   }
33   else {
34     fflush(stdout);
35     sVar5 = strlen(s_@(#)vers.c_5.2_(Berkeley)_4/11/8_00133020);
36     uVar1 = sVar5 + 1;
37     sVar6 = read(iVar2,local_98,uVar1 & 0xffffffff);
38     if ((1 < (int)sVar6 + 1U) && ((int)uVar1 != 0)) {
39       pbVar12 = &DAT_00133060;
40       pbVar11 = local_98 + (uVar1 & 0xffffffff);
41       pbVar8 = local_98;
42       do {
43         while( true ) {
44           pbVar7 = pbVar8 + 1;
```

refining decompile (1)

```
21  stat local_128;
22  byte local_98 [88];
23  long local_40;
24
25  local_40 = *(long *)(in_FS_OFFSET + 0x28);
26  if (((*param_1 == '-') && (param_1[1] == 'r')) && (param_1[2] == '\0')) {
27    param_1 = &DAT_0013d400;
28  }
29  iVar2 = anon(param_1,0)
30  if
31    pe
32  }
33  else
34    f
35    s                                          /11/8_00133020);
36    u
37    s                                          ff);
38    i                                          0)) {
39
40
41
42
43
44
```

refining decompile (2)

can setup names, types for functions

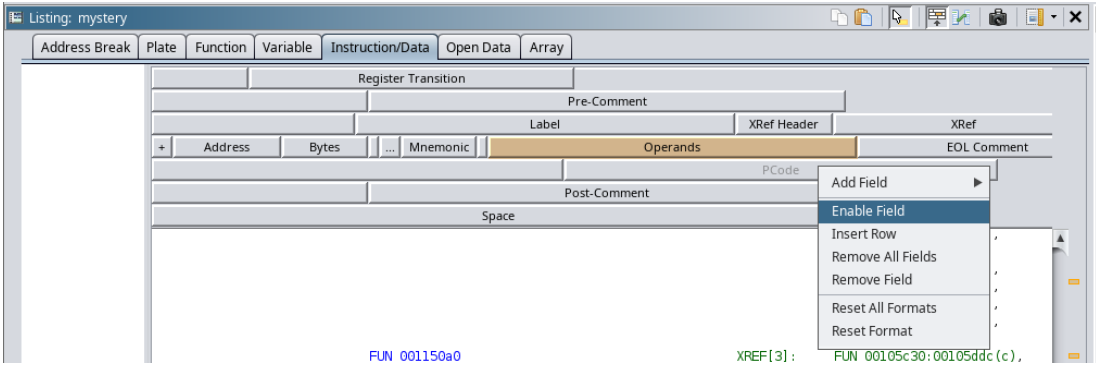
types can include marking array

- Ghidra doesn't seem great at inferring this all the time

also for local/global variables

- for globals, can right-click in listing view too

interlude: editing disassembly format



PCode

```
001150ce 80 3f 2d        CMP        byte ptr [RDI],0x2d
                                    $Ud980:1 = LOAD ram(RDI)
                                    $U27080:1 = COPY $Ud980:1
                                    CF = INT_LESS $U27080:1, 45:1
                                    OF = INT_SBORROW $U27080:1, 45:1
                                    $U27180:1 = INT_SUB $U27080:1, 45:1
                                    SF = INT_SLESS $U27180:1, 0:1
                                    ZF = INT_EQUAL $U27180:1, 0:1
                                    $U15100:1 = INT_AND $U27180:1, 0xff:1
                                    $U15180:1 = POPCOUNT $U15100:1
                                    $U15200:1 = INT_AND $U15180:1, 1:1
                                    PF = INT_EQUAL $U15200:1, 0:1
001150d1 75 0a           JNZ        LAB_001150dd
                                    $Ue500:1 = BOOL_NEGATE ZF
                                    CBRANCH *[ram]0x1150dd:8, $Ue500:1
001150d3 80 7f 01 72     CMP        byte ptr [RDI + 0x1],0x72
                                    $U4400:8 = INT_ADD RDI, 1:8
                                    $Ud980:1 = LOAD ram($U4400:8)
                                    $U27080:1 = COPY $Ud980:1
                                    CF = INT_LESS $U27080:1, 0x72:1
                                    OF = INT_SBORROW $U27080:1, 0x72:1
                                    $U27180:1 = INT_SUB $U27080:1, 0x72:1
                                    SF = INT_SLESS $U27180:1, 0:1
                                    ZF = INT_EQUAL $U27180:1, 0:1
                                    $U15100:1 = INT_AND $U27180:1, 0xff:1
                                    $U15180:1 = POPCOUNT $U15100:1
                                    $U15200:1 = INT_AND $U15180:1, 1:1
                                    PF = INT_EQUAL $U15200:1, 0:1
```

Intermediate Representations

Ghidra converts instructions to this PCode language

- describes effects of each instruction for other parts of Ghidra
- allows 'easy' support for ARM, MIPS, ...

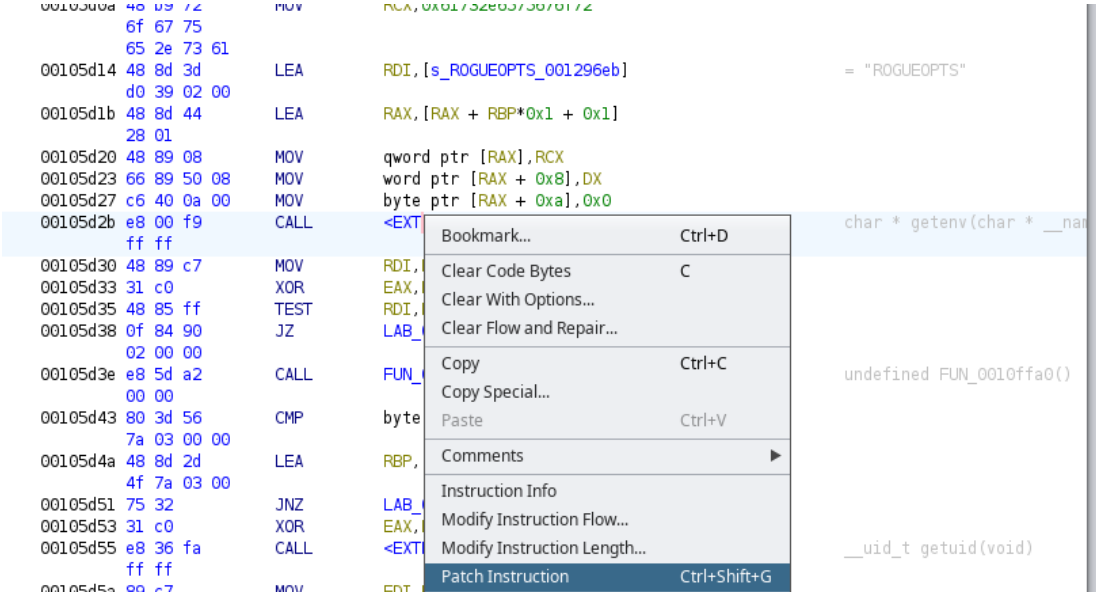
function graph we saw using PCode information, probably

decompiler is basically a PCode to C compiler

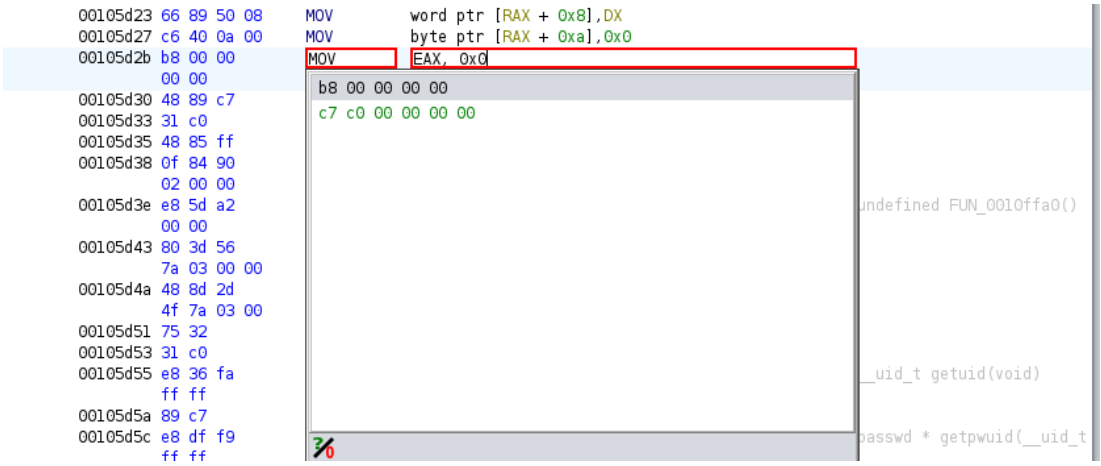
- does the same kind of optimizations/etc. normal compiler does
- different output language

Ghidra has 'find similar functions' tool that probably uses this

patch instruction?



patch instruction?



why is this useful?

can export modified version of binary to test

ghidra has support for debugging or emulating running program

- emulation is another application of PCode representation
- debugging requires some work to configure

debuggers / emulators

major way to analyzing software — run it!

possibly using debugger to analyze memory/registers/etc.

possibly in restricted environment

- either limit access to system calls, *or*
- run on virtual (okay-to-lose) hardware

selected debugger features (1)

watchpoint (GDB/LLDB `watch`)

- breakpoint triggered by variable/expression changing

breakpoints on system calls (GDB `catch syscall …`)

searching memory for strings (GDB `find`, LLDB `memory find`)

selected debugger fetures (2)

saving 'core' files (GDB `generate-core-file NAME`)

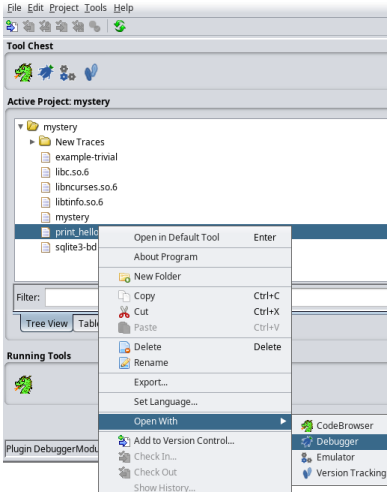
full copy of program's memory, can reload in debugger later

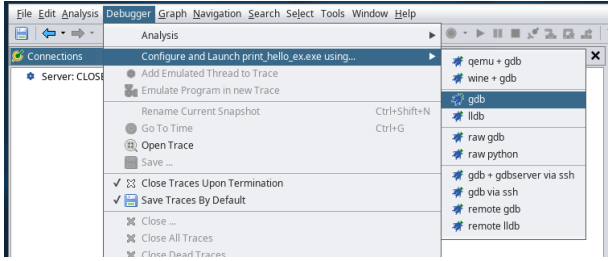
copying memory to/from file (GDB `dump`/`append`/`restore`; LLDB `memory read`/`write`)

attaching to programs / remote debugging

forcing jump to address/return from function (GDB `jump`/`return`)

Ghidra debugger integration



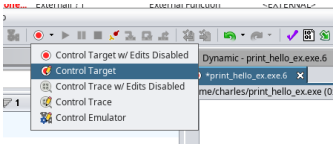


aside: Ghidra debugger installation

relies on GDB python support + some python packages installed

see installation docs

Ghidra traces



Ghidra — debugging session creates a ‘trace’

- can be saved to look at later

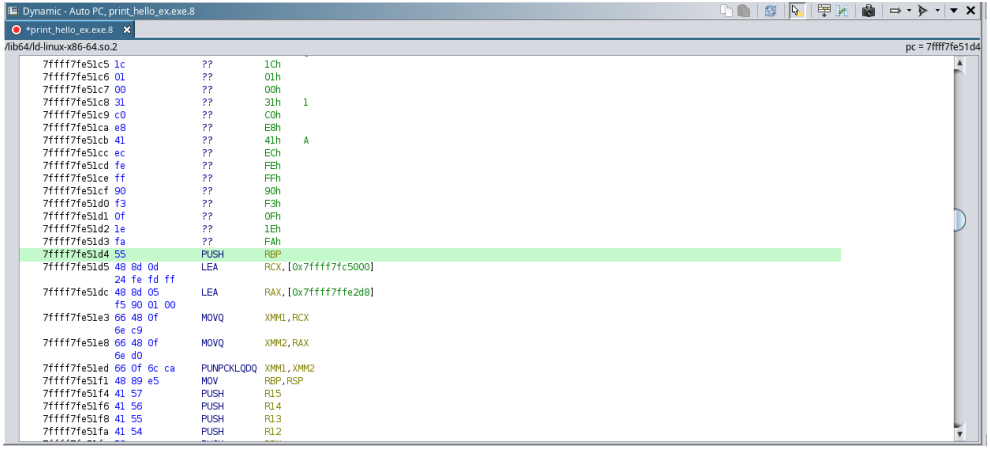
creates a list of ‘snapshots’ for every time debugger stopped

- snapshots are *incomplete*
- need to force read of memory/etc. to have info included in snapshot

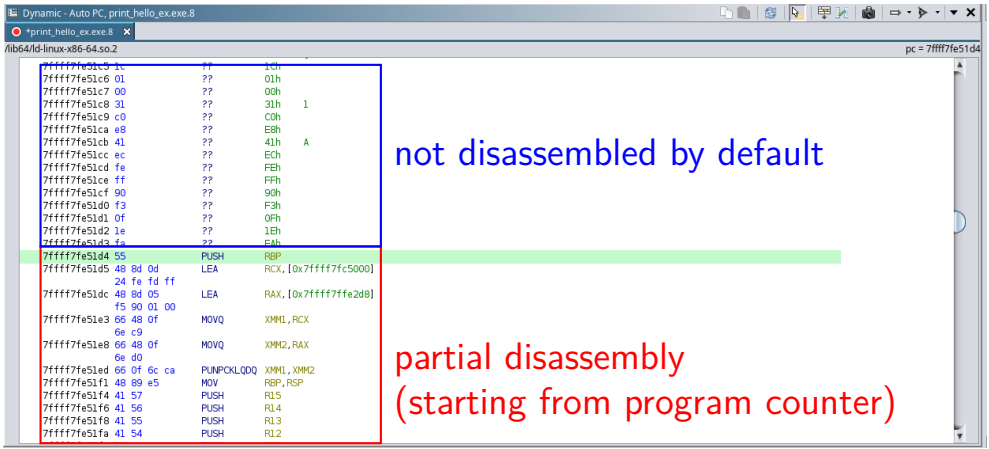
can switch between ‘Control Target’ and ‘Control Trace’ modes

- Control Trace — go back to old snapshots, examine state
- Control Target — control live program in debugger

Ghidra dynamic view



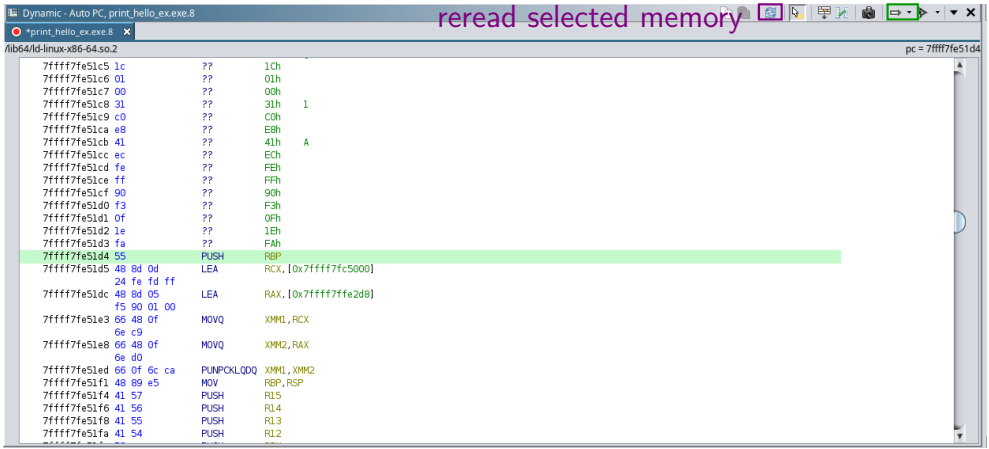
Ghidra dynamic view



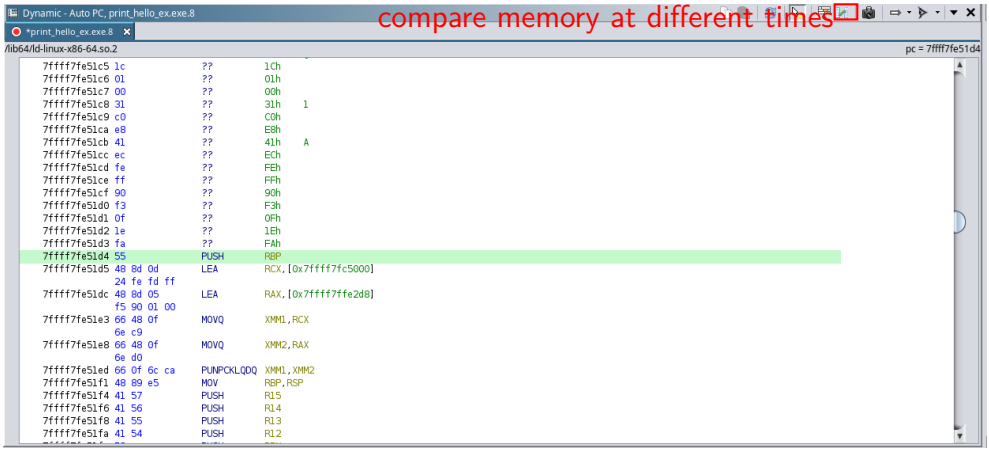
Ghidra dynamic view

select where in memory to view

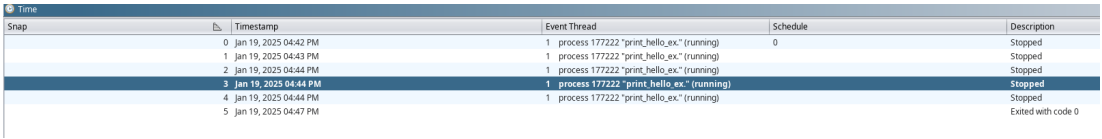
reread selected memory



Ghidra dynamic view



Ghidra snapshots/saved traces:



automatic partial snapshots whenever pausing debugger

can force read of range of memory to make snapshot contain memory image

reverse debugging?

old idea: 'reverse debugging'

in addition to `step`/`continue`,
debugger could have `reverse-step`/`reverse-continue`

typically implemented by recording 'trace' of execution

some implementations (with varyingly middling performance

- `https://rr-project.org` for x86-64 Linux (needs sysadmin to set some things)
- QEMU for full virtual machines (not just one program)
- built-in to GDB, but not maintained/possibly broken with modern systems

unicorn as tool

Unicorn

The Ultimate CPU emulator

Service Download Docs Showcase Contact

Unicorn is a lightweight multi-platform, multi-architecture CPU emulator framework.

Highlight features:

- Multi-architectures: ARM, ARM64 (ARMv8), m68k, MIPS, PowerPC, RISC-V, S390x (SystemZ), SPARC, TriCore & x86 (include x86_64).
- Clean/simple/lightweight/intuitive architecture-neutral API.
- Implemented in pure C language, with bindings for Pharo, Crystal, Clojure, Visual Basic, Perl, Rust, Haskell, Ruby, Python, Java, Go, D, Lua, JavaScript, .NET, Delphi/Pascal & MSVC available.
- Native support for Windows & *nix (with macOS, Linux, Android, *BSD & Solaris confirmed).
- High performance by using Just-In-Time compiler technique.
- Support fine-grained instrumentation at various levels.

unicorn example (1)

```
$ cat test.s
    mov $10000, %edi
    imul $2, %rdi, %rdi
$ gcc -c test.s; objcopy -j .text test.o -O binary test.bin
```

```
code = Path('test.bin').read_bytes()
uc = Uc(UC_ARCH_X86, UC_MODE_64)
uc.mem_map(0x10000, 1024 * 1024)
uc.mem_write(0x10000, code)
uc.emu_start(0x10000, 0x10000 + len(code))
print("RDI",uc.reg_read(UC_X86_REG_RDI))
```

```
RDI 20000
```

unicorn example (2)

```
...
uc.hook_add(UC_HOOK_CODE, hook_code_func)
def hook_code_func(uc, addr, size, user_data):
    print(f"{addr:x} ({size} byte instruction): "
          f"{codecs.encode(
                uc.mem_read(addr, size), 'hex'
             ).decode()}")
uc.emu_start(0x10000, 0x10000 + len(code))
```

```
10000 (5 byte instruction): bf10270000
10005 (4 byte instruction): 486bff02
```

example tool: qiling

https://qiling.io

uses Unicorn emulator but adds...

emulation for a lot of system calls

- including (hopefully) limiting file accesses to specific "virtual root" directory

loaders for common executable/bootloader formats

idea: get log of malware activity / add custom behaviors

PANDA.re

fork of emulator QEMU

supports whole-system record+replay

idea: run virtual machine with malware

replay run with analyses that can look at all instructions run

examples:

- identify where dat from a specific file was used
- search memory for string throughout execution
- function call history

backup slides