

AR, RG, AZ, JS, AC

Reversing Tips

# Good Challenge?

```
> ./bomb
-----
  02  52  38
HOURS MINUTES SECONDS
-----
DR. VON NOIZEMAN'S NUCLEAR BOMB
/!\ AUTHORIZED ACCESS ONLY - KEEP OUT /!\

[1] YELLOW [2] GREEN [3] BLUE [4] RED
-----
MENU SELECTION: 4
CLOCK SYNC 49E7160A
CLOCK SYNC 0F07FC2A
CLOCK SYNC 26FE9C40
ENTER CLOCK RESYNCHRONIZATION SEQUENCE: █
```

- Yellow Wire – easy
- Green Wire – hard according to Noizeman, but you guys did it in ~1hr
- Blue Wire – you guys did it after class
- Red Wire - ???

# We Still Made It Too Easy



- Full Symbols
  - Function names
  - Global variables
- Dynamically linked binary
- Realistic?

# Reversing in the Dark



- Whittle away, instruction by instruction
- 100k program  $\sim$  20k instructions
  - 1MB ?



# How do you reverse a large, symbol-less program?

- Invite these guys?



# Start reversing from easy mode



SMRT

i am so smart, s-m-r-t

- Use binary's data against it
  - Left over debug output
- Find and analyze interesting data references

# Embedded System Trivia

```
35258:;  
35259: Xe558:  mov     dptr, #X0369      ; e558  90 03 69  ..i  
35260:  mov     a, r7              ; e55b  ef      o  
35261:  movx    @dptr, a           ; e55c  f0      p  
35262:  clr     c                  ; e55d  c3      C  
35263:  subb    a, #0x7b           ; e55e  94 7b  .f  
35264:  jnc     Xe56f              ; e560  50 0d  P.  
35265:  movx    a, @dptr          ; e562  e0      `  
35266:  clr     c                  ; e563  c3      C  
35267:  subb    a, #0x61           ; e564  94 61  .a  
35268:  jc      Xe56f              ; e566  40 07  @.  
35269:  mov     dptr, #X0369      ; e568  90 03 69  ..i  
35270:  movx    a, @dptr          ; e56b  e0      `  
35271:  anl     a, #0xdf           ; e56c  54 df  T_  
35272:  movx    @dptr, a           ; e56e  f0      p  
35273: Xe56f:  mov     dptr, #X0369      ; e56f  90 03 69  ..i  
35274:  movx    a, @dptr          ; e572  e0      `  
35275:  mov     r7, a              ; e573  ff      .  
35276:  mov     r6, #0x0           ; e574  7e 00  ~.  
35277:  ret                               ; e576  22      "  
35278:;
```

- 80c32 Tattoo from a Removal Machine
- Serial console returns uppercase input
- Which function did we find first?

# Identify the magic bytes we used to find this function:

```

35258:;
35259:Xe558:      mov     dptr,#X0369      ; e558    90 03 69    ..i
35260:      mov     a,r7            ; e55b    ef        o
35261:      movx    @dptr,a         ; e55c    f0        p
35262:      clr     c               ; e55d    c3        C
35263:      subb    a,#0x7b         ; e55e    94 7b    .{
35264:      jnc     Xe56f           ; e560    50 0d    P.
35265:      movx    a,@dptr         ; e562    e0        `
35266:      clr     c               ; e563    c3        C
35267:      subb    a,#0x61         ; e564    94 61    .a
35268:      jc      Xe56f           ; e566    40 07    @.
35269:      mov     dptr,#X0369      ; e568    90 03 69    ..i
35270:      movx    a,@dptr         ; e56b    e0        `
35271:      anl     a,#0xdf         ; e56c    54 df    T_
35272:      movx    @dptr,a         ; e56e    f0        p
35273:Xe56f:      mov     dptr,#X0369      ; e56f    90 03 69    ..i
35274:      movx    a,@dptr         ; e572    e0        `
35275:      mov     r7,a            ; e573    ff        .
35276:      mov     r6,#0x0         ; e574    7e 00    ~.
35277:      ret                        ; e576    22        "
35278:;

```



# Answer

- `~0x20 == 0xdf`
  - Common bit twiddling trick
  - Ironically, it was the first we tried
- `0x6a/0x7b` would have been good choices too
  - `'a'/'z'+1` → range values

-

# Dynamic Analysis



- Isolate code of interest
  - Flow-graph leading to point of crash
  - Easily Detect Attack Surface Entry Points
- Careful when analyzing malware

# Work Backwards

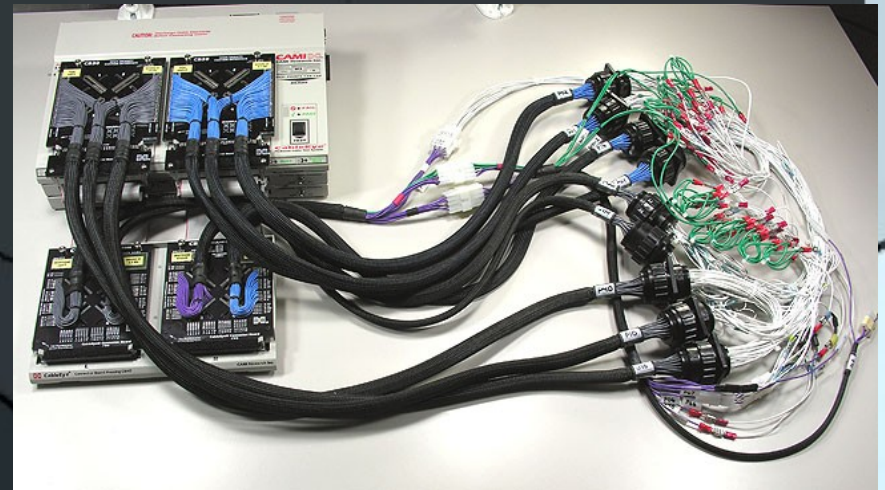


- Set software/hardware breakpoints on interesting data
- Look at stack trace
  - Should reveal relevant functions



# Be Creative

- Patch out uninteresting code
- Execute portions of your binary from testing harness
  - Ctypes.CDLL
  - Ruby DLL loading
- ???





# TodoHT Demo

- Hit-tracing a static, stripped version of the bomb

# Other Demos

• ...

# Tips on finding super secret key algorithms

- Specialized math instructions
  - Extended instruction set SSE, MMX
- Magic bytes