

# Corso di Sicurezza dei Sistemi Informatici

## *Basics of Reverse Engineering for Security*



**Luigi Coppolino**

# *Contact info*

---

Prof. Luigi Coppolino

[luigi.coppolino@uniparthenope.it](mailto:luigi.coppolino@uniparthenope.it)

Prof. Salvatore D'Antonio

[salvatore.dantonio@uniparthenope.it](mailto:salvatore.dantonio@uniparthenope.it)

Prof. Luigi Romano

[luigi.romano@uniparthenope.it](mailto:luigi.romano@uniparthenope.it)

Università degli Studi di Napoli "Parthenope"  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria

# *Roadmap*

---



# *What is RE?*

- Reverse engineering is the process of extracting the knowledge or design blueprints from anything man-made
  - conducted to obtain missing knowledge, ideas, and design philosophy when such information is unavailable

# Why Reversing

- Security-Related Reversing
  - Cryptographic algorithms
  - Vulnerability research
  - Malware analysis
  - Digital Right Management
- Reversing in Software Development
  - Interoperability with Proprietary Software
  - Competing Software
  - ***Evaluating Software Quality and Robustness***

# The Reversing Process

- *System-level reversing*: determine the general structure of the program and sometimes even locate areas of interest within it
  - Look at interaction with external world, mainly the OS: networking activity, file accesses, registry access, ...
  - determine areas of special interest
- Code-level reversing: extracting design concepts and algorithms from a program binary
- Static VS Dynamic Analysis



## Understanding ELF

# What about the file...

- The *file* command provides some info about the file

```
$ file somma.c  
somma.c: C source, ASCII text, with CRLF line terminators
```

```
$ file somma  
somma: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), dynamically  
linked, interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2, for GNU/Linux 2.6.32, B  
uildID[sha1]=853a47de5fb8e195468006aa7b4a12c43eff2bca, not stripped
```

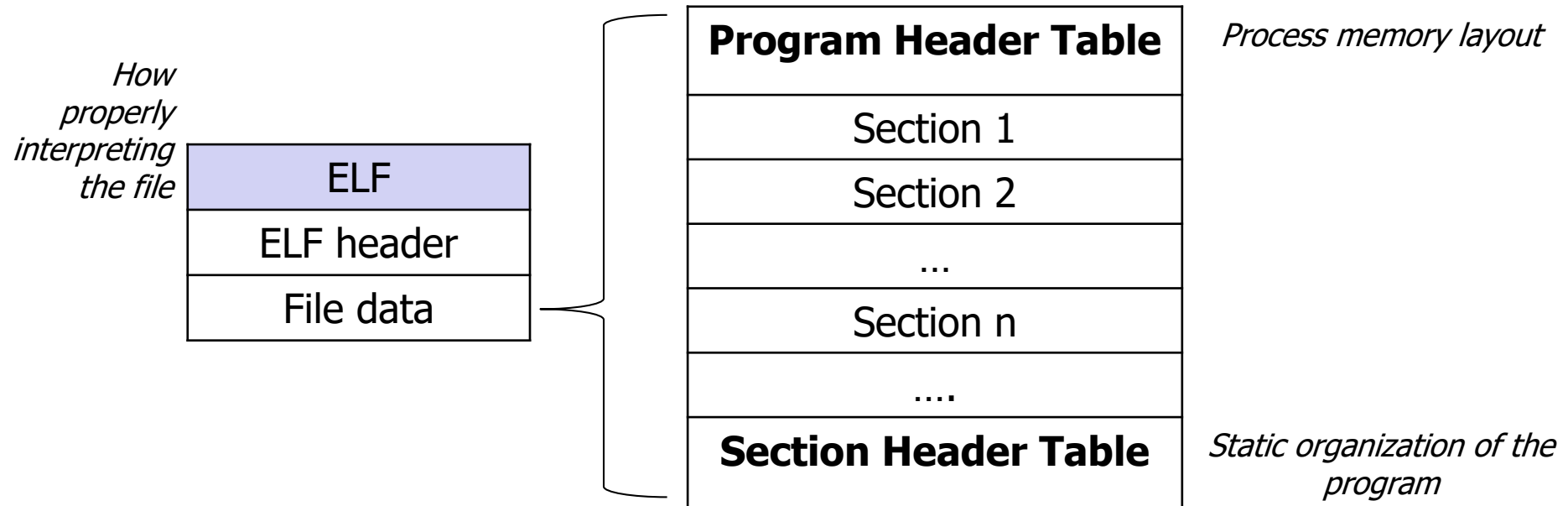
```
$ cp somma somma.jpg
```

```
$ file somma.jpg  
somma.jpg: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), dynamica  
lly linked, interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2, for GNU/Linux 2.6.3  
2, BuildID[sha1]=853a47de5fb8e195468006aa7b4a12c43eff2bca, not stripped
```



# The ELF File Format

- **Executable and Linkable Format:** Linux binary format
  - Executable
  - Object files (relocatable)
  - Shared Objects (.so)



# ELF Header

## ➤ FILE ORGANIZATION

- The magic number identifies somma as an ELF file
  - 7f followed by :  
45=E,4c=L,46=F
- the following byte is the architecture (01=32bit  
02=64 bit)

```
$ readelf -h somma
ELF Header:
  Magic:   7f 45 4c 46 02 01 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
  Class:                                ELF64
  Data:                                      2's complement, little endian
  Version:                               1 (current)
  OS/ABI:                                UNIX - System V
  ABI Version:                           0
  Type:                                    EXEC (Executable file)
  Machine:                               Advanced Micro Devices X86-64
  Version:                               0x1
  Entry point address:                   0x4003e0
  Start of program headers:              64 (bytes into file)
  Start of section headers:             7568 (bytes into file)
  Flags:                                  0
  Size of this header:                   64 (bytes)
  Size of program headers:              56 (bytes)
  Number of program headers:             9
  Size of section headers:              64 (bytes)
  Number of section headers:            36
  Section header string table index:    33
```

# File data

## Sections

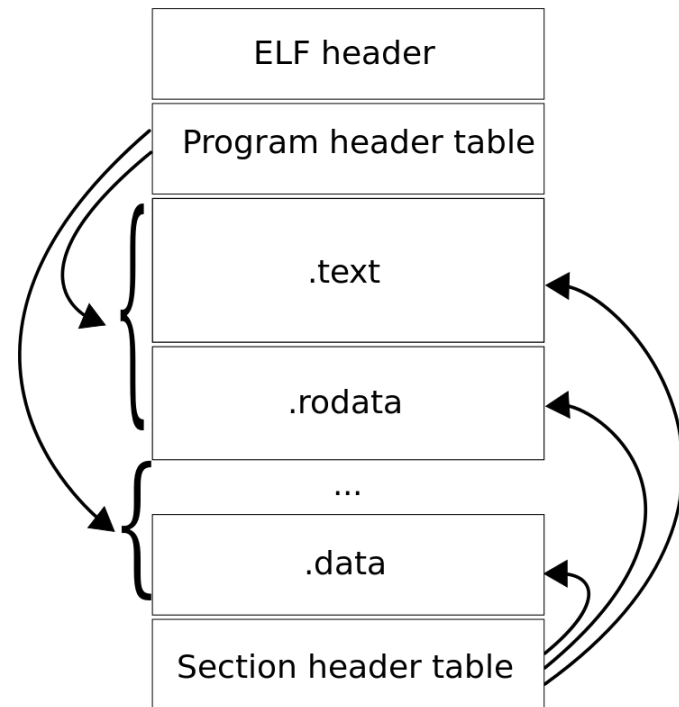
.text = code

.rodata = read only data  
(ex. strings)

.bss = uninitialized arrays  
and variables

.data = global tables,  
variables

Program header presents the program runtime layout in terms of **segments**:  
a segment can include one or more sections



# Sections

## readelf -S somma

There are 36 section headers, starting at offset 0x1d90:

Section Headers:

[Nr]	Name	Type	Address	Offset	Size	EntSize	Flags	Link	Info	Align
[ 0]		NULL	0000000000000000	00000000	0000000000000000	0000000000000000		0	0	0
...										
[14]	.text	PROGBITS	00000000004003e0	000003e0	00000000000001b2	0000000000000000	AX	0	0	16
[15]	.fini	PROGBITS	0000000000400594	00000594	0000000000000009	0000000000000000	AX	0	0	4
[16]	.rodata	PROGBITS	00000000004005a0	000005a0	0000000000000004	0000000000000004	AM	0	0	4
...										
[25]	.data	PROGBITS	0000000000601020	00001020	0000000000000010	0000000000000000	WA	0	0	8
[26]	.bss	NOBITS	0000000000601030	00001030	0000000000000008	0000000000000000	WA	0	0	1
...										

Key to Flags:

W (write), A (alloc), X (execute), M (merge), S (strings), l (large) l (info), L (link order), G (group), T (TLS), E (exclude), x (unknown)

# Segments

## readelf -l somma

Elf file type is EXEC (Executable file)

Entry point 0x4003e0

There are 9 program headers, starting at offset 64

Program Headers:

Type	Offset	VirtAddr	PhysAddr	FileSiz	MemSiz	Flags	Align
PHDR	0x0000000000000040	0x000000000400040	0x000000000400040	0x00000000000001f8	0x00000000000001f8	R E	8
INTERP	0x0000000000000238	0x000000000400238	0x000000000400238	0x000000000000001c	0x000000000000001c	R	1
[Requesting program interpreter: /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2]							
LOAD	0x0000000000000000	0x000000000400000	0x000000000400000	0x00000000000006f4	0x00000000000006f4	R E	200000
LOAD	0x00000000000000e10	0x000000000600e10	0x000000000600e10	0x0000000000000220	0x0000000000000228	RW	200000

...

Section to Segment mapping:

Segment Sections...

00

01 .interp

02 .interp .note.ABI-tag .note.gnu.build-id .gnu.hash .dynsym .dynstr .gnu.version .gnu.version\_r .rela.dyn .rela.plt .init .plt .plt.got .text .fini .rodata ...

03 .init\_array .fini\_array .jcr .dynamic .got .got.plt .data .bss

...



# Symbols

## \$ readelf -s somma | more

Symbol table '.dynsym' contains 4 entries:

Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000000000	0	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	UND	printf@GLIBC_2.2.5 (2)
2:	0000000000000000	0	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	UND	__libc_start_main@GLIBC_2.2.5 (2)
3:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	WEAK	DEFAULT	UND	__gmon_start__

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 68 entries:

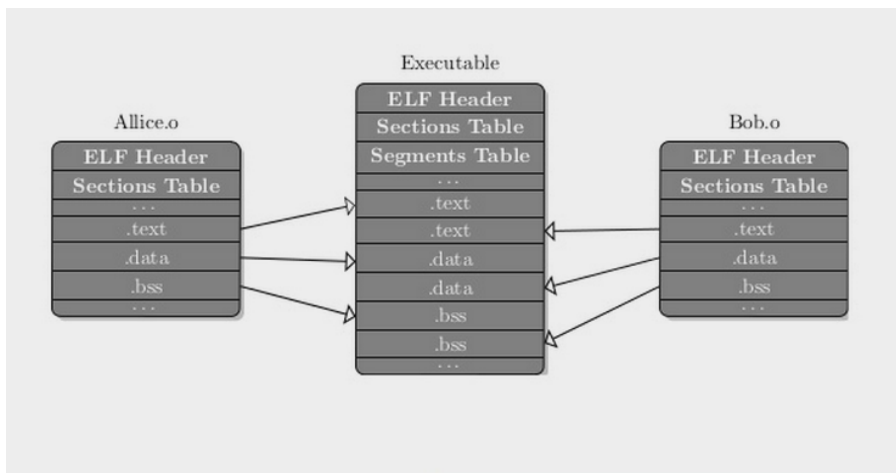
Num:	Value	Size	Type	Bind	Vis	Ndx	Name
0:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND	
1:	0000000000400238	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1	
2:	0000000000400254	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2	
...							
60:	0000000000400430	42	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	14	_start
61:	0000000000601038	0	NOTYPE	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	26	__bss_start
62:	000000000040053a	67	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	14	main
63:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	WEAK	DEFAULT	UND	_Jv_RegisterClasses
64:	0000000000601038	0	OBJECT	GLOBAL	HIDDEN	25	__TMC_END__
65:	0000000000000000	0	NOTYPE	WEAK	DEFAULT	UND	_ITM_registerTMCloneTable
66:	0000000000400526	20	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	14	somma
67:	00000000004003c8	0	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	11	_init



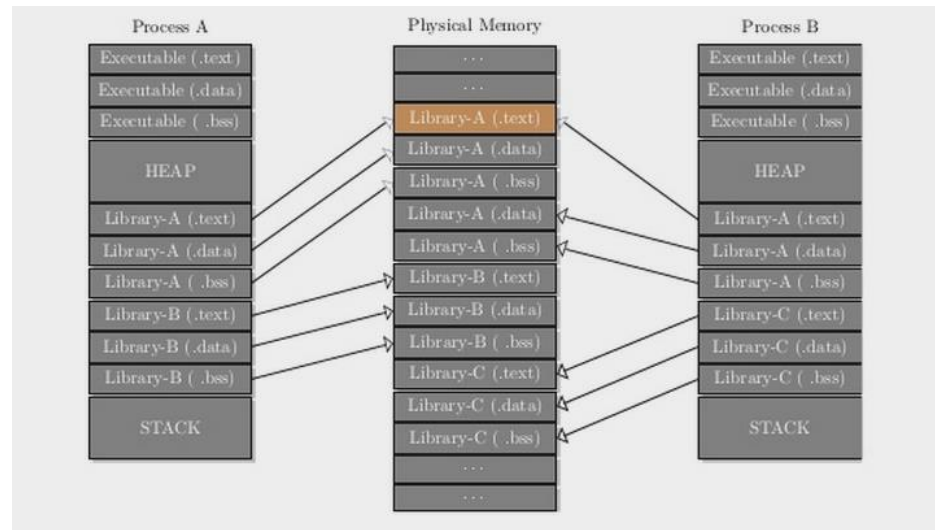
## Dynamic Linking

# Static vs Dynamic

- Static binaries: the linker includes in the final binary all of the necessary libraries
  - Bigger files, yet more portable



- Dynamic binaries: libraries are kept apart and loaded at runtime on request
  - Smaller files, libraries can be shared by more binaries





# Dynamic libraries

```
$ file somma
```

```
somma: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64,  
version 1 (SYSV), dynamically linked,  
interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2, for  
GNU/Linux 2.6.32,  
BuildID[sha1]=a2a00f667f21ef963f1b896f8a5b3918  
db15bbc5, not stripped
```

```
$ objdump -p somma | grep NEEDED
```

```
NEEDED               libc.so.6
```

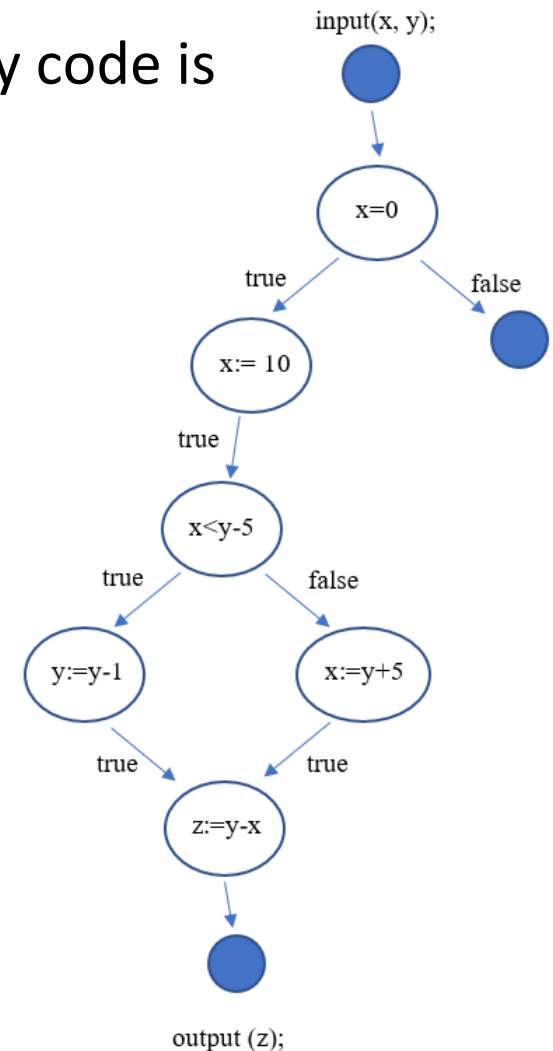
PS **ldd somma** can provide additional info but may execute the program =>  
@@@MALWARE!!!



## Static Code Review: starting RE

# The Compass of the Reverser

- The starting point for Static Analysis of binary code is reconstructing its **Control Flow**, that is
  - The **order** of instructions execution;
  - The **logic** behind control flow statements
- It is determined by **conditional blocks**:
  - If blocks
  - Switch blocks
  - Loops cycles (including for)



# Control Flow Statements: the Assembly view

```
//gcc -g -ocontrolFlow
//controlFlow.c
#include <stdio.h>

int main() {
    int j, i = 0;
    for(j=0; j < 2; j++)
        i=i+1;
    while(i < 10) i++;
    if (i < 10) i++;
    else i--;
```

```
switch(i) {
    case 1:
        i+=2;
        break;
    case 2:
        i+=3;
        break;
    default:
        i+=1;
}
```

# objdump -S -d -Mintel controlFlow

```
int main(){
4004d6:      55                      push   rbp
4004d7:      48 89 e5                mov    rbp, rsp
    int j, i = 0;
4004da:      c7 45 fc 00 00 00 00    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x0
    for(j=0; j < 2; j++)
4004e1:      c7 45 f8 00 00 00 00    mov    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x8], 0x0
4004e8:      eb 08                  jmp     4004f2 <main+0x1c>
    i=i+1;
4004ea:      83 45 fc 01              add     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x1
#include <stdio.h>

int main(){
    int j, i = 0;
    for(j=0; j < 2; j++)
4004ee:      83 45 f8 01              add     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x8], 0x1
4004f2:      83 7d f8 01              cmp     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x8], 0x1
4004f6:      7e f2                   jle     4004ea <main+0x14>
    i=i+1;
    while(i < 10) i++;
4004f8:      eb 04                   jmp     4004fe <main+0x28>
4004fa:      83 45 fc 01              add     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x1
4004fe:      83 7d fc 09              cmp     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x9
400502:      7e f6                   jle     4004fa <main+0x24>
    if (i < 10) i++;
400504:      83 7d fc 09              cmp     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x9
400508:      7f 06                   jg      400510 <main+0x3a>
40050a:      83 45 fc 01              add     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x1
40050e:      eb 04                   jmp     400514 <main+0x3e>
    else i--;
400510:      83 6d fc 01              sub     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x1

    switch(i){
```

# Information Flow and Program Slicing

- *Program slicing is a method used by experienced computer programmers for abstracting from programs. Starting from a subset of a program's behavior, slicing reduces that program to a minimal form which still produces that behavior. The reduced program, called a "slice", is an independent program guaranteed to faithfully represent the original program within the domain of the specified subset of behavior. [PROGRAM SLICING, Mark Weiser]*
- ***program slicing** is the computation of the set of program statements, the **program slice**, that may affect the values at some point of interest. [Wikipedia]*

# Program Slicing Example

```
1  BEGIN
2  READ(X,Y)
3  TOTAL := 0.0
4  SUM := 0.0
5  IF X<=1
6      THEN SUM := Y
7      ELSE BEGIN
8          READ(Z)
9          TOTAL := X*Y
10 END
11 WRITE(TOTAL,SUM)
12 END.
```

## Slice on Z at 12

```
BEGIN
READ(X,Y)
IF X < 1
    THEN
    ELSE READ(Z)
END.
```

## Slice on X at 9

```
BEGIN
READ(X,Y)
END
```

# *Slicing in Reverse Engineering*

- Focus only on a subset of the code
  - Identify a point of interest of the reverser
  - Go backward to retrieve the slice on the given Pol
  - Identify the point where to operate





## Lab 1

*Skip controls...*

- understanding a program control flow*
- Introduction to dynamic code analysis*

# *The binary file: register*

➤ Let's try to execute

```
$ ./register
```

```
Usage: register <activation code>
```

➤ Let's try a random input

```
$ ./register AAAA
```

```
Given: AAAA
```

```
Sorry, the given code is not valid!
```

# *“register” X-ray*

- objdump -d register
  - gdb register
  - set disassembly-flavor intel
  - disassemble main

# Building the “register” Control Flow

```

00000000004005b6 <main>:
4005b6: 55                push    %rbp
4005b7: 48 89 e5          mov     %rsp,%rbp
4005ba: 48 83 ec 10        sub     $0x10,%rsp
4005be: 89 7d fc          mov     %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
4005c1: 48 89 75 f0        mov     %rsi,-0x10(%rbp)
4005c5: 83 7d fc 02        cmpl    $0x2,-0x4(%rbp)
4005c9: 75 51             jne     40061c <main+0x66>
4005cb: 48 8b 45 f0        mov     -0x10(%rbp),%rax
4005cf: 48 83 c0 08        add     $0x8,%rax
4005d3: 48 8b 00           mov     (%rax),%rax
4005d6: 48 89 c6           mov     %rax,%rsi
4005d9: bf b8 06 40 00     mov     $0x4006b8,%edi
4005de: b8 00 00 00 00     mov     $0x0,%eax
4005e3: e8 98 fe ff ff     callq   400480 <printf@plt>
4005e8: 48 8b 45 f0        mov     -0x10(%rbp),%rax
4005ec: 48 83 c0 08        add     $0x8,%rax
4005f0: 48 8b 00           mov     (%rax),%rax
4005f3: be c3 06 40 00     mov     $0x4006c3,%esi
4005f8: 48 89 c7           mov     %rax,%rdi
4005fb: e8 a0 fe ff ff     callq   4004a0 <strcmp@plt>
400600: 85 c0             test    %eax,%eax
400602: 75 0c             jne     400610 <main+0x5a>
400604: bf d5 06 40 00     mov     $0x4006d5,%edi
400609: e8 62 fe ff ff     callq   400470 <puts@plt>
40060e: eb 16             jmp     400626 <main+0x70>
400610: bf e8 06 40 00     mov     $0x4006e8,%edi
400615: e8 56 fe ff ff     callq   400470 <puts@plt>
40061a: eb 0a             jmp     400626 <main+0x70>
40061c: bf 10 07 40 00     mov     $0x400710,%edi
400621: e8 4a fe ff ff     callq   400470 <puts@plt>
400626: b8 00 00 00 00     mov     $0x0,%eax
40062b: c9               leaveq  %eax
40062c: c3               retq
40062d: 0f 1f 00         nopl    (%rax)

```

# Let's go Dynamic

- Let's start debugging: `gdb register`
- Go to first program instruction: `start`
- Execute instructions one by one: `si`

```
0x4005c5 <main+15>:  cmp    DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4],0x2
=> 0x4005c9 <main+19>:  jne     0x40061c <main+102>
| 0x4005cb <main+21>:  mov     rax,QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10]
| 0x4005cf <main+25>:  add     rax,0x8
| 0x4005d3 <main+29>:  mov     rax,QWORD PTR [rax]
| 0x4005d6 <main+32>:  mov     rsi,rax
|-> 0x40061c <main+102>:  mov     edi,0x400710
    0x400621 <main+107>:  call    0x400470 <puts@plt>
    0x400626 <main+112>:  mov     eax,0x0
    0x40062b <main+117>:  leave
```

- There is a comparison of something with 0x2 if not equal a jump to a print and then exit
  - Let's execute (`si ...` until the print and execute the print with a `next` )

```
gdb-peda$ next
```

```
Usage: register <activation code>
```

# Building the “register” Control Flow

```

0000000004005b6 <main>:
4005b6: 55                push    %rbp
4005b7: 48 89 e5          mov     %rsp,%rbp
4005ba: 48 83 ec 10       sub     $0x10,%rsp
4005be: 89 7d fc          mov     %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
4005c1: 48 89 75 f0       mov     %rsi,-0x10(%rbp)
4005c5: 83 7d fc 02       cmpl    $0x2,-0x4(%rbp)
4005c9: 75 51             jne     40061c <main+0x66>
4005cb: 48 8b 45 f0       mov     -0x10(%rbp),%rax
4005cf: 48 83 c0 08       add     $0x8,%rax
4005d3: 48 8b 00          mov     (%rax),%rax
4005d6: 48 89 c6          mov     %rax,%rsi
4005d9: bf b8 06 40 00    mov     $0x4006b8,%edi
4005de: b8 00 00 00 00    mov     $0x0,%eax
4005e3: e8 98 fe ff ff    callq   400480 <printf@plt>
4005e8: 48 8b 45 f0       mov     -0x10(%rbp),%rax
4005ec: 48 83 c0 08       add     $0x8,%rax
4005f0: 48 8b 00          mov     (%rax),%rax
4005f3: be c3 06 40 00    mov     $0x4006c3,%esi
4005f8: 48 89 c7          mov     %rax,%rdi
4005fb: e8 a0 fe ff ff    callq   4004a0 <strcmp@plt>
400600: 85 c0             test    %eax,%eax
400602: 75 0c             jne     400610 <main+0x5a>
400604: bf d5 06 40 00    mov     $0x4006d5,%edi
400609: e8 62 fe ff ff    callq   400470 <puts@plt>
40060e: eb 16             jmp     400626 <main+0x70>
400610: bf e8 06 40 00    mov     $0x4006e8,%edi
400615: e8 56 fe ff ff    callq   400470 <puts@plt>
40061a: eb 0a             jmp     400626 <main+0x70>
40061c: bf 10 07 40 00    mov     $0x400710,%edi
400621: e8 4a fe ff ff    callq   400470 <puts@plt>
400626: b8 00 00 00 00    mov     $0x0,%eax
40062b: c9               leaveq  %eax
40062c: c3               retq
40062d: 0f 1f 00         nopl    (%rax)

```

# Let's try a random code

- Restart again the program providing an input:

start AAA-BBB-CCC

- Let's go ahead until an output

```
0x4005d9 <main+35>: mov    edi,0x4006b8
0x4005de <main+40>: mov    eax,0x0
0x4005e3 <main+45>: call   0x400480 <printf@plt>
=> 0x4005e8 <main+50>: mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rbp-0x10]
0x4005ec <main+54>: add    rax,0x8
0x4005f0 <main+58>: mov    rax,QWORD PTR [rax]
0x4005f3 <main+61>: mov    esi,0x4006c3
0x4005f8 <main+66>: mov    rdi,rax
```

gdb-peda\$ next

Given: AAA-BBB-CCC

## Let's try a random code

- After a comparison there is a jump on not equal to a print and then exit

```
0x4005f8 <main+66>:  mov    rdi, rax
0x4005fb <main+69>:  call   0x4004a0 <strcmp@plt>
0x400600 <main+74>:  test   eax, eax
=> 0x400602 <main+76>:  jne     0x400610 <main+90>
| 0x400604 <main+78>:  mov     edi, 0x4006d5
| 0x400609 <main+83>:  call    0x400470 <puts@plt>
| 0x40060e <main+88>:  jmp     0x400626 <main+112>
| 0x400610 <main+90>:  mov     edi, 0x4006e8
|-> 0x400610 <main+90>:  mov     edi, 0x4006e8
    0x400615 <main+95>:  call    0x400470 <puts@plt>
    0x40061a <main+100>:  jmp     0x400626 <main+112>
    0x40061c <main+102>:  mov     edi, 0x400710
```

JUMP is taken



# Building the “register” Control Flow

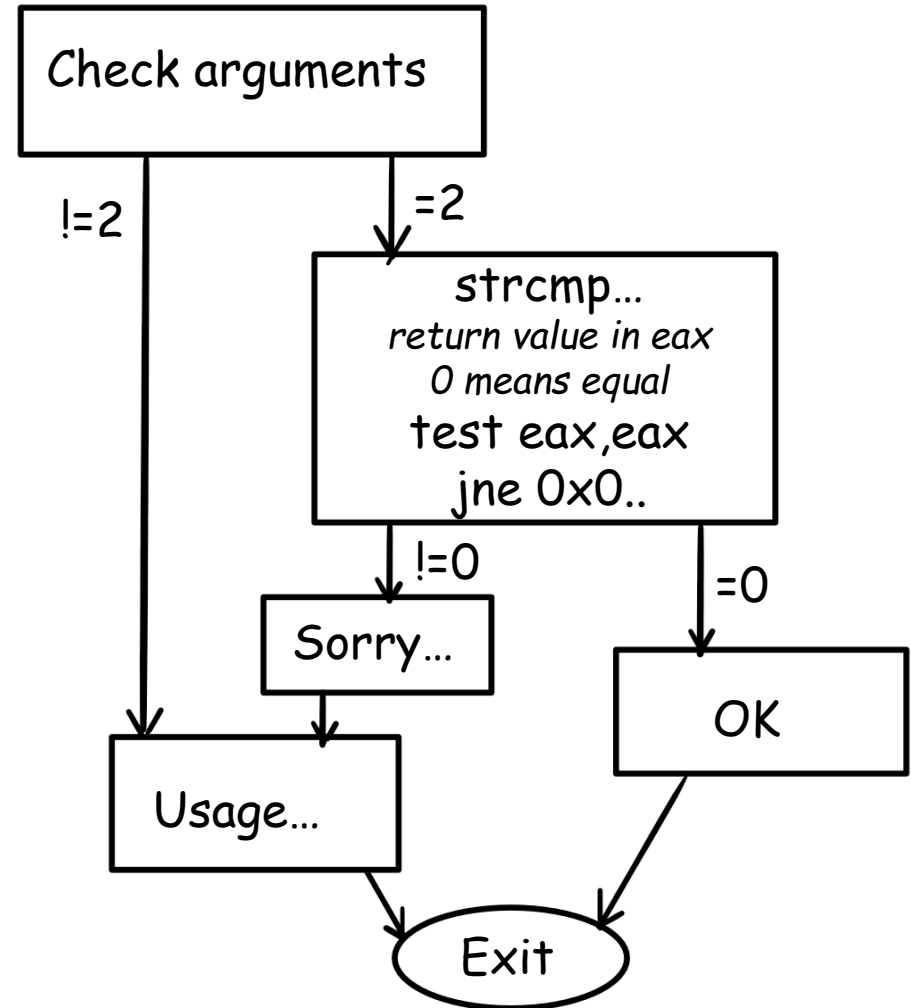
```

0000000004005b6 <main>:
4005b6: 55                push    %rbp
4005b7: 48 89 e5          mov     %rsp,%rbp
4005ba: 48 83 ec 10        sub     $0x10,%rsp
4005be: 89 7d fc          mov     %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
4005c1: 48 89 75 f0        mov     %rsi,-0x10(%rbp)
4005c5: 83 7d fc 02        cmpl    $0x2,-0x4(%rbp)
4005c9: 75 51             jne     40061c <main+0x66>
4005cb: 48 8b 45 f0        mov     -0x10(%rbp),%rax
4005cf: 48 83 c0 08        add     $0x8,%rax
4005d3: 48 8b 00           mov     (%rax),%rax
4005d6: 48 89 c6          mov     %rax,%rsi
4005d9: bf b8 06 40 00     mov     $0x4006b8,%edi
4005de: b8 00 00 00 00     mov     $0x0,%eax
4005e3: e8 98 fe ff ff     callq   400480 <printf@plt>
4005e8: 48 8b 45 f0        mov     -0x10(%rbp),%rax
4005ec: 48 83 c0 08        add     $0x8,%rax
4005f0: 48 8b 00           mov     (%rax),%rax
4005f3: be c3 06 40 00     mov     $0x4006c3,%esi
4005f8: 48 89 c7          mov     %rax,%rdi
4005fb: e8 a0 fe ff ff     callq   4004a0 <strcmp@plt>
400600: 85 c0             test    %eax,%eax
400602: 75 0c             jne     400610 <main+0x5a>
400604: bf d5 06 40 00     mov     $0x4006d5,%edi
400609: e8 62 fe ff ff     callq   400470 <puts@plt>
40060e: eb 16             jmp     400626 <main+0x70>
400610: bf e8 06 40 00     mov     $0x4006e8,%edi
400615: e8 56 fe ff ff     callq   400470 <puts@plt>
40061a: eb 0a             jmp     400626 <main+0x70>
40061c: bf 10 07 40 00     mov     $0x400710,%edi
400621: e8 4a fe ff ff     callq   400470 <puts@plt>
400626: b8 00 00 00 00     mov     $0x0,%eax
40062b: c9               leaveq  %eax
40062c: c3               retq
40062d: 0f 1f 00          nopl    (%rax)

```

# Let's Bypass the Control...method 1

- We can break execution just after the strcmp
- Just change the result in eax before the test



# Let's Bypass the Control...method 1

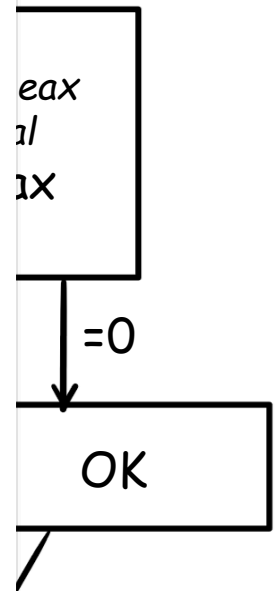
- We can after the
- Just change before the

```
gdb-peda$ break *0x0000000000400600
Breakpoint 4 at 0x400600
gdb-peda$ continue
Continuing.
Given: AAA-BBB-CCC
```

```
0x4005f8 <main+66>: mov    rdi, rax
0x4005fb <main+69>: call  0x4004a0 <strcmp@plt>
=> 0x400600 <main+74>: test   eax, eax
0x400602 <main+76>: jne    0x400610 <main+90>
0x400604 <main+78>: mov    edi, 0x4006d5
```

```
Breakpoint 4, 0x0000000000400600 in main ()
gdb-peda$ set $eax=0
gdb-peda$ ni
```

```
gdb-peda$
License Activated!
```



## Alternative method: 2

- Break @strcmp
- strcmp has to compare the provided string against the valid code
- The two arguments are provided as pointer to the strings
  - Throughout registers RSI, RDI
- Let's check the memory at the two addresses...

```
Breakpoint 2, 0x00000000004005fb in main ()
gdb-peda$ x/s $rsi
0x4006c3: "LUIGI-COPPO-77-03"
gdb-peda$ x/s $rdi
0x7fffffffefee681: "AAA-BBB-CCC"
gdb-peda$
```

# More alternatives

## 1. \$ strings register

```
colui@COLUI-SURFACE:/mnt/c/Users/colui/OneDrive - uniparthenope.it/teaching/SSI/labs$ strings register
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2
libc.so.6
puts
printf
strcmp
__libc_start_main
__gmon_start__
GLIBC_2.2.5
UH-H
AWAVA
AUATL
[]A\A]A^A_
Given: %s
LUIGI-COPPO-77-03
License Activated!
Sorry, the given code is not valid!
Usage: register <activation code>
;*3$"
GCC: (Ubuntu 5.4.0-6ubuntu1~16.04.9) 5.4.0 20160609
```

## 2. \$ readelf -x .rodata register

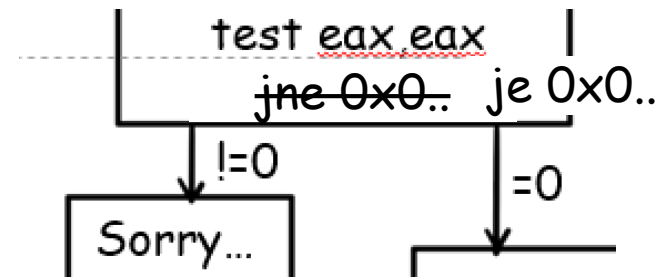
```
hex dump of section '.rodata':
0x004006b0 01000200 00000000 47697665 6e3a2025 .....Given: %
0x004006c0 730a004c 55494749 2d434f50 504f2d37 s..LUIGI-COPPO-7
0x004006d0 372d3033 004c6963 656e7365 20416374 7-03.License Act
0x004006e0 69766174 65642100 536f7272 792c2074 ivated!.Sorry, t
0x004006f0 68652067 6976656e 20636f64 65206973 he given code is
0x00400700 206e6f74 2076616c 69642100 00000000 not valid!.....
0x00400710 55736167 653a2072 65676973 74657220 Usage: register
0x00400720 3c616374 69766174 696f6e20 636f6465 <activation code
0x00400730 3e00 >.
```



## Binary Patching

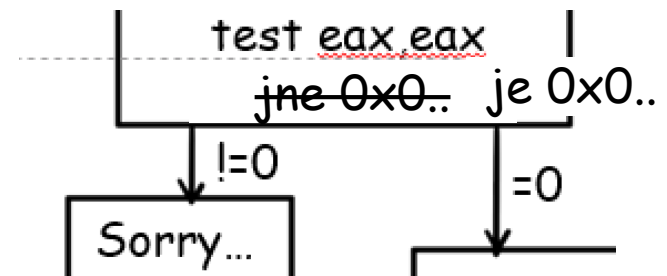
# Flipping the controlflow

- Inverting the control flow statement condition would make it ...
  - JNE->JE



# Flipping the controlflow

- Inverting the control flow statement condition would make it ...
  - JNE->JE
- Only 1 bit of distance...
  - Short Jump Opcode
    - JE= 0x74 JNE=0x75
    - JB=0x72 JNB=0x73
  - Near Jump Opcode
    - JNE=0F 84 JE=0F 85
    - ...





# *Other useful opcode*

- Relative Jump: EB xx
  - If xx in 0x00-0x7f => jump forward (2+xx byte)
  - If xx in 0x80-0xff => jump backward (2-2's compl xx byte)
- 0x90 (nop) : do nothing
- 0xC3 (ret) : return from current function
- 0xCC (int3) : trigger a sw breakpoint ...more on this next classes

# Patching

- Retrieve the control flow...
- Identify the point where to alterate the control flow
- Identify the control flow statement to change
- Patch it ...

We need a tool...

plenty of them binary editors/hex editors (gdb –write; HxD: register\_fix)

	FD 80	register_fix	FD 80	register
Offset (h)	00	01	02	03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0
00000600	85	C0	75	0C BF D5 06 40 00 E8 62 F
00000610	BF	E8	06	40 00 E8 56 FE FF FF EB 0
00000620	00	E8	4A	FE FF FF B8 00 00 00 00 C



	FD 80	register_fix	FD 80	register
Offset (h)	00	01	02	03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0
00000600	85	C0	74	0C BF D5 06 40 00 E8 62 F
00000610	BF	E8	06	40 00 E8 56 FE FF FF EB 0
00000620	00	E8	4A	FE FF FF B8 00 00 00 00 C

\$ ./register\_fix AAA

Given: AAA

License Activated!



## Lab 2

*Fooling registerPlus binary file*

- *Introduction to radare2*
- *Patching a binary file*

# *Installing radare2*

- radare2 is a complete suite for reverse engineering completely open source and free
  - git clone <https://github.com/radare/radare2>  
cd radare2  
./sys/install.sh
- It is an open source alternative to expensive alternatives such as IDA (Windows) or Hopper Disassembler (MacOS)

# A Brief Intro to Radare2

- `r2 ./register` starts reversing the a.out binary
- “?” Allows to view a list of classes of commands
  - For every class typing its letter and ? Gives the list of subcommands

```
[0x004004c0]> ?
Usage: [.] [times] [cmd] [~grep] [[@[@iter]addr!size]
Append '?' to any char command to get detailed help
Prefix with number to repeat command N times (for loop)
%var =valueAlias for 'env' command
| *{?} off[=[0x]value]      Pointer read/write data
| (macro arg0 arg1)         Manage scripting macros
| .{?} [-|(m)|f|!sh|cmd]    Define macro or load rplugin
| =[?] [cmd]                Send/Listen for Remote commands
| <[...]                   Push escaped string into stack
| /{?}                      Search for bytes, registers, etc.
| ![?] [cmd]               Run given command as if it was a shell
| #{?} !lang [...]         Hashbang to run an rplugin
| a{?}                     Analysis commands
| b{?}                     Display or change the current block
```

```
[0x004004c0]> a?
Usage: a[abdefFghoprxtc] [...]
| aa{?}                    analyze all (fcns + bbs)
| a8 [hexpairs]           analyze bytes
| abb [len]               analyze N basic blocks in current block
| ac [cycles]             analyze which op could be analyzed
| ad{?}                   analyze data trampoline
| ad [from] [to]          analyze data pointers to current block
| ae{?} [expr]            analyze opcode eval expressions
| af{?}                   analyze Functions
```

# disassembling

- `aaa` (analyze all functions and symbols)
- `afl` (list functions)

```
[0x004004c0]> afl
0x00400438  3 26      sym._init
0x00400470  1 6       sym.imp.puts
0x00400480  1 6       sym.imp.printf
0x00400490  1 6       sym.imp.__libc_start_main
0x004004a0  1 6       sym.imp.strcmp
0x004004b0  1 6       sub.__gmon_start_4b0
0x004004c0  1 41      entry0
0x004004f0  4 50  -> 41  sym.deregister_tm_clones
0x00400530  3 53      sym.register_tm_clones
0x00400570  3 28      sym.__do_global_dtors_aux
0x00400590  4 38  -> 35  entry1.init
0x004005b6  6 119     main
0x00400630  4 101     sym.__libc_csu_init
```

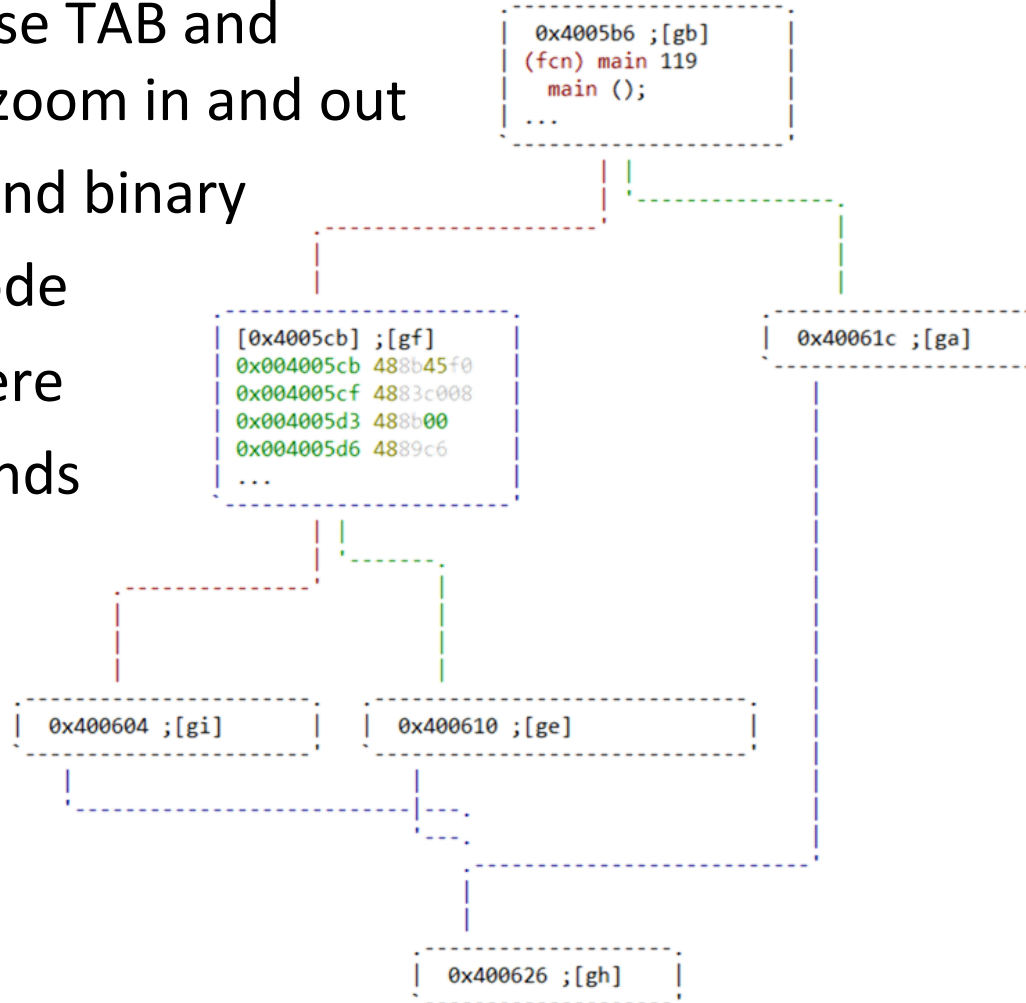
- `pdf main` to “print disassembled function” `main`
- `s main` to seek `@ main`

# *debugging*

- `ood` to reopen in debug mode
- `d?` for debugging commands
- `db ADDRESS` places a breakpoint @ADDRESS
- `dc` continue to the breakpoint

# Control Flow: Visual Mode

- Switch to visual mode: `VV` use TAB and arrows to navigate; + / - to zoom in and out
- press `p` to show addresses and binary
- `q` to return to non visual mode
- Note that in visual mode there is a different set of commands (try ?)
  - normal commands can still be used after a `:"`
    - `:ood AAA` reloads with argument AAA
  - `s/S` step into/out





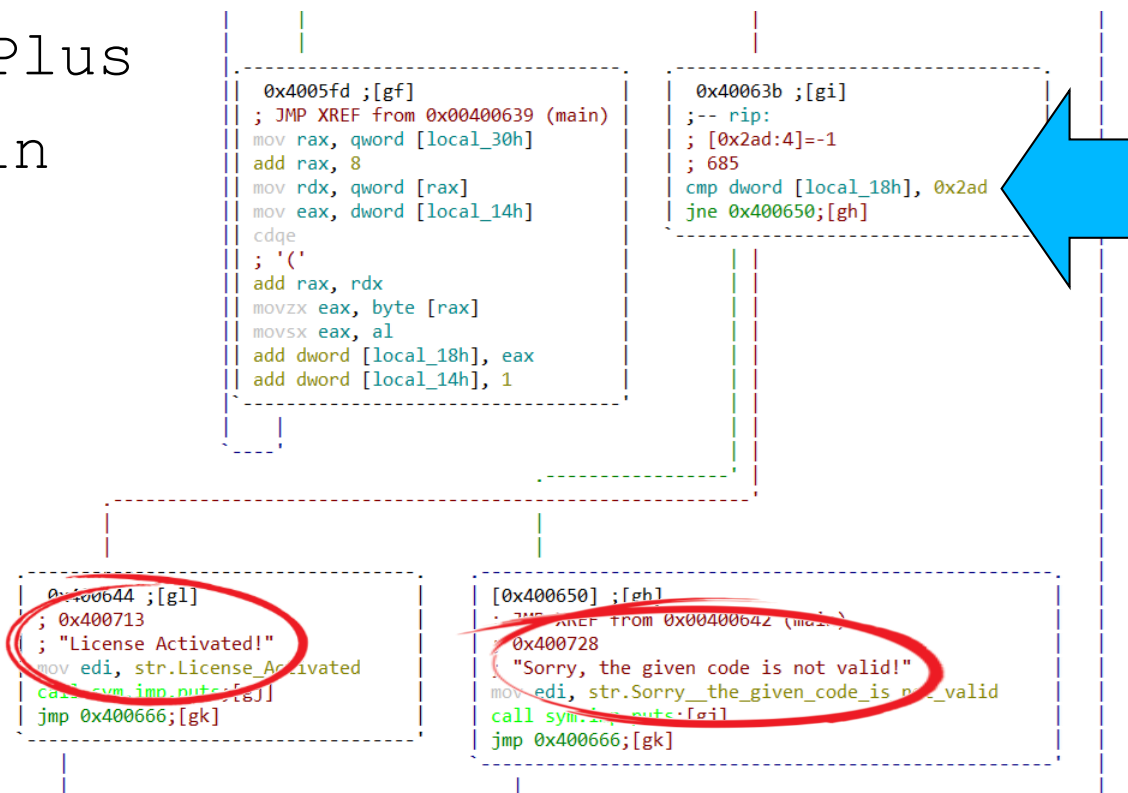
# *registerPlus*

---

- 10 minutes to bypass the control yourself
- ... at least describe the approach you would like to follow

# Analyzing the ./registerPlus control flow

- r2 ./registerPlus
- aaa/afl/s main
- VV / p
- :ood AAAA
- db 0x0... (cmp)
- dc
- q -> rip@cmp



- The cmp compares the memory @local\_18h with the immediate 0x2ad

# ***Solution 1: set the control variable to the expected value***

- afvd (analyze function variables and display)
  - lists the variables in the function

```
[0x0040063b]> afvd
var local_24h = 0x7ffff2a1132c 0x0040068000000002 .....@.
var local_30h = 0x7ffff2a11320 0x00007ffff2a11438 8.....@rsp
ing/SSI/labs/registerPlus) --> ascii
var local_18h = 0x7ffff2a11338 0x00000003000000c3 .....
var local_14h = 0x7ffff2a1133c 0x72a1143000000003 ....0..
[0x0040063b]>
```

- wv 0x2ad @0x7ffff2a11338 (write variable )
- check the results with afvd again
- dc to the success...

## ***Solution 2: jump to activation***

- go to the jne ...
- `dr rip` (check the value of rip register)
- `dr rip=...` (set rip with the address of the activation branch)

# Solution 3: invert the control flow statement

- go to the jump condition
- `dr rip` (show rip register pointing at the: `jne 0x400650`)

```
qword [local_30h]
8
qword [rax]
dword [local_14h]

rdx
x, byte [rax]
x, al
d [local_18h], eax
d [local_14h], 1

[0x40063b] ;[gi]
; [0x2ad:4]--1
; 685
0x0040063b 817de8ad0200. cmp dword [local_18h], 0x2ad
0x00400642 750c jne 0x400650;[gh]
```

Press <enter> to return to Visual mode.  
:> dr rip  
0x00400642

- `:wa je 0x400650 @0x00400642` (write opcode) and finally `dc ...`

```
[0x40063b] ;[gi]
; [0x2ad:4]--1
; 685
0x0040063b 817de8ad0200. cmp dword [local_18h], 0x2ad
0x00400642 740c je 0x400650;[gh]
```

## Solution 4: patch registerPlus

- `cp registerPlus registerPlus_fix` (make a copy)
- `r2 ./registerPlus_fix`
- `aaa /afl/s main`
- pdf and identify the jne address

```
0x00400639 72c2 jnb 0x4005fd
0x0040063b 817de8ad0200 cmp dword [local_18h], 0x2ad ; [0x2ad:4]=-1 ; 685
0x00400642 750c jne 0x400650
0x00400644 bf13074000 mov edi, str.License_Activated ; 0x400713 ; "License Activated!"
0x00400649 e822feffff call sym.imp.puts ; int puts(const char *s)
0x0040064e eb16 jmp 0x400666
```

- `s 0x00400642` (seek to the jne)
- `Vp` to switch to visual mode
- `oo+` to reload the current file in read-write mode
- `A` to invoke the Awesome assembly editor...write the new line «`j e 0x400650`» and double click enter...`q` to quit the visual mode and `q` to quit `r2`...
- try to execute `./registerPlus_fix AAAA`

# References

- [http://www.skyfree.org/linux/references/ELF\\_Format.pdf](http://www.skyfree.org/linux/references/ELF_Format.pdf)
- [http://delivery.acm.org/10.1145/810000/802557/p439-weiser.pdf?ip=192.167.9.86&id=802557&acc=ACTIVE%20SERVICE&key=296E2ED678667973%2E3FE349642144B6A6%2E4D4702B0C3E38B35%2E4D4702B0C3E38B35&\\_\\_acm\\_\\_=1540198716\\_f46c5ae91721a10aef961a49b5fd85b8](http://delivery.acm.org/10.1145/810000/802557/p439-weiser.pdf?ip=192.167.9.86&id=802557&acc=ACTIVE%20SERVICE&key=296E2ED678667973%2E3FE349642144B6A6%2E4D4702B0C3E38B35%2E4D4702B0C3E38B35&__acm__=1540198716_f46c5ae91721a10aef961a49b5fd85b8)
- <https://radare.gitbooks.io/radare2book/content/>