

Recognition of binary patterns by Morphological Analysis

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Recon 2012-06-16



Introduction

- Binary analysis

```
.text:00452C1B sub_452C1B proc near ; CODE XREF: sub
.text:00452C1B
.text:00452C1B
.text:00452C1B
.text:00452C1B
.text:00452C1B var_4 = dword ptr -4
.text:00452C1B arg_0 = dword ptr 4
.text:00452C1B arg_4 = dword ptr 8
.text:00452C1B arg_8 = dword ptr 0Ch
.text:00452C1B
.text:00452C1B
.text:00452C1B push 4
.text:00452C1B pop eax
.text:00452C1B call alloc_probe
.text:00452C1B
.text:00452C1E push ebx
.text:00452C20 push ebp
.text:00452C22 push esi
.text:00452C24 push edi
.text:00452C26 mov edi, [esp+1h+arg_8]
.text:00452C28 test edi, edi
.text:00452C2A jz loc_453175
.text:00452C2B mov esi, [esp+1h+arg_8]
.text:00452C2D test esi, esi
.text:00452C2F jz loc_453175
.text:00452C30 mov eax, [esp+1h+arg_4]
.text:00452C32 mov ecx, 00h
.text:00452C34 cmp eax, 00h
.text:00452C36 jz short loc_452C66
.text:00452C38 cmp eax, 0C0h
.text:00452C40 jz short loc_452C62
.text:00452C42 cmp eax, 100h
.text:00452C44 jz short loc_452C62
.text:00452C46 push 0FFFFFFE8
.text:00452C48 pop eax
.text:00452C4A jnp loc_453178
```

Introduction

- Binary analysis

```
.text:10021F60 public AES_set_encrypt_key
.text:10021F60     key proc near ; CODE XREF: AES_
.text:10021F60             ; sub_1000972A+4
.text:10021F60
.text:10021F60     AES_set_encrypt(OpenSSL)
.text:10021F60             = dword ptr 0Ch
.text:10021F60
.text:10021F60     push    4
.text:10021F60     pop    eax
.text:10021F60     call    _alloc_probe
.text:10021F60
.text:10021F64
.text:10021F64     push    ebx
.text:10021F64     push    ebp
.text:10021F64     push    esi
.text:10021F64     push    edi
.text:10021F64     mov     edi, [esp+14h+arg_0]
.text:10021F64     test   edi, edi
.text:10021F64     jz     loc_100224D1
.text:10021F64     mov     esi, [esp+14h+arg_8]
.text:10021F64     mov     edi, esi
.text:10021F64     jz     loc_100224D1
.text:10021F64     mov     eax, [esp+14h+arg_4]
.text:10021F64     mov     ecx, 0Bh
.text:10021F64     cmp     eax, ecx
.text:10021F64     jz     short_loc_10021FB5
.text:10021F64     cmp     eax, 0C0h
.text:10021F64     jz     short_loc_10021FB1
.text:10021F64     cmp     eax, 100h
.text:10021F64     jz     short_loc_10021FB1
.text:10021F64     push    0xFFFFFFFF
.text:10021F64     pop    eax
.text:10021F64     lea    eax, [esp+14h+arg_0]
.text:10021F64     ret
```

- Identify libraries that do not need to be reversed

Introduction

- Binary analysis

```
.text:10021F60    public AES_set_encrypt_key
.text:10021F60 AES_set_encrypt key proc near           ; CODE XREF: AES
.text:10021F6A                                         ; sub_1000978A+4
.text:10021F6A
.text:10021F6A
.text:10021F6A AES_set_encrypt (OpenSSL)
.text:10021F6A     = dword ptr 8Ch
.text:10021F6B
.text:10021F6B     push  h
.text:10021F6C     pop   eax
.text:10021F6D     call  _alloca_probe
.text:10021F72     push  ebx
.text:10021F73     push  ebp
.text:10021F74     push  esi
.text:10021F75     push  edi
.text:10021F76     mov   edi, [esp+1h+arg_0]
.text:10021F77     test  edi, edi
.text:10021F77     jz   loc_10022401
.text:10021F7C     mov   esi, [esp+1h+arg_8]
.text:10021F82     test  esi, esi
.text:10021F88     jz   loc_10022401
.text:10021F8E     mov   eax, [esp+1h+arg_4]
.text:10021F92     mov   ecx, BBh
.text:10021F97     cmp   eax, ecx
.text:10021F97     jz   short loc_10021F05
.text:10021F99     cmp   eax, 00h
.text:10021F99     jz   short loc_10021FB1
.text:10021F80     cmp   eax, 100h
.text:10021F82     jz   short loc_10021FB1
.text:10021F87     push  0xFFFFFFFF
.text:10021F89     pop   eax
.text:10021FAC     jnp  loc_10022404
```

- Identify libraries that do not need to be reversed

Our approach :

- Control flow graph comparison
- Import results in IDA

Waledac malware and OpenSSL

- Spammer botnet
- Use of cryptography for communication : RSA and AES

Waledac malware and OpenSSL

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- Use of cryptography for communication : RSA and AES

```
aurelien:~/R$ strings Waledac\ v48\ unpacked.int | grep OpenSSL
EC part of OpenSSL 0.9.8e 23 Feb 2007
ECDSA part of OpenSSL 0.9.8e 23 Feb 2007
```

- OpenSSL 0.9.8e (Feb 2007) used for cryptography

Waledac malware and OpenSSL

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ECDSA part of OpenSSL 0.9.8e 23 Feb 2007
```

- OpenSSL 0.9.8e (Feb 2007) used for cryptography
- Which functions are specifically used ?

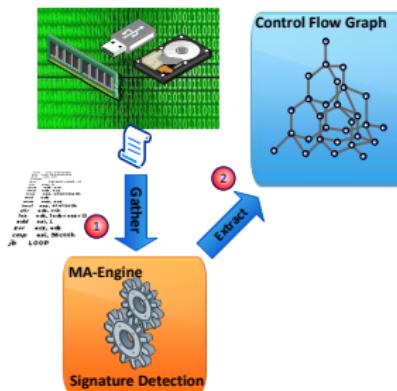
Morphological Analysis : Learning a file

Step 1 : Learn



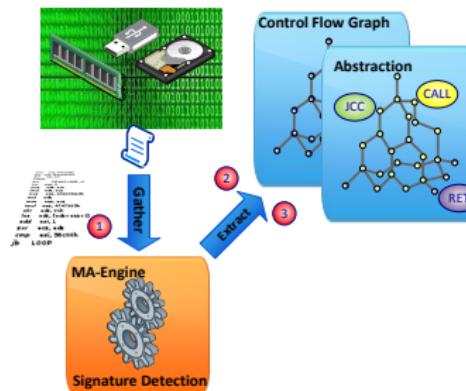
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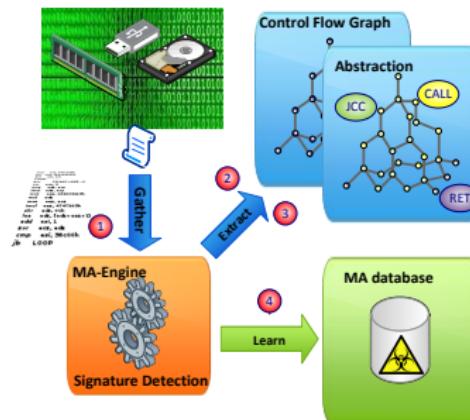
Morphological Analysis : Learning a file

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Morphological Analysis : Learning a file

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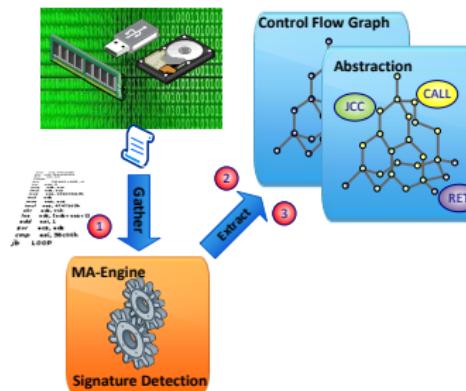
Morphological Analysis : Scanning a file

Step 2 : Scan



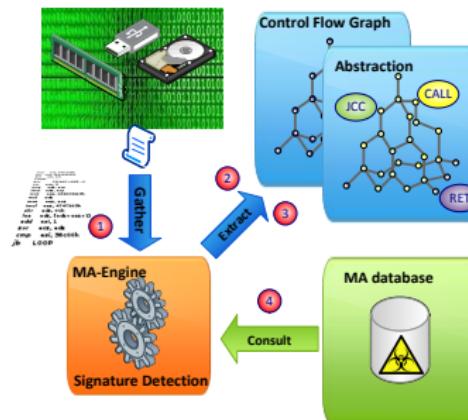
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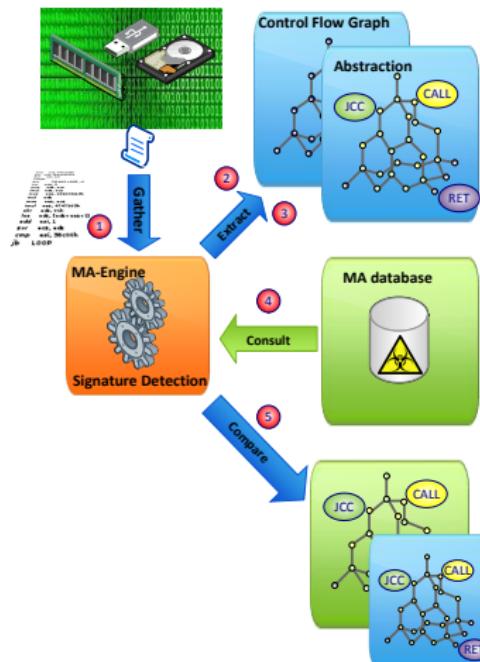
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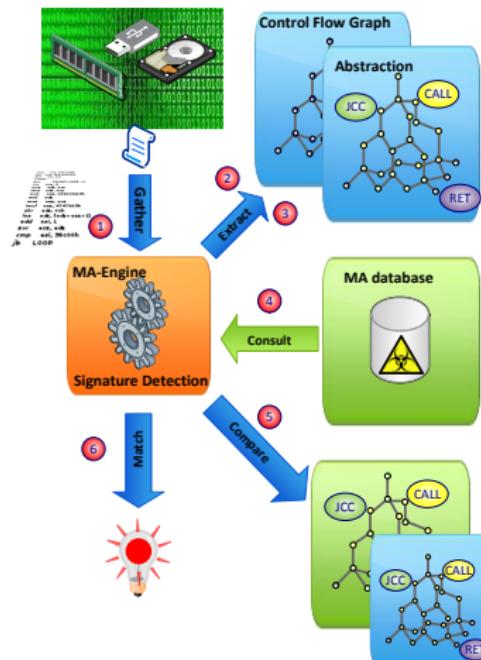
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Control flow graph recovery

Control Flow Graph (CFG) : oriented graph in which nodes are instruction addresses and edges represent all paths that might be traversed during execution

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ASM code

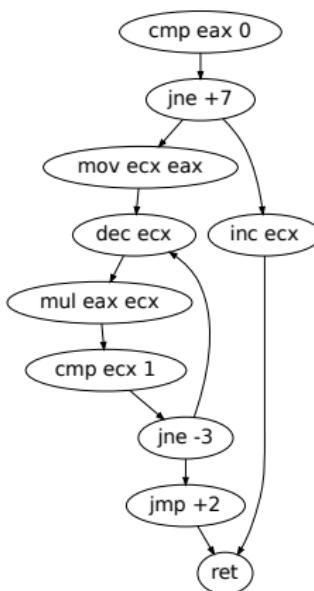
```
cmp eax 0
jne +7
mov ecx eax
dec ecx
mul eax ecx
cmp ecx 1
jne -3
jmp +2
inc ecx
ret
```

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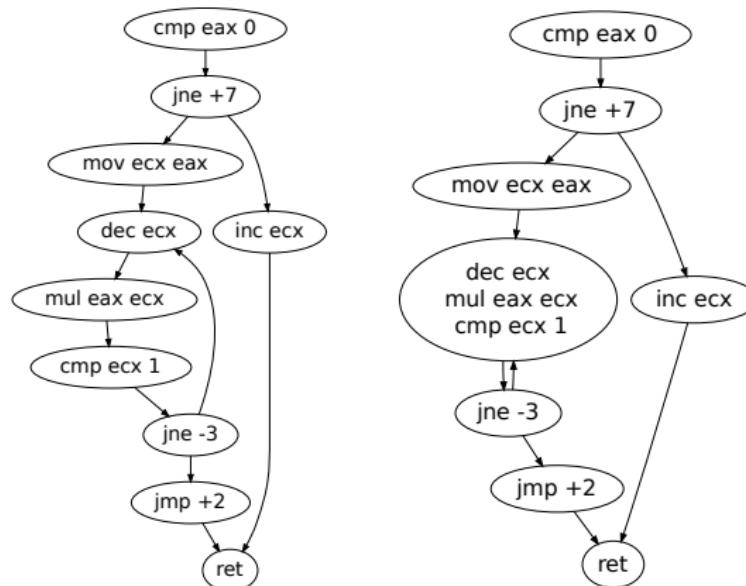


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Control flow graph recovery

Extraction of the control flow graph from a binary :

- Static analysis from entrypoints when possible (BeaEngine)
- Dynamic analysis otherwise (Intel's Pintools)

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Extraction of the control flow graph from a binary :

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Nodes of the control flow graph :

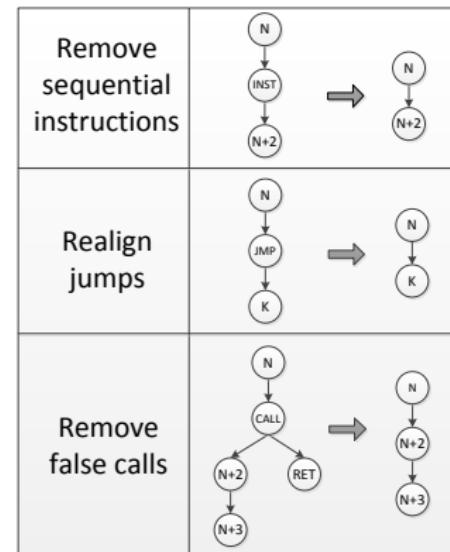
- Sequential instructions do not modify the control flow
- 4 types of instructions have an impact on the CFG (*jmp*, *call*, *jcc*, et *ret*)

Control flow graph construction & reduction

N_{th} instruction	Control flow graph
Sequential instruction	<pre>graph TD; INST((INST)) --> N1((N+1))</pre>
jmp K	<pre>graph TD; JMP((JMP)) --> K((K))</pre>
call K	<pre>graph TD; CALL((CALL)) --> N1((N+1)); CALL --> K((K))</pre>
jcc K	<pre>graph TD; JCC((JCC)) --> N1((N+1)); JCC --> K((K))</pre>
ret	<pre>graph TD; RET((RET))</pre>

Control flow graph construction & reduction

N_{th} instruction	Control flow graph
Sequential instruction	<pre> graph TD N((N)) --> INST([INST]) INST --> N1((N+1)) </pre>
jmp K	<pre> graph TD N((N)) --> JMP([JMP]) JMP --> K((K)) </pre>
call K	<pre> graph TD N((N)) --> CALL([CALL]) CALL --> N1((N+1)) CALL --> K((K)) </pre>
jcc K	<pre> graph TD N((N)) --> JCC([JCC]) JCC --> N1((N+1)) JCC --> K((K)) </pre>
ret	<pre> graph TD N((N)) --> RET([RET]) </pre>



Reduction of the control flow graph

The CFG is reducted :

- Reduce the size of the graph (fastens the algorithms)
- More abstract form : detect slight changes (junk code insertion, code re-ordering)

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- Reduce the size of the graph (fastens the algorithms)
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Waledac with static analysis :

- 38236 nodes before reduction
- 14626 nodes after reduction

Reduction on Waledac

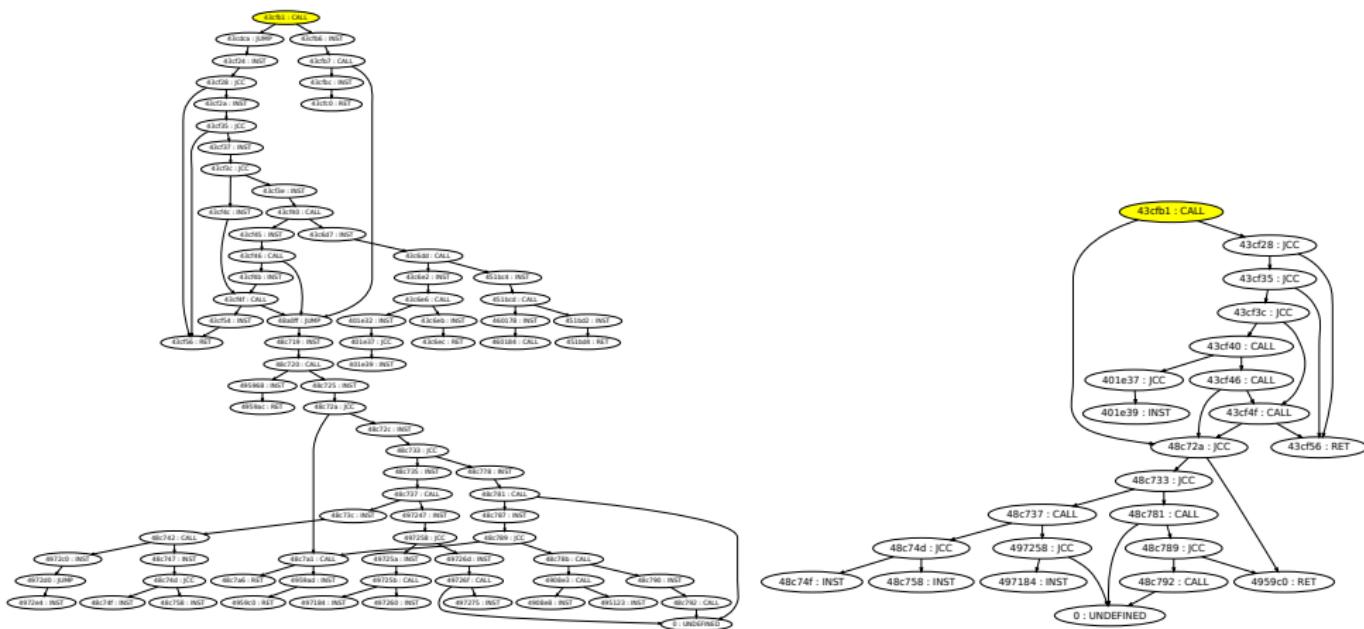
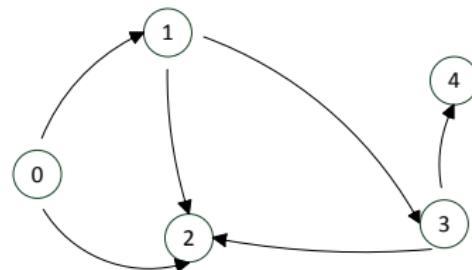
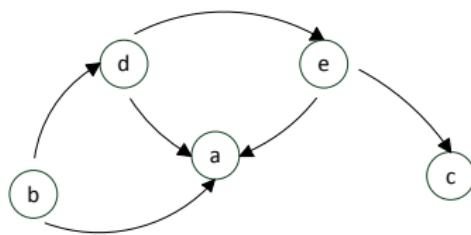


Figure: Part of Waledac without reduction (80 nodes) and with reduction (23 nodes)

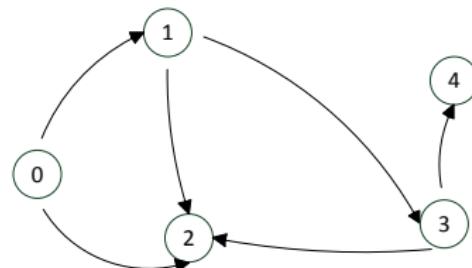
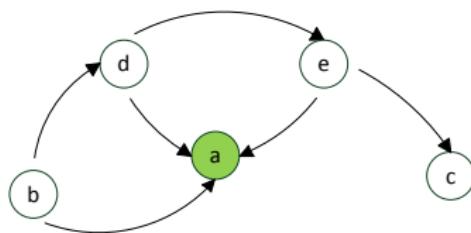
Graph matching

Graph isomorphism detection



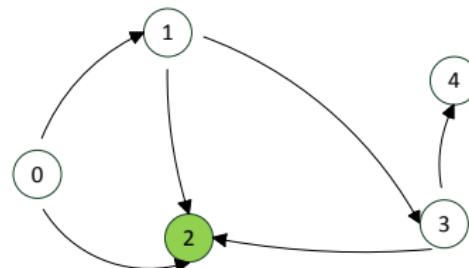
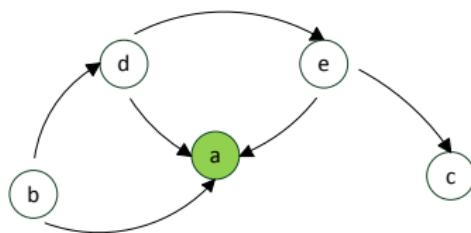
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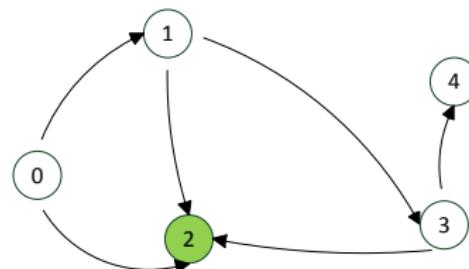
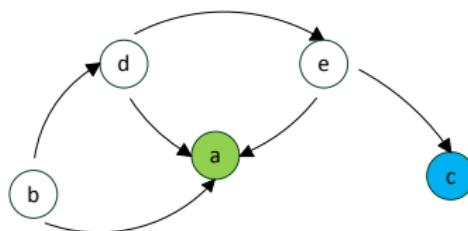
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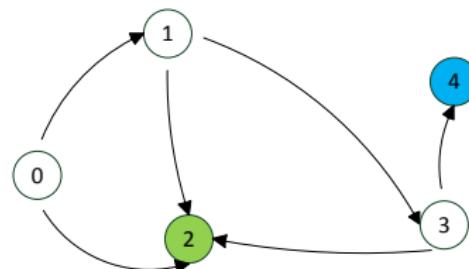
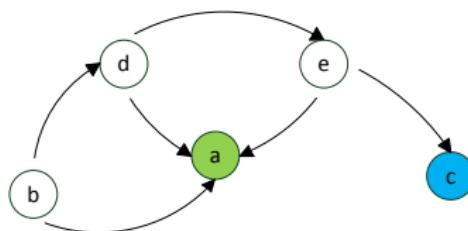
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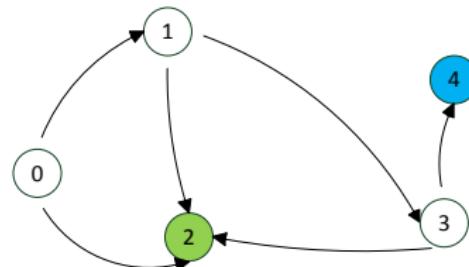
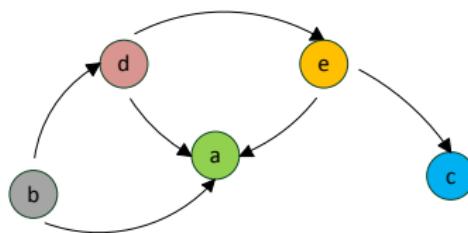
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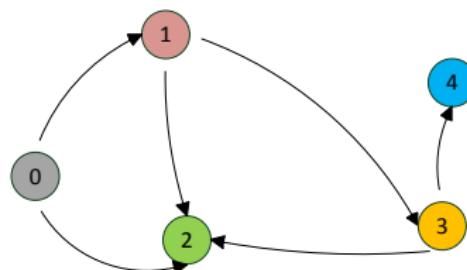
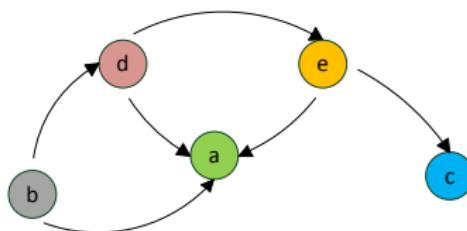
Graph matching

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Graph matching

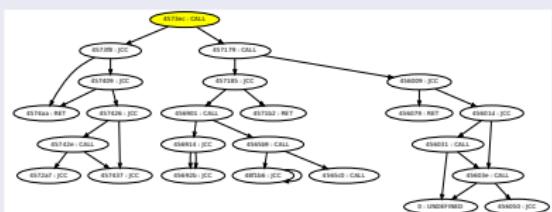
Graph isomorphism detection



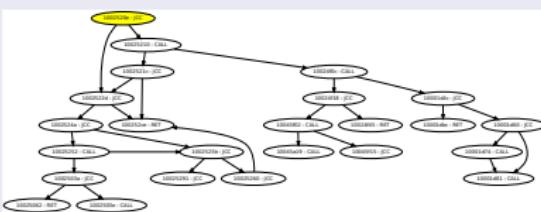
Graph matching : Waledac and OpenSSL

- Entire graphs are not isomorphic

Waledac



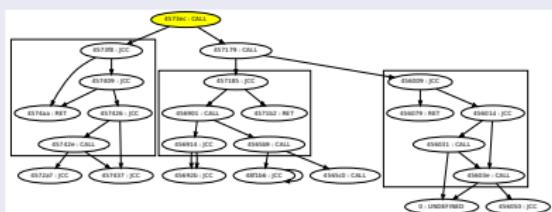
OpenSSL



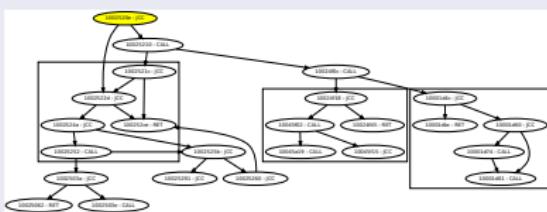
Graph matching : Waledac and OpenSSL

- Entire graphs are not isomorphic
- But some parts (subgraphs) are

Waledac

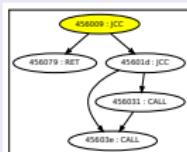
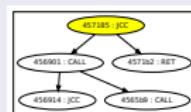
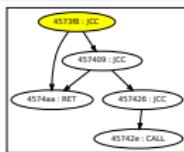
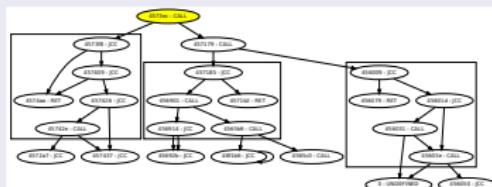


OpenSSL

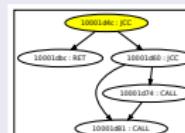
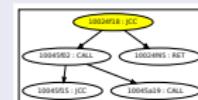
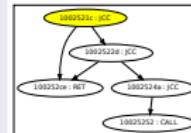
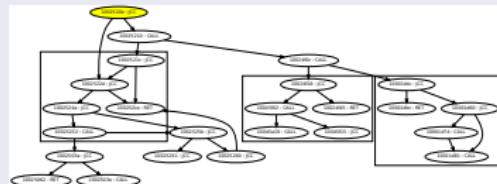


Graph matching : Waledac and OpenSSL

Waledac



OpenSSL



Subgraphs

- Both graphs are cut into many small subgraphs
- Generated through BFS (Breadth First Search) from each nodes

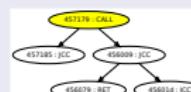
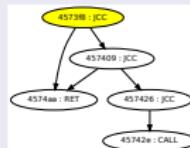
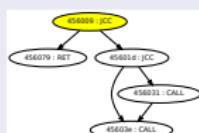
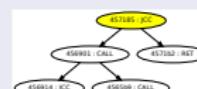
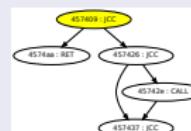
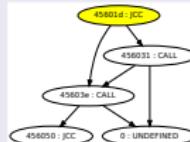
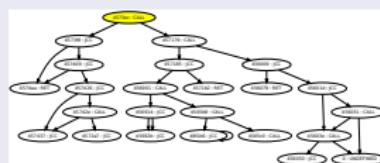
Subgraphs

- Both graphs are cut into many small subgraphs
- Generated through BFS (Breadth First Search) from each nodes
- Their size is limited (typically 24 nodes)
- Search graph isomorphisms between subgraphs of both binaries

More on subgraphs

- From one CFG, many subgraphs are generated
- Every reachable node is in many subgraphs

Example on Waledac : 24 nodes to 8 subgraphs of size 5



Graph isomorphism problem

- Graph isomorphism has no solution in polynomial time in the general case
- The problem is in NP
- General solutions are slow

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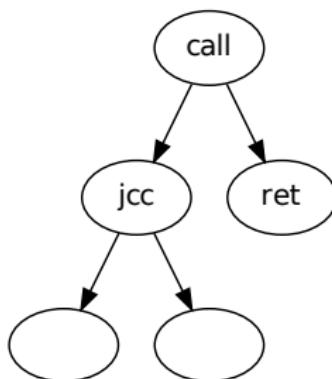
Property (Simplification)

Our subgraphs :

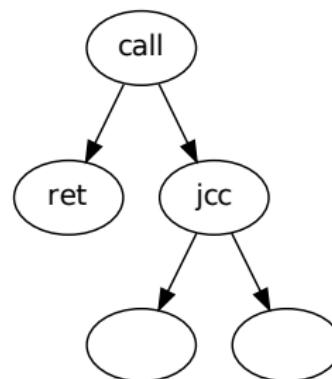
- *Have a root node (from which every other node is reachable)*
 - *Each node has at most 2 children (call or jcc)*
 - *Children are ordered*
-
- This problem is in P

Graph isomorphism problem

- Does not exactly resolve the graph isomorphism problem
- But there are fast solutions (polynomial time)



(v) Original graph



(w) Undetected graph

Morphological analysis engine

- Signatures are subgraphs from reduced control flow graphs
- Obtained statically or dynamically
- A database (tree automata) is filled with the signatures

Morphological analysis engine

- Signatures are subgraphs from reduced control flow graphs
- Obtained statically or dynamically
- A database (tree automata) is filled with the signatures
- Learning and scanning is fast (Intel Core i5 CPU M560 2.67GHz)

Operation	Files	Time (s)
Learn	44 binaries (< 2000 nodes)	1.2s
Scan	44 binaries (< 2000 nodes)	1.1s
Learn	OpenSSL (28313 nodes)	12s
Scan	Waledac (14626 nodes)	2.0s

Compare Waledac and OpenSSL

- Waledac uses OpenSSL 0.9.8e (Feb 2007)
- OpenSSL learnt with reduction

Compare Waledac and OpenSSL

- Waledac uses OpenSSL 0.9.8e (Feb 2007)
- OpenSSL learnt with reduction
- One DLL is matched (libeay.dll)

OpenSSL version	Comment	Results (common subgraphs)
0.9.8x	Released in May 2012	53
0.9.8e	Compiled for performance (/0x /02)	53
0.9.8e	Compiled for file size (/01)	1264

Compare Waledac and OpenSSL

- Compile OpenSSL 0.9.8e with option /O1 (size optimization)
- 1264 common subgraphs between one of the DLLs (libeay.dll) and Waledac !!
- We want to know which functions are matched
- We will compare the matched code of OpenSSL and Waledac

Code and nodes

- The larger the matched subgraphs are, the more accurate the matching

Code and nodes

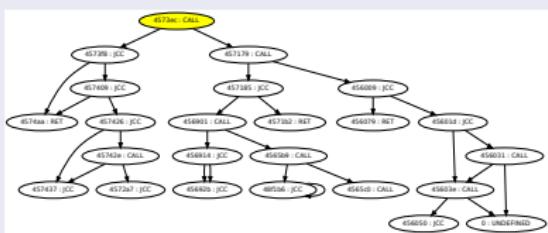
- The larger the matched subgraphs are, the more accurate the matching
- Learns and scans with increasing number of nodes from 24
- Associate nodes that are in the largest subgraphs

Code and nodes

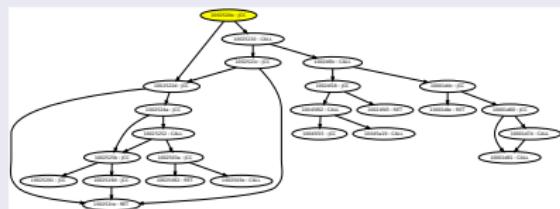
- The larger the matched subgraphs are, the more accurate the matching
- Learns and scans with increasing number of nodes from 24
- Associate nodes that are in the largest subgraphs
- Outputs matched nodes for each size for IDA

Code and nodes

Waledac



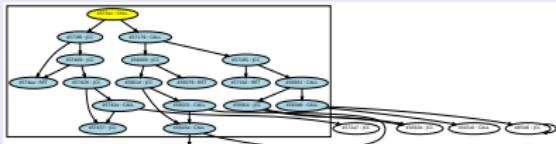
OpenSSL



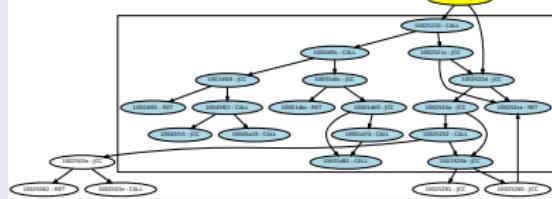
Code and nodes

- Greatest subgraph found has 18 nodes
- Corresponding nodes in matched subgraphs are associated
- Then associate free nodes on matching subgraphs of lesser size

Waledac



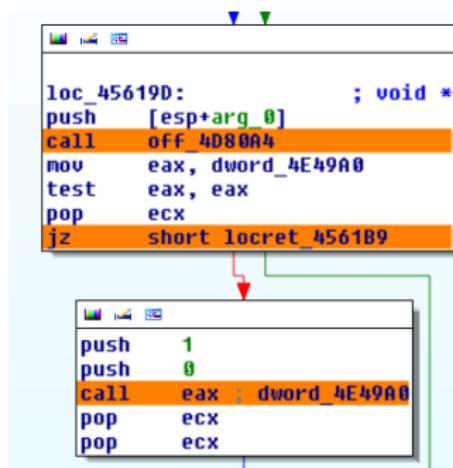
OpenSSL



IDA plugin

With both binaries opened in IDA

- Imports the list of matched nodes
- Marks them in IDA
- Provides browsing through corresponding nodes in both instances



Waledac / OpenSSL : common subroutines

libeay32-098e.dll	subroutine	Waledac48.int	subroutine
10002CDE	CRYPTO_new_ex_data	00455B5C	sub_455B55
10002CE0	CRYPTO_new_ex_data	00455B5E	sub_455B55
10002D0A	CRYPTO_free_ex_data	00455B72	sub_455B6B
10002D0C	CRYPTO_free_ex_data	00455B74	sub_455B6B
10021F6D	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452C1E	sub_452C1B
10021F7C	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452C2D	sub_452C1B
10021F88	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452C39	sub_452C1B
10021F99	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452C4A	sub_452C1B
10021FA0	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452C51	sub_452C1B
10021FA7	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452C58	sub_452C1B
10021FB3	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452C64	sub_452C1B
10021FD9	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452C8A	sub_452C1B
10021FEF	AES_set_encrypt_key	00452CA0	sub_452C1B
100224D9	AES_set_encrypt_key	0045317D	sub_452C1B
100224E0	AES_set_decrypt_key	00453184	sub_45317E
100224F0	AES_set_decrypt_key	00453194	sub_45317E
100224FA	AES_set_decrypt_key	0045319E	sub_45317E

Figure: Matching nodes are in corresponding subroutines

Waledac / OpenSSL : common subroutines

- AES : AES_set_encrypt_key, AES_set_decrypt_key
- X509 : X509_PUBKEY_set, X509_PUBKEY_get
- RSA / DSA : RSA_free, DSA_size, DSA_new_method
- BN (Big Number lib) : BN_is_prime_fasttest_ex, BN_ctx_new, BN_mod_inverse
- CRYPTO : CRYPTO_lock, CRYPTO_malloc
- Misc OpenSSL routines : UI, encoding...
- ...

Comparing matched code : AES_set_encrypt_key

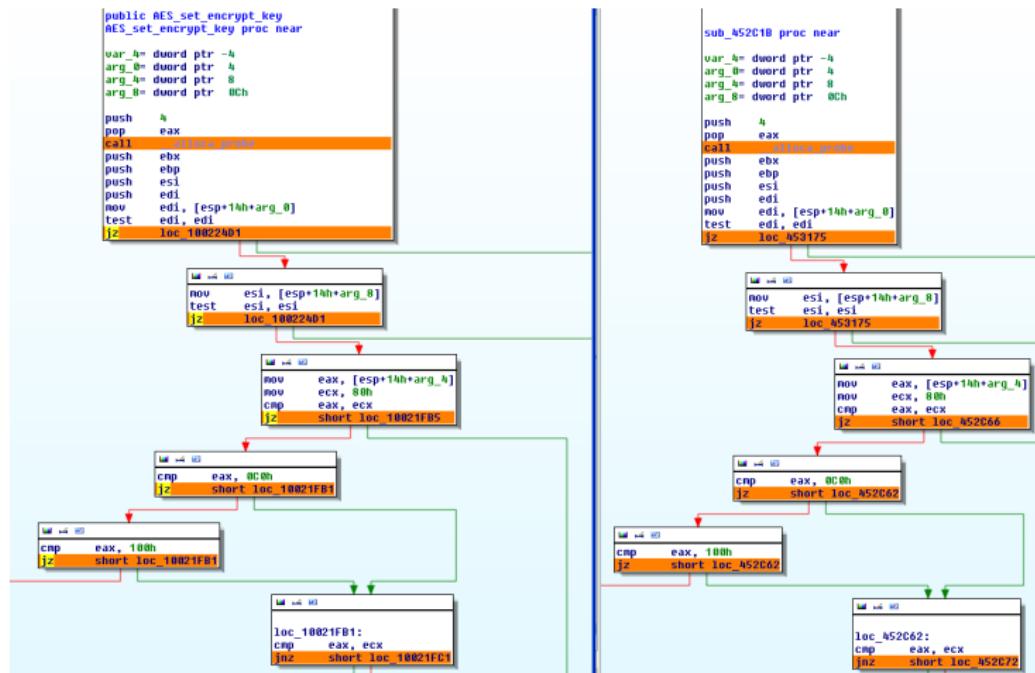
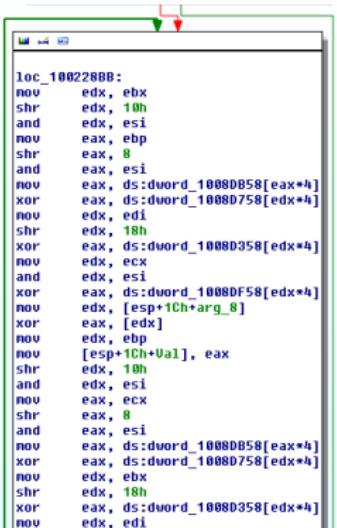


Figure: Matched code between OpenSSL (left) and Waledac (right)

Comparing code : AES_encrypt

- Not detected



The screenshot shows a debugger interface with assembly code. The assembly code is as follows:

```
loc_100228BB:  
Nov    edx, ebx  
shr    edx, 10h  
and    edx, esi  
mov    eax, ebp  
shr    eax, 8  
and    eax, esi  
mov    eax, ds:dword_10080B58[eax*4]  
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080758[edx*4]  
mov    edx, edi  
shr    edx, 10h  
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080358[edx*4]  
mov    edx, ecx  
and    edx, esi  
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080F58[edx*4]  
mov    edx, [esp+1Ch+arg_8]  
xor    eax, [edx]  
mov    edx, ebp  
mov    [esp+1Ch+Val], eax  
shr    edx, 10h  
and    edx, esi  
mov    eax, ecx  
shr    eax, 8  
and    eax, esi  
mov    eax, ds:dword_10080B58[eax*4]  
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080758[edx*4]  
mov    edx, ebx  
shr    edx, 10h  
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080358[edx*4]  
mov    edx, edi
```

Figure: AES_encrypt subroutine

Comparing code : AES_encrypt

- Not detected
- Control flow graph too small



```

loc_100229BB:
Nov    edx, ebx
shr    edx, 10h
and    edx, esi
mov    eax, ebp
shr    eax, 8
and    eax, esi
mov    eax, ds:dword_10080B58[eax*4]
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080758[edx*4]
mov    edx, edi
shr    edx, 10h
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080358[edx*4]
mov    edx, ecx
and    edx, esi
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080F58[edx*4]
mov    edx, [esp+1Ch+arg_8]
xor    eax, [esp]
mov    edx, ebp
mov    [esp+1Ch+Val], eax
shr    edx, 10h
and    edx, esi
mov    eax, ecx
shr    eax, 8
and    eax, esi
mov    eax, ds:dword_10080B58[eax*4]
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080758[edx*4]
mov    edx, ebx
shr    edx, 10h
xor    eax, ds:dword_10080358[edx*4]
mov    edx, edi

```

Figure: AES_encrypt subroutine

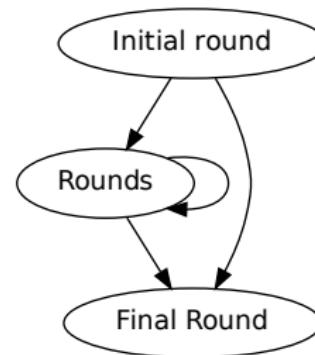


Figure: Simplified AES_encrypt CFG

Waledac / OpenSSL : Findings

- OpenSSL 0.9.8e compiled for being small (option /O1)

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- Use of AES for symmetric encryption
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Waledac / OpenSSL : Findings

- OpenSSL 0.9.8e compiled for being small (option /O1)
- Use of AES for symmetric encryption
- X.509 (certificate) handling, use of RSA and/or DSA algorithm
- Calls to primality tests (consistent with asymmetric encryption like RSA but not exclusively)
- Waledac actually uses X509/RSA and AES encryption
- We were able to find out without actually reversing its code

Duqu and Stuxnet

- Static analysis on their decrypted (and unpacked) main DLLs (maindll.dll for Stuxnet and netp191.pnf for Duqu)

Duqu and Stuxnet

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First analysis :

- 26.5% of Duqu's subgraphs are common with Stuxnet (846 subgraphs)
- 60.3% of Duqu's nodes are in subgraphs matching with Stuxnet (2215 nodes)
- Duqu and Stuxnet are strongly related

Duqu / Stuxnet : common subroutines

maindll.decrypted.i	subroutine	netp191_Decrypted	subroutine
10042DB0	sub_10042CD2	100136DB	sub_100135FD
10042DC0	sub_10042CD2	100136EB	sub_100135FD
10042DC5	sub_10042CD2	100136F0	sub_100135FD
10042DD3	sub_10042CD2	100136FE	sub_100135FD
10042DE0	sub_10042CD2	1001370B	sub_100135FD
10043116	sub_100430CE	1001353F	sub_100134F7
1004311F	sub_100430CE	10013548	sub_100134F7
10043138	sub_100430CE	10013561	sub_100134F7
1004314D	sub_100430CE	10013576	sub_100134F7
10043155	sub_100430CE	1001357E	sub_100134F7
10043157	sub_100430CE	10013580	sub_100134F7
10043161	sub_100430CE	1001358A	sub_100134F7
1004317B	sub_100430CE	100135A4	sub_100134F7
10043183	sub_1004317C	100144E3	sub_100144DC
1004318D	sub_1004317C	100144ED	sub_100144DC

Duqu / Stuxnet : subroutine identification

- Some of the common subroutines come from standard libraries (libc...)
- They are documented and should not be manually reversed

Duqu / Stuxnet : subroutine identification

- Some of the common subroutines come from standard libraries (libc...)
- They are documented and should not be manually reversed
- msvcr80.dll : Microsoft Visual C++ Run-Time
- How to identify its code within Duqu / Stuxnet in IDA ?

Duqu / Stuxnet : libc identification

- Learn msocr80.dll ('libc') and scan Duqu, Stuxnet

Duqu / Stuxnet : libc identification

- Learn msacr80.dll ('libc') and scan Duqu, Stuxnet

IDA plugin will :

- Mark the nodes common with msacr80.dll
- Rename the matched subroutines

Duqu / Stuxnet : common subroutines

main.dll.decrypted.	subroutine	netp191_Decrypt	subroutine
10042DB0	sub_10042CD2	100136DB	sub_100135FD
10042DC0	sub_10042CD2	100136EB	sub_100135FD
10042DC5	sub_10042CD2	100136F0	sub_100135FD
10042DD3	sub_10042CD2	100136FE	sub_100135FD
10042DE0	sub_10042CD2	1001370B	sub_100135FD
10043116	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex	1001353F	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex
1004311F	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex	10013548	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex
10043138	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex	10013561	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex
1004314D	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex	10013576	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex
10043155	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex	1001357E	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex
10043157	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex	10013580	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex
10043161	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex	1001358A	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex
1004317B	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex	100135A4	msvcr80\$__beginthreadex
10043183	msvcr80\$_free	100144E3	msvcr80\$_free
1004318D	msvcr80\$_free	100144ED	msvcr80\$_free

Figure: Renamed subroutines matching between Duqu and Stuxnet

Highlighting msvcr80.dll in Stuxnet

```

----- S U B R O U T I N E -----
0047E31 ; Function Found in msvcr80
0047E31 ; Attributes: bp-based frame
0047E31
0047E31 ; int __cdecl msvcr80$_realloc(LPVOID lpMem, int)
0047E31             public msvcr80$_realloc
0047E31 msvcr80$_realloc proc near ; CODE XREF: sub_10044C90
0047E31
0047E31 var_20      = dword ptr -20h
0047E31 var_1C      = dword ptr -1Ch
0047E31 ms_exc     = CPPEH_RECORD ptr -18h
0047E31 lpMem       = dword ptr  8
0047E31 arg_4       = dword ptr  0Ch
0047E31
0047E31 ; FUNCTION CHUNK AT .text:10047F7E SIZE 0000000CE BYTES
0047E31
0047E31         push   10h
0047E33         push   offset stru_1006B278
0047E38         call   __SEH_prolog
0047E3D         mov    ebx, [ebp+lpMem]
0047E40         test   ebx, ebx
0047E42         jnz    short loc_10047E52
0047E44         push   [ebp+arg_4]
0047E47         call   sub_10043259
0047E4C         pop    ecx
0047E4D         jmp    loc_1004801E
0047E50

```

Figure: Colored (yellow) code of msvcr80.dll in Stuxnet, subroutines are renamed

Duqu / Stuxnet : summary

- From the decrypted and unpacked DLLs from Stuxnet, we are able to automatically find code shared with Duqu
- Before reversing, we identify standard (msvcr80.dll) subroutines
- With IDA, we can identify and browse matching subroutines

Conclusion

- Identify used libraries
- Show code similarities
- IDA UI for browsing matched code

Conclusion

- Identify used libraries
- Show code similarities
- IDA UI for browsing matched code
- Thank you
- Any question ? (aurelien.thierry@inria.fr)