HELLO ANTI DISASSEMBLY

Anti-Disassembly techniques and their mitigations

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The workshop description

The goal of the workshop is a short introduction to anti-disassembly techniques. We will review how the two main types of disassembler works, and why they can be fooled, then we will cover 3 typical techniques. As part of each exercise we will create our own short C code, which will cause the disassembler to incorrectly parse our code, then we will see how we can manually find and correct it in IDA Pro. As a last step we will create a short Python script for IDA Pro, which will automatically find and mark these techniques for us. We will also check how we can patch the code from an IDA Script to defeat the anti-disassembly techniques.

Requirements

- Dev-C++ <u>http://sourceforge.net/projects/orwelldevcpp/</u>
- Python <u>https://www.python.org/</u>
- Ida Pro Demo 6.8 <u>https://www.hex-rays.com/products/ida/support/download_demo.shtml</u>
- Idapython 1.7.1 <u>https://code.google.com/p/idapython/wiki/Downloads</u>

Setting up the environment

Configuring IDA Pro 6.8

After downloading and installing IDA Pro 6.8, we need to download idapython, and extract it to the IDA Pro installation directory. This will enable us to use Python scripts in IDA.

To see the opcodes we need to set it at Options -> General:

IDA Options	
Disassembly Analysis Cross-references Address representation □ Function offsets ☑ Include segment addresses ☑ Use segment names Display disassembly lines ☑ Empty lines □ Borders between data/code (graph) □ Basic block boundaries (graph) ☑ Source line numbers Line prefix example: Low suspiciousness limit □ 0x401000 High suspiciousness limit 0x409000	Strings Browser Graph Misc Display disassembly line parts Line prefixes (graph) Stack pointer Stack pointer Comments Repeatable comments Auto comments Bad instruction <bad> marks</bad> Number of opcode bytes (graph) Tostruction indentation (graph) Comments indentation (graph) Spaces for tabulation Auto and a struction Spaces for tabulation <li< th=""></li<>
	OK Cancel Help

Figure 1: IDA Options

This has to be done each time we open IDA Pro.

Configuring Dev-C++

After installing Dev-C++ we need to tell it that we will use assembly with Intel syntax. This can be done in Tools -> Compiler Options, with adding -masm=intel on the General tab, and selecting "32-bit Release" at "Compiler set to configure" drop down list.

Compiler Options	×
Compiler set to configure 32-bit Release V 🍫 💠 🔶 🎓	
General Settings Directories Programs Makefile Image: Add the following commands when calling the compiler: -masm=intel ^	

Figure 2: Dev-C++ Compiler Options

IDA Pro Python functions

Here is a quick review of the specific IDA Pro Python functions that we will use in our scripts.

Source: https://www.hex-rays.com/products/ida/support/idapython_docs/

Heads(start=None, end=None)

Get a list of heads (instructions or data).

Parameters:

start - start address (default: inf.minEA) end - end address (default: inf.maxEA)

Returns:

list of heads between start and end

GetMnem(ea)

Get instruction mnemonics.

Parameters:

ea - linear address of instruction

Returns:

"" - no instruction at the specified location

Note: this function may not return exactly the same mnemonics as you see on the screen.

Message(msg)

Display a message in the message window.

Parameters:

msg - message to print (formatting is done in Python)

This function can be used to debug IDC scripts

GetOpnd(ea,n)

Get operand of an instruction.

Parameters:

ea - linear address of instruction

n - number of operand: 0 - the first operand 1 - the second operand

Returns:

the current text representation of operand or ""

FindBinary(ea, flag, searchstr, radix=16)

Parameters:

ea - start address flag - combination of SEARCH_* flags searchstr - a string as a user enters it for Search Text in Core radix - radix of the numbers (default=16)

Returns:

ea of result or BADADDR if not found

Note: Example: "41 42" - find 2 bytes 41h,42h (radix is 16)

Flags:

```
SEARCH_UP = 0
SEARCH_DOWN = 1
SEARCH_NEXT = 2
SEARCH_CASE = 4
SEARCH_REGEX = 8
SEARCH_NOBRK = 16
SEARCH_NOSHOW = 32
```

SegStart(ea)

Get start address of a segment

Parameters:

ea - any address in the segment

Returns:

start of segment BADADDR - the specified address doesn't belong to any segment

SetColor(ea, what, color)

Set item color.

Parameters:

ea - address of the item what - type of the item (one of CIC_* constants) color - new color code in RGB (hex 0xBBGGRR)

Returns:

success (True or False)

CIC_	* constants:
CIC_	ITEM = 1
CIC_	FUNC = 2
CIC_	SEGM = 3

Quick overview of disassembler methods

The next section will cover the basics of the two typical disassembler methods: linear and flow oriented.

Linear disassembly

This technique is the simplest one. The disassembler will go through the code, byte by byte in a linear way, and will try to translate each opcode to assembly instruction, it will calculate the length of it and the next instruction will begin where the previous one ended. This strategy is commonly used by debuggers.

The problem with this strategy is that it doesn't consider the program flow, and if there are data segments (e.g.: jump table, constant data) in the code, it will try to interpret those as opcodes, and thus it will break the assembly comes after.

Flow oriented disassembly

Flow oriented disassemblers (like IDA Pro) will interpret the various instructions, and based on the flow controls (JMP, CALL, RET, etc...) will build a table of locations, which needs to be disassembled, and will only do those parts, thus if we have data in the middle of the code, which the program flow will never reach, it won't be disassembled.

When going through a list of the places identified, the program has to choice which part to disassemble first. In compiler generated code, this shouldn't make a difference, but with hand written assembly (what we will also do below), these selections can be utilized to break the assembled code. Two examples:

- 1. If there is a conditional jump (e.g.: JZ/JNZ), IDA Pro will first disassemble to false branch
- 2. In case of CALL instruction, IDA Pro will disassemble the instructions after the CALL, and only later the called function location

Anti-disassembly techniques

Initial C code

We will use the following C code during the workshop to demonstrate the various techniques. The code simple prints two strings to the standard output. We will place our bogus instruction between the two printf calls, which will cause the 2nd one to disappear in disassembly.

```
#include <stdio.h>
void main()
{
    printf("Hello, World!");
    printf("Not seen");
}
```

This is how it looks in IDA Pro:

🗾 🚄 🖼	
55 89 E5 83 E4 F0 83 EC 10 E8 42 0A 00 00 C7 04 24 00 40 00 E8 CE 11 00 00 C7 04 24 0E 40 40 00 E8 C2 11 00 00 C9 C3	<pre>; Attributes: bp-based frame ; intcdecl main(int argc, const char **argv, const char **envp) public _main _main proc near argc= dword ptr 8 argv= dword ptr 0Ch envp= dword ptr 10h push ebp mov ebp, esp and esp, 0FFFFFF0h sub esp, 10h callmain mov dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World?" callprintf mov dword ptr [esp], offset aNotSeen ; "Not seen" callprintf leave retn</pre>
63	_main endp

Figure 3: The initial C code representation by IDA Pro

Case 1: Overlapping instructions

In this case a particular byte is part of multiple instructions. When running the code, the processor doesn't have any problem with this, but during static disassembly there is no way to represent this correctly with the standard ways, and in fact none of the disassemblers can do that.

Our example will be the following simple situation:

JMP	-1	
EB	FF	C0
	INC	EAX

We have a short jump instruction (EB FF / JMP -1), which will jump back -1 byte, meaning that the next instruction will start with FF, which will be the beginning of INC EAX (FF CO). When IDA Pro goes over this it will disassemble EB FF as JMP -1 (it will print the exact location instead of "-1"), and the next instruction will start with CO.

Our modified example code will be the following:

```
#include <stdio.h>
void main() {
    printf("Hello, World!");
    asm(".intel_syntax noprefix\n" //set assembly to Intel syntax
    ".byte 0xeb\n" //short jump
    ".byte 0xff\n" //-1
    ".byte 0xc0\n" //FF C0 = INC EAX, C0 will break
the following code segment
    );
```

printf("Not seen");

}
If we load it to IDA Pro, we will get the following:

	-	
.text:00401520		
.text:00401520	int cdecl main(int	argc. const char **argv. const char **envp)
.text:00401520	public	main
_text:00401520	main:	: CODE XREE: tmainCRIStartun+2691n
tovt-00/01520 55	nuch	ohn
tout.00401020 00 FF	push	ebp ocn
LEX1:00401521 69 E5	100	eup, esp
.text:00401523 83 E4 F0	and	esp, UFFFFFFUN
.text:00401526 83 EC 10	sub	esp, 10h
.text:00401529 E8 42 0A 00 00	call	main
.text:0040152E C7 04 24 00 40 40 00	mov	<pre>dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World!"</pre>
.text:00401535 E8 CE 11 00 00	call	printf
.text:0040153A		
.text:00401530	nc 40153A:	· CODE XREE: text:loc 4015301i
tovt-00001530 FR FF	imn	chort near ntr loc h01530+1
.text:0040153A EB FF	jmp	short near ptr loc_40153A+1
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ;	jmp	short near ptr loc_40153A+1
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04	jmp rol	short near ptr loc_40153A+1
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E	jmp rol and	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, 0Eh
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:00401541 40	jmp rol and inc	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, 0Eh eax
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:0040153F 40 .text:00401542 40	jmp rol and inc inc	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, OEh eax eax
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:00401541 40 .text:00401542 40 .text:00401543 00 E8	jmp rol and inc inc add	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, 0Eh eax eax al, ch
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:00401541 40 .text:00401542 40 .text:00401543 00 E8 .text:00401543 BF 11 00 00 C9	jmp rol and inc inc add mov	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, 0Eh eax eax al, ch edi. 0C9000011h
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:0040154I 40 .text:00401542 40 .text:00401543 00 E8 .text:00401545 BF 11 00 00 C9 .text:00401545 C3	jmp rol and inc inc add mov retn	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, 0Eh eax eax al, ch edi, 0C9000011h
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:00401541 40 .text:00401542 40 .text:00401543 00 E8 .text:00401545 BF 11 00 00 C9 .text:0040154A C3 .text:0040154A c3	jmp rol and inc inc add mov retn	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, 0Eh eax eax al, ch edi, 0C9000011h
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:00401541 40 .text:00401542 40 .text:00401543 00 E8 .text:00401548 BF 11 00 00 C9 .text:0040154A C3 .text:0040154A ; .text:0040154A ;	jmp rol and inc inc add mov retn	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, 0Eh eax eax al, ch edi, 0C9000011h
.text:0040153A EB FF .text:0040153C ; .text:0040153C C0 C7 04 .text:0040153F 24 0E .text:0040154I 40 .text:00401542 40 .text:00401543 00 E8 .text:00401545 BF 11 00 00 C9 .text:0040154A C3 .text:0040154A ; .text:0040154A ;	jmp rol and inc inc add mov retn align 1	short near ptr loc_40153A+1 bh, 4 al, 0Eh eax eax al, ch edi, 0C9000011h 0h

Figure 4: Case1: Messed up code

We can see that the 2nd printf is gone, and code is completely messed up.

It's pretty common to see "jmp short near ptr loc_xxxxx +1" in places where anti-disassembly was done, IDA Pro also gives a red colored comment, with the two it's easy to spot suspicious places. To fix this, we can covert the "EB" instructions to data segment, and the rest to code segment. To convert between data and code, we need to move our cursor to the memory segment we want to update, and we press "D" (convert to data) or "C" (convert to code), depends to what we want to do. We will need to do multiple code conversions.

.text:0040152 .text:0040153	E C7 5 E8	04 Ce	24 11	00 00	40 00	40	00	mov call	dword ptr _printf	[esp],	offset	aHelloWor	1d ;	"Hello	, World!"
.text:0040153	A EB							db ØEBh							
.text:0040153	B FF C							db OFFh							
.text:0040153	C C0	07	04					rol	bh, 4						
.text:0040154	F 24 1 40	UE						ano inc	al, ØEN eax						
.text:0040154	2 40							inc	eax						
.text:0040154	3 00 5 BF	E8	00	00	C9			add mov	aı, cn edi, OC90	00011h					
.text:0040154	A C3							retn							
.text:0040154	A														

Figure 5: Case 1: fixing - step #1

	.text:0040152E	C7	04	24	00	40	40	00	mov	dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World!"
	.text:00401535	E8	CE	11	00	00			call	_printf
	.text:00401535									
	.text:0040153A	EB							db ØEBh	
	.text:0040153B									
	.text:0040153B	FF	C 0						inc	eax
	.text:0040153B									
	.text:0040153D	C7							db 0C7h	;]
	.text:0040153E	04							db 4	
	.text:0040153F									
	.text:0040153F	24	ØE						and	al, OEh
	.text:00401541	40							inc	eax
	.text:00401542	40							inc	eax
	.text:00401543	66	F 8						hhs	al. ch
	.text:00401545	BE	11	00	66	60			mou	edi _ 0C9000011b
	text:0040154A	03				· ·			retn	
	tovt.00/015/0									
1										

Figure 6: Case 1: fixing - step #2

.text:0040152E .text:00401535	C7 E8	04 CE	24 11	00 00	40 00	40	00	mov call	<pre>dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World?" _printf</pre>
.text:00401535									
.text:0040153A	EB							db ØEBh	
.text:0040153B									
.text:0040153B	FF	C 0						inc	eax
.text:0040153D	67	04	24	0E	40	40	00	mov	dword ptr [esp], offset aNotSeen ; "Not seen"
.text:0040153D									
.text:00401544	E8							db 0E8h	F
.text:00401545									
.text:00401545	BF	11	00	00	C9			mov	edi, 0C9000011h
.text:0040154A	C 3							retn	
.text:0040154A									

Figure 7: Case 1: fixing - step #3

:0040152E :00401535 :00401535	C7 E8	04 Ce	24 11	00 00	40 00	40	00	mov call	dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World!" _printf
:00401535 :0040153A :0040153B	EB							db ØEBh	
:00401538 :00401530	FF C7 F8	C 0 04 RF	24	0E	40	40	00	inc mov call	eax dword ptr [esp], offset aNotSeen ; "Not seen"
:00401549 :0040154A	C9 C3							leave retn	
:0040154A									

Figure 8: Case 1: fixing - step #4

Although we can see the correct code now, the "data" entry still makes it impossible to make a graph mode. As a last step we can patch that byte to a NOP instruction, with a simple Python function from the command bar at the bottom.

```
PatchByte (0x40153A, 0x90)
Python PatchByte(0x40153a, 0x90)
```

Here is a Python script that will search for locations where we have "EB FF" opcodes.

```
def find jmp ff():
     results = []
     ea = FindBinary(SegStart(ScreenEA()), SEARCH DOWN, "EB FF")
     while(ea != BADADDR):
           if GetMnem(ea) == "jmp":
                results.append(ea)
                Message("Found possibly anti-disassembly technique at
0x%x, instruction: %s\n" % (ea,GetDisasm(ea)))
           ea = FindBinary(ea, SEARCH NEXT, "EB FF")
     return results
def main():
     anti da locations = []
     anti da locations.extend(find jmp ff())
     for i in anti da locations:
           SetColor(i, CIC ITEM, 0x0000ff)
if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

The find_jmp_ff function will start the search from the beginning of the section, where our cursor is, and start searching for "EB FF". If found it will check if this is really part of a JMP (and not somewhere else in the middle of another opcode). If yes, it will store the results, and search until the end (BADADDR found). The SEARCH_DOWN parameter means that it will search from the location downwards, the SEARCH_NEXT is a search for the next place.

Finally we set the background color of the found instruction to RED.

Case 2: Jump with constant condition

In this case we utilize that disassemblers, will disassemble the false branch of a tree, which means if we have a JZ instruction, the opcodes starting at the jump address, will be parsed only after the false branch was examined. Let's see the following example:

Х	OR	J	Z		РОР	
33 CO		74 01		E9	58	
				JMP		

The XOR instruction will always make the JZ statement true, so the false branch will never be hit in real life. The first instruction in the false path would start right after the JZ instruction, so the first opcode would be E9, which is a JMP which will take an address as an argument. The true branch starts with the opcode 58, which is a POP statement. The problem is that JMP will be interpreted first, and the 58 opcode will be interpreted as part of the address, so it will mess up the code.

Let's see how can we modify our C code to create such a trick:

```
void main() {
    printf("Hello, World!");
    asm(".intel_syntax noprefix\n"
    "xor eax, eax\n"
    //"jz .later\n"
    ".byte 0x74\n"
    ".byte 0x01\n"
    //".later:\n"
    ".byte 0xe9\n"
    );
    printf("Not seen");
```

}

74 01 will jump to the location after E9. If we use labels in our assembly code, the compiler will leave traces to that, and IDA will find it so our anti-disassembly wouldn't be successful. I left it there in comments, to ease the understanding of the code.

If we load it to IDA Pro, we can see that our method was successful again, and we can't see the second printf instruction.

.text:00401520	main:		- ; CODE XREF: tmainCRTStartup+269 [†] p
.text:00401520 55	—	push	ebp
.text:00401521 89 E5		mov	ebp, esp
.text:00401523 83 E4	FØ	and	esp, OFFFFFFOh
.text:00401526 83 EC	10	sub	esp, 10h
.text:00401529 E8 42	0A 00 00	call	main
.text:0040152E C7 04	24 00 40 40 00	mov	dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World!"
.text:00401535 E8 CE	11 00 00	call	printf
.text:0040153A 31 C0		xor	eax, eax
.text:0040153C 74 01		jz	short near ptr loc 40153E+1
.text:0040153E			• =
.text:0040153E	loc 40153E:		; CODE XREF: .text:0040153C [†] i
.text:0040153E E9 C7	04 24 0E	imp	near ptr 0E641A0Ah
.text:00401543			•
.text:00401543 40	*	inc	eax
.text:00401544 40		inc	eax
.text:00401545 00 E8		add	al, ch
.text:00401547 BD 11	00 00 C9	mov	ebp, 0C9000011h
.text:0040154C C3		retn	
tout . AALA1ELP	•		

Figure 9: Case 2: Messed up code

We can use the same method to manually correct it. Convert E9 to data, and the following parts to code.

.text:00401520 .text:00401520 55	_main:	· _ ; CODE XREF:tmainCRTStartup+26 push ebp	9†p
.text:00401521 89 E5 .text:00401523 83 E4 F0 .text:00401526 83 EC 10 .text:00401526 E8 42 0A	90 00 20 kg kg gg	mov ebp, esp and esp, ØFFFFFØh sub esp, 10h call <u>main</u>	-1.6.11
.text:0040152E C7 04 24 .text:00401535 E8 CE 11 .text:0040153A 31 C0 .text:0040153C 74 01	99 99	call _printf xor eax, eax jz short loc_40153F	UT
.text:0040153C .text:0040153E E9 .text:0040153E	;	db 0E9h	
.text:0040153F .text:0040153F	, 1oc_40153F:	; CODE XREF: .text:0040153C [†] j	
.text:0040153F C7 04 24 .text:00401546 E8 BD 11 .text:00401548 C9	0E 40 40 00 00 00	mov dword ptr [esp], offset aNotSeen ; "Not seen" callprintf leave	
.text:0040154C C3 .text:0040154C	5	retn	

Figure 10: Case 2: After fix

At the very end we can patch the byte, and convert it to code.

.text:00401520	main:	; CODE XREF: tmainCRTStartup+269 [†] p
.text:00401520 55	push	ebp
.text:00401521 89 E5	mov	ebp, esp
.text:00401523 83 E4 F0	and	esp, OFFFFFFOh
.text:00401526 83 EC 10	sub	esp, 10h
.text:00401529 E8 42 0A 00 00	call	main
.text:0040152E C7 04 24 00 40 40 00	mov	<pre>dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World!"</pre>
.text:00401535 E8 CE 11 00 00	call	printf
.text:0040153A 31 C0	xor	eax, eax
.text:0040153C 74 01	jz	short loc 40153F
.text:0040153E 90	nop	-
.text:0040153F		
.text:0040153F	loc 40153F:	; CODE XREF: .text:0040153C [†] j
.text:0040153F C7 04 24 0E 40 40 00	mov	dword ptr [esp], offset aNotSeen ; "Not seen"
.text:00401546 E8 BD 11 00 00	call	printf
.text:00401548 C9	leave	
.text:0040154C C3	retn	
.text:0040154C	*	

Figure 11: Case 2: After patching

In order to find these locations, Our script for IDA Pro would need to look for places, where we XOR the values of the same registers (any), followed by a JZ instruction. The search function would look like this:

```
results = []
     found first = False
     previous = ""
     for i in heads:
           if (found_first and GetMnem(i) == "jz"):
                results.append(previous)
                results.append(i)
                Message("Found possibly anti-disassembly technique at
0x%x, instruction: %s\n" % (previous,GetDisasm(previous)))
                Message("Found possibly anti-disassembly technique at
0x%x, instruction: %s\n" % (i,GetDisasm(i)))
                found first = False
           elif GetMnem(i) == "xor" and GetOpnd(i,0) == GetOpnd(i,1):
                found first = True
           else: found first = False
           previous = \overline{i}
     return results
```

The script will go through the entire section, looking for XOR instruction, followed by a JZ.

Case3: JZ/JNZ instruction with the same target

This method is a bit similar to the previous one. There is a JZ instruction followed by a JNZ, where both of them pointing to the same location. The effect will be that this will create an unconditional jump, but the disassembler won't recognize it. After JZ the false branch will be checked first, which will be JNZ, and there again the false branch will be checked, which again will be an E9 (JMP) in our case, which will never be executed in real life. The real code will start with 58 (POP):

J	Z	١L	ΝZ		РОР
74	74 03		75 01		58
				JMP	

Our C code to make this happen:

```
#include <stdio.h>
void main() {
    printf("Hello, World!");
    asm(".intel_syntax noprefix\n"
    //"jz .later\n"
    ".byte 0x74\n"
    ".byte 0x03\n"
    //"jnz .later\n"
    ".byte 0x75\n"
    ".byte 0x01\n"
    //".later:\n"
    ".byte 0xe9\n"
    );
    printf("Not seen");
```

} Loading it to IDA Pro:

.text:00401520 _main:		; CODE XREF:tmainCRTStartup+269 [†] p
.text:00401520	push	ebp
.text:00401521	MOV	ebp, esp
.text:00401523	and	esp, OFFFFFFOh
.text:00401526	sub	esp, 10h
.text:00401529	call	main
.text:0040152E	mov	dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World!"
.text:00401535	call	_printf
.text:0040153A	jz	short near ptr loc_40153E+1
.text:0040153C	jnz	short near ptr loc_40153E+1
.text:0040153E		
.text:0040153E loc_40153E:		; CODE XREF: .text:0040153A†j
.text:0040153E		;text:0040153C†j
.text:0040153E	jmp	near ptr <mark>OE641AOAh</mark>
.text:00401543 ;		
.text:00401543	inc	eax
.text:00401544	inc	eax
.text:00401545	add	al, ch
.text:00401547	MOV	ebp, 0C9000011h
.text:0040154C	retn	
.text:0040154C ;		

Figure 12: Case 3: Messed up code

We can see that our code is obfuscated again. To correct and patch it, we can use the very same method as in the previous two cases.

.text:00401520			
.text:00401520	; intcdecl	main(int	argc, const char **argv, const char **envp)
.text:00401520		public	main
.text:00401520	main:		; CODE XREF:tmainCRTStartup+269 [†] p
.text:00401520	-	push	ebp
.text:00401521		mov	ebp, esp
.text:00401523		and	esp, OFFFFFFOh
.text:00401526		sub	esp, 10h
.text:00401529		call	main
.text:0040152E		mov	<pre>dword ptr [esp], offset aHelloWorld ; "Hello, World!"</pre>
.text:00401535		call	printf
.text:0040153A		jz	short <mark>loc_40153F</mark>
.text:0040153C		jnz	short <mark>loc 40153F</mark>
.text:0040153E		nop	
.text:0040153F			
.text:0040153F	1oc 40153F:		; CODE XREF: .text:0040153A [†] j
.text:0040153F			; .text:0040153C [†] j
.text:0040153F		mov	dword ptr [esp], offset aNotSeen ; "Not seen"
.text:00401546		call	printf
.text:0040154B		leave	
.text:0040154C		retn	
.text:0040154C	;		
1	-		

Figure 13: Case 3: After fix and patching

Our IDA Pro script function to find such places:

```
def find_jz_jnz():
    results = []
    ea = FindBinary(SegStart(ScreenEA()), SEARCH_DOWN, "74 03 75 01")
    while(ea != BADADDR):
        if GetMnem(ea) == "jz":
            results.append(ea)
            results.append(ea+2)
            Message("Found possibly anti-disassembly technique at
0x%x, instruction: %s,%s\n" % (ea,GetDisasm(ea),GetDisasm(ea+2)))
        ea = FindBinary(ea, SEARCH_NEXT, "74 03 75 01")
```

return results

The function will search through the section, looking for the bytes "74 03 75 01", once it's found, it will verify that it is indeed a beginning of a JZ section.

Putting the entire script together

Here is the entire script, which will look for all the 3 techniques above, and mark those locations with red:

```
from idautils import *
from idc import *
def find xor jz():
     heads = Heads(SeqStart(ScreenEA()), SeqEnd(ScreenEA()))
     results = []
     found first = False
     previous = ""
     for i in heads:
           if (found first and GetMnem(i) == "jz"):
                results.append(previous)
                results.append(i)
                Message ("Found possibly anti-disassembly technique at
0x%x, instruction: %s\n" % (previous,GetDisasm(previous)))
                Message ("Found possibly anti-disassembly technique at
0x%x, instruction: %s\n" % (i,GetDisasm(i)))
                found first = False
           elif GetMnem(i) == "xor" and GetOpnd(i,0) == GetOpnd(i,1):
                found first = True
           else: found first = False
           previous = i
     return results
def find jmp ff():
     results = []
     ea = FindBinary(SeqStart(ScreenEA()), SEARCH DOWN, "EB FF")
     while(ea != BADADDR):
           if GetMnem(ea) == "jmp":
                results.append(ea)
                Message ("Found possibly anti-disassembly technique at
0x%x, instruction: %s\n" % (ea,GetDisasm(ea)))
           ea = FindBinary(ea, SEARCH_NEXT, "EB FF")
     return results
def find jz_jnz():
     results = []
     ea = FindBinary (SeqStart (ScreenEA()), SEARCH DOWN, "74 03 75 01")
     while(ea != BADADDR):
           if GetMnem(ea) == "jz":
                results.append(ea)
                results.append(ea+2)
                Message ("Found possibly anti-disassembly technique at
0x%x, instruction: %s,%s\n" % (ea,GetDisasm(ea),GetDisasm(ea+2)))
           ea = FindBinary(ea, SEARCH NEXT, "74 03 75 01")
     return results
def main():
```

```
anti_da_locations = []
anti_da_locations.extend(find_xor_jnz())
anti_da_locations.extend(find_jmp_ff())
anti_da_locations.extend(find_jz_jnz())
for i in anti_da_locations:
        SetColor(i, CIC_ITEM, 0x0000ff)
if __name__ == "__main__":
```

```
main()
```