Video game hacking:

Breaking games and protecting ours

Lucas PARSY

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Overview of game hacking

You know the rules and so do I

Serious Games

- 76 billions $ microtransactions in 2023

- 1 billion online games players
  37% admitted having cheated

- Competitions with enormous cashprizes

A whole world of video game hacks

Assets Extraction

ILSpy

Decompilation

Ghidra

Obfuscation

RenderDoc

GPU API

CE Autoassembler

Hooking

DLL Injection

Frida

Unity Explorer

Anti-cheat Bypass

Code Filter

Value detection

Memory scan

Debugging

Cheat Engine

Server checks

Multiplayer Pwn

Network interception

Burp

Message encryption

Registry Edit

System Slowdown

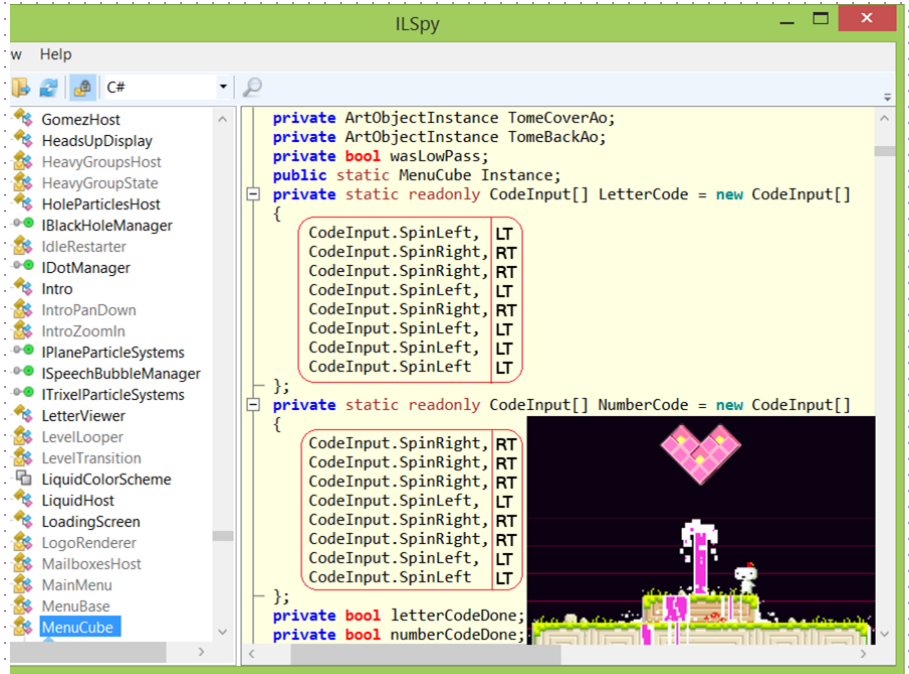
System edits

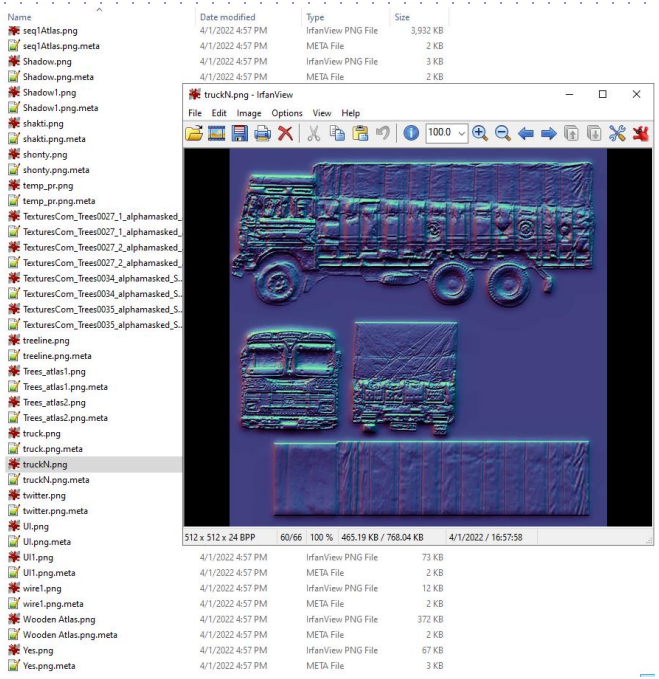
Clock modification

Savefile edit

A whole world of video game hacks

Unpack/ source code decompilation





A whole world of video game hacks

Unpack/ source code decompilation

compiled	interpreted
UNREAL ENGINE	GODOT Game engine
UBISOFT ANVIL	GameMaker Studio 2
unity	

A whole world of video game hacks

Method hooking

process

FRIDA

```
session = frida.attach("solitaire.exe")
script = session.create_script("""
   Interceptor.attach(ptr(FUNCTION_ADDRESS),
   {
      onEnter(args) {
         args[0] = ptr("1337");
      }
   });
""")
```

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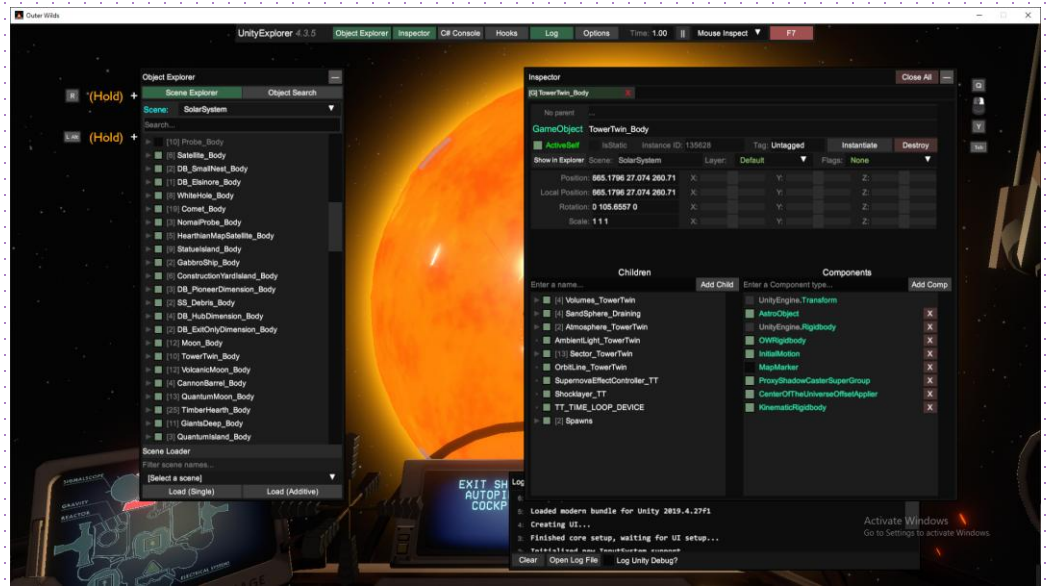
Method hooking

Game Engine

process

BepInEx / MelonLoader



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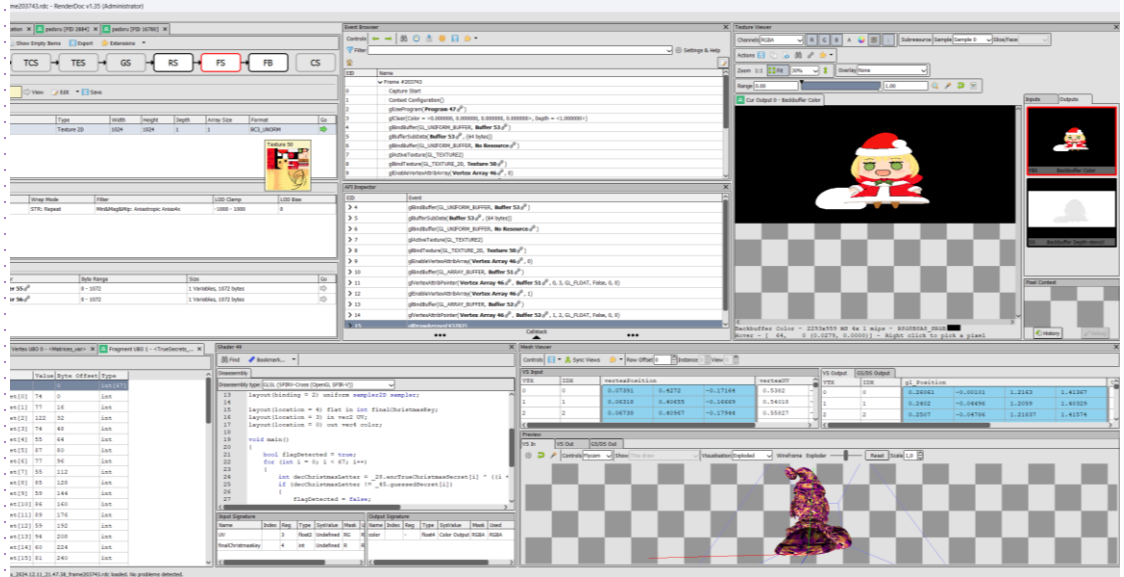
Method hooking

Game Engine

GPU Render

process

RenderDoc



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save games and config files editing

Procmon64

Finds files/registry keys used by a process

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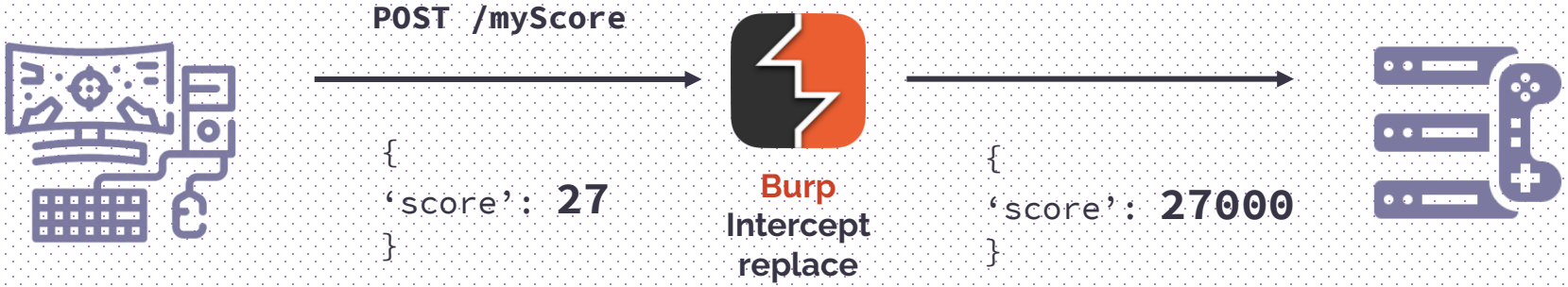
Interception/modification of network packets



A whole world of video game hacks

- Interception/modification of network packets

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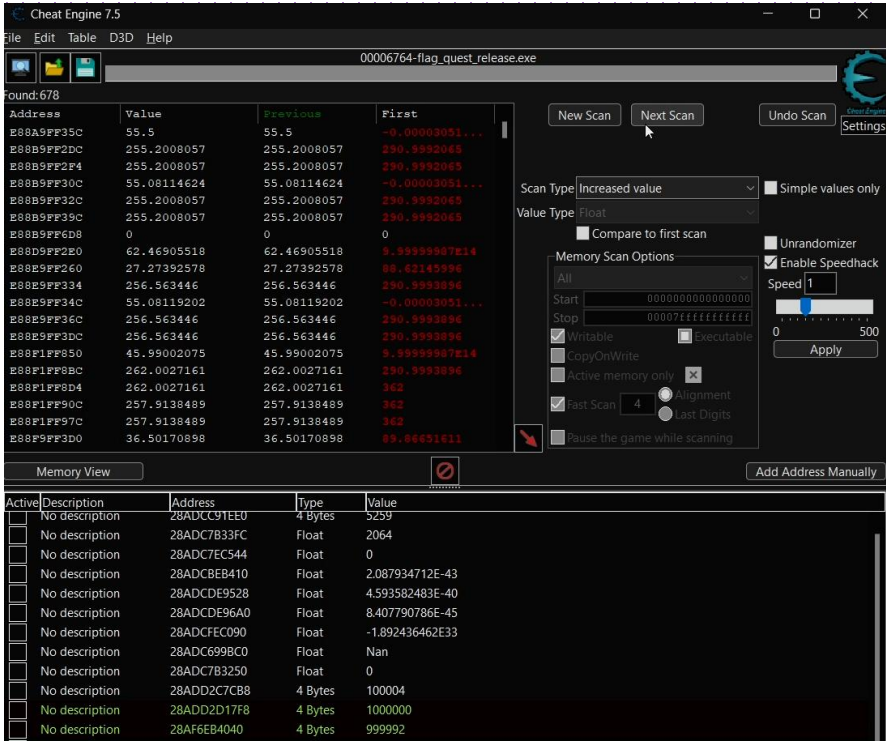
Hacking games with CheatEngine

"It's pronounced Aine jean"

Cheat Engine

- Memory scanner and debugger



Cheat Engine

- Memory scanner and debugger
- **AutoAssembly and LUA scripting**

```
Hook :
retGetGamePlayers_o:
readmem( retGetGamePlayers, 6 )
mov [LocalPlayer],rax
mov rcx, [rax+30]
test rcx,rcx
je short @f
    mov [OakPlayerController],rcx
    mov rcx, [rcx+488]
    test rcx, rcx
        je short @f
        mov rcx, [rax+30]
        mov rcx, [rcx+1988]
        test rcx,rcx
        je short @f
            mov [OakDeveloperPerks],rcx
            test byte ptr [rcx+C8],40
            jne short @f
                or byte ptr [rcx+C8],40

@@:
jmp retGetGamePlayers+6
```

Cheat Engine

- Memory scanner and debugger
- **AutoAssembly and LUA scripting**

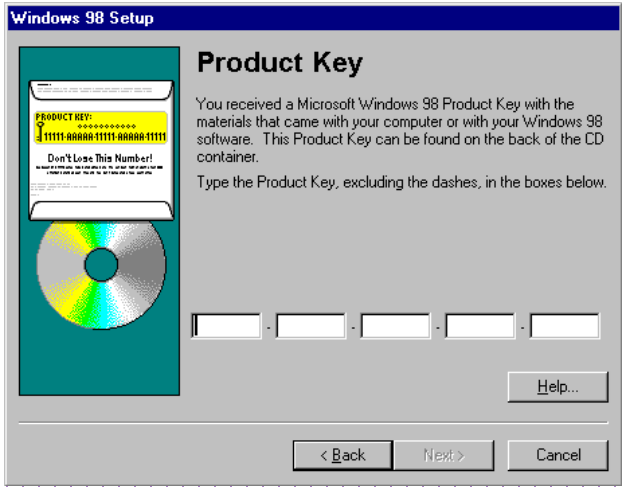
```
function AOBScanAA(script, symbol)
  local success,disableInfo = autoAssemble(script)
  if not success then return nil, disableInfo end -- disab
  local addr = getAddress(symbol)
  autoAssemble(script, disableInfo) -- disable script and
  return addr, 'success'
end

function AOBScanRegion(bytestr, start, stop)
  local script = ([[
  [ENABLE]
  aobscanregion(luaAOBScanRegionSymbol,%X,%X,%s)
  registersymbol(luaAOBScanRegionSymbol)
  [DISABLE]
  unregistersymbol(luaAOBScanRegionSymbol)
  ]]):format(getAddress(start), getAddress(stop), bytestr)
  return AOBScanAA(script, 'luaAOBScanRegionSymbol')
end

function AOBScanModule(bytestr, module)
  local script = ([[
  [ENABLE]
  aobscanmodule(luaAOBScanModuleSymbol,%s,%s)
  registersymbol(luaAOBScanModuleSymbol)
  [DISABLE]
  unregistersymbol(luaAOBScanModuleSymbol)
  ]]):format(module, bytestr)
  return AOBScanAA(script,'luaAOBScanModuleSymbol')
end
```

Cheat Engine

- Memory scanner and debugger
- AutoAssembly and LUA scripting
- **GUI ‘trainer’ generator**

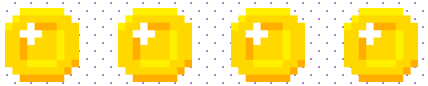
Cheat Engine

- Memory scanner and debugger
- AutoAssembly and LUA scripting
- GUI 'trainer' generator
- **Not limited to video games**



Finding values

COINS : 0



New Scan | Next Scan

Value:

Hex 0

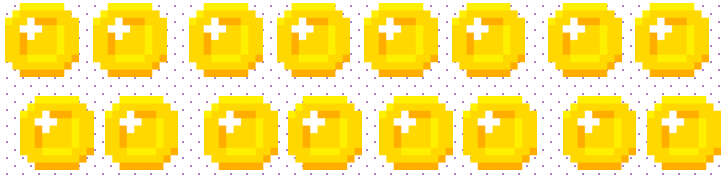
Scan Type Exact Value

Found: 153,518,055 (shown: 10,000,000)

Address	Value	Previous
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0
MSVCP...	0	0

Finding values

COINS : 4



New Scan | Next Scan

Value: 4

Hex

Scan Type: Exact Value

Found: 113

Address	Value	Previous
1318B...	0	4
1318B...	0	4
13193...	4	4
13193...	4	4
13193...	4	4
13193...	4	4
13193...	4	4
15C0A...	4	4

Finding values

COINS : 20

New Scan | Next Scan

Value: 20

Hex

Found:4

Address	Value	Previous
15C0D...	20	20
15C0D...	20	20
15C0D...	20	20
15C0E...	20	20

Finding values

COINS : 20

New Scan | Next Scan

Value:

Hex 20

Activ	Description	Address	Type	Value
	coins	00000000		
	coins	15C0DD85978	4 Bytes	20
	coins	15C0DD859AC	4 Bytes	20
	coins	15C0EC83FD8	4 Bytes	20
	coins	15C0DD859C8	4 Bytes	20

Change Value

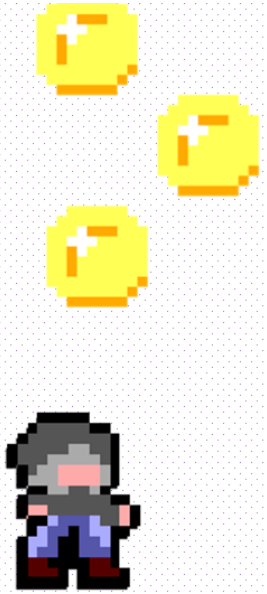
what value to change this to?

4000

OK

Finding values

COINS : 4000



Activ	Description	Address	Type	Value
	coins	00000000		
	coins	15C0DD859784	4 Bytes	20
	coins	15C0DD859AC4	4 Bytes	20
	coins	15C0EC83FD84	4 Bytes	20
	coins	15C0DD859C84	4 Bytes	20

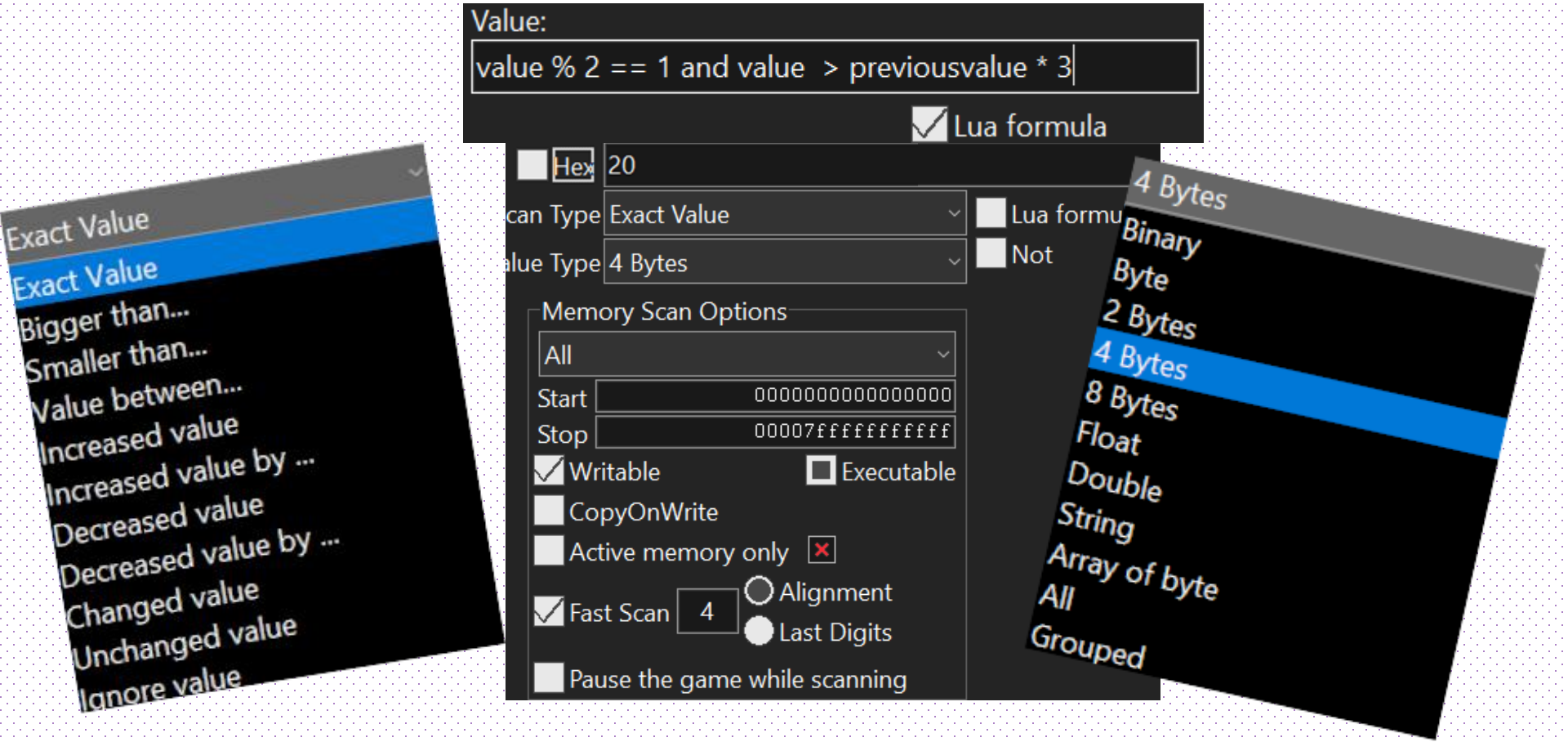
Change Value

what value to change this to?

4000

OK

Finding values: advanced features



Memory viewer

Description	Address	Type	Value
health	15C0DD85978	4 Bytes	1337

Memory View

```
Protect:Read/Write  AllocationBase=15C0DD40000 Base=
address      80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 89ABCDEF01234567
15C0DD85978 39 05 00 00 64 00 00 00 9...d...  ...\...
15C0DD85988 C8 00 00 00 16 00 00 00  ........  .... ..
15C0DD85998 80 51 69 29 5C 01 00 00  Qi)\....  ........
15C0DD859A8 B0 6A 74 0E 5C 01 00 00  jt.\....  ........
15C0DD859B8 C6 17 00 00 00 20 00 00  .... ..  Qm)\...
15C0DD859C8 13 37 00 00 00 01 00 00 .7......  B..\...
```

```
struct Player
{
    int health   = 1337;
    int ???      = ???;
    int ???      = ???;
}
```

Memory viewer

Description	Address	Type	Value
health	15C0DD85978	4 Bytes	1337

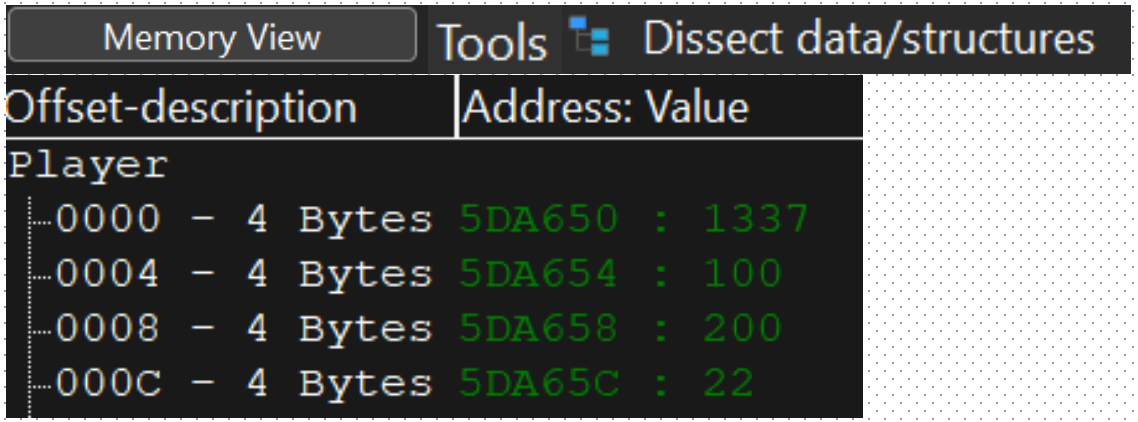
Memory View Display Type › • 4 Byte decimal

```
Protect:Read/Write   AllocationBase=15C0DD40000 Base=
address      78          7C          89ABCDEF01234567
15C0DD85978 1337         100         9...d...  ...\...
15C0DD85988 200          22           .......  .... ..
15C0DD85998 694768000    348          Qi)\............
15C0DD859A8 242510512    348          jt.\...  .......
15C0DD859B8 6086         8192          .... ..  Qm)\...
15C0DD859C8 14099        256         .7......  B..\...
```

```
struct Player
{
    int health   = 1337;
    int strength = 100;
    int defense  = 200;
}
```

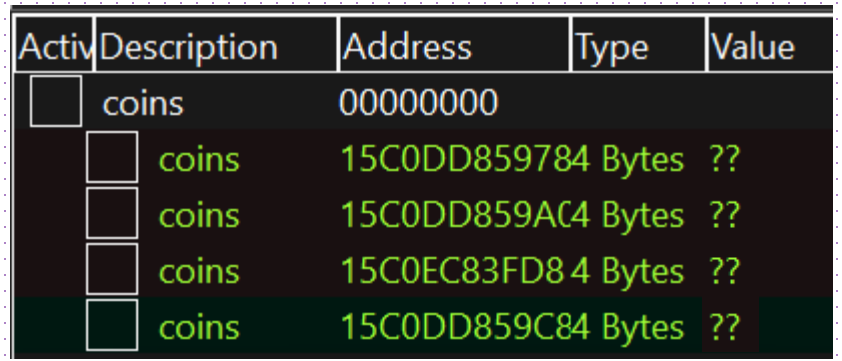
Data structures

Description	Address	Type	Value
health	15C0DD85978	4 Bytes	1337




```
struct Player
{
    int health   = 1337;
    int strength = 100;
    int defense  = 200;
}
```

Persisting memory addresses



Reload game
Lose everything!

Persisting memory addresses

Solution: search *potentially* static addresses
search for all code that points to the address

coins	2216AF30F68	4 Bytes	58

Generate pointermap

Recursive scan

```
op [(Address - 1) + 01]
op [(Address - 2) + 02]
op [(Address - 3) + 03]
…
```

7FF7BB2E2724 - 48 03 41 08 - add rax,[rcx+08]	RCX=000002216AF30F60
7FF7BB165E68 - 49 89 44 24 08 - mov [r12+08],rax	R12=000002216AF30F60
7FF7BB1B9D40 - 49 8B 55 08 - mov rdx,[r13+08]	R13=000002216AF30F60

Persisting memory addresses

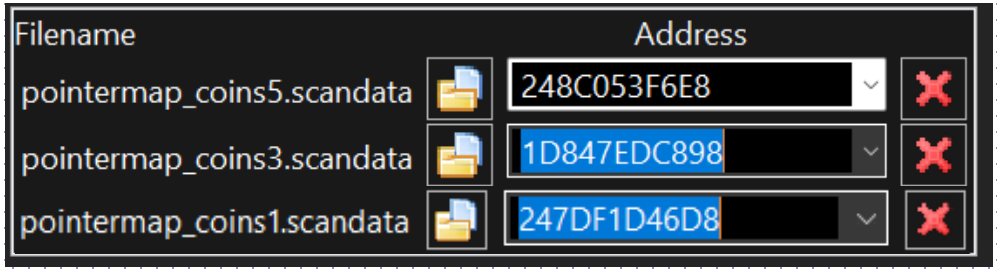
Problem: too many results!

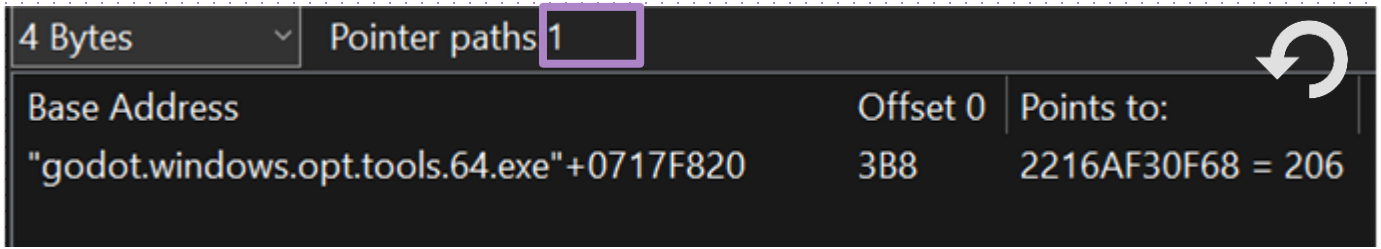
4 Bytes | Pointer paths 230860

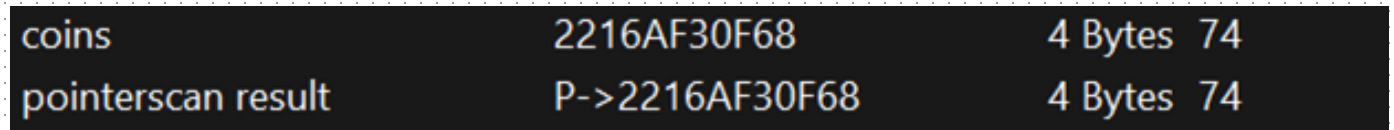
Base Address	Offset 0	Points to:
"godot.windows.opt.tools.64.exe"+07212940	10	-
"godot.windows.opt.tools.64.exe"+071DE070	60	-
"godot.windows.opt.tools.64.exe"+07212940	10	-
"godot.windows.opt.tools.64.exe"+071DE070	60	-

Persisting memory addresses

solution: rescan, and compare results







What if we don't search a value?

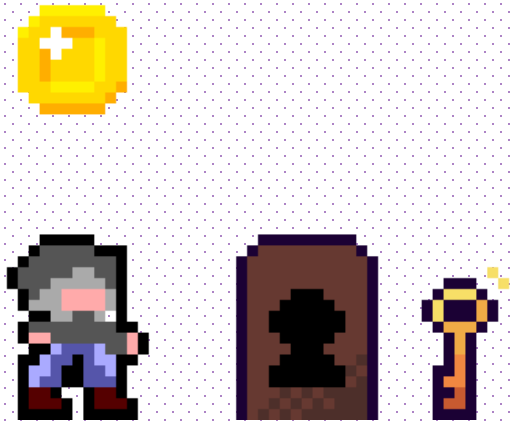
How to search for a condition?

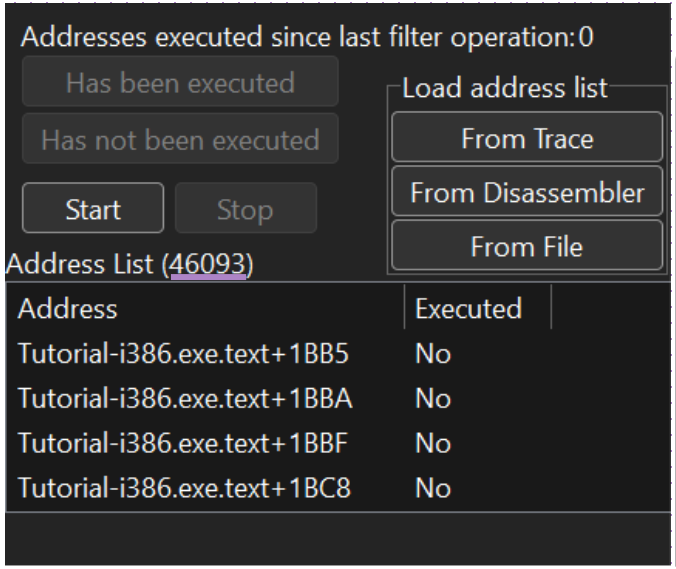
```
def player_move():
    if collision("coin"):
        coins += 1
    if collision("door"):
        if has_key:
            open_door()
    if button("down"):
        crouch()
```

What if we don't search a value?

How to search for a condition?:
code filter

Memory View | Tools | Code Filter

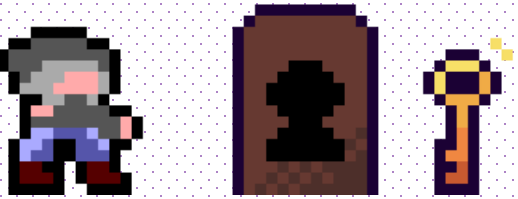





```
def player_move():
    if collision("coin"):
        coins += 1
    if collision("door"):
        if has_key:
            open_door()
    if button("down"):
        crouch()
```

What if we don't search a value?

How to search for a condition?:
code filter



Addresses executed since last filter operation:1791

Has been executed

Has not been executed

Start | Stop

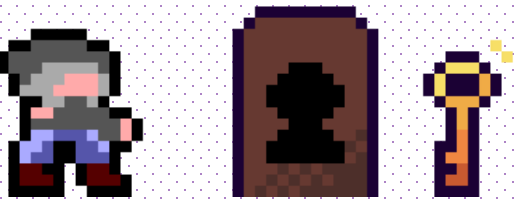
Address List (44302)

Address	Executed
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BB5	No
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BBA	No
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BBF	No
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BC8	Yes

```
def player_move():
    if collision("coin"):
        coins += 1
    if collision("door"):
        if has_key:
            open_door()
    if button("down"):
        crouch()
```

What if we don't search a value?

How to search for a condition?:
code filter



Addresses executed since last filter operation: 595

Has been executed

Has not been executed

Start | Stop

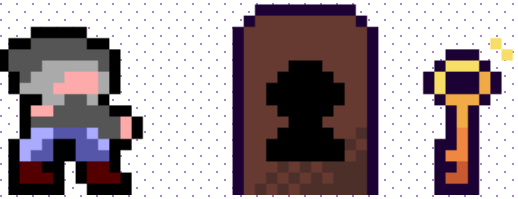
Address List (595)

Address	Executed
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BB5	No
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BBA	No
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BBF	No
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BC8	Yes

```
def player_move():
    if collision("coin"):
        coins += 1
    if collision("door"):
        if has_key:
            open_door()
    if button("down"):
        crouch()
```

What if we don't search a value?

How to search for a condition?:
code filter



Addresses executed since last filter operation: 1

Has been executed

Has not been executed

Start | Stop

Address List (1)

Address	Executed
Tutorial-i386.exe.text+1BB5	Yes

```
def player_move():
    if collision("coin"):
        coins += 1
    if collision("door"):
        if has_key:
            open_door()
    if button("down"):
        crouch()
```

Instruction patching

ASM, help!

```
74 02          je    Tutorial-i386.exe.text+26687
EB 49          jmp   Tutorial-i386.exe.text+266D0
A1 B0666500    mov   eax,[Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
3B 45 E8       cmp   eax,[ebp-18]
74 02          je    Tutorial-i386.exe.text+26693
EB 1F          jmp   Tutorial-i386.exe.text+266B2
C7 45 E8 000...mov   [ebp-18],00000000
6A 00          push  00
```

Instruction patching

ASM primer

je if ==	**jg** if >	**add** +=
jne if !==	**jl** if <	**sub** -=

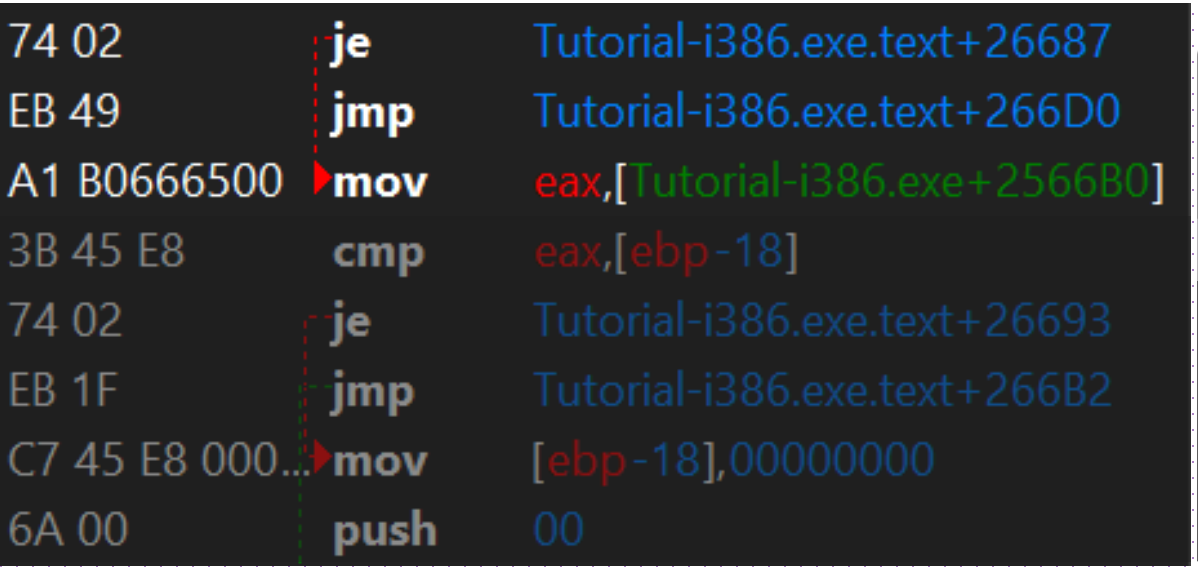
mov x=y

nop do nothing

(padding)

Instruction patching

Replace the *has_key* condition




```
def player_move():
    if collision("coin"):
        coins += 1
    if collision("door"):
        if has_key:
            open_door()
    if button("down"):
        crouch()
```

Instruction patching

Replace the *has_key* condition

```
74 02          je    Tutorial-i386.exe.text+26687
EB 49          jmp   Tutorial-i386.exe.text+266D0
A1 B0666500    mov   eax,[Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
3B 45 E8       cmp   eax,[ebp-18]
74 02          je    Tutorial-i386.exe.text+26693
EB 1F          jmp   Tutorial-i386.exe.text+266B2
C7 45 E8 000...mov   [ebp-18],00000000
6A 00          push  00
```

```
def player_move():
    if collision("coin"):
        coins += 1
    if collision("door"):
        if has_key:
            open_door()
    if button("down"):
        crouch()
```

Instruction patching

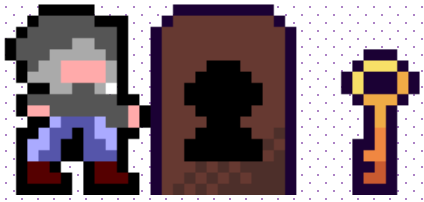
Replace the *has_key* condition


```
def player_move():
    if collision("coin"):
        coins += 1
    if collision("door"):
        if not has_key:
            open_door()
    if button("down"):
        crouch()
```

Instruction patching

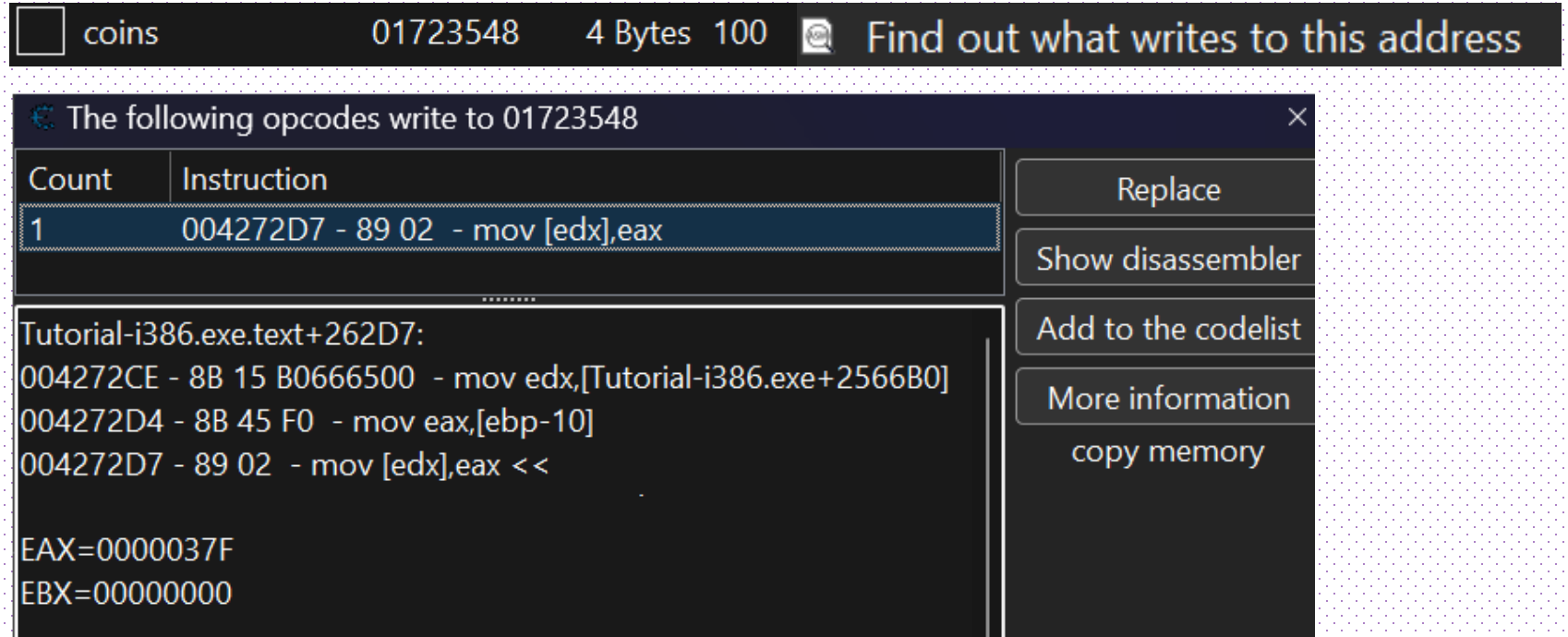
Replace the *has_key* condition

```
74 02          je    Tutorial-i386.exe.text+26687
EB 49          jmp   Tutorial-i386.exe.text+266D0
A1 B0666500    mov   eax,[Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
3B 45 E8       cmp   eax,[ebp-18]
75 02          jne   Tutorial-i386.exe.text+26693
EB 1F          jmp   Tutorial-i386.exe.text+266B2
C7 45 E8 000...mov   [ebp-18],00000000
6A 00          push  00
```



Instruction patching

What if we could do it from known memory addresses?



Instruction patching: problems

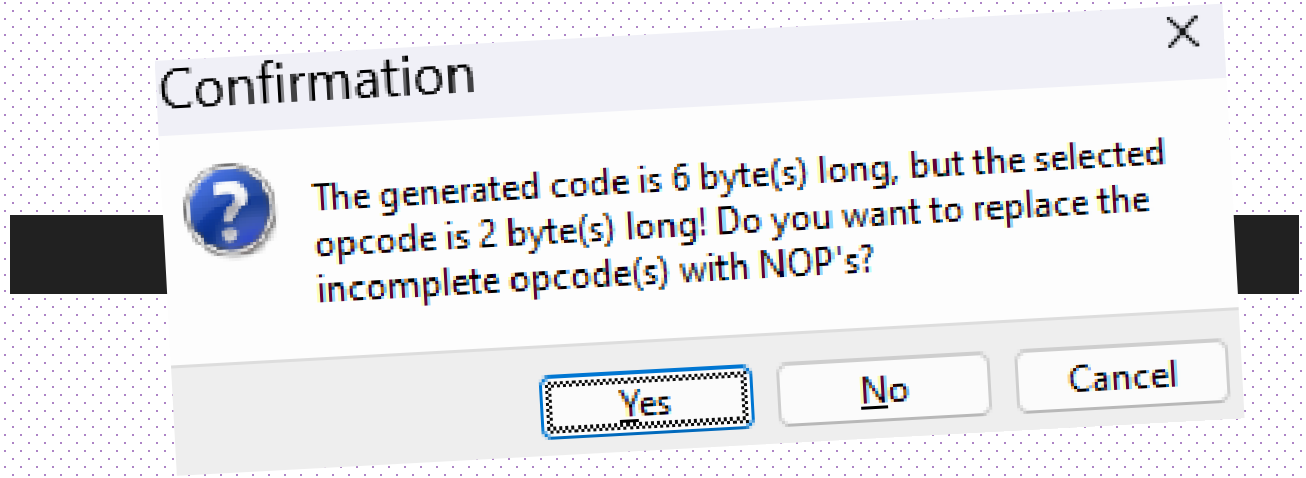
Less obvious instructions

```
mov     [edx],eax
```

where **add** ?

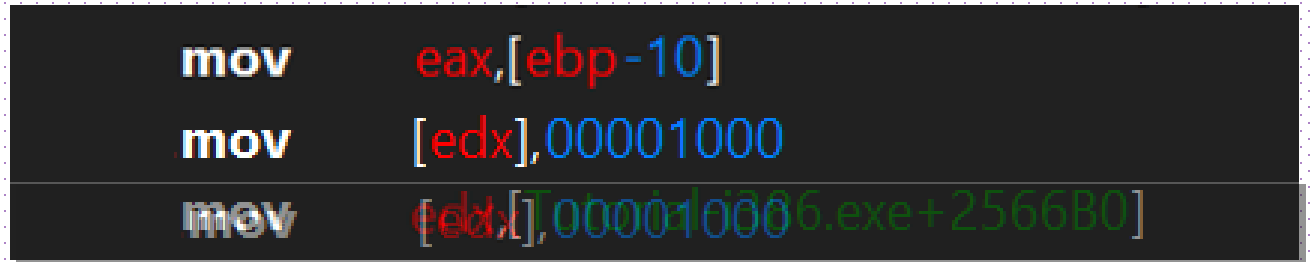
Instruction patching: problems

Instruction size clash



Instruction patching: problems

Instruction size clash
Where to add our code?



Autoassemble

Solution: **auto assembler!**

- Auto-allocate memory
- Create complex methods
- Persisting and toggleable

```
[ENABLE]
alloc(newmem,2048)
label(return)
alloc(multiplier, 2)
registerSymbol(multiplier)



multiplier:
    dd (int)5

newmem:
mov eax, [edx]
add eax, [multiplier]
mov [edx],eax
mov eax, [Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
jmp return

"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7:
jmp newmem
nop 2
return:

[DISABLE]
dealloc(multiplier)
unregisterSymbol(multiplier)

dealloc(newmem)
"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7:
db 89 02 A1 B0 66 65 00
```

Autoassemble

Solution: **auto assembler!**

- **Auto-allocate memory**

```
alloc(newmem,2048)
label(return)



newmem:
// your code here


jmp return

"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7: //original
jmp newmem                 address
nop 2
return:
```

Autoassemble

Solution: **auto assembler!**

- Auto-allocate memory

  manages labels, variables…


```
alloc(newmem,2048)
label(return)
alloc(multiplier, 2)
registerSymbol(multiplier)



multiplier:
    dd (int)5

newmem:
mov eax, [edx]
add eax, [multiplier]


jmp return

"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7:
jmp newmem
nop 2
return:
```

Autoassemble

Solution: **auto assembler!**

- Auto-allocate memory
- **Create complex methods**

```
alloc(newmem,2048)
label(return)
alloc(multiplier, 2)
registerSymbol(multiplier)



multiplier:
    dd (int)5

newmem:
mov eax, [edx] //coins += multiplier
add eax, [multiplier]
mov [edx],eax
mov eax, [Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
jmp return

"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7:
jmp newmem
nop 2
return:
```

Autoassemble

Solution: **auto assembler!**

- Auto-allocate memory
- Create complex methods
- **Persisting and toggleable**

```
[ENABLE]
alloc(newmem,2048)
label(return)
alloc(multiplier, 2)
registerSymbol(multiplier)




multiplier:
    dd (int)5

newmem:
mov eax, [edx]
add eax, [multiplier]
mov [edx],eax
mov eax, [Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
jmp return

"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7:
jmp newmem
nop 2
return:

[DISABLE]
dealloc(multiplier)
unregisterSymbol(multiplier)

dealloc(newmem)
"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7:
db 89 02 A1 B0 66 65 00
```

Autoassemble

Solution: **auto assembler!**

- Auto-allocate memory
- Create complex methods
- **Persisting and toggleable**

```
[ENABLE]
alloc(newmem,2048)
label(return)
alloc(multiplier, 2)
registerSymbol(multiplier)




multiplier:
    dd (int)5

newmem:
mov eax, [edx]
add eax, [multiplier]
mov [edx],eax
mov eax, [Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
jmp return

"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7:
jmp newmem
nop 2
return:

[DISABLE]
dealloc(multiplier)
unregisterSymbol(multiplier)

dealloc(newmem)
"Tutorial-i386.exe"+272D7:
db 89 02 A1 B0 66 65 00
```

Autoassemble

Solution: **auto assembler!**

- Auto-allocate memory
- Create complex methods
- Persisting and toggleable

  Resist binary changes with AOB scans

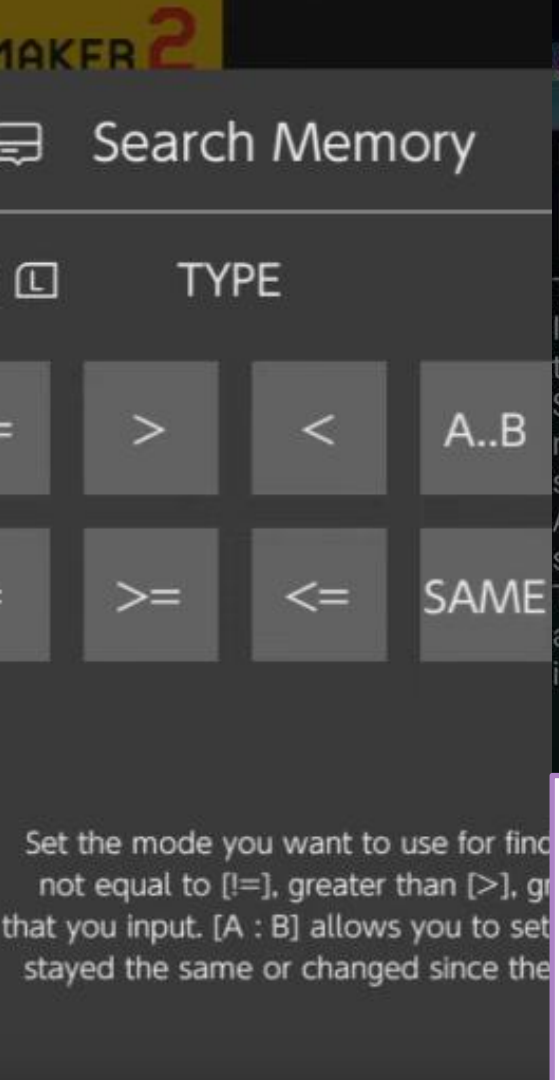
```
[ENABLE]
alloc(newmem,2048)
label(return)
alloc(multiplier, 2)
registerSymbol(multiplier)
registerSymbol(INJECT)
aobscanmodule(INJECT,Tutorial-i386.exe,
                89 02 A1 B0 66 65 00)

multiplier:
    dd (int)5

newmem:
mov eax, [edx]
add eax, [multiplier]
mov [edx],eax
mov eax, [Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
jmp return

INJECT:
jmp newmem
nop 2
return:

[DISABLE]
dealloc(multiplier)
unregisterSymbol(multiplier)

dealloc(newmem)
INJECT:
db 89 02 A1 B0 66 65 00
unregistersymbol(INJECT)
```

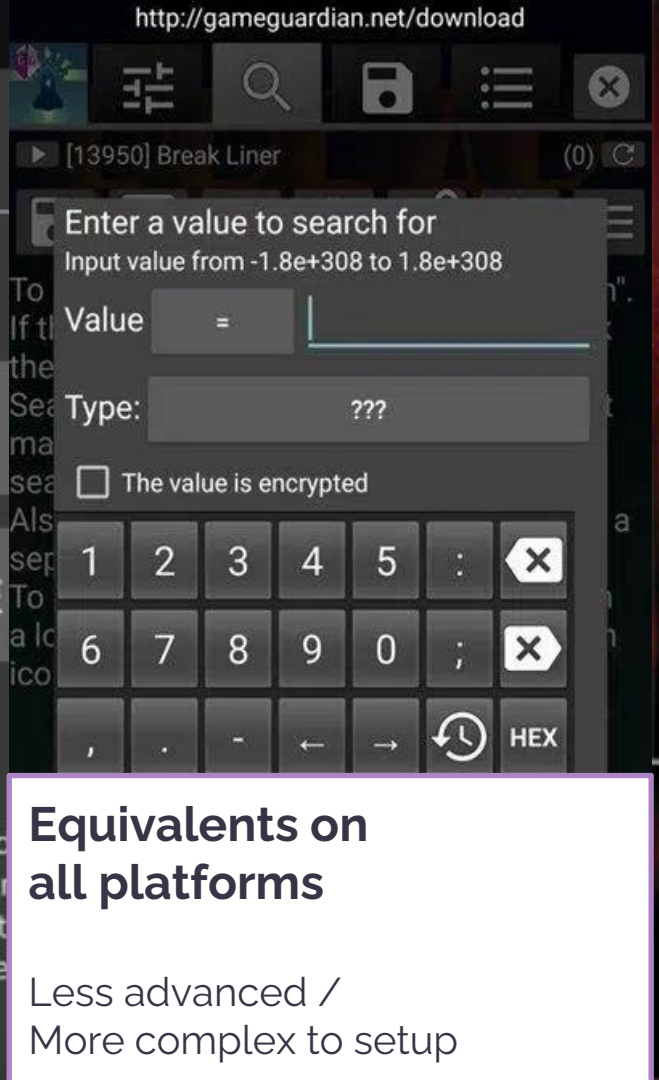
Autoassemble

Solution: **auto assembler!**

- Auto-allocate memory
- Create complex methods
- Persisting and toggleable

```
[ENABLE]
alloc(newmem,2048)
label(return)
alloc(multiplier, 2)
registerSymbol(multiplier)
registerSymbol(INJECT)
aobscanmodule(INJECT,Tutorial-i386.exe,
                89 02 A1 B0 66 65 00)

multiplier:
    dd (int)5

newmem:
mov eax, [edx]
add eax, [multiplier]
mov [edx],eax
mov eax, [Tutorial-i386.exe+2566B0]
jmp return

INJECT:
jmp newmem
nop 2
return:

[DISABLE]
dealloc(multiplier)
unregisterSymbol(multiplier)

dealloc(newmem)
INJECT:
db 89 02 A1 B0 66 65 00
unregistersymbol(INJECT)
```

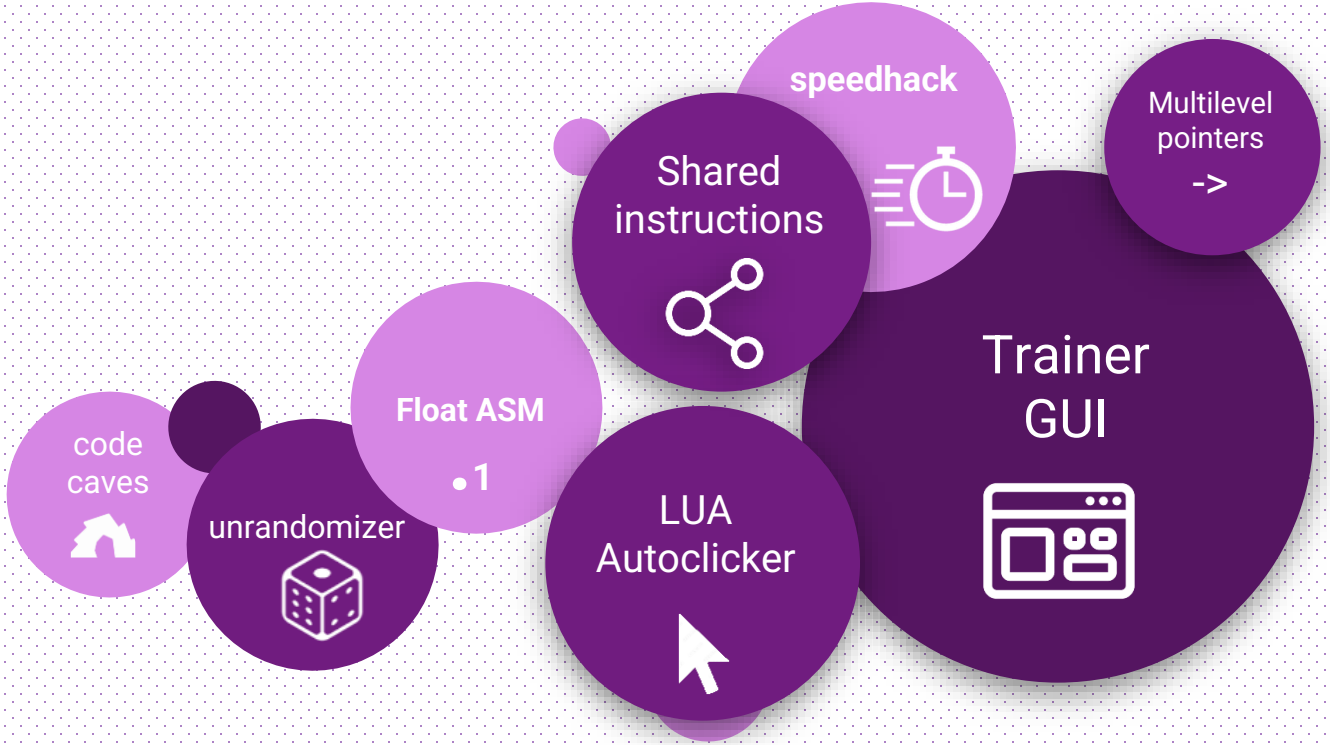




Equivalents on all platforms

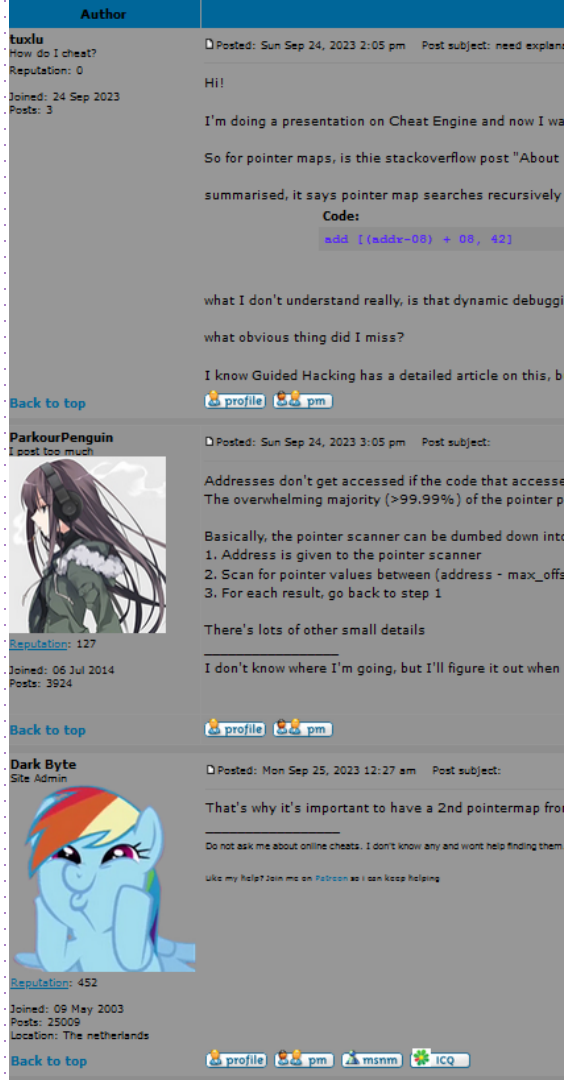
Less advanced /
More complex to setup

Next steps


speedhack
Shared instructions
Multilevel pointers ->
Trainer GUI
Float ASM
• 1
code caves
unrandomizer
LUA Autoclicker

Resources

- Cheat Engine Forums



Resources

- Cheat Engine Forums

- **Youtube tutorials**
  By Stephen Chapman
  & Guided Hacking

Resources

- Cheat Engine Forums

- Youtube tutorials
  By Stephen Chapman
  & Guided Hacking

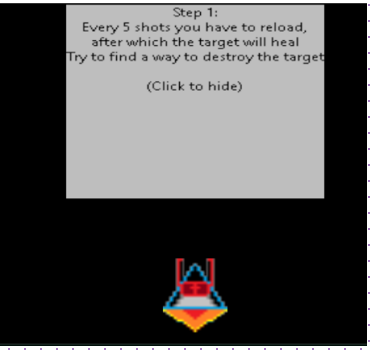
- **Video game challenges!**

3

Creating a game for hackers

Shall we play a game?

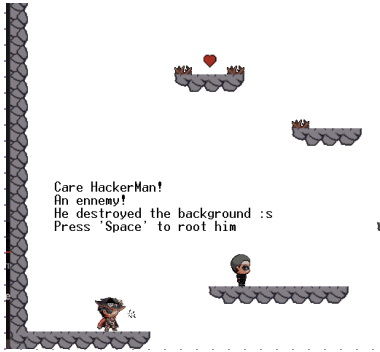
past CtF games



Cheat Engine
Built-in tutorial

Pwn Adventure

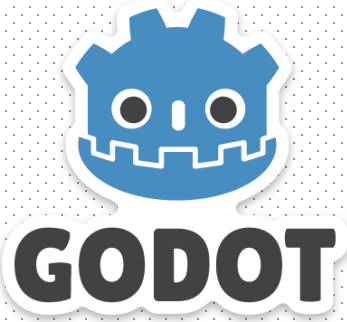
Google CTF
Hackceler8



Rootme's HackerMan

Released while working on my challenge!

Godot Engine



- Free open source engine
- Lightweight and fast iteration
- Growing community

4

Protecting your game from hackers

No fun allowed

Protect your game

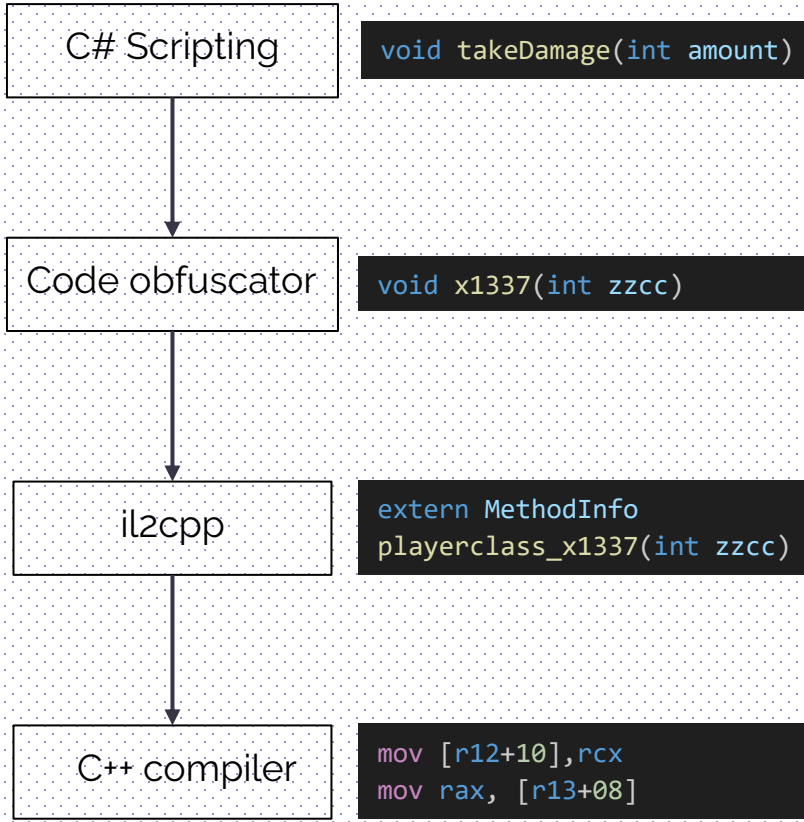
- Obfuscate values in memory

```
struct AntiCheatInt
{
    int projected;
    int r = rand();

    public int Value {
        get => (projected + r) / 3;
        set => projected = (value * 3) - r;
    }
}
```

Protect your game

- Obfuscate values in memory
- **Obfuscate binaries**

unity Code pipeline

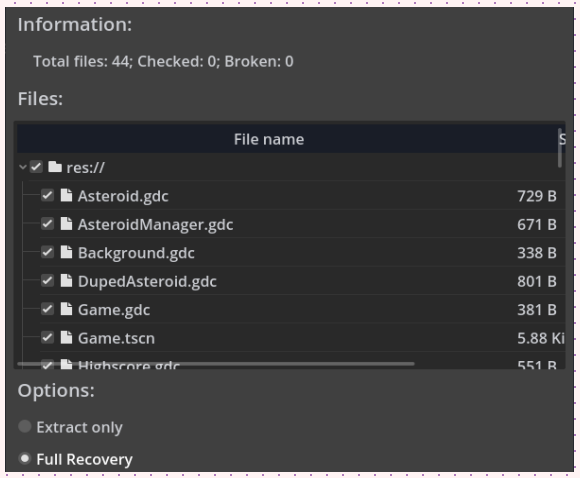


Protect your game : Godot

Interpreted language in
an open source format

Protect your game: Godot

Interpreted language in an open source format

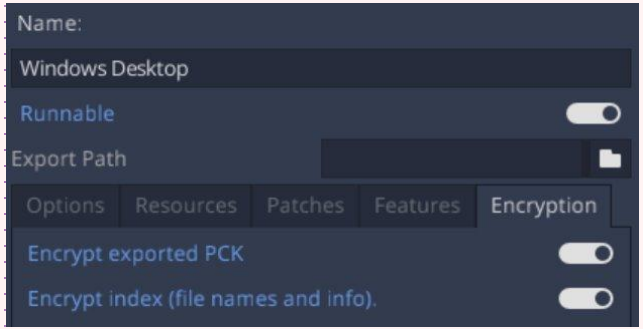


Entirely decompilable with GdsDecomp

Protect your game: Godot

Interpreted language in an open source format

Game can be encrypted with an AES key



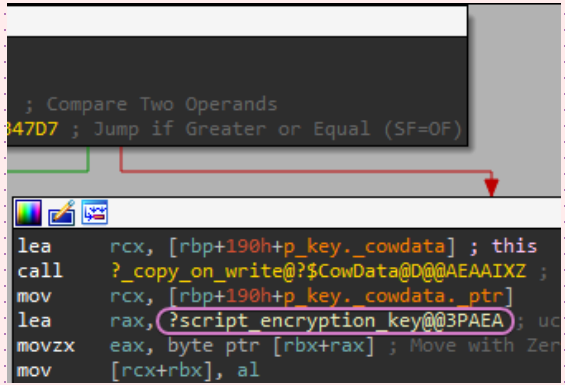
Entirely decompilable with GdsDecomp

Kalm

Protect your game: Godot

Interpreted language in an open source format

Game can be encrypted with an AES key



Entirely decompilable with GdsDecomp

Key is extractible in the binary

Protect your game: Godot

Interpreted language in an open source format

Game can be encrypted with an AES key

GdsDecomp dev won't give hints on how to extract it

Entirely decompilable with GdsDecomp

Key is extractible in the binary

nikitalita commented on Jul 23, 2022

you can use IDA to get the decryption key.

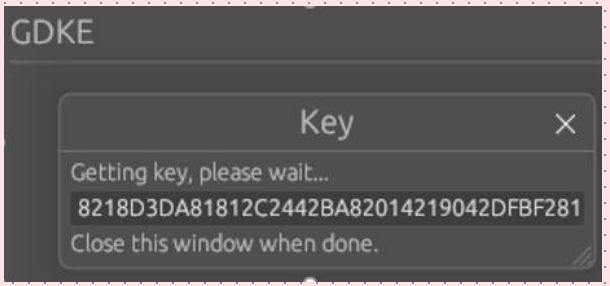
Originally, specific steps were provided, but after careful consideration, it may affect the enthusiasm of Godot developers, so the specific practice was deleted

Protect your game: Godot

Interpreted language in an open source format

Game can be encrypted with an AES key

GdsDecomp dev won't give hints on how to extract it



Entirely decompilable with GdsDecomp

Key is extractible in the binary

Someone else made a tool for it: gdke

Protect your game: Godot

Interpreted language in an open source format

Game can be encrypted with an AES key

GdsDecomp dev won't give hints on how to extract it

```
Vector<uint8_t> p_key = raw_key.reverse();

std::transform(p_key.begin(), p_key.end(),
p_xor_key.begin(), p_key.begin(),
std::bit_xor<uint8_t>());
```

Entirely decompilable with GdsDecomp

Key is extractible in the binary

Someone else made a tool for it: gdke

We can patch a few lines of the engine to fool the tool

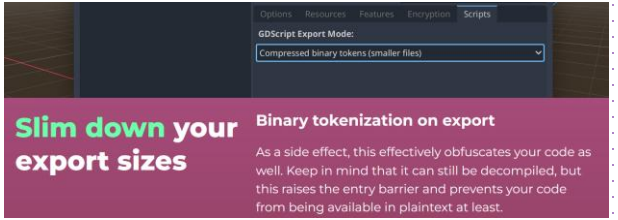
Protect your game: Godot

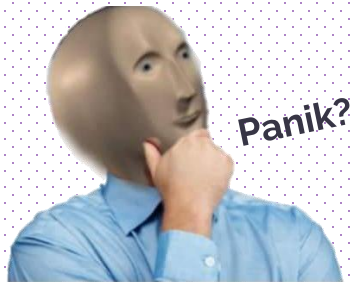
Interpreted language in an open source format

Game can be encrypted with an AES key

GdsDecomp dev won't give hints on how to extract it

We can patch a few lines of the engine to fool the tool





Entirely decompilable with GdsDecomp

Key is extractible in the binary

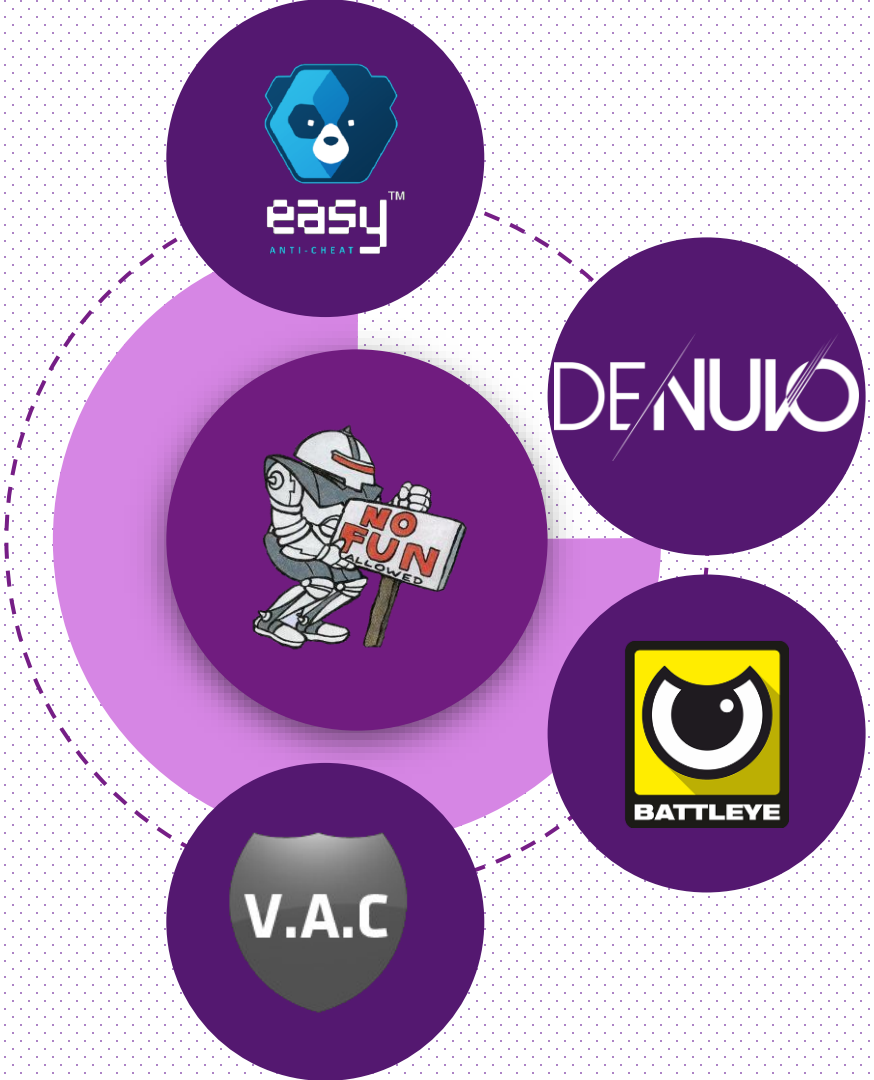
Someone else made a tool for it: gdke

Always findable for a motivated hacker

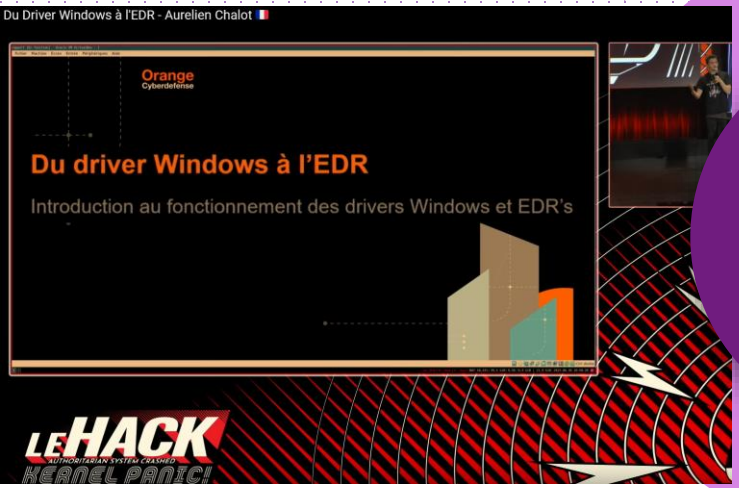
Protect your game

- Obfuscate values in memory
- Obfuscate binaries
- Encrypt binaries and save files
- **Don't trust the client:**
  check everything server side

Anti cheat Softwares



Anti cheat Softwares



Analyze all processes

Detect method hooks

EDR

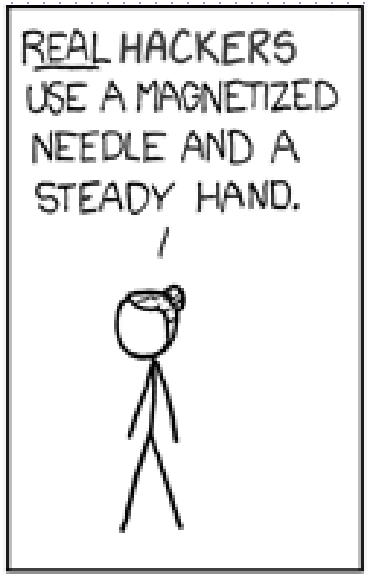
Basically

Check memory

Kernel mode driver

Advanced cheating: Undetectable.

- Hardware level hacks, Harder to detect.



Advanced cheating: Undetectable.

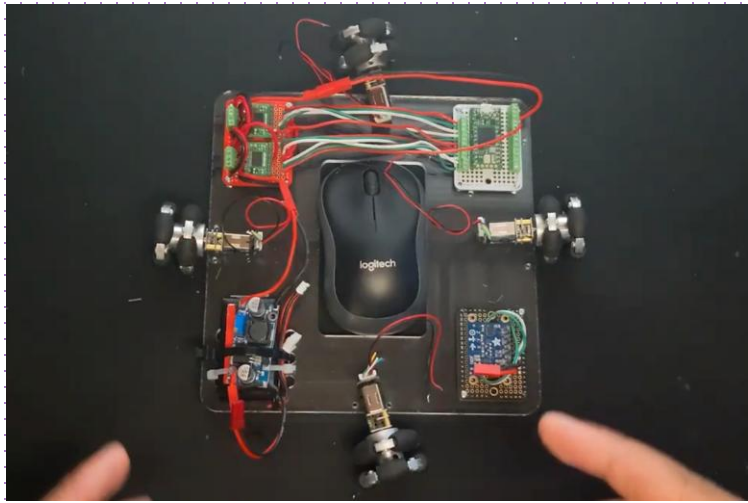
- Hacks hardware,
  plus difficile à détecter.

- **Screen reading tools (aimbot)**

Advanced cheating: Undetectable.

- Hardware level hacks, Harder to detect.

- **Screen reading tools (aimbot)**



Advanced cheating: Undetectable.

- Hardware level hacks, Harder to detect.
- Screen reading tools (aimbot)
- **Online latency desynchronization**

Advanced cheating: Undetectable.

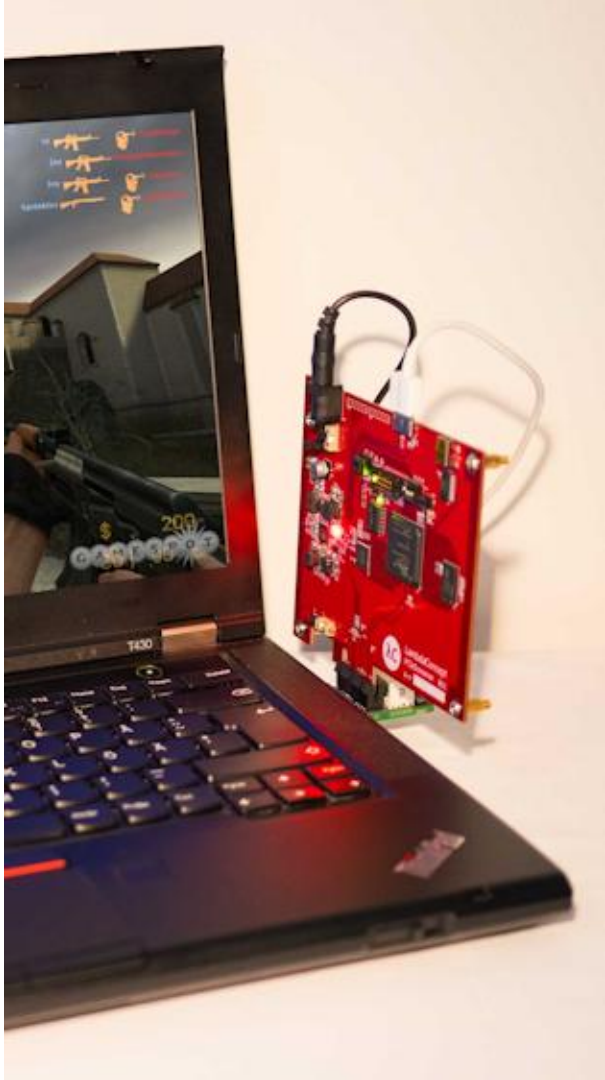
- Hardware level hacks,
  Harder to detect.

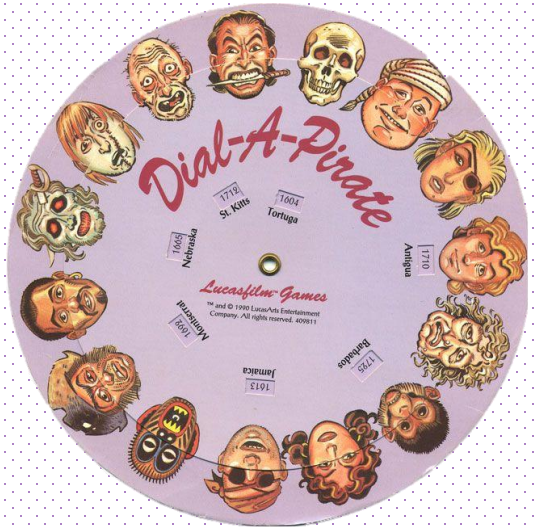
- Screen reading tools (aimbot)

- **Online latency desynchronization**

Advanced cheating: Undetectable.

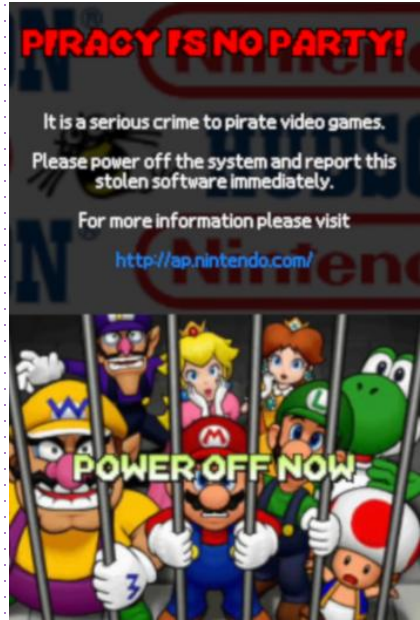
- Hardware level hacks,
  Harder to detect.
- Screen reading tools (aimbot)
- Online latency desynchronization
- **Direct Memory Access via PCIE**





tuxlu.fr/talk_vghacking

tuxlu.fr/talk_vghacking



thank you.