School of

Engineering and Computer Science

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CYBR 473 T1 2023

Malware and Reverse Engineering

OllyDbg

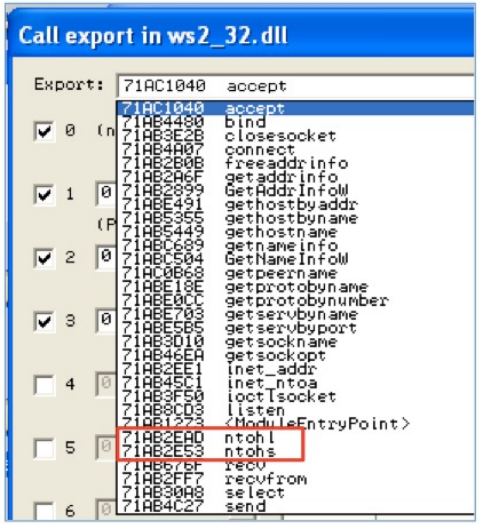
Chapter 9: "*Practical Malware Analysis: The Hands-on Guide to Dissecting Malicious Software*", Michael Sikorski and Andrew Honig, 2012

History

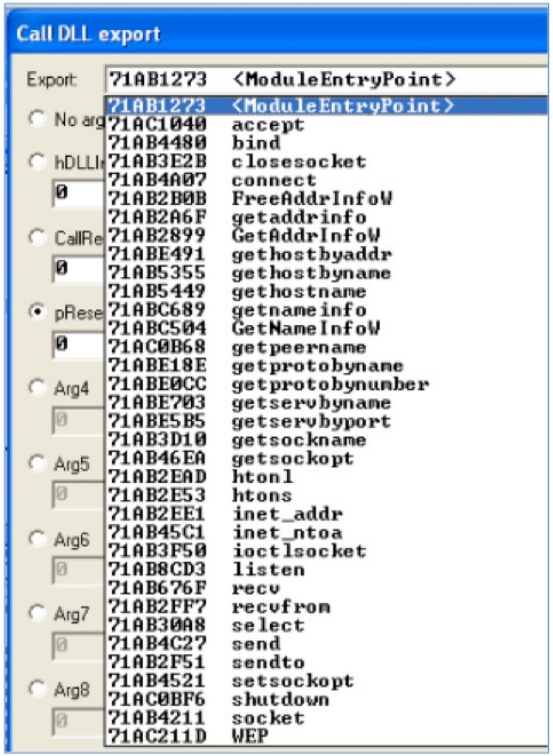
- OllyDbg was developed more than a decade ago
- First used to crack software and to develop exploits
- The OllyDbg 1.1 source code was purchased by Immunity and rebranded as Immunity Debugger
- The two products are very similar

Don't Use OllyDbg 2!

OllyDbg 1.10



OllyDbg 2.01



LOADING
MALWARE

Ways to Debug Malware – *Load*

- You can load EXEs or DLLs directly into OllyDbg

- Opening and EXE
  - File, Open
  - Add command-line arguments if needed
  - OllyDbg will stop at the entry point, WinMain, if it can be determined
  - Otherwise it will break at the entry point defined in the PE Header
    - Configurable in Options, Debugging Options

Ways to Debug Malware (cont.) – *Attach*

- If the malware is already running, you can attach OllyDbg to the running process

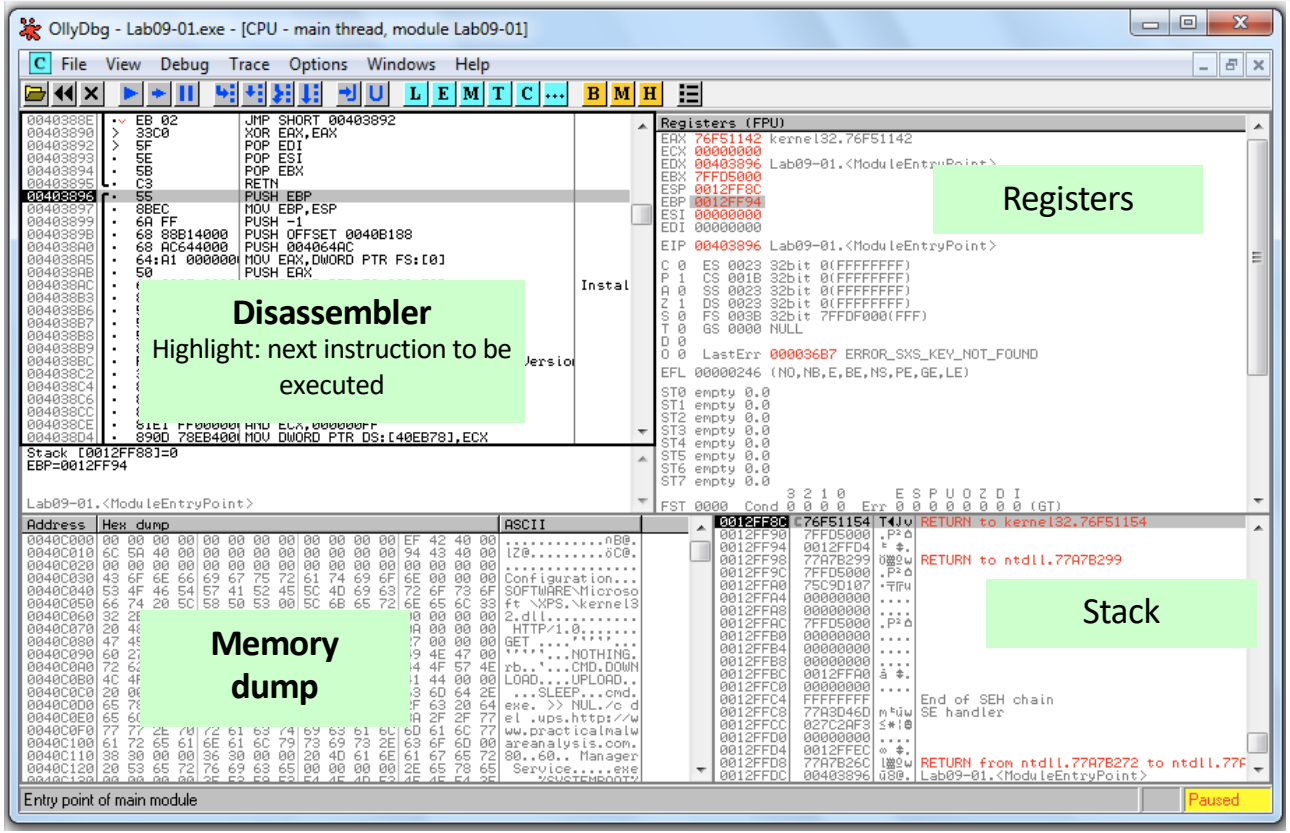
- Attaching to a running process
  - File, Attach
  - OllyDbg breaks in and pauses the program and all threads
    - If you catch it in DLL, set a breakpoint on access to the entire code section to get to the interesting code

Reloading a File

- Ctrl+F2 reloads the current executable
- F2 sets a breakpoint

THE OLLYDBG INTERFACE

The OllyDbg Interface



Modifying Data

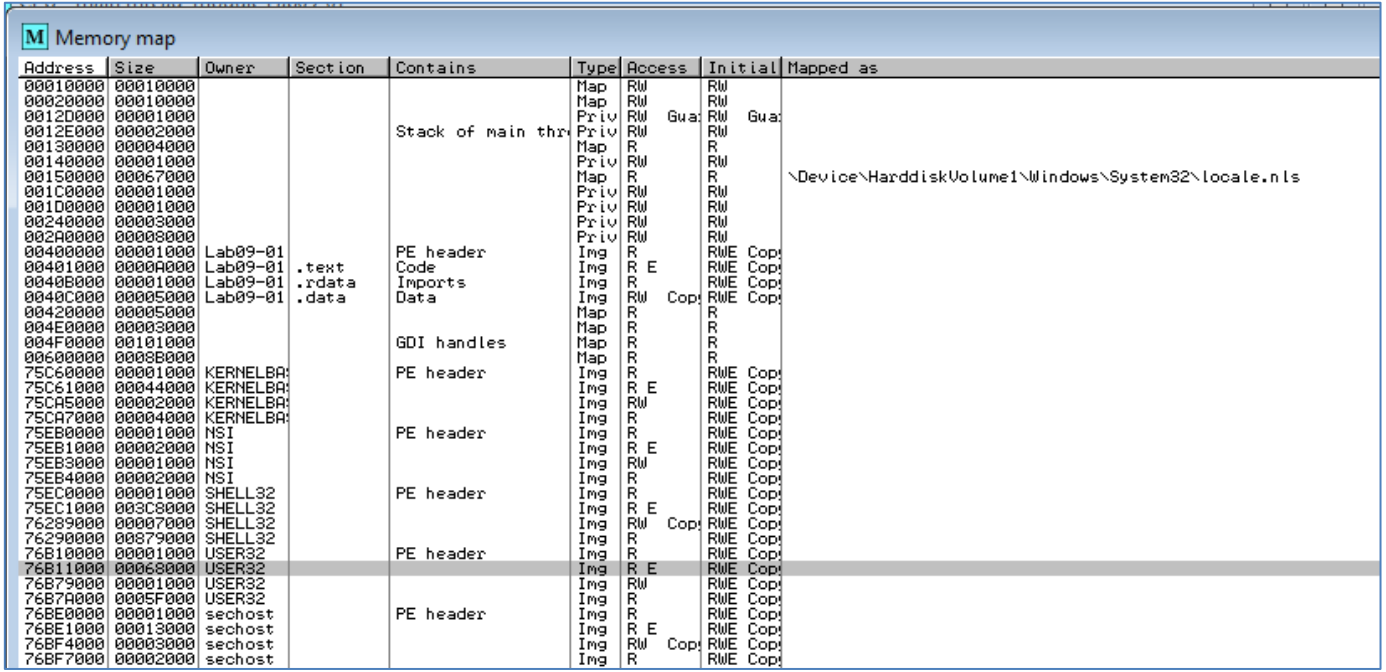
- Disassembler window
  - Press **spacebar**
- Registers or Stack
  - **Right-click**, modify
- Memory dump
  - **Right-click**, Binary, Edit
  - Ctrl+G to go to a memory location
  - **Right-click** a memory address in another pane and click “Follow in dump”

MEMORY MAP

View, Memory Map

Memory Map

- EXE and DLLs are identified
- **Double-click** any row to show a memory dump
- **Right-click**, View in Disassembler



Rebasing

- Rebasing occurs when a module *is not loaded at its preferred base address*
- PE files have a preferred base address
  - The image base in the PE header
  - Usually, the file is loaded at that address
  - Most EXEs are designed to be loaded at 0x00400000
- EXEs that support *Address Space Layout Randomization* (ASLR) will often be relocated

DLL Rebasing

- DLLs are more commonly relocated
  - Because a single application may import many DLLs
  - **Windows DLLs** have different base addresses to avoid this
  - **Third-party DLLs** often have the same preferred base address

Absolute vs. Relative Addresses

- The first 3 instructions will work fine if relocated because they use *relative addresses*

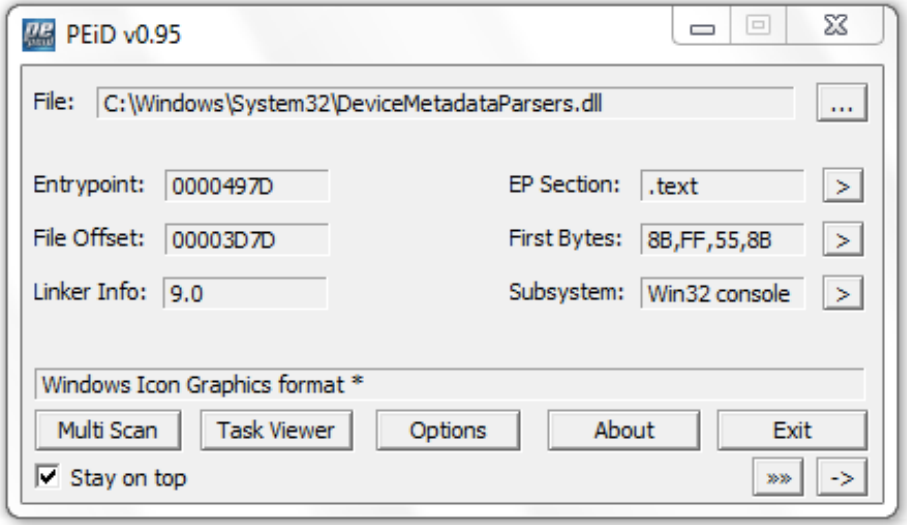
- The last one has an *absolute address* that will be wrong if the code is relocated

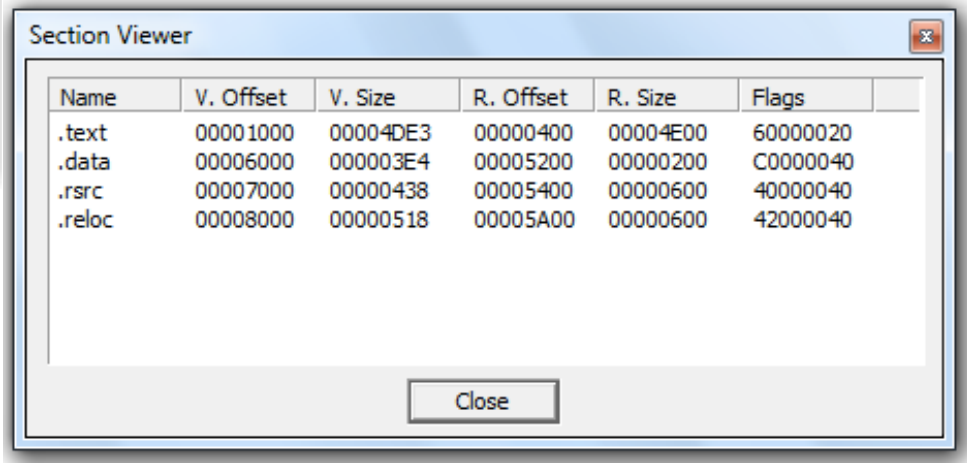
```
00401203          mov eax, [ebp+var_8]
00401206          cmp [ebp+var_4], 0
0040120a          jnz loc_0040120
0040120c          1mov eax, dword_40CF60
```

Fix-up Locations

- Most DLLS have a list of fix-up locations in the **`.reloc`** section of the PE header
  - These are instructions that must be changed when code is relocated
- DLLs are loaded after the EXE and in any order
- You cannot predict where DLLs will be located in memory if they are rebased
- Example **`.reloc`** section on next slide

Fix-up Locations (cont.)





DLL Rebasing

- DLLS can have their `.reloc` removed
  - Such a DLL cannot be relocated
  - Must load at its preferred base address

- Relocating DLLs **is bad for performance**
  - Adds to load time
  - So good programmers specify non-default base addresses when compiling DLLs

Example of DLL Rebasing Olly Memory Map

- DLL-A and DLL-B prefer location **0x100000000**

DLL-B is relocated into a different memory address from its requested location

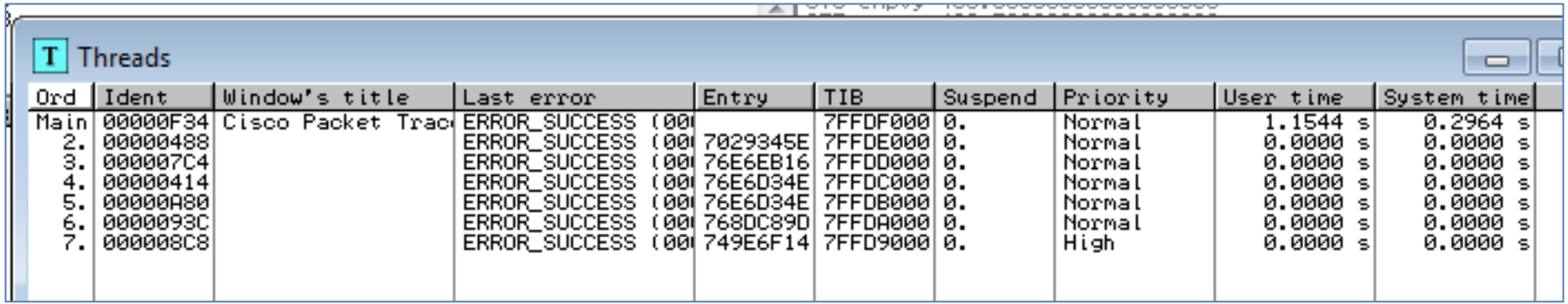
00340000	00001000	DLL-B		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
00341000	00009000	DLL-B	.text	code	Imag	R	RWE
0034A000	00002000	DLL-B	.rdata	imports,exp	Imag	R	RWE
0034C000	00003000	DLL-B	.data	data	Imag	R	RWE
0034F000	00001000	DLL-B	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
00350000	00001000	DLL-B	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R	RWE
00400000	00001000	EXE-1		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
00401000	00010000	EXE-1	.textbss	code	Imag	R	RWE
00411000	00004000	EXE-1	.text	SFX	Imag	R	RWE
00415000	00002000	EXE-1	.rdata		Imag	R	RWE
00417000	00001000	EXE-1	.data	data	Imag	R	RWE
00418000	00001000	EXE-1	.idata	imports	Imag	R	RWE
00419000	00001000	EXE-1	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
10000000	00001000	DLL-A		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
10001000	00009000	DLL-A	.text	code	Imag	R	RWE
1000A000	00002000	DLL-A	.rdata	imports,exp	Imag	R	RWE
1000C000	00003000	DLL-A	.data	data	Imag	R	RWE
1000F000	00001000	DLL-A	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
10010000	00001000	DLL-A	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R	RWE

IDA Pro

- IDA Pro is not attached to a real running process
- It doesn't know about rebasing
- If you use OllyDbg and IDA Pro at the same time, you may get different results
  - To avoid this, use the "**Manual Load**" option in IDA Pro
  - Specify the virtual base address manually

Viewing Threads and Stacks

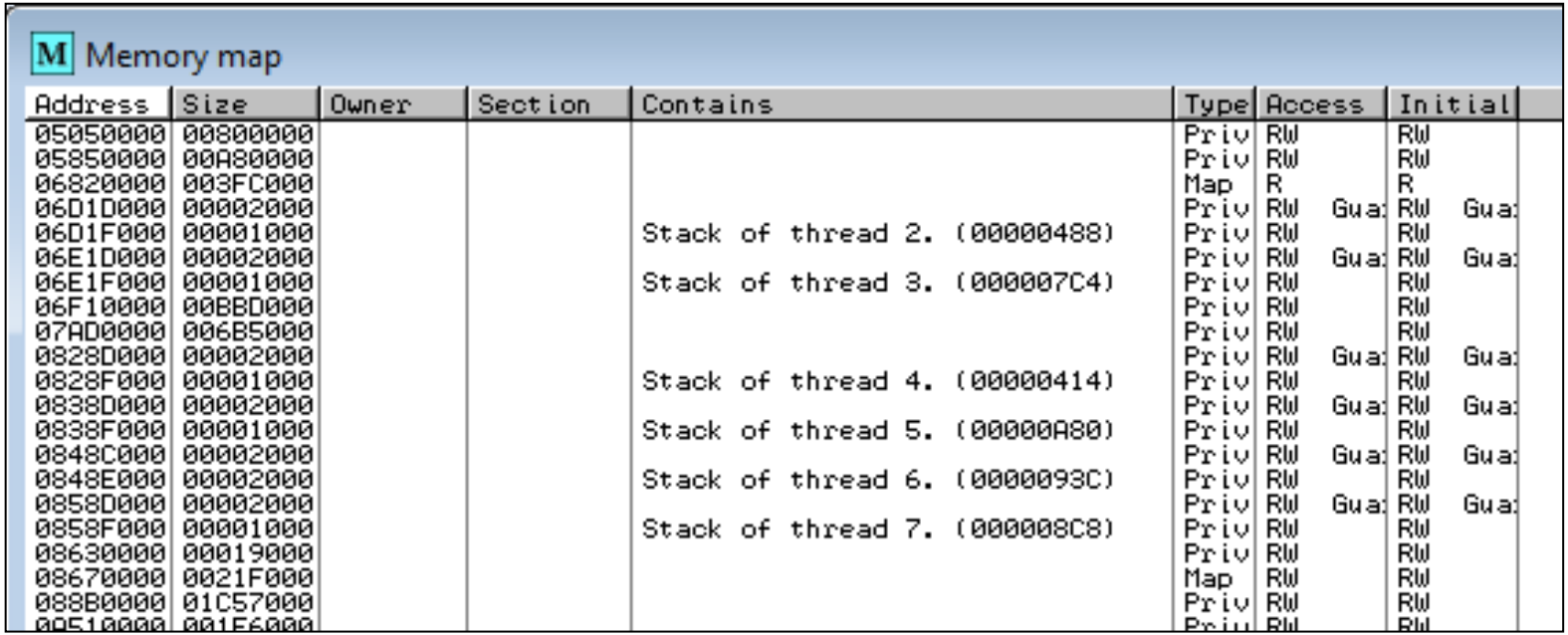
- View, Threads
- Right-click a thread to “Open in CPU”, kill it, etc.



Ord	Ident	Window's title	Last error	Entry	TIB	Suspend	Priority	User time	System time
Main	00000F34	Cisco Packet Trac	ERROR_SUCCESS (00		7FFDF000	0.	Normal	1.1544 s	0.2964 s
2.	00000488		ERROR_SUCCESS (00	7029345E	7FFDE000	0.	Normal	0.0000 s	0.0000 s
3.	000007C4		ERROR_SUCCESS (00	76E6EB16	7FFDD000	0.	Normal	0.0000 s	0.0000 s
4.	00000414		ERROR_SUCCESS (00	76E6D34E	7FFDC000	0.	Normal	0.0000 s	0.0000 s
5.	00000A80		ERROR_SUCCESS (00	76E6D34E	7FFDB000	0.	Normal	0.0000 s	0.0000 s
6.	0000093C		ERROR_SUCCESS (00	768DC89D	7FFDA000	0.	Normal	0.0000 s	0.0000 s
7.	000008C8		ERROR_SUCCESS (00	749E6F14	7FFD9000	0.	High	0.0000 s	0.0000 s

Each Thread Has its Own Stack

- Visible in Memory Map



Memory map

Address	Size	Owner	Section	Contains	Type	Access	Initial
05050000	00800000				Priv	RW	RW
05850000	00A80000				Priv	RW	RW
06820000	003FC000				Map	R	R
06D1D000	00002000				Priv	RW Gua	RW Gua
06D1F000	00001000			Stack of thread 2. (00000488)	Priv	RW	RW
06E1D000	00002000				Priv	RW Gua	RW Gua
06E1F000	00001000			Stack of thread 3. (000007C4)	Priv	RW	RW
06F10000	00BBD000				Priv	RW	RW
07AD0000	006B5000				Priv	RW	RW
0828D000	00002000				Priv	RW Gua	RW Gua
0828F000	00001000			Stack of thread 4. (00000414)	Priv	RW	RW
0838D000	00002000				Priv	RW Gua	RW Gua
0838F000	00001000			Stack of thread 5. (00000A80)	Priv	RW	RW
0848C000	00002000				Priv	RW Gua	RW Gua
0848E000	00002000			Stack of thread 6. (0000093C)	Priv	RW	RW
0858D000	00002000				Priv	RW Gua	RW Gua
0858F000	00001000			Stack of thread 7. (000008C8)	Priv	RW	RW
08630000	00019000				Priv	RW	RW
08670000	0021F000				Map	RW	RW
088B0000	01C57000				Priv	RW	RW
0A510000	001E6000				Priv	RW	RW

ASLR is Fading

- Address Space Layout Randomization
  - *"ASLR is fundamentally flawed in sandboxed environments such as JavaScript and future defenses **should not rely on** randomized virtual addresses as a building block."*

- https://www.theregister.com/2021/02/26/chrome_aslr_bypass/

EXECUTING CODE

OllyDbg Code-Executing Options

Function	Menu	Hotkey	Button
Run/Play	Debug ▸ Run	F9	
Pause	Debug ▸ Pause	F12	
Run to selection	Breakpoint ▸ Run to Selection	F4	
Run until return	Debug ▸ Execute till Return	CTRL-F9	
Run until user code	Debug ▸ Execute till User Code	ALT-F9	
Single-step/step-into	Debug ▸ Step Into	F7	
Step-over	Debug ▸ Step Over	F8	

Run and Pause

- You could Run a program and click Pause when it's where you want it to be
- But that's sloppy and might leave you somewhere uninteresting, such as inside library code
- Setting breakpoints is much better

Run and Run to Selection

- **Run** is useful to resume execution after hitting a breakpoint

- **Run to Selection** will execute until just before the selected instruction is executed
  - If the selection is never executed, it will run indefinitely

Execute till Return

- Pauses execution until just before the current function is set to return
- Can be useful if you want to finish the current function and stop
- But if the function never ends, the program will continue to run indefinitely

Execute till User Code

- Useful if you get lost in library code during debugging
- Program will continue to run until it hit compiled malware code
  - Typically the **`.text`** section

Stepping Through Code

- **F7**—Single-step (also called step-into)

- **F8**—Step-over
  - Stepping-over means all the code is executed, but you don't see it happen

- Some malware is designed to fool you, by calling routines and never returning, so stepping over will miss the most important part

BREAKPOINTS

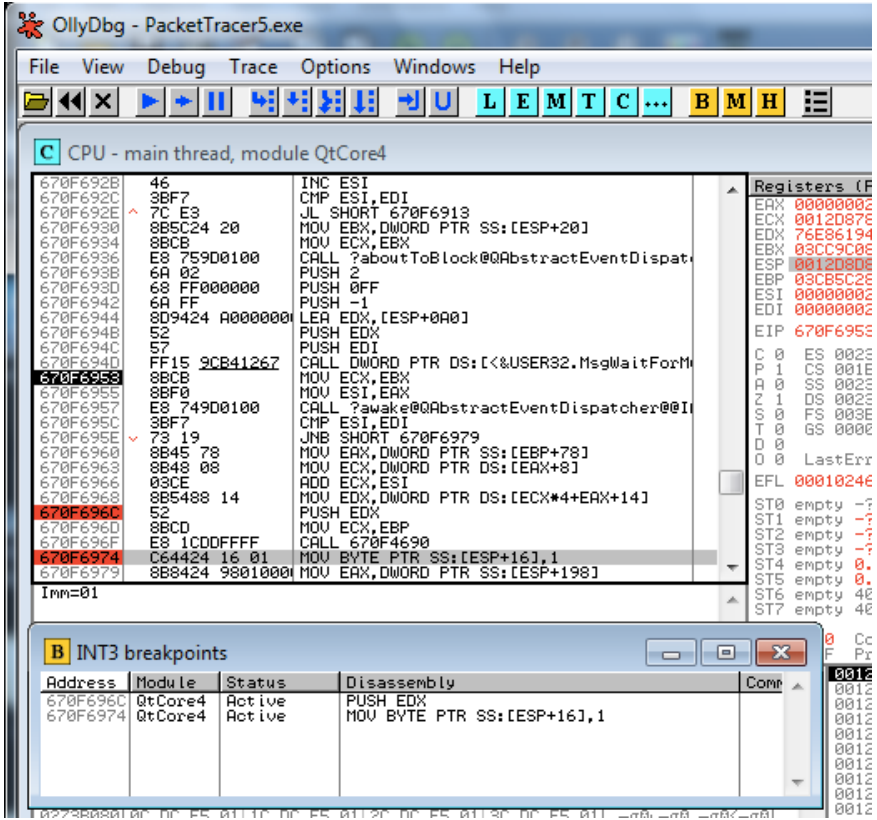
Types of Breakpoints

- **Software** breakpoints
- **Hardware** breakpoints
- **Conditional** breakpoints
- Breakpoints on **memory**

- **F2** – Add or remove a breakpoint

Viewing Active Breakpoints

- View, Breakpoints, or click **B** icon on toolbar



OllyDbg Breakingpoint Options

Function	Right-click menu selection	Hotkey
Software breakpoint	Breakpoint ▸ Toggle	F2
Conditional breakpoint	Breakpoint ▸ Conditional	SHIFT-F2
Hardware breakpoint	Breakpoint ▸ Hardware, on Execution	
Memory breakpoint on access (read, write, or execute)	Breakpoint ▸ Memory, on Access	F2 (select memory)
Memory breakpoint on write	Breakpoint ▸ Memory, on Write	

Saving Breakpoints

- When you close OllyDbg, it saves your breakpoints
- If you open the same file again, the breakpoints are still available

Software Breakpoints

- Useful for string decoders

- Malware authors often obfuscate strings
  - With a **string decoder** that is called before each string is used

```
push offset "4NNpTNHLKIXoPm7iBhUAjvRKNaUVBlr"
call String_Decoder
...
push offset "ugKLdNlLT6emldCeZi72mUjieuBqdfZ"
call String_Decoder
...
```

String Decoders

- Put a breakpoint at the end of the decoder routine
- The string becomes readable on the stack
  Each time you press Play in OllyDbg, the program will execute and will break when a string is decoded for use
- This method will only reveal strings as they are used

Conditional Breakpoints

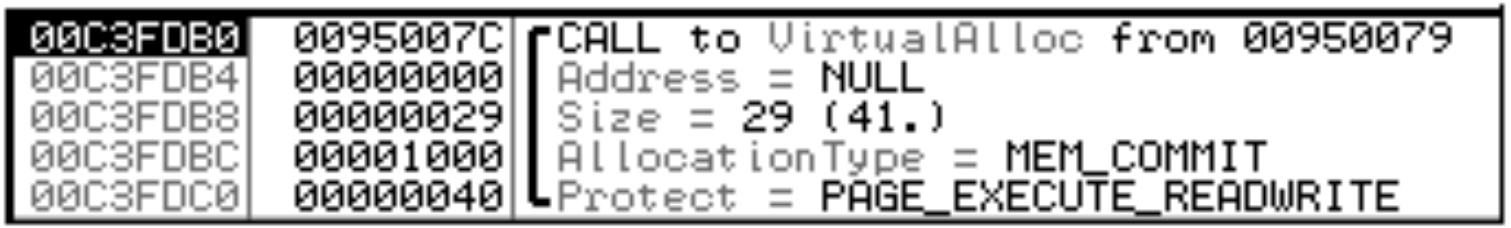
- Breaks only when a condition is true

- Ex: Poison Ivy backdoor
  - Poison Ivy allocates memory to house the shellcode it receives from Command and Control (C&C) servers
  - Most memory allocations are for other purposes and uninteresting
  - Set a conditional breakpoint at the **`VirtualAlloc`** function in **`Kernel32.dll`**

Normal Breakpoint

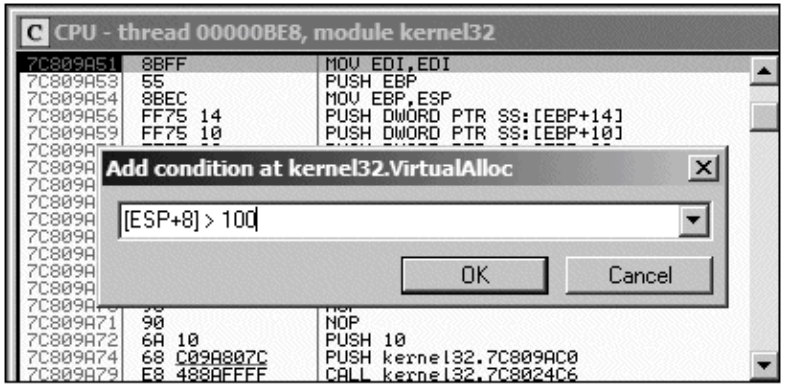
- Put a standard breakpoint at the start of the **`VirtualAlloc`** function

- Here's the stack when it hits, showing five items:
  - Return address
  - 4 parameters (Address, Size, AllocationType, Protect)



Conditional Breakpoint

1. Right-click in the disassembler window on the first instruction of the function, and select **Breakpoint ▶ Conditional**. This brings up a dialog asking for the conditional expression.
2. Set the expression and click **OK**. In this example, use **`[ESP+8]>100`**.
3. Click **Play** and wait for the code to break.



Hardware Breakpints

- Don't alter code, stack, or any target resource
- Don't slow down execution
- But you can only set 4 at a time
- Click **Breakpoint**, “**Hardware, on Execution**”
- You can set OllyDbg to use hardware breakpoints by default in Debugging Options
  - Useful if malware uses anti-debugging techniques

Memory Breakpoints

- Code breaks on access to specified memory location
- OllyDbg supports software and hardware memory breakpoints
- Can break on read, write, execute, or any access
- Right-click memory location, click **Breakpoint**, "**Memory, on Access**"

Memory Breakpoints (cont.)

- You can only set ***one*** memory breakpoint at a time
- OllyDbg implements memory breakpoints by changing the attributes of memory blocks
- This technique is not reliable and has considerable overhead
- Use memory breakpoints sparingly

When is a DLL Used?

1. Bring up the Memory Map window and right-click the DLL's `.text` section (the section that contains the program's executable code).
2. Select **Set Memory Breakpoint on Access**.
3. Press F9 or click the play button to resume execution.

The program should break when execution ends up in the DLL's `.text` section.

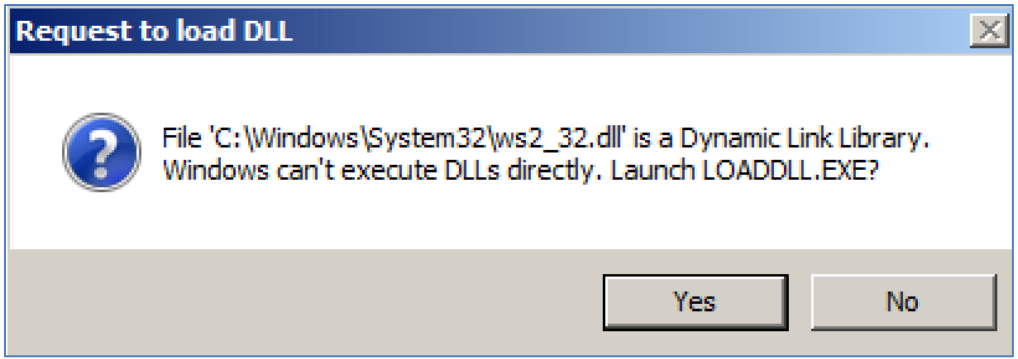
LOADING DLLS

`loaddll.exe`

- DLLs cannot be executed directly
- OllyDbg uses a dummy **`loaddll.exe`** program to load them
- Breaks at the DLL entry point **DLLMain** once the DLL is loaded
- Press Play to run **DLLMain** and initialize the DLL for use

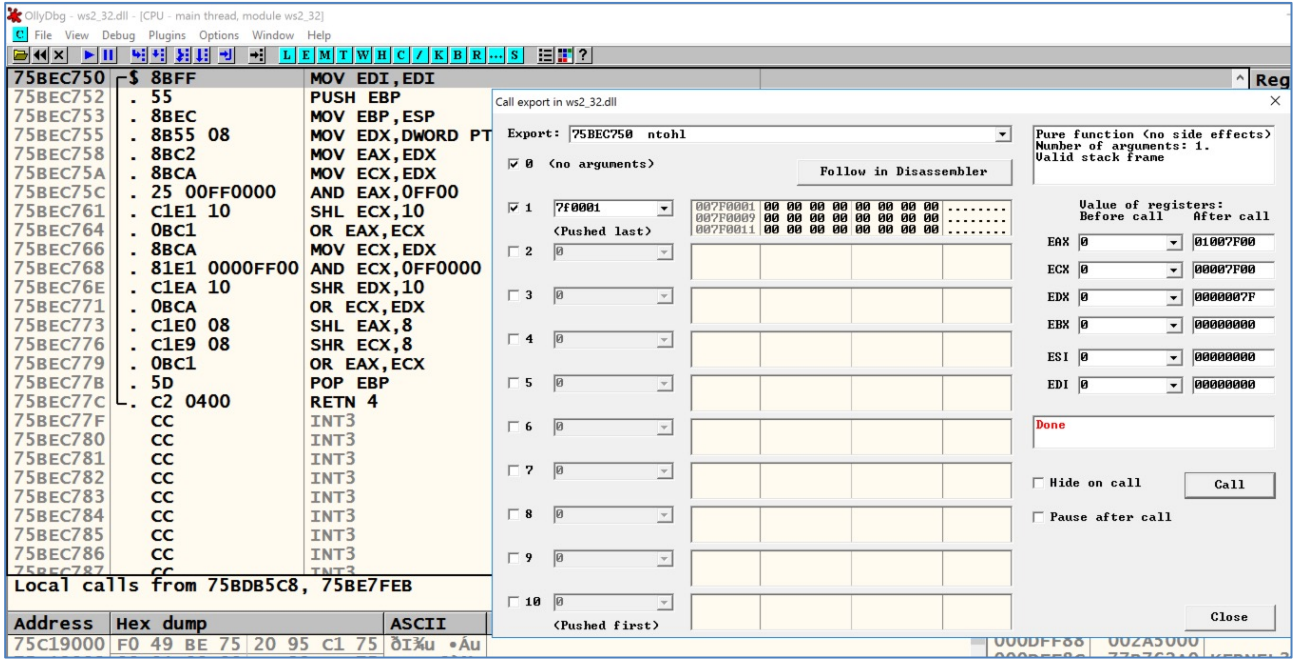
Demo

- Get OllyDbg 1.10, NOT 2.00 or 2.01
- Use Win 2016 Server, 64 bit
- In OllyDbg, open
  `C:\Windows\SysWOW64\ws2_32.dll`
- Click **Yes** at this box



Demo: Calling DLL Exports

- Click **Debug, Call DLL Export** – it fails because DLLMain has not yet been run
- Reload the DLL (**Ctrl+F2**), click **Run** button once
- Click **Debug, Call DLL Export** – now it works



Demo: Running `ntohl`

- Converts a 32-bit number from network to host byte order
- Click argument 1, type in **`7f000001`**
  - 127.0.0.1 in “network” byte order
- Click “Follow in Disassembler” to see the code
- Click “Call” to run the function
- Answer in EAX

TRACING

Tracing

- Powerful debugging technique
- Records detailed execution information
- Types of Tracing
  - Standard Back Trace
  - Call Stack Trace
  - Run Trace

Tracing: *Standard Back Trace*

- You move through the disassembler with the **Step Into** and **Step Over** buttons
- OllyDbg is recording your movement
- Use minus (-) key on keyboard to see previous instructions
  - But you won't see previous register values
- Plus (+) key takes you forward
  - If you used **Step Over**, you cannot go back and decide to **Step Into**

Tracing: *Call Stack Trace*

- Views the execution path to a given function
- Click **View**, **Call Stack**
- Displays the sequence of calls to reach your current location

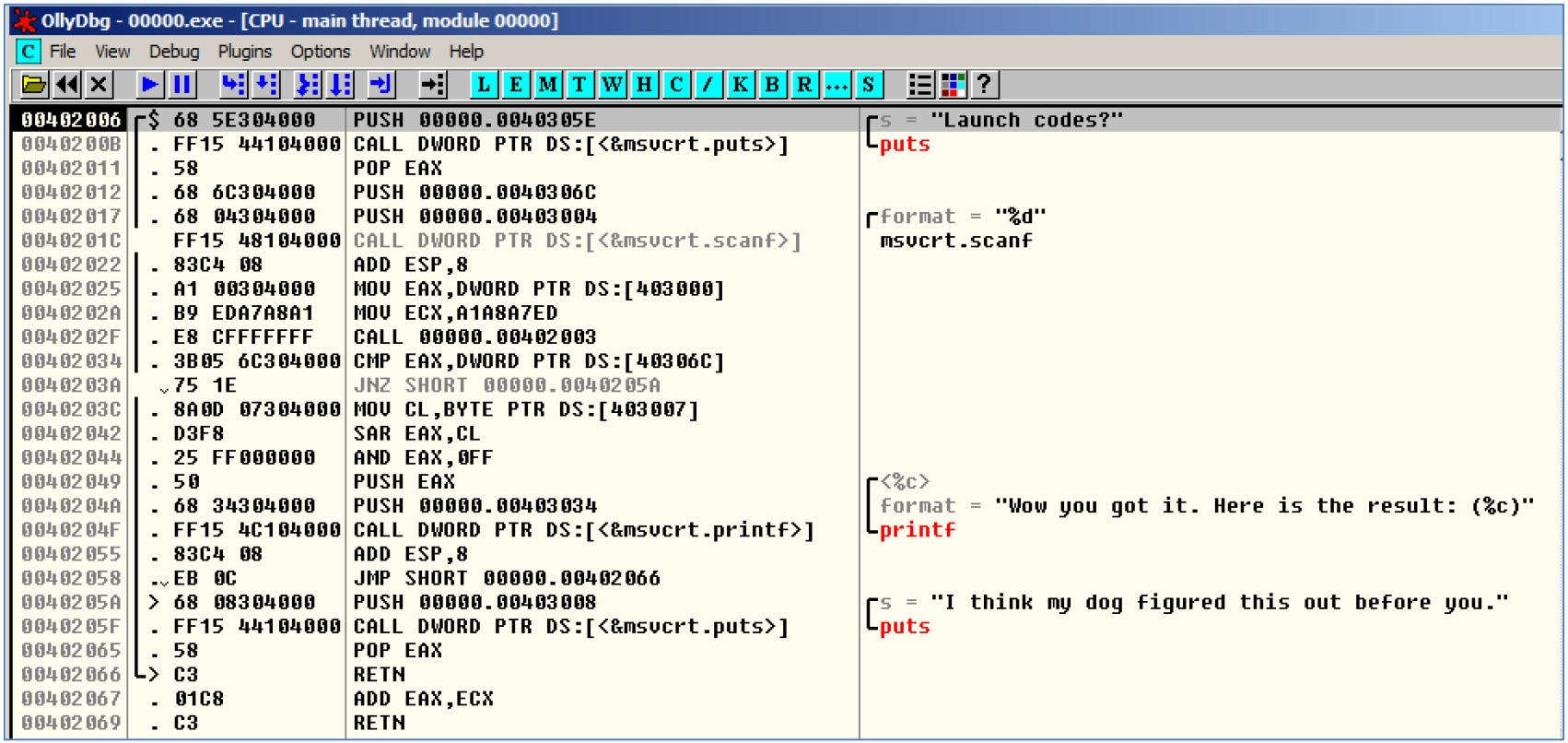
Demo from EasyCTF 2017

- Simple guessing game
- Wrong answer produces an insult

```
C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\easy\new>00000.exe
Launch codes?
1
I think my dog figured this out before you.

C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\easy\new>
```

Entire `main()` in OllyDbg

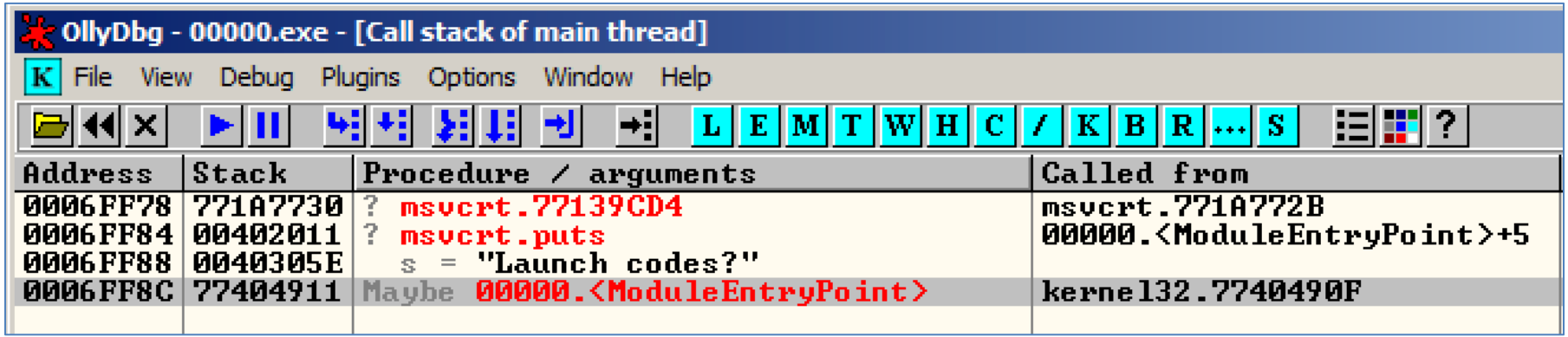


Step into puts

- Press **F7** twice
- Click **View**, **Call Stack**

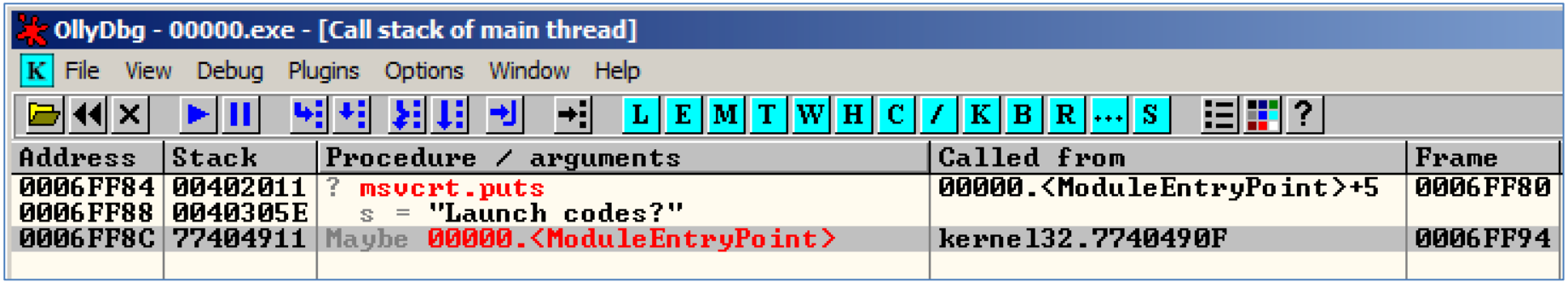
Step Into Again

- Click **View**, **CPU**
- Press **F7** three times
- Click **View**, **Call Stack**
- New function appears at top

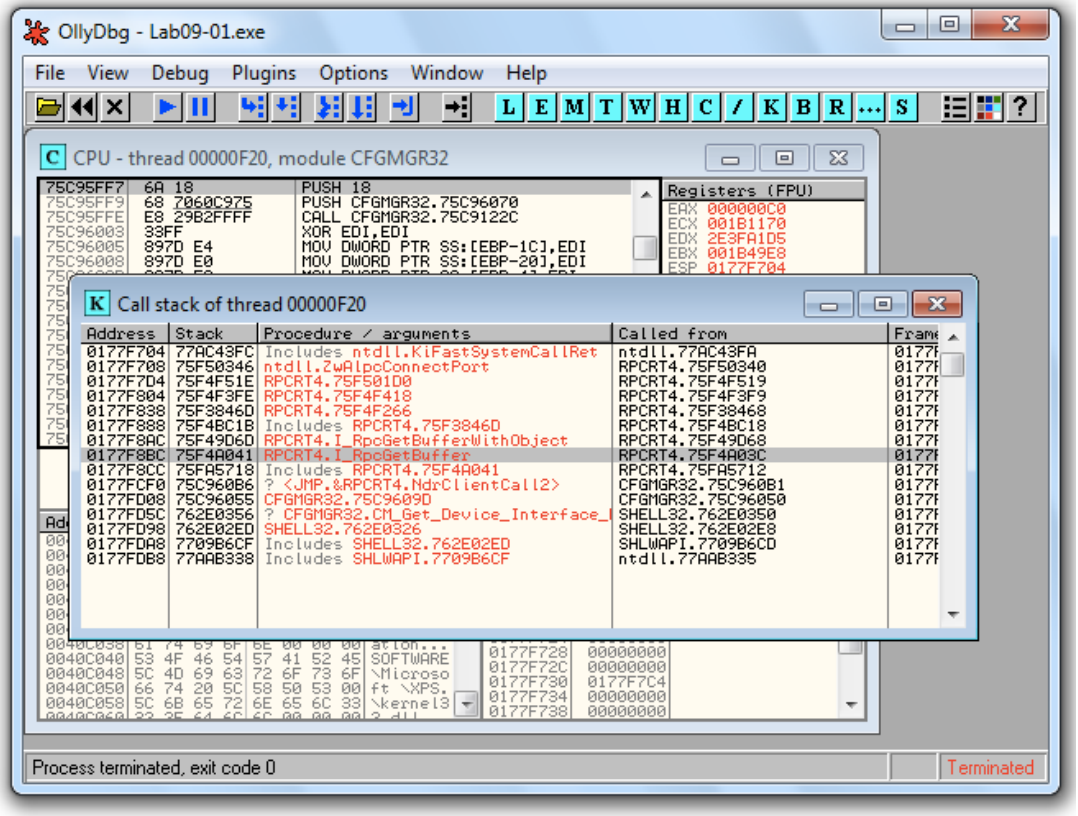


Return

- Click **View**, **CPU**
- Press **F7** 22 times, until the RETN and execute it
- Click **View**, **Call Stack**



A Deeper Call Stack

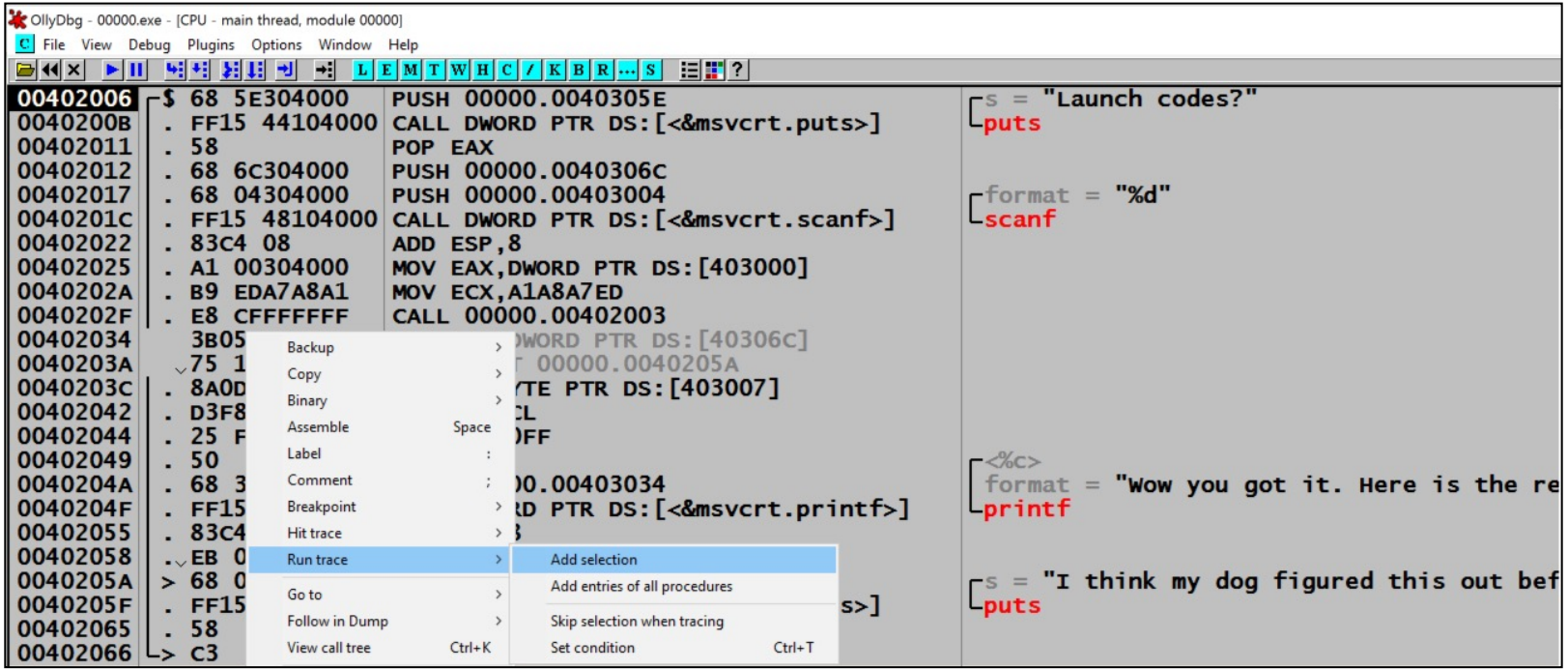


Tracing: *Run Trace*

- Code runs, and OllyDbg saves every executed instruction and all changes to registers and flags
- Highlight code, right-click, **Run Trace**, **Add Selection**
- After code executes, **View**, **Run Trace**
  - To see instructions that were executed
  - + and - keys to step forward and backwards

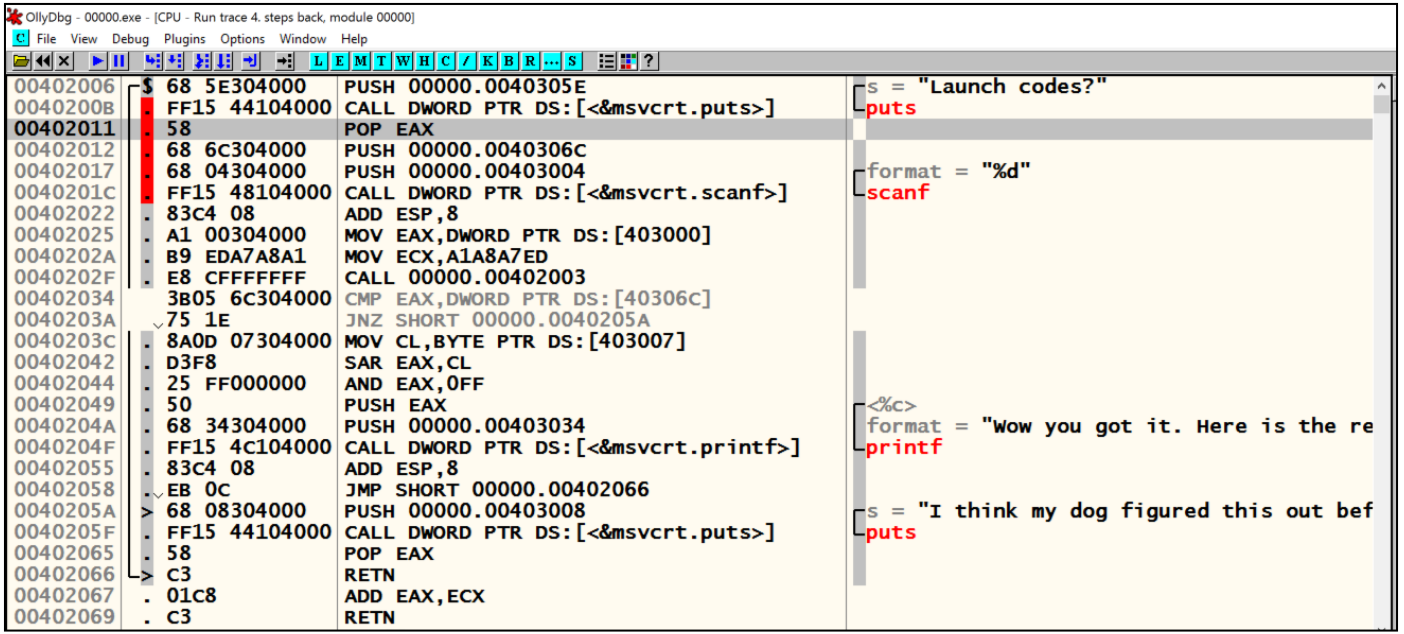
Demo: Run Trace of `00000.exe`

- Highlight code, right-click, **Run Trace**, **Add Selection**



Demo: Run Trace of `00000.exe` (cont.)

- Run code
- Step back with **-** and forward with **+**

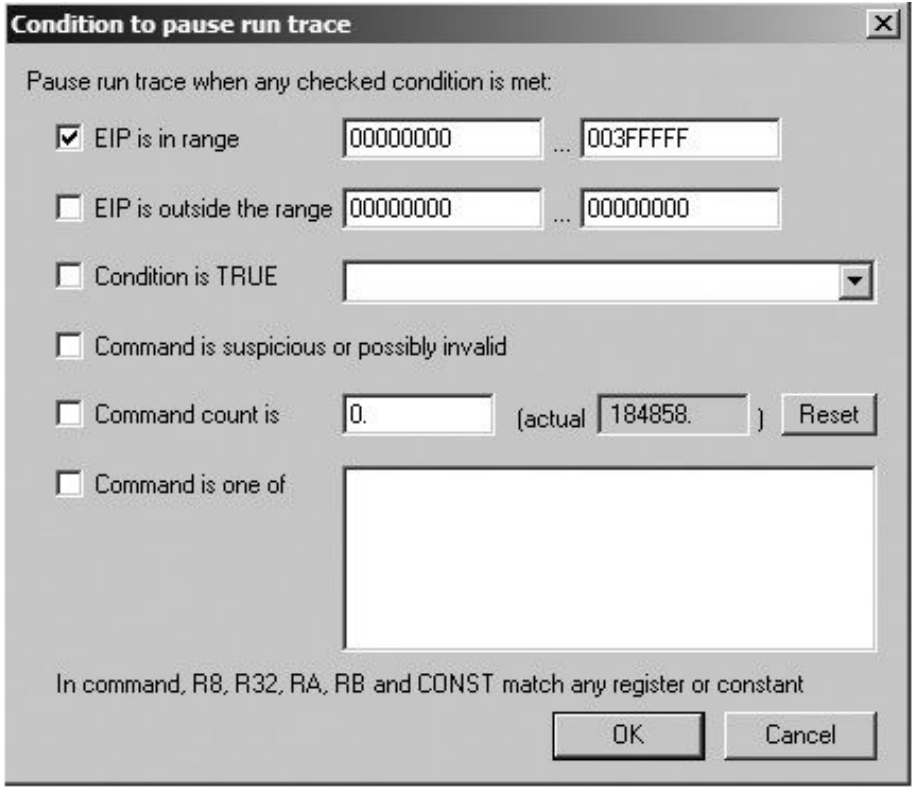


Trace Into and Trace Over

- Buttons below “Options”
- Easier to use than Add Selection
- If you don't set breakpoints, OllyDbg will attempt to *trace the entire program*, which could take a long time and a lot of memory

Debug, Set Condition

- Traces until a condition hits
- This condition catches **Poison Ivy** shellcode, which places code in dynamically allocated memory below `0x400000`



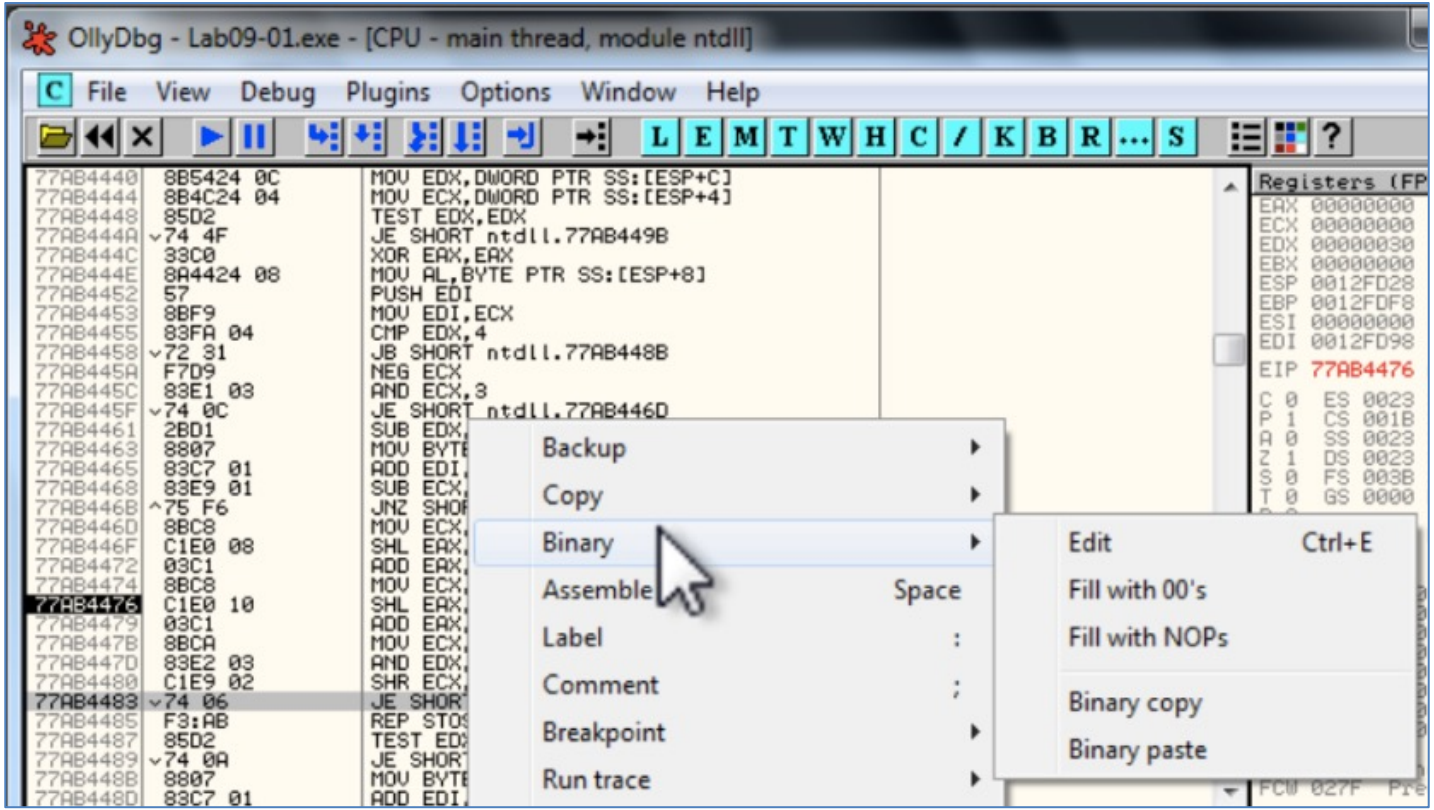
EXCEPTION HANDLING

When an Exception Occurs

- OllyDbg will stop the program
- You have these options to pass the exception into the program:
  - **Shift+F7**: Step into exception
  - **Shift+F8**: Step over exception
  - **Shift+F9**: Run exception handler
- Often you just ignore all exceptions in malware analysis
  - We are not trying to fix problems in code

PATCHING

Binary Edit


OllyDbg - Lab09-01.exe - [CPU - main thread, module ntdll]
File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help
77AB4440 8B5424 0C MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+C]
77AB4444 8B4C24 04 MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+4]
77AB4448 85D2 TEST EDX,EDX
77AB444A 74 4F JE SHORT ntdll.77AB449B
77AB444C 33C0 XOR EAX,EAX
77AB444E 8A4424 08 MOV AL,BYTE PTR SS:[ESP+8]
77AB4452 57 PUSH EDI
77AB4453 8BF9 MOV EDI,ECX
77AB4455 83FA 04 CMP EDX,4
77AB4458 72 31 JB SHORT ntdll.77AB448B
77AB445A F7D9 NEG ECX
77AB445C 83E1 03 AND ECX,3
77AB445F 74 0C JE SHORT ntdll.77AB446D
77AB4461 2BD1 SUB EDX,
77AB4463 8807 MOV BYTE
77AB4465 83C7 01 ADD EDI,
77AB4468 83E9 01 SUB ECX,
77AB446B 75 F6 JNZ SHOR
77AB446D 8BC8 MOV ECX,
77AB446F C1E0 08 SHL EAX,
77AB4472 03C1 ADD EAX,
77AB4474 8BC8 MOV ECX,
77AB4476 C1E0 10 SHL EAX,
77AB4479 03C1 ADD EAX,
77AB447B 8BCA MOV ECX,
77AB447D 83E2 03 AND EDX,
77AB4480 C1E9 02 SHR ECX,
77AB4483 74 06 JE SHOR
77AB4485 F3:AB REP STO
77AB4487 85D2 TEST ED
77AB4489 74 0A JE SHOR
77AB448B 8807 MOV BYTE
77AB448D 83C7 01 ADD EDI,
Registers (FP
EAX 00000000
ECX 00000000
EDX 00000030
EBX 00000000
ESP 0012FD28
EBP 0012FDF8
ESI 00000000
EDI 0012FD98
EIP 77AB4476
C 0 ES 0023
P 1 CS 001B
A 0 SS 0023
Z 1 DS 0023
S 0 FS 003B
T 0 GS 0000
FCW 027F
Backup
Copy
Binary
Assemble Space
Label :
Comment ;
Breakpoint
Run trace
Edit Ctrl+E
Fill with 00's
Fill with NOPs
Binary copy
Binary paste

Fill

- Fill with 00

- Fill with NOP (0x90)
  - Used to skip instructions
  - e.g. to force a branch

Saving Patched Code

- Right-click disassembler window after patching
  - Copy To Executable, All Modifications, Save File
  - Copy All

- Right-click in new window
  - Save File

ANALYSING SHELLCODE

Undocumented technique

Easy Way to Analyse Shellcode

- Copy shellcode from a hex editor to clipboard
- Within memory map, select a region of type “Priv” (Private memory)
- Double-click rows in memory map to show a hex dump
  - Find a region of hundreds of consecutive zeroes
- Right-click chosen region in Memory Map, Set Access, Full Access (to clear NX bit)

Analysing Shellcode

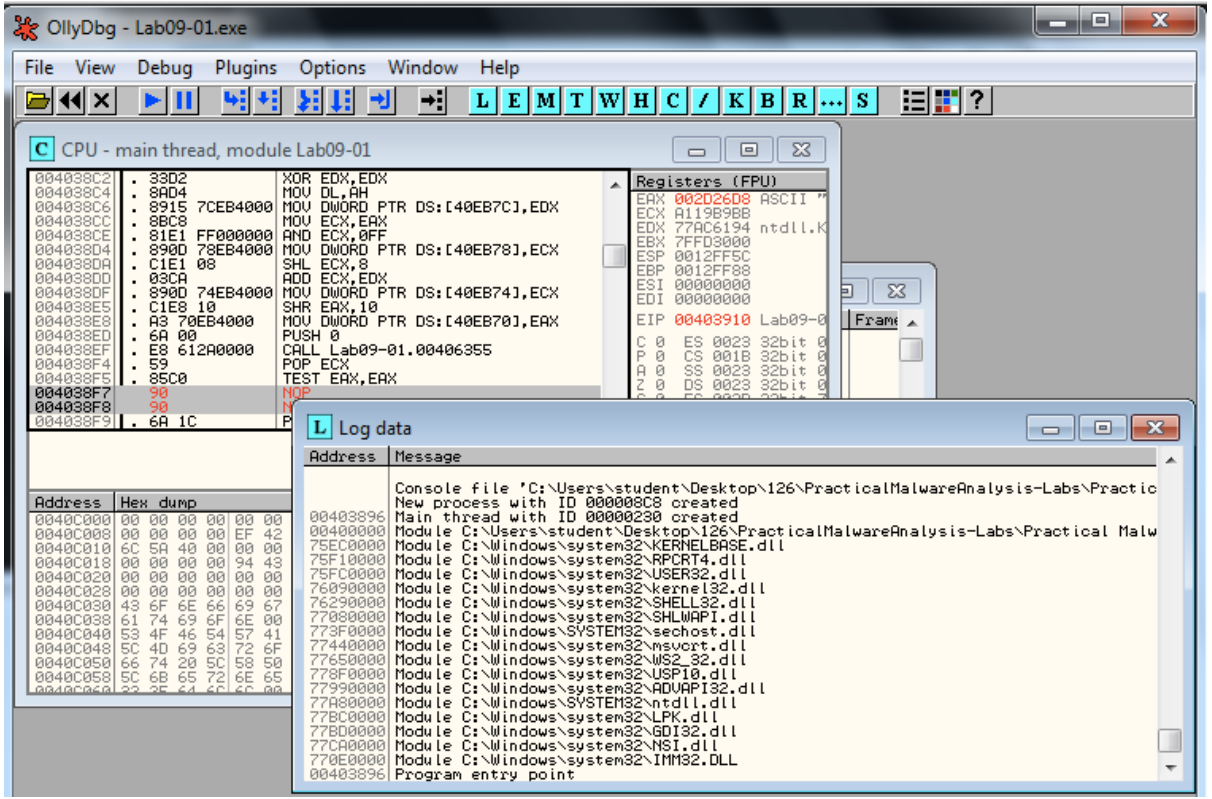
- Highlight a region of zeroes, Binary, Binary Paste

- Set **`EIP`** to location of shellcode
  - Right-click first instruction, **New Origin Here**

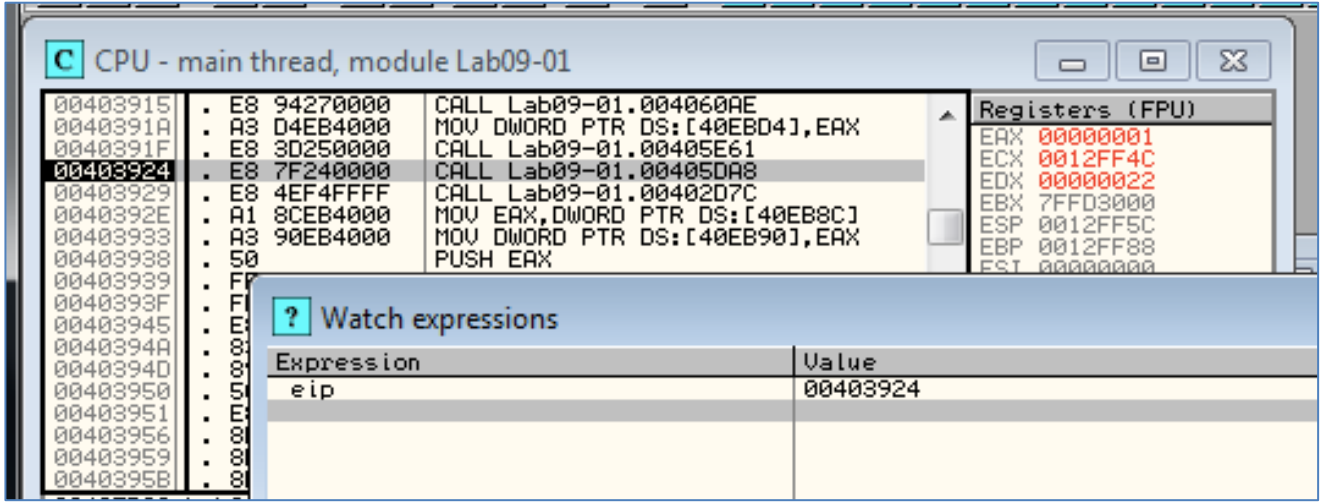
ASSISTANCE FEATURES

Log

- View, Log
  - Shows steps to reach here



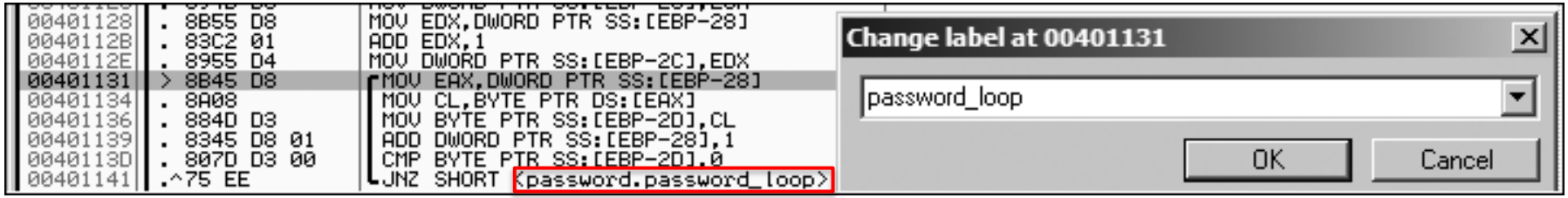
Watches Window



- View, Watches
  - Watch the value of an expression
  - Press **SPACEBAR** to set expression
  - OllyDbg Help, Contents
    - Instructions for Evaluation of Expressions

Labelling

- Label subroutines and loops
  - Right-click an address, Label



PLUG-INS

Recommended Plugins

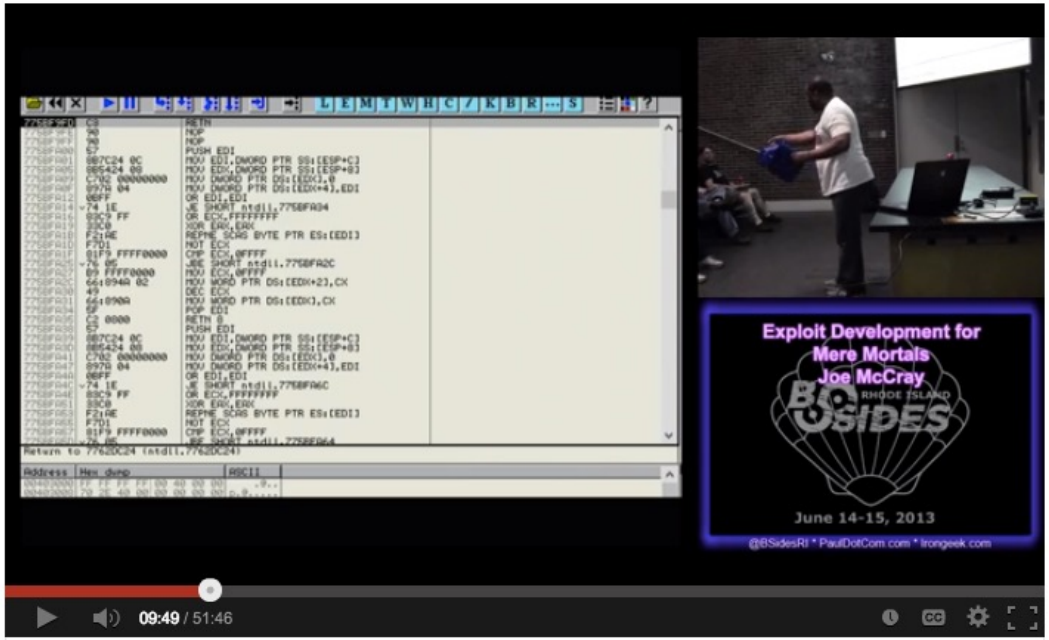
- **OllyDump**
  - Dumps debugged process to a PE file
  - Used for ***unpacking***
- **Hide Debugger**
  - Hides OllyDbg from ***debugger detection***
- **Command Line**
  - Control OllyDbg from the command line
  - Simpler to just use WinDbg
- **Bookmarks**
  - Included by default in OllyDbg
  - Bookmarks memory locations

SCRIPTABLE DEBUGGING

Immunity Debugger (ImmDbg)

- Unlike OllyDbg, ImmDbg employs Python scripts and has an easy-to-use API
- Scripts are located in the **`PyCommands`** subdirectory under the install directory of ImmDbg
- Easy to create custom scripts for ImmDbg

Good Intro to OllyDbg



BsidesRI 2013 1 4 Exploit Development for Mere Mortals Joe Mc…

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNSWUAVxbzk

END OF LECTURE. THANK YOU.