

# The Poor Man's Obfuscator

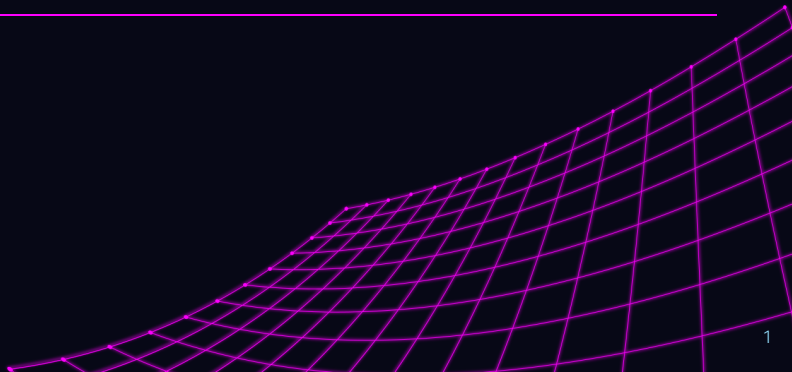
## ELF & Mach-0 Tricks to Hinder Static Analysis

---

Romain Thomas

July, 2022

Pass The Salt



# Introduction

---

# About

---

- Security engineer at **UL - La Ciotat**
- Working on banking app certifications (EMVCo, VISA, ...)
- Author of LIEF: <https://lief.re>
- Enjoy Android, reverse engineering and, obfuscation.



# The Challenges

---

1. Transform ELF & Mach-O binaries such as they look obfuscated





# The Challenges

---

1. Transform ELF & Mach-O binaries such as they look obfuscated
2. Transformations **only** based on the executable formats



# The Challenges

---

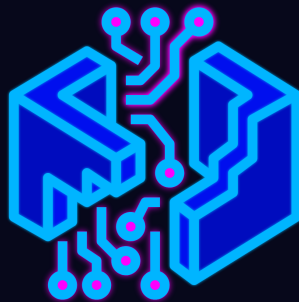
1. Transform ELF & Mach-O binaries such as they look obfuscated
2. Transformations **only** based on the executable formats
3. Must impact classical tools: IDA, BinaryNinja, Ghidra, Radare2 ...



# The Challenges

---

1. Transform ELF & Mach-O binaries such as they look obfuscated
2. Transformations **only** based on the executable formats
3. Must impact classical tools: IDA, BinaryNinja, Ghidra, Radare2 ...
4. The modified binaries **must still run** after the transformations



# Transformations Overview

---

- The transformations rely on LIEF (commit: [f8c711d](#))
- The ELF and Mach-O [arm64](#) binaries used in this presentation come from the Mbed TLS test suite

# Transformations Overview

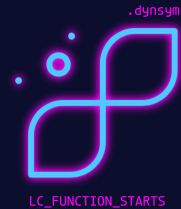
## Symbols



## Sections



## ELF / Mach-O



Symbols

---

# Symbols

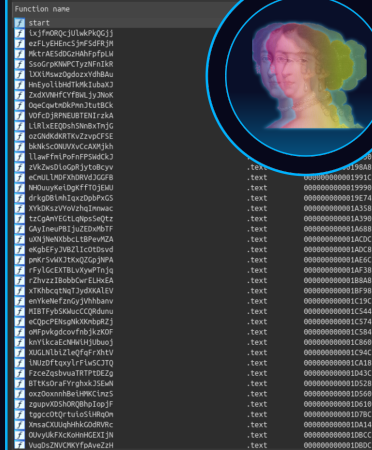
---



## Exports: Random Names

```
target = lief.parse("mbedtls_self_test.arm64.elf")
```

```
for function in target.functions:
    name = "".join(random.choice(ascii_letters) for i in range(20))
    target.add_exported_function(function.address, name)
```





# Symbols

---




# Exports: Confusing Names

```
target = lief.parse("mbedtls_self_test.arm64.elf")
nostrip = lief.parse("mbedtls_self_test.nostrip.arm64.elf")

symbols = [s.name for s in non_stripped.symbols if s.name.startswith("mbedtls_")]

for function in target.functions:
    sym = random.choice(SYMBOLS)
    target.add_exported_function(function.address, sym)
```




Function name	
start	
mbedtls_aes_crypt_ctr	
mbedtls_ccn_encrypt_and_tag	
mbedtls_gcm_init	
mbedtls_chacha20_init	
mbedtls_rsa_private	
mbedtls_ctr_drbg_self_test	
mbedtls_ct_mpi_uint_cond_assign	
mbedtls_cmac_self_test	
mbedtls_des3_init	
mbedtls_sha256_info	
mbedtls_mpi_shift_r	
mbedtls_aria_crypt_ctr	
mbedtls_asn1_get_len	
mbedtls_internal_ripemd160_process	
mbedtls_aes_init	
mbedtls_ct_rsaes_pkcs1_v15_unpadding	
mbedtls_sha512_update	
mbedtls_des3_setkey_enc	
mbedtls_aria_crypt_ecb	
mbedtls_cipher_setup	
mbedtls_poly1305_self_test	
mbedtls_camellia_crypt_ecb	
mbedtls_mpi_fill_random	
mbedtls_ccn_setkey	
mbedtls_ctr_drbg_reseed_internal	
mbedtls_aria_crypt_cfb128	
mbedtls_base64_self_test	
mbedtls_mpi_mul_int	
mbedtls_des_free	
mbedtls_sha512_self_test	
mbedtls_nist_kw_init	
mbedtls_ct_base64_enc_char	
mbedtls_md	
mbedtls_mpi_random	
mbedtls_ecp_group_free	
mbedtls_ecp_gen_keypair_base	
mbedtls_chachapoly_init	
mbedtls_mpi_lset	
mbedtls_chachapoly_encrypt_and_tag	
mbedtls_cipher_cmac_finish	
mbedtls_ecpake_write_round_one	

# Exports: Confusing Names



```
00189fc _start:
00189fc bti      j
0018a00 mov     x29, #0
0018a04 mov     x30, #0
0018a08 mov     x0, sp {arg_0}
0018a0c b      mbedtls_aes_crypt_ctr
; does not return }
```



Function name	Address	Text
start	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_aes_crypt_ctr	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ccn_encrypt_and_tag	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_gcm_init	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_chacha20_init	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_rsa_private	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ctr_drbg_self_test	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ct_mpi_uint_cond_assign	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_cmac_self_test	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_des3_init	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_sha256_info	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_mpi_shift_r	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_aria_crypt_ctr	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_asn1_get_len	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_internal_ripemd160_process	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_aes_init	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ct_rsaes_pkcs1_v15_unpadding	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_sha512_update	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_des3_setkey_enc	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_aria_crypt_ecb	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_cipher_setup	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_poly1305_self_test	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_camellia_crypt_ecb	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_mpi_fill_random	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ccn_setkey	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ctr_drbg_reseed_internal	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_aria_crypt_cfb128	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_base64_self_test	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_mpi_mul_int	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_der_free	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_sha512_self_test	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_nist_kw_init	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ct_base64_enc_char	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_md	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_mpi_random	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ecp_group_free	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ecp_gen_keypair_base	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_chachapoly_init	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_mpi_lset	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_chachapoly_encrypt_and_tag	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_cipher_cmac_finish	0000000000000000	.text
mbedtls_ecpake_write_round_one	0000000000000000	.text

# Symbols

---



# Exports: libc symbols

```
target = lief.parse("mbedtls_self_test.arm64.elf")
libc   = lief.parse("aarch64-linux-android/23/libc.so")

libc_symbols = {s.name for s in libc.exported_symbols}
libc_symbols -= {s.name for s in target.imported_symbols}

for function in target.functions:
    sym = random.choice(libc_symbols)
    libc_symbols.remove(sym)

    export = target.add_exported_function(function.address, sym)

    export.binding      = lief.ELF.SYMBOL_BINDINGS.GNU_UNIQUE
    export.visibility   = lief.ELF.SYMBOL_VISIBILITY.INTERNAL
```



Function name	
start	.text
fputs	.text
setpriority	.text
iswblank	.text
getnetbyname	.text
isnanf	.text
res_init	.text
splice	.text
tzset	.text
sched_setaffinity	.text
wcsncpy	.text
__system_property_find_nth	.text
wcslen	.text
getnameinfo	.text
fwscanf	.text
flockfile	.text
strtok	.text
ns_samename	.text
inet_aton	.text
sched_getparam	.text
getrlimit	.text
atol	.text
putc_unlocked	.text
pthread_rwlockattr_setpshared	.text
sigwaitinfo	.text
tcgetsid	.text
select	.text
protect	.text
setregid	.text
daemon	.text
getpid	.text
flock	.text
getsid	.text
blind	.text
pthread_mutexattr_setpshared	.text
__cmsg_nxthdr	.text
ftruncate64	.text
dprintf	.text
execvpe	.text
strtok_r	.text
ns_name_pton	.text
open	.text

# Exports: libc symbols



```
Attributes: bp-based frame
EXPORT @bedtls_aes_crypt_ecb
@bedtls_aes_crypt_ecb
var_s0= 0
;--unwind {
STP    X29, X30, [SP,#-0+10+var_s0]
MOV    X29, SP
CMP    W1, #1
B.NE   loc_19378
;
X1, X2      loc_19378
X2, X3      MOV     X1, X2
@bedtls_internal_aes_encrypt  MOV     X2, X3
loc_19384    BL      @bedtls_internal_aes_decrypt
;
loc_19384    MOV     W0, W29
LDP     X29, X30, [SP+var_s0],#0+10
RET
; } // starts at 19358
; End of function @bedtls_aes_crypt_ecb
```

Function name	Address
start	0000000000000000
fputs	0000000000000000
setpriority	0000000000000000
iswblank	0000000000000000
getnetbyname	0000000000000000
isnanf	0000000000000000
res_init	0000000000000000
splice	0000000000000000
tzset	0000000000000000
sched_setaffinity	0000000000000000
wcsncpy	0000000000000000
__system_property_find_nth	0000000000000000
wcslen	0000000000000000
getnameinfo	0000000000000000
fwscanf	0000000000000000
flockfile	0000000000000000
strtok	0000000000000000
ns_samename	0000000000000000
inet_aton	0000000000000000
sched_getparam	0000000000000000
getrlimit	0000000000000000
atol	0000000000000000
putc_unlocked	0000000000000000
pthread_rwlockattr_setpshared	0000000000000000
sigwaitinfo	0000000000000000
tcgetsid	0000000000000000
select	0000000000000000
mprotect	0000000000000000
setregid	0000000000000000
daemon	0000000000000000
getpid	0000000000000000
flock	0000000000000000
getsid	0000000000000000
blind	0000000000000000
pthread_mutexattr_setpshared	0000000000000000
__cmsg_nxthdr	0000000000000000
ftruncate64	0000000000000000
dprintf	0000000000000000
execvpe	0000000000000000
strtok_r	0000000000000000
ns_name_pton	0000000000000000
open	0000000000000000



# Exports: libc symbols



```
; Attributes: bp-based frame
EXPORT @bedtls_aes_crypt_ecb
EXPORT @bedtls_aes_crypt_ecb
var_s0= 0
;__unwind {
STP    X29, X30, [SP,#-0x10+var_s0]!
MOV    X29, SP
CMP    W1, #1
B.NE   loc_19378
```

```
X1, X2
X2, X3
;__unwind {
loc_19378
MOV    X1, X2
MOV    X2, X3
BL     @bedtls_internal_aes_encrypt
loc_19384
BL     @bedtls_internal_aes_decrypt
```

```
loc_19384
MOV    W0, WZR
LDP    X29, X30, [SP+var_s0],#0x10
RET
; } // starts at 19358
; End of function @bedtls_aes_crypt_ecb
```



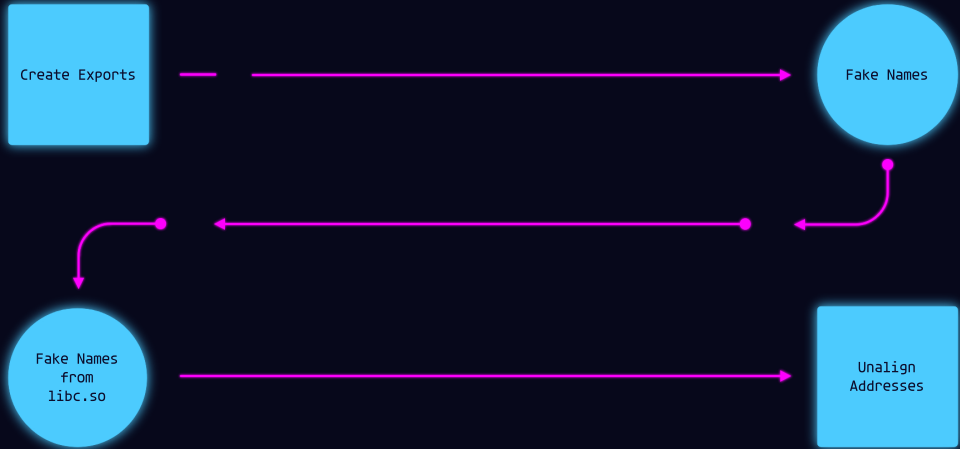
```
; Attributes: bp-based frame
inet_aton
var_s0= 0
;__unwind {
STP    X29, X30, [SP,#-0x10+var_s0]!
MOV    X29, SP
CMP    W1, #1
B.NE   loc_1A378
```

```
MOV    X1, X2
MOV    X2, X3
BL     strtok
B       loc_1A384
loc_1A378
MOV    X1, X2
MOV    X2, X3
BL     ns_samename
```

```
loc_1A384
MOV    W0, WZR
LDP    X29, X30, [SP+var_s0],#0x10
RET
; } // starts at 1A358
```

# Symbols

---





## Exports: Unaligned Functions

---

```
address = function.address
address += random.randint(16, 32)
address -= address % 4

export = target.add_exported_function(address, sym)
```

The idea is to create exports with **unaligned** functions

# Symbols



```
0001809c mbedtls_aes_setkey_enc:
0001809c stp    x29, x30, [sp, #-0x60]! {__saved_x29} {__saved_x30}
000180a0 stp    x28, x27, [sp, #0x10] {__saved_x28} {__saved_x27}
000180a4 stp    x26, x25, [sp, #0x20] {__saved_x26} {__saved_x25}
000180a8 stp    x24, x23, [sp, #0x30] {__saved_x24} {__saved_x23}
000180ac stp    x22, x21, [sp, #0x40] {__saved_x22} {__saved_x21}
000180b0 stp    x20, x19, [sp, #0x50] {__saved_x20} {__saved_x19}
000180b4 mov    x29, sp {__saved_x29}
000180b8 sub    sp, sp, #0x840
000180bc mrs    x3, tpidr_el0
000180c0 ldr    x9, [x3, #0x28]
000180c4 cmp    w2, #0x80
000180c8 stur   x9, [x29, #-0x10 {var_70}]
000180cc b.eq   0x180f0
```

000180f0 mov w9, #0xa

000180d0 cmp w2, #0x100  
000180d4 b.eq 0x180e8

000180e8 mov w9, #0xe  
000180ec b 0x180f4

000180d8 cmp w2, #0xc0  
000180dc b.ne 0x184dc

000184dc mov w0, #0xffffffff {0xffffffff}  
000184e0 b 0x185fc

000180e0 mov w9, #0xc  
000180e4 b 0x180f4

# Symbols

---

```
0001909c  sub_1909c:  
0001909c  stp     x29, x30, [sp, #-0x60]! {var_60} {var_58}  
000190a0  stp     x28, x27, [sp, #0x10] {var_50} {var_48}  
000190a4  stp     x26, x25, [sp, #0x20] {var_40} {var_38}  
000190a8  stp     x24, x23, [sp, #0x30] {var_30} {var_28}  
000190ac  stp     x22, x21, [sp, #0x40] {var_20} {var_18}  
000190b0  stp     x20, x19, [sp, #0x50] {var_10} {var_8}  
000190b4  mov     x29, sp {var_60} {mktemp}  
{ Falls through into mktemp }
```



# Symbols

```
[0x0001909c]> pdb
; XREFS: CALL 0x00019688 CALL 0x000198e4 CODE 0x00019904 CALL 0x00019958 CALL 0x0001b028 CALL 0x0001b110
; XREFS: CALL 0x0001b244 CALL 0x0001b424 CALL 0x0001b5a4 CALL 0x0001b734 CALL 0x0001b76c CALL 0x0001b780
; XREFS: CODE 0x0002848c CALL 0x0002a66c CALL 0x0002a808 CALL 0x0002a9c4 CALL 0x0002ae04 CALL 0x0002b010
28: fcn.0001909c (int64_t arg1, int64_t arg2, int64_t arg3, int64_t arg_10h, int64_t arg_20h, int64_t arg_30h, int64_t
rg: 3 (vars 0, args 3)
bp: 0 (vars 0, args 0)
sp: 21 (vars 13, args 8)
0x0001909c fd7bbaa9 stp x29, x30, [sp, -0x60]!
0x000190a0 fc6f01a9 stp x28, x27, [sp, 0x10]
0x000190a4 fa6702a9 stp x26, x25, [sp, 0x20]
0x000190a8 f85f03a9 stp x24, x23, [sp, 0x30]
0x000190ac f65704a9 stp x22, x21, [sp, 0x40]
0x000190b0 f44f05a9 stp x20, x19, [sp, 0x50]
0x000190b4 fd030091 mov x29, sp
[0x0001909c]> █
```



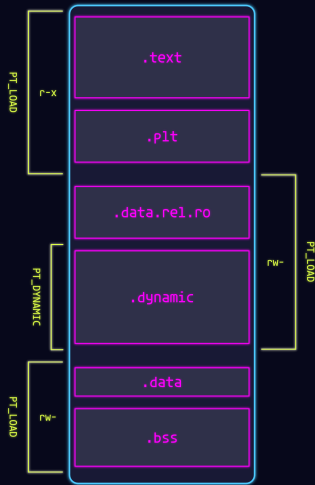
## Sections

---

# Sections

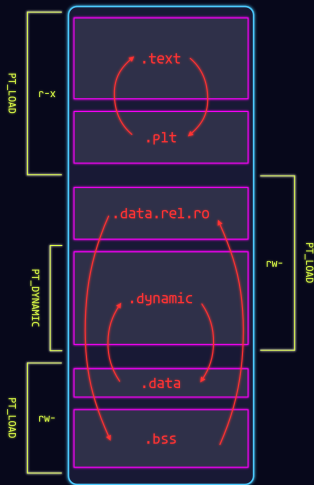
---

Parsing an ELF binary from sections is error-prone.



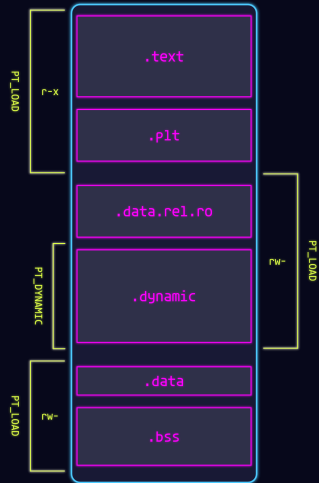
# Sections

```
SWAP_LIST = [  
    (".rela.dyn", ".data.rel.ro"),  
    (".got",      ".data"),  
    (".plt",      ".text"),  
  
    (".preinit_array", ".bss"),  
]  
  
for (lhs_name, rhs_name) in SWAP_LIST:  
    # ...  
    lhs.offset      = rhs.offset  
    lhs.size        = rhs.size  
    lhs.name        = rhs.name  
    lhs.type        = rhs.type  
    lhs.virtual_address = rhs.virtual_address  
    # ...
```



# Sections

```
.text:000000000003F4A4      LDP      W16, W2, [X9,#0*1C]
.text:000000000003F4A8      LDR      W17, [X10,#0*C]
.text:000000000003F4AC      EOR      W13, W13, W12,ROR#11
.text:000000000003F4B0      ORR      W14, W15, W14
.text:000000000003F4B4      EOR      W12, W13, W12,ROR#25
.text:000000000003F4B8      LDP      W15, W13, [X10,#0*2C]
.text:000000000003F4BC      LDUR     W1, [X10,#0]
.text:000000000003F4C0      ADD      W12, W12, W4
.text:000000000003F4C4      ADD      W12, W12, W16
.text:000000000003F4C8      EXTR     W16, W17, W17, #0*11
.text:000000000003F4CC      ADD      W12, W12, W14
.text:000000000003F4D0      EXTR     W14, W13, W13, #7
.text:000000000003F4D4      EOR      W16, W16, W17,ROR#19
.text:000000000003F4D8      EOR      W14, W14, W13,ROR#18
.text:000000000003F4DC      EOR      W16, W16, W17,LSR#10
.text:000000000003F4E0      EOR      W13, W14, W13,LSR#3
.text:000000000003F4E4      ADD      W14, W16, W1
.text:000000000003F4E8      ADD      W14, W14, W15
.text:000000000003F4EC      ADD      W13, W14, W13
.text:000000000003F4F0      STR      W13, [X10,#0*14]
.text:000000000003F4F4      ADD      W12, W12, W13
.text:000000000003F4F8      LDR      W13, [SP,#0*130+var_26]
.text:000000000003F4FC      LDR      W14, [SP,#0*130+var_24]
.text:000000000003F500      LDR      W15, [SP,#0*130+var_20]
.text:000000000003F504      LDR      W16, [SP,#0*130+var_1C]
.text:000000000003F508      LDR      W17, [SP,#0*130+var_10]
.text:000000000003F50C      ORR      W1, W14, W13
.text:000000000003F510      AND      W15, W15, W1
.text:000000000003F514      EXTR     W1, W13, W13, #2
.text:000000000003F518      AND      W14, W14, W13
.text:000000000003F51C      EOR      W1, W1, W13,ROR#13
.text:000000000003F520      EOR      W13, W1, W13,ROR#22
.text:000000000003F524      LDR      W1, [SP,#0*130+var_14]
.text:000000000003F528      ORR      W14, W15, W14
.text:000000000003F52C      LDR      W15, [SP,#0*130+var_18]
.text:000000000003F530      ADD      W16, W16, W12
.text:000000000003F534      BIC      W1, W1, W16
.text:000000000003F538      ADD      W13, W14, W13
.text:000000000003F53C      AND      W15, W15, W16
.text:000000000003F540      ORR      W15, W15, W1
.text:000000000003F544      EXTR     W1, W16, W16, #0
.text:000000000003F548      EOR      W1, W1, W16,ROR#11
.text:000000000003F54C      EOR      W14, W1, W16,ROR#25
.text:000000000003F550      ADD      W12, W13, W12
.text:000000000003F554      STR      W16, [SP,#0*130+var_1C]
```





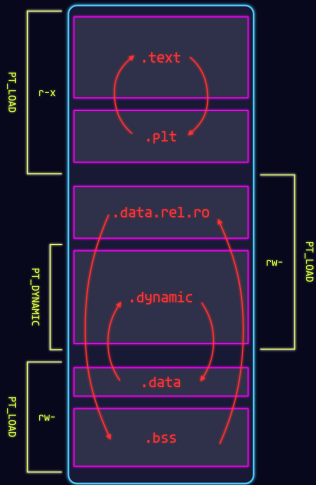
## Sections

```

00400000 0000000000003F4A0 AND W15, W16, W12
00400000 0000000000003F4A1 LDP W16, W2, [X9, #-0*1C]
00400000 0000000000003F4A2 LDR W17, [X10, #-0*1C]
00400000 0000000000003F4A3 EOR W13, W13, W12, ROR#11
00400000 0000000000003F4A4 ORR W14, W15, W14
00400000 0000000000003F4A5 EOR W12, W13, W12, ROR#25
00400000 0000000000003F4A6 LDP W15, W13, [X10, #-0*2C]
00400000 0000000000003F4A7 LDUR W1, [X10, #-8]
00400000 0000000000003F4A8 ADD W12, W12, W4
00400000 0000000000003F4A9 ADD W12, W12, W16
00400000 0000000000003F4AB EXTR W16, W17, W17, #-0*11
00400000 0000000000003F4AC ADD W12, W12, W14
00400000 0000000000003F4AD EXTR W14, W13, W13, #7
00400000 0000000000003F4AE EOR W16, W16, W17, ROR#19
00400000 0000000000003F4AF EOR W14, W14, W13, ROR#18
00400000 0000000000003F4B0 EOR W16, W16, W17, LSR#10
00400000 0000000000003F4B1 EOR W13, W14, W13, LSR#3
00400000 0000000000003F4B2 ADD W14, W16, W1
00400000 0000000000003F4B3 ADD W14, W14, W15
00400000 0000000000003F4B4 ADD W13, W14, W13
00400000 0000000000003F4B5 STR W13, [X10, #-0*14]

;-----;
00400000 0000000000003F4F4 ; dword_3F4F4 DCD 0*80D*1BC ; DATA XREF: LOAD:00000000
00400000 0000000000003F4F5
00400000 0000000000003F4F6 LDR W13, [SP, #-0*108]
00400000 0000000000003F4F7 LDR W14, [SP, #-0*10C]
00400000 0000000000003F4F8 LDR W15, [SP, #-0*110]
00400000 0000000000003F4F9 LDR W16, [SP, #-0*114]
00400000 0000000000003F4FA LDR W17, [SP, #-0*120]
00400000 0000000000003F4FB ORR W1, W14, W13
00400000 0000000000003F4FC AND W15, W15, W1
00400000 0000000000003F4FD EXTR W1, W13, W13, #2
00400000 0000000000003F4FE AND W14, W14, W13
00400000 0000000000003F4FF EOR W1, W1, W13, ROR#13
00400000 0000000000003F500 EOR W13, W1, W13, ROR#22
00400000 0000000000003F501 LDR W1, [SP, #-0*11C]
00400000 0000000000003F502 ORR W14, W15, W14
00400000 0000000000003F503 LDR W15, [SP, #-0*118]
00400000 0000000000003F504 ADD W16, W16, W12
00400000 0000000000003F505 BIC W1, W1, W16
00400000 0000000000003F506 ADD W13, W14, W13
00400000 0000000000003F507 AND W15, W15, W16
00400000 0000000000003F508 ORR W15, W15, W1
00400000 0000000000003F509 EXTR W1, W16, W16, #6
00400000 0000000000003F50A EOR W1, W1, W16, ROR#11

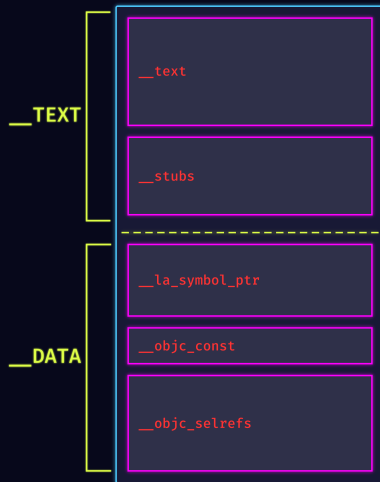
```



# Sections

---

The Mach-O format and dyld enforce a stricter layout for sections.



# Sections

```
__text = target.get_section("__text")  
__stubs = target.get_section("__stubs")
```

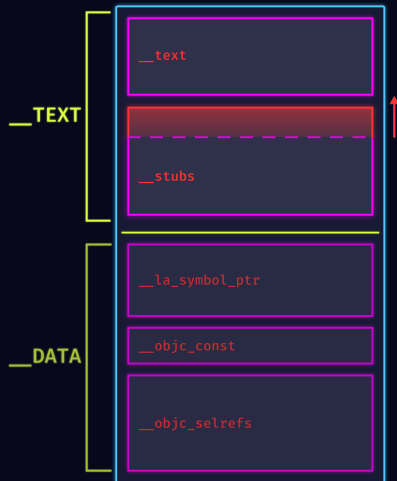
```
DELTA = 0x100
```

```
__text.size -= DELTA
```

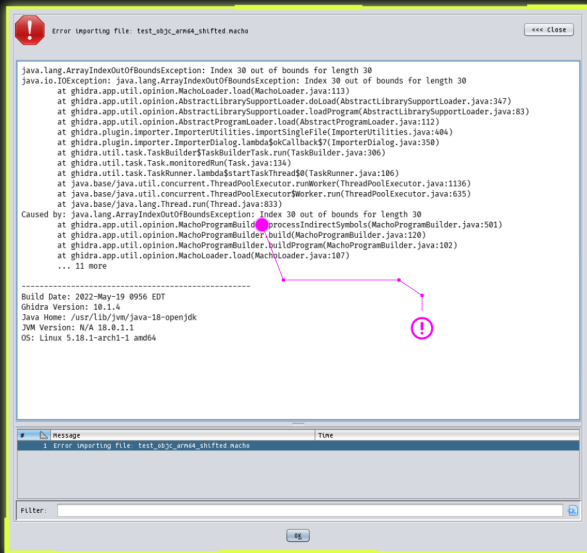
```
__stubs.offset -= DELTA
```

```
__stubs.virtual_address -= DELTA
```

```
__stubs.size += DELTA
```



# Sections



\_\_TEXT

\_\_text

\_\_stubs

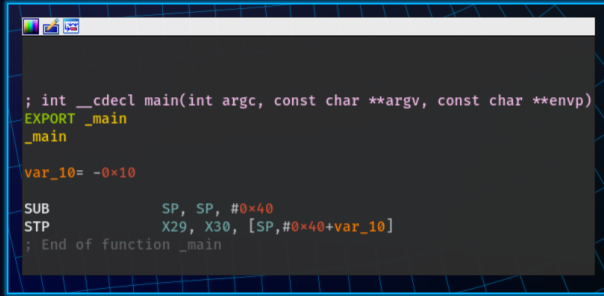
\_\_DATA

\_\_la\_symbol\_ptr

\_\_objc\_const

\_\_objc\_selrefs

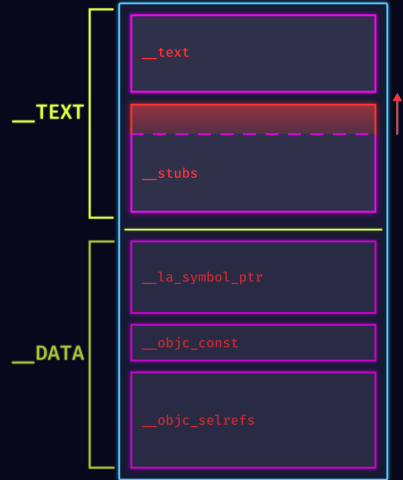
# Sections



```
; int __cdecl main(int argc, const char **argv, const char **envp)
EXPORT _main
_main

var_10= -0x10

SUB         SP, SP, #0x40
STP        X29, X30, [SP,#0x40+var_10]
; End of function _main
```



# Sections

```
stubs:00000000100003784 ; ----- SUBROUTINE -----
stubs:00000000100003784
stubs:00000000100003784 ; Attributes: noreturn
stubs:00000000100003784 ; void NSLog(NSString *format, ...)
stubs:00000000100003784 _NSLog
stubs:00000000100003784
stubs:00000000100003784 arg_8 = 8
stubs:00000000100003784 arg_20 = 0x20
stubs:00000000100003784
stubs:00000000100003784 LDR X0, [SP,#arg_8]
stubs:00000000100003788 LDP X29, X30, [SP,#arg_20]
stubs:0000000010000378C ADD SP, SP, #0x30 ; '0'
stubs:000000001000037C0
stubs:000000001000037C0 ; void __cdecl _Unwind_Resume(_Unwind_Exception *exception_object)
stubs:000000001000037C0 _Unwind_Resume
stubs:000000001000037C0 RET
stubs:000000001000037C0 ; End of function _NSLog
stubs:000000001000037C0
stubs:000000001000037C4 ; ----- SUBROUTINE -----
stubs:000000001000037C4 ; Attributes: noreturn bp-based frame
stubs:000000001000037C4
stubs:000000001000037C4 ; std::allocator<char>::allocator(void)
stubs:000000001000037C4 _ZNSt3_19allocatorIcEC2Ev_0 ; CODE XREF: std::__compressed_pair_ele
stubs:000000001000037C4
stubs:000000001000037C4 var_10 = -0x10
stubs:000000001000037C4 var_8 = -8
stubs:000000001000037C4 var_s0 = 0
stubs:000000001000037C4
stubs:000000001000037C4 SUB SP, SP, #0x20
stubs:000000001000037C8 STP X29, X30, [SP,#0x10+var_s0]
stubs:000000001000037CC
stubs:000000001000037CC ; std::char_traits<char>::length(char const*)
stubs:000000001000037CC } _ZNSt3_11char_traitsIcE6lengthEPKc
stubs:000000001000037CC ADD X29, SP, #0x10
stubs:000000001000037CC STR X0, [SP,#0x10+var_8]
stubs:000000001000037D0 LDR X0, [SP,#0x10+var_8]
stubs:000000001000037D4
```

\_\_TEXT

\_\_text

\_\_stubs

\_\_DATA

\_\_la\_symbol\_ptr

\_\_objc\_const

\_\_objc\_selrefs

## Specific Transformations

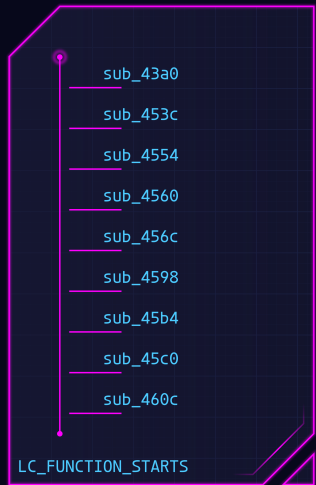
---

## Mach-O: LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS

---

The **LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS** is a Mach-O command that embeds a list of functions.

Similarly to unaligned exports, we can unalign these functions





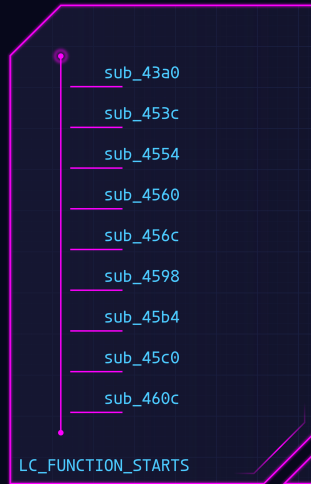
## Mach-0: LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS

---

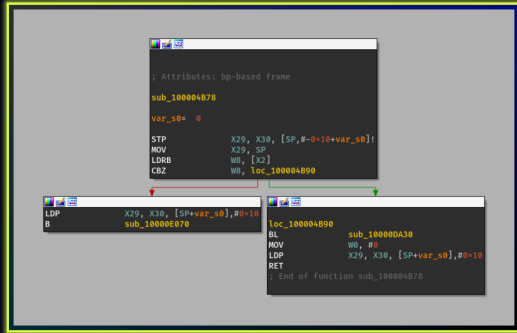
```
functions = [addr for addr in LC_FUNCTION_STARTS.functions]

for idx, _ in enumerate(functions):
    if idx % 2 == 0:
        functions[idx] += 4 * 7
    else:
        functions[idx] -= 4 * 7

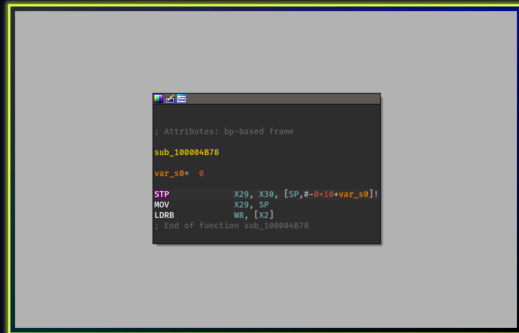
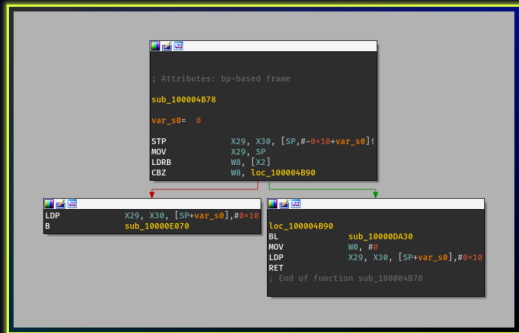
LC_FUNCTION_STARTS.functions = functions
```



# Mach-0: LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS



# Mach-0: LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS



# Mach-0: LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS

```
__text:00000000100004B1C sub_100004B1C
__text:00000000100004B1C
__text:00000000100004B1C arg_10 = 0*10
__text:00000000100004B1C
__text:00000000100004B1C LDR XB, __stderrp
__text:00000000100004B20 LDR X0, [XB]
__text:00000000100004B24 ADR XB, aobufNull ; "obuf ≠ NULL"
__text:00000000100004B28 NOP
__text:00000000100004B2C STR XB, [SP, arg_10]
__text:00000000100004B30 MOV WB, #0*CE
__text:00000000100004B34 B loc_100004AF8
__text:00000000100004B34 ; End of function sub_100004B1C
__text:00000000100004B34
__text:00000000100004B38 ;
__text:00000000100004B38
__text:00000000100004B3C CMP W2, W3
__text:00000000100004B40 B.NE loc_100004B70
__text:00000000100004B44 CBZ W2, loc_100004B68
__text:00000000100004B48 MOV WB, W2
__text:00000000100004B4C
__text:00000000100004B4C loc_100004B48 ; CODE XREF: __text:00000000100004B64j
__text:00000000100004B4C LDRB W0, [X0]
__text:00000000100004B4C LDRB W10, [X1]
__text:00000000100004B50 CMP W0, W10
__text:00000000100004B54 B.NE loc_100004B70
__text:00000000100004B58 ADD X0, X0, #1
__text:00000000100004B5C ADD X1, X1, #1
__text:00000000100004B60 SUBS XB, XB, #1
__text:00000000100004B64 B.NE loc_100004B48
__text:00000000100004B68 loc_100004B68 ; CODE XREF: __text:00000000100004B40fj
__text:00000000100004B68 MOV W0, #0
__text:00000000100004B6C RET
__text:00000000100004B70 ;
__text:00000000100004B70
__text:00000000100004B70 loc_100004B70 ; CODE XREF: __text:00000000100004B3cfj
__text:00000000100004B70 ; __text:00000000100004B54fj
__text:00000000100004B70 MOV W0, #0*FFFFFFF
__text:00000000100004B74 RET
__text:00000000100004B78
__text:00000000100004B78 ; ===== S U B R O U T I N E =====
__text:00000000100004B78
__text:00000000100004B78 ; Attributes: bp-based frame
__text:00000000100004B78
__text:00000000100004B78 sub_100004B78
__text:00000000100004B78
__text:00000000100004B78 var_s0 = 0
__text:00000000100004B78
__text:00000000100004B78 STP X29, X30, [SP, #-0*10+var_s0]!
__text:00000000100004B7C MOV X29, SP
__text:00000000100004B80 LDRB W0, [X2]
__text:00000000100004B80 ; End of function sub_100004B78
__text:00000000100004B80
```

# Mach-O: LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS

```
100004b38 5f00036b cmp w2, w3
100004b3c a1010054 b.ne 0x100004b70

100004b40 42010034 cbz w2, 0x100004b68

100004b44 e803022a mov w8, w2

100004b48 09004039 ldrb w9, [x0]
100004b4c 2a004039 ldrb w10, [x1]
100004b50 3f010a6b cmp w9, w10
100004b54 e1000054 b.ne 0x100004b70

100004b58 00040091 add x0, x0, #0x1
100004b5c 21040091 add x1, x1, #0x1
100004b60 080500f1 subs x8, x8, #0x1
100004b64 21ffff54 b.ne 0x100004b48

100004b68 00008052 mov w0, #0
100004b6c c0035fd6 ret

100004b70 00008012 mov w0, #0xffffffff {0xffffffff}
100004b74 c0035fd6 ret

100004b78 int64_t sub_100004b78(int32_t* arg1, int32_t arg2, char* arg3)

100004b78 fd7bbfa9 stp x29, x30, [sp, #-0x10]! {__saved_x29} {__saved_x30}
100004b7c fd030091 mov x29, sp {__saved_x29}
100004b80 48004039 ldrb w8, [x2]
100004b84 68000034 cbz w8, 0x100004b90

100004b88 fd7bc1a8 ldp x29, x30, [sp, #0x10 {__saved_x29} {__saved_x30}]
100004b8c 39250014 b sub_10000e070

100004b90 a8230094 bl sub_10000da30
100004b94 00008052 mov w0, #0
100004b98 fd7bc1a8 ldp x29, x30, [sp, #0x10 {__saved_x29} {__saved_x30}]
100004b9c c0035fd6 ret

100004ba0 int64_t sub_100004ba0(int32_t arg1)

100004ba0 8002f837 tbnz w0, #0x1f, 0x100004bf0

100004ba4 480300f0 adrp x8, 0x100006f000
100004ba8 092543f9 ldr x9, [x8, #0x648] {data_100006f648}
100004bac 2a553510 adr x10, 0x100006f650
100004bb0 1f2003d5 nop
100004bb4 890100b4 cbz x9, 0x100004be4
```

# Mach-O: LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS

```
100004b38 5f00036b cmp w2, w3
100004b3c a1010054 b.ne 0x100004b70

100004b40 42010034 cbz w2, 0x100004b68

100004b44 e803022a mov w8, w2

100004b48 09004039 ldrb w9, [x0]
100004b4c 2a004039 ldrb w10, [x1]
100004b50 3f010a6b cmp w9, w10
100004b54 e1000054 b.ne 0x100004b70

100004b58 00040091 add x0, x0, #0x1
100004b5c 21040091 add x1, x1, #0x1
100004b60 080500f1 subs x8, x8, #0x1
100004b64 21ffff54 b.ne 0x100004b48

100004b68 00008052 mov w0, #0
100004b6c c0035fd6 ret

100004b70 00008012 mov w0, #0xffffffff {0xffffffff}
100004b74 c0035fd6 ret

100004b78 int64_t sub_100004b78(int32_t* arg1, int32_t arg2, char* arg3)

100004b78 fd7bbfa9 stp x29, x30, [sp, #-0x10]! {__saved_x29} {__saved_x30}
100004b7c fd030091 mov x29, sp {__saved_x29}
100004b80 48004039 ldrb w8, [x2]
100004b84 68000034 cbz w8, 0x100004b90

100004b88 fd7bc1a8 ldp x29, x30, [sp, #0x10 {__saved_x29}] {__saved_x30}
100004b8c 39250014 b sub_10000e070

100004b90 a8230094 bl sub_10000da30
100004b94 00008052 mov w0, #0
100004b98 fd7bc1a8 ldp x29, x30, [sp, #0x10 {__saved_x29}] {__saved_x30}
100004b9c c0035fd6 ret

100004ba0 int64_t sub_100004ba0(int32_t arg1)

100004ba0 8002f837 tbnz w0, #0x1f, 0x100004bf0

100004ba4 480300f0 adrp x8, 0x10006f000
100004ba8 092543f9 ldr x9, [x8, #0x648] {data_10006f648}
100004bac 2a553510 adr x10, 0x10006f650
100004bb0 1f2003d5 nop
100004bb4 890100b4 cbz x9, 0x100004be4
```

```
100004b50 3f010a6b cmp w9, w10
100004b54 e1000054 b.ne 0x100004b70

100004b58 00040091 add x0, x0, #0x1
100004b5c 21040091 add x1, x1, #0x1
100004b60 080500f1 subs x8, x8, #0x1
100004b64 21ffff54 b.ne 0x100004b48

100004b68 00008052 mov w0, #0
100004b6c c0035fd6 ret

100004b70 00008012 mov w0, #0xffffffff {0xffffffff}
100004b74 c0035fd6 ret

100004b78 48 00 40 39
100004b80

100004b84 int64_t sub_100004b84(int32_t* arg1, int32_t arg2, char* arg3, int32_t

100004b84 68000034 cbz w8, 0x100004b90

100004b88 fd7bc1a8 ldp x29, x30, [sp, #0x10 {arg5}] {arg6}
100004b8c 39250014 b sub_10000e070

100004b90 a8230094 bl sub_10000da30 {sub_100004b94}
{ Falls through into sub_100004b94 }

100004b94 int64_t sub_100004b94(int64_t arg1)

100004b94 00008052 mov w0, #0
100004b98 fd7bc1a8 ldp x29, x30, [sp, #0x10 {arg1}] {arg_8}
100004b9c c0035fd6 ret

100004ba0 80 02 f8 37
100004ba4

100004ba4 int64_t sub_100004ba4(int32_t arg1)

100004ba4 480300f0 adrp x8, 0x10006f000
100004ba8 092543f9 ldr x9, [x8, #0x648] {data_10006f648}
100004bac 2a553510 adr x10, 0x10006f650
100004bb0 1f2003d5 nop
100004bb4 890100b4 cbz x9, 0x100004be4

100004bb8 0b0080d2 mov x11, #0

100004bbc 4c796bb8 ldr w12, [x10, x11, lsl #0x2]
100004bc0 9f01006b cmp w12, w0
100004bc4 60010054 b.eq 0x100004bf0
```

# Mach-O: LC\_FUNCTION\_STARTS

```
[0*100004b50]> pd 20
0*100004b50 3f010a6b cmp w9, w10
0*100004b54 e1100054 b.ne 0*100004b70
0*100004b58 00040091 add x0, x0, 1
0*100004b5c 21040091 add x1, x1, 1
0*100004b60 000500f1 subs x8, x8, 1
0*100004b64 211fff54 b.ne 0*100004b48
0*100004b68 00008052 mov w0, 0
0*100004b6c c0035fd6 ret
0*100004b70 00008012 mov w0, -1
0*100004b74 c0035fd6 ret

12: fcn.100004b78 (int64_t arg1, int64_t arg2, int64_t arg3);
; arg int64_t arg1 @ x0
; arg int64_t arg2 @ x1
; arg int64_t arg3 @ x2
; var int64_t var_10h @ sp+0x0
; var int64_t var_10h_2 @ sp+0x8
0*100004b78 fd7bfa9 stp x29, x30, [var_10h]!
0*100004b7c fd030091 mov x29, sp
0*100004b80 48004039 ldrb w8, [x2] ; 0xda ; 210 ; arg3

16: sym.func.100004b84 (int64_t arg1, int64_t arg2, int64_t arg3);
; arg int64_t arg1 @ x0
; arg int64_t arg2 @ x1
; arg int64_t arg3 @ x2
; var int64_t var_10h @ sp+0x60
; var int64_t var_20h @ sp+0x70
; var int64_t var_30h @ sp+0x80
; var int64_t var_40h @ sp+0x90
0*100004b84 68000034 cbz w8, 0*100004b90
0*100004b88 fd7bc1a8 ldp x29, x30, [sp], 0*10
0*100004b8c 39250014 b fcn.10000e070
0*100004b90 a8230094 bl fcn.10000da30

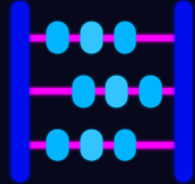
12: sym.func.100004b94 ();
0*100004b94 00008052 mov w0, 0
0*100004b98 fd7bc1a8 ldp x29, x30, [sp], 0*10
0*100004b9c c0035fd6 ret

[0*100004b50]>
(1) remain:5.7.0*
```



0.42 0.58 0.34 06:22

Counting the number of **dynamic symbols** in an ELF binary is somehow complicated ...

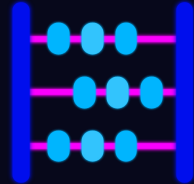




## ELF: `.dynsym`

---

- Easy & Dirty: `.dynsym` section
- Harder & Reliable: `DT_GNU_HASH` / `DT_HASH`



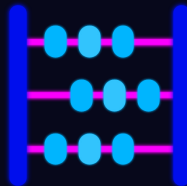
## ELF: .dynsym

---

```
dynsym = target.get_section(".dynsym").as_frame()

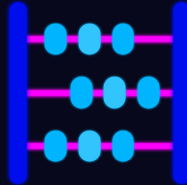
sizeof = dynsym.entry_size
osize   = dynsym.size
nsyms   = osize / sizeof

dynsym.size = sizeof * min(3, nsyms)
```



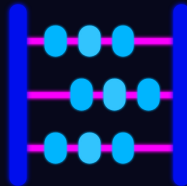
# ELF: .dynsym

```
.plt:00000000000410A0 ; int __fastcall __cxa_atexit(void (__fastcall *lpfunc)(void *), void *obj, void *lpdso_handle)
.plt:00000000000410A0 ; __cxa_atexit ; CODE XREF: sub_17A68+1Ctj
▾ .plt:00000000000410A0      ADRP      X16, #off_48880@PAGE
.plt:00000000000410A4      LDR       X17, [X16,#off_48880@PAGEOFF]
.plt:00000000000410A8      ADD      X16, X16, #off_48880@PAGEOFF
.plt:00000000000410AC      BR       X17
.plt:00000000000410AC ; End of function __cxa_atexit
.plt:00000000000410AC
.plt:00000000000410B0
.plt:00000000000410B0 ; ===== SUBROUTINE =====
.plt:00000000000410B0 ; Attributes: thunk
.plt:00000000000410B0 ; int puts(const char *s)
.plt:00000000000410B0 .puts ; CODE XREF: sub_17A8C+14tp
.plt:00000000000410B0 ; sub_17A8C+20tp ...
▾ .plt:00000000000410B0      ADRP      X16, #off_48888@PAGE
.plt:00000000000410B4      LDR       X17, [X16,#off_48888@PAGEOFF]
.plt:00000000000410B8      ADD      X16, X16, #off_48888@PAGEOFF
.plt:00000000000410BC      BR       X17
.plt:00000000000410BC ; End of function .puts
.plt:00000000000410BC
.plt:00000000000410C0
.plt:00000000000410C0 ; ===== SUBROUTINE =====
.plt:00000000000410C0 ; Attributes: thunk
.plt:00000000000410C0 ; int printf(const char *format, ...)
.plt:00000000000410C0 .printf ; CODE XREF: sub_17A8C+34tp
.plt:00000000000410C0 ; sub_17AD8+32Ctp ...
▾ .plt:00000000000410C0      ADRP      X16, #off_48890@PAGE
.plt:00000000000410C4      LDR       X17, [X16,#off_48890@PAGEOFF]
.plt:00000000000410C8      ADD      X16, X16, #off_48890@PAGEOFF
.plt:00000000000410CC      BR       X17
.plt:00000000000410CC ; End of function .printf
.plt:00000000000410CC
```



# ELF: .dynsym

```
.plt:00000000000410A0 ; int __fastcall __cxa_atexit(void (__fastcall *lpfunc)(void *), void *obj, void *lpdso_handle)
.plt:00000000000410A0 ; CODE XREF: sub_17A68+1Ctj
▾ .plt:00000000000410A0      ADRP      X16, #off_48880@PAGE
.plt:00000000000410A4      LDR       X17, [X16,#off_48880@PAGEOFF]
.plt:00000000000410A8      ADD      X16, X16, #off_48880@PAGEOFF
.plt:00000000000410AC      BR       X17
.plt:00000000000410AC ; End of function __cxa_atexit
.plt:00000000000410AC
.plt:00000000000410B0 ; ===== S U B R O U T I N E =====
.plt:00000000000410B0 ;
.plt:00000000000410B0 ; Attributes: thunk
.plt:00000000000410B0
.plt:00000000000410B0      sub_410B0      ; CODE XREF: sub_17A8C+14tp
.plt:00000000000410B0      ; sub_17A8C+20tp ...
▾ .plt:00000000000410B0      ADRP      X16, #qword_48888@PAGE
.plt:00000000000410B4      LDR       X17, [X16,#qword_48888@PAGEOFF]
.plt:00000000000410B8      ADD      X16, X16, #qword_48888@PAGEOFF
.plt:00000000000410BC      BR       X17
.plt:00000000000410BC ; End of function sub_410B0
.plt:00000000000410BC
.plt:00000000000410C0 ; ===== S U B R O U T I N E =====
.plt:00000000000410C0 ;
.plt:00000000000410C0 ; Attributes: thunk
.plt:00000000000410C0
.plt:00000000000410C0      sub_410C0      ; CODE XREF: sub_17A8C+34tp
.plt:00000000000410C0      ; sub_17AD8+32Ctp ...
▾ .plt:00000000000410C0      ADRP      X16, #qword_48890@PAGE
.plt:00000000000410C4      LDR       X17, [X16,#qword_48890@PAGEOFF]
.plt:00000000000410C8      ADD      X16, X16, #qword_48890@PAGEOFF
.plt:00000000000410CC      BR       X17
.plt:00000000000410CC ; End of function sub_410C0
.plt:00000000000410CC
.plt:00000000000410D0 ; ===== S U B R O U T I N E =====
.plt:00000000000410D0 ;
```



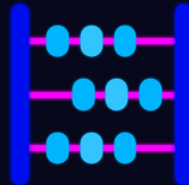
# ELF: .dynsym

```
00001000 20 02 21 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
-- Flow Override: CALL_RETURN (COMPUTED_CALL_TERMINATOR)

*****
* THUNK FUNCTION
*****
thunk undefined thunk_EXT_FUN_00041070()
Thunked-Function: <EXTERNAL>::EXT_FUN_000...
w0:1 <RETURN>
undefined <EXTERNAL>::thunk_EXT_FUN_00041070 XREF[06]: FUN_00017a0c:00017ac0(c),
FUN_00017ad8:00017ad0(c),
FUN_00017ad8:00017ad0(c),
FUN_00017ad8:00017f00(c),
FUN_00017f00:00017f10(c),
FUN_00019f38:00019ffc(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a0dc(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a20c(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a3ec(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a560(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a704(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001ba94(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001ba00(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bb7c(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bbf8(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bc54(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bcd0(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bd6c(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001be00(c),
FUN_0003319c:000331e4(c), [more]

000410c0 30 00 00 f0 adrp x16,0x40000
000410c4 11 4a 44 f9 ldr x17,[x16, #0x090]->PTR_00040890 = 00041070
000410c8 10 42 22 91 add x16,x16,#0x090
000410cc 20 02 1f d5 bf x17>SUB_fffffffc41070
-- Flow Override: CALL_RETURN (COMPUTED_CALL_TERMINATOR)

*****
* THUNK FUNCTION
*****
thunk undefined thunk_EXT_FUN_00041070()
Thunked-Function: <EXTERNAL>::EXT_FUN_000...
w0:1 <RETURN>
undefined <EXTERNAL>::thunk_EXT_FUN_00041070 XREF[37]: FUN_00017a0c:00017ac0(c),
FUN_00017ad8:00017ad0(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a0dc(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a20c(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a3ec(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a560(c),
FUN_00019f38:0001a704(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001ba94(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001ba00(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bb7c(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bbf8(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bc54(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bcd0(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001bd6c(c),
FUN_0001ba18:0001be00(c),
FUN_00022290:000224f0(c),
FUN_00024114:00024414(c),
FUN_00024114:000247c0(c),
FUN_00024114:000247c0(c), [more]
```



## Conclusion

---

## Conclusion

---

- Executable file formats modifications (still) have an impact on all the reverse engineering tools.
- This is a topic that is less explored than regular obfuscation.

## Conclusion

---


- Executable file formats modifications (still) have an impact on all the reverse engineering tools.
- This is a topic that is less explored than regular obfuscation.
- $\Rightarrow$  less covered by recovering *scripts* and papers.




## Conclusion


---


- Executable file formats modifications (still) have an impact on all the reverse engineering tools.
- This is a topic that is less explored than regular obfuscation.
- $\Rightarrow$  less covered by recovering *scripts* and papers.
- Can be used in pair with *classical* obfuscation.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a grid of thin, light blue lines that form a perspective view, receding towards the top left corner.


# Thank you for your attention


 <https://github.com/romainthomas/the-poor-mans-obfuscator>


 <https://www.romainthomas.fr/publication>

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a grid of thin, light blue lines that form a perspective view of a rectangular plane, extending from the bottom left towards the top right.


# Thank you for your attention


 <https://github.com/romainthomas/the-poor-mans-obfuscator>

 <https://www.romainthomas.fr/publication>

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a grid of thin, light blue lines that form a perspective view, receding towards the top left corner.

# Thank you for your attention

 <https://github.com/romainthomas/the-poor-mans-obfuscator>

 <https://www.romainthomas.fr/publication>

## Questions?