

# Ghidra

## An Open Source Reverse Engineering Tool

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Lars A. Wallenborn

FrOSCon 2019, 10th August

How the NSA open-sourced all software in 2019

# Intro

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Since 2004 IT Freelancer  
2013 Diploma in Mathematics @ Uni Bonn  
2014 - 2015 Software Developer in Bonn  
Since 2015: Security Researcher at CrowdStrike

1. What is Reverse Engineering?
2. Why should I do it?
3. How do I do it?

# **What is Reverse Engineering**

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## This Presentation

# What is Reverse Engineering

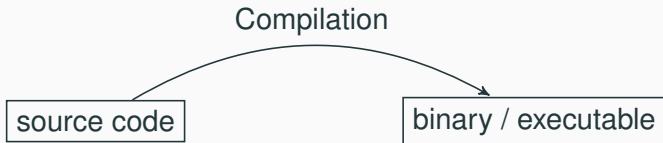
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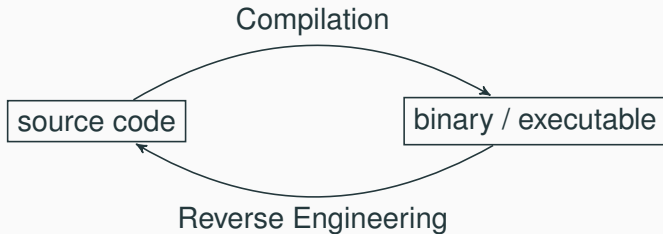
We will focus on a very specific kind of Reverse Engineering:

*Binary Software Reverse Engineering*

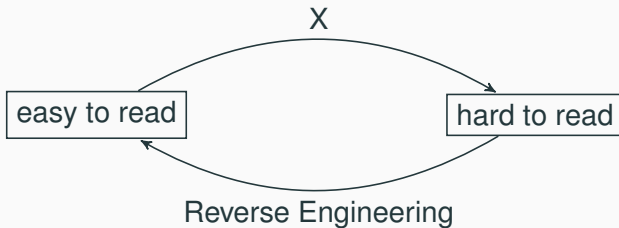
# Binary Software Reverse Engineering



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# Binary Software Reverse Engineering – More General



**Why should I do it?**

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On a sunny day.

**How do I do it?**

---

**Show me an Example!**

## Show me an Example!

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main() {
    printf("Hallo_FrOSCon!");

    return 0;
}
```

# Compile it!

Compile C program to a binary.

```
gcc main.c
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```
strip a.exe
```

Demo



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### Too many "probably"s and "suggests"s?

Due to time constraints while reversing, you often have to find a balance between speed and confidence.

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3. How do I do it?
  - 3.1 Static vs. Dynamic Reverse Engineering
  - 3.2 Executable Formats
  - 3.3 Assembly
  - 3.4 Tools
  - 3.5 How to get started with Ghidra?

# **Static vs. Dynamic Reverse Engineering**

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Static software reverse engineering is the analysis of computer software that is performed without actually executing the target program.

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- Depends on operating system. We will focus on Windows.
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- RE techniques heavily depend on the used programming language. C, C++, Delphi, Go, .NET . . .
- Focus on "native" PE files, i.e. files that are "normal" Windows executables.



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- Then, execution is handed over to the so-called *entry point* within the `.text` section.

# Assembly

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we see

```
SUB RSP, 0x98
```

# Tools

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- IDA

- IDA (Interactive Disassembler)

- IDA (Interactive Disassembler) + HexRays Decompiler

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- Binary Ninja



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- (und many other formats)

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- Import executables and disassemble them
- Decompile the assembly and display pseudo code (C-like)
- Guess variable and function names when possible
- Allow some basic refactoring similar to an integrated development environment (IDE)



# How do I use it?

Demo

# Thank You

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Some advertisement: I will give Reverse Engineering classes soon. If you are interested, talk to me or sent me an email!

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Questions?

## **Appendix: Static vs. Dynamic RE Comparison**

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## Conclusion

A combined approach is the best of course.

We will focus on static analysis here.

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- Depending on how you count there are between 1000 and 4000 assembly instructions.

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- Example:

```
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```
PUSH 0x98
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```
POP RBX
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- `RET` does the inverse.
- This allow arbitrarily deeply nested calls.