



# Reversing Golang Binaries with Ghidra

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## Who are we

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## Background

### Albert Zsigovits (@albertzsigovits):

- Threat Researcher @ CUJO AI
- · Traditional blue team background
- Top 32 Influential Malware Research Professional 2019
- Memory forensicator, malware analyst and reverse engineer
- Former speaker at SEC-T and Disobey.Fi

### Dorka Palotay (@pad0rka):

- Senior Threat Researcher at CUJO AI
- BSc in Applied Mathematics
- MSc in Security and Privacy Advanced Cryptography
- · Worked at financial and security companies as well
- Malware researcher and reverse engineer





# Why we did all this

### The quest

### Background:

• IoT malware research -> more and more (IoT) malware families are written in Go

#### Issue:

- Reverse engineering Go binaries is challenging
  - o Huge file size
  - Unusual string handling
  - No symbol names due to stripping
- Ghidra open-source development is in early stage compared to other tools
  - o Only a few open-source scripts are available, solving only parts of the problem

### Goal:

• Making reverse engineering Go binaries with Ghidra easier

### Steps:

- Understand Go and the differences from usual languages
- Get familiar with Ghidra's features (In this research we used Ghidra 9.1 and 9.2.3 versions.)
- Create our own scripts: <a href="https://github.com/getCUJO/ThreatIntel">https://github.com/getCUJO/ThreatIntel</a>

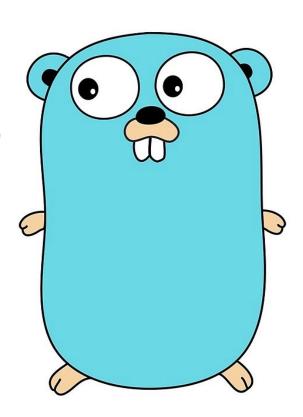


# Golang

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### Introduction

- Go (also called Golang) is an open source programming language
- Designed by Google in 2007
- Made available to the public in 2012
- Current version is Go 1.16 (in this research we used Go versions up to 1.15)
- https://golang.org/
- Go comes out top of the languages most developers want to learn<sup>1</sup>
- Advantages:
  - Simple and clear documentation
  - o Easy to learn, ease of coding
  - Compiled language (faster than Python)
  - Cross compiling (Windows, Linux, macOS)
  - Scalability and concurrency
  - o Garbage collection automatic memory management



# Static linking

## **Big Bad Binaries**

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- Go binaries are statically linked by default
- All the necessary libraries are included in the executable image
- No dependency issues
- Large size
  - Difficult malware distribution
  - o Anti virus products have difficulty to detect
  - o Reverse engineering can be more time consuming

# Hello World - Unstripped



C vs Go

• C

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main()
{
    printf("Hello, World!\n");
    return 0;
}
gcc -o world_c world.c

gcc -o world_c world.c

x86-64, version 1 (SYSV),
    dynamically linked,
    not stripped

size: 16,3 kB
```

• Go

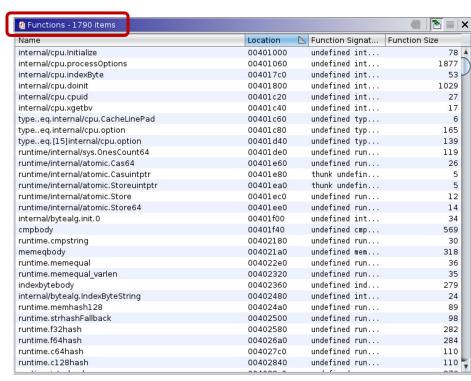


## Hello World in Ghidra

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C vs Go

¶ Functions - 19 items	Location	Function Signature	Function Size
init	00101000	int _init(EVP	27
FUN 00101020	00101020	undefined FUN	13
cxa finalize	00101040	thunk undefine	11
puts	00101050	thunk int puts	11
_start	00101060	undefined_sta	47
deregister_tm_clones	00101090	undefined dere	34
register_tm_clones	001010c0	undefined regi	51
do_global_dtors_aux	00101100	undefineddo	54
frame_dummy	00101140	thunk undefine	9
main	00101149	undefined main()	27
libc_csu_init	00101170	undefinedli	101
libc_csu_fini	001011e0	undefinedli	5
_fini	001011e8	undefined _fini()	13
_ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable	00105000	thunk undefine	1
puts	00105008	thunk int puts	1
libc_start_main	00105010	thunk undefine	1
gmon_start	00105018	thunk undefine	1
_ITM_registerTMCloneTable	00105020	thunk undefine	1
cxa_finalize	00105028	thunk undefine	1



# **Stripped Binaries**



- Discard debugging symbols
- Reduced size
- No names for routines and variables
- · More difficult debugging and reverse engineering
- Malware files are usually stripped

# Hello World - Stripped

C vs Go

C

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main()
{
    printf("Hello, World!\n");
    return 0;
}
gcc -o world_c_strip -s world.c

x86
dyn.
strip
strip
strip
size
```

ELF 64-bit LSB shared object, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), dynamically linked, stripped

size: 14,1 kB

• Go

```
package main

import "fmt"

func main(){
    fmt.Printf("Hello, World!\n")
}
```

```
go build -o world_go_strip -ldflags
"-s" world.go
```

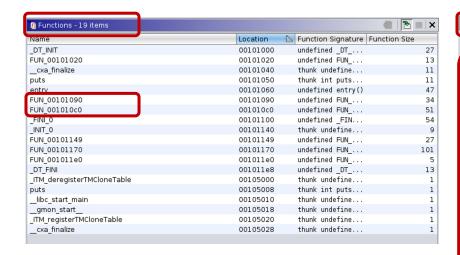
ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, stripped

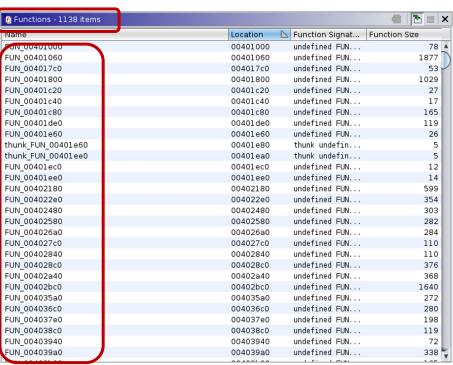
size: 1,3 MB

# Hello World Stripped in Ghidra



C vs Go





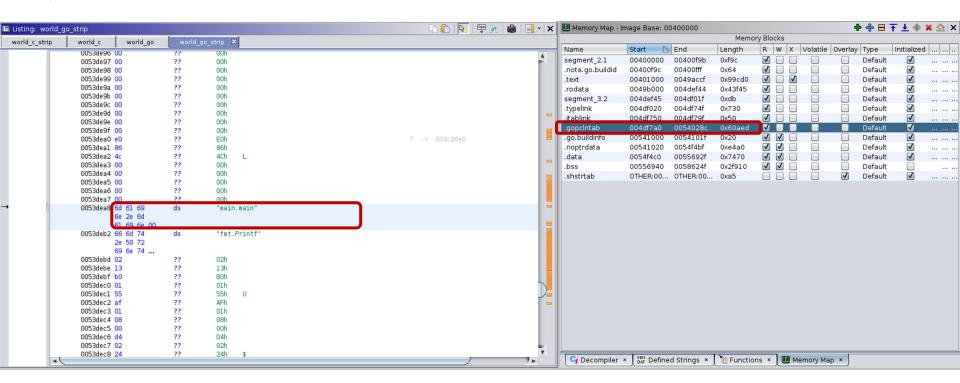


strings

```
strings world_c | grep -o ".\\{0,10\}main.\\{0,10\}"
 ibc_start_main
 ibc_start_main@@GLIBC_2.
                                                > strings world_c_strip | grep -o ".\{0,10\}main.\{0,10\}"
main
                                                ibc_start_main
 strings world_go | grep -o ".\\{0,10\}main.\\{0,10\}
hasmain
edruntime.main not on m0
 p stateremaining pointe
 out of domainpanic whil
                                       > strings world_go_strip | grep -o ".\\{0,10\}main.\\{0,10\}"
e space remainingreflect
                                       hasmain
routines (main called ru
runtime main
                                       edruntime.main not on m0
runtime.main.func1
                                        p stateremaining pointe
runtime.main.func2
                                        out of domainpanic whil
main.main
                                       e space remainingreflect
main..inittask
                                       routines (main called ru
runtime.main_init_done
runtime.mainStarted
                                       runtime.main
runtime.mainPC
                                       runtime.main.func1
runtime.main
                                       runtime.main.func2
runtime.main.func1
                                       main.main
runtime.main.func2
main.main
```

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pcIntab





pcIntab

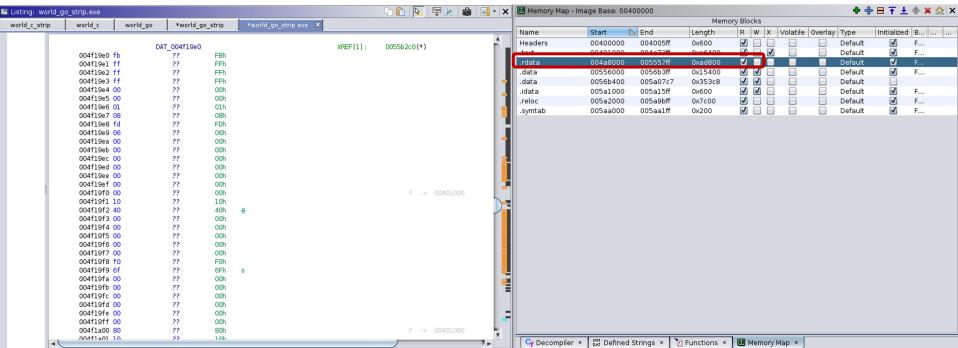
Detailed documentation of pcIntab<sup>1</sup> is available

```
Instruction size quantum:
[4] 0xffffffb
[2] 0x00 0x00
                                            1: X86, 4: ARM
[1] 0x01
                                                              Pointer size in bytes
[1] 0x08
  [8] N (size of function symbol table)
  [8] pc0
                                                         Function metadata pointers
  [8] func0 offset
  [8] pc1
  [8] func1 offset
                                                           Function address
  (8) pcN
  [4] int32 offset from start to source file table
  ... and then data referred to by offset, in an unspecified order ...
```

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pcIntab in Windows

• Not a separate section -> Look for the structure





pcIntab

### Function metadata

```
struct
                Func
                                                                                         Function name offset
         uintptr
                          entry; // start pc
        int32 name;
                                // name (offset to C string)
         int32 args;
                                // size of arguments passed to function
         int32 frame;
                                // size of function frame, including saved caller PC
         int32
                        pcsp;
                                                // pcsp table (offset to pcvalue table)
         int32
                                           // pcfile table (offset to pcvalue table)
                        pcfile;
         int32
                                                  // pcln table (offset to pcvalue table)
                        pcln;
                                               // number of entries in funcdata list
         int32
                        nfuncdata;
                                            // number of entries in pcdata list
         int32
                        npcdata;
};
```

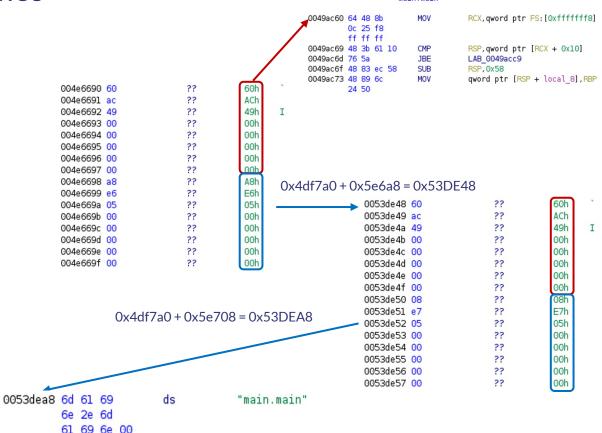
main.main

Idea

### Function name recovery steps:

- Locate pcIntab structure
- Extract function addresses
- Find function name offsets

```
// .gopclntab
                     // SHT PROGBITS [0x4df7a0 - 0x54028c]
                     // ram:004df7a0-ram:0054028c
                     DAT 004df7a0
004df7a0 fb
                         ??
                                     FBh
004df7a1 ff
                         ??
                                     FFh
004df7a2 ff
                         ??
                                     FFh
004df7a3 ff
                          22
004df7a4 00
                          22
                                     00h
004df7a5 00
                         22
                                     00h
004df7a6 01
                                     01h
004df7a7 08
                          ??
004df7a8 ef
                                     FFh
004df7a9 06
                                     06h
004df7aa 00
                         22
                                     00h
004df7ab 00
                         22
                                     00h
004df7ac 00
                                     00h
004df7ad 00
                         ??
                                     00h
004df7ae 00
                                     00h
004df7af 00
                          ??
                                     00h
004df7b0 00
                                     00h
004df7b1 10
                                     1.0h
004df7b2 40
                                     40h
004df7b3 00
                                     00h
```



Binary: world go strip



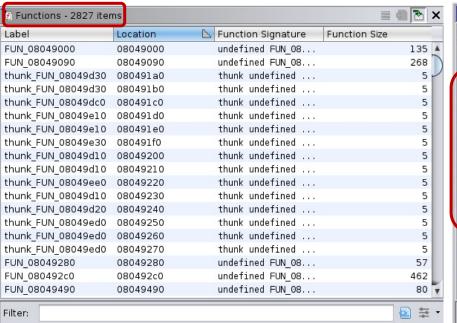
Executing our script

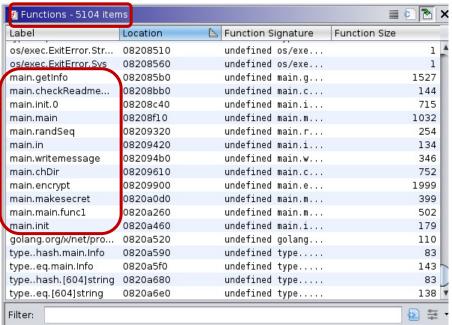
₫ Functions - 1138 items	Location	B Constitut Cinnet	Ø   ≥ ■
Name		Function Signat	Function Size
FUN_00401000	00401000	undefined FUN	78 1877
FUN_00401060	00401060		
FUN_004017c0	004017c0	undefined FUN undefined FUN	53 1029
FUN_00401800	00401800	undefined FUN	
FUN_00401c20	00401c20		27 17
FUN_00401c40	00401c40	undefined FUN	
FUN_00401c80	00401c80	undefined FUN	165
FUN_00401 de0	00401de0		119
FUN_00401e60	00401e60	undefined FUN	26
hunk_FUN_00401e60	00401e80		5
hunk_FUN_00401ee0	00401ea0	thunk undefin	
FUN_00401ec0	00401ec0	undefined FUN	12
FUN_00401ee0	00401ee0	undefined FUN	14
FUN_00402180	00402180	undefined FUN	599
FUN_004022e0	004022e0	undefined FUN	354
FUN_00402480	00402480	undefined FUN	303
FUN_00402580	00402580	undefined FUN	282
FUN_004026a0	004026a0	undefined FUN	284
FUN_004027c0	004027c0	undefined FUN	110
FUN_00402840	00402840	undefined FUN	110
FUN_004028c0	004028c0	undefined FUN	376
FUN_00402a40	00402a40	undefined FUN	368
FUN_00402bc0	00402bc0	undefined FUN	1640
-UN_004035a0	004035a0	undefined FUN	272
FUN_004036c0	004036c0	undefined FUN	280
FUN_004037e0	004037e0	undefined FUN	198
FUN_004038c0	004038c0	undefined FUN	119
FUN_00403940	00403940	undefined FUN	72
FUN_004039a0	004039a0	undefined FUN	338

🛭 Functions - 1790 items			<u>₽</u>   <u>В</u>
Name	Location	Function Signat	Function Size
fmt.(*pp).Flag	00492de0	undefined fmt	143
fmt.(*pp).Write	00492e80	undefined fmt	271
fmt.Fprintf	00492fa0	undefined fmt	268
fmt.getField	004930c0	undefined fmt	183
mt.parsenum	00493180	undefined fmt	219
mt.(*pp).unknownType	00493260	undefined fmt	784
fmt.(*pp).badVerb	00493580	undefined fmt	164
mt.(*pp).fmtBool	00493c00	undefined fmt	11
mt.(*pp).fmt0x64	00493c80	undefined fmt	14
mt.(*pp).fmtInteger	00493d20	undefined fmt	82
mt.(*pp).fmtFloat	00494060	undefined fmt	40
mt.(*pp).fmtComplex	00494200	undefined fmt	58
mt.(*pp).fmtString	00494460	undefined fmt	45
mt.(*pp).fmtBytes	00494640	undefined fmt	230
mt.(*pp).fmtPointer	00494f40	undefined fmt	135
mt.(*pp).catchPanic	004954a0	undefined fmt	153
mt.(*pp).handleMethods	00495aa0	undefined fmt	174
mt.(*pp).printArg	00496180	undefined fmt	234
mt.(*pp).printValue	00496ae0	undefined fmt	976
mt.intFromArg	00499140	undefined fmt	52
mt.parseArgNumber	00499360	undefined fmt	29
mt.(*pp).argNumber	004994a0	undefined fmt	27
mt.(*pp).badArgNum	004995c0	undefined fmt	36
mt.(*pp).missingArg	00499740	undefined fmt	36
mt.(*pp).doPrintf	004998c0	undefined fmt	449
mt.globfunc1	0049aa60	undefined fmt	8
mt.init	0049aac0	undefined fmt	19
typeea.fmt.fmt	0049aba0	undefined typ	17:
main.main	0049ac60	undefined mai	113

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Real world example – eCh0raix







## Challenges

Undefined function name strings

```
*************************
                   undefined FUN 08184fa0(undefined4 param 1, undefined4 pa...
    undefined
                      AL:1
                                    <RETURN>
    undefined4
                                                                                       08184fc7(R)
                      Stack[0x4]:4
                                   param 1
                                                                           XREF[1]:
    undefined4
                      Stack[0x8]:4 param 2
                                                                           XREF[2]:
                                                                                        08184fd8(R).
                                                                                        0818501d(R)
    undefined4
                      Stack[Oxc]:4 param 3
                                                                                        08184ff0(R),
                                                                           XREF[2]:
                                                                                        0818500b (R)
    undefined4
                      Stack[0x10]:4 param_4
                                                                           XREF[1]:
                                                                                        08184fdf(R)
                      Stack[0x14]:4 param 5
    undefined4
                                                                           XREF[1]:
                                                                                        08184ff7(R)
    undefined4
                      Stack[0x18]:4 param 6
                                                                           XREF[1]:
                                                                                        08184ffe(W)
    undefined4
                      Stack[-0x4]:4 local 4
                                                                           XREF[1]:
                                                                                       08184fc3(R)
    undefined4
                      Stack[-0x8]:4 local 8
                                                                           XREF[1]:
                                                                                        08184fbb(*)
                   FUN 08184fa0
                                                                               0818502f(c),
                                                                  XREF[2]:
                                                                               log.init:08186012(c)
                                  ECX, dword ptr GS: [0x0]
08184fa0 65 8b 0d
        00 00 00 00
08184fa7 8b 89 fc
                                  ECX, dword ptr [ECX + Oxfffffffc]
                       MOV
        ff ff ff
                               083aa0e4 6c
                               083aa0e5 6f
                               083aa0e6 67
                               083aa0e7 2e
                                                         ??
                                                                     4Eh
                               083aa0e8 4e
                               083aa0e9 65
                               083aa0ea 77
                                                                     77h
                               083aa0eb 00
                                                                     00h
```

```
func_name = getDataAt(name_address)

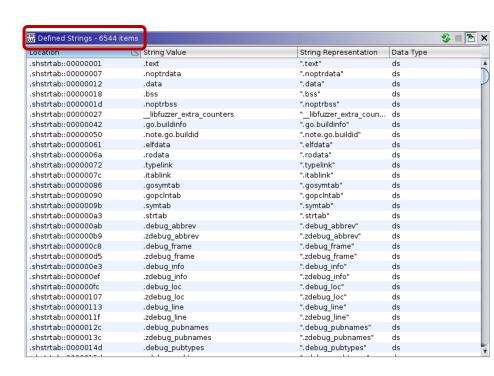
#Try to define function name string.
if func_name is None:
    try:
        func_name = createAsciiString(name_address)
    except:
        print "ERROR: No name"
        continue
```

## Hello World Strings in Ghidra



C vs Go

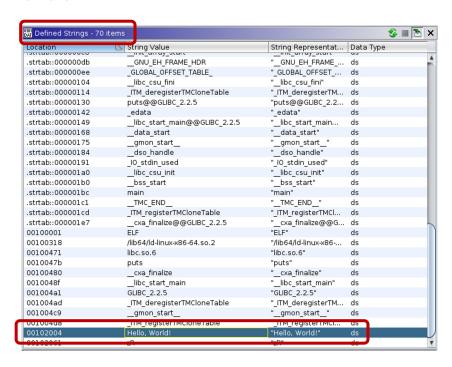
Defined Strings - 70	String Value	String Bonrosoptot	S ■ 12 Data Type
ocation	string value	String Representat	рата туре
strtab::000000db	GNU_EH_FRAME_HDR	"GNU_EH_FRAME	ds
strtab::000000ee	_GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE_	"_GLOBAL_OFFSET	ds
strtab::00000104	libc_csu_fini	"libc_csu_fini"	ds
strtab::00000114	_ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable	"_ITM_deregisterTM	ds
strtab::00000130	puts@@GLIBC_2.2.5	"puts@@GLIBC_2.2	ds
strtab::00000142	_edata	"_edata"	ds
strtab::00000149	_libc_start_main@@GLIBC_2.2.5	"libc_start_main	ds
strtab::00000168	_data_start	"_data_start"	ds
strtab::00000175	_gmon_start_	"_gmon_start"	ds
strtab::00000184	_dso_handle	"_dso_handle"	ds
strtab::00000191	_IO_stdin_used	"_IO_stdin_used"	ds
strtab::000001a0	_libc_csu_init	"_libc_csu_init"	ds
strtab::000001b0	_bss_start	"_bss_start"	ds
strtab::000001bc	main	"main"	ds
strtab::000001c1	TMC_END	"_TMC_END"	ds
strtab::000001cd	_ITM_registerTMCloneTable	"_ITM_registerTMCl	ds
strtab::000001e7	_cxa_finalize@@GLIBC_2.2.5	"_cxa_finalize@@G	ds
0100001	ELF	"ELF"	ds
0100318	/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2	"/lib64/ld-linux-x86	ds
0100471	libc.so.6	"libc.so.6"	ds
010047b	puts	"puts"	ds
0100480	_cxa_finalize	"_cxa_finalize"	ds
0010048f	libc_start_main	"_libc_start_main"	ds
01004al	GLIBC_2.2.5	"GLIBC_2.2.5"	ds
01004ad	_ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable	"_ITM_deregisterTM	ds
01004c9	gmon_start	gmon_start_"	ds
01004d8	 _ITM_registerTMCloneTable	"_ITM_registerTMCl	ds
00102004	Hello, World!	"Hello, World!"	ds
00102061	zR	"zR"	ds

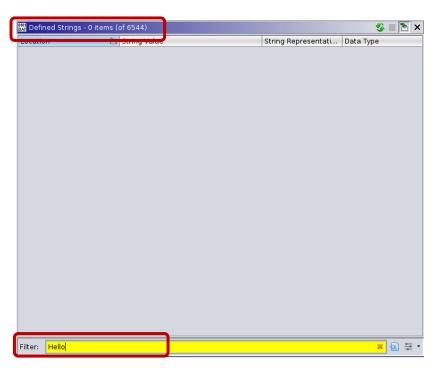


# Hello World Strings in Ghidra



C vs Go





No "Hello" in Go

## Hello World Strings



C vs Go

C:

"Hello, World!" is easy to find

> strings world\_c | grep Hello
Hello, World!

Go:

"Hello, World!" is part of a huge string

```
> strings world_go | grep Hello
entersyscallgcBitsArenasgcpacertracehost is downillegal seekinvalid slotlfstack.pushmadvdontneedmheapSpecialmspanSpecialnot pollableraceF
iniLockreleasep: m=runtime: gp=runtime: sp=short bufferspanSetSpinesweepWaiterstraceStringsuname failedwirep: p->m= != sweepgen MB) work
ers= called from failed with flushedWork heap_marked= idlethreads= is nil, not nStackRoots= s.spanclass= span.base()= syscalltick= wo
rk.nproc= work.nwait= , gp->status=, not pointer-byte block (3814697265625GC sweep waitGunjala_GonotiHello, World!Misaram_GondiMende_Kika
kuiOld_HungarianSIGKILL: killSIGQUIT: quitbad flushGen bad map statedebugCall2048exchange fullfatal error: level 3 resetload64 failedmin
too largenil stackbaseout of memorysrmount errortimer expiredtraceStackTabtriggerRatio=value method xadd64 failedxchg64 failed}
```

## **String Representation**

C vs Go



#### C

• sequence of characters terminated with a null character

### Go

- sequence of bytes with a fixed length
- not null terminated
- str sequence of bytes
- len number of bytes
- https://golang.org/src/runtime/string.go
- Large string blobs from concatenated strings until null character
- Ghidra has a hard time defining strings in Go binaries

**Idea**: help Ghidra to find string structures

- Static vs dynamic allocation
- Per architecture (different instruction set)
- Multiple solution within one architecture
- Possible changes per Go version

```
type stringStruct struct {
          str unsafe.Pointer
          len int
}
```

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x86

- String structures can be allocated runtime
- Several different scenarios
- Let's look at the Hello World examples again

```
s_Hello,_World!_00102004 XREF[1]: main:00101151(*)

00102004 48 65 6c ds "Hello, World!"

6c 6f 2c
20 57 6f ...
```

```
undefined main()
    undefined
                       AL:1
                                      <RETURN>
                     main
                                                                      XREF[4]:
                                                                                   Entry Point(*),
                                                                                   start:00101081(*), 00102040,
                                                                                   001020e8(*)
00101149 f3 Of le fa
                         ENDBR64
0010114d 55
                         PUSH
                                     RBP
0010114e 48 89 e5
                         MOV
                                     RBP, RSP
00101151 48 8d 3d
                         LEA
                                     RDI, [s Hello, World! 00102004]
                                                                                         = "Hello, World!"
         ac 0e 00 00
00101158 e8 f3 fe
                         CALL
                                                                                         int puts(char * __s)
                                     puts
         ff ff
0010115d b8 00 00
                         MOV
                                     EAX, 0x0
         00 00
00101162 5d
                         POP
                                     RRP
00101163 c3
                         RET
```

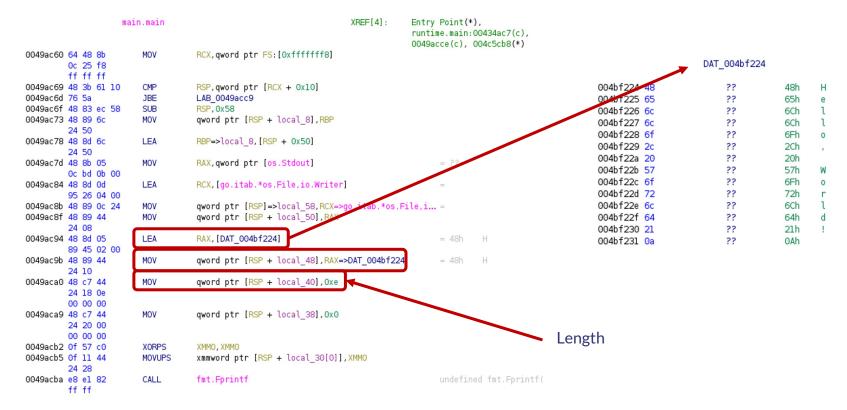
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x86

main.main	XREF[4]:	Entry Point(*), runtime.main:00434ac7(c), 0049acce(c), 004c5cb8(*)
0049ac60 64 48 8b MOV 0c 25 f8 ff ff ff	RCX, qword ptr FS: [0xfffffff8]	
0049ac69 48 3b 61 10 CMP	RSP, gword ptr [RCX + 0x10]	
0049ac6d 76 5a JBE	LAB 0049acc9	
0049ac6f 48 83 ec 58 SUB	RSP, 0x58	
0049ac73 48 89 6c MOV 24 50	qword ptr [RSP + local_8],RBP	
0049ac78 48 8d 6c LEA 24 50	RBP=>local_8,[RSP + 0x50]	
0049ac7d 48 8b 05 MOV 0c bd 0b 00	RAX,qword ptr [os.Stdout]	= ??
0049ac84 48 8d 0d LEA 95 26 04 00	RCX,[go.itab.*os.File,io.Writer]	=
0049ac8b 48 89 0c 24 MOV	gword ptr [RSP]=>local 58,RCX=>go.itab.*os	.File.i =
0049ac8f 48 89 44 MOV 24 08	qword ptr [RSP + local_50],RAX	
0049ac94 48 8d 05 LEA 89 45 02 00	RAX, [DAT_004bf224]	= 48h H
0049ac9b 48 89 44 MOV 24 10	qword ptr [RSP + local_48],RAX=>DAT_004bf2	224 = 48h H
0049aca0 48 c7 44 MOV 24 18 0e	<pre>qword ptr [RSP + local_40],0xe</pre>	
00 00 00 0049aca9 48 c7 44 MOV	qword ptr [RSP + local_38],0x0	
24 20 00 00 00 00		
0049acb2 0f 57 c0 XORPS	XMMO, XMMO	
0049acb5 0f 11 44 MOVUPS 24 28	xmmword ptr [RSP + local_30[0]],XMMO	
0049acba e8 e1 82 CALL ff ff	fmt.Fprintf	undefined fmt.Fprintf(



x86





x86

Search for these instructions and define strings

```
#x86
#LEA REG, [STRING_ADDRESS]
#MOV [ESP + ..], REG
#MOV [ESP + ..], STRING_SIZE
```

```
#x86_64
#LEA REG, [STRING_ADDRESS]
#MOV [RSP + ..], REG
#MOV [RSP + ..], STRING_SIZE
```

```
08208bdc 8d 05 0e
                         LEA
                                     EAX, [DAT 0827de0e]
         de 27 08
                                     dword ptr [ESP + local 10], EAX=>DAT 0827de0e
08208be2 89 44 24 0c
                         MOV
08208be6 c7 44 24
                         MOV
                                     dword ptr [ESP + local c], 0x17
         10 17 00
                                     RAX, [DAT_004bf224]
0049ac94 48 8d 05
                          LEA
         89 45 02 00
0049ac9b 48 89 44
                                     qword ptr [RSP + local_48], RAX=>DAT_004bf224
                         MOV
         24 10
0049aca0 48 c7 44
                         MOV
                                     qword ptr [RSP + local_40], 0xe
         24 18 0e
```

00 00 00



x86

Results after executing the script

```
main.main
                                                                    XREF[4]:
                                                                                 Entry Point(*),
                                                                                 runtime.main:00434ac7(c),
                                                                                 0049acce(c), 004c5cb8(*)
0049ac60 64 48 8b
                        MOV
                                   RCX, gword ptr FS: [0xfffffff8]
        0c 25 f8
        ff ff ff
0049ac69 48 3b 61 10
                                   RSP, gword ptr [RCX + 0x10]
0049ac6d 76 5a
                                   LAB 0049acc9
0049ac6f 48 83 ec 58
0049ac73 48 89 6c
                                   qword ptr [RSP + local 8],RBP
        24 50
0049ac78 48 8d 6c
                                   RBP=>local 8, [RSP + 0x50]
         24 50
0049ac7d 48 8b 05
                                   RAX, qword ptr [os.Stdout]
                        MOV
        Oc bd Ob 00
0049ac84 48 8d 0d
                                   RCX, [qo.itab.*os.File.io.Writer]
        95 26 04 00
0049ac8b 48 89 0c 24
                        MOV
                                   gword ptr [RSP]=>local 58,RCX=>go.itab.*os.File,i... =
0049ac8f 48 89 44
                        MOV
                                   qword ptr [RSP + local 50], RAX
        24 08
0049ac94 48 8d 05
                        LEA
                                   RAX,[s Hello, World! 004bf224]
                                                                                       = "Hello, World!\n"
         89 45 02 00
0049ac9b 48 89 44
                                   qword ptr [RSP + local_48], RAX=>s_Hello, World!_0... = "Hello, World!\n"
         24 10
0049aca0 48 c7 44
                        MOV
                                   qword ptr [RSP + local_40],0xe
        24 18 0e
        00 00 00
0049aca9 48 c7 44
                        MOV
                                   qword ptr [RSP + local 38],0x0
        24 20 00
        00 00 00
0049acb2 Of 57 c0
                        XORPS
0049acb5 Of 11 44
                        MOVUPS
                                   xmmword ptr [RSP + local 30[0]], XMMO
        24 28
                 s Hello, World! 004bf224
                                                                                  XREF[2]:
                                                                                                   main.main:0049ac94(*)
```

"Hello, World!\n"

```
String Representati... Data Type
                            004bf224
                                                      Hello, World!
                                                                                           "Hello, World!\n"
                                                                                                                ds
                                                                                                                        ※ 🔁 🔄 🕶
main.main:0049ac9b(*)
```

Defined Strings - 1 items (of 7502)

6c 6f 2c

004bf224 48 65 6c

Binary: world go



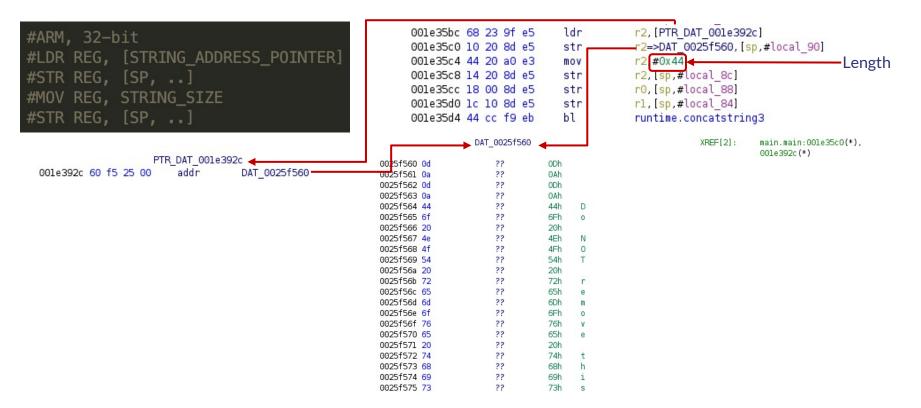
x86

After executing our script the number of defined strings grew from 9719 to 11213

```
main.checkReadmeExists
                                                                      XREF[2]:
                                                                                    08208c3b(c).
                                                                                   main.init.0:08208cda(c)
                                     ECX, dword ptr GS: [0x0]
08208bb0 65 8b 0d
                         MOV
         00 00 00 00
                                     ECX, dword ptr [ECX + 0xfffffffc]
08208bb7 8b 89 fc
                         MOV
         ff ff ff
                                                                                                                main.checkReadmeExists
                                                                                                                                                                  XREF[2]:
                                                                                                                                                                               08208c3b(c),
                                     ESP, dword ptr [ECX + 0x8]
08208bbd 3b 61 08
                         CMP
                                                                                                                                                                               main.init.0:08208cda(c)
08208bc0 76 74
                         JBE
                                     LAB 08208c36
                                                                                                                                ECX, dword ptr GS: [0x0]
                                                                                           08208bb0 65 8b 0d
08208bc2 83 ec 1c
                         SUB
                                     ESP, 0x1c
                                                                                                     00 00 00 00
                                     dword ptr [ESP]=>local 1c,0x0
08208bc5 c7 04 24
                         MOV
                                                                                           08208bb7 8b 89 fc
                                                                                                                                ECX, dword ptr [ECX + Oxfffffffc]
         00 00 00 00
                                                                                                    ff ff ff
08208bcc 8b 44 24 20
                                     EAX, dword ptr [ESP + param 1]
                         MOV
                                                                                           08208bbd 3b 61 08
                                                                                                                                ESP, dword ptr [ECX + 0x8]
                                                                                                                     CMP
                                     dword ptr [ESP + local 18], EAX
08208bd0 89 44 24 04
                         MOV
                                                                                           08208bc0 76 74
                                                                                                                     JBE
                                                                                                                                 LAB 08208c36
                                     EAX, dword ptr [ESP + param 2]
08208bd4 8b 44 24 24
                         MOV
                                                                                           08208bc2 83 ec 1c
                                                                                                                     SUB
                                                                                                                                 ESP. 0x1c
08208bd8 89 44 24 08
                         MOV
                                     dword ptr [ESP + local 14], EAX
                                                                                           08208bc5 c7 04 24
                                                                                                                                dword ptr [ESP]=>local 1c,0x0
08208bdc 8d 05 0e
                         LEA
                                     EAX, [DAT 0827de0e]
                                                                                                    00 00 00 00
         de 27 08
                                                                                           08208bcc 8b 44 24 20
                                                                                                                                 EAX, dword ptr [ESP + param 1]
08208be2 89 44 24 0c
                         MOV
                                     dword ptr [ESP + local 10], EAX=>DAT 0827de0e
                                                                                                                                dword ptr [ESP + local 18], EAX
                                                                                            08208bd0 89 44 24 04
                                     dword ptr [ESP + local c], 0x17
08208be6 c7 44 24
                         MOV
                                                                                                                                EAX, dword ptr [ESP + param 2]
                                                                                           08208bd4 8b 44 24 24
                                                                                                                     MOV
         10 17 00
                                                                                                                                dword ptr [ESP + local 14], EAX
                                                                                           08208bd8 89 44 24 08
                                                                                                                    MOV
         00 00
                                                                                                                                EAX.[s /README FOR DECRYPT.txt 0827de0e]
                                                                                           08208bdc 8d 05 0e
08208bee e8 dd c1
                         CALL
                                     runtime.concatstring2
                                                                                                     de 27 08
         e7 ff
                                                                                                                                dword ptr [ESP + local 10], EAX=>s /README FOR DECRYPT.txt 0827de0e
                                                                                           08208be2 89 44 24 0c
                                                                                           08208be6 c7 44 24
                                                                                                                                dword ptr [ESP + local cl. 0x17
                                                                                                    10 17 00
                                                                                                    00 00
                                                                                           08208bee e8 dd c1
                                                                                                                     CALL
                                                                                                                                 runtime.concatstring2
                                                                                                     e7 ff
```



ARM - before executing the script





ARM – after executing the script

```
#ARM, 32-bit
                                                            001e35bc 68 23 9f e5
                                                                                              r2, [PTR s Do NOT remove this file and NOT 001e392c]
                                                                                   ldr
                                                            001e35c0 10 20 8d e5
                                                                                   str
                                                                                              r2=>s Do NOT remove this file and NOT 0025f560, [sp,#local 90]
    #LDR REG, [STRING ADDRESS POINTER]
                                                            00le35c4 44 20 a0 e3
                                                                                              r2,#0x44
                                                                                   mov
                                                                                              r2, [sp,#local 8c]
    #STR REG, [SP, ...]
                                                            001e35c8 14 20 8d e5
                                                                                   str
                                                            001e35cc 18 00 8d e5
                                                                                   str
                                                                                              r0, [sp,#local 88]
    #MOV REG, STRING SIZE
                                                                                              rl,[sp,#local 84]
                                                            001e35d0 1c 10 8d e5
                                                                                   str
                                                            001e35d4 44 cc f9 eb
                                                                                   b1
                                                                                              runtime.concatstring3
    #STR REG, [SP, ..]
                   PTR s Do NOT remove this file and NOT 001e392c XREF[1]:
                                                                              main.main:00le35bc(R)
                                  s Do NOT remove this file and NOT 0025f560
001e392c 60 f5 25 00
                       addr
                                                                   s Do_NOT_remove_this_file_and_NOT_0025f560
                                                                                                              XREF[2]:
                                                                                                                          main.main:00le35c0(*),
                                                                                                                          001e392c(*)
                                                0025f560 Od Oa Od
                                                                       ds
                                                                                 "\r\n\r\nDo NOT remove this file and NOT remove last line in this file!\r\n"
                                                         0a 44 6f
                                                         20 4e 4f ...
```



ARM - before executing the script

```
#ARM, 64-bit - version 1
#ADRP REG, [STRING_ADDRESS_START]
#ADD REG, REG, INT
#STR REG, [SP, ...]
#ORR REG, REG, STRING SIZE
#STR REG, [SP, ...]
#ARM, 64-bit - version 2
#ADRP REG, [STRING ADDRESS START]
#ADD REG, REG, INT
#STR REG, [SP, ...]
    REG, STRING SIZE
#STR REG, [SP, ..]
```

```
LAB 0020b59c
                                                                          XREF[2]:
                                                                                       0020b814(j), 0020b988(j)
                           adrp
  0020b59c 00 04 00 b0
                                       x0.0x28c000
  0020b5a0 00 c4 lc 91
                            add
                                       x0, x0, #0x731
  0020b5a4 e0 07 00 f9
                                       x0=>DAT 0028c731, [sp, #local 68]
  0020b5a8 e0 07 7e b2
                                       x0,xzr,#0xc
                                       x0,[sp, #local 60]
  0020b5ac e0 0b 00 f9
  0020b5b0 e4 d3 ff 97
                                       ddos.PathExists
  0020b5b4 e0 63 40 39
                           ldrb
                                       w0,[sp, #local 58]
  0020b5b8 60 05 00 b5
                           cbnz
                                       x0, LAB 0020b664
                       LAB 0020b5bc
                                                                          XREF[2]:
                                                                                       0020b680(i), 0020b7f4(i)
  0020b5bc 00 04 00 f0
                           adrp
                                       x0,0x28e000
                           add
  0020b5c0 00 84 28 91
                                       x0, x0, #0xa21
                                       x0=>DAT 0028ea21,[sp, #local 68]
  0020b5c4 e0 07 00 f9
  0020b5c8 80 02 80 d2
                                        x0.#0x14
  0020b5cc e0 0b 00 f9
                                       x0,[sp, #local 60]
                                       ddos.PathExists
  0020b5d0 dc d3 ff 97
                                       w0, [sp, #local 58]
  0020b5d4 e0 63 40 39
                           ldrb
  0020b5d8 80 00 00 b5
                           cbnz
                                       x0, LAB_0020b5e8
                    DAT_0028c731
                                                                   XREF[1]:
                                                                                main.runkshell:0020b5a4(*)
0028c731 2f
                                   2Fh
0028c732 65
                                   65h
0028c733 74
                                   74h
0028c734 63
0028c735 2f
                                   69h
0028c736 69
0028c737 6e
                                   6Eh
0028c738 69
                                   69h
0028c739 74
                                   74h
0028c73a 2e
                                   2Eh
0028c73b 64
                                   64h
                                          d
0028c73c 2f
                                   2Fh
```



ARM – after executing the script

```
LAB 0020b59c
                                                                                                                        XREF[2]:
                                                                                                                                   0020b814(j), 0020b988(j)
    #ARM, 64-bit - version 1
                                                             0020b59c 00 04 00 b0
                                                                                            x0.0x28c000
                                                                                  adrp
                                                             0020b5a0 00 c4 1c 91
                                                                                            x0, x0, #0x731
    #ADRP REG, [STRING_ADDRESS_START]
                                                                                  add
                                                             0020b5a4 e0 07 00 f9
                                                                                            x0=>s /etc/init.d/ 0028c731,[sp, #local 68]
    #ADD REG, REG, INT
                                                             0020b5a8 e0 07 7e b2
                                                                                            xO.xzr.#Oxc
                                                                                  orr
                                                                                            x0,[sp, #local 60]
                                                             0020b5ac e0 0b 00 f9
                                                                                  str
    #STR REG, [SP, ...]
                                                             0020b5b0 e4 d3 ff 97
                                                                                            ddos.PathExists
    #ORR REG, REG, STRING SIZE
                                                             0020b5b4 e0 63 40 39
                                                                                            w0, [sp, #local 58]
                                                                                  ldrb
    #STR REG, [SP, ...]
                                                             0020b5b8 60 05 00 b5
                                                                                  cbnz
                                                                                            x0, LAB 0020b664
                                                                              LAB 0020b5bc
                                                                                                                                   0020b680(j), 0020b7f4(j)
                                                                                                                        XREF[2]:
                                                             0020b5bc 00 04 00 f0
                                                                                  adrp
                                                                                            x0.0x28e000
    #ARM, 64-bit - version 2
                                                             0020b5c0 00 84 28 91
                                                                                            x0,x0,#0xa21
                                                                                  add
                                                                                            x0=>s /etc/systemd/system/ 0028ea21,[sp, #local 68]
                                                             0020b5c4 e0 07 00 f9
    #ADRP REG, [STRING ADDRESS START]
                                                             0020b5c8 80 02 80 d2
                                                                                            x0.#0x14
    #ADD REG, REG, INT
                                                             0020b5cc e0 0b 00 f9
                                                                                            x0,[sp, #local 60]
                                                                                  str
                                                                                            ddos.PathExists
                                                             0020b5d0 dc d3 ff 97
    #STR REG, [SP, ...]
                                                                                            w0, [sp, #local 58]
                                                             0020b5d4 e0 63 40 39
                                                                                  ldrb
                                                             0020b5d8 80 00 00 b5
                                                                                  cbnz
                                                                                            x0, LAB_0020b5e8
    #MOV REG, STRING SIZE
    #STR REG, [SP, ..]
                                                                             s /etc/init.d/ 0028c73l
                                                                                                                         XREF[1]:
                                                                                                                                     main.runkshell:0020b5a4(*)
                                                          0028c731 2f 65 74
                                                                                            "/etc/init.d/"
                                                                  63 2f 69
                                                                  6e 69 74 ...
                  s /etc/systemd/system/ 0028ea21
                                                               XREF[1]:
                                                                           main.runkshell:0020b5c4(*)
0028ea21 2f 65 74
                                 "/etc/systemd/system/"
                      ds
```

Binary: Kaiii - ARM

63 2f 73 79 73 74 ...

## 

## Challenges

- Different instruction sets
- Can be implemented in different ways within the same architecture
- Easy to break intentionally

0028bbff 6c 6Ch 0028bc00 69 0028bc01 6e 6Eh 75h 0028bc02 75 ?? u 0028bc03 78 78h 0028bc04 5f 5Fh ?? 61h 0028bc05 61 a 22 72h 0028bc06 72 0028bc07 6d 22

DAT 0028bbff

001fd734 21 01 80 d2 001fd738 e1 4b 00 f9 001fd73c 62 04 00 d0 001fd740 42 fc 2f 91 001fd744 e2 4f 00 f9 001fd748 e1 53 00 f9

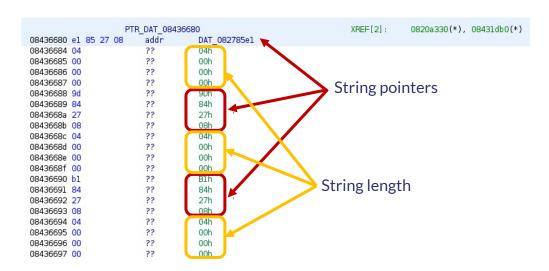
```
mov param_2,#0x9
str param_2,[sp, #local_c0]
adrp param_3,0x28b000
add param_3=>DAT_0028bbff,param_3,#0xbff
str param_3=>DAT_0028bbff,[sp, #local_b8]
str param 2,[sp, #local_b0]
```

XREF[6]: ddos.sshgo:001fd740(\*), ddos.sshgo:001fd744(\*), ddos.sshgo:001fd788(\*), ddos.sshgo:001fd7a4(\*), ddos.sshgo:001fd7c0(\*), ddos.sshgo:001fd7dc(\*)

## **<b>∴** CUJOAI

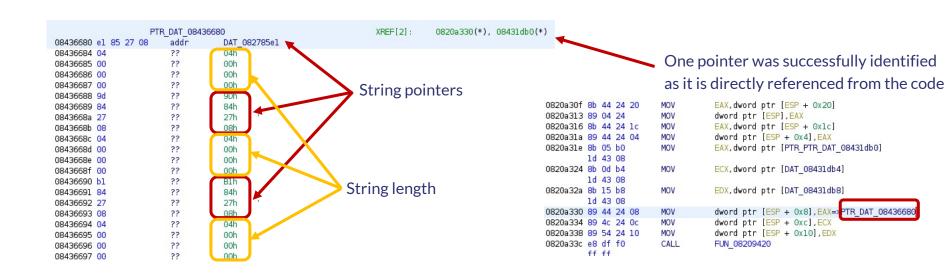
### Idea

- Look for pointer to string followed by possible length value
- To eliminate FPs limit string length and search for printable characters only
- Check only in data sections
- Not architecture specific



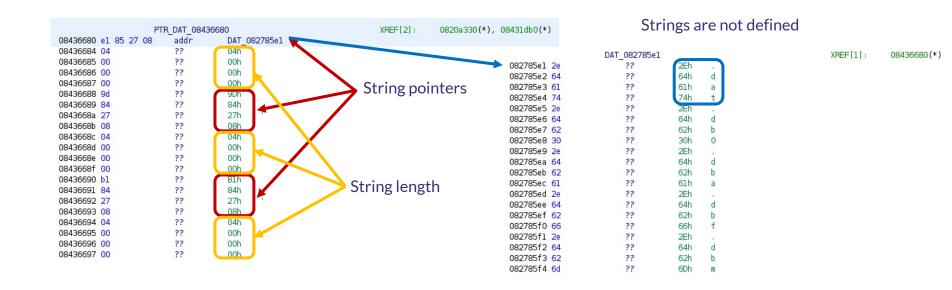


Example - before executing the script



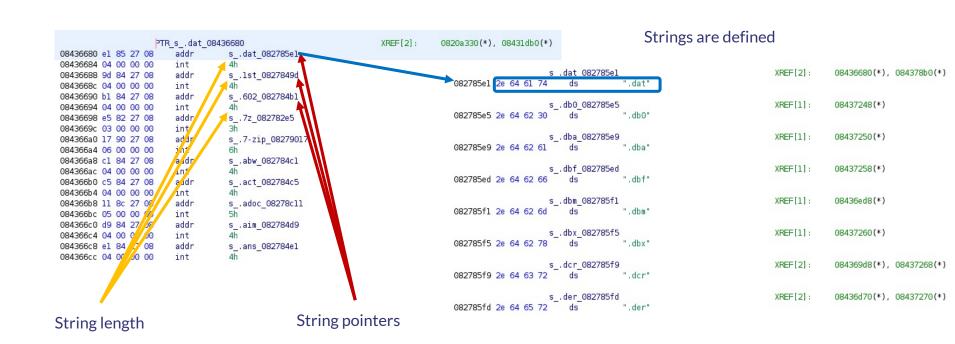
**☆ CUJOAI** 

Example - before executing the script





Example – after executing the script





## Challenges

- Non-printable characters
  - o A string might contain non-printable characters as well (e.g. new line)
  - o Experiment with the script, change the values and find the best for your analysis

```
#Look for strings with printable characters only to eliminate FPs.
def isPrintable(s, l):
    for i in range(l):
        if getByte(s) not in range(32,126):
            return False
        s = s.add(1)
    return True
```

- String length limitation
  - Missing some strings
  - o Experiment with the script, change the values and find the best for your analysis

```
length = getInt(length_address)
#Set the possible length to eliminate FPs.
if length not in range(1,100):
    continue
```

Falsely defined data types by Ghidra

- undefined4 or undefined8 (depends on pointer size)
- Already defined data types cannot be redefined (undifined4 and undifined8 are defined data types)
- First the data type has to be removed
- Then the new data type can be defined

```
XREF[1]:
                     PTR DAT 08431980
                                                                                    main.init.0:08208cec(R)
08431980 15 6f 28 08
                         addr
                                     DAT 08286f15
                     DAT 08431984
                                                                       XREF[1]:
                                                                                    main.init.0:08208cf2(R)
                         undefined4 00000039h
08431984 39 00 00 00
                                                                       XREF[1]:
                                                                                    main.getInfo:08208629(R)
                     PTR DAT 08431988
08431988 bb c7 27 08
                                     DAT 0827c7bb
                     DAT 0843198c
                                                                       XREF[1]:
                                                                                    main.getInfo:08208623(R)
                         undefined4 00000013h
0843198c 13 00 00 00
                     PTR DAT 08431990
                                                                       XREF[1]:
                                                                                    net.readHosts:081448a0(R)
08431990 cc a0 27 08
                                     DAT 0827a0cc
                     DAT 08431994
                                                                       XREF[1]:
                                                                                    net.readHosts:08144896(R)
08431994 0a 00 00 00
                         undefined4
                                     00000000Ah
                                           DAT 08286f15
                      08286f15 68
                                                           68h
                      08286f16 74
                                                           74h
                      08286f17 74
                                                           74h
                      08286f18 70
                                                           70h
                      08286f19 3a
                                                           3Ah
                      08286fla 2f
                                               22
                                                           2Fh
                      08286f1b 2f
                                                           2Fh
                      08286f1c 73
                                               22
                                                           73h
                      08286f1d 67
                                               22
                                                           67h
                      08286fle 33
                                               22
                      08286f1f 64
```

22

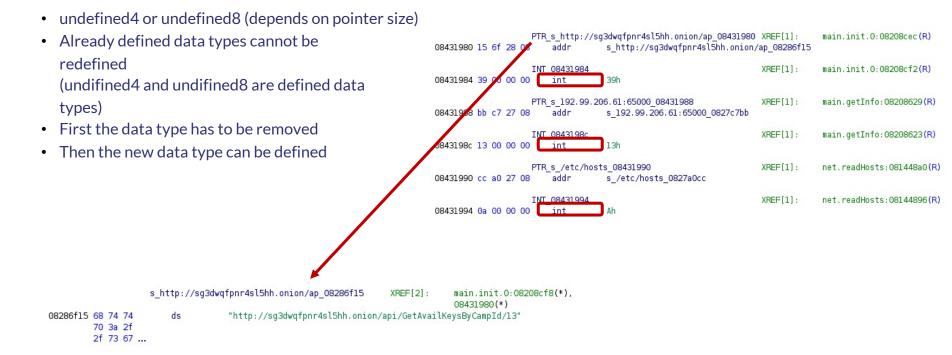
08286f20 77

```
if getDataAt(length_address) is not None:
    data_type = getDataAt(length_address).getDataType()
    #Remove undefined data to be able to create int.
    #Keep an eye on other predefined data types.
    if data_type.getName() in ["undefined4", "undefined8"]:
        removeData(getDataAt(length_address))
```



Falsely defined data types by Ghidra





## Falsely defined data types by Ghidra

• A large string blob (containing multiple strings) defined as one string

```
s runtime: panic before malloc hea 002978ff
                                                                                          runtime.casgstatus:00043ef4(*),
                      S_rul | **-+ *-+ ####@@@@@!!!first path segment in URL cannot contain colonln -s /etc/rc.d/init.d/linux kill
                      S_rul /etc/rc.d/rcmath/big: mismatched montgomery number lengthsmemory reservation exceeds address space
                      S_SI: limitpanicwrap; unexpected string after type name; reflect, Value, Slice; slice index out of
                      s ss boundsreflect; nil type passed to Type, Convertible Toreleased less than one physical page of
                      s_sy memoryruntime: debugCallV1 called by unknown caller runtime: failed to create new OS thread (have
                      s tlaruntime: name offset base pointer out of rangeruntime: panic before malloc heap
                      s ledinitialized\nruntime: text offset base pointer out of rangeruntime: type offset base pointer out of
                      s tlarangeslice bounds out of range [:%x] with length %yssh: unmarshal error for field
                           %s%sstopTheWorld: not stopped (status != Pgcstop)sysGrow bounds not aligned
                           failed to parse certificate from server: tls: received new session ticket from a clien
                            chose an unconfigured cipher suitetls; server did not echo the legacy session IDX
                           parse rfc822Name constraint %qx509: failed to unmarshal elliptic curve pointx509
                           curve private key valueP has cached GC work at end of mark terminationattemptin
                            shared libraries bufio: reader returned negative count from Readchacha20poly130
                            authentication failedcurve25519: global Basepoint value was modifiedexplicit strin
                           non-string memberfirst record does not look like a TLS handshakeslice bounds ou
                           with length %ytls: incorrect renegotiation extension contentstls: internal error: psl
                      S_Chi mismatchtls: server selected TLS 1.3 in a renegotiationtls: server sent two HelloRe
                      S_CU messagesx509; internal error; IP SAN %x failed to parsebufio; writer returned nega
                      s_ex| Writecrypto/rsa: key size too small for PSS signaturefailed to parse certificate #%c
002976f3 2a 2d 2b
                            %wparsing/packing of this type isn't available yetruntime: cannot map pages i...
         2a 2d 2b
```

### Offcut references

s first path segment in URL cannot 00297705

s ln -s /etc/rc.d/init.d/linux kil 00297733

s math/big: mismatched montgomery n 00297761

s memory reservation exceeds addre 0029778f

s panicwrap: unexpected string aft 002977bd

s reflect. Value. Slice: slice index 002977eb

s reflect: nil type passed to Type 00297819

s\_released\_less\_than\_one\_physical p 00297847

s runtime: debugCallV1 called by u 00297875

s runtime: failed to create new OS 002978a3

s runtime: name offset base pointe 002978dl

s runtime: panic before malloc hea 002978ff

s runtime: text offset base pointe 0029792d

s runtime: type offset base pointe 0029795b

s slice bounds out of range [:%x] w 00297989

s ssh: unmarshal error for field % 002979b7

s sysGrow bounds not aligned to pa 00297al3

s tls: failed to parse certificate 00297a41

s led to parse certificate from se 00297a49

s tls: received new session ticket 00297a6f

s\_tls:\_server\_chose\_an\_unconfigure\_00297a9d s\_tls:\_server\_did\_not\_echo\_the\_leg\_00297acb

```
XREF[0, 274] ... runtime.panicwrap: 00017c14(*),
             runtime.panicwrap:00017c98(*),
             runtime.(*mheap).sysAlloc:0001ab...
             runtime. (*mcache).nextFree: 0001a...
             runtime.mallocgc:0001b7c4(*),
             runtime.sysMap:00025c04(*),
             runtime.gcMark:00029fb8(*),
             runtime.bgscavenge:0002e9dc(*),
             runtime. (*pageAlloc).sysGrow:000...
             runtime.newosproc:0003ca88(*),
             runtime.startpanic m:0003fd64(*),
             runtime.casgstatus:00043ef4(*),
             runtime.doInit:0004eefc(*),
             runtime.sigpanic:00055da4(*),
             runtime.sigpanic:00055de4(*),
             runtime.sigpanic:00055f24(*),
             runtime.sigpanic:00055f64(*),
             runtime.getStackMap:0005a7d4(*).
             runtime.morestackc:0005a834(*),
             runtime.resolveNameOff:00065blc(...
```

**○ CUJOAI** 

23 23 23 ...



Falsely defined data types by Ghidra

A large string blob (containing multiple strings) defined as one string



## Other researcher's work

## **☆ CUJOA**

### Links

### **IDA Pro**

- https://github.com/sibears/IDAGolangHelper
- https://github.com/strazzere/golang\_loader\_assist

### radare2 / Cutter

- https://github.com/f0rki/r2-go-helpers
- https://github.com/JacobPimental/r2-gohelper/blob/master/golang\_helper.py
- https://github.com/CarveSystems/gostringsr2

### **Binary Ninja**

https://github.com/f0rki/bn-goloader

#### Ghidra

- https://github.com/felberj/gotools
   Only handles linux/x86\_64 binaries.
- https://github.com/ghidraninja/ghidra\_scripts/blob/master/golang\_renamer.py

# Files used during the presentation



Hashes

File name	SHA-256
world.c	761301bb14ea3b678650fc1b6da768f009387ee726712e291d57e2d7985613d0
world.go	7cb3316a7b89eb996e8dbb0d0fb277136cd588cc54642f3b09aa84cd177cb3a2
world_c	76a5c4ef9277b97660f2c412e67ff2c3826e699913db86cd333e8f1d4fb5b8a3
world_c_strip	486a93362a6a8bc3b449fd6ba07656011c687ed31a19091c329a434bff4d75bb
world_go	d0d4781de4ffd5fbe18d59328eccd373a782eecdf55a2c5199b7dc6598cfb99e
world_go_strip	9b975bd9406a8b79a414195e184be0c82bb1593979577f0344c797f9bcd4ad0b
world_go.exe	9e36291f5fc67fdb9e5e17b636d34b39f2cc39f328916a9012a8f8d545e9d0c8
world_go_strip.exe	c5b66623942a0cea6df30541e92afe93172be7bb4dbdd42a1fa354e9edd79a1d
world_go_println	fa00f5ad2aa79a6245a28516bc285ae8c36f075d818787aadff6f3e850e2ec5c
eCh0raix - x86	154dea7cace3d58c0ceccb5a3b8d7e0347674a0e76daffa9fa53578c036d9357
eCh0raix - ARM	3d7ebe73319a3435293838296fbb86c2e920fd0ccc9169285cc2c4d7fa3f120d
Kaiji - x86_64	f4a64ab3ffc0b4a94fd07a55565f24915b7a1aaec58454df5e47d8f8a2eec22a
Kaiji - ARM	3e68118ad46b9eb64063b259fca5f6682c5c2cb18fd9a4e7d97969226b2e6fb4

# References, additional reading



Other Go malware research

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- https://github.com/strazzere/golang\_loader\_assist/blob/master/Bsides-GO-Forth-And-Reverse.pdf
- https://github.com/radareorg/r2con2020/blob/master/day2/r2 Gophers-AnalysisOfGoBinariesWithRadare2.pdf







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