Cracking Tutorial Compilation Vol.1.
Converted to PDF

Written by Tikka Wang
Introduction
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This document is for covering the basics of software cracking.

Why crack software?
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I personally want to crack software because I enjoy the challenge and it feels quite nice making a serial number for something or removing a nag screen. Most cracking tutorials say stuff like, this is only for educational purposes and to an extent I would say this is right but software is extremely expensive and cracked software is distributed so easily across the internet that it's far too easy to just search for a crack on Google or use a P2P network.

What needs cracking?
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- Limited functionality (can't save/print because the menu item is greyed out)
- Nag screen (asking to be registered every time it's loaded for example)
- Serial number (finding a serial number or creating a keygen)
- Dongles (AutoCAD for example needs a dongle, an electronic key that will be plugged into the back of the PC)

Above I have listed the most common things to fix, there are others date/time locks etc.

Tools you may need?
-------------------
OllyDbg/softice - debugger (live debugging)
win32dasm/ida - disassembler (for dead listings)
UltraEdit32 - hex editor my fav. :)

How do you crack?
-----------------
Different protections need different techniques.
A simple nagging message box could be patched by removing the code from the program.
Assembly language uses mnemonics to make up the language,

```
cmp YOUR_SERIAL, REAL_SERIAL
je ADDRESS
```

As a software cracker, your main interest is aimed at the programming above.

```
jmp = jump to a line of code
CMP = compare, used to check real and false serials.
je = jump if equal to.
jz = jump if not equal to.
```

If your_serial = internal_serial then showgoodboy()

each mnemonic has an op code.
Example:
NOP = 90 ; nop means no operation, it is basically a blank space.

I have taken a snippet of disassembled code from IDA, this is called a dead listing.

```
_text:00404A84 pop ecx
_text:00404A85 mov edi, eax
_text:00404A87 pop ecx
```
This is what you are up against, confusing shit eh?

i said above that one way to crack would be to NOP out code, its alright for nags and make some programs registered easily.

    test edi, edi
    jz Jump to bad registration if edi doesnt = 00
    push offset aRegistered ; "Registered"
    Say thank you because registration was ok

if you changed the JZ instruction for NOP's you would effectively remove the serial checking, whatever serial you entered in to the program would register the program.

some programs will enter the CORRECT serial in to the registry and when you restart it will stay registered other times it will restart as unregistered.

this would be because some programs will store the FAKE serial you entered into the program and our patch only effects the registration routine not the start up code for checking for the registry key.
Introduction
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Since I've been getting back into the swing of things, I've found myself having a few strange dreams, one was solving a cracking problem in my sleep but couldn't remember when I woke up and as for tonight's episode...

This evening at about 9:40pm I woke up and think omfg, I have some odd dreams. I told Henson of my dream and thought it would be a laugh to add to my tutorial section as I haven't written my next tutorial.

Here it is.

<Akkit0r> beep
<henson> beep beep
<Akkit0r> ;/
<Akkit0r> I'm tired
<Akkit0r> been asleep
<Akkit0r> ;/
<Akkit0r> I've really strange dreams
<Akkit0r> ;/
<henson> lol

<Akkit0r> I do really
<Akkit0r> right one was
<Akkit0r> we tried backing up a car to the edge of a gravel cliff
<Akkit0r> (like u get a boat in and our water)
<Akkit0r> and it was summin to do with letting something/one out
<Akkit0r> and being able to get the car back up
<Akkit0r> now we put like (my idea) tempered fencing
<Akkit0r> but its like
<Akkit0r> beach wind breaks
<Akkit0r> with workman metal poles stuck in the ground
<Akkit0r> u
<Akkit0r> ;/
<Akkit0r> I like so
<Akkit0r> but I don't remember that being tested
<Akkit0r> but
<Akkit0r> scot from (tv series) emmerdale somehow got hurt at that time
<Akkit0r> and died
<Akkit0r> but
<Akkit0r> they managed to keep his brain alive,
<Akkit0r> inside a fucking debugger
<henson> lol

<Akkit0r> I saw mov ecx, eax or summin, and another line below similar
<Akkit0r> no
<Akkit0r> push eax
<Akkit0r> was the line it was on
<Akkit0r> now I and the doctors couldn't decide if...
<Akkit0r> the debugger was before or after him dying
<Akkit0r> I did something
<Akkit0r> which I dun really know
<Akkit0r> I think I continued the debugger
<Akkit0r> and he was in hospital preparing to die
<Akkit0r> had just a really short time
<Akkit0r> but it didn't bother me
<Akkit0r> then I had another dream in a pub
<Akkit0r> but had been out and about, maybe on a train
<Akkit0r> I'm not sure
<Akkit0r> got to this pub
<Akkit0r> this pub had a separate shop
<Akkit0r> but I took the batteries to the bar
<Akkit0r> I was gonna pay but I saw a friend
<Akkit0r> so I didn't buy batteries
<Akkit0r> sat with her for a minute
<Akkit0r> then woke up
<Akkit0r> is that strange?
(Akkit0r> and I remembered it all)
<henson> ye
<Akkit0r> I'm putting that on my site
<Akkit0r> cracking tutorial part 2
<Akkit0r> what u recon?
<Akkit0r> warning
<henson> ooohkkkkbaaayy

bloody strange eh?
I've found that you can't get it out of your head, I was thinking bout it at work inbetween thinking I work with cunts lol.

I was also thinking, when I first got into cracking I found many great tutorials on patching, softice breakpoints, nagg screen removing all extremely important.

Problem is, I have so much to write and find it difficult to keep it organised enough for text, it is worth searching google for cracking tutorial.
http://neworder.box.sk <-- many documents and articles in many scenes, cracking hacking.
http://astalavista.box.sk <-- security search engine where I found most tutorials from.
the box.sk network has many sites, dvd phones and more, at the top of the page is links take a look through the network.
Introduction
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After writing an interesting article on dreams I felt a need to bang out another issue.
Fishing for a serial number, nice and easy ;)

What do we need?
----------------
Target: BossKey.EXE
Website: http://www.sonetics.net
Tools: OllyDbg1.09c

Application introduction
-----------------------
BossKey is a stealth application, it will hide your running programs from eyes.
Perfect for college students who want to chat in IRC all day.

Let's go!
--------
OK, Fire up bosskey and what do we see?
A nag, not only do we have a message box but a help file to close as well, ARGH!
You will also notice in the message that you can only stealth for 30 seconds at a time.
Now we are inside the program you can see a register button, let's click it and see where
it takes us, ah, enter serial.
tikka
1234

You will also notice in the message box that you can only stealth for 30

"The password you entered is incorrect!"
This isn't what we want, this is when the program is in stealth and user must enter a password
to unhide the hidden applications.
Further down we see, 'ASCII "The registration information you entered does not match'
Click this once and then press F2, F2 will set a Breakpoint (toggle) for when this message is
displayed.
It is now fine to close the strings window and start bosskey inside the debugger, to do this click the RUN icon or from the menu bar,
Debug -> Run (F9)

Next you will see the nagging messagebox and help file.
Close them, Click Register and enter tikka, 1234.
On one machine, OllyDBG kicks in here and needs me to click ok but on my other machine its doesn't
irritate me.
When you click ok, the debugger will kick in and you wont see the invalid registration box yet because the debugger stopped the program
just before it.

"The registration information you entered does not match our database.  Please make
sure you have entered your user name and serial number exactly as it was given."

Next you will see the napping messagebox and help file.
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On one machine, OllyDBG kicks in here and needs me to click ok but on my other machine its doesn't irritate me.
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just before it.

Well, it has already checked our fake serial number with the correct one inside the program.
It could be a good idea to use IDA and disassemble bosskey and look its dead listing,
Makes it easier to understand what the program is doing.

Let's scroll up in the debugger and see what happens before this message.

"The password you entered is incorrect!"
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When you click ok, the debugger will kick in and you won't see the invalid registration box yet because the debugger stopped the program
just before it.
invalid serial message.

-- begin note --
You are probably thinking let's patch this and make it accept any serial number.
Problem with this would be, when you restart the application it would have the wrong serial number stored in the registry and will mean the program starts up as unregistered every time.
-- end note --

Ok let's see if we can find the real registration by setting a breakpoint on the line

00404A8C JE SHORT BossKey.00404A9A
found above
00404A8E PUSH BossKey.0040B6F0 ; ASCII "Full Stealth Enabled"

using f2 we have set a break point on the line and now need to let the program continue running.
press f9 to run.

Ok, the message will appear saying that we have an invalid serial click ok to close that and click ok again to enter our fake serial.
The debugger will appear and our breakpoint will be there looking at us, When a serial is being generated inside the application memory registered store information.
If you look in the registers box (right hand window) you will see our fake username and serial.
EBX = "tikka"
ECX = "1234"

Unfortunately it seems the real serial is not there so let's trace back up the program some more.

lets step into the call "00404A7F CALL BossKey.00404B15" using F7

take a look at the first and last lines and notice the
"/" Beginning of call
| CODE
"/" End of call
this is handy when browsing the code because you can see that easily.
also notice the loop in the middle of this call?

our name is stored inside ECX, EAX is the loop integer. this means that when it wants the next letter in the string it will use this as the pointer.

eax ---------
ECX = "tikka"
EAX = 0
MOV DL,BYTE PTR DS:[ECX+EAX+1]
This will put inside DL the letter "i".
in BASIC it would look like
mid(name, EAX + 1, 1)
This is part of the Algorithm used to generate and compare the fake and real serials.
before the loop it gets our name and fake serial put into corresponding registers.
Altho at this stage only our name is important.

/MOV DL,BYTE PTR DS:[ECX+EAX+1] ; get the next letter in advance, t[i]kka
|TEST DL,DL ; Check to make sure serial has another letter
JE SHORT BossKey,00404A0F ; if the serial has an odd length if so jump

MOVX EDI,BYTE PTR DS:[ECX+EAX] ; move (t), the first letter into EDI

MOVX EDIL,DL ; contents of dl to go into EDX (dl is set 4 lines above)

IMUL EDI,EDX ; Multiply the ascii values of EDX and EDI storing in EDI
ADO EDI,EDI ; Add EDI with EDI, EDI now holds the TOTAL
INC ECX ; increment the loop integer by 1

CMP BYTE PTR DS:[ECX+EAX],0 ; check to see if we are at the end of the username
JNZ SHORT BossKey.00404AD4 ; if so do whatever next

If the serial number is off odd length then it will multiply edx with 7B (123 in decimal).

after the algorithm it must check to see if our name and serial match the serial that has just been generated ;)

-- begin note --
If you would like to watch the algorithm in action you could set a break point on the first line of the loop and step through the code line by line.
-- end note --

handy being able to see calls and loops easily isn't it ;)

00404ABA  /$ 8B4424 08 MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]
00404ABE |. 56 PUSH ESI
00404ABB |. 33C9 XOR ECX,ECX
The next breakpoint we will set on 00404B01 \PUSH BossKey.0040B708 \; |format = "%X" reason is that %X means capitalised Hex value.
we know that the algorithm is manipulating our text in hex so lets breakpoint here and continue the program.

keep telling the debugger to run until application lets you enter the serial again, on the third or so go it will continue out of the break points we set earlier.

click ok in the registration dialog to enter our name and serial. duh! stepping into the call just press F9 (run)
and the debugger will stop at our last break point, format = "%X".
We see nothing in the registers so lets step over the code F8.
lets keep stepping over any calls we find, we will come to RETN which will return the code back to the calling routine keep stepping and try to watch the box under the disassembled code window while watching this aswell to see whats happening.

7 presses of F8 after the breakpoint on 00404B01 \PUSH BossKey.0040B708 \; |format = "%X"
we have a check:
00404B0A \; 50 \PUSH EAX \; /s2 = "8AE8"
00404B11 \; 56 \PUSH ESI \; /s1
00404B12 \; FF74 24 1A \CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&MSVCRT._mbscmp>] \; \_mbscmp
EAX hold the generated serial
ESI holds our fake one
_mbscmp compares the two arguments.
00404B13 \; 5E \POP ESI
00404B14 \; .C3 \RETN

i hope you have had fun ;)}
Introduction
---------------
This is going to be a follow up from the serial fishing example in the last issue, using the same
target which is bosskey by sonetics.
I plan to make this tutorial small as its 5am and i should be in bed ;) 
besides im sure i covered plenty in the last issue so use it for reference if you need.

Converting from asm to c
------------------------

```asm
00404ABF XOR ECX,ECX                   ; ecx = 0
00404AC1 XOR ESI,ESI                   ; esi = 0
00404AC3 AND BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],0       ;          nothing really happening
00404AC6 MOV EAX, DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]  ;  just making sure there is a name entered
00404ACA TEST EAX,EAX                  ;  moving stuff around, doesn't affect us for
00404ACC JE SHORT BossKey.00404B13     ;    the keygen at all so lets move on ;)
00404ACE CMP BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],0       ;
00404AD1 PUSH EDI                      ;           if no name skip algo
00404AD2 JE SHORT BossKey.00404AF0     ;
ECX holds our name
: start
/ MOV DL, BYTE PTR DS:[ECX+EAX+1]   ; get the next letter in advance, tikka
| TEST DL, DL                       ; Check to make sure serial has another letter
| MOV ECX, 0x08B740000               ; move (4)th, the first letter into EDI
| IMUL EDX, EDX                      ; Multiply the ascii values of EDX and EDI storing in ESI
| ADD ESI, EDI                       ; Add EDI with ESI, ESI now holds the TOTAL
| INC ECX                            ; incremented it again by 1
| INC ECX                            ; reason is that, because it scans a letter in advance
| CMP BYTE PTR DS:[ECX+EAX],0        ; so to it keep lined up properly it must do this.
| JNZ SHORT start of loop           ; if not at end of string jump to start of loop
00404AF0 MOV AL, BYTE PTR DS:[ECX+EAX] ; check if there is an even number of characters
00404AF3 MOV EDX, DL                 ;
00404AF4 TEST AL, AL
00404AF6 JE SHORT BossKey.0040B708   ; if its even then jump over the next part of algo
00404AF8 MOV EAX, DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+8]; move AL (last characters hex value) into EAX
00404AFB MOV EDX, EAX, EAX           ;
00404AFD ADD EDI, EAX                ;
00404AFC INC ECX                     ;
00404AFE INC ECX                     ;
// 8A0401         MOV AL, BYTE PTR DS:[ECX+EAX]           ;
//. 5F             POP EDI                                  ;
//. 84C0           TEST AL, AL
//. 74 08          JE SHORT BossKey.0040B708                ; if its even then jump over the next part of algo
//. 0FBEC0         MOVSX EAX, AL                             ;
//. 6BC0 7B        IMUL EAX, EAX, 7B                          ; multiply last letters value with 7B (123 decimal)
//. 03F0           ADD ESI, EAX                              ;
//. 03F0           ADD ESI, EAX                              ;
//. 08 02C0        PUSH BossKey.0040B708                    ; |
//. 7424 14        PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+14]               ; |
//. FF7424 14      PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+14]               ; |
//. 08 02C0        PUSH BossKey.0040B708                    ; |
//. 7424 14        PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+14]               ; |

Explaination
-----------
It gets your name "tikka",
Then converts each character into its ascii value,
it takes the second, then first characters of each cycle in the loop ; t and i
multiplies them together
then stores into a buffer which we could say is the total
it makes eax = eax + 2
this is because we are moving along in steps of 2
gets k*k then adds to total (which already has the value of i*t)
increments eax by 2 again
realizes that we are at the end of our name
and there is an odd length of characters and jumps to the next section; a and 7B
it then multiplies 'a' with 7B
adds to total
makes it into uppercase hex.

c++

```c
#include <string.h>
#include <stdio.h>

// bosskey

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
  int total = 0;
  int i = 0; char name[1024];
  printf("Enter name: "); gets(name);
  while(i < strlen(name) + 1) {
    char ch1 = name[i];
    char ch2 = name[i+1];
    int mix; mix = ch1 * ch2;
    if (ch2==0) { mix = ch1*123; }
    total = total + mix; i++; }
  printf("The serial: \
```
if at the moment you cannot understand c++ then here is basic quiv
QBasic4.5

lastone = 0
INPUT "enter your name: ", name$
IF LEN(name$) > 20 THEN PRINT "name to long"; : END
IF name$ = "" THEN name$ = "akkit"
FOR b = 1 TO LEN(name$) STEP 2
    a = ASC(MID$(name$, b, 1))
    IF b = LEN(name$) GOTO 20 ELSE c = ASC(MID$(name$, b + 1, 1))
    GOSUB algo
NEXT b
20 blah = (a * 123)
current = current + blah
GOTO exit1
algo:
current2 = a * c
current = current2 + lastone
lastone = current2
RETURN
exit1:
PRINT "Serial: ";
PRINT HEX$(current)
PRINT "more tutorials at http://www.tikka-d.co.uk"

I have also included a mIRC script for the keygen,
alias /keygen {
    var %i = 1
    var %ch1 = 0
    var %ch2 = 0
    var %mix = 0
    var %last = 0
:start
    if %i > $len($1-) { goto end }
    if $mid($1-, $calc( %i + 1 ) , 1 ) = $null { goto section2 }
    set %ch1 $asc($mid($1-, $calc(%i), 1))
    set %ch2 $asc($mid($1-, $calc(%i + 1), 1))
    set %mix $calc(%ch1 * %ch2)
    set %last $calc(%last + %mix)
    inc %i
    inc %i
    goto start
:section2
    set %ch1 $asc($mid($1-, $calc(1)), 1))
    set %mix $calc(%ch1 * 123)
    set %last $calc(%last + %mix)
:end
    //say #1,0Key#15gen# #14# $+ $1- $+ # # $+ $base(%last,10,16) $+ #
}

I really recommend learning c, visual basic is not going to do you any favours. QBasic can make exes but best to do it in c. mIRC script example was coz i was bored.

Special thanks to henson for help with converting between languages.
Introduction
-------------

Today we are going to talk about resource modification which is often referred to as resource hacking which sounds pretty pants but the tool that I like is "resource hacker" which isn't so pants. I just downloaded it because I haven't needed it for such a long time but when I did I found a really nice function that has been added since last time I downloaded. Resource hacker now has a function for adding resources to the dialog, I mean from a dialog you can select what you would like to add whereas before you needed to know the scripting side of things. When I first became interested in changing the appearance of an application was when I hex edited mIRC, which took me a really long time. I swapped the about and register menus around by changing their ID, which took me a really long time. I swapped the about and register menus around by changing their ID and redesigned the about box to appear registered, removed the version reply and also modified the title bar from MIRC32 to my scripts name. Using a program called microangelo which is an icon editor I was able to change the icon as well. Now using resource hacker you can do everything you need.

In this paper I will demonstrate an extremely easy but handy modification to the Shoutcast DSP plugin for winamp. I hate how you cannot minimize the DSP, or more to the point the size. All I want to see is the VU meter so to do this I made the dialog resizable.

Tools
-----

Resource Hacker, (free) http://www.users.on.net/johnson/resourcehacker/
Microangelo, (not free) http://www.microangelo.us/
Hex editor, this can be used to look at what changed but for this example I won't bother.

Target
------


SHOUTcast Source v1.8.2b
---------------------

I didn't check for the latest version before writing this, but this technique would work for other versions if they need it.
Download resource hacker.
Got it? Good!
open your winamp and look at the DSP plugin, no dialog control is frustrating so lets sort it out. In the preferences dialog unselect the DSP plugin this will unload the dll from memory, this will be handy for looking at changes. When the plugin has been modified, close and open winamp preferences as this will then list both the new and old plugin versions so you can easily compare the 2. Fire up resource hacker and open c:\program files\winamp\plugins\dsp_sc.dll,
[+] Icon
[+] Dialog
[+] Icon Group
[+] 240
we at present are only interested in Dialog, expand Dialog and expand the first item.
[+] Icon
[-] Dialog
[-] 101
X 1033
You will see "SHOUTcast Source" Dialog and a code window with the dialog shown as text.

101 DIALOGEX 0, 0, 188, 282
STYLE DS_CENTER | WS_MINIMIZEBOX | WS_POPUP | WS_CAPTION | WS_SYSMENU
EXITSTYLE BS_EX_CONTROLPARENT
CAPTION "SHOUTcast Source"
LANGUAGE LANG_ENGLISH, SUBLANG_ENGLISH_US
PORT 8, "MS Sans Serif"
CONTROL Tab1, 1000, "SysTabControl32", TCS_TABS | WS_CHILD | WS_VISIBLE | WS_TABSTOP, 2, 2, 184, 279
CONTROL **, 1001, BUTTON, WS_GROUPBOX | WS_CHILD, 8, 17, 171, 257
|
You will see "SHOUTcast Source" Dialog and a code window with the dialog shown as text.

You can change the dialogs caption, size and what you see from the code above.
STYLE DS_CENTER | WS_MINIMIZEBOX | WS_POPUP | WS_CAPTION | WS_SYSMENU

That is what is set for the dialog at design time, other properties are set during runtime. For example, you cannot resize the dialog but in the code window it says:
WS_MINIMIZEBOX which means the dialog can be minimized but when we see it running it has been disabled. What can we do instead? Well instead of getting into the code and stopping it being disabled lets just make it resizable. change the style line from:
STYLE DS_CENTER | WS_MINIMIZEBOX | WS_POPUP | WS_CAPTION | WS_SYSMENU
to:
STYLE DS_CENTER | WS_MINIMIZEBOX | WS_POPUP | WS_CAPTION | WS_SYSMENU | WS_THICKFRAME
Nice and simple, click compile script and then save.
In Winamp Preferences, Click on the DSP plugin and now try to resize.
REM
REM This Keygen is not commented due to the fact that it is not much different from
REM the bosskey keygen, altho the registers have been used for the variable names
REM for simplicity. Forgive me for the crap loops at the very end, i couldnt be
REM afraid to find a nice little command to do it instead... altho i do realise
REM that one loop, removing spaces would of done it... ah well, it werks fine :)
REM
REM This was coded using QBasic4.5 reason is that it can compile .exe's
REM besides i like it ;)
REM use google to find "qbasic45" thats where i found it.
REM
REM If you require a more indepth tutorial or perhaps ported to another language
REM then feel free to email me.
REM
CLS
INPUT "Enter Username: ", str1$
IF str1$ = "" THEN PRINT "Invalid Length": END
edx = 0
eax = 0
ebx = ecx = 107
FOR eax = 1 TO LEN(str1$)
edx = ASC(MID$(str1$, eax, 1))
edx = edx + edx * 4
ecx = ecx + edx * 4
NEXT eax
section1 = ebx
section2 = ecx
section3 = edx
section4 = eax
PRINT "Serial Number: ";
FOR a = 2 TO LEN(STR$(section1))
PRINT MID$(STR$(section1), a, 1); NEXT a
PRINT "-", a
FOR a = 2 TO LEN(STR$(section2))
PRINT MID$(STR$(section2), a, 1); NEXT a
PRINT ";-", a
FOR a = 2 TO LEN(STR$(section3))
PRINT MID$(STR$(section3), a, 1); NEXT a
PRINT ";-", a
FOR a = 2 TO LEN(STR$(section4))
PRINT MID$(STR$(section4), a, 1); NEXT a
REM I love silly loops, dont you?
Any questions aim them at akkit_is@hotmail.com

Bored and want to chat somewhere?  
Http://www.turntablism.info/chat

Regards, Tikka.