

# An introduction to Firmware Analysis

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# Contents

- Motivation
- Prerequisites
- Obtaining a Firmware image
- Analyzing the Firmware image
- Modifying the Firmware image

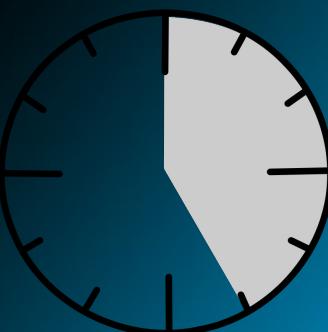
- Interoperability
- Fixing bugs because the manufacturer doesn't
- Forensics

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPTR
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPTR
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPTR,A
INC DPTR
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPTR,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@D PTR
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@D PTR
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @D PTR,A
INC D PTR
MOV A,R6
MOVX @D PTR,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Prerequisites

- Knowledge about embedded system's architectures
- Good knowledge of assembler languages
- Don't rely on decompilers
- To practice: Compile code on an embedded platform, then analyze the assembly output
- Device programmer?
- Time, time, time



# Obtaining a Firmware image - non-invasive -

- Download plain binary from manufacturer
- Download extracted binary from internet
- Download Bootdisk / USB / CD boot images, extract using Winrar (Windows) or mount the image (Linux)
- .bin / .hex / .s19 / .mot / .rom / .raw
- Convert non-bin-files to bin (e.g. hex2bin)

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Obtaining a Firmware image

## - non-invasive -

- Download an updater from manufacturer
  - (.exe → Windows)
- Updater types:
  - Selfextracting archive
  - Installer (like InstallShield, ...)
  - Updater containing an image
  - Updater downloading an image
  - Packed updater (UPX, PECompact, ...)

# Obtaining a Firmware image

## - non-invasive -

- Selfextracting archive:
  - „RARSFX“ signatures → unrar, WinRAR
  - „PK“ signatures → rename to .zip, unzip
- Installer (e.g. InstallShield)
  - Special unpacker (hard to use)
  - Let it install
    - Plain image
    - Updater

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Obtaining a Firmware image - non-invasive -

- Updater containing an image
  - Search image in executable (Hexeditor)
  - Writing a file → ProcessMonitor
- Updater downloading an image
  - Download to file → ProcessMonitor
  - Download to RAM → Debugger → Dump

# Obtaining a Firmware image - non-invasive -

- Packed Updater
  - Standard UPX → upx -d to unpack
  - Modified UPX → special unpacker
  - Other packers → special unpacker

# Obtaining a Firmware image - non-invasive -

- Problem: Compressed images
  - Normally unpacked before writing to the device (in RAM) → Debugger → Dump
  - Hard: FW is sent compressed to device → invasive techniques

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPTR
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPTR
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPTRA
INC DPTR
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPTRA
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Obtaining a Firmware image - non-invasive -

- Sniffing update transfer
  - WinXP: TraceSPTI (IDE / SATA / USB)
  - Linux: Wireshark (USB)
  - Various other tools
  - Problem: Image has to be reconstructed

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPTR
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPTR
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPTRA
INC DPTR
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPTRA
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Obtaining a Firmware image - invasive? -

- Serial interfaces

- Embedded Linux? → serial console
  - JTAG
  - More information: 27C3 talk

„JTAG/Serial/FLASH/PCB Embedded Reverse Engineering Tools and Techniques“

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=pCeedinviN0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCeedinviN0)

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Obtaining a Firmware image - invasive -

- FW in memory devices
  - (E)PROM (27...)
  - EEPROM / FLASH (28... / 29... / 39... / 49...)
  - Serial FLASH (25..., sometimes even 24...)
    - Becoming standard
    - Cheap readers / programmers

# Obtaining a Firmware image - invasive -

- FW in chip-internal memories
  - Proprietary interfaces → try using IDE
  - JTAG
  - Bootloaders (in ROM)
  - Microprobing
    - More information: 29C3 talk „Low-Cost Chip Microprobing“  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_MsQRpwRlw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_MsQRpwRlw)

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Obtaining a Firmware image - invasive -

- CPLDs and FPGAs
  - CPLDs: internal EEPROM
  - FPGAs: internal SRAM, external serial FLASH
  - are sold to be reverse-engineer-proof

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# We have the image!



**Congratulations!  
You've got a FW binary in  
front of you!  
But what's next?**

# Analyzing the FW binary

- Finding out processor / controller type
  - Datasheets?
  - Internet?
  - Trial and error, trying n different disassemblers
    - Specific disassembler
    - IDA
    - ODA (OnlineDisAssembler)

```
0e 43 4e 93  
04 34 3c 40  
07 00 7f e3  
5e 53 4c 93  
03 34 5e e3  
7f e3 5c 53  
0d 12 b0 12  
34 12 3a 41  
6d b3 02 24  
7d e3 5b 53  
5d b3 02 24  
7f e3 5e 53  
30 41
```

```
MOV A,R0  
SUBB A,#7  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,R2  
SUBB A,#0  
MOV R3,A  
MOV A,R1  
MUL AB  
ADD A,DPL  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,B  
ADDC A,DPH  
MOV R3,A  
RET  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPH,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPL,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
POP DPL  
POP DPH  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
DEC A  
SUBB A,R1  
XCH A,R0  
XCH A,R1  
XCH A,R3  
XCH A,R2  
XCH A,R3  
RET  
MOV A,R7  
MOVX @DPTRA  
INC DPTR  
MOV A,R6  
MOVX @DPTRA  
RET  
SETB RS0  
MOV P2,R2  
MOVX A,@R0  
CLR RS0  
RET
```

# Analyzing the FW binary

0e	43	4e	93
04	34	3c	40
07	00	7f	e3
5e	53	4c	93
03	34	5e	e3
7f	e3	5c	53
0d	12	b0	12
34	12	3a	41
6d	b3	02	24
7d	e3	5b	53
5d	b3	02	24
7f	e3	5e	53
30	41		

H8s?

0e43	addx	r4h, r3h	MOV A,R0
4e93	.word	H'4e,H'93	SUBB A,#7
0434	orc	#0x34,ccr	MOV R1,A
3c40	mov.b	r41,@0x40:8	MOV A,R2
0700	ldc	#0x0,ccr	SUBB A,#0
7fe3	.word	H'7f,H'e3	MOV R3,A
5e534c93	jsr	@0x534c93:24	MOV A,R1
0334	ldmac	er4,mac1	ADD A,DPL
5ee37fe3	jsr	@0xe37fe3:24	MOV R0,A
5c53	.word	H'5c,H'53	MOV A,B
0d12	mov.w	r1,r2	ADDC A,DPH
b012	subx	#0x12,r0h	MOV R3,A
3412	mov.b	r4h,@0x12:8	RET
3a41	mov.b	r21,@0x41:8	MOVX A,@R0
6db3	mov.w	r3,@-er3	DPH,A
0224	stmac	mach,er4	INC R0
7de3	.word	H'7d,H'e3	MOVX A,@R0
5b53	jmp	@@83 (0x53)	INC DPL,A
5db3	jsr	@@716 (0x2cc)	MOVX A,@R0
0224	stmac	mach,er4	RET
7fe3	.word	H'7f,H'e3	SETB RS0
5e533041	jsr	@0x533041:24	MOV P2,R2
			MOVX A,@R0
			CLR RS0
			RET

# Analyzing the FW binary

0e	43	4e	93
04	34	3c	40
07	00	7f	e3
5e	53	4c	93
03	34	5e	e3
7f	e3	5c	53
0d	12	b0	12
34	12	3a	41
6d	b3	02	24
7d	e3	5b	53
5d	b3	02	24
7f	e3	5e	53
30	41		

# MIPS?

934e430e	lbu	t6,17166(k0)	POP	DPH
403c3404		0x403c3404	MOVX	
e37f0007	sc	ra,7(k1)	@, @DPTR	
934c535e	lbu	t4,21342(k0)	DEC	A
e35e3403	sc	s8,13315(k0)	SUBB	A,R1
535ce37f	beql	k0, gp, 0xffffffffffff8e14	CH	A,R0
12b0120d	beq	s5, s0, 0x00004850	CH	A,R1
413a1234		0x413a1234	CH	A,R3
2402b36d	li	v0,-19603	RET	
535be37d	beql	k0, k1, 0xffffffffffff8e1c	MOV	A,R7
2402b35d	li	v0,-19619	MOVX	
535ee37f	beql	k0, s8, 0xffffffffffff8e2c	@DPTR,A	
			NC	DPTR
			MOV	A,R6
			MOVX	
			@DPTR,A	
			RET	
			SETB	RS0
			MOV	P2,R2
			MOVX	A,@R0
			CLR	RS0
			RET	

# Analyzing the FW binary

0e	43	4e	93
04	34	3c	40
07	00	7f	e3
5e	53	4c	93
03	34	5e	e3
7f	e3	5c	53
0d	12	b0	12
34	12	3a	41
6d	b3	02	24
7d	e3	5b	53
5d	b3	02	24
7f	e3	5e	53
30	41		

MN103?

0e434e	movbu	d3, (0x00004e43)
93	mov	a0, a3
04	clr	d1
343c40	movbu	(0x0000403c), d0
07007f	movhu	d1, (0x00007f00)
e3	add	d0, d3
5e53	mov	(83, sp), a2
4c	inc	d3
93	mov	a0, a3
03345e	movhu	d0, (0x00005e34)
e3	add	d0, d3
7f	mov	(a3), d3
e3	add	d0, d3
5c53	mov	(83, sp), a0
0d12b0	mov	d3, (0x0000b012)
12	extb	d2
34123a	movbu	(0x00003a12), d0
41	inc	a0
6d	mov	d3, (a1)
b3	cmp	a0, a3
02247d	movbu	d0, (0x00007d24)
e3	add	d0, d3
5b53	mov	(83, sp), d3
5db3	mov	(179, sp), a1
02247f	movbu	d0, (0x00007f24)
e3	add	d0, d3
5e53	mov	(83, sp), a2

0e	43	4e	93
04	34	3c	40
07	00	7f	e3
5e	53	4c	93
03	34	5e	e3
7f	e3	5c	53
0d	12	b0	12
34	12	3a	41
6d	b3	02	24
7d	e3	5b	53
5d	b3	02	24
7f	e3	5e	53
30	41		

# MSP430?

0e43	clr	r14	
4e93	cmp.b	#0,	r14
0434	jge	\$+10	
3c400700	mov	#7,	r12
7fe3	xor.b	#-1,	r15
5e53	inc.b	r14	
4c93	cmp.b	#0,	r12
0334	jge	\$+8	
5ee3	xor.b	#1,	r14
7fe3	xor.b	#-1,	r15
5c53	inc.b	r12	
0d12	push	r13	
b0123412	call	#4660	
3a41	pop	r10	
6db3	bit.b	#2,	r13
0224	jz	\$+6	
7de3	xor.b	#-1,	r13
5b53	inc.b	r11	
5db3	bit.b	#1,	r13
0224	jz	\$+6	
7fe3	xor.b	#-1,	r15
5e53	inc.b	r14	
3041	ret		

# Analyzing the FW binary

- Offset in file often != offset in address space
- No real problem with relative addressing
- Big problem in absolute addressing
- Entry point unknown
- Interrupt vectors unknown
- Subroutine calls do not make sense
- → Load offset must be found out

# Analyzing the FW binary

- Determination of load offset:
  - Method „call distance search“
  - Select closely located subroutines addresses
  - Decide to use either return instructions or function entry sequences
  - Build search string containing wildcards

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Analyzing the FW binary

```
0000: 12 01 00 lcall 0x0100
0003: 12 01 03 lcall 0x0107
0006: 12 01 07 lcall 0x0103
0009: 22          ret
000A: E0          movx   a, @dptr
000B: F0          movx   @dptr, a
000C: 22          ret
000D: 44 02        orl    a, #2
000F: F0          movx   @dptr, a
0010: 22          ret
0011: 7B 01        mov     r3, #1
0013: 22          ret
```

MOV A,R0  
SUBB A,#7  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,R2  
SUBB A,#0  
MOV R3,A  
MOV A,R1  
MUL AB  
ADD A,DPL  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,B  
ADDC A,DPH  
MOV R3,A  
RET  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPH,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPL,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
POP DPL  
POP DPH  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
DEC A  
SUBB A,R1  
XCH A,R0  
XCH A,R1  
XCH A,R3  
XCH A,R2  
XCH A,R3  
RET  
MOV A,R7  
MOVX @DPTRA  
INC DPTR  
MOV A,R6  
MOVX @DPTRA  
RET  
SETB RS0  
MOV P2,R2  
MOVX A,@R0  
CLR RS0  
RET

MOV A,R0  
SUBB A,#7  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,R2  
SUBB A,#0  
MOV R3,A  
MOV A,R1  
MUL AB  
ADD A,DPL  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,B  
ADDC A,DPH  
MOV R3,A  
RET  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPH,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPL,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
POP DPL  
POP DPH  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
DEC A  
SUBB A,R1  
XCH A,R0  
XCH A,R1  
XCH A,R3  
XCH A,R2  
XCH A,R3  
RET  
MOV A,R7  
MOVX @DPTR,A  
INC DPTR  
MOV A,R6  
MOVX @DPTR,A  
RET  
SETB RS0  
MOV P2,R2  
MOVX A,@R0  
CLR RS0  
RET

# Analyzing the FW binary

0000: 12 01 00	lcall 0x0100	0x0100
0003: 12 01 03	lcall 0x0107	0x0103
0006: 12 01 07	lcall 0x0103	0x0107
0009: 22	ret	
000A: E0	movx a, @dptra	
000B: F0	movx @dptra, a	
000C: 22	ret	
000D: 44 02	orl a, #2	
000F: F0	movx @dptra, a	
0010: 22	ret	
0011: 7B 01	mov r3, #1	
0013: 22	ret	

MOV A,R0  
SUBB A,#7  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,R2  
SUBB A,#0  
MOV R3,A  
MOV A,R1  
MUL AB  
ADD A,DPL  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,B  
ADDC A,DPH  
MOV R3,A  
RET  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPH,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPL,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
POP DPL  
POP DPH  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
DEC A  
SUBB A,R1  
XCH A,R0  
XCH A,R1  
XCH A,R3  
XCH A,R2  
XCH A,R3  
RET  
MOV A,R7  
MOVX @DPTR,A  
INC DPTR  
MOV A,R6  
MOVX @DPTR,A  
RET  
SETB RS0  
MOV P2,R2  
MOVX A,@R0  
CLR RS0  
RET

# Analyzing the FW binary

The diagram illustrates a sequence of assembly code with annotations:

0000: 12 01 00 lcall 0x0100	0x0100	>3
0003: 12 01 03 lcall 0x0107	0x0107	>4
0006: 12 01 07 lcall 0x0103	0x0103	
0009: 22 ret		
000A: E0 movx a, @dptra		
000B: F0 movx @dptra, a		
000C: 22 ret		
000D: 44 02 orl a, #2		
000F: F0 movx @dptra, a		
0010: 22 ret		
0011: 7B 01 mov r3, #1		
0013: 22 ret		

Annotations:

- Address 0x0100 is highlighted with a red box and labeled >3.
- Address 0x0107 is highlighted with a red box and labeled >4.
- Address 0x0103 is highlighted with a red box.
- Address 0x0100 is also connected by an arrow from address 0x0107.

MOV A,R0  
SUBB A,#7  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,R2  
SUBB A,#0  
MOV R3,A  
MOV A,R1  
MUL AB  
ADD A,DPL  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,B  
ADDC A,DPH  
MOV R3,A  
RET  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPH,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPL,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
POP DPL  
POP DPH  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
DEC A  
SUBB A,R1  
XCH A,R0  
XCH A,R1  
XCH A,R3  
XCH A,R2  
XCH A,R3  
RET  
MOV A,R7  
MOVX @DPTR,A  
INC DPTR  
MOV A,R6  
MOVX @DPTR,A  
RET  
SETB RS0  
MOV P2,R2  
MOVX A,@R0  
CLR RS0  
RET

# Analyzing the FW binary

0000: 12 01 00	lcall 0x0100	0x0100 >3
0003: 12 01 03	lcall 0x0107	0x0103 >4
0006: 12 01 07	lcall 0x0103	0x0107
0009: 22	ret	
000A: E0	movx a, @dptr	
000B: F0	movx @dptr, a	
000C: 22	ret	
000D: 44 02	orl a, #2	
000F: F0	movx @dptr, a	
0010: 22	ret	
0011: 7B 01	mov r3, #1	
0013: 22	ret	

Search string: 22 ?? ?? 22 ?? ?? ?? ?? 22 -> hit at 0x0009

MOV	A,R0
SUBB	A,#7
MOV	R1,A
MOV	A,R2
SUBB	A,#0
MOV	R3,A
MOV	A,R1
MUL	AB
ADD	A,DPL
MOV	R1,A
MOV	A,B
ADDC	A,DPH
MOV	R3,A
RET	
MOVX	A,@R0
MOV	DPH,A
INC	R0
MOVX	A,@R0
MOV	DPL,A
INC	R0
MOVX	
A,@DPTR	
POP	DPL
POP	DPH
MOVX	
A,@DPTR	
DEC	A
SUBB	A,R1
XCH	A,R0
XCH	A,R1
XCH	A,R3
XCH	A,R2
XCH	A,R3
RET	
MOV	A,R7
MOVX	
@DPTR,A	
INC	DPTR
MOV	A,R6
MOVX	
@DPTR,A	
RET	
SETB	RS0
MOV	P2,R2
MOVX	A,@R0
CLR	RS0
RET	

# Analyzing the FW binary

0000: 12 01 00	lcall	0x0100	0x0100	>3
0003: 12 01 03	lcall	0x0107	0x0103	>4
0006: 12 01 07	lcall	0x0103	0x0107	
0009: 22	ret			
000A: E0	movx	a, @dptr		
000B: F0	movx	@dptr, a		
000C: 22	ret			
000D: 44 02	orl	a, #2		
000F: F0	movx	@dptr, a		
0010: 22	ret			
0011: 7B 01	mov	r3, #1		
0013: 22	ret			

Search string: 22 ?? ?? 22 ?? ?? ?? ?? 22 -> hit at 0x0009

$$0x0100 - 0x000A = 0x00F6$$

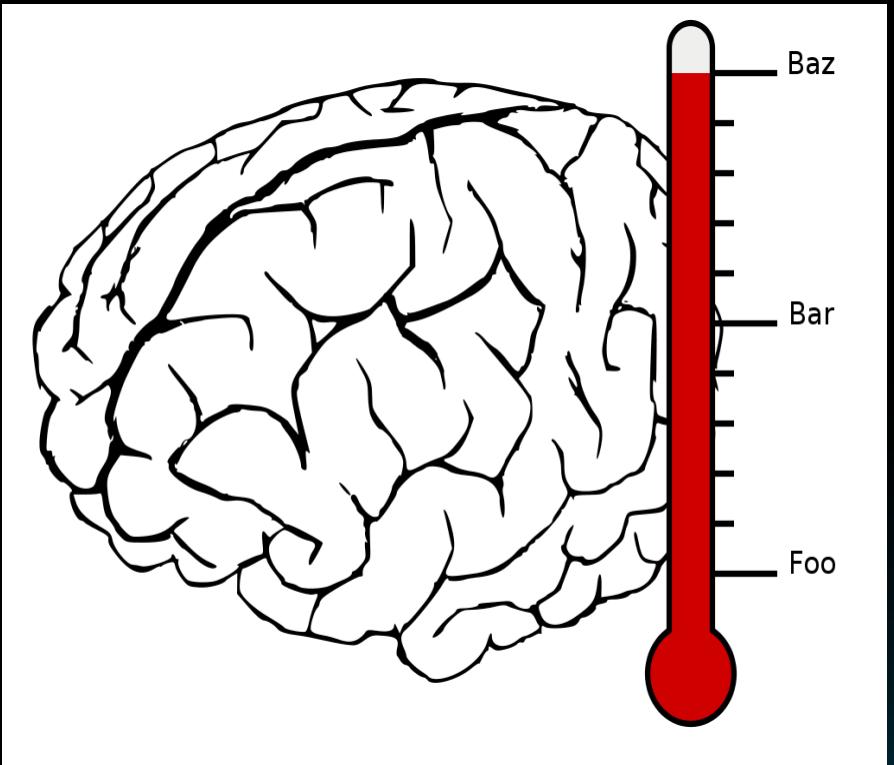
# Analyzing the FW binary

```
00F6: 12 01 00 lcall 0x0100
00F9: 12 01 03 lcall 0x0107
00FC: 12 01 07 lcall 0x0103
00FF: 22          ret
0100: E0          movx  a, @dptr
0101: F0          movx  @dptr, a
0102: 22          ret
0103: 44 02        orl   a, #2
0105: F0          movx  @dptr, a
0106: 22          ret
0107: 7B 01        mov    r3, #1
0109: 22          ret
```

MOV A,R0  
SUBB A,#7  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,R2  
SUBB A,#0  
MOV R3,A  
MOV A,R1  
MUL AB  
ADD A,DPL  
MOV R1,A  
MOV A,B  
ADDC A,DPH  
MOV R3,A  
RET  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPH,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@R0  
MOV DPL,A  
INC R0  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
POP DPL  
POP DPH  
MOVX A,@DPTR  
DEC A  
SUBB A,R1  
XCH A,R0  
XCH A,R1  
XCH A,R3  
XCH A,R2  
XCH A,R3  
RET  
MOV A,R7  
MOVX @DPTRA  
INC DPTR  
MOV A,R6  
MOVX @DPTRA  
RET  
SETB RS0  
MOV P2,R2  
MOVX A,@R0  
CLR RS0  
RET

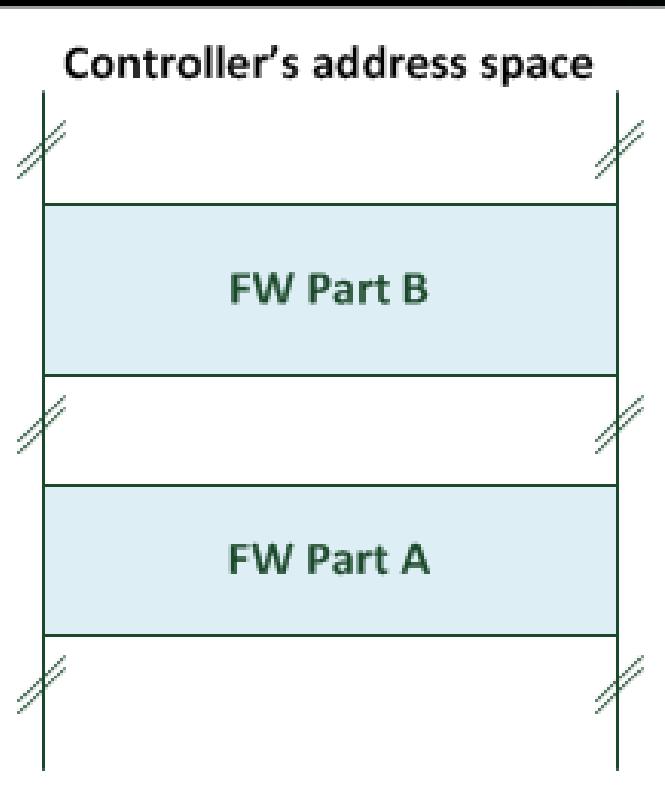
```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Analyzing the FW binary



# Analyzing the FW binary

- Question: Is there additional FW?
- Jumps and calls to destinations outside the FW?
  - e.g. chip-internal?
- See chapter „Modification“



```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Analyzing the FW binary

- Starting reverse engineering of the code
- Search for strings and references to the strings
- Search for very specific data references / operands
  - USB descriptor fields (`lsusb -v...`)
  - USB magics („USBC“ and „USBS“)
  - IDE / SATA / ATAPI ID strings
  - Typical communicated data blocks
  - Error codes (either strings or in code)

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@D PTR
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@D PTR
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @D PTR,A
INC D PTR
MOV A,R6
MOVX @D PTR,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

- Very interesting: Finding FW update sequences
- Allows non-invasive modifications
- e.g. chip erase and programming commands

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPTR
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPTR
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPTR,A
INC DPTR
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPTR,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# Modifying the FW binary

**Now we've learned a lot about our device  
and its FW...**

**Ready to modify it?**



```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

- # Modifying the FW binary
- Be prepared to brick your device
  - Integrity checks
    - SW based checksum calculation
    - HW based checksum calculation
    - Combination of both = more than one checksum
  - Correct checksums
  - Patch checksum algorithms

# Modifying the FW binary

- Goals:
  - Correcting errors
  - Dumping additional memory regions
    - Find or implement memcpy routine
    - Write memory contents to output (buffers)
  - Gather more device internal information

- Inject the modified FW into device
  - Using the original updater (checksum check?)
  - Re-programming memory device / processor
  - Via serial interface (JTAG, proprietary)

```
MOV A,R0
SUBB A,#7
MOV R1,A
MOV A,R2
SUBB A,#0
MOV R3,A
MOV A,R1
MUL AB
ADD A,DPL
MOV R1,A
MOV A,B
ADDC A,DPH
MOV R3,A
RET
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPH,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@R0
MOV DPL,A
INC R0
MOVX A,@DPT
POP DPL
POP DPH
MOVX A,@DPT
DEC A
SUBB A,R1
XCH A,R0
XCH A,R1
XCH A,R3
XCH A,R2
XCH A,R3
RET
MOV A,R7
MOVX @DPT,A
INC DPT
MOV A,R6
MOVX @DPT,A
RET
SETB RS0
MOV P2,R2
MOVX A,@R0
CLR RS0
RET
```

# The end

That's it for now...



```
mov ax, 0x10D0
xor ax, 0x2013
ax = ???
```

# Links

- Hex-Rays IDA 5.0 Freeware version

[https://www.hex-rays.com/products/ida/support/  
download\\_freeware.shtml](https://www.hex-rays.com/products/ida/support/download_freeware.shtml)

- OnlineDisAssembler

[www.onlinedisassembler.com](http://www.onlinedisassembler.com)

- Process Monitor

[http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/  
bb896645.aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896645.aspx)

# List of references

- Pictures on slides x to x are taken from [www.onlinedisassembler.com](http://www.onlinedisassembler.com) screen output
- Cliparts are taken from [www.openclipart.org](http://www.openclipart.org)