simpliFiRE.IDAscope

An IDA Pro extension for easier (malware) reverse engineering

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Fraunhofer FKIE

Some words about myself

- Personal background
  - PhD student and researcher at University of Bonn & Fraunhofer FKIE
    - Research focus: Reverse Engineering
    - Work focus: malware analysis and botnet mitigation

- Projects
  - Author of 2011 ENISA Botnet Study [1]
  - PyBox [2]
    - Userland-hooking framework (with Felix Leder)
  - AntiRE [3]
    - An Executable Collection of Anti-Reversing Techniques

PYTHON SANDBOX

[1] http://www.enisa.europa.eu/act/res/botnets/botnets-measurement-detection-disinfection-and-defence
[2] http://code.google.com/p/pyboxed [3] https://bitbucket.org/fkie_cd_dare/simplifire.antire

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simpliFiRE.IDAscope

Current State

IDAscope
… in a nutshell

- An IDA Pro extension for easier (malware) reverse engineering.
- Motivated by the current workflow of working with IDA Pro.
  - Repeat: „Identify relevant parts of the binary; tear apart; document findings.“
- Common tasks:

1
  - Malware RE usually starts with the corner pieces: strings, API calls, signature hits, …
    - API calls are a good indicator for function semantics.

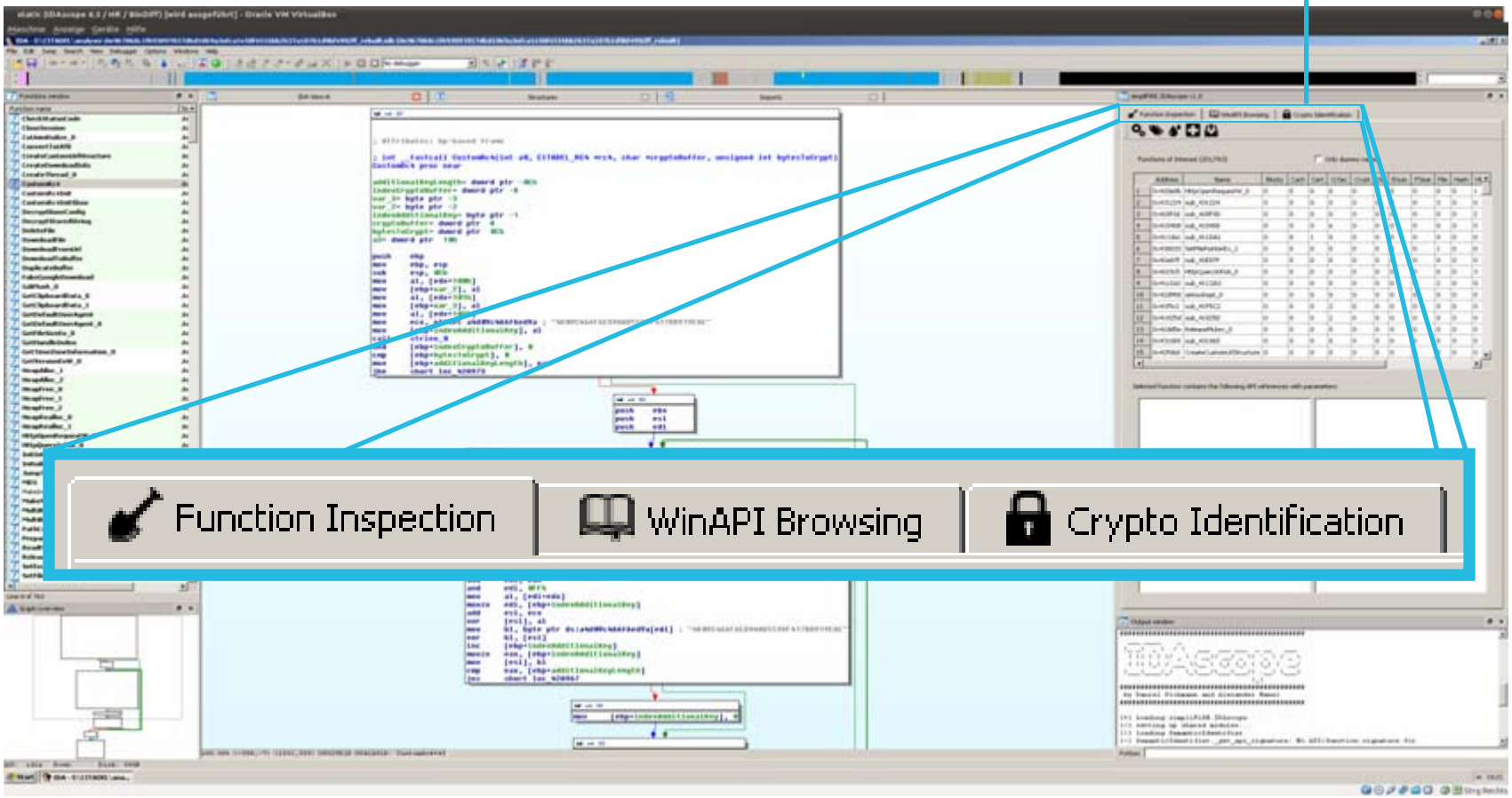
2
  - Reoccurring need for looking up things in MSDN.
    - Switch windows time and time again…

3
  - C&C communication schemes are of high interest!
    - Find and understand cryptographic routines used.

- Idea:
  - Provide automation/integration of „helpers“ that assist with regularly performed tasks.

IDAscope
Overview

- Functionality organized in tabs
- Main window can be dragged around like every other IDA view.

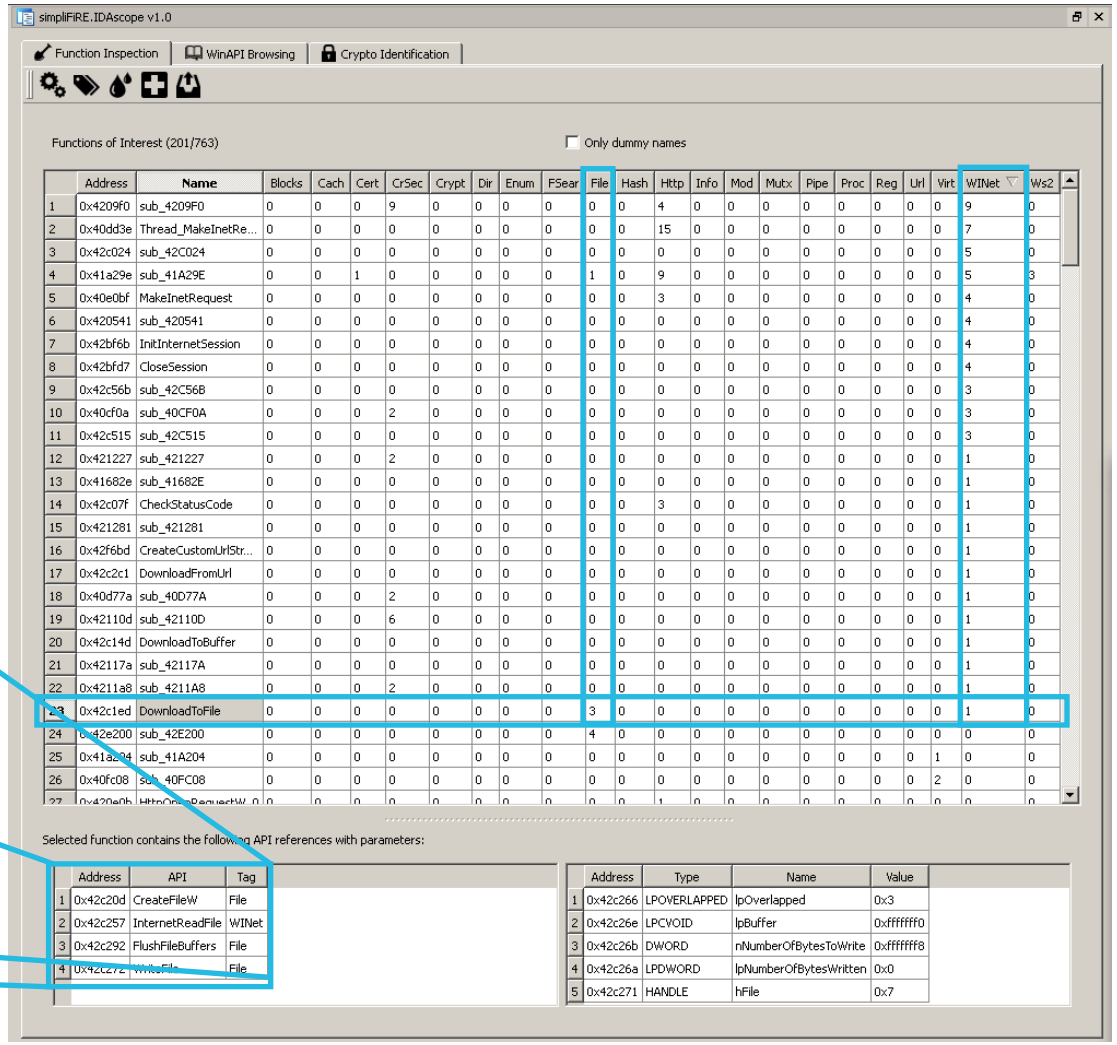


IDAscope: Features

1) Function Inspection

- Tagging of functions
  - Based on API calls
  - APIs can be specified via config
  - Renaming with tags possible
- Example
  - **DownloadToFile** consists of API calls tagged with File and Network

	Address	API	Tag
1	0x42c20d	CreateFileW	File
2	0x42c257	InternetReadFile	WINet
3	0x42c292	FlushFileBuffers	File
4	0x42c272	WriteFile	File



IDAscope: Features

1) Function Inspection

- Coloring of basic blocks
  - Based on API semantics
  - Colors can be adjusted
- More an experiment :)

Sysinfo/Registry

File Access

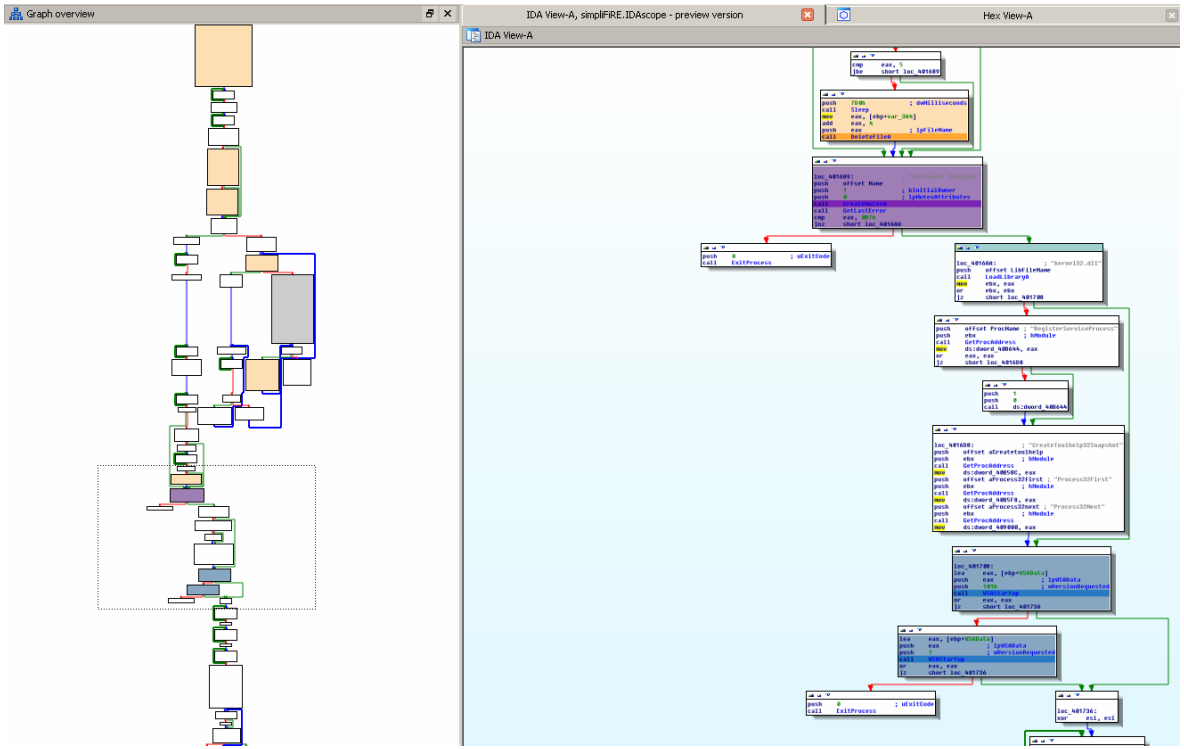
Memory Access

Crypto

Network

Execution

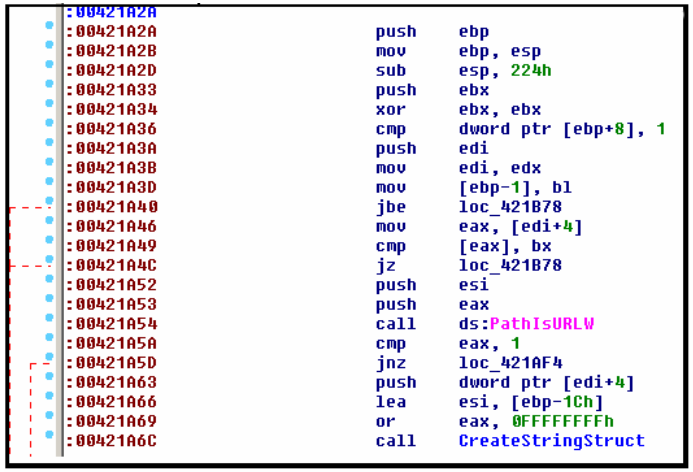
Multi

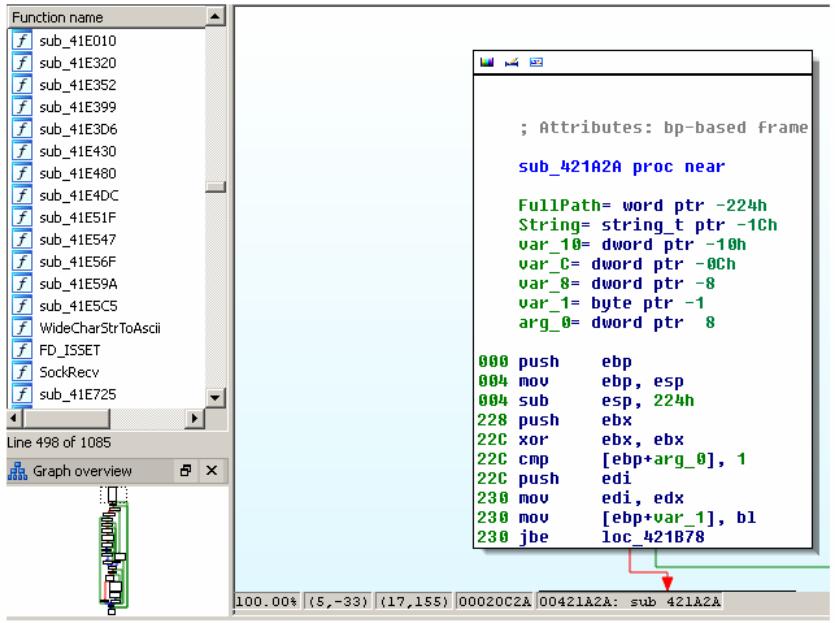


IDAscope: Features

1) Function Inspection

- Code to function conversion
  - Function prologues get handled first
  - Then remaining undefined areas
  - Opens these code sections to further analysis

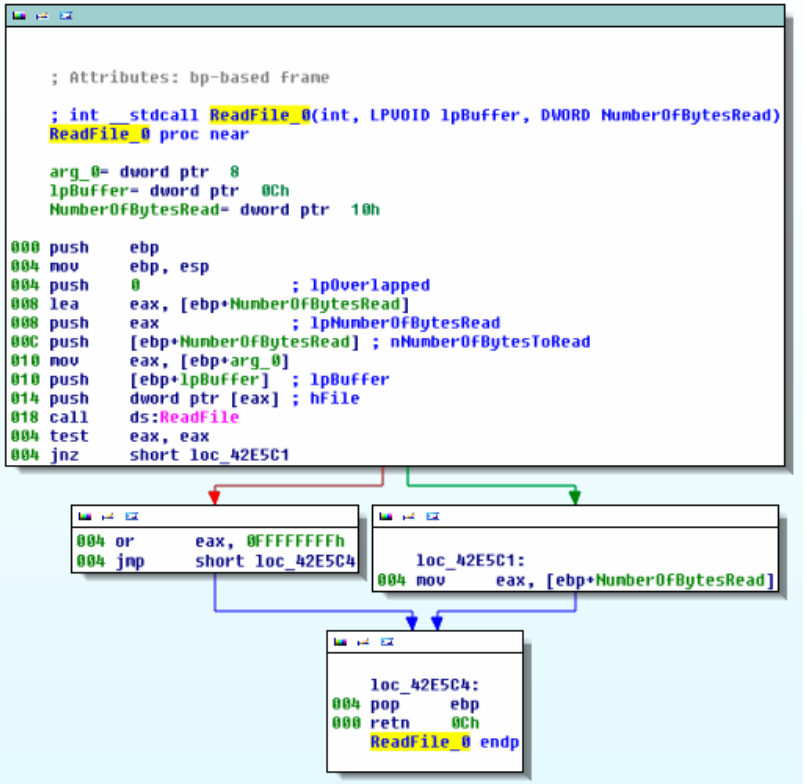




IDAscope: Features

1) Function Inspection

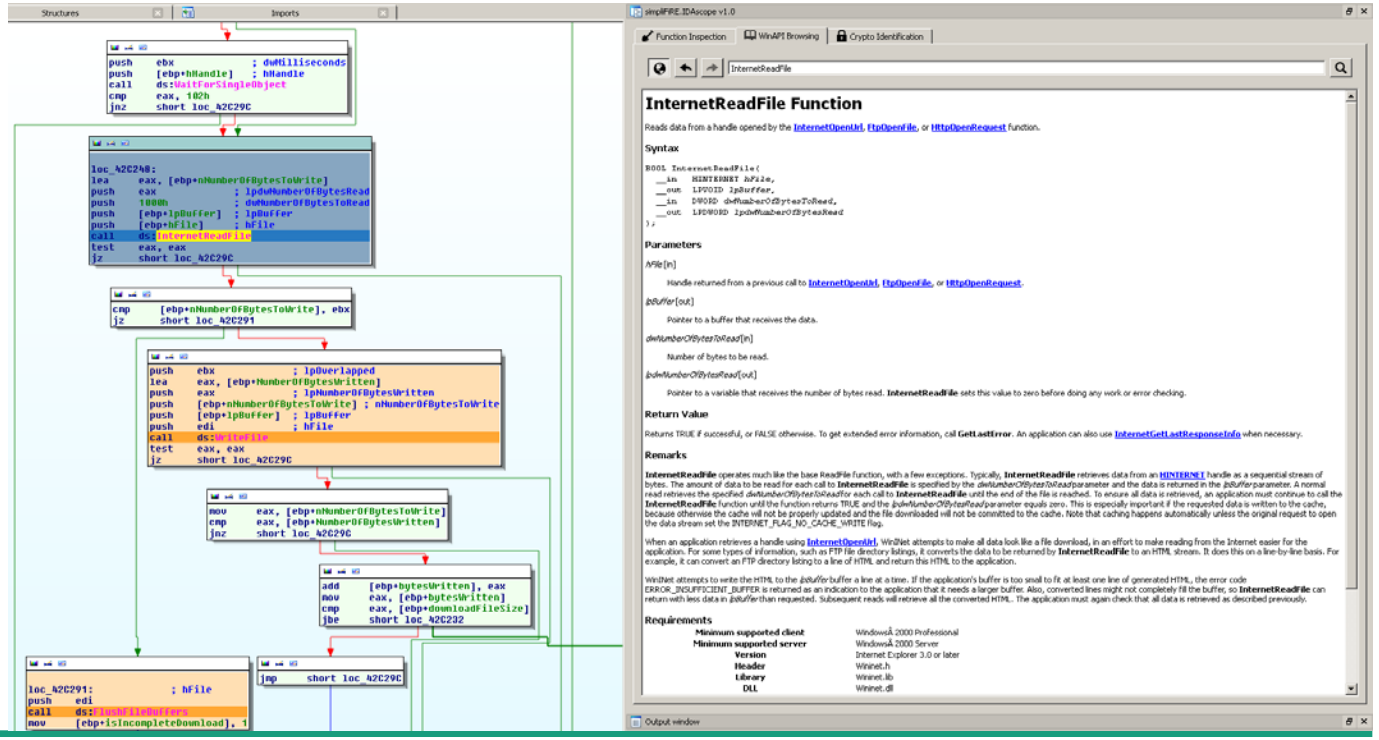
- Automatic renaming of wrapper functions
  - Credits go to Branko Spasojevic (author of Optimice) for providing the code!




```
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [0040931a] to [memcpy_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [00409595] to [InitializeCriticalSection_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [00409c31] to [memcmp_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [00409c67] to [memcpy_1]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [00410f50] to [CreateFileMappingW_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [004lca4d] to [VirtualQueryEx_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [004lda77] to [CoInitializeEx_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [004ldaa8] to [CoUninitialize_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [004ldae3] to [CoCreateInstance_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [00420elc] to [StrCmpNIA_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [00422b7b] to [GdiFlush_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [004279f7] to [HeapAlloc_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [004282dc] to [LoadLibraryW_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [0042blbc] to [PathMatchSpecW_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [0042b535] to [CreateEventW_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [0042bfbl] to [WaitForSingleObject_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [0042d8ae] to [__imp_memset_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [0042e53d] to [SetFilePointerEx_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [0042e57f] to [SetFilePointerEx_1]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [0042e59e] to [ReadFile_0]
Identified and renamed potential wrapper @ [00436fe0] to [SetUnhandledExceptionFilter_0
```

IDAscope: Features
2) WinAPI Browsing

- Seamless integration of MSDN in IDA Pro
  - accessible via shortcut on highlighted elements
  - Now also with online lookup!
  - But not multi-threaded / no backgrounded lookups yet



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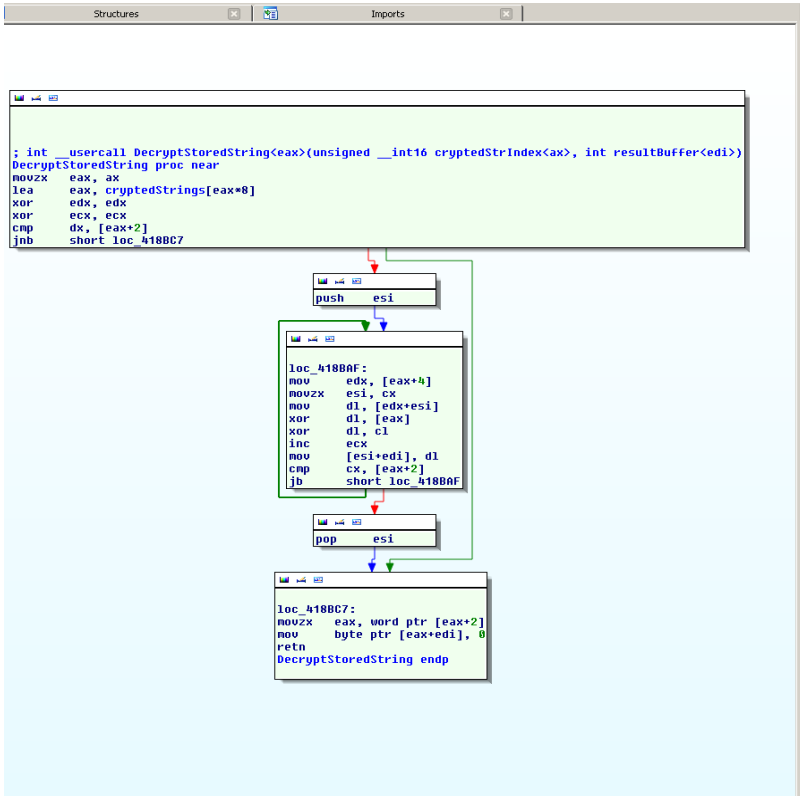
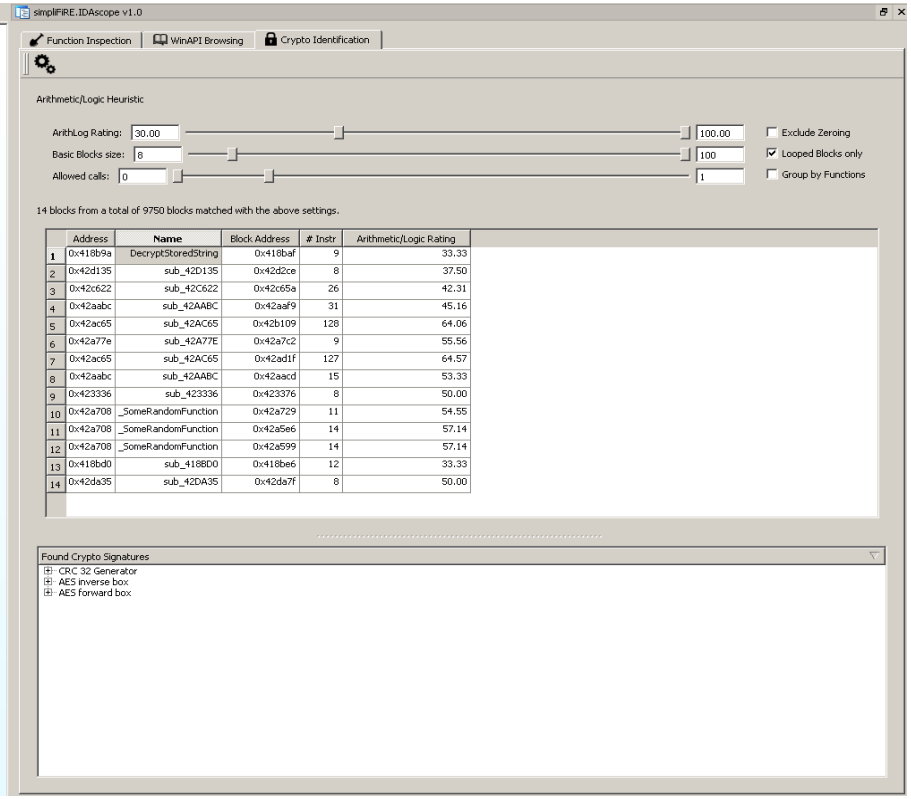
IDAscope: Features
3) Crypto Identification

- Identification of cryptographic / compression routines
  - Based on ratio of arithmetic / logic instructions to all instructions in a basic block
  - Approach described in „Dispatcher: Enabling Active Botnet Infiltration using Automatic Protocol Reverse-Engineering“ by Juan Caballero et al.





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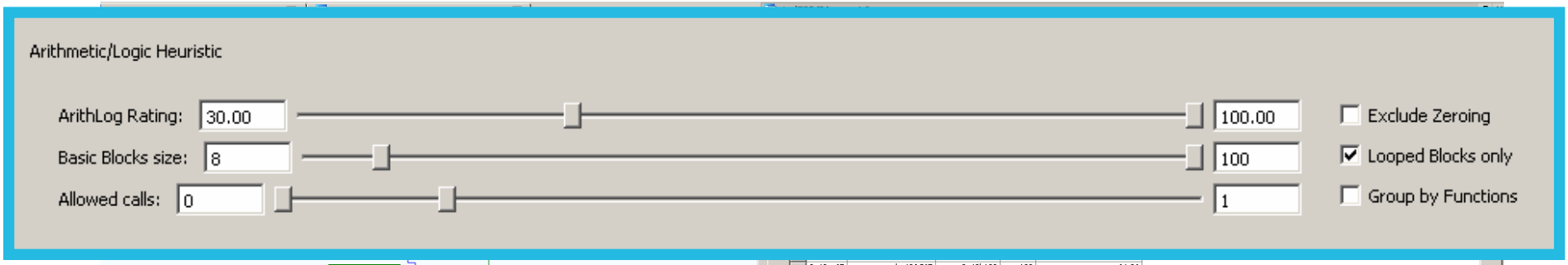

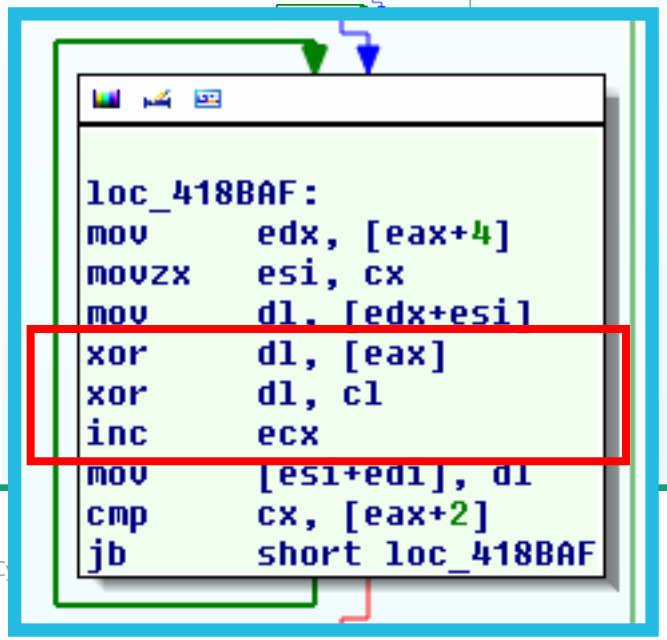

Example: Citadel string decryption.

1) 3 AritlogInstructions / 9 Instructions = 33% rating
2) 9 instructions
3) 0 calls
4) Is a looped basic block

=> Matches above parameters

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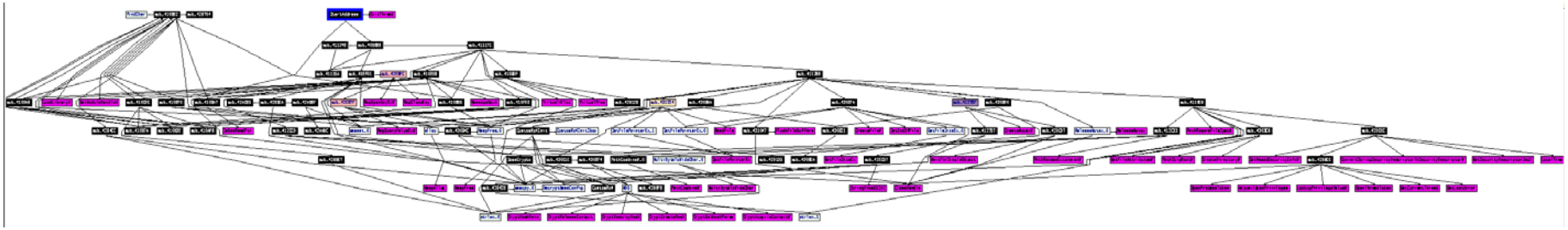
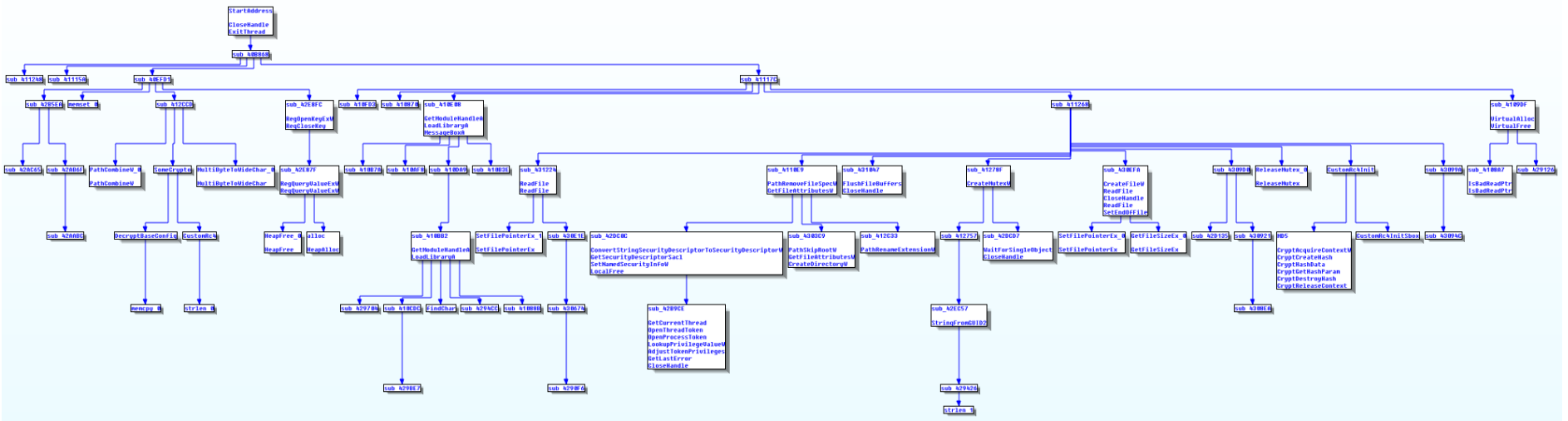
Future Plans

IDAscope: Future Plans
4) Threads / Function Relationship

- Threads and function call chains are a good indicator of functionality
  - A „big picture“ would be very helpful.
  - My opinion: We need something better than this (WinGraph) or step by step navigation via xrefs.



  - Same function scope as IDA graph (IDAPython API has limited graph support), not much better:..

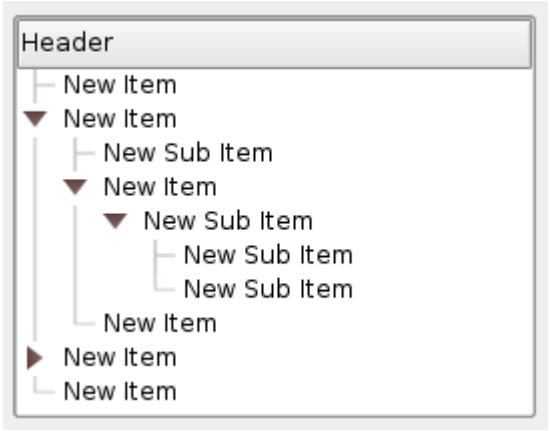


IDAscope: Future Plans
4) Threads / Function Relationship

- Threads and function call chains are a good indicator of functionality
  - Same displayed as tree, generated with Alex' script [4]

```
CreateThread Call 0x40bc39
StartAddress (lpStartAddr)
  sub_40B868
    sub_40EFD1
      memset_0
      sub_412CCD
        SomeCrypto
          DecryptBaseConfig
            memcpy_0
          CustomRc4
            strlen_0
        MultiByteToWideChar_0
          * Call MultiByteToWideChar
        PathCombineW_0
          * Call PathCombineW
      sub_42E8FC
        * Call RegOpenKeyExW
        sub_42E87F
          * Call RegQueryValueExW
          alloc
            * Call HeapAlloc
          * Call RegQueryValueExW
          HeapFree_0
            * Call HeapFree
        * Call RegCloseKey
      sub_42B5EA
        sub_42AB6F
          sub_42AABC
        sub_42AC65
    sub_41115A
    sub_41117C
      sub_411268
sub_41278F
      sub_412757
        sub_42EC57
          sub_429426
            strlen_1
          * Call StringFromGUID2
        * Call CreateMutexW
        sub_42DCD7
          * Call WaitForSingleObject
          * Call CloseHandle
      sub_4110E9
        sub_412C33
          * Call PathRenameExtensionW
        * Call PathRemoveFileSpecW
        sub_4303C9
          * Call PathSkipRootW
          * Call GetFileAttributesW
          * Call CreateDirectoryW
        sub_42DC0C
          sub_42B9CE
            * Call GetCurrentThread
            * Call OpenThreadToken
            * Call OpenProcessToken
            * Call LookupPrivilegeValueW
            * Call AdjustTokenPrivileges
            * Call GetLastError
            * Call CloseHandle
          * Call ConvertStringSecurityDescriptorToSecurityDescriptorW
          * Call GetSecurityDescriptorSacl
          * Call SetNamedSecurityInfoW
          * Call LocalFree
        * Call GetFileAttributesW
```

?



Use a TreeWidget for rendering?

[4] http://hooked-on-mnemonics.blogspot.com/2012/08/ida-thread-analysis-sript.html

IDAscope
Conclusion

- Start using it! :)
  - Repository at
    - http://idascope.pnx.tf
      (points to: https://bitbucket.org/daniel_plohmann/simplifire.idascope)
  - I report about updates
    - in my blog: http://blog.pnx.tf
    - on twitter @push_pnx
  - Alex has a blog, too: http://hooked-on-mnemonics.blogspot.com
- Send feedback or ideas for improvement!
  - idascope@pnx.tf