# CSC 471/583 Spring 2022 Lab 3

#### Dr. Si Chen

### Stack and Stack Frame

The goals of this lab:

- Understanding the concepts of Stack and Stack Frame.
- Know how to use OllyDbg to modify binary files.

### Objectives and Targets

Please download the lab3.exe into your Windows XP VM and run it. It will pop up a Nag screen (Shown in Fig. 1). Your task is to complete remove the Nag screen by modifying the binary program using OllyDbg.

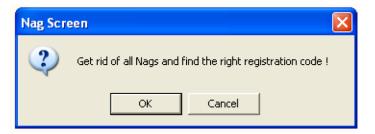


Figure 1: Nag Screen of lab3

#### **Experiment Setup**

- 1. Boot up windows XP inside VirtualBox.
- 2. Inside windows XP, download or copy the lab3.exe to a folder.

  https://www.cs.wcupa.edu/schen/malware2022/download/lab3.exe
- 3. Use Ollydbg to open lab3.exe.
- 4. Read the following questions (in the next section) and answer them in your report.

### Lab Questions

Figure 2: Dissembled code of lab3 - 0x402CFE

Dr. Chen figures out that this program is developed by the ancient Visual Basic (VB) language. And he finds that in 0x402CFE, the program is calling a VB function named rtcMsgBox(), which is the root cause of the annoying Nag screen (shown in Figure.3). So he plans to delete this function call to get rid of the Nag screen. He modify the instruction on 0x402CFE, changing it from "CALL XXXX" to "ADD ESP,14" (shown in Figure.4). Note that the length of CALL instruction is 5 bytes, and ADD instruction is 3 bytes, so OllyDbg will automatically add two "NOP" instructions to fill the remaining two bytes.

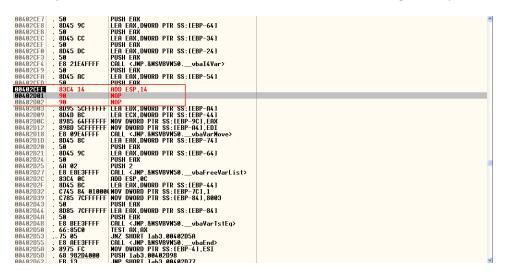


Figure 3: Modified dissembled code of lab3

However, this modification does not work – it keeps showing errors. After reading the code, he found that the function rtcMsgBox() should return a value 1 to indicate the message box

is successfully displayed, but his modification does not provide the correct return value.

Please answer the following question:

Which CPU register is used to store the return value (1) of the function rtcMsgBox()? Why?

```
| Company | Comp
```

Figure 4: Another way to modify the dissembled code of lab3

Dr. Chen find another way to "hack" this program. He changes the instruction on 0x402C17 from "PUSH EBP" to "RETN 4" (shown in Figure.4). And he successfully remove the Nag screen.

Please answer the following questions:

What's the meaning of "PUSH EBP, MOV EBP, ESP"?

Please explain why changing the instruction on 0x402C17 from "PUSH EBP" to "RETN 4" removes the Nag screen.

## Hint

Please check the lecture slides and video – Class 7 Stack and Stack Frame. Check Class 6 for IA32 CPU register and X86 ASM basics.

# **Submission**

- The lab due date is available on our course website. Late submission will not be accepted;
- The assignment should be submitted to D2L directly.

- Your submission should include: A detailed project report in PDF format to describe what you have done, including screenshots of the final result
- No copy or cheating is tolerated. If your work is based on others', please give clear attribution. Otherwise, you WILL FAIL this course.