

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

De-Obfuscating WebAssembly Using LLVM

Vikas Gupta & Peter Garba

Thales Cybersecurity & Digital Identity (CDI)



```
Decompile: w2c_squanchy_calc_0 - (nikari_bogus2_optimised_llvm_simba_gamba_souper.o)
1
2 int w2c_squanchy_calc_0(undefined8 param_1,uint param_2)
3
4 {
5     uint uVar1;
6     int iVar2;
7     int iVar3;
8
9     uVar1 = param_2 & 3;
10    iVar3 = (param_2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 | 4);
11    if (uVar1 != 2) {
12        iVar3 = (param_2 & 5) * (param_2 + 0xbaaad0bf);
13    }
14    iVar2 = (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 ^ 2);
15    if (uVar1 != 0) {
16        iVar2 = (param_2 & 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 + 3);
17    }
18    if (uVar1 < 2) {
19        iVar3 = iVar2;
20    }
21    return iVar3;
22 }
23
```

About Us

- **Vikas Gupta**

- Senior Security Researcher at *Thales CDI*, previously with *Google*.
- Masters in information security, OSCP Certified
- Co-Author OWASP Mobile Security Testing Guide (MSTG)
- Interests: Reverse engineering, mobile security

- **Peter Garba**

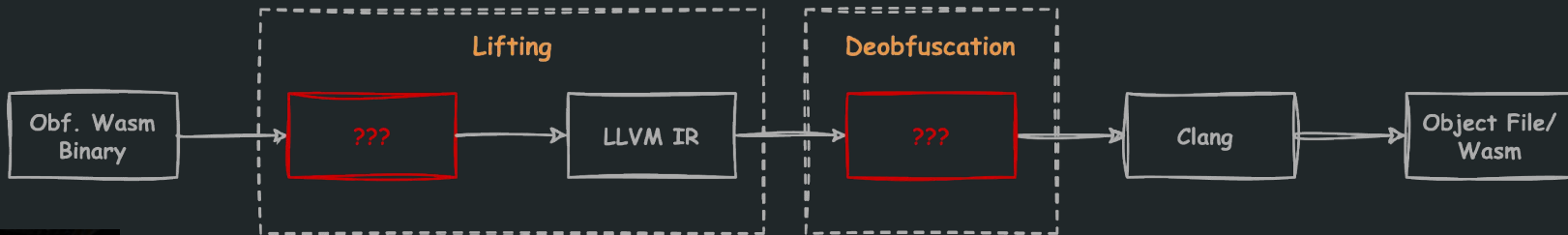
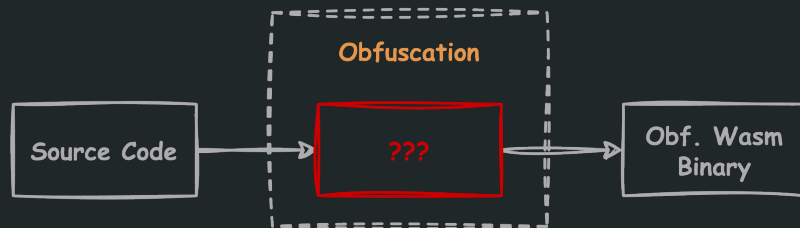
- Principal Software Security Engineer at *Thales CDI, Singapore*
- Product Owner
- Author of the Thales internal obfuscation tools
- Passionate reverse engineer at night.

Motivation



Problem Statement

1. Is Wasm secure for us?
2. Obfuscate Wasm binaries
3. Lifting Wasm to LLVM IR
4. Deobfuscate Wasm binaries & recover original logic



Achievements

- Demonstrating use of existing tooling for Wasm
 - Obfuscation
 - Deobfuscation
- Lifting Wasm to LLVM IR - Squanchy
- Automated deobfuscation of Wasm

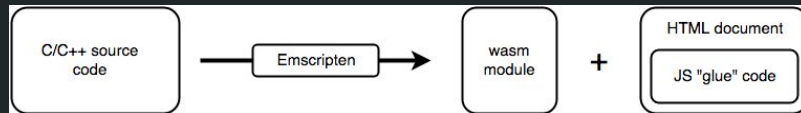




WebAssembly Essentials

WebAssembly Essentials

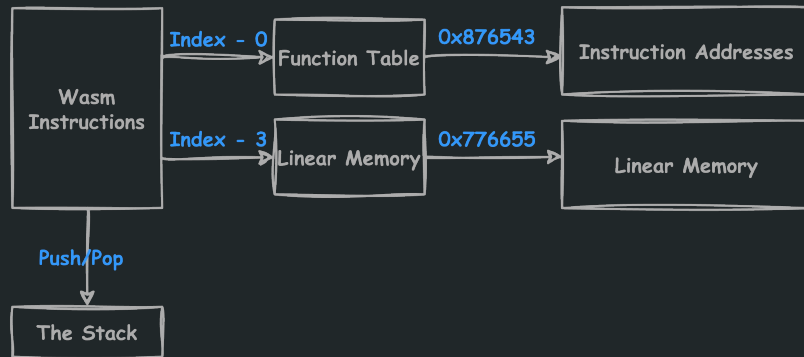
- Announced in 2015, a high-performance, secure, and portable compilation target.
- Binaries that are compact and quick to parse.
- Runs in a **stack based virtual machine** (think JVM)
 - Communicates with host program using well defined exports and imports
- Wide adoption
 - Games
 - Big web apps - Google Earth
 - Blockchain smart contracts
 - ...



WebAssembly Essentials

- Each Wasm program is a single file of code - **Module**.
- Module is organized in **sections**.
 - Sections - Export, imports, globals, functions etc.
- Indexed Spaces
 - Items can be accessed by a 0-based integer index
- **Code and data spaces are disjoint**
 - compiled programs cannot corrupt their execution environment
 - **Can not jump to arbitrary locations**
 - Perform other undefined behaviour

Memory Space	Read-write	List of linear memories, containing data elements, accessible by the load/store operators
Table Space	Read-only	Containing function pointers used for indirect invocation of functions
Global Space	Read-only or Read-Write	Containing read-write immutable global variables
Function Space	Read-only	Containing all imported and internal functions (and their bodies)



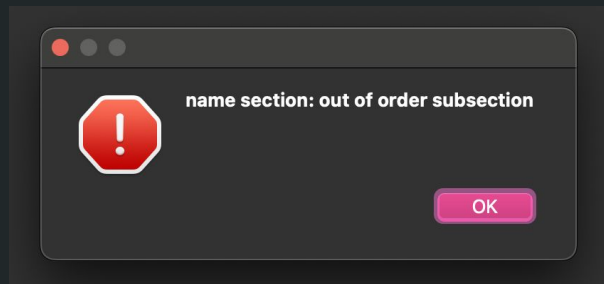


WebAssembly Tooling

WebAssembly Tooling

- [WebAssembly Binary Toolkit](#)
- [Wasm-tools](#)
- Ghidra
 - Using a [Wasm plugin](#)
 - Used to view decompiled Wasm
- IDA Pro v9
 - It is hit-n-miss with Wasm
 - Using to view object files
- JEB Pro

TOOL	PURPOSE
wasm2wat	Translate binary Wasm to text format (.wat).
wasm-objdump	Print info about wasm binary. Similar to objdump
wasm-decompile	Decompile a wasm binary into readable C-like syntax.
wasm2c	Convert a WebAssembly binary file to a C source and header
wasm-interp	Decode and run a WebAssembly binary file using a stack-based interpreter
wasm-mutate	A WebAssembly test case mutator, producing a new, mutated wasm module.
Wasm-validate	Validate a file in the WebAssembly binary format



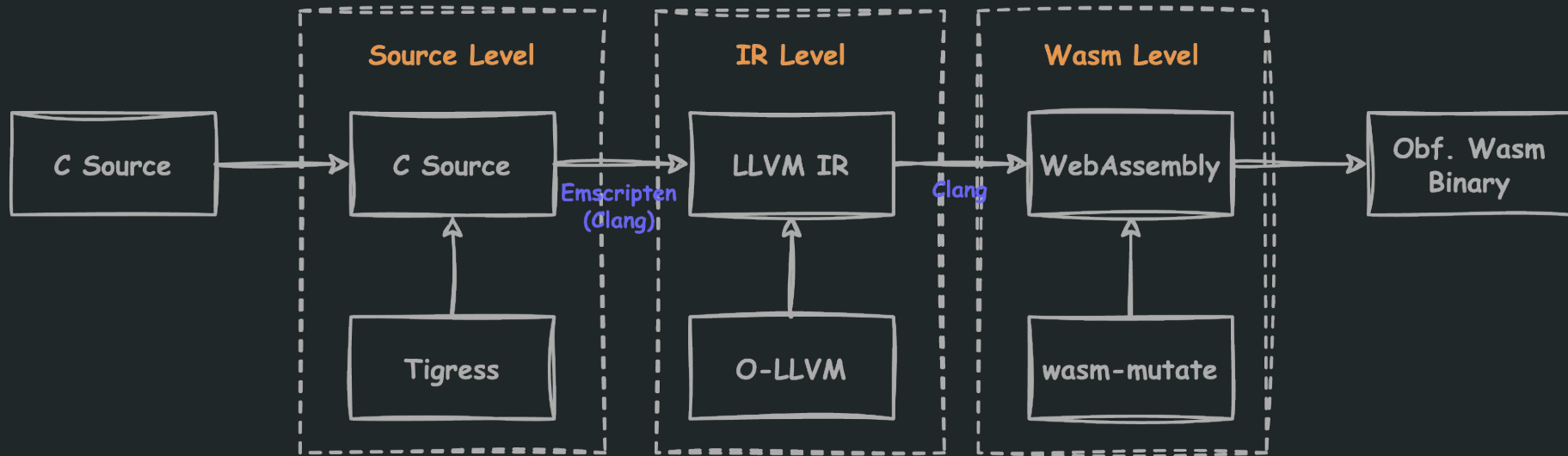


WebAssembly Obfuscation

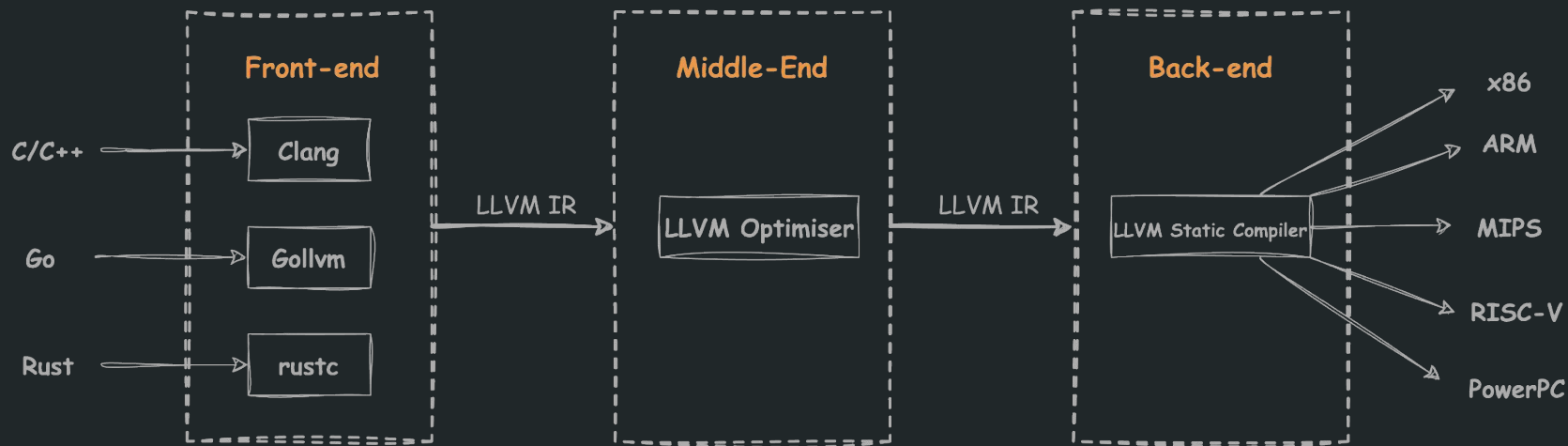
Obfuscation

- Obfuscation: Process of making a program harder to understand while preserving the original program's behavior.
- To make code unreadable, for reasons...
 - Malware author to avoid reversing
 - In apps, to prevent stealing/reversing of IP
 - Digital Rights Management (DRM)

WebAssembly Obfuscation: Approaches



Obfuscation Using LLVM



- Open Source Obfuscators: [O-LLVM](#), [Hikari](#), [Polaris](#)
- Works on the middle-end
- Approach is source language agnostic

LLVM Based Obfuscators

0-LLVM

- Instruction Substitution
- Control Flow Flattening
- Basic block splitting
- Bogus control flow

Hikari

- Bogus control flow
- Control Flow Flattening
- Function call Obfuscate
- Function wrapper
- Basic block splitting
- String encryption
- Instruction Substitution
- Indirect Branching

Polaris

- Alias Access
- Flattening
- Indirect Branch
- Indirect Call
- String Encryption
- Bogus Control Flow
- Instruction Substitution
- Merge Function
- Linear MBA

Obfuscation: O-LLVM Instruction Substitution

```
if (mod == 0) result = (n | 0xbaaad0bf) * (2 ^ n)
```

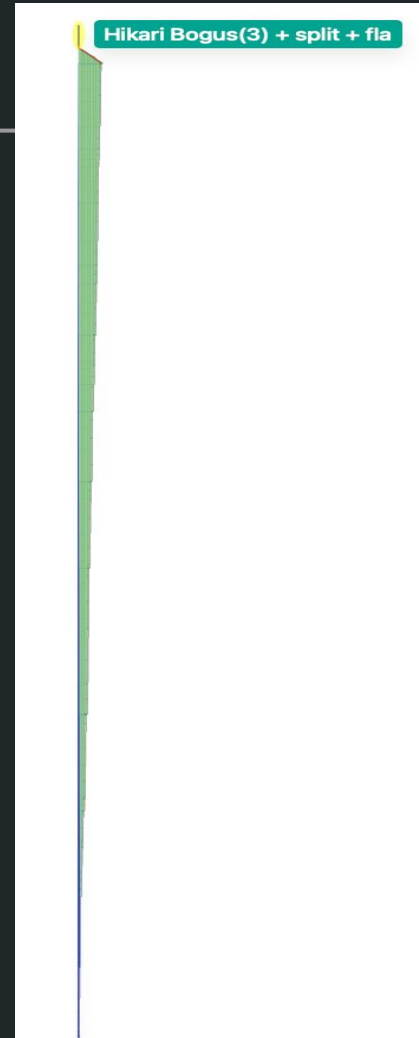
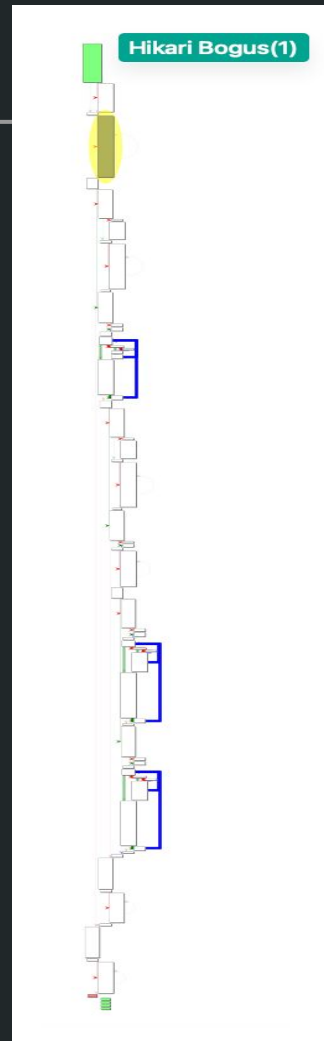
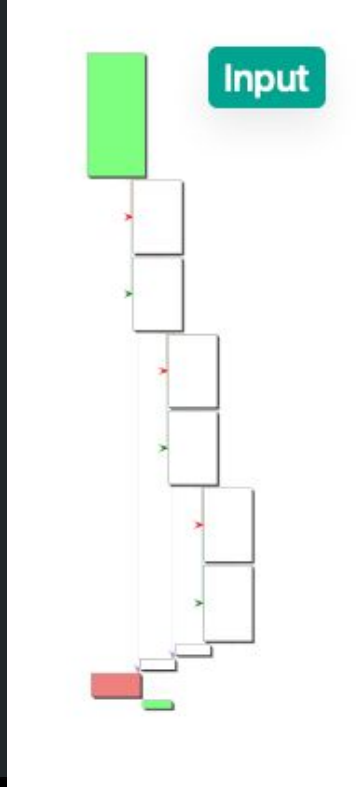
O-LLVM Instruction
Substitution (Loop=1)

```
if (iVar1 == 0) {  
    local_10 = (param1 & 0xbaaad0bf | param1 ^ 0xbaaad0bf) *  
    (((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xbcec65b1 | param1 & 0x43139a4e) ^ 0xbcec65b3);  
}
```

O-LLVM Instruction
Substitution (Loop=3)

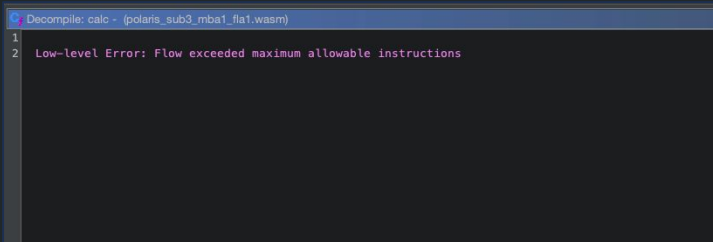
```
if (iVar1 == 0) {  
    uVar10 = param1 ^ 0xc9e645ce | (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x3619ba31;  
    uVar11 = ((uVar10 ^ 0x3619ba31) & 0x5c2ea1f5 | (uVar10 ^ 0xc9e645ce) & 0xa3d15e0a) ^ 0xf1571e9d  
    | uVar10 ^ 0x3619ba31;  
    uVar12 = ((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xad79bf68 | param1 & 0x52864097) ^ 0xffffffff |  
    param1 ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar4 = uVar11 | uVar12;  
    uVar11 = (uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff) & uVar11 | (uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff) & uVar12;  
    uVar12 = uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar11 = (uVar4 & 0xaea378c3 | (uVar4 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x515c873c) ^  
    (uVar12 & 0xaea378c3 | uVar11 & 0x515c873c) | (uVar4 | uVar12) ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar12 = ((uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xcdb3224a | uVar11 & 0x348cdeb5) ^ 0xcdb3224a | 0x604af11c;  
    uVar11 = uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff | 0x9fb50ee3;  
    uVar11 = (uVar12 & 0x5835bf98 | (uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xa7ca4067) ^  
    (uVar11 & 0x5835bf98 | uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xa7ca4067 |  
    (uVar12 | uVar11) ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar11 = (uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x8b866134 | uVar11 & 0x77999ecb;  
    uVar12 = uVar10 ^ 0x3619ba31 | 0xbaaad0bf;  
    uVar10 = (uVar10 ^ 0x3619ba31) & 0x565b27a0 | (uVar10 ^ 0xc9e645ce) & 0xa9a4d85f;  
    uVar4 = uVar10 ^ 0xecf171f1;  
    uVar12 = (uVar12 & 0xc4fa1585 | (uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x3b05ea7a) ^  
    (uVar4 & 0xc4fa1585 | (uVar10 ^ 0x130e08e0) & 0x3b05ea7a) |  
    (uVar12 | uVar4) ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar10 = (((uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xbe3c86ad | uVar12 & 0x41c37952) ^ 0xbe3c86ad | 0xe6842217)  
    ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar12 = (uVar12 ^ 0x197bdd8) & uVar12;  
    uVar10 = uVar10 & uVar12 | uVar10 ^ uVar12;  
    uVar10 = (uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x9d11e123 | uVar10 & 0x62ee1edd;  
    uVar10 = (uVar10 ^ 0x89a6a3ccb) & 0x61675078 | (uVar10 ^ 0x7b95c334) & 0x9e98af87;  
    uVar10 = (uVar10 ^ 0x61675078) & 0xa63617bd | (uVar10 ^ 0x9e98af87) & 0x59c9e842;  
    uVar12 = (uVar11 ^ uVar10 ^ 0xae3617bd) & uVar11;  
    uVar10 = ((uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xbccb6dd4 | uVar11 & 0x4339422b) ^  
    ((uVar10 ^ 0xae3617bd) & 0xbccb6dd4 | (uVar10 ^ 0x59c9e842) & 0x4339422b);  
    uVar11 = uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar4 = uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar5 = (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xaf91567b | param1 & 0x586ea984;  
    uVar6 = uVar5 ^ 0xaf91567b;  
    uVar5 = (uVar6 & 0xe30d84a7 | (uVar5 ^ 0x506ea984) & 0x1c727b58) ^ 0xe30d84a5 |  
    (uVar6 | 0xffffffff) ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar6 = (((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x7ce0ff1b | param1 & 0x831f004e) ^ 0xea109553) & 0x96f06ae2;  
    uVar7 = (param1 ^ 0xffffffff | 0x96f06ae2) ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar8 = uVar6 ^ uVar7;  
    uVar6 = (uVar8 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x690f951d | uVar6 & uVar7 | uVar8 & 0x96f06ae2;  
    uVar6 = uVar6 & 0xba8c5c70 | (uVar6 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x4573a38f;  
    uVar6 = (uVar6 & 0x4573a38f) & (uVar6 ^ 0xba8c5c72);  
    uVar7 = (uVar5 ^ 0xcba0a5819) & uVar5;  
    uVar8 = (uVar5 | 0x345a7a6) ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar9 = (uVar6 ^ 0x345a7a6) & (uVar6 ^ 0xffffffff);  
    uVar2 = (uVar6 ^ 0x345a7a6) & uVar6;  
    uVar7 = uVar7 & uVar8 | uVar7 ^ uVar8;  
    uVar8 = uVar9 ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar3 = uVar2 ^ 0xffffffff;  
    (uVar8 | uVar3) ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar7 = ((uVar7 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xefd84b11 | uVar7 & 0x1027b4ee) ^  
    ((uVar8 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xefd84b11 | uVar8 & 0x1027b4ee);  
    uVar5 = ((uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xffb73ee8 | uVar5 & 0x48c117) ^  
    (uVar6 & 0xffb73ee8 | (uVar6 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x48c117) |  
    (uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff | uVar6) ^ 0xffffffff;  
    uVar5 = (uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xa95ee2be | uVar5 & 0x56a1d41;  
    uVar6 = uVar5 ^ 0xa95ee2be;  
    uVar8 = uVar7 ^ 0xffffffff;  
    local_10 = ((uVar11 & 0x1e98326 | uVar12 & 0xf6167cd9) ^  
    (uVar4 & 0x1e98326 | uVar10 & 0xf6167cd9) | (uVar11 | uVar4) ^ 0xffffffff) *  
    ((uVar8 & 0xc877567 | uVar7 & 0x37588a98) ^  
    (uVar6 & 0xc877567 | uVar5 & 0x56a1d41) | (uVar5 ^ 0x37588a98) |  
    (uVar8 | uVar6) ^ 0xffffffff);  
}
```

Obfuscation: Control Flow



Obfuscation: Complexity Increases

- On applying obfuscation multiple times
 - Binary sizes can balloon, e.g to 12MB
 - 2k+ LoC of decompiled code.
 - Tools start to break

[illegible]



WebAssembly Deobfuscation

Deobfuscation

- Revert the transformations (sometimes impossible)
- Simplify the code to facilitate further analysis

- *Classical Obfuscation*
 - Obfuscation patterns, constant unfolding, junk code insertion
- *Classical Deobfuscation*
 - Pattern matching

- *Modern obfuscation*
 - Source Code Level
 - Intermediate representation level
- *Modern deobfuscation*
 - Several Intermediate Languages at different abstract layers
 - Based on generic optimization tools

SATURN: Compiler Based Deobfuscation

SATURN

Software Deobfuscation Framework Based on LLVM

Peter Garba*

Thales, DIS - Cybersecurity

Munich, Germany

peter.garba@thalesgroup.com

Matteo Favaro

Zimperium, Mobile Security

Noale, Italy

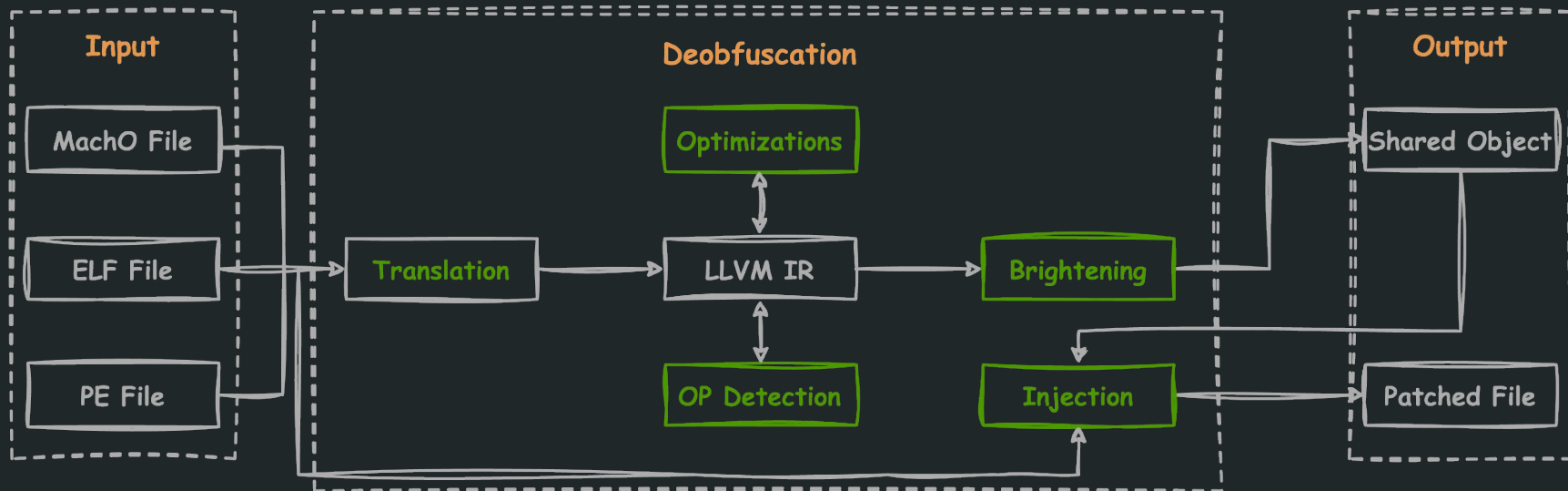
matteo.favaro@reversing.software

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- Generic approach for deobfuscation based on LLVM compiler infrastructure.
- Weaken certain obfuscation, and in best case completely remove them.

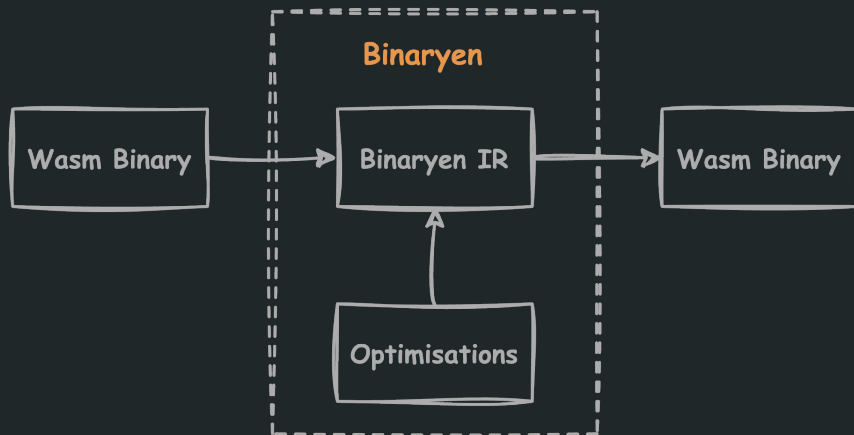


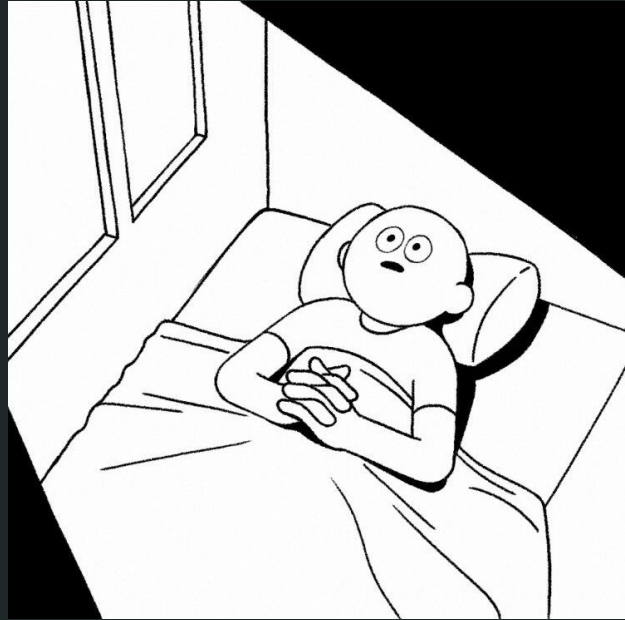
SATURN: Compiler Based Deobfuscation



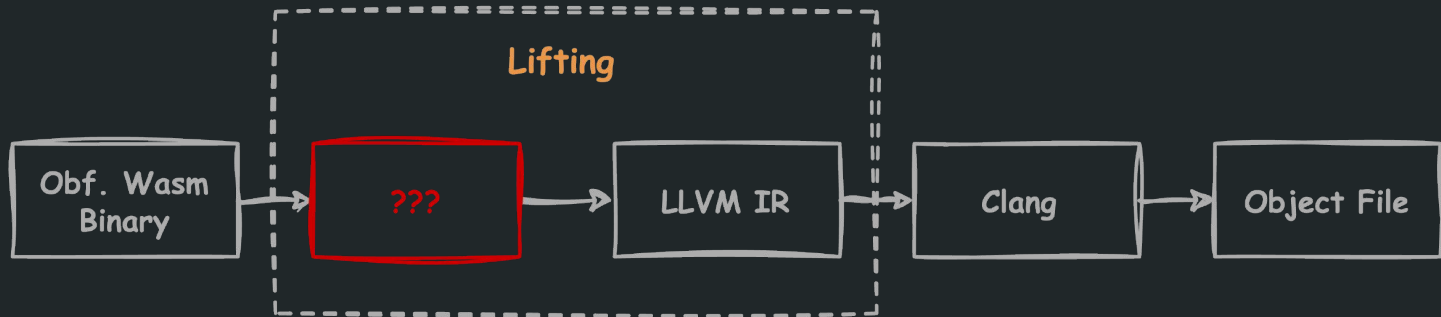
Binaryen

- Binaryen is a **compiler** and **toolchain infrastructure library** for Wasm.
- Binaryen's optimizer has many passes that can improve code size and speed.
- **Input Wasm, Output Wasm**
- Didn't work - no deobfuscation



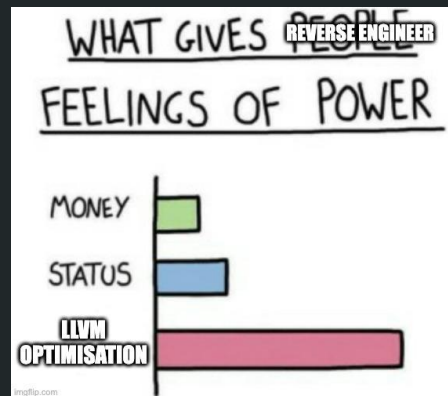


Lifting to LLVM IR



Why LLVM?

- LLVM - a target-independent optimizer and code generator.
- LLVM has a language-independent intermediate representation (IR)
- Advantages of using LLVM IR
 - World Class Optimizations and Analysis Passes
 - Feature rich intermediate language
 - Accessible API
 - Normalization
 - Several backends available for recompilation
 - It's fast!



Challenges of Lifting

- To leverage LLVM optimisation passes, requires lifting Wasm to LLVM IR.
- Challenges
 - Correctness
 - Captures side effects and expressiveness
 - Representation of the runtime environment
 - Stack machine to register machine transformation

Wasm Code Lifting to C: Lifting Principles

Wasm Code

```
.text
.file "add.c"
.funcname_type add (i32, i32) -> (i32)
.section .text.add,"",@
.hidden add
.globl add
.type add,@function

add:
    # @add
    .funcname_type add (i32, i32) -> (i32)
    # %bb.0:
    local.get 1
    local.get 0
    i32.add
    i32.const 15
    i32.add

end_function
```

Wasm Opcode Specification

Get Local

Mnemonic	Opcode	Immediates	Signature
local.get	0x20	\$id : varuint32	() : (\$T[1])

Integer Add

Mnemonic	Opcode	Signature
i32.add	0x6a	(i32, i32) : (i32)
i64.add	0x7c	(i64, i64) : (i64)

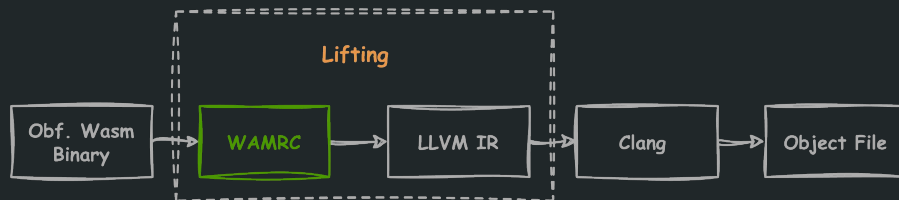
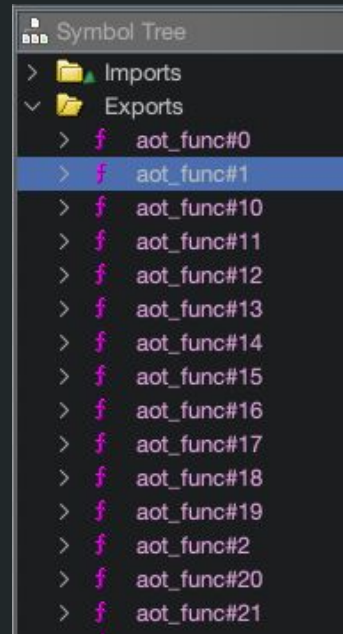
Mnemonic	Opcode	Immediates	Signature
i32.const	0x41	\$value : varsint32	() : (i32)

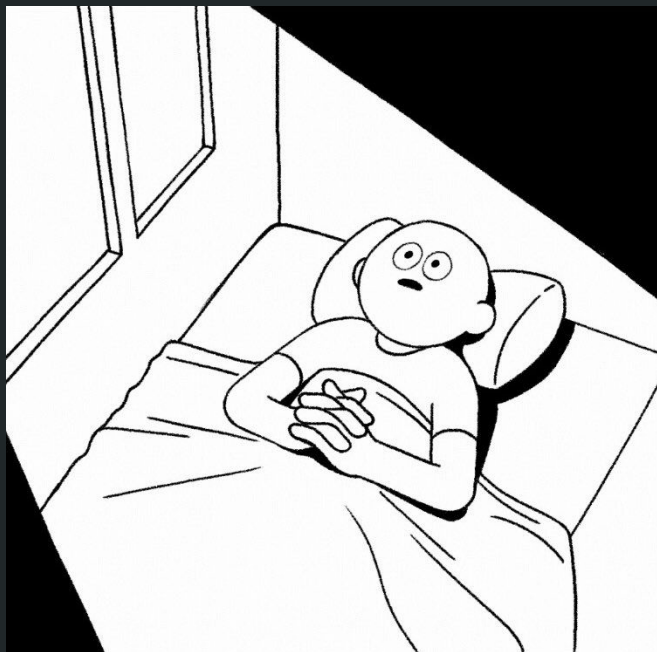
Lifted C Code

```
u32 add(u32 var_p0, u32 var_p1) {
    u32 var_i0, var_i1;
    var_i0 = var_p1;
    var_i1 = var_p0;
    var_i0 += var_i1;
    var_i1 = 15u;
    var_i0 += var_i1;
    return var_i0;
}
```

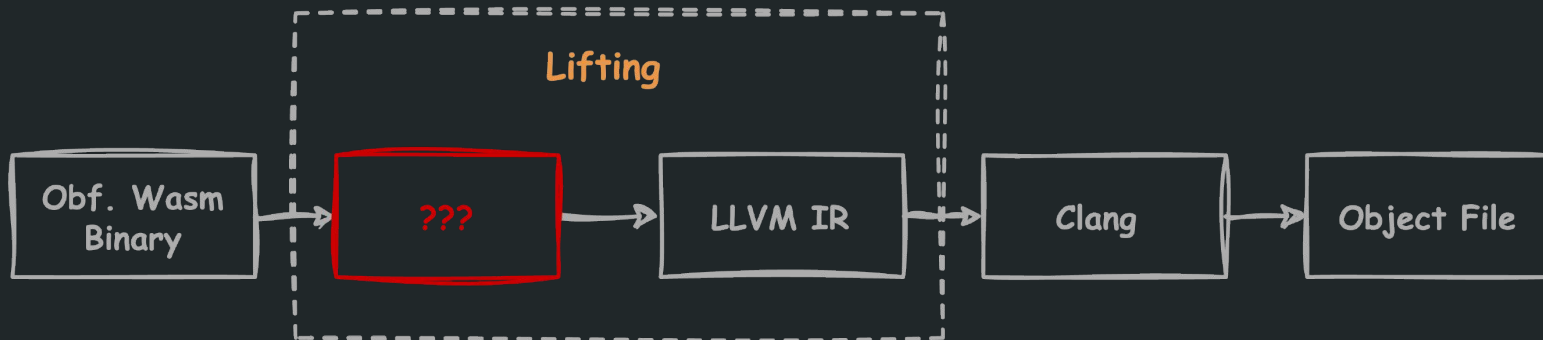
Wasm Code Lifting: Using WAMRC

- WebAssembly Micro Runtime (WAMR)
 - Lightweight, standalone Wasm runtime
 - WAMR Compiler (WAMRC)
 - The AOT compiler to compile Wasm file into AOT file
- Shortcomings
 - Symbols information is lost
 - Generated LLVM IR does not contain various tables (global's table, function table) => LLVM optimisations don't work





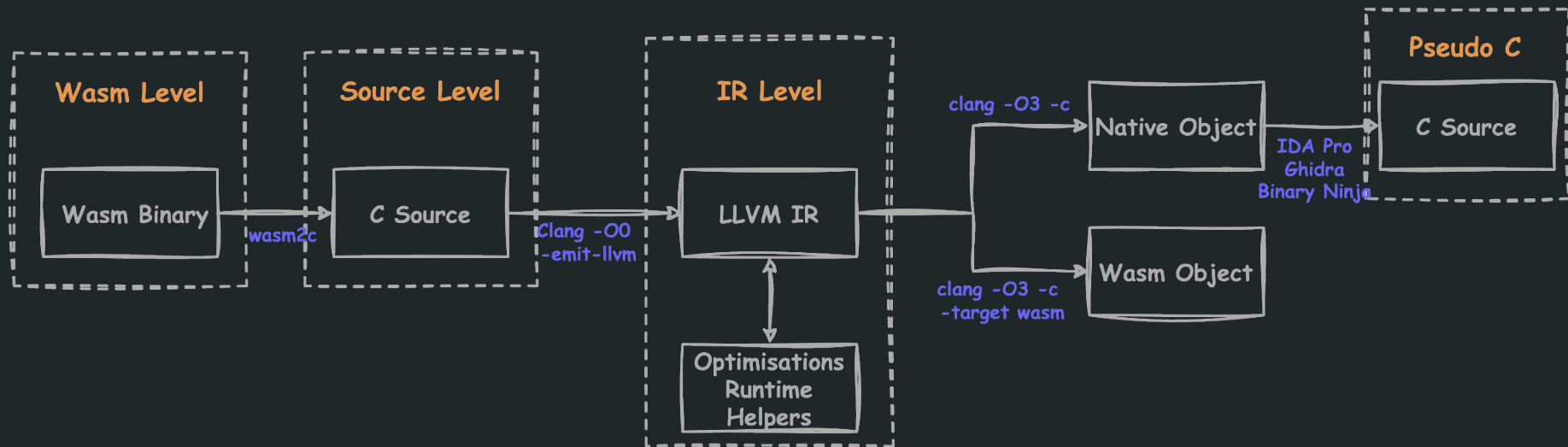
Wasm Lifter Problem Persists



Wasm Code Lifting: Code Lifters Comparison

Name	Lifting Language	Instance Parameter	Code Folding	Comments
Binaryen	Binaryen IR	Yes	No	Custom IR
WAMRC	LLVM IR	Yes	Partially	No tables (globals, functions...)
wasm2js	JS	No	Partially	Good candidate, but JS
wasm2c	C	Yes	No	Good candidate

Wasm Code Lifting: Lifting Idea!



Wasm Tool: wasm2c

- Great tool to lift Wasm to C
- Well defined wasm runtime that helps during deobfuscation
 - Helpers to initialize - Wasm instance and memory
 - Helpers to initialize and modify globals
 - Helpers for load/stores to memory
 - Load/Stores are access through helpers that can be overridden
- Does not modify the original Control Flow Graph
- Shortcomings
 - Runtime information (tables...) not available for each function
 - Code doesn't fold

Wasm Code Lifting: Motivating Example

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int arr[] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};  
    int sum = 0;  
  
    // Loop to calculate a constant  
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++) {  
        sum += arr[i];  
    }  
  
    // MBA based Opaque Predicate  
    if (((~a|b)+(a&~b)-~(a^b)) - (a^b) == 0) {  
        sum += 1911;  
    } else {  
        sum += 2102;  
    }  
  
    return a + b + sum;  
}
```



```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    return a + b + 1926;  
}
```

Wasm Code Lifting: wasm2c (O3 Unobfuscated)

```
.text
.file "add.c"
.functype add (i32, i32) -> (i32)
.section .text.add,"",@
.hidden add
.globl add
.type add,@function

add:                                # @add
.functype add (i32, i32) -> (i32)
# %bb.0:
local.get 1
local.get 0
i32.add
i32.const 15
i32.add

end_function
```

wasm2c

```
u32 w2c_squanchy_add_0(w2c_squanchy* instance,
                      u32 var_p0, u32 var_p1) {
    u32 var_i0, var_i1;
    var_i0 = var_p1;
    var_i1 = var_p0;
    var_i0 += var_i1;
    var_i1 = 15u;
    var_i0 += var_i1;
    return var_i0;
}
```

clang -O3

```
define i32 @add(ptr %0, i32 %1, i32 %2) {
    %4 = add i32 %1, 15
    %5 = add i32 %4, %2
    ret i32 %5
}
```

clang -c + IDA Pro

```
int add(void *a1, int a2, int a3) {
    return a2 + a3 + 15;
}
```

Wasm Code Lifting: wasm2c

- *w2c_instance* is passed to all functions
 - Keeps track of execution state between functions
- *w2c_env_instance* can be freely used to keep track of important values
- *Memory struct* keeps the state of the current initialized memory
 - Will be initialized with table memory
- *Function table* is used for indirect function calls
- *Globals* will be dynamically generated

u32 w2c_add(w2c* instance, ...)

```
struct w2c_squanchy {
    struct w2c_env* w2c_env_instance;

    u32 *w2c_env_DYNAMICTOP_PTR;
    u32 *w2c_env_STACKTOP;
    u32 *w2c_env_STACK_MAX;

    // Memory
    struct wasm_rt_memory_t {
        uint8_t* data;
        uint64_t pages;
        uint64_t max_pages;
        uint64_t size;
        bool is64;
    } w2c_env_memory;

    u32 *w2c_env_memoryBase;

    // Function Ref Table
    wasm_rt_funcref_table_t *w2c_env_table;
    u32 *w2c_env_tableBase;

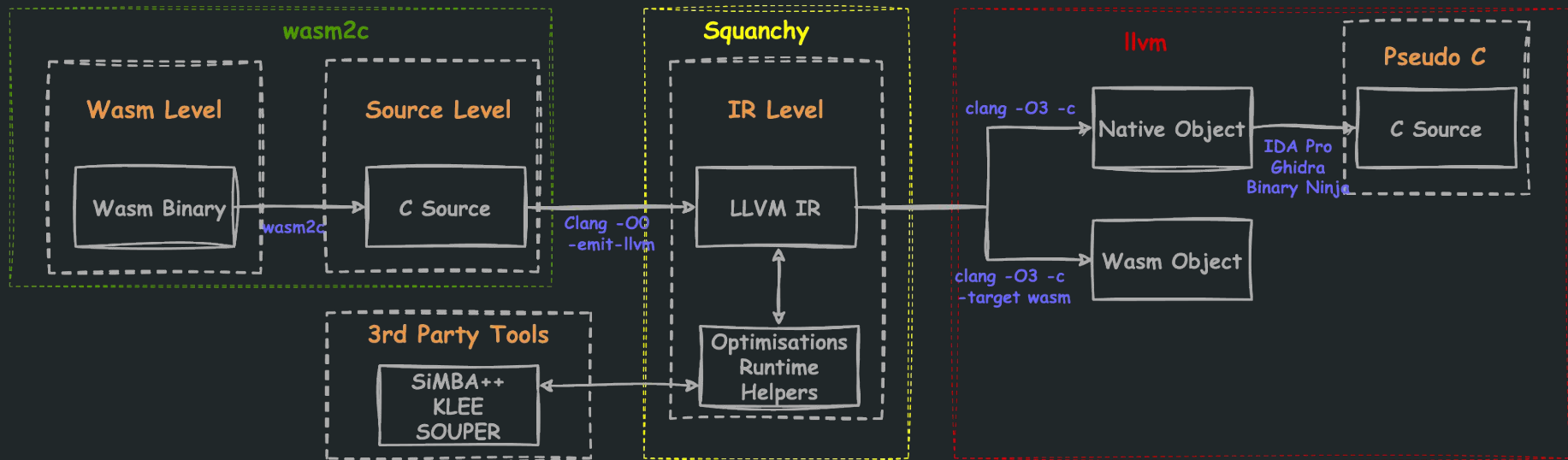
    // Globals
    u32 w2c_g5;
};
```

Wasm Code Lifting: wasm2c

- *w2c_instance* will be instantiated by helper functions
 - Initialized memory, globals and others

```
void wasm2c_instantiate(w2c* instance,
    struct w2c_env* w2c_env_instance) {
    assert(wasm_rt_is_initialized());
    init_instance_import(instance, w2c_env_instance);
    init_globals(instance);
    init_tables(instance);
    init_memories(instance);
    init_elem_instances(instance);
    init_data_instances(instance);
}
```

Wasm Code Lifting: Deobfuscation idea!

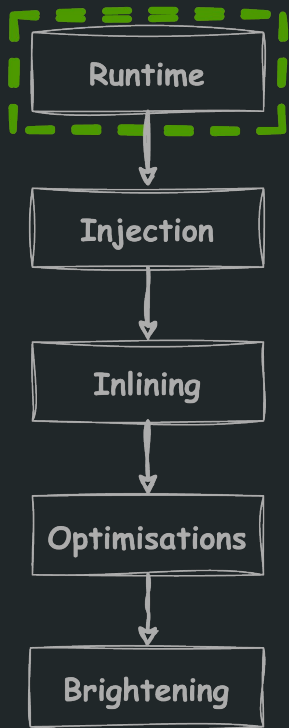


Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy

- Tool to automate several deobfuscation steps
- Models and injects the runtime
 - Injects runtime helpers into Module/Function
- Inlines functions accordingly
- Optimizes the function/module
 - Customized optimization pipeline to preserve Control Flow Graph
- Removes *wasm2c* runtime
- Extracts functions and dependencies into new clean module
- <https://github.com/pgarba/Squanchy>



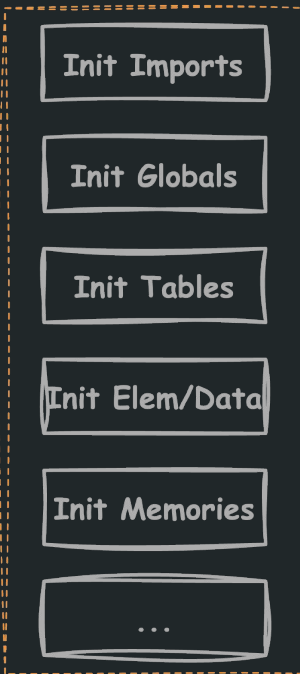
Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - *Runtime Modeling*



Wasm function
(W2C *, i32, i32)



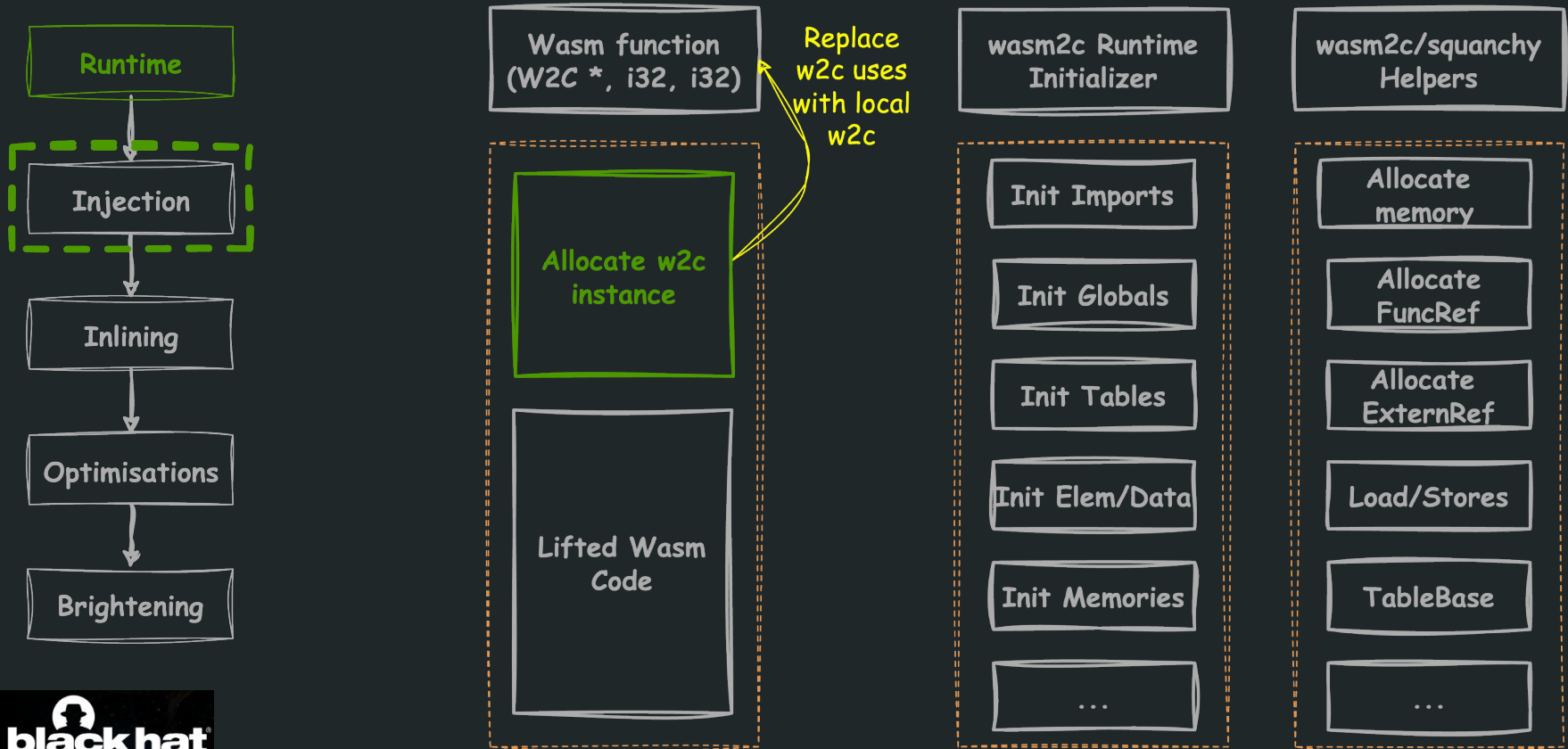
wasm2c Runtime
Initializer



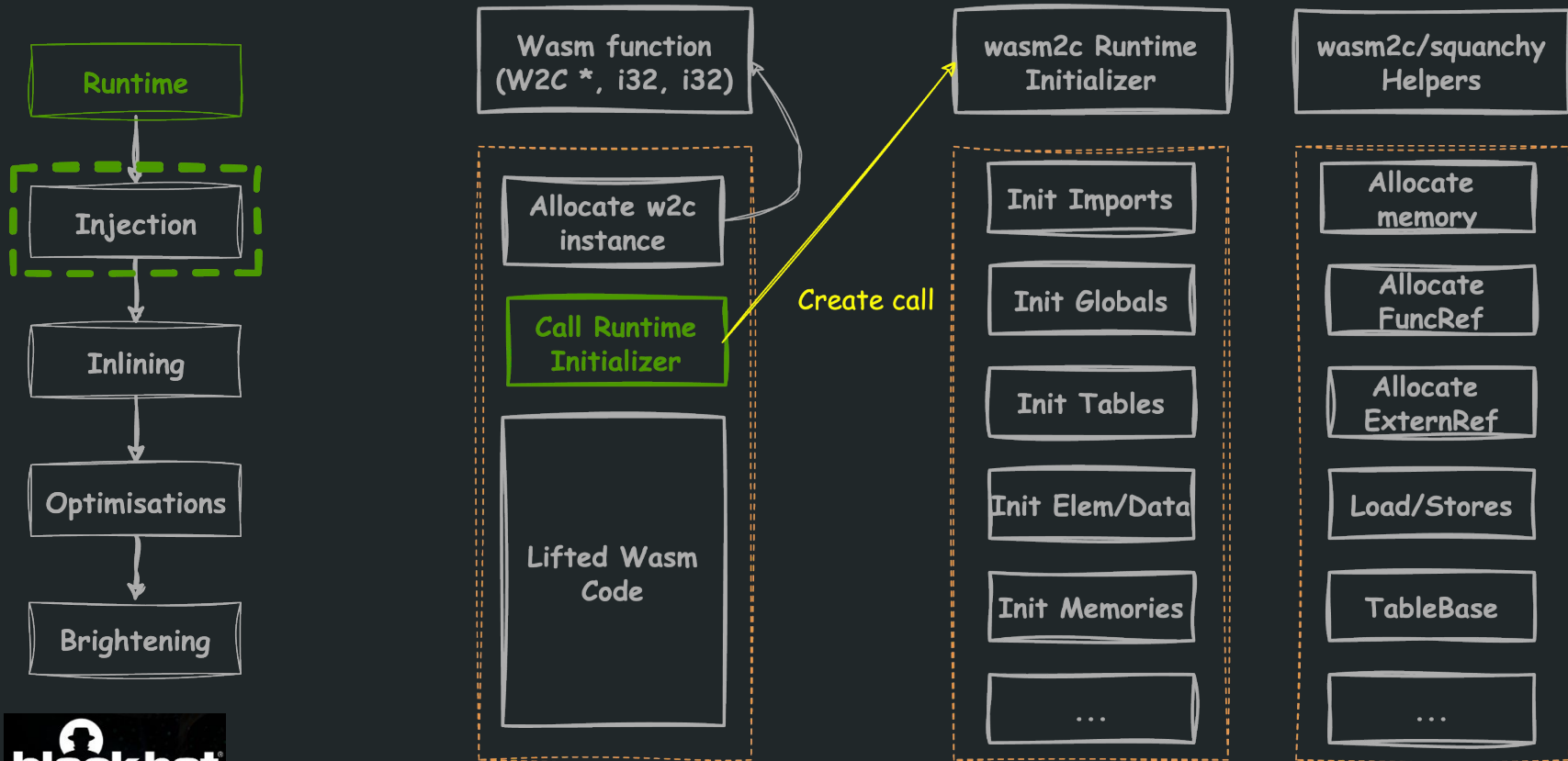
wasm2c/squanchy
Helpers



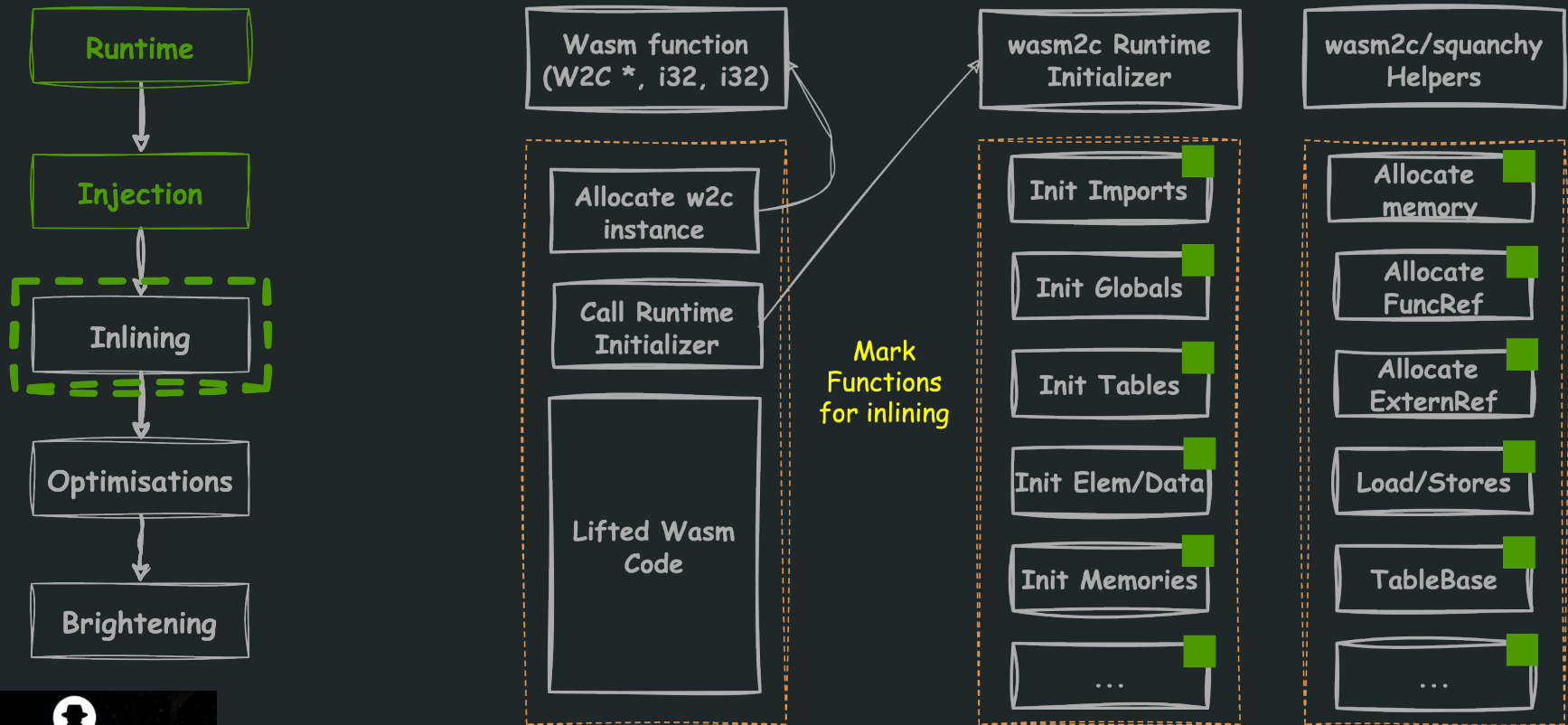
Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Runtime Injection



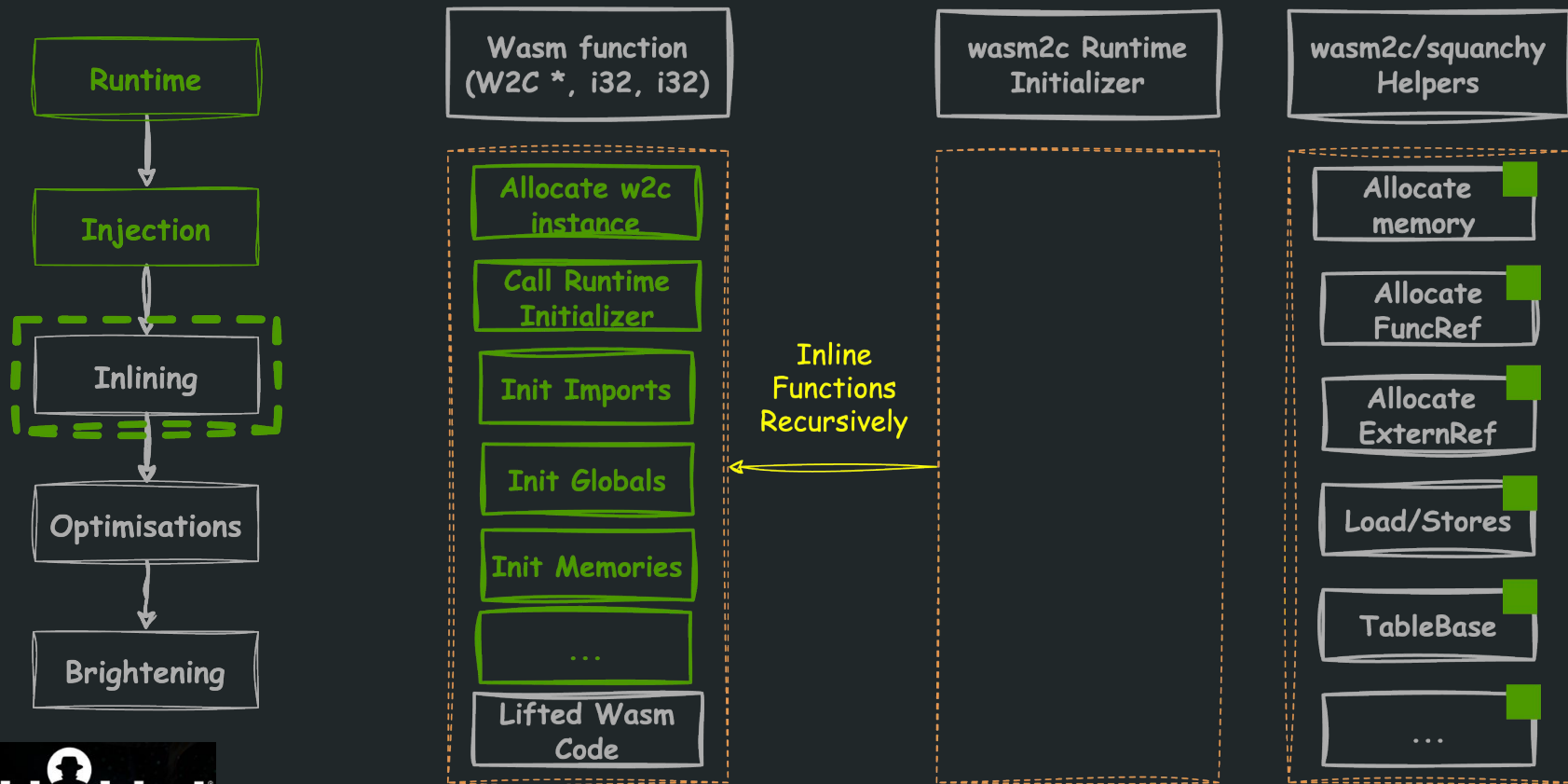
Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Runtime Injection



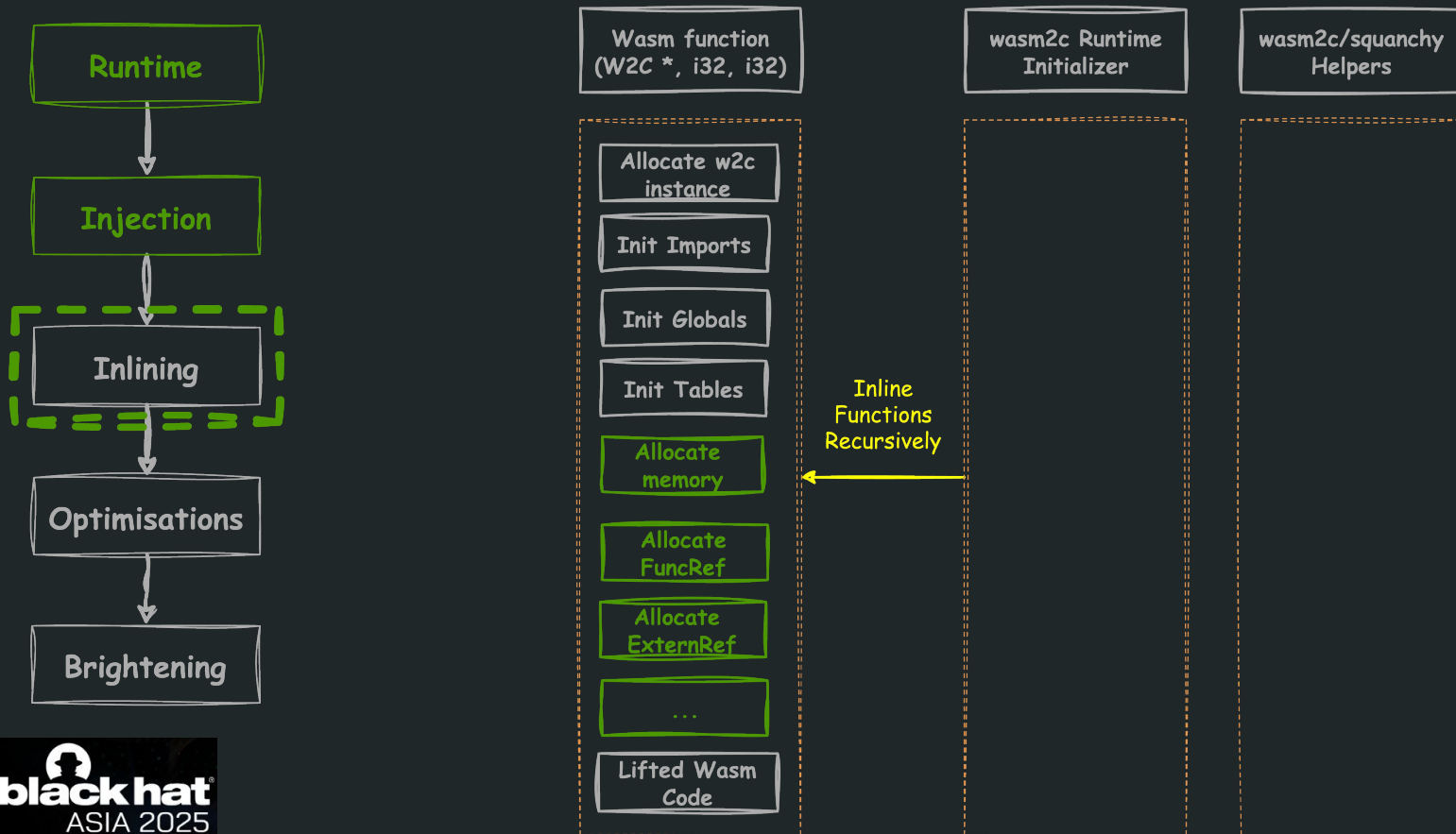
Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Inlining



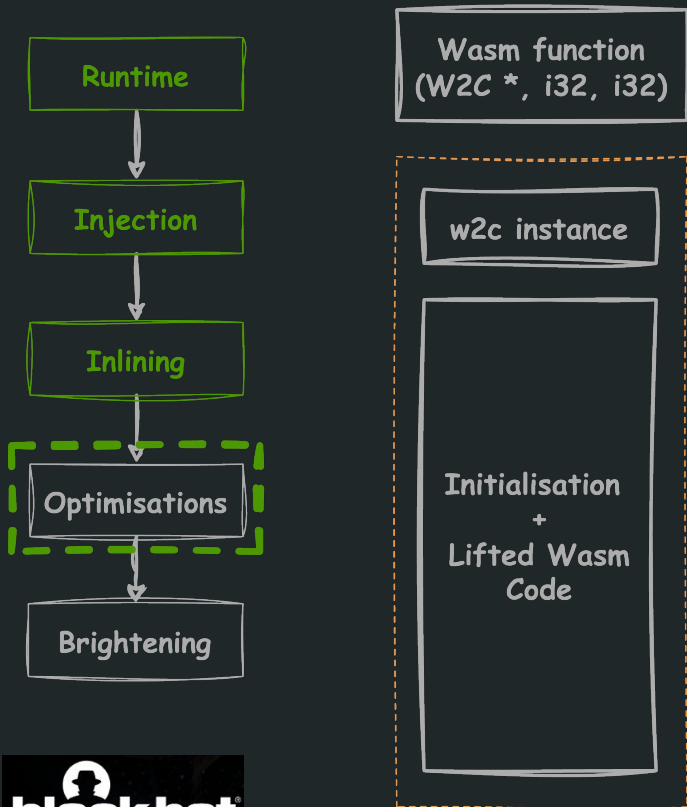
Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Inlining



Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Runtime Injection

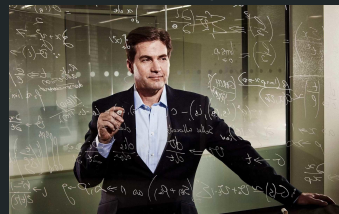


Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Optimisation

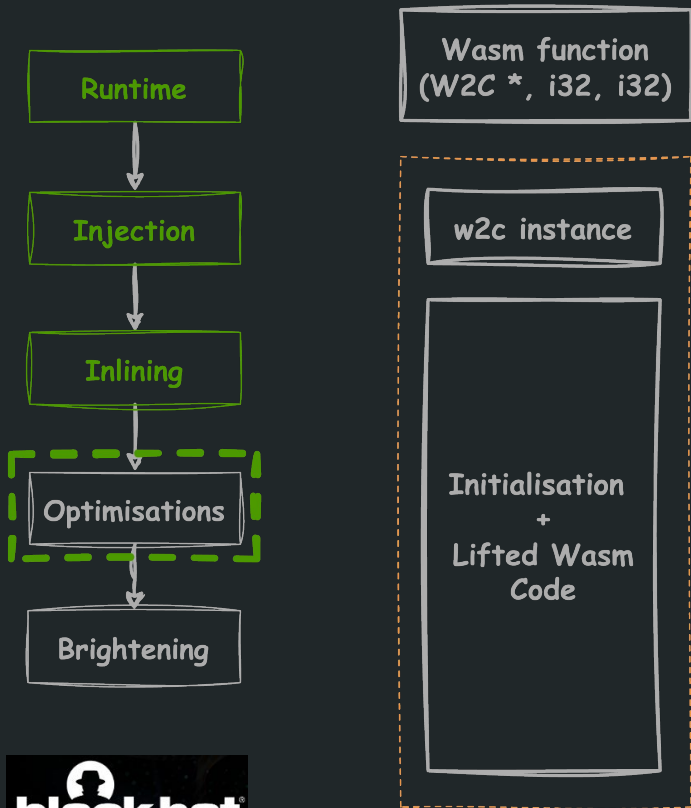


Apply **LLVM 03** pipeline and preserve Control Flow Graph

- Obfuscation pipelines are written by humans
 - Control Flow Protection
 - Control Flow Flattening
 - Code Protection
 - Instruction Substitutions
 - Harden Protections
 - Opaque Predicates
 - Mixed Boolean Arithmetics



Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Optimizations



Override LLVM Thresholds

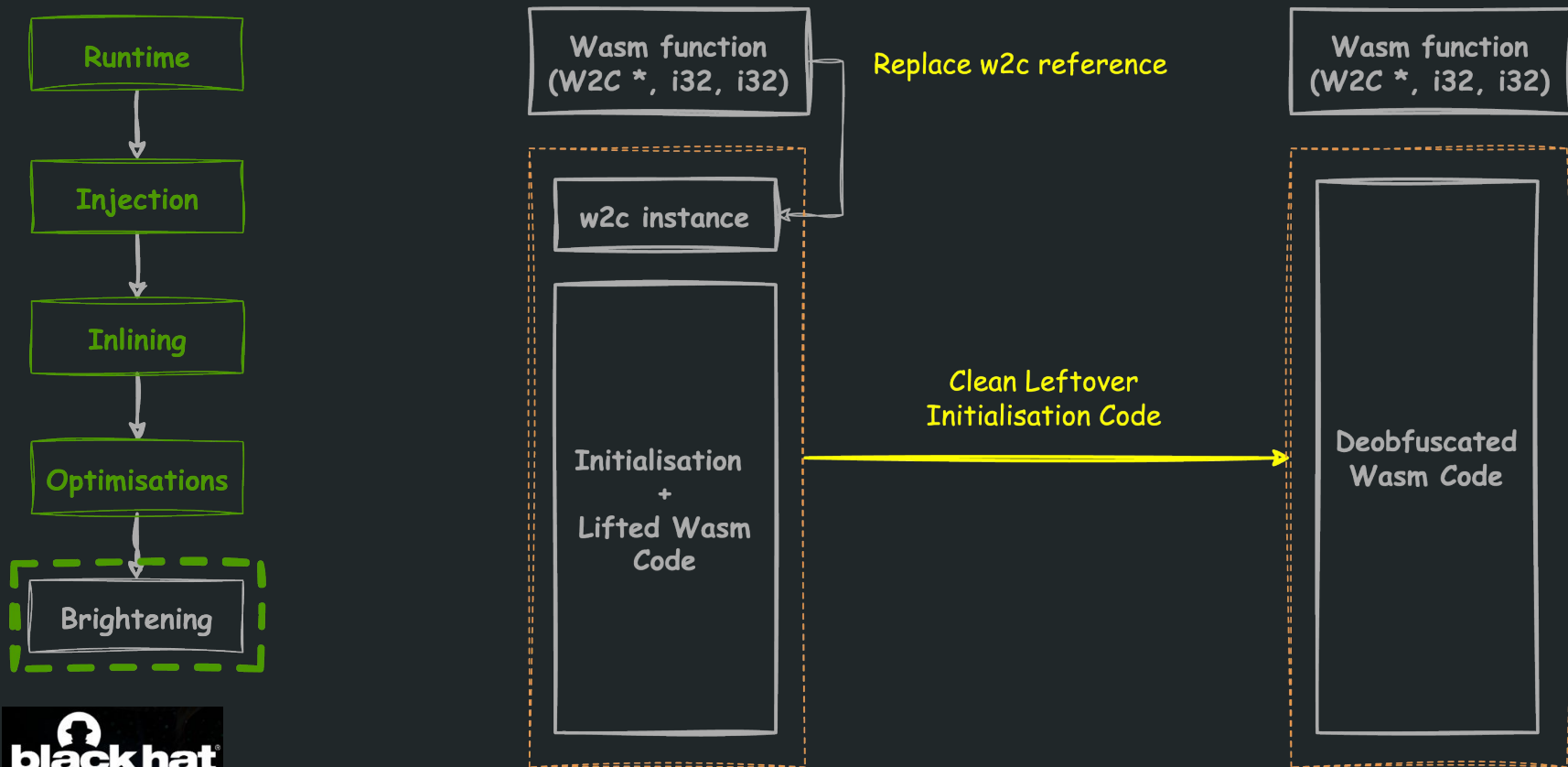
// DSE

```
-memdep-block-scan-limit=1000000  
-dse-memoryssa-walklimit=1000000  
-available-load-scan-limit=1000000  
-dse-memoryssa-scanlimit=1000000
```

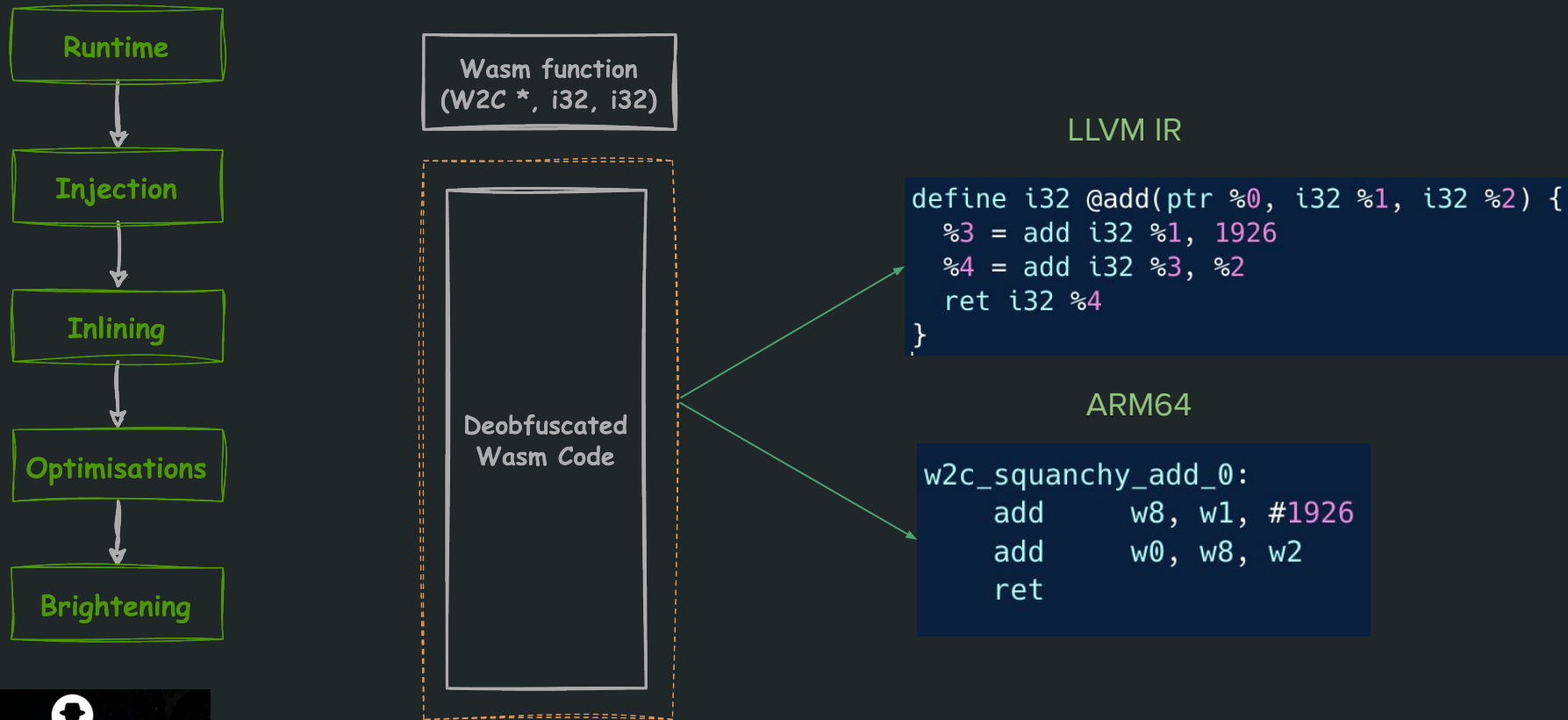
// Loop Unrolling

```
-unroll-threshold=1000000  
-unroll-count=64
```

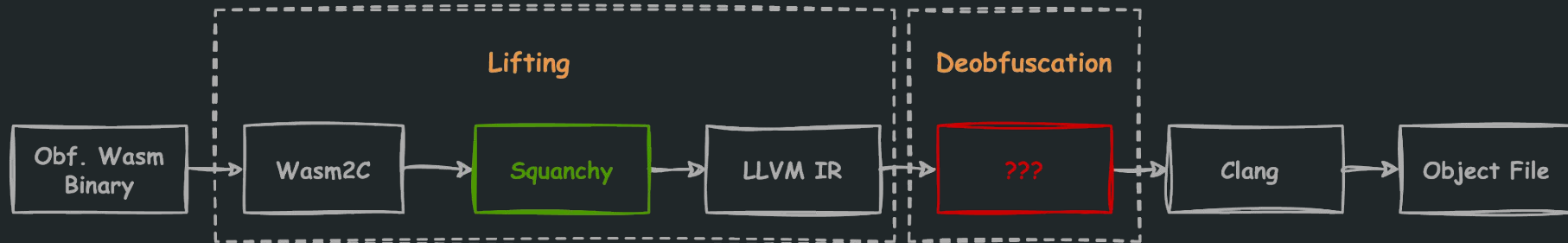
Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Brightening



Wasm Code Lifting: Squanchy - Recompilation



Deobfuscation



Reminder: Original Input

Original Input

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2
3 int calc(unsigned int n) {
4     unsigned int mod = n % 4;
5     unsigned int result = 0;
6
7     if (mod == 0) result = (n | 0xBAAAD0BF) * (2 ^ n);
8
9     else if (mod == 1) result = (n & 0xBAAAD0BF) * (3 + n);
10
11     else if (mod == 2) result = (n ^ 0xBAAAD0BF) * (4 | n);
12
13     else result = (n + 0xBAAAD0BF) * (5 & n);
14
15     return result;
16 }
17
18 int main(int argc, char **argv) {
19     printf("Hello from WebAsm! %d\n", calc(argc + 23));
20     return 0;
21 }
```

Deobfuscation: LLVM Optimisations

OLLVM Instruction Substitution

```
if (iVar1 == 0) {  
    local_10 = (param1 & 0xbaaad0bf | param1 ^ 0xbaaad0bf) *  
                (((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xbcec65b1 | param1 & 0x43139a4e) ^ 0xbcec65b3);  
}  
else if (iVar1 == 1) {  
    local_10 = ((param1 ^ 0x45552f40) & param1) * (param1 + 3);  
}  
else if (iVar1 == 2) {  
    local_10 = ((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xbaaad0bf | param1 & 0x45552f40) *  
                (param1 & 4 | param1 ^ 4);  
}  
else {  
    local_10 = (param1 + 0xbaaad0bf) * ((param1 ^ 0xffffffff | 0xfffffffffa) ^ 0xffffffff);  
}
```

```
if (iVar1 == 0) {  
    local_24 = (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 ^ 2);  
}  
else if (iVar1 == 1) {  
    local_24 = (param_2 & 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 + 3);  
}  
else if (iVar1 == 2) {  
    local_24 = (param_2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 | 4);  
}  
else {  
    local_24 = (param_2 + 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 & 5);  
}
```

Deobfuscation: LLVM Optimisations

O-LLVM Instruction Substitution (3 loops)

```
101 else if (iVar1 == 2) {
102     uVar10 = (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & param1;
103     uVar11 = uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff;
104     uVar10 = (param1 & 0x28b159a6 | (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xd74ea659) ^
105         (uVar10 & 0xd74ea659) | (param1 | uVar11) ^ 0xffffffff;
106     uVar10 = (uVar10 ^ 0x52fd19ee) & 0xad02e611 | uVar10 & 0x52fd19ee;
107     uVar10 = (uVar10 ^ 0x2d4bd55a) & 0x2d4bd55a | (uVar10 ^ 0xad02e611) & 0xd2b42aa5;
108     uVar11 = (param1 & 0x43df8f | (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xffbc2070) ^ 0xd2f752a |
109         (param1 | 0x2d4bd55a) ^ 0xffffffff;
110     uVar12 = uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff | uVar11;
111     uVar10 = (uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff) & (uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff) | uVar10 & uVar11;
112     uVar11 = uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff;
113     uVar10 = (uVar12 & 0xac3e94d1 | (uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x53c16b2e) ^
114         (uVar11 & 0xac3e94d1 | uVar10 & 0x53c16b2e) | (uVar12 | uVar11) ^ 0xffffffff;
115     uVar11 = uVar10 ^ 0x35ec8eeb;
116     uVar10 = uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff | 0x35ec8eeb;
117     uVar12 = uVar11 & 0x35ec8eeb ^ 0xffffffff;
118     uVar10 = (uVar12 & 0x2d5bbaff | uVar11 & 0x10a40400) ^
119         (uVar10 & 0x2d5bbaff | uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xd2a44500 |
120         (uVar12 | uVar10) ^ 0xffffffff;
121     uVar11 = (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x733e697e | param1 & 0x8cc19681;
122     uVar11 = (uVar11 ^ 0x8cc19681) & 0xffffffffb | (uVar11 ^ 0x733e697e) & 4) ^ 0xffffffff |
123         0xffffffffb;
124     uVar12 = (param1 ^ 0x55a04b31) & (param1 ^ 0xffffffff);
125     uVar4 = (param1 ^ 0xffffffff | 0x55a04b31) ^ 0xffffffff;
126     uVar12 = uVar12 & uVar4 | uVar12 ^ uVar4;
127     uVar12 = (uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xf7e551b4 | uVar12 & 0x81aae4b;
128     uVar4 = (uVar12 & 0x5dbae57e) & 0xda9fbf90 | (uVar12 ^ 0xa2451a81) & 0x2560406f;
129     uVar5 = (uVar11 ^ 0x8149b87a) & uVar11;
130     uVar6 = (uVar11 ^ 0x8149b87a) & (uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff);
131     uVar7 = (uVar4 ^ 0xa429f815) & (uVar4 ^ 0x2560406f) |
132         (uVar12 ^ 0x0dcf35d04) & (uVar12 ^ 0xa2451a81);
133     uVar8 = uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff;
134     uVar9 = uVar6 ^ 0xffffffff;
135     uVar5 = (uVar8 & 0xa7224c94 | uVar5 & 0x58ddb36b) ^ (uVar9 & 0xa7224c94 | uVar6 & 0x58ddb36b) |
136         (uVar8 | uVar9) ^ 0xffffffff;
137     uVar12 = uVar7 & uVar12 | uVar7 ^ uVar12;
138     uVar12 = uVar12 & (uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff) | uVar5 & (uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff);
139     uVar11 = ((uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x3c7da929 | uVar11 & 0xc38256d6) ^
140         ((uVar4 ^ 0xda9fbf90) & 0x3c7da929 | (uVar4 ^ 0x2560406f) & 0xc38256d6) |
141         (uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff | uVar4 ^ 0xda9fbf90) ^ 0xffffffff;
142     uVar11 = (uVar11 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x51a3afbb | uVar11 & 0xae5c5044;
143     uVar4 = uVar11 ^ 0x51a3afbb;
144     uVar5 = uVar12 ^ 0xffffffff;
145     local_10 = (((uVar10 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xebfaad80 | uVar10 & 0x1405527f) ^ 0xb608d971) *
146         ((uVar5 & 0xf368b83d | uVar12 & 0xc9747c2) ^
147         (uVar4 & 0xf368b83d | uVar11 ^ 0xae5c5044) & 0xc9747c2) |
148         (uVar5 | uVar4) ^ 0xffffffff;
149 }
150 }
```

2

LLVM Optimised

```
20 if (iVar5 == 0) {
21     uVar2 = (((param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf) & 0xc4fa1585 | param_2 & 0x1052a40) ^ param_2 ^ 0x80aa1085) &
22         (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf | param_2 ^ 0x45552f40);
23     uVar1 = uVar2 & (param_2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf);
24     uVar2 = uVar2 ^ param_2;
25     uVar3 = ((param_2 & 0xffffffffd ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x34f5a7e6 | param_2 & 0xcb0a5819) ^
26         (param_2 & 2 | 0xdb2decf5);
27     uVar4 = ((param_2 & 0xffffffffd ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x48c117 | param_2 & 0xffb73ee8) ^
28         (param_2 & 2 | 0x48c115) | param_2 ^ 0xffffffffd;
29     local_24 = (uVar2 ^ uVar1 ^ 0xbaaad0bf | (uVar2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf) & uVar1) *
30         (uVar3 ^ uVar4 ^ 0x1027b4ee | (uVar3 ^ 0x1027b4ee | uVar4) ^ 0xffffffff);
31 }
32 else if (iVar5 == 1) {
33     local_24 = (((param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf) & 0x3c966fda | param_2 & 0x14141000) ^ param_2 ^ 0x3882409a
34         & (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf | param_2 ^ 0x45552f40)) * (param_2 + 3);
35 }
36 else if (iVar5 == 2) {
37     uVar2 = (param_2 ^ 0xffffffffb | param_2 ^ 4) & (param_2 ^ 0x7eb64781);
38     local_24 = (uVar2 & (param_2 & 4 | 0x8149b87a) |
39         (param_2 & 4 ^ 0x7eb64785) & (uVar2 ^ 0xffffffff)) * (param_2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf);
40 }
41 else {
42     local_24 = (param_2 & 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 & 5);
43 }
```

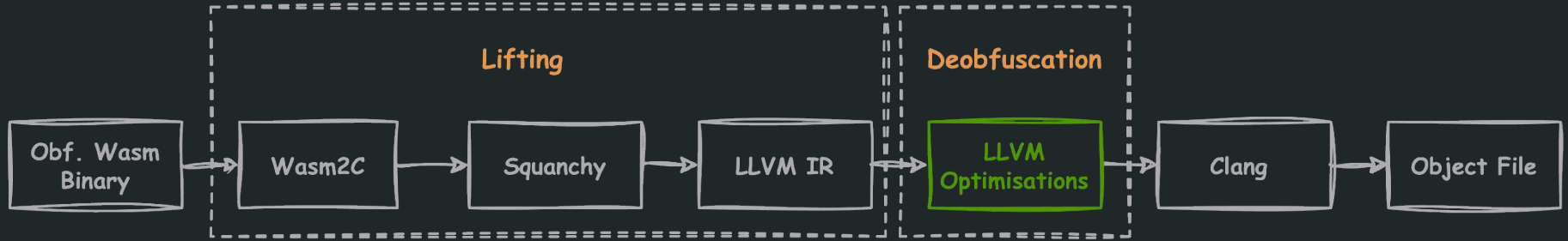
1

2

3

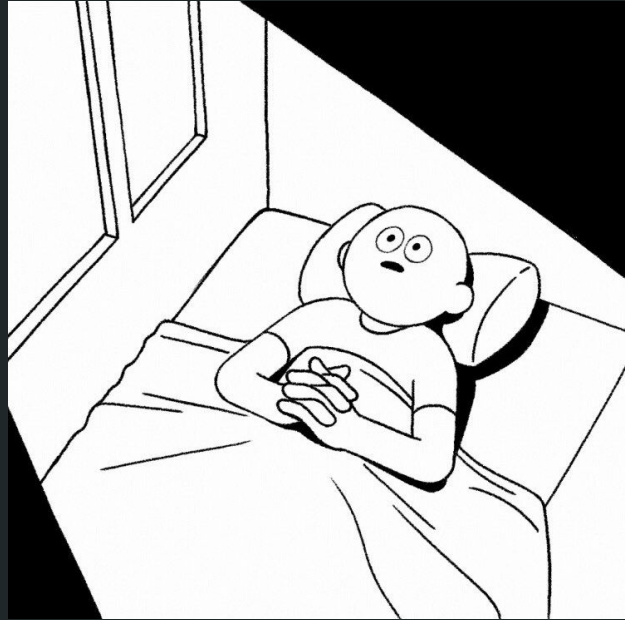
Original Expression Recovered

Deobfuscation: Progress...



Deobfuscation: LLVM Optimisation Shortcomings

- May only weaken some obfuscations
- Some techniques which LLVM cannot outright break
 - Control flow flattening*
 - Bogus control flow
 - Solving complex MBAs
 - Multiple iterations of substitution
 - . . .



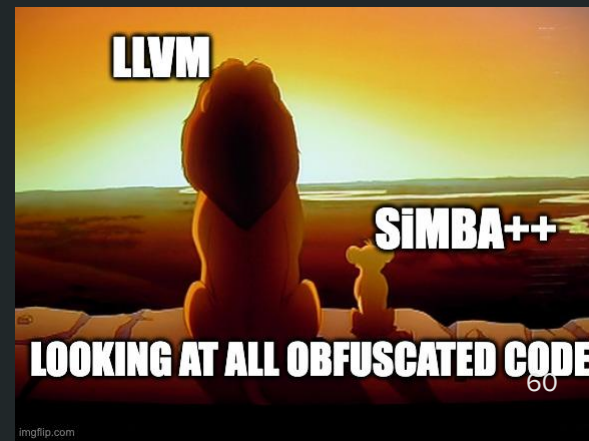
Beyond LLVM: Solving MBAs

$$(x \oplus y) + 2 \times (x \wedge y) = x + y$$

- Mixed Boolean Arithmetic (MBA) expressions
 - Expressions mixing arithmetic operators (+, -, x) with boolean operators ($\neg$, $\oplus$, $\wedge$, $\vee$)
 - Difficult to analyze - no general rules for interaction b/w operators (no distributivity, no associativity etc.)
 - With complex MBAs, SMT solvers may not be able to solve them.
- Pattern based solving of MBAs can be overcome by chaining the MBAs.

Solving MBAs: Tooling

- Specialised tools for solving MBAs
 - [SiMBA](#) - For linear MBAs
 - [GAMBA](#) - Nonlinear MBA expression
 - [SiMBA++](#) - For simplifying MBAs in LLVM IR
 - <https://github.com/pgarba/SiMBA->
- SiMBA++
 - Detects candidate expressions in LLVM IR
 - Performs simplification using SiMBA or GAMBA
 - Supports calling external simplifiers
 - Replaces expressions with simplifications in LLVM IR



Deobfuscation: LLVM Opt + SiMBA + GAMBA

INPUT

LLVM Optimised

```
if (iVar5 == 0) {
    uVar2 = (((param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf) & 0xc4fa1585 | param_2 & 0x1052a40) ^ param_2 ^ 0x80aa1085) &
        (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf | param_2 ^ 0x45552f40);
    uVar1 = uVar2 & (param_2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf);
    uVar2 = uVar2 ^ param_2;
    uVar3 = ((param_2 & 0xffffffff ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x34f5a7e6 | param_2 & 0xcb0a5819) ^
        (param_2 & 2 | 0xdb2decf5);
    uVar4 = ((param_2 & 0xffffffff ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x48c117 | param_2 & 0xffb73ee8) ^
        (param_2 & 2 | 0x48c115) | param_2 ^ 0xffffffff;
    local_24 = (uVar2 ^ uVar1 ^ 0xbaaad0bf | (uVar2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf) & uVar1) *
        (uVar3 ^ uVar4 ^ 0x1027b4ee | (uVar3 ^ 0x1027b4ee | uVar4) ^ 0xffffffff);
}
```

SIMBA

```
if (uVar2 == 0) {
    uVar2 = (param_2 & 0xa81b62f7 | 0x17000408) ^ param_2 & 0x57e49d08;
    *piVar1 = ((uVar2 ^ 0xadaad4b7) & (param_2 & 0xbaaad0bf ^ 0xffffffff) |
        (uVar2 ^ 0x12000008) & param_2 & 0xbaaad0bf) *
        (param_2 & 0xffffffff ^ (param_2 & 2 | 0x4fa5c831) ^ 0x4fa5c833);
    return;
}
```

Gamba

```
if (uVar2 == 0) {
    *piVar1 = ((param_2 & 0x77b39989 | 0x88006252) ^ (param_2 ^ 0xed32f2d0) & (param_2 ^ 0x9a816b59)
        ) * (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf);
    return;
}
```

Deobfuscation: LLVM Opt + SiMBA + GAMBA

Polaris
Instruction substitution (loop 3)

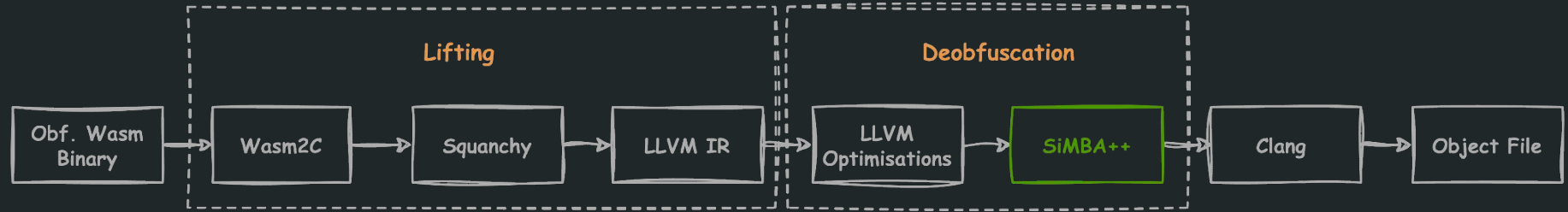
```
13 if (uVar1 == 0) {
14     uVar1 = ((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x19495cfff | param1 & 0xe6b6a300) ^ 0x5c1c73bf;
15     uVar1 ^ param1 ^ 0xffffffff & uVar1;
16     uVar1 ^ 0x625558ec & (param1 ^ 0xffffffff);
17     uVar2 = (param1 ^ 0x625558ec) & param1;
18     uVar5 = uVar5 & uVar2 | uVar5 ^ param2;
19     uVar5 = (uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xd8f48953 | uVar5 & 0x270077ac;
20     uVar2 = (param1 & 0x1ba026fa | (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xe45fd905) ^ 0x860a81e9;
21     uVar3 = (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x625558ec | param1 ^ 0x9daaa713;
22     uVar3 = (uVar3 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x741226bb | uVar3 & 0x8bedd944;
23     uVar2 = (uVar2 & param1) & uVar2 ^ 0xffffffff;
24     uVar2 = (uVar2 ^ ((uVar3 ^ 0x741226bb) & 0x6590700b | (uVar3 ^ 0x8bedd944) & 0x9a6f8ff4) ^
25         0x6590700b) & uVar2;
26     uVar2 = (uVar2 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x1eba5d23 | uVar2 & 0xe145a2dc;
27     uVar1 = (uVar2 ^ 0x1eba5d23 | 0x625558ec) ^ 0xffffffff;
28     uVar1 = (((uVar2 ^ 0x1eba5d23) & 0x60b66df70 | (uVar2 ^ 0xe145a2dc) & 0x9f49208f) ^ 0x2e3879e) &
29         0xc25558ec;
30     local_c = (((uVar1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x7c83e458 | uVar1 & 0x837c1ba7) ^ 0x7c83e458 |
31         ((uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x721da317 | uVar5 & 0x8de25ce8) ^ 0x721da317) *
32         (uVar1 & uVar1 | uVar1 ^ uVar1);
33 }
34 else if (uVar1 == 1) {
35     uVar1 = (((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x5fb8011c | param1 & 0xa047fee3) ^ 0x5fb8011c | 0x8de25ce8) &
36         ((param1 ^ 0x721da317) & param1 ^ 0xffffffff);
37     uVar1 = (uVar1 & 0x8de25ce8 | (uVar1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x721da317);
38     uVar1 = ((uVar1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x53584bcb | uVar1 & 0xaca7b434) ^ 0x53584bcb | 0x45552f40;
39     uVar5 = uVar1 ^ 0xffffffff;
40     local_c = ((uVar5 ^ uVar1) & uVar5) * -(3 - param1);
41 }
42 else if (uVar1 == 2) {
43     uVar1 = (param1 | 0xfaf8dc98) & ((param1 ^ 0x5072367) & param1 ^ 0xffffffff);
44     uVar1 = ((uVar1 | 0x68b867d3 | (uVar1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x9747982c) ^ 0x9240bb4b) & 0xbaaad0bf;
45     uVar5 = ((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x368db37e | param1 & 0xc9724c81) ^ 0x8c2763c1;
46     uVar5 = (uVar5 & param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & uVar5;
47     uVar2 = (param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0xffffffffb | param1 & 4;
48     uVar2 = (uVar2 ^ 0xffffffffb) & uVar2;
49     uVar3 = (param1 | 0xb4a770ab) & (param1 ^ 0xffffffff | 0x4b588f54);
50     uVar3 = uVar3 & 0x1c4a08ec | (uVar3 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x3b5f713;
51     uVar4 = (uVar2 ^ 0xffffffff | uVar3 ^ 0x80d7843) ^ 0xffffffff;
52     uVar1 = (uVar2 ^ 0xffffffff) & (uVar3 ^ 0x571287bc) | uVar2 & (uVar3 ^ 0xa8ed7843);
53     local_c = ((uVar1 ^ 0xffffffff | uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff) &
54         (((uVar1 ^ 0xffffffff) & uVar5 | uVar1 & (uVar5 ^ 0xffffffff)) ^ 0xffffffff) ^
55         0xffffffff) * (uVar4 & uVar1 | uVar4 ^ uVar1);
56 }
57 else {
58     uVar1 = ((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x769a091f ^ 0x769a091f) &
59         ((param1 ^ 0xffffffff) & param1 ^ 0xffffffff);
60     uVar5 = (uVar1 ^ 0x8bedd944) & uVar1;
61     uVar1 = (uVar1 | 0x741226bb) ^ 0xffffffff;
62     uVar1 = (uVar5 & uVar1 | uVar5 ^ uVar1;
63     local_c = ((-0x374a3fa6 - (-0x374a3fa6 - (0x45552f41 - param1))) *
64         (((uVar1 ^ 0xffffffff) & 0x52a311c3 | uVar1 & 0xad5cee3c) ^ 0x26b1377d) & 5);
65 }
66 return local_c;
```

LLVM Optimisation + SiMBA + GAMBA

```
9 uVar1 = param_2 & 3;
10 iVar3 = (param_2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 | 4);
11 if (uVar1 != 2) {
12     iVar3 = (param_2 + 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 & 5);
13 }
14 iVar2 = (param_2 + 2) * (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf);
15 if (uVar1 != 0) {
16     iVar2 = (param_2 & 0xbaaad0bd) * (param_2 + 3);
17 }
18 if (uVar1 < 2) {
19     iVar3 = iVar2;
20 }
21 return iVar3;
```

Completely Recovered

Deobfuscation: Progress...



SOUPER: Supercharging Deobfuscation

- Souper - a **synthesis-based superoptimizer** for a domain specific intermediate representation (IR) that resembles a purely functional, control-flow-free subset of LLVM IR
- Can **run as an LLVM optimization pass**
- Synthesise optimisations
 - Counterexample guided inductive synthesis (CEGIS)
 - Multiple RHS generated, cheapest among them is chosen.
 - Dataflow
- Can resolve opaque predicates
- **Good results with control flow obfuscation**

A Synthesizing Superoptimizer

Raimondas Sasnauskas
SES Engineering
raimondas.sasnauskas@ses.com

Yang Chen
Nvidia, Inc.
yangchen@nvidia.com

Peter Collingbourne
Google, Inc.
pcc@google.com

Jeroen Ketema
Embedded Systems Innovation by
TNO
jeroen.ketema@tno.nl

Gratian Lup
Microsoft, Inc.
gratilup@microsoft.com

Jubi Taneja
University of Utah
jubi@cs.utah.edu

John Regehr
University of Utah
regehr@cs.utah.edu

Deobfuscation: SOUPER

Hikari
Bogus Control Flow (loop 2)

Opaque Predicate

```
14 if (uVar2 == 0) {
15     if (((uRam00010ae8 | uRam00010aec) ^ 0x3c2e5570) & 0x97ff2bd7) + 0x64293ba9 < 0xe0465c21) {
16         bVar1 = true;
17     }
18     else {
19         bVar1 = false;
20     }
21     while( true ) {
22         while (bVar1) {
23             bVar1 = false;
24         }
25         if (0x5fd76e94 < ((iRam00010af0 + iRam00010af4 ^ 0x41005e8aU) + 0x63d028ff) * 0x65edfa51)
26             break;
27         bVar1 = true;
28     }
29     if ((iRam00010af8 * iRam00010afc + 0xd9ef92c7U | 0xba1e4315) + 0xce83d3a0 < 0x8bb488b1) {
30         do {
31             } while (((uRam00010c30 ^ uRam00010c34) + 0x6f44ee27 & 0x7ca03c77) * 0x5ed0b58a == -0x29120a04
32             );
33     }
34     do {
35         local_c = (param1 | 0xbaaad0bf) * (param1 ^ 2);
36     } while (((uRam00010b00 / uRam00010b04 | 0xbabf5164) * -0x32ee4c95 & 0x67c7c119) < 0x20a96022);
37     do {
38     } while ((uRam00010b10 / uRam00010b14 + 0xc8de4516) / 0x936b17aa == 0xa9f0a4ac);
39 }
```

Deobfuscation: SOUPER

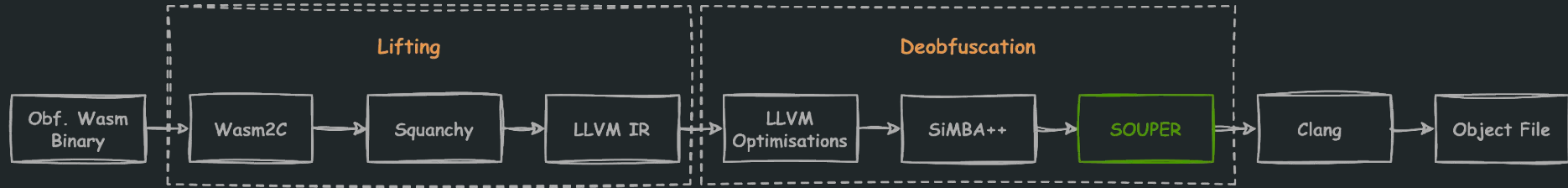
SOUPER

```
9  uVar1 = param_2 & 3;
10 iVar3 = (param_2 ^ 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 | 4); 4
11 if (uVar1 != 2) {
12     iVar3 = (param_2 & 5) * (param_2 + 0xbaaad0bf); 3
13 }
14 iVar2 = (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 ^ 2); 1
15 if (uVar1 != 0) {
16     iVar2 = (param_2 & 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 + 3); 2
17 }
18 if (uVar1 < 2) {
19     iVar3 = iVar2;
20 }
21 return iVar3;
22 }
```

SOUPER

YOU DA REAL MVP

Deobfuscation: Progress...



Deobfuscation: Hikari (Sub=1, bogus=1, split=1)

Long complex
obfuscated code

```
8  uVar1 = param_2 & 3;
9  if (uVar1 < 2) {
10     iVar2 = (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf) * (param_2 + 2); 1
11     if (uVar1 != 0) {
12         iVar2 = (param_2 + 3) * (param_2 & 0xbaaad0bf); 2
13     }
14     return iVar2;
15 }
16 if (uVar1 == 3) {
17     return (param_2 & 5) * (param_2 + 0xbaaad0bf); 4
18 }
19 return (param_2 & 0xbaaad0b8 ^ 0xbaaad0b9) * (param_2 & 0xbaaad0bf) + 3
20       (param_2 & 0x45552f44 ^ 4) * (param_2 | 0xbaaad0bf);
21 }
```



Real World Application

WebAssembly Malwares

WebAssembly Is Abused by eCriminals to Hide Malware

October 25, 2021 | Mihai Maganu | Engineering & Tech

The dark side of WebAssembly

Aishwarya Lonkar & Siddhesh Chandrayan

Symantec, India

Copyright © 2018 Virus Bulletin

Recent Study Estimates That 50% of Websites Using WebAssembly Apply It for Malicious Purposes

2019

- Steady increase in usage of Wasm for cryptomining in browsers
 - Compared to JS, Wasm is fast in performing hashing operations
 - Monero is the most used cryptocurrency for cryptomining.

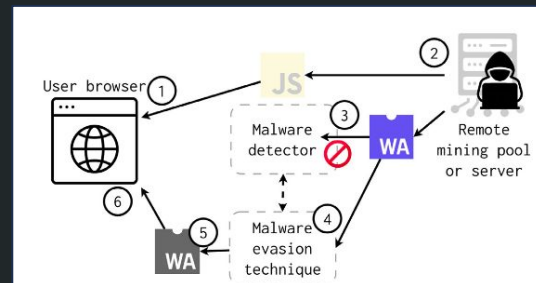


Fig. 1. WebAssembly evasion in practice. The user visits a webpage containing cryptomining malware that uses network resources to operate. A malware detector blocks identified malicious WebAssembly binaries. The attacker, using a malware oracle, creates a WebAssembly cryptomining malware variant that evades detection. Finally, the attacker delivers the modified binary, initiating the cryptomining process and compromising the browser.

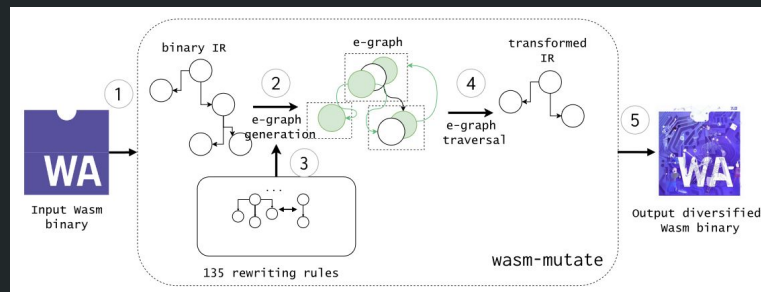
Malware Diversification: *wasm-mutate*

- [Carbera-Arteaga et. al.](#) demonstrate use of *wasm-mutate* to evade detection
- *wasm-mutate* transforms binary into a variant binary program that preserves the original functionality.
- 3 kind of transformations
 - Peephole
 - ~135 rewrite rules.
 - Module structure transformation
 - Add new type, new function, new export etc.
 - Control flow graph
 - Loop unrolling, swap conditional branches.
- *wasm-mutate* output needs to verified with *wasm-validate*
 - Some transformation break the WASM file

WebAssembly diversification for malware evasion

Javier Cabrera-Arteaga*, Martin Monperrus, Tim Toady, Benoit Baudry

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden



DEMO!!



Use Case: wasm-mutate

- wasm-mutate

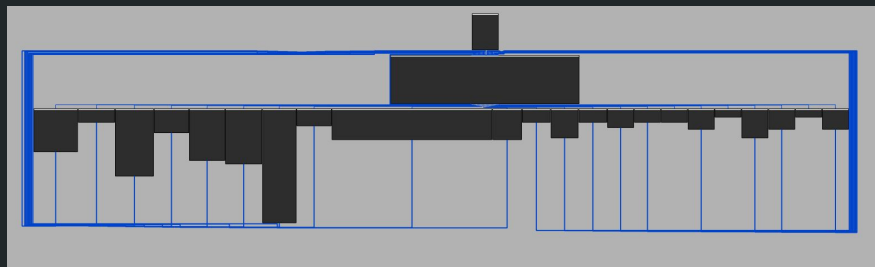
- 3000 (real) iterations are applied
- 100% of mutations are removed
- Code is normalized and matches 100% the original code!
 - Our approach fully recovers the function (and optimizes it!)

Use Case: Deobfuscating Malwares

- CryptoNight, CryptoNight Obfuscated
 - Deobfuscated functions by Squanchy match non-obfuscated functions
 - <https://www.crowdstrike.com/en-us/blog/ecriminals-increasingly-use-webassembly-to-hide-malware/>
 - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.15197>

Use Case: hCaptcha

- hCaptcha uses obfuscated Wasm
- Small and medium size obfuscated functions can be simplified in <1-2min.

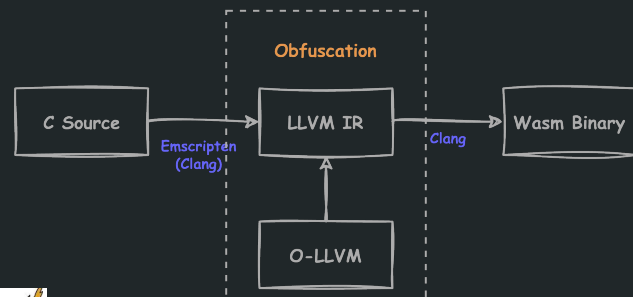


Unflattens control flow, simplifies and inlines functions.



Conclusion

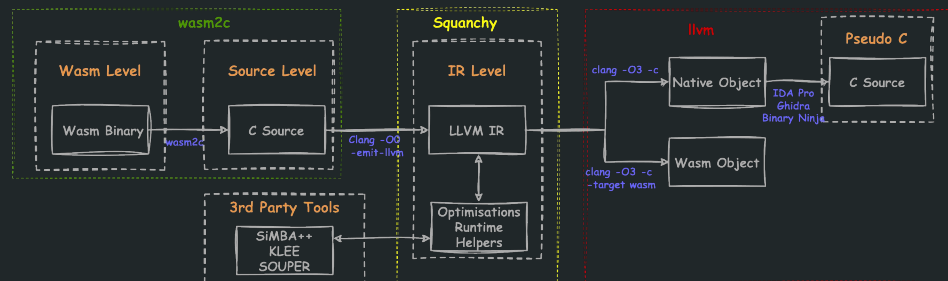
- Wasm obfuscation
 - LLVM IR based tools - O-LLVM, Polaris



- Squanchy: Lifting Wasm to LLVM IR
 - Wasm2c + Squanchy works great.

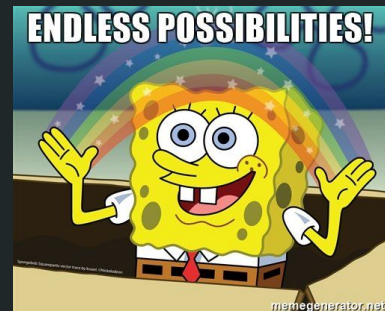


- Deobfuscation using LLVM
 - LLVM + SiMBA + GAMBA + SOUPER + ...



Conclusion

- Real World Application
 - Malware Normalisation
 - Wasm-mutate output can be simplified
 - Cryptonight malware simplified
 - Deobfuscating hCaptcha binary
- Tooling
 - Existing tooling can be reused
 - Obfuscation - Polaris, O-LLVM, ~~Wasmixer~~
 - Deobfuscation - LLVM, SiMBA++, SOUPER
 - Symbolic Execution - KLEE, ~~Manticore~~, ~~SeeWasm~~



Thank You!!



- Slides + Whitepaper - <https://github.com/su-vikas/Presentations>
- Squanchy - <https://github.com/pgarba/Squanchy>

