

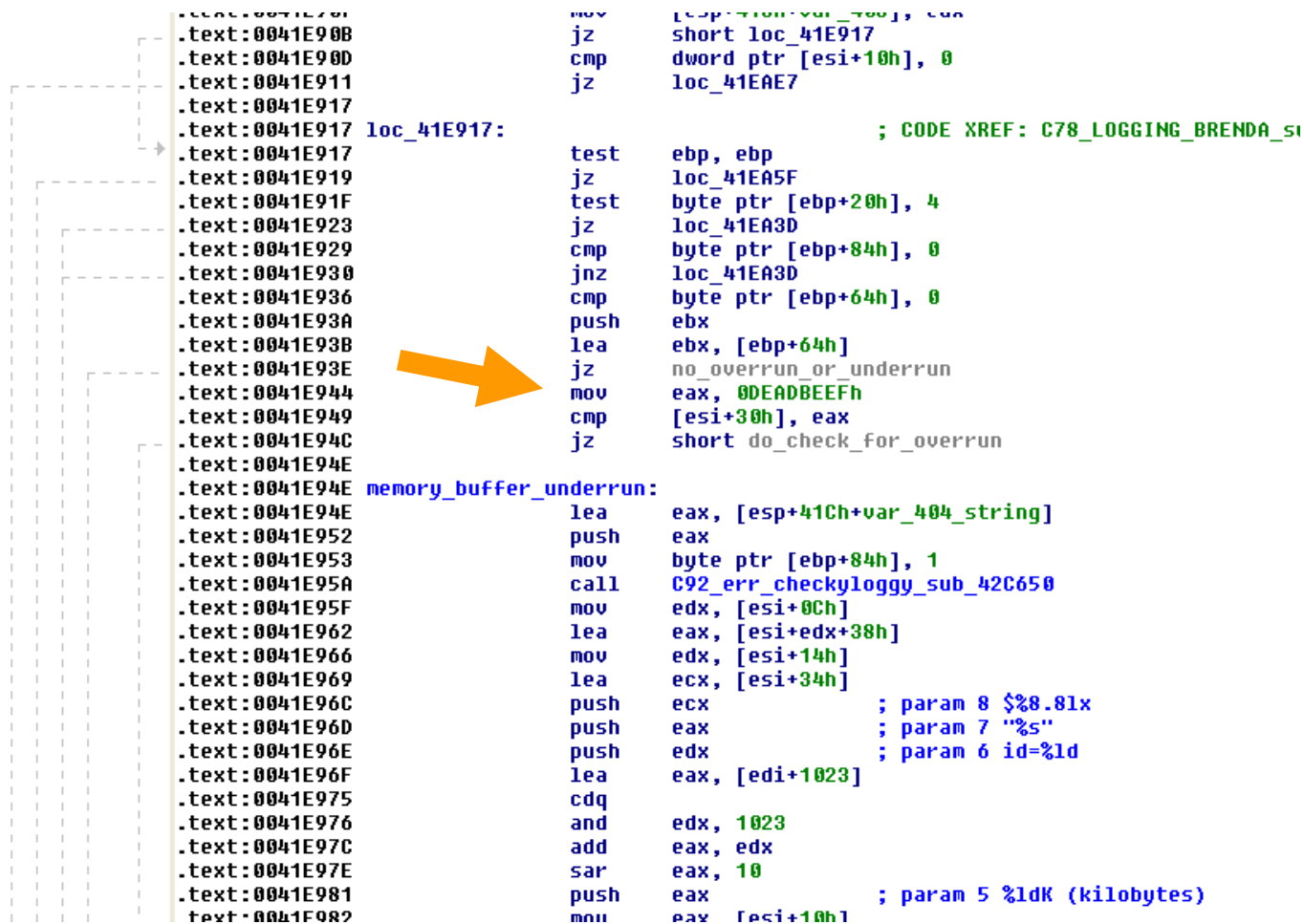
Chewing on the 0xDEADBEEF (redacted 26th March '08)

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10th August '07

Why redact this talk?

- Surely the crooks know this stuff already? Well maybe not, this is not crooks we are up against, just amateur hackers who want to cheat at games (little money in cheating at FPS yet), and its probably not illegal.
- True, Joint Ops is already suffering from cheats, and almost dead, but I don't want to be putting the final nail in the coffin on what was an exceptionally good game in its time.
- Another 6 months or so and there should be no harm in releasing full detail of this talk.
- Some redaction in the screenshots was done to protect privacy of testers (and unwitting testers)
- **Any bona fide researchers in game cheating/network effects are welcome to take a copy of the full talk, plus source code etc, so long as they can satisfy me it will be put to good use. Email Mike.Bond@cl.cam.ac.uk, Phone +44 7890 171913**

The 0xDEADBEEF



```
.text:0041E907
.text:0041E90B
.text:0041E90D
.text:0041E911
.text:0041E917
.text:0041E917 loc_41E917:
.text:0041E917
.text:0041E919
.text:0041E91F
.text:0041E923
.text:0041E929
.text:0041E930
.text:0041E936
.text:0041E93A
.text:0041E93B
.text:0041E93E
.text:0041E944
.text:0041E949
.text:0041E94C
.text:0041E94E
.text:0041E94E memory_buffer_underrun:
.text:0041E94E
.text:0041E952
.text:0041E953
.text:0041E95A
.text:0041E95F
.text:0041E962
.text:0041E966
.text:0041E969
.text:0041E96C
.text:0041E96D
.text:0041E96E
.text:0041E96F
.text:0041E975
.text:0041E976
.text:0041E97C
.text:0041E97E
.text:0041E981
.text:0041E982

mov     [esp+41Ch+var_404_string], eax
jz      short loc_41E917
cmp     dword ptr [esi+10h], 0
jz      loc_41EAE7

; CODE XREF: C78_LOGGING_BRENDA_si
test    ebp, ebp
jz      loc_41EA5F
test    byte ptr [ebp+20h], 4
jz      loc_41EA3D
cmp     byte ptr [ebp+84h], 0
jnz     loc_41EA3D
cmp     byte ptr [ebp+64h], 0
push    ebx
lea     ebx, [ebp+64h]
jz      no_underrun_or_underrun
mov     eax, 0DEADBEEFh
cmp     [esi+30h], eax
jz      short do_check_for_underrun

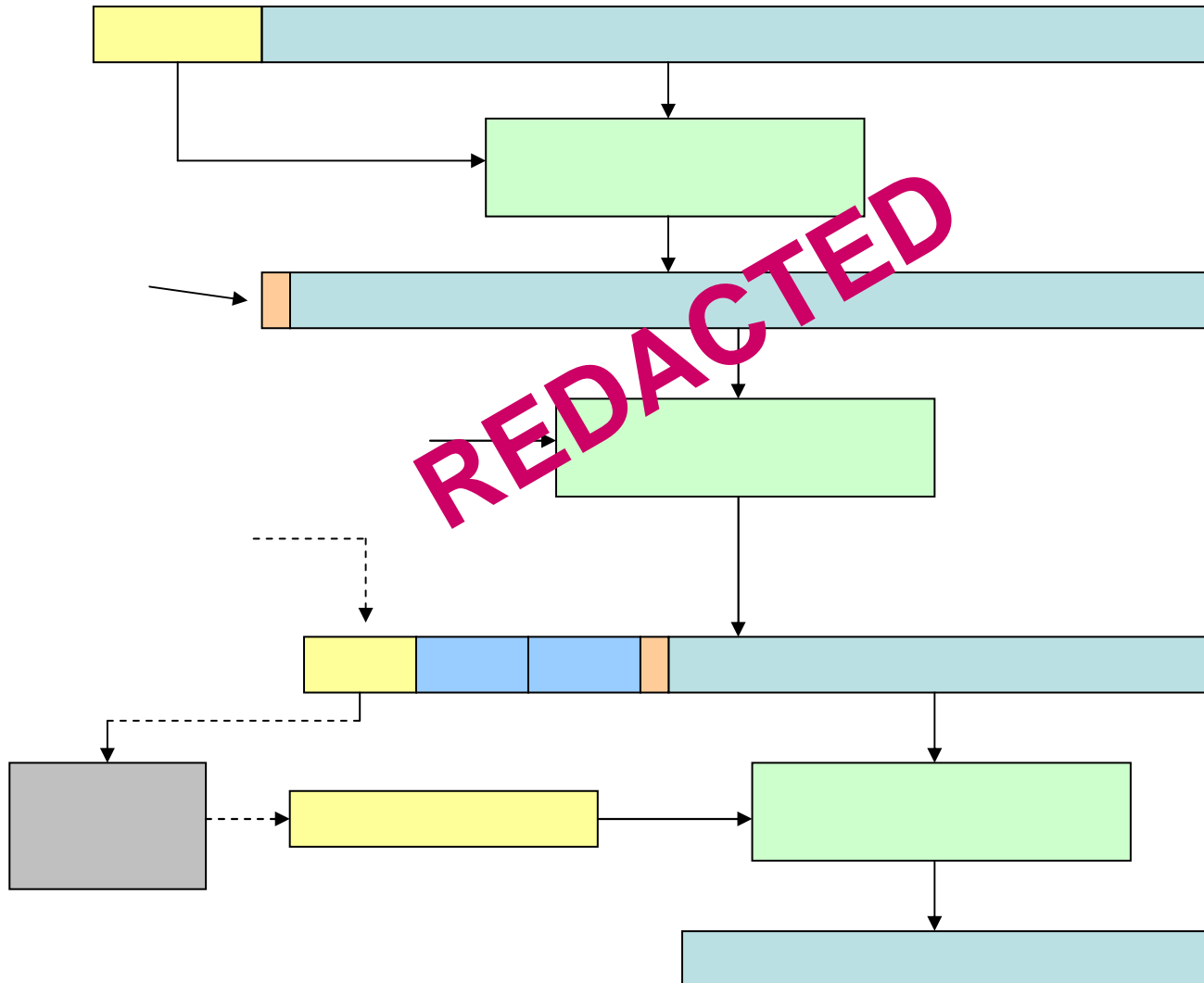
no_underrun_or_underrun:
lea     eax, [esp+41Ch+var_404_string]
push    eax
mov     byte ptr [ebp+84h], 1
call    C92_err_checkyloggy_sub_42C650
mov     edx, [esi+0Ch]
lea     eax, [esi+edx+38h]
mov     edx, [esi+14h]
lea     ecx, [esi+34h]
push    ecx
push    eax
push    edx
lea     eax, [edi+1023]
cdq
and     edx, 1023
add     eax, edx
sar     eax, 10
push    eax
mov     eax, [esi+10h]
```

Contents

This work discusses reverse engineering and cryptanalysis of the encrypted data packets transmitted by an online multiplayer tactical shooter computer game “Joint Operations”.

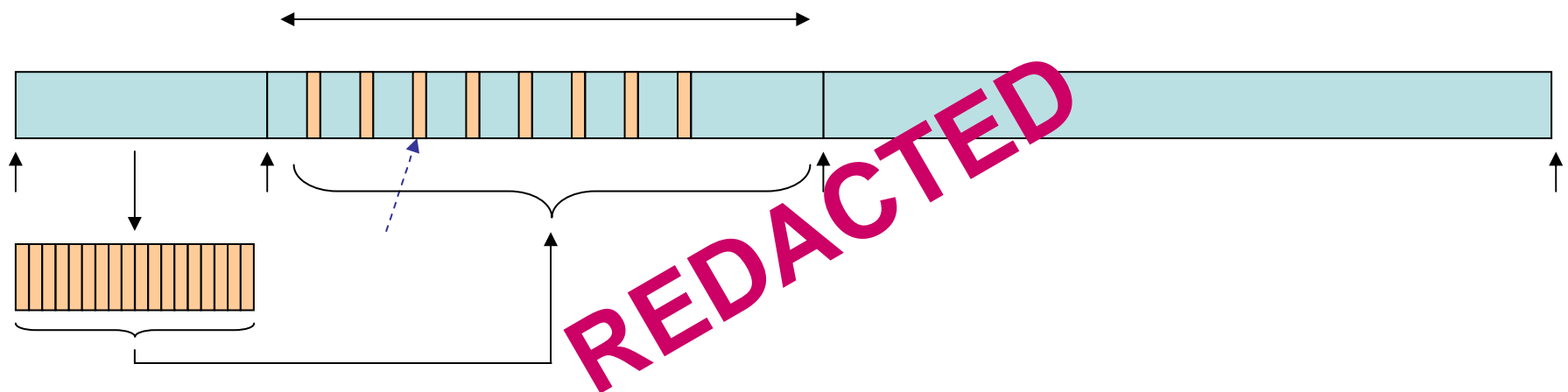
- How it does the encryption
- How I cracked it
- Sturgeon’s Razor
- What if?
- Future Work

Packet “Encryption” Overview

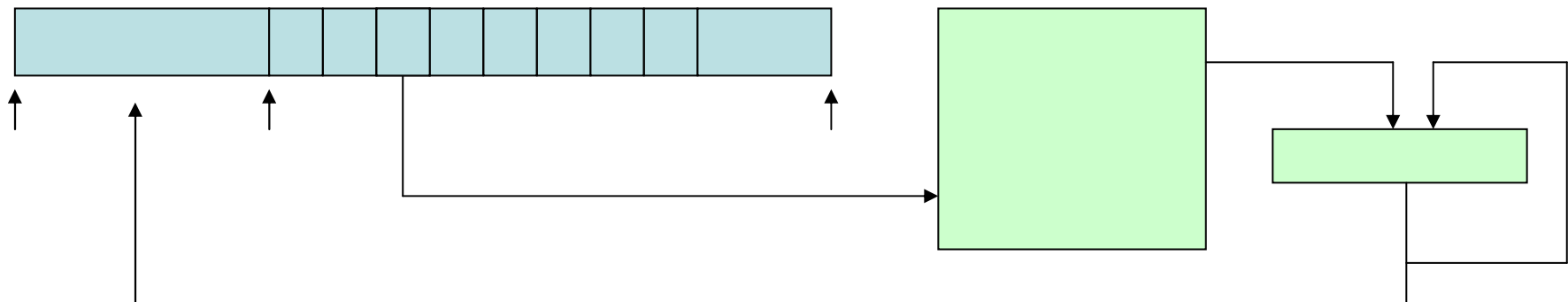


Henry Decrypt

Packets longer than X bytes encoded as follows:



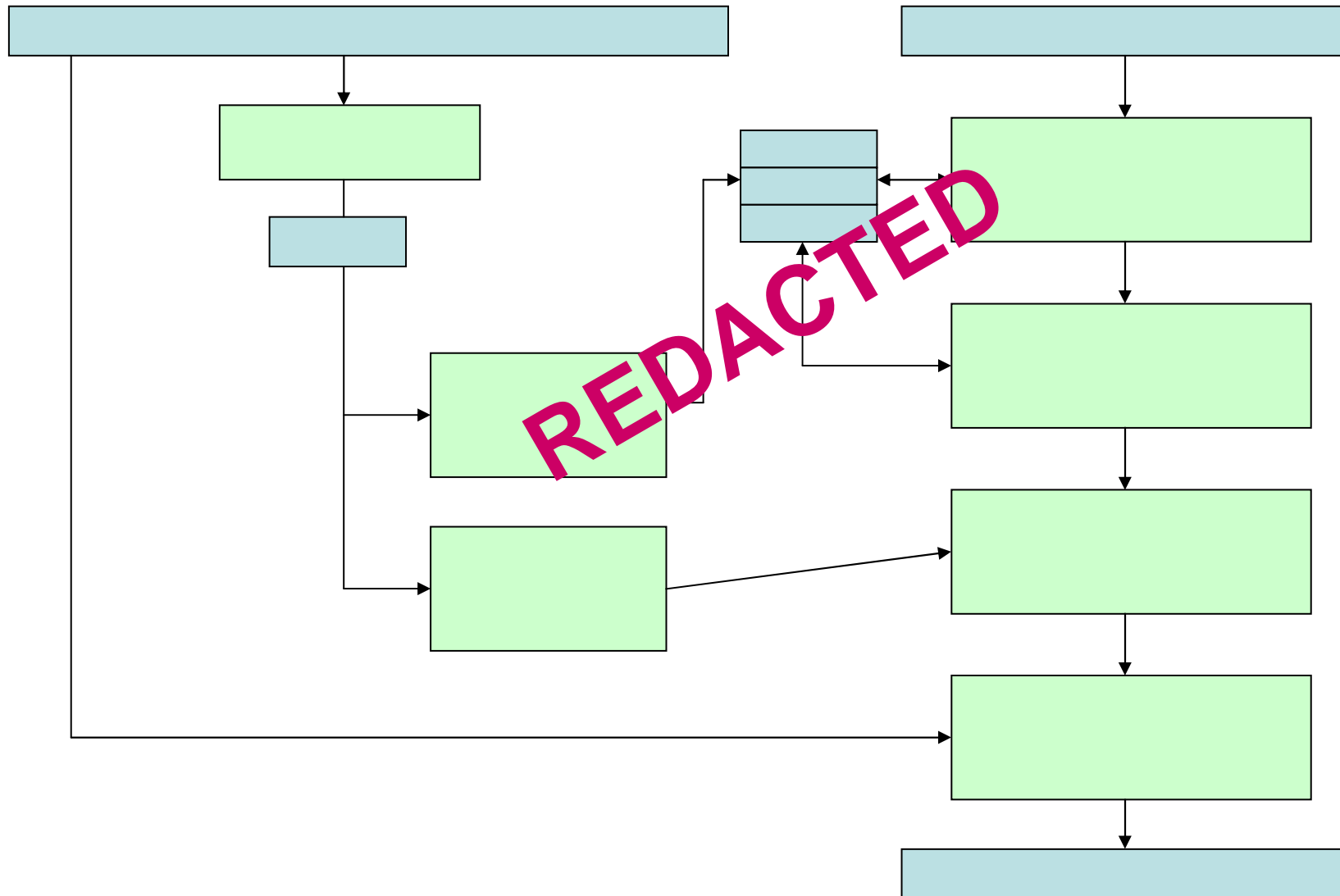
Packets less than X bytes with X



Main Decrypt Routine

- Takes null terminated array (usually ASCII string) as key input
- Always discards first byte without use
- Consists of key schedule derivation plus four base routines, all operating with byte-wise modulo addition
 - first quadratic equation
 - second quadratic equation
 - conditional string reverse (diffusion!)
 - Vigenère cipher

Main Decrypt Routine



decrypt_mask2

```
void decrypt_mask2(ref byte[] message, UInt32 len, ref UInt32[] keyschedule)
{
    <snip>
}
```

REDACTED

nb. code looks weird because it is trans-literated from dissassembly

decrypt_mask1

```
void decrypt_mask1(ref byte[] message, UInt32 len, UInt32 magic, UInt32 k3)
{
    <snip>
}
```

REDACTED

nb. code looks weird because it is trans-literated from dissassembly

decrypt_loopy

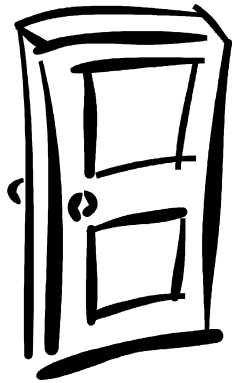
```
void decloopy(ref byte[] message, UInt32 len, byte[] key)
{
    <snip>
}
```

REDACTED

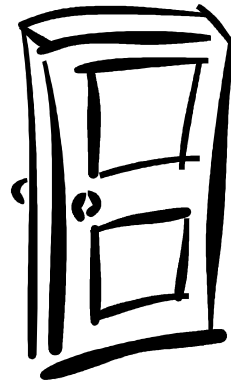
nb. code looks weird because it is trans-literated from dissassembly

Three Doors

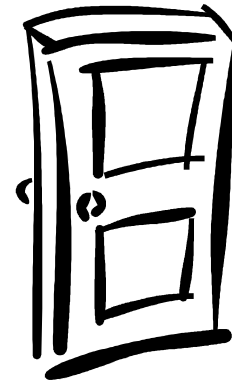
Behind one is a car, behind one freedom, and behind the other, certain death! Pick a door. Now I take away a door. Do you change your mind, or stick with your door?



Cryptanalysis



Static
Reverse
Engineering



Debugging

How I cracked it

1. intercepted packets using Ethereal: noted apparent encryption
2. created chosen chat messages, analysed by length of packet: detected individual packets corresponding to chat message
3. took differential between chosen plaintexts 'aaaaaaaaaaaa' and 'bbbbbbbbbbbb', looking for evidence of stream cipher
4. stream cipher theory validated, began reverse engineering to locate stream cipher

How I cracked it (2)

5. no evidence of stream cipher from examining XOR calls
6. worked upwards from the UDP sendto system call, found static hard-coded keys at 6 layers up (later henry at 3 layers also)
7. from static keys located crypto, discovered stream combined using byte-level addition
8. reverse engineered crypto algorithms (but not their calling structure)

How I cracked it (3)

9. studied packet ciphertexts and differentials between packets looking for evidence of crypto algorithm identified
10. found good evidence, but also evidence of another algorithm
11. went back looking and found “henry”
12. implemented decryption of henry

How I cracked it (4)

13. implemented decryption using static hard-coded key; by luck applying XXX yielded success.. a low entropy header
14. analysed packets looking for size and meaning of header
15. analysed differentials after first decrypt, looking for second decrypt
16. after much thought concluded second decrypt was indeed same algorithm, starting with XXX

How I cracked it (5)

17. Upgraded analysis tool to crack final key using chosen plaintext from chat messages.
18. Cracking algorithm uses brute-force to crack quadratic-equation based keys
19. calculates optimal Vignere cipher key using a tuned fitness function

My Analysis Tool

Joint Ops Packet Decryptor - V1.0

Packet

S 192.168.1.2 (len 004F)... 43 A8 68
S 192.168.1.2 (len 0049)... 87 C6 E6
S 192.168.1.2 (len 0049)... 87 C6 E6
S 192.168.1.2 (len 0089)... 1B BE 00
S 192.168.1.2 (len 0049)... 87 C6 E6
S 192.168.1.2 (len 0051)... E5 B5 1A
S 192.168.1.2 (len 0049)... 87 C6 E6

Packet Content

DATA LEN = 89 HENRY = A700BE1B (calc=20FA3C50)

PACKET
43 97 50 C7 27 48 A0 60 B2 57 8F 85 67 29 E6 4D
50 A6 20 3A B8 B2 28 FC CD 77 7D C0 4C 5B 94 B5
2C 82 DE 9B 78 C6 2A D7 FB 46 D8 18 B4 DF E4 D1
71 C8 54 90 14 30 8A 71 71 3E 43 A0 0E 61 9B 68
B9 3F 3A 73 F5 08 4E 38 76 E6 D2 EB 8E B9 19 BE
E0 4C 31 8A 2D 16 B2 8B AD 53 25 5E FE 13 7F 24
14 B2 94 BD 9A C0 1E F2 FD 92 74 BA 18 13 DA A0
A5 1F 15 68 BA E4 6A 2D 0D 8E 2D C7 9E 54 72 C5
FF F1 D0 DF 11 E7 46 16 25

REV PACKET
25 16 46 E7 11 DF D0 F1 FF C5 72 54 9E C7 2D 8E
0D 2D 6A E4 BA 68 15 1F A5 A0 DA 13 18 BA 74 92
FD F2 1E C0 9A ED 94 B2 14 24 7F 13 FE 5E 25 53
AD 8B B2 16 2D 8A 31 4C E0 BE 19 B9 8E BE D2 E6
76 38 4E 08 F5 73 3A 3F B9 68 9B 61 0E A0 43 3E
71 71 8A 30 14 90 54 C8 71 D1 E4 DF E4 18 D8 46
FB D7 2A C6 78 9B DE 82 2C B5 94 5B 4C C0 7D 77
CD FC 28 B2 B8 3A 20 A5 5D 4D 86 29 67 85 8F 57

Masked Packet

PACKET-MASK
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 FC 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 FF 82 06 00 00 00 00 FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 FF
58 00 00 FF 58 00 00 00 00

REV PACKET-REV MASK
00 00 00 00 58 FF 00 00 58 FF 00 00 00 00 00
00 FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
06 82 FF 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 FC 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

Cracked 2nd Decrypt Packet

0D 7D 01 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61
61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 73 61 61
A1 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61
61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 61 62 15 61
1A 06 BC F3 D8 01 E8 21 28 31 5A 01 D6 15 F7 01
13 50 96 CE FE FD 94 5B 00 86 5F 1A 01 2B 0D EE
01 E8 01 1C 01 E7 01 23 34 E6 26 1D 60 F1 59 14
4E 05 EC 11 14 05 E6 11 DA F2

keylen = 0020

2E 03 44 32 33 1B 1C 37 38 1F 20 3C 3D 23 24 41
42 2F 31 45 35 36 1D 1E 39 3B 21 22 3E 2D 2D 00

correct = 56/122 k1 = 00000097 c = 0

Decrypted Packet (asfd)

HDR = F7 D6 E5 24 BA 00 00 00 B9 00 00 00 00

E5 1E DE 4E 77 83 A6 12 C8 94 76 A2 19 A5 46 32
6A B6 1E CB BA B5 F1 43 DE C5 C2 D3 2F D6 92 6B
87 E7 63 EC D8 CB 07 8D 29 DB D7 1E 7A EB A7 AE
CB 03 80 3F 0A 16 38 A4 5A 27 08 34 AB 25 E1 80
BC 01 56 B8 B2 A3 22 75 30 03 23 78 60 C1 D8 A6
B8 17 E3 C4 D8 FA 35 52 B6 0C 8E AE B3 25 0B AD
EA 36 99 45 3C 47 69 D5 93 8B 39 8A DD C8 15 55
2D C6 E8 7B 62 71 B8 06 B2 47 76

Log
bestscore = 0.0500369996618144 k1 = 00000059
prog: best= 0.0500369996618144 k1 = 0000007B
bestscore = 0.0694351318825934 k1 = 00000097
prog: best= 0.0694351318825934 k1 = 000000A5
bestscore = 0.0694351318825934 k1 = 000000CE
prog: best= 0.0694351318825934 k1 = 000000F7
Done.

First Decrypt Differential

HDR = F7 D6 E5 24 62 01 00 00 61 01 00 00 00

00 00 00 00 FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
00 00 00 00 82 FF 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 FC 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 FC 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 FF 82 06 00 00 00 00 FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF

Decrypted Packet - Nth derivative
C7 40 90 D7 F4 DD 94 4A 34 1E D4 89 74 5F 14 C8
B4 98 53 11 05 C4 AE 64 1A 03 EF A4 59 44 27 E4
A0 84 67 24 0D C4 7A 64 4E 04 B9 A4 8F 44 F8 E4
C8 83 41 35 F4 DE 94 4A 33 1F D4 89 86 44 61 C4
BB AB 9E 06 0F 81 AD 45 2D E0 AB 18 9F E9 32 EE
A1 34 1F EC DE C5 E3 9C AA 7E E0 FB 8E 1A 5E C3
B4 9D 54 09 F5 DE 94 42 08 52 AF AD 15 B3 C0 28
67 DE 6D 19 F1 B9 B2 54 6B D1

F:\jops-revenge\intercepts\alicia-aaaa.cap

Browse

Analyse

☒ Only Source

Crack Packet !

Decryption start offset 1

Second decrypt offset 1

Decryption Derivative 1

Mask 43 97 50 C7 27 48 A0 60 B2 57 8F 85 67 29 E6 4D 50 A6 20 3A B8 B2 28 FC CD 77 7D C0 4C 5B 94 B5 2C 82

Src 192.168.1.2

Set Mask

Set Mask w. Offset 1

Clear Mask

Dst

Sub Mask

set 'a'

set 'b'

☒ Apply Henry Decrypt

Mark from 4 to 3F

My Analysis Tool (2)

The screenshot displays a network analysis tool interface with the following components:

- Packet List:** A table of network packets with columns for offset, hex data, and ASCII text. The first packet (offset 0) contains the text "3DÝ...äé...põä...".
- Decrypted Packet (asf):** A section showing the decrypted packet data. The header is "HDR = 19 98 47 26 BA 00 00 00 BA 00 00 00". The data is displayed in a grid of hex and ASCII values.
- Log:** A vertical list of log entries on the right side of the interface, including "read pac", "Total o", and "read pac".
- Analysis Controls:** A row of buttons and input fields at the bottom, including "Browse", "Analyse", "Only Src", "Crack Packet!", "Cycle Key", "Copy Key", "Show M1/M2", and "Apply Henry Decrypt".
- Visualizations:** Two bar charts at the bottom of the interface, one on the left and one on the right, showing data distribution.

What if?

- Suppose they'd used stronger key stream generator based on proper crypto algorithm (e.g. 3DES)?
 - Easier. Only need to reverse engineer to identify algorithm, not to re-implement
 - Easier. Crypto with proper diffusion characteristics makes it easier to determine when you have got it right. Still stuck with 95% accurate crypto reimplementations which occasionally get a byte wrong
 - Easier to locate in disassembly. Look for crypto-code characteristics
- Suppose they changed key every packet instead of every session?
 - Much easier to exhaust key space of weak cipher by sending a repeated message under many different keys

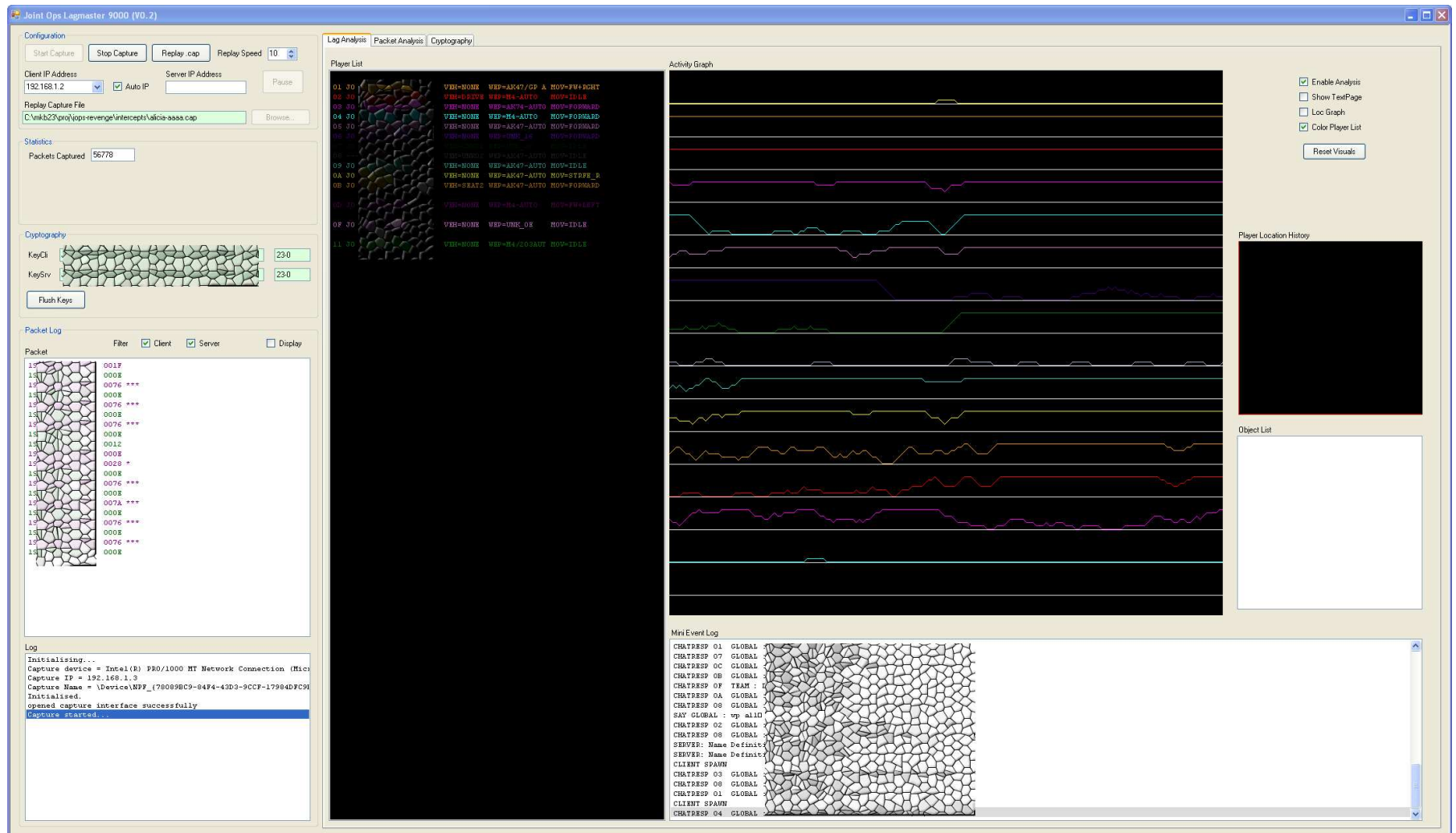
Sturgeon's Razor

- My previous reverse-engineering rules
 - do what you can
 - give everything a name
- Occam and Sturgeon together...
 - “90% of everything is crap”
 - “All things being equal, the simplest explanation tends to be the best one.”
- Yields the new rules (used when explaining weird function behaviour) :
 - “the simplest explanation is that its just a load of crap”

Future Work

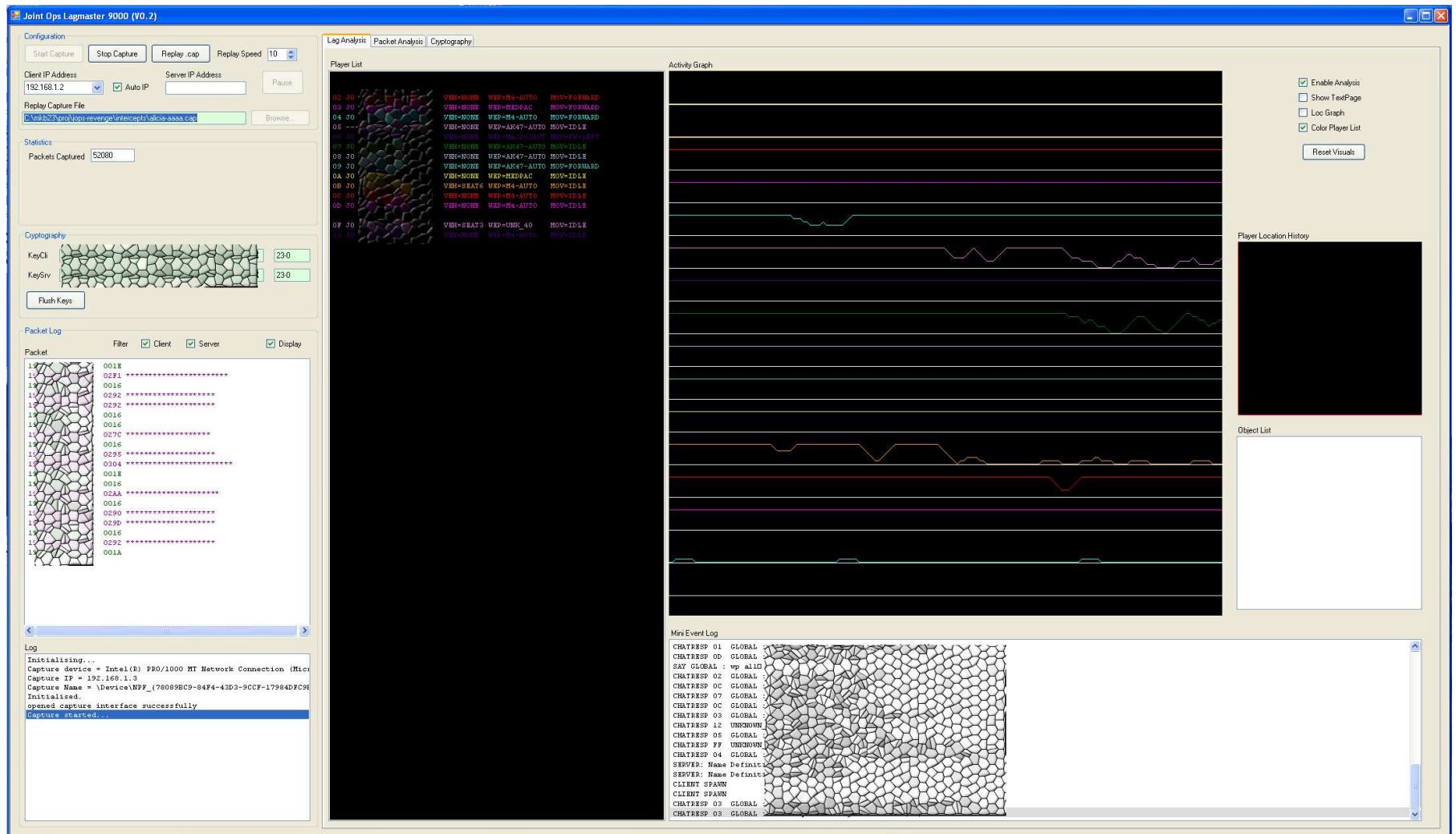
- This work just a pre-requisite to experiments on “Neo-Tactics”
- I want to find out how the update rates of players in-game vary. You have 150 players in game, but you only have 600 bytes of data in your packet. What do you send?
 - Does perception of unfairness/cheating correspond to real bandwidth problems, or inadequacies/anomalies in *use of available bandwidth*?
- This work will also enable (study of) many sorts of undetectable cheating based on packet interception/analysis/rewriting
 - What sorts of hack are achievable if you can mess with the packets in tactical shooters? I hope to make a taxonomy.

Working Lag Analysis Tool



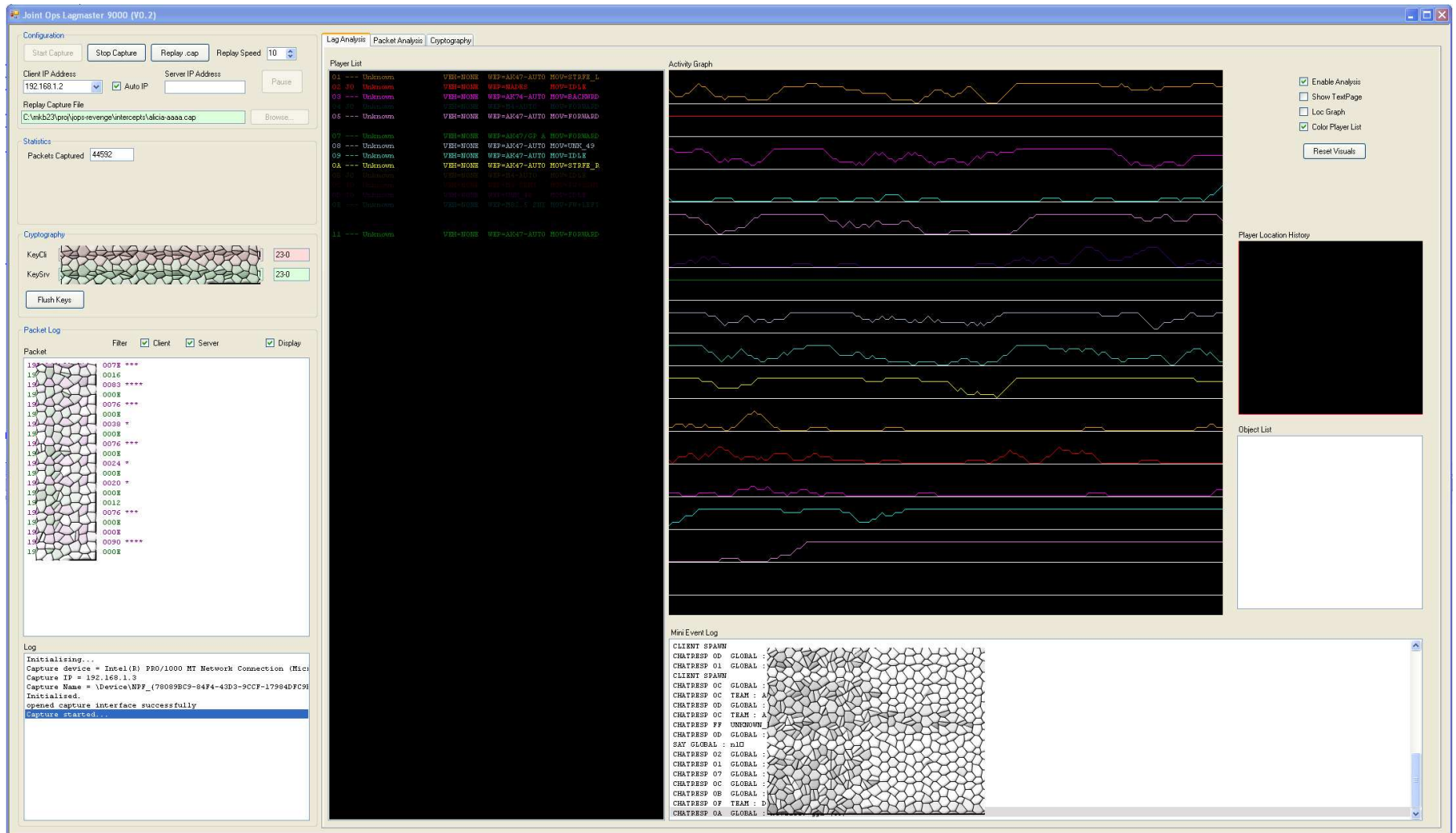
Hi res picture: see <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~mkb23/jopsdec/lag1-censor.png>

Working Lag Analysis Tool (2)



Hi res picture: see <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~mkb23/jopsdec/lag2-censor.png>

Working Lag Analysis Tool (3)



Hi res picture: see <http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~mkb23/jopsdec/lag3-censor.png>