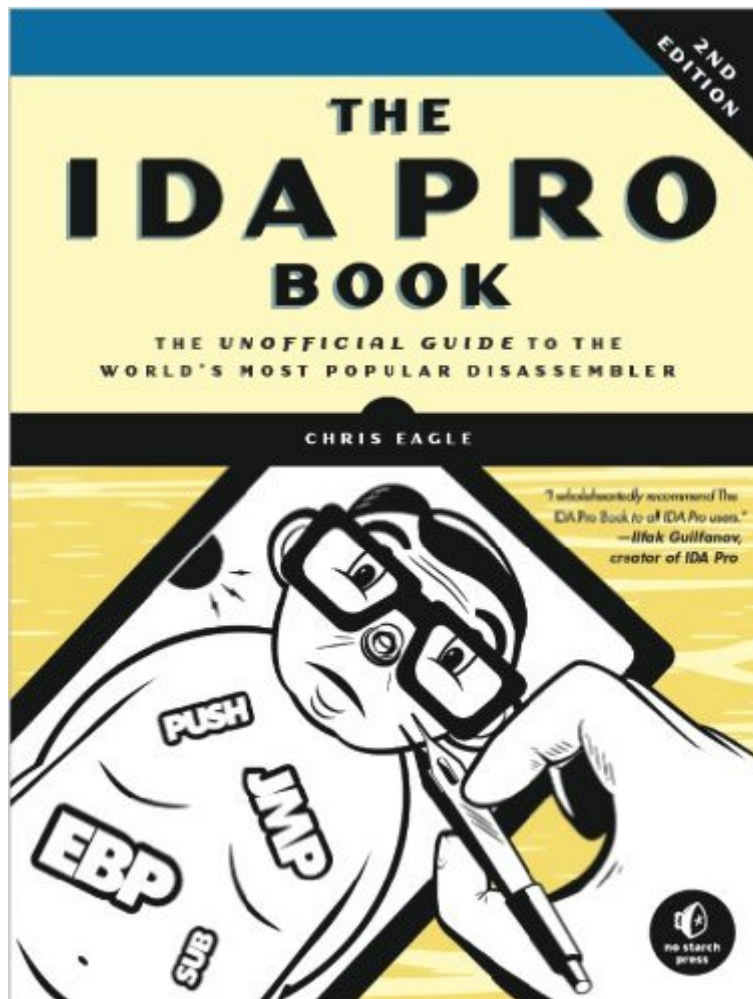# The IDA Pro Book: The Unofficial Guide To The World's Most Popular Disassembler

Synopsis

No source code? No problem. With IDA Pro, the interactive disassembler, you live in a source code-optional world. IDA can automatically analyze the millions of opcodes that make up an executable and present you with a disassembly. But at that point, your work is just beginning. With The IDA Pro Book, you'll learn how to turn that mountain of mnemonics into something you can actually use.Hailed by the creator of IDA Pro as "profound, comprehensive, and accurate," the second edition of The IDA Pro Book covers everything from the very first steps to advanced automation techniques. You'll find complete coverage of IDA's new Qt-based user interface, as well as increased coverage of the IDA debugger, the Bochs debugger, and IDA scripting (especially using IDAPython). But because humans are still smarter than computers, you'll even learn how to use IDA's latest interactive and scriptable interfaces to your advantage.Save time and effort as you learn to:Navigate, comment, and modify disassemblyIdentify known library routines, so you can focus your analysis on other areas of the codeUse code graphing to quickly make sense of cross references and function callsExtend IDA to support new processors and filetypes using the SDKExplore popular plug-ins that make writing IDA scripts easier, allow collaborative reverse engineering, and much moreUse IDA's built-in debugger to tackle hostile and obfuscated codeWhether you're analyzing malware, conducting vulnerability research, or reverse engineering software, a mastery of IDA is crucial to your success. Take your skills to the next level with this 2nd edition of The IDA Pro Book.

Book Information

File Size: 5448 KB

Print Length: 672 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: No Starch Press; 2 edition (June 16, 2011)

Publication Date: June 15, 2011

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B005EI84TM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Customer Reviews

Second Edition Review:If you are considering any other book about IDA Pro Don't bother, as The IDA Pro Book Second Edition is the only book on IDA Pro that you will need.The overall structure of the Second Edition is unchanged, which is not a bad thing. The structure Chris Eagle uses allows for inexperienced users to get spun up on the basics of IDA Pro while allowing experienced users to jump into more advanced topics.The author has an excellent method of elaborating concepts. A Novice user can easily follow the examples and build knowledge as they dive deeper into the book. Experienced users should not be put off by this, the first half of the book may be aimed at the Novice, but the second half is packed with much deeper information on more advanced topics.If you've read the first edition and take a look at the table of contents for the second edition you may be deceived into thinking very little has changed. In fact, you'd be wrong as the second edition offers much more coverage of IDA Python. The second edition also brings users up to speed on the latest editions to IDA Pro to include Scriptable Plugins, Loader Modules and Scriptable Processor Modules. The Second Edition has an increased number of examples using IDA Python, whereas the examples from the first editions were largely only in C using IDC /SDK.The Likes & Dislikes of the book remain the same as my review for the first edition. Although, after considering my only dislike I must admit that my suggestion is somewhat beyond the scope of the book.Bottom line on the Second Edition: If you are new to IDA Pro you NEED this book. If you are experienced with IDA Pro I still suggest picking it up!

IDA Pro is the world's most popular disassembler. This book is for you if you are a beginner or intermediate reverser and you do not already own the first edition of The IDA Pro Book. Much of the second edition is similar, or identical in some places, to the first edition. The IDA Pro Book 2nd Edition does a great job using IDA Pro as the enabling tool for discussing specific techniques of reverse engineering. It is more of a book about reverse engineering rather than a user manual for IDA.Part IReverse engineering may be illegal in certain situations, but the author, Chris Eagle, gives

solid explanations of reasons for reversing. Some of the reasons are obvious and maybe a bit scary, such as malware analysis and vulnerability analysis. Other reasons are more related to traditional computer science such as software interoperability and compiler/assembler validation. Like the first edition of the IDA Pro book, my favorite part of the chapter is still the explanations on disassembly algorithms. The author again does an excellent job highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of linear sweep and recursive descent, as well as explaining their differences and intricacies.Chapter two is spent enumerating tools that supplement IDA in reversing. This is pretty much the same chapter as the first edition, and legitimately so. Beginners and first-time readers will likely find the chapter's contents to be helpful in working alongside IDA. It's worth noting for the chapter that one of the tools mentioned is PEiD, an application to help identify protections and other attributes of a PE. PEiD, however, is no longer developed or maintained as of April 4th, 2011.

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