yara Documentation

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YARA is a tool aimed at (but not limited to) helping malware researchers to identify and classify malware samples. With YARA you can create descriptions of malware families (or whatever you want to describe) based on textual or binary patterns. Each description, a.k.a. rule, consists of a set of strings and a boolean expression which determine its logic. Let's see an example:

```
rule silent_banker : banker
{
    meta:
        description = "This is just an example"
        threat_level = 3
        in_the_wild = true
    strings:
        $a = {6A 40 68 00 30 00 00 6A 14 8D 91}
        $b = {8D 4D B0 2B C1 83 C0 27 99 6A 4E 59 F7 F9}
        $c = "UVODFRYSIHLNWPEJXQZAKCBGMT"
    condition:
        $a or $b or $c
}
```

The above rule is telling YARA that any file containing one of the three strings must be reported as silent_banker. This is just a simple example, more complex and powerful rules can be created by using wild-cards, case-insensitive strings, regular expressions, special operators and many other features that you'll find explained in this documentation.

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CHAPTER 1

Getting started

YARA is a multi-platform program running on Windows, Linux and Mac OS X. You can find the latest release at https://github.com/VirusTotal/yara/releases.

1.1 Compiling and installing YARA

Download the source tarball and get prepared for compiling it:

```
tar -zxf yara-4.4.0.tar.gz cd yara-4.4.0 .
./bootstrap.sh
```

Make sure you have automake, libtool, make and gcc and pkg-config installed in your system. Ubuntu and Debian users can use:

```
sudo apt-get install automake libtool make gcc pkg-config
```

If you plan to modify YARA's source code you may also need flex and bison for generating lexers and parsers:

```
sudo apt-get install flex bison
```

Compile and install YARA in the standard way:

```
./bootstrap.sh
./configure
make
sudo make install
```

Run the test cases to make sure that everything is fine:

```
make check
```

Some of YARA's features depend on the OpenSSL library. Those features are enabled only if you have the OpenSSL library installed in your system. If not, YARA is going to work fine but you won't be able to use the disabled features. The configure script will automatically detect if OpenSSL is installed or not. If you want to enforce the OpenSSL-dependent features you must pass —with—crypto to the configure script. Ubuntu and Debian users can use sudo apt—get install libssl—dev to install the OpenSSL library.

The following modules are not compiled into YARA by default:

- cuckoo
- magic
- · dotnet

If you plan to use them you must pass the corresponding --enable-<module name> arguments to the configure script.

For example:

```
./configure --enable-cuckoo
./configure --enable-magic
./configure --enable-dotnet
./configure --enable-cuckoo --enable-magic --enable-dotnet
```

Modules usually depend on external libraries, depending on the modules you choose to install you'll need the following libraries:

- cuckoo: Depends on Jansson for parsing JSON. Some Ubuntu and Debian versions already include a package named libjansson-dev, if sudo apt-get install libjansson-dev doesn't work for you then get the source code from its repository.
- magic: Depends on *libmagic*, a library used by the Unix standard program file. Ubuntu, Debian and CentOS include a package libmagic-dev. The source code can be found here.

1.1.1 Installing with vcpkg

You can also download and install YARA using the vcpkg dependency manager:

```
git clone https://github.com/microsoft/vcpkg.git
cd vcpkg
./bootstrap-vcpkg.sh
./vcpkg integrate install
vcpkg install yara
```

The YARA port in vcpkg is kept up to date by Microsoft team members and community contributors. If the version is out of date, please create an issue or pull request on the vcpkg repository.

1.1.2 Installing on Windows

Compiled binaries for Windows in both 32 and 64 bit flavors can be found in the link below. Just download the version you want, unzip the archive, and put the yara.exe and yarac.exe binaries anywhere in your disk.

Download Windows binaries

To install YARA using Scoop or Chocolatey, simply type scoop install yara or choco install yara. The integration with both *Scoop* and *Chocolatey* are not maintained their respective teams, not by the YARA authors.

1.1.3 Installing on Mac OS X with Homebrew

To install YARA using Homebrew, simply type brew install yara.

1.1.4 Installing yara-python

If you plan to use YARA from your Python scripts you need to install the yara-python extension. Please refer to https://github.com/VirusTotal/yara-python for instructions on how to install it.

1.2 Running YARA for the first time

Now that you have installed YARA you can write a very simple rule and use the command-line tool to scan some file:

```
echo "rule dummy { condition: true }" > my_first_rule
yara my_first_rule my_first_rule
```

Don't get confused by the repeated my_first_rule in the arguments to yara, I'm just passing the same file as both the rules and the file to be scanned. You can pass any file you want to be scanned (second argument).

If everything goes fine you should get the following output:

```
dummy my_first_rule
```

Which means that the file my_first_rule is matching the rule named dummy.

If you get an error like this:

```
yara: error while loading shared libraries: libyara.so.2: cannot open shared object file: No such file or directory
```

It means that the loader is not finding the libyara library which is located in /usr/local/lib. In some Linux flavors the loader doesn't look for libraries in this path by default, we must instruct it to do so by adding /usr/local/lib to the loader configuration file /etc/ld.so.conf:

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "/usr/local/lib" >> /etc/ld.so.conf'
sudo ldconfig
```

On newer Ubuntu releases such as 22.04 LTS, the correct loader configuration is installed via dependencies to /etc/ld.so.conf.d/libc.conf. In this case, the following command alone is sufficient to configure the dynamic linker run-time bindings.

sudo ldconfig

If you're using Windows PowerShell as your command shell, yara my_first_rule my_first_rule may return this error:

```
my_first_rule(1): error: non-ascii character
```

You can avoid this by using the Set-Content condlet to specify ascii output when creating your rule file:

CHAPTER 2

Writing YARA rules

YARA rules are easy to write and understand, and they have a syntax that resembles the C language. Here is the simplest rule that you can write for YARA, which does absolutely nothing:

```
rule dummy
{
    condition:
        false
}
```

Each rule in YARA starts with the keyword rule followed by a rule identifier. Identifiers must follow the same lexical conventions of the C programming language, they can contain any alphanumeric character and the underscore character, but the first character cannot be a digit. Rule identifiers are case sensitive and cannot exceed 128 characters. The following keywords are reserved and cannot be used as an identifier:

				•			
all	and	any	ascii	at	base64	base64wide	condition
contains	endswith	entrypoint	false	filesize	for	fullword	global
import	icontains	iendswith	iequals	in	include	int16	int16be
int32	int32be	int8	int8be	istartswith	matches	meta	nocase
none	not	of	or	private	rule	startswith	strings
them	true	uint16	uint16be	uint32	uint32be	uint8	uint8be
wide	xor	defined					

Table 1: YARA keywords

Rules are generally composed of two sections: strings definition and condition. The strings definition section can be omitted if the rule doesn't rely on any string, but the condition section is always required. The strings definition section is where the strings that will be part of the rule are defined. Each string has an identifier consisting of a \$ character followed by a sequence of alphanumeric characters and underscores, these identifiers can be used in the condition section to refer to the corresponding string. Strings can be defined in text or hexadecimal form, as shown in the following example:

```
rule ExampleRule
{
    strings:
        $my_text_string = "text here"
        $my_hex_string = { E2 34 A1 C8 23 FB }

    condition:
        $my_text_string or $my_hex_string
}
```

Text strings are enclosed in double quotes just like in the C language. Hex strings are enclosed by curly brackets, and they are composed by a sequence of hexadecimal numbers that can appear contiguously or separated by spaces. Decimal numbers are not allowed in hex strings.

The condition section is where the logic of the rule resides. This section must contain a boolean expression telling under which circumstances a file or process satisfies the rule or not. Generally, the condition will refer to previously defined strings by using their identifiers. In this context the string identifier acts as a boolean variable which evaluate to true if the string was found in the file or process memory, or false if otherwise.

2.1 Comments

You can add comments to your YARA rules just as if it was a C source file, both single-line and multi-line C-style comments are supported.

2.2 Strings

There are three types of strings in YARA: hexadecimal strings, text strings and regular expressions. Hexadecimal strings are used for defining raw sequences of bytes, while text strings and regular expressions are useful for defining portions of legible text. However text strings and regular expressions can be also used for representing raw bytes by mean of escape sequences as will be shown below.

2.2.1 Hexadecimal strings

Hexadecimal strings allow four special constructions that make them more flexible: wild-cards, not operators, jumps, and alternatives. Wild-cards are just placeholders that you can put into the string indicating that some bytes are unknown and they should match anything. The placeholder character is the question mark (?). Here you have an example of a hexadecimal string with wild-cards:

As shown in the example the wild-cards are nibble-wise, which means that you can define just one nibble of the byte and leave the other unknown.

Starting with version 4.3.0, you may specify that a byte is not a specific value. For that you can use the not operator with a byte value:

```
rule NotExample
{
    strings:
        $hex_string = { F4 23 ~00 62 B4 }
        $hex_string2 = { F4 23 ~?0 62 B4 }
        condition:
        $hex_string and $hex_string2
}
```

In the example above we have a byte prefixed with a tilde (~), which is the not operator. This defines that the byte in that location can take any value except the value specified. In this case the first string will only match if the byte is not 00. The not operator can also be used with nibble-wise wild-cards, so the second string will only match if the second nibble is not zero.

Wild-cards and not operators are useful when defining strings whose content can vary but you know the length of the variable chunks, however, this is not always the case. In some circumstances you may need to define strings with chunks of variable content and length. In those situations you can use jumps instead of wild-cards:

In the example above we have a pair of numbers enclosed in square brackets and separated by a hyphen, that's a jump. This jump is indicating that any arbitrary sequence from 4 to 6 bytes can occupy the position of the jump. Any of the following strings will match the pattern:

```
F4 23 01 02 03 04 62 B4
F4 23 00 00 00 00 62 B4
F4 23 15 82 A3 04 45 22 62 B4
```

Any jump [X-Y] must meet the condition $0 \le X \le Y$. In previous versions of YARA both X and Y must be lower than 256, but starting with YARA 2.0 there is no limit for X and Y.

These are valid jumps:

```
FE 39 45 [0-8] 89 00
FE 39 45 [23-45] 89 00
FE 39 45 [1000-2000] 89 00
```

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This is invalid:

```
FE 39 45 [10-7] 89 00
```

If the lower and higher bounds are equal you can write a single number enclosed in brackets, like this:

```
FE 39 45 [6] 89 00
```

The above string is equivalent to both of these:

```
FE 39 45 [6-6] 89 00
FE 39 45 ?? ?? ?? ?? 89 00
```

Starting with YARA 2.0 you can also use unbounded jumps:

```
FE 39 45 [10-] 89 00
FE 39 45 [-] 89 00
```

The first one means [10-infinite], the second one means [0-infinite].

There are also situations in which you may want to provide different alternatives for a given fragment of your hex string. In those situations you can use a syntax which resembles a regular expression:

```
rule AlternativesExample1
{
    strings:
        $hex_string = { F4 23 ( 62 B4 | 56 ) 45 }

    condition:
        $hex_string
}
```

This rule will match any file containing F42362B445 or F4235645.

But more than two alternatives can be also expressed. In fact, there are no limits to the amount of alternative sequences you can provide, and neither to their lengths.

```
rule AlternativesExample2
{
    strings:
        $hex_string = { F4 23 ( 62 B4 | 56 | 45 ?? 67 ) 45 }

    condition:
        $hex_string
}
```

As can be seen also in the above example, strings containing wild-cards are allowed as part of alternative sequences.

2.2.2 Text strings

As shown in previous sections, text strings are generally defined like this:

```
rule TextExample
{
    strings:
        $text_string = "foobar"
```

(continues on next page)

```
condition:
    $text_string
}
```

This is the simplest case: an ASCII-encoded, case-sensitive string. However, text strings can be accompanied by some useful modifiers that alter the way in which the string will be interpreted. Those modifiers are appended at the end of the string definition separated by spaces, as will be discussed below.

Text strings can also contain the following subset of the escape sequences available in the C language:

\"	Double quote
\\	Backslash
\r	Carriage return
\t	Horizontal tab
\n	New line
\xdd	Any byte in hexadecimal notation

In all versions of YARA before 4.1.0 text strings accepted any kind of unicode characters, regardless of their encoding. Those characters were interpreted by YARA as raw bytes, and therefore the final string was actually determined by the encoding format used by your text editor. This never meant to be a feature, the original intention always was that YARA strings should be ASCII-only and YARA 4.1.0 started to raise warnings about non-ASCII characters in strings. This limitation does not apply to strings in the metadata section or comments. See more details [here](https://github.com/VirusTotal/yara/wiki/Unicode-characters-in-YARA)

Case-insensitive strings

Text strings in YARA are case-sensitive by default, however you can turn your string into case-insensitive mode by appending the modifier nocase at the end of the string definition, in the same line:

```
rule CaseInsensitiveTextExample
{
    strings:
        $text_string = "foobar" nocase

    condition:
        $text_string
}
```

With the nocase modifier the string *foobar* will match *Foobar*, *FOOBAR*, and *fOoBaR*. This modifier can be used in conjunction with any modifier, except base64, base64wide and xor.

Wide-character strings

The wide modifier can be used to search for strings encoded with two bytes per character, something typical in many executable binaries.

For example, if the string "Borland" appears encoded as two bytes per character (i.e. $B\x000\x00r\x001\x00a\x00n\x00d\x00$), then the following rule will match:

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```
$wide_string = "Borland" wide

condition:
    $wide_string
}
```

However, keep in mind that this modifier just interleaves the ASCII codes of the characters in the string with zeroes, it does not support truly UTF-16 strings containing non-English characters. If you want to search for strings in both ASCII and wide form, you can use the ascii modifier in conjunction with wide, no matter the order in which they appear.

```
rule WideCharTextExample2
{
    strings:
        $wide_and_ascii_string = "Borland" wide ascii

    condition:
        $wide_and_ascii_string
}
```

The ascii modifier can appear alone, without an accompanying wide modifier, but it's not necessary to write it because in absence of wide the string is assumed to be ASCII by default.

XOR strings

The xor modifier can be used to search for strings with a single byte XOR applied to them.

The following rule will search for every single byte XOR applied to the string "This program cannot" (including the plaintext string):

```
rule XorExample1
{
    strings:
        $xor_string = "This program cannot" xor

    condition:
        $xor_string
}
```

The above rule is logically equivalent to:

```
rule XorExample2
{
    strings:
        $xor_string_00 = "This program cannot"
        $xor_string_01 = "Uihr!qsnfs`l!b`oonu"
        $xor_string_02 = "Vjkq\"rpmepco\"acllmv"
        // Repeat for every single byte XOR
    condition:
        any of them
}
```

You can also combine the xor modifier with wide and ascii modifiers. For example, to search for the wide and ascii versions of a string after every single byte XOR has been applied you would use:

```
rule XorExample3
{
    strings:
        $xor_string = "This program cannot" xor wide ascii
    condition:
        $xor_string
}
```

The xor modifier is applied after every other modifier. This means that using the xor and wide together results in the XOR applying to the interleaved zero bytes. For example, the following two rules are logically equivalent:

```
rule XorExample4
{
   strings:
      $xor_string = "This program cannot" xor wide
   condition:
      $xor_string
rule XorExample4
   strings:
      xor_string_00 = Tx00hx00ix00sx00
-\x00p\x00r\x00o\x00q\x00r\x00a\x00m\x00 \x00c\x00a\x00n\x00n\x00o\x00t\x00"
      xor_string_01 = "U\x01i\x01h\x01r\x01!
→\x01q\x01s\x01n\x01f\x01s\x01`\x011\x01!\x01b\x01`\x01o\x01o\x01n\x01u\x01"
      xor_string_02 = "V\x02j\x02k\x02q\x02
// Repeat for every single byte XOR operation.
   condition:
      any of them
```

Since YARA 3.11, if you want more control over the range of bytes used with the xor modifier use:

```
rule XorExample5
{
    strings:
        $xor_string = "This program cannot" xor(0x01-0xff)
    condition:
        $xor_string
}
```

The above example will apply the bytes from 0x01 to 0xff, inclusively, to the string when searching. The general syntax is xor (minimum-maximum).

Base64 strings

The base64 modifier can be used to search for strings that have been base64 encoded. A good explanation of the technique is at:

https://www.leeholmes.com/searching-for-content-in-base-64-strings/

The following rule will search for the three base64 permutations of the string "This program cannot":

```
rule Base64Example1
{
    (continues on next page)
```

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```
strings:
    $a = "This program cannot" base64

condition:
    $a
}
```

This will cause YARA to search for these three permutations:

VGhpcyBwcm9ncmFtIGNhbm5vd RoaXMgcHJvZ3JhbSBjYW5ub3 UaGlzIHByb2dyYW0gY2Fubm90

The base64wide modifier works just like the base64 modifier but the results of the base64 modifier are converted to wide.

The interaction between base64 (or base64wide) and wide and ascii is as you might expect. wide and ascii are applied to the string first, and then the base64 and base64wide modifiers are applied. At no point is the plaintext of the ascii or wide versions of the strings included in the search. If you want to also include those you can put them in a secondary string.

The base 64 and base 64 wide modifiers also support a custom alphabet. For example:

The alphabet must be 64 bytes long.

The base64 and base64wide modifiers are only supported with text strings. Using these modifiers with a hexadecimal string or a regular expression will cause a compiler error. Also, the xor, fullword, and nocase modifiers used in combination with base64 or base64wide will cause a compiler error.

Because of the way that YARA strips the leading and trailing characters after base64 encoding, one of the base64 encodings of "Dhis program cannow" and "This program cannot" are identical. Similarly, using the base64 keyword on single ASCII characters is not recommended. For example, "a" with the base64 keyword matches "'", "b", "c", "!", "\xA1", or "\xE1" after base64 encoding, and will not match where the base64 encoding matches the [GWm2] [EFGH] regular expression.

Searching for full words

Another modifier that can be applied to text strings is fullword. This modifier guarantees that the string will match only if it appears in the file delimited by non-alphanumeric characters. For example the string *domain*, if defined as fullword, doesn't match *www.mydomain.com* but it matches *www.my-domain.com* and *www.domain.com*.

2.2.3 Regular expressions

Regular expressions are one of the most powerful features of YARA. They are defined in the same way as text strings, but enclosed in forward slashes instead of double-quotes, like in the Perl programming language.

```
rule RegExpExample1
{
    strings:
        $re1 = /md5: [0-9a-fA-F]{32}/
        $re2 = /state: (on|off)/

    condition:
        $re1 and $re2
}
```

Regular expressions can be also followed by nocase, ascii, wide, and fullword modifiers just like in text strings. The semantics of these modifiers are the same in both cases.

Additionally, they can be followed by the characters i and s just after the closing slash, which is a very common convention for specifying that the regular expression is case-insensitive and that the dot (.) can match new-line characters. For example:

Notice that /foo/i is equivalent to /foo/ nocase, but we recommend the latter when defining strings. The /foo/i syntax is useful when writting case-insentive regular expressions for the matches operator.

In previous versions of YARA, external libraries like PCRE and RE2 were used to perform regular expression matching, but starting with version 2.0 YARA uses its own regular expression engine. This new engine implements most features found in PCRE, except a few of them like capture groups, POSIX character classes ([[:isalpha:]], [[:isdigit:]], etc) and backreferences.

YARA's regular expressions recognise the following metacharacters:

\	Quote the next metacharacter
^	Match the beginning of the file or negates a character class when used as the first char-
	acter after the opening bracket
\$	Match the end of the file
	Matches any single character except a newline character
	Alternation
()	Grouping
[]	Bracketed character class

The following quantifiers are recognised as well:

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*	Match 0 or more times
+	Match 1 or more times
?	Match 0 or 1 times
{n}	Match exactly n times
{n,}	Match at least n times
{ , m }	Match at most m times
{n,m}	Match n to m times

All these quantifiers have a non-greedy variant, followed by a question mark (?):

*?	Match 0 or more times, non-greedy
+?	Match 1 or more times, non-greedy
??	Match 0 or 1 times, non-greedy
{n}?	Match exactly n times, non-greedy
{n,}?	Match at least n times, non-greedy
{,m}?	Match at most m times, non-greedy
{n,m}?	Match n to m times, non-greedy

The following escape sequences are recognised:

\t	Tab (HT, TAB)
\n	New line (LF, NL)
\r	Return (CR)
\f	Form feed (FF)
\a	Alarm bell
\xNN	Character whose ordinal number is the given hexadecimal number

These are the recognised character classes:

\W	Match a word character (alphanumeric plus "_")
\W	Match a non-word character
\s	Match a whitespace character
\S	Match a non-whitespace character
\d	Match a decimal digit character
\D	Match a non-digit character

Starting with version 3.3.0 these zero-width assertions are also recognized:

\b	Match a word boundary
\B	Match except at a word boundary

2.2.4 Private strings

All strings in YARA can be marked as private which means they will never be included in the output of YARA. They are treated as normal strings everywhere else, so you can still use them as you wish in the condition, but they will never be shown with the -s flag or seen in the YARA callback if you're using the C API.

```
rule PrivateStringExample
{
    strings:
        $text_string = "foobar" private

    condition:
        $text_string
}
```

2.2.5 Unreferenced strings

YARA 4.4.0 allows for unreferenced strings in the condition. If a string identifier starts with an _ then it does not have to be referenced in the condition. Any other string must be referenced in the condition. This is useful if you want to search for particular strings and handle them in a custom callback but don't really need them for your condition logic.

```
rule PrivateStringExample
{
    strings:
        $_unreferenced = "AXSERS"

    condition:
        true
}
```

2.2.6 String Modifier Summary

The following string modifiers are processed in the following order, but are only applicable to the string types listed.

Keyword	String Types	Summary	Restrictions		
nocase	Text, Regex	Ignore case	Cannot use with xor, base64, or		
			base64wide		
wide	Text, Regex	Emulate UTF16 by interleaving null	None		
		(0x00) characters			
ascii	Text, Regex	Also match ASCII characters, only re-	None		
		quired if wide is used			
xor	Text	XOR text string with single byte keys	Cannot use with nocase, base 64, or		
			base64wide		
base64	Text	Convert to 3 base64 encoded strings	Cannot use with nocase, xor, or		
			fullword		
base64w:	d e xt	Convert to 3 base64 encoded strings,	Cannot use with nocase, xor, or		
		then interleaving null characters like	fullword		
		wide			
fullword	d Text, Regex	Match is not preceded or followed by	Cannot use with base64 or		
		an alphanumeric character	base64wide		
private	Hex, Text, Regex	Match never included in output	None		

Table 2: Text string modifiers

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2.3 Conditions

Conditions are nothing more than Boolean expressions as those that can be found in all programming languages, for example in an *if* statement. They can contain the typical Boolean operators and, or, and not, and relational operators >=, <=, <, >, == and !=. Also, the arithmetic operators $(+, -, *, \setminus, *)$ and bitwise operators $(\&, |, <<, >>, ~, ^)$ can be used on numerical expressions.

Integers are always 64-bits long, even the results of functions like *uint8*, *uint16* and *uint32* are promoted to 64-bits. This is something you must take into account, specially while using bitwise operators (for example, ~0x01 is not 0xFE but 0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFF).

The following table lists the precedence and associativity of all operators. The table is sorted in descending precedence order, which means that operators listed on a higher row in the list are grouped prior operators listed in rows further below it. Operators within the same row have the same precedence, if they appear together in a expression the associativity determines how they are grouped.

Prece-Operator dence		Description	As-
			so-
			cia-
			tiv-
			ity
1	[]	Array subscripting	Left-
		Structure member access	to-
			right
2	_	Unary minus	Right
_	~	Bitwise not	to-
			left
3	*	Multiplication	Left-
	\	Division	to-
	%	Remainder	right
4	+	Addition	Left-
7		Subtraction	to-
		Subtraction	right
5	<<	Bitwise left shift	Left-
3	>>	Bitwise right shift	to-
		Diewise right shift	right
6	&	Bitwise AND	Left-
0	· ·	Ditwise AND	to-
			right
7	^	Bitwise XOR	Left-
/		Ditwise AOK	to-
8		Bitwise OR	right Left-
8	1	Ditwise OK	to-
9		Less than	right Left-
9	<		to-
	<=	Less than or equal to Greater than	
	>		right
10	>=	Greater than or equal to	T C.
10	==	Equal to	Left-
	!=	Not equal to	to-
	contains	String contains substring	right
	icontains	Like contains but case-insensitive	
	startswith	String starts with substring	
	istartswith	Like startswith but case-insensitive	
	endswith	String ends with substring	
	iendswith	Like endswith but case-insensitive	
	iequals	Case-insensitive string comparison	
	matches	String matches regular expression	
11	not defined	Logical NOT Check if an expression is defined	Right
			to-
			left
12	and	Logical AND	Left-
			to-
			right
13	or	Logical OR	Left-
			to-
			right

2.3. Conditions

String identifiers can be also used within a condition, acting as Boolean variables whose value depends on the presence or not of the associated string in the file.

```
rule Example
{
    strings:
        $a = "text1"
        $b = "text2"
        $c = "text3"
        $d = "text4"

    condition:
        ($a or $b) and ($c or $d)
}
```

2.3.1 Counting strings

Sometimes we need to know not only if a certain string is present or not, but how many times the string appears in the file or process memory. The number of occurrences of each string is represented by a variable whose name is the string identifier but with a # character in place of the \$ character. For example:

```
rule CountExample
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy1"
        $b = "dummy2"

    condition:
        #a == 6 and #b > 10
}
```

This rule matches any file or process containing the string \$a exactly six times, and more than ten occurrences of string \$b

Starting with YARA 4.2.0 it is possible to express the count of a string in an integer range, like this:

```
#a in (filesize-500..filesize) == 2
```

In this example the number of 'a' strings in the last 500 bytes of the file must equal exactly 2.

2.3.2 String offsets or virtual addresses

In the majority of cases, when a string identifier is used in a condition, we are willing to know if the associated string is anywhere within the file or process memory, but sometimes we need to know if the string is at some specific offset on the file or at some virtual address within the process address space. In such situations the operator at is what we need. This operator is used as shown in the following example:

```
rule AtExample
{
   strings:
      $a = "dummy1"
      $b = "dummy2"
   condition:
```

(continues on next page)

```
$a at 100 and $b at 200
}
```

The expression \$a at 100 in the above example is true only if string \$a is found at offset 100 within the file (or at virtual address 100 if applied to a running process). The string \$b should appear at offset 200. Please note that both offsets are decimal, however hexadecimal numbers can be written by adding the prefix 0x before the number as in the C language, which comes very handy when writing virtual addresses. Also note the higher precedence of the operator at over the and.

While the at operator allows to search for a string at some fixed offset in the file or virtual address in a process memory space, the in operator allows to search for the string within a range of offsets or addresses.

```
rule InExample
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy1"
        $b = "dummy2"

    condition:
        $a in (0..100) and $b in (100..filesize)
}
```

In the example above the string \$a must be found at an offset between 0 and 100, while string \$b must be at an offset between 100 and the end of the file. Again, numbers are decimal by default.

You can also get the offset or virtual address of the i-th occurrence of string \$a by using @a[i]. The indexes are one-based, so the first occurrence would be @a[1] the second one @a[2] and so on. If you provide an index greater than the number of occurrences of the string, the result will be a NaN (Not A Number) value.

2.3.3 Match length

For many regular expressions and hex strings containing jumps, the length of the match is variable. If you have the regular expression /fo*/ the strings "fo", "foo" and "fooo" can be matches, all of them with a different length.

You can use the length of the matches as part of your condition by using the character ! in front of the string identifier, in a similar way you use the @ character for the offset. !a[1] is the length for the first match of \$a, !a[2] is the length for the second match, and so on. !a is a abbreviated form of !a[1].

2.3.4 File size

String identifiers are not the only variables that can appear in a condition (in fact, rules can be defined without any string definition as will be shown below), there are other special variables that can be used as well. One of these special variables is filesize, which holds, as its name indicates, the size of the file being scanned. The size is expressed in bytes.

```
rule FileSizeExample
{
    condition:
        filesize > 200KB
}
```

The previous example also demonstrates the use of the KB postfix. This postfix, when attached to a numerical constant, automatically multiplies the value of the constant by 1024. The MB postfix can be used to multiply the value by 2^20 . Both postfixes can be used only with decimal constants.

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The use of filesize only makes sense when the rule is applied to a file. If the rule is applied to a running process it won't ever match because filesize doesn't make sense in this context.

2.3.5 Executable entry point

Another special variable than can be used in a rule is entrypoint. If the file is a Portable Executable (PE) or Executable and Linkable Format (ELF), this variable holds the raw offset of the executable's entry point in case we are scanning a file. If we are scanning a running process, the entrypoint will hold the virtual address of the main executable's entry point. A typical use of this variable is to look for some pattern at the entry point to detect packers or simple file infectors.

```
rule EntryPointExample1
{
    strings:
        $a = { E8 00 00 00 00 }

    condition:
        $a at entrypoint
}

rule EntryPointExample2
{
    strings:
        $a = { 9C 50 66 A1 ?? ?? ?? 00 66 A9 ?? ?? 58 0F 85 }

    condition:
        $a in (entrypoint..entrypoint + 10)
}
```

The presence of the entrypoint variable in a rule implies that only PE or ELF files can satisfy that rule. If the file is not a PE or ELF, any rule using this variable evaluates to false.

Warning: The entrypoint variable is deprecated, you should use the equivalent pe.entry_point from the *PE module* instead. Starting with YARA 3.0 you'll get a warning if you use entrypoint and it will be completely removed in future versions.

2.3.6 Accessing data at a given position

There are many situations in which you may want to write conditions that depend on data stored at a certain file offset or virtual memory address, depending on if we are scanning a file or a running process. In those situations you can use one of the following functions to read data from the file at the given offset:

```
int8(<offset or virtual address>)
int16(<offset or virtual address>)
int32(<offset or virtual address>)

uint8(<offset or virtual address>)
uint16(<offset or virtual address>)
uint32(<offset or virtual address>)
int8be(<offset or virtual address>)
int16be(<offset or virtual address>)
int16be(<offset or virtual address>)
```

(continues on next page)

```
uint8be(<offset or virtual address>)
uint16be(<offset or virtual address>)
uint32be(<offset or virtual address>)
```

The intXX functions read 8, 16, and 32 bits signed integers from <offset or virtual address>, while functions uintXX read unsigned integers. Both 16 and 32 bit integers are considered to be little-endian. If you want to read a big-endian integer use the corresponding function ending in be. The <offset or virtual address> parameter can be any expression returning an unsigned integer, including the return value of one the uintXX functions itself. As an example let's see a rule to distinguish PE files:

```
rule IsPE
{
    condition:
        // MZ signature at offset 0 and ...
        uint16(0) == 0x5A4D and
        // ... PE signature at offset stored in MZ header at 0x3C
        uint32(uint32(0x3C)) == 0x00004550
}
```

2.3.7 Sets of strings

There are circumstances in which it is necessary to express that the file should contain a certain number strings from a given set. None of the strings in the set are required to be present, but at least some of them should be. In these situations the of operator can be used.

```
rule OfExample1
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy1"
        $b = "dummy2"
        $c = "dummy3"

    condition:
        2 of ($a,$b,$c)
}
```

This rule requires that at least two of the strings in the set (\$a,\$b,\$c) must be present in the file, but it does not matter which two. Of course, when using this operator, the number before the of keyword must be less than or equal to the number of strings in the set.

The elements of the set can be explicitly enumerated like in the previous example, or can be specified by using wild cards. For example:

```
rule OfExample2
{
    strings:
        $foo1 = "foo1"
        $foo2 = "foo2"
        $foo3 = "foo3"

    condition:
        2 of ($foo*) // equivalent to 2 of ($foo1,$foo2,$foo3)
}
```

(continues on next page)

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```
rule OfExample3
{
    strings:
        $fool = "fool"
        $foo2 = "foo2"

        $bar1 = "bar1"
        $bar2 = "bar2"

    condition:
        3 of ($foo*,$bar1,$bar2)
}
```

You can even use (\$*) to refer to all the strings in your rule, or write the equivalent keyword them for more legibility.

```
rule OfExample4
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy1"
        $b = "dummy2"
        $c = "dummy3"

    condition:
        1 of them // equivalent to 1 of ($*)
}
```

In all the examples above, the number of strings have been specified by a numeric constant, but any expression returning a numeric value can be used. The keywords any, all and none can be used as well.

```
all of them // all strings in the rule
any of them // any string in the rule
all of ($a*) // all strings whose identifier starts by $a
any of ($a,$b,$c) // any of $a, $b or $c
1 of ($*) // same that "any of them"
none of ($b*) // zero of the set of strings that start with "$b"
```

Warning: Due to the way YARA works internally, using "0 of them" is an ambiguous part of the language which should be avoided in favor of "none of them". To understand this, consider the meaning of "2 of them", which is true if 2 or more of the strings match. Historically, "0 of them" followed this principle and would evaluate to true if at least one of the strings matched. This ambiguity is resolved in YARA 4.3.0 by making "0 of them" evaluate to true if exactly 0 of the strings match. To improve on the situation and make the intent clear, it is encouraged to use "none" in place of 0. By not using an integer it is easier to reason about the meaning of "none of them" without the historical understanding of "at least 0" clouding the issue.

Starting with YARA 4.2.0 it is possible to express a set of strings in an integer range, like this:

```
all of ($a*) in (filesize-500..filesize) any of ($a*, $b*) in (1000..2000)
```

Starting with YARA 4.3.0 it is possible to express a set of strings at a specific offset, like this:

```
any of ($a*) at 0
```

2.3.8 Applying the same condition to many strings

There is another operator very similar to of but even more powerful, the for..of operator. The syntax is:

```
for expression of string_set : ( boolean_expression )
```

And its meaning is: from those strings in string_set at least expression of them must satisfy boolean_expression.

In other words: boolean_expression is evaluated for every string in string_set and there must be at least expression of them returning True.

Of course, boolean_expression can be any boolean expression accepted in the condition section of a rule, except for one important detail: here you can (and should) use a dollar sign (\$) as a place-holder for the string being evaluated. Take a look at the following expression:

```
for any of ($a,$b,$c) : ( $ at pe.entry_point )
```

The \$ symbol in the boolean expression is not tied to any particular string, it will be \$a, and then \$b, and then \$c in the three successive evaluations of the expression.

Maybe you already realised that the of operator is a special case of for..of. The following expressions are the same:

```
any of ($a,$b,$c)
for any of ($a,$b,$c) : ($)
```

You can also employ the symbols #, @, and ! to make reference to the number of occurrences, the first offset, and the length of each string respectively.

```
for all of them : ( \# > 3 ) for all of (\$a*) : ( @ > @b )
```

Starting with YARA 4.3.0 you can express conditions over text strings like this:

```
for any s in ("71b36345516e076a0663e0bea97759e4", "le7f7edeb06de02f2c2a9319de99e033") 

-: ( pe.imphash() == s )
```

It is worth remembering here that the two hashes referenced in the rule are normal text strings, and have nothing to do with the string section of the rule. Inside the loop condition the result of the *pe.imphash()* function is compared to each of the text strings, resulting in a more concise rule.

2.3.9 Using anonymous strings with of and for..of

When using the of and for..of operators followed by them, the identifier assigned to each string of the rule is usually superfluous. As we are not referencing any string individually we do not need to provide a unique identifier for each of them. In those situations you can declare anonymous strings with identifiers consisting only of the \$ character, as in the following example:

```
rule AnonymousStrings
{
    strings:
        $ = "dummy1"
        $ = "dummy2"
    condition:
```

(continues on next page)

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```
1 of them }
```

2.3.10 Iterating over string occurrences

As seen in *String offsets or virtual addresses*, the offsets or virtual addresses where a given string appears within a file or process address space can be accessed by using the syntax: @a[i], where i is an index indicating which occurrence of the string \$a you are referring to. (@a[1], @a[2],...).

Sometimes you will need to iterate over some of these offsets and guarantee they satisfy a given condition. In such cases you can use the for..in syntax, for example:

```
rule Occurrences
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy1"
        $b = "dummy2"

    condition:
        for all i in (1,2,3) : ( @a[i] + 10 == @b[i] )
}
```

The previous rule says that the first occurrence of \$b should be 10 bytes after the first occurrence of \$a, and the same should happen with the second and third ocurrences of the two strings.

The same condition could be written also as:

```
for all i in (1..3) : ( @a[i] + 10 == @b[i] )
```

Notice that we're using a range (1..3) instead of enumerating the index values (1,2,3). Of course, we're not forced to use constants to specify range boundaries, we can use expressions as well like in the following example:

```
for all i in (1..#a) : ( @a[i] < 100 )
```

In this case we're iterating over every occurrence of \$a (remember that #a represents the number of occurrences of \$a). This rule is specifying that every occurrence of \$a should be within the first 100 bytes of the file.

In case you want to express that only some occurrences of the string should satisfy your condition, the same logic seen in the for..of operator applies here:

```
for any i in (1..#a) : ( @a[i] < 100 ) for 2 i in (1..#a) : ( @a[i] < 100 )
```

The for..in operator is similar to for..of, but the latter iterates over a set of strings, while the former iterates over ranges, enumerations, arrays and dictionaries.

2.3.11 Iterators

In YARA 4.0 the for..in operator was improved and now it can be used to iterate not only over integer enumerations and ranges (e.g. 1,2,3,4 and 1..4), but also over any kind of iterable data type, like arrays and dictionaries defined by YARA modules. For example, the following expression is valid in YARA 4.0:

```
for any section in pe.sections : ( section.name == ".text" )
```

This is equivalent to:

```
for any i in (0..pe.number_of_sections-1) : ( pe.sections[i].name == ".text" )
```

The new syntax is more natural and easy to understand, and is the recommended way of expressing this type of conditions in newer versions of YARA.

While iterating dictionaries you must provide two variable names that will hold the key and value for each entry in the dictionary, for example:

```
for any k,v in some_dict : ( k == "foo" and v == "bar" )
```

In general the for...in operator has the form:

```
for <quantifier> <variables> in <iterable> : ( <some condition using the loop \rightarrow variables> )
```

Where *<quantifier>* is either *any*, *all* or an expression that evaluates to the number of items in the iterator that must satisfy the condition, *<variables>* is a comma-separated list of variable names that holds the values for the current item (the number of variables depend on the type of *<iterable>*) and *<iterable>* is something that can be iterated.

2.3.12 Referencing other rules

When writing the condition for a rule you can also make reference to a previously defined rule in a manner that resembles a function invocation of traditional programming languages. In this way you can create rules that depend on others. Let's see an example:

```
rule Rule1
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy1"

    condition:
        $a
}
rule Rule2
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy2"

    condition:
        $a and Rule1
}
```

As can be seen in the example, a file will satisfy Rule2 only if it contains the string "dummy2" and satisfies Rule1. Note that it is strictly necessary to define the rule being invoked before the one that will make the invocation.

Another way to reference other rules was introduced in 4.2.0 and that is sets of rules, which operate similarly to sets of strings (see sets-of-strings). For example:

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```
condition:
    $a
}

rule Rule2
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy2"

    condition:
        $a
}

rule MainRule
{
    strings:
        $a = "dummy2"

    condition:
        any of (Rule*)
}
```

This example demonstrates how to use rule sets to describe higher order logic in a way which automatically grows with your rules. If you define another rule named Rule3 before MainRule then it will automatically be included in the expansion of Rule* in the condition for MainRule.

To use rule sets all of the rules included in the set **must** exist prior to the rule set being used. For example, the following will produce a compiler error because a 2 is defined after the rule set is used in x:

```
rule a1 { condition: true }
rule x { condition: 1 of (a*) }
rule a2 { condition: true }
```

2.4 More about rules

There are some aspects of YARA rules that have not been covered yet, but are still very important. These are: global rules, private rules, tags and metadata.

2.4.1 Global rules

Global rules give you the possibility of imposing restrictions in all your rules at once. For example, suppose that you want all your rules to ignore files that exceed a certain size limit. You could go rule by rule making the required modifications to their conditions, or just write a global rule like this one:

```
global rule SizeLimit
{
    condition:
        filesize < 2MB
}</pre>
```

You can define as many global rules as you want, they will be evaluated before the rest of the rules, which in turn will be evaluated only if all global rules are satisfied.

2.4.2 Private rules

Private rules are a very simple concept. They are just rules that are not reported by YARA when they match on a given file. Rules that are not reported at all may seem sterile at first glance, but when mixed with the possibility offered by YARA of referencing one rule from another (see *Referencing other rules*) they become useful. Private rules can serve as building blocks for other rules, and at the same time prevent cluttering YARA's output with irrelevant information. To declare a rule as private just add the keyword private before the rule declaration.

```
private rule PrivateRuleExample
{
    ...
}
```

You can apply both private and global modifiers to a rule, resulting in a global rule that does not get reported by YARA but must be satisfied.

2.4.3 Rule tags

Another useful feature of YARA is the possibility of adding tags to rules. Those tags can be used later to filter YARA's output and show only the rules that you are interested in. You can add as many tags as you want to a rule, they are declared after the rule identifier as shown below:

```
rule TagsExample1 : Foo Bar Baz
{
    ...
}
rule TagsExample2 : Bar
{
    ...
}
```

Tags must follow the same lexical convention of rule identifiers, therefore only alphanumeric characters and underscores are allowed, and the tag cannot start with a digit. They are also case sensitive.

When using YARA you can output only those rules which are tagged with the tag or tags that you provide.

2.4.4 Metadata

Besides the string definition and condition sections, rules can also have a metadata section where you can put additional information about your rule. The metadata section is defined with the keyword meta and contains identifier/value pairs like in the following example:

```
rule MetadataExample
{
    meta:
        my_identifier_1 = "Some string data"
        my_identifier_2 = 24
        my_identifier_3 = true

strings:
        $my_text_string = "text here"
        $my_hex_string = { E2 34 A1 C8 23 FB }

condition:
```

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```
$my_text_string or $my_hex_string
}
```

As can be seen in the example, metadata identifiers are always followed by an equals sign and the value assigned to them. The assigned values can be strings (valid UTF8 only), integers, or one of the boolean values true or false. Note that identifier/value pairs defined in the metadata section cannot be used in the condition section, their only purpose is to store additional information about the rule.

2.5 Using modules

Modules are extensions to YARA's core functionality. Some modules like the *PE module* and the *Cuckoo module* are officially distributed with YARA and additional ones can be created by third-parties or even yourself as described in *Writing your own modules*.

The first step to using a module is importing it with the import statement. These statements must be placed outside any rule definition and followed by the module name enclosed in double-quotes. Like this:

```
import "pe"
import "cuckoo"
```

After importing the module you can make use of its features, always using <module name>. as a prefix to any variable or function exported by the module. For example:

```
pe.entry_point == 0x1000
cuckoo.http_request(/someregexp/)
```

2.6 Undefined values

Modules often leave variables in an undefined state, for example when the variable doesn't make sense in the current context (think of pe.entry_point while scanning a non-PE file). YARA handles undefined values in a way that allows the rule to keep its meaningfulness. Take a look at this rule:

```
import "pe"

rule Test
{
    strings:
        $a = "some string"

    condition:
        $a and pe.entry_point == 0x1000
}
```

If the scanned file is not a PE you wouldn't expect this rule to match the file, even if it contains the string, because **both** conditions (the presence of the string and the right value for the entry point) must be satisfied. However, if the condition is changed to:

```
$a or pe.entry_point == 0x1000
```

You would expect the rule to match in this case if the file contains the string, even if it isn't a PE file. That's exactly how YARA behaves. The logic is as follows:

- If the expression in the condition is undefined, it would be translated to false and the rule won't match.
- Boolean operators and and or will treat undefined operands as false, Which means that:
 - undefined and true is false
 - undefined and false is false
 - undefined or true is true
 - undefined or false is false
- All the remaining operators, including the not operator, return undefined if any of their operands is undefined.

In the expression above, pe.entry_point == 0x1000 will be undefined for non-PE files, because pe. entry_point is undefined for those files. This implies that \$a or pe.entry_point == 0x1000 will be true if and only if \$a is true.

If the condition is pe.entry_point == 0x1000 alone, it will evaluate to false for non-PE files, and so will do pe.entry_point != 0x1000 and not pe.entry_point == 0x1000, as none of these expressions make sense for non-PE files.

To check if expression is defined use unary operator defined. Example:

```
defined pe.entry_point
```

2.7 External variables

External variables allow you to define rules that depend on values provided from the outside. For example, you can write the following rule:

```
rule ExternalVariableExample1
{
    condition:
        ext_var == 10
}
```

In this case ext_var is an external variable whose value is assigned at run-time (see -d option of command-line tool, and externals parameter of compile and match methods in yara-python). External variables could be of types: integer, string or boolean; their type depends on the value assigned to them. An integer variable can substitute any integer constant in the condition and boolean variables can occupy the place of boolean expressions. For example:

```
rule ExternalVariableExample2
{
    condition:
       bool_ext_var or filesize < int_ext_var
}</pre>
```

External variables of type string can be used with the operators: contains, startswith, endswith and their case-insensitive counterparts: icontains, istartswith and iendswith. They can be used also with the matches operator, which returns true if the string matches a given regular expression. Case-insensitive string comparison can be done through special operator iequals which only works with strings. For case-sensitive comparison use regular ==.

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```
string_ext_var contains "text"
rule CaseInsensitiveContainsExample
    condition:
        string_ext_var icontains "text"
rule StartsWithExample
    condition:
       string_ext_var startswith "prefix"
rule EndsWithExample
    condition:
        string_ext_var endswith "suffix"
rule IequalsExample
    condition:
        string_ext_var iequals "string"
rule MatchesExample
    condition:
        string_ext_var matches /[a-z]+/
```

You can use regular expression modifiers along with the matches operator, for example, if you want the regular expression from the previous example to be case insensitive you can use /[a-z]+/i. Notice the i following the regular expression in a Perl-like manner. You can also use the s modifier for single-line mode, in this mode the dot matches all characters including line breaks. Of course both modifiers can be used simultaneously, like in the following example:

```
rule ExternalVariableExample5
{
    condition:
        /* case insensitive single-line mode */
        string_ext_var matches /[a-z]+/is
}
```

Keep in mind that every external variable used in your rules must be defined at run-time, either by using the -d option of the command-line tool, or by providing the externals parameter to the appropriate method in yara-python.

2.8 Including files

In order to allow for more flexible organization of your rules files, YARA provides the include directive. This directive works in a similar way to the #include pre-processor directive in C programs, which inserts the content of the specified source file into the current file during compilation. The following example will include the content of

other.yar into the current file:

```
include "other.yar"
```

The base path when searching for a file in an include directive will be the directory where the current file resides. For this reason, the file *other.yar* in the previous example should be located in the same directory of the current file. However, you can also specify relative paths like these:

```
include "./includes/other.yar"
include "../includes/other.yar"
```

Or use absolute paths:

```
include "/home/plusvic/yara/includes/other.yar"
```

In Windows, both forward and back slashes are accepted, but don't forget to write the drive letter:

```
include "c:/yara/includes/other.yar"
include "c:\\yara\\includes\\other.yar"
```

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CHAPTER 3

Modules

Modules are the method YARA provides for extending its features. They allow you to define data structures and functions which can be used in your rules to express more complex conditions. Here you'll find described some modules officially distributed with YARA, but you can also learn how to write your own modules in the *Writing your own modules* section.

3.1 PE module

The PE module allows you to create more fine-grained rules for PE files by using attributes and features of the PE file format. This module exposes most of the fields present in a PE header and provides functions which can be used to write more expressive and targeted rules. Let's see some examples:

```
import "pe"

rule single_section
{
    condition:
        pe.number_of_sections == 1
}

rule control_panel_applet
{
    condition:
        pe.exports("CPlApplet")
}

rule is_dll
{
    condition:
        pe.characteristics & pe.DLL
}

rule is_pe
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
{
    condition:
        pe.is_pe
}
```

3.1.1 Reference

machine

Changed in version 3.3.0.

Integer with one of the following values:

MACHINE_UNKNOWN

MACHINE_AM33

MACHINE_AMD64

MACHINE_ARM

MACHINE_ARMNT

MACHINE_ARM64

MACHINE_EBC

MACHINE_I386

MACHINE_IA64

MACHINE_M32R

MACHINE_MIPS16

MACHINE_MIPSFPU

MACHINE_MIPSFPU16

MACHINE_POWERPC

MACHINE_POWERPCFP

MACHINE_R4000

MACHINE_SH3

MACHINE_SH3DSP

MACHINE_SH4

MACHINE_SH5

MACHINE_THUMB

MACHINE_WCEMIPSV2

MACHINE_TARGET_HOST

MACHINE_R3000

MACHINE_R10000

MACHINE_ALPHA

MACHINE_SH3E

```
MACHINE ALPHA64
```

MACHINE_AXP64

MACHINE_TRICORE

MACHINE_CEF

MACHINE CEE

Example: pe.machine == pe.MACHINE_AMD64

checksum

New in version 3.6.0.

Integer with the "PE checksum" as stored in the OptionalHeader

calculate_checksum

New in version 3.6.0.

Function that calculates the "PE checksum"

Example: pe.checksum == pe.calculate_checksum()

subsystem

Integer with one of the following values:

SUBSYSTEM UNKNOWN

SUBSYSTEM NATIVE

SUBSYSTEM_WINDOWS_GUI

SUBSYSTEM_WINDOWS_CUI

SUBSYSTEM_OS2_CUI

SUBSYSTEM_POSIX_CUI

SUBSYSTEM_NATIVE_WINDOWS

SUBSYSTEM_WINDOWS_CE_GUI

SUBSYSTEM_EFI_APPLICATION

SUBSYSTEM_EFI_BOOT_SERVICE_DRIVER

SUBSYSTEM EFI RUNTIME DRIVER

SUBSYSTEM_EFI_ROM_IMAGE

SUBSYSTEM_XBOX

SUBSYSTEM_WINDOWS_BOOT_APPLICATION

Example: pe.subsystem == pe.SUBSYSTEM_NATIVE

timestamp

PE timestamp, as an epoch integer.

Example: pe.timestamp >= 1424563200

pointer_to_symbol_table

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_FILE_HEADER::PointerToSymbolTable. Used when the PE image has COFF debug info.

number_of_symbols

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_FILE_HEADER::NumberOfSymbols. Used when the PE image has COFF debug info.

size_of_optional_header

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_FILE_HEADER::SizeOfOptionalHeader. This is real size of the optional header and reflects differences between 32-bit and 64-bit optional header and number of data directories.

opthdr_magic

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::Magic.

Integer with one of the following values:

IMAGE_NT_OPTIONAL_HDR32_MAGIC

IMAGE_NT_OPTIONAL_HDR64_MAGIC

IMAGE ROM OPTIONAL HDR MAGIC

size of code

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfCode. This is the sum of raw data sizes in code sections.

size of initialized data

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfInitializedData.

size_of_uninitialized_data

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfUninitializedData.

entry_point

Entry point file offset or virtual address depending on whether YARA is scanning a file or process memory respectively. This is equivalent to the deprecated entrypoint keyword.

entry_point_raw

Entry point raw value from the optional header of the PE. This value is not converted to a file offset or an RVA.

New in version 4.1.0.

base_of_code

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE OPTIONAL HEADER::BaseOfCode.

base_of_data

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::BaseOfData. This field only exists in 32-bit PE files.

image_base

Image base relative virtual address.

section_alignment

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SectionAlignment. When Windows maps a PE image to memory, all raw sizes (including size of header) are aligned up to this value.

file_alignment

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::FileAlignment. All raw data sizes of sections in the PE image are aligned to this value.

win32 version value

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE OPTIONAL HEADER::Win32VersionValue.

size_of_image

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfImage. This is the total virtual size of header and all sections.

size_of_headers

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfHeaders. This is the raw data size of the PE headers including DOS header, file header, optional header and all section headers. When PE is mapped to memory, this value is subject to aligning up to SectionAlignment.

characteristics

Bitmap with PE FileHeader characteristics. Individual characteristics can be inspected by performing a bitwise AND operation with the following constants:

RELOCS STRIPPED

Relocation info stripped from file.

EXECUTABLE IMAGE

File is executable (i.e. no unresolved external references).

LINE_NUMS_STRIPPED

Line numbers stripped from file.

LOCAL_SYMS_STRIPPED

Local symbols stripped from file.

AGGRESIVE_WS_TRIM

Aggressively trim working set

LARGE_ADDRESS_AWARE

App can handle >2gb addresses

BYTES REVERSED LO

Bytes of machine word are reversed.

MACHINE 32BIT

32 bit word machine.

DEBUG STRIPPED

Debugging info stripped from file in .DBG file

REMOVABLE_RUN_FROM_SWAP

If Image is on removable media, copy and run from the swap file.

NET RUN FROM SWAP

If Image is on Net, copy and run from the swap file.

SYSTEM

System File.

DLL

File is a DLL.

UP SYSTEM ONLY

File should only be run on a UP machine

BYTES_REVERSED_HI

Bytes of machine word are reversed.

Example: pe.characteristics & pe.DLL

linker_version

An object with two integer attributes, one for each major and minor linker version.

major

Major linker version.

minor

Minor linker version.

os_version

An object with two integer attributes, one for each major and minor OS version.

major

Major OS version.

minor

Minor OS version.

image_version

An object with two integer attributes, one for each major and minor image version.

major

Major image version.

minor

Minor image version.

subsystem_version

An object with two integer attributes, one for each major and minor subsystem version.

major

Major subsystem version.

minor

Minor subsystem version.

dll_characteristics

Bitmap with PE OptionalHeader DllCharacteristics. Do not confuse these flags with the PE FileHeader Characteristics. Individual characteristics can be inspected by performing a bitwise AND operation with the following constants:

HIGH_ENTROPY_VA

ASLR with 64 bit address space.

DYNAMIC BASE

File can be relocated - also marks the file as ASLR compatible

FORCE_INTEGRITY

NX_COMPAT

Marks the file as DEP compatible

NO_ISOLATION

NO SEH

The file does not contain structured exception handlers, this must be set to use SafeSEH

NO BIND

APPCONTAINER

Image should execute in an AppContainer

WDM DRIVER

Marks the file as a Windows Driver Model (WDM) device driver.

GUARD CF

Image supports Control Flow Guard.

TERMINAL SERVER AWARE

Marks the file as terminal server compatible

size_of_stack_reserve

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfStackReserve. This is the default amount of virtual memory that will be reserved for stack.

size of stack commit

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfStackCommit. This is the default amount of virtual memory that will be allocated for stack.

size_of_heap_reserve

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfHeapReserve. This is the default amount of virtual memory that will be reserved for main process heap.

size_of_heap_commit

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::SizeOfHeapCommit. This is the default amount of virtual memory that will be allocated for main process heap.

loader_flags

New in version 3.8.0.

 $Value\ of\ IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER:: Loader Flags.$

number of rva and sizes

Value of IMAGE_OPTIONAL_HEADER::NumberOfRvaAndSizes. This is the number of items in the IMAGE OPTIONAL HEADER::DataDirectory array.

data_directories

New in version 3.8.0.

A zero-based array of data directories. Each data directory contains virtual address and length of the appropriate data directory. Each data directory has the following entries:

virtual_address

Relative virtual address (RVA) of the PE data directory. If this is zero, then the data directory is missing. Note that for digital signature, this is the file offset, not RVA.

size

Size of the PE data directory, in bytes.

The index for the data directory entry can be one of the following values:

IMAGE DIRECTORY ENTRY EXPORT

Data directory for exported functions.

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_IMPORT

Data directory for import directory.

IMAGE DIRECTORY ENTRY RESOURCE

Data directory for resource section.

IMAGE DIRECTORY ENTRY EXCEPTION

Data directory for exception information.

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_SECURITY

This is the raw file offset and length of the image digital signature. If the image has no embedded digital signature, this directory will contain zeros.

IMAGE DIRECTORY ENTRY BASERELOC

Data directory for image relocation table.

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_DEBUG

Data directory for debug information.

IMAGE_DEBUG_DIRECTORY::Type values:

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_UNKNOWN

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_COFF

IMAGE DEBUG TYPE CODEVIEW

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_FPO

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_MISC

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_EXCEPTION

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_FIXUP

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_OMAP_TO_SRC

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_OMAP_FROM_SRC

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_BORLAND

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_RESERVED10

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_CLSID

 ${\tt IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_VC_FEATURE}$

IMAGE DEBUG TYPE POGO

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_ILTCG

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_MPX

IMAGE_DEBUG_TYPE_REPRO

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_ARCHITECTURE

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_COPYRIGHT

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_TLS

Data directory for image thread local storage.

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_LOAD_CONFIG

Data directory for image load configuration.

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IMAGE DIRECTORY ENTRY BOUND IMPORT

Data directory for image bound import table.

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_IAT

Data directory for image Import Address Table.

IMAGE DIRECTORY ENTRY DELAY IMPORT

Data directory for Delayed Import Table. Structure of the delayed import table is linker-dependent. Microsoft version of delayed imports is described in the sources "delayimp.h" and "delayimp.cpp", which can be found in MS Visual Studio 2008 CRT sources.

IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_COM_DESCRIPTOR

Data directory for .NET headers.

Example: pe.data_directories[pe.IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_EXPORT].virtual_address != 0

number_of_sections

Number of sections in the PE.

sections

New in version 3.3.0.

A zero-based array of section objects, one for each section the PE has. Individual sections can be accessed by using the [] operator. Each section object has the following attributes:

name

Section name.

full_name

If the name in the section table contains a slash (/) followed by a representation of the decimal number in ASCII format, then this field contains a string from the specified offset in the string table. Otherwise, this field contains the same value as a name field.

Even though it's not a standard, MinGW and Cygwin compilers use this feature to store section names which are longer than 8 characters.

characteristics

Section characteristics.

virtual address

Section virtual address.

virtual_size

Section virtual size.

raw data offset

Section raw offset.

raw data size

Section raw size.

pointer_to_relocations

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_SECTION_HEADER::PointerToRelocations.

pointer_to_line_numbers

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_SECTION_HEADER::PointerToLinenumbers.

number_of_relocations

New in version 3.8.0.

```
Value of IMAGE SECTION HEADER::NumberOfRelocations.
```

number_of_line_numbers

New in version 3.8.0.

Value of IMAGE_SECTION_HEADER::NumberOfLineNumbers.

Example: pe.sections[0].name == ".text"

Individual section characteristics can be inspected using a bitwise AND operation with the following constants:

SECTION_NO_PAD

SECTION_CNT_CODE

SECTION_CNT_INITIALIZED_DATA

SECTION_CNT_UNINITIALIZED_DATA

SECTION_LNK_OTHER

SECTION_LNK_INFO

SECTION_LNK_REMOVE

SECTION_LNK_COMDAT

SECTION_NO_DEFER_SPEC_EXC

SECTION GPREL

SECTION_MEM_FARDATA

SECTION_MEM_PURGEABLE

SECTION_MEM_16BIT

SECTION_LNK_NRELOC_OVFL

SECTION_MEM_LOCKED

SECTION_MEM_PRELOAD

SECTION_ALIGN_1BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_2BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_4BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_8BYTES

SECTION ALIGN 16BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_32BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_64BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_128BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_256BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_512BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_1024BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_2048BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_4096BYTES

SECTION_ALIGN_8192BYTES

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SECTION ALIGN MASK

SECTION_MEM_DISCARDABLE

SECTION_MEM_NOT_CACHED

SECTION_MEM_NOT_PAGED

SECTION MEM SHARED

SECTION MEM EXECUTE

SECTION_MEM_READ

SECTION_MEM_WRITE

SECTION SCALE INDEX

Example: pe.sections[1].characteristics & pe.SECTION_CNT_CODE

overlay

New in version 3.6.0.

A structure containing the following integer members:

offset

Overlay section offset. This is 0 for PE files that don't have overlaid data and undefined for non-PE files.

size

Overlay section size. This is 0 for PE files that don't have overlaid data and undefined for non-PE files.

Example: uint8(pe.overlay.offset) == 0x0d and pe.overlay.size > 1024

number_of_resources

Number of resources in the PE.

resource_timestamp

Resource timestamp. This is stored as an integer.

resource version

An object with two integer attributes, major and minor versions.

major

Major resource version.

minor

Minor resource version.

resources

Changed in version 3.3.0.

A zero-based array of resource objects, one for each resource the PE has. Individual resources can be accessed by using the [] operator. Each resource object has the following attributes:

rva

The RVA of the resource data.

offset

Offset for the resource data. This can be undefined if the RVA is invalid.

length

Length of the resource data.

type

Type of the resource (integer).

id

ID of the resource (integer).

language

Language of the resource (integer).

type string

Type of the resource as a string, if specified.

name string

Name of the resource as a string, if specified.

language_string

Language of the resource as a string, if specified.

All resources must have a type, id (name), and language specified. They can be either an integer or string, but never both, for any given level.

Example: pe.resources[0].type == pe.RESOURCE_TYPE_RCDATA

Example: $pe.resources[0].name_string == "F\x001\x00L\x00E\x00"$

Resource types can be inspected using the following constants:

RESOURCE_TYPE_CURSOR

RESOURCE_TYPE_BITMAP

RESOURCE TYPE ICON

RESOURCE_TYPE_MENU

RESOURCE_TYPE_DIALOG

RESOURCE_TYPE_STRING

RESOURCE_TYPE_FONTDIR

RESOURCE_TYPE_FONT

RESOURCE_TYPE_ACCELERATOR

RESOURCE_TYPE_RCDATA

RESOURCE_TYPE_MESSAGETABLE

RESOURCE_TYPE_GROUP_CURSOR

RESOURCE_TYPE_GROUP_ICON

RESOURCE_TYPE_VERSION

RESOURCE_TYPE_DLGINCLUDE

RESOURCE_TYPE_PLUGPLAY

RESOURCE_TYPE_VXD

RESOURCE_TYPE_ANICURSOR

RESOURCE_TYPE_ANIICON

RESOURCE_TYPE_HTML

RESOURCE_TYPE_MANIFEST

For more information refer to:

http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms648009(v=vs.85).aspx

version info

New in version 3.2.0.

Dictionary containing the PE's version information. Typical keys are:

```
Comments CompanyName FileDescription FileVersion InternalName LegalCopyright LegalTrademarks OriginalFilename ProductName ProductVersion
```

For more information refer to:

http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms646987(v=vs.85).aspx

Example: pe.version_info["CompanyName"] contains "Microsoft"

version_info_list

Array of structures containing information about the PE's version information.

key

Key of version information.

value

Value of version information.

Example: pe.version_info_list[0].value contains "Microsoft"

number of signatures

Number of authenticode signatures in the PE.

is_signed

True if any of the PE signatures is verified. Verified here means, that the signature is formally correct: digests match, signer public key correctly verifies the encrypted digest, etc. But this doesn't mean that the signer (and thus the signature) can be trusted as there are no trust anchors involved in the verification.

signatures

A zero-based array of signature objects, one for each authenticode signature in the PE file. Usually PE files have a single signature.

thumbprint

New in version 3.8.0.

A string containing the thumbprint of the signature.

issuer

A string containing information about the issuer. These are some examples:

```
"/C=US/ST=Washington/L=Redmond/O=Microsoft Corporation/CN=Microsoft

→Code Signing PCA"

"/C=US/O=VeriSign, Inc./OU=VeriSign Trust Network/OU=Terms of use at

→https://www.verisign.com/rpa (c)10/CN=VeriSign Class 3 Code Signing

→2010 CA"

"/C=GB/ST=Greater Manchester/L=Salford/O=COMODO CA Limited/CN=COMODO

→Code Signing CA 2"
```

subject

A string containing information about the subject.

version

Version number.

algorithm

String representation of the algorithm used for this

signature. Usually "sha1WithRSAEncryption". It depends on the X.509 and PKCS#7 implementations and possibly their versions, consider using algorithm_oid instead.

algorithm_oid

Object ID of the algorithm used for this signature, expressed in numeric ASN.1 dot notation. The name contained in algorithm is derived from this value. The object id is expected to be stable across X.509 and PKCS#7 implementations and their versions.

For example, when using the current OpenSSL-based implementation:

```
algorithm_oid == "1.2.840.113549.1.1.11"
```

is functionally equivalent to:

```
algorithm == "shalWithRSAEncryption"
```

serial

A string containing the serial number. This is an example:

```
"52:00:e5:aa:25:56:fc:1a:86:ed:96:c9:d4:4b:33:c7"
```

not before

Unix timestamp on which the validity period for this signature begins.

not_after

Unix timestamp on which the validity period for this signature ends.

valid_on(timestamp)

Function returning true if the signature was valid on the date indicated by *timestamp*. The following sentence:

```
pe.signatures[n].valid_on(timestamp)
```

Is equivalent to:

```
timestamp >= pe.signatures[n].not_before and timestamp <= pe.

→signatures[n].not_after</pre>
```

verified

Boolean, true if signature was successfully verified. More details about what the *verified* means is mentioned under the attribute *pe.is_signed*.

digest alg

Name of the algorithm used for file digest. Usually "sha1" or "sha256"

digest

Digest of the file signed in the signature.

file_digest

Calculated digest using digest_alg of the analysed file.

number_of_certificates

Number of the certificates stored in the signature, including the ones in countersignatures.

certificates

A zero-based array of certificates stored in the signature, including the ones in countersignatures. The members of the certificates are identical to those already explained before, with the same name.

```
thumbprint
    issuer
    subject
    version
    algorithm
    serial
    not_before
    not_after
signer_info
   Information about the signature signer.
    program_name
       Optional program name stored in the signature.
       Signed digest of the signature.
    digest_alg
       Algorithm used for the digest of the signature. Usually "sha1" or "sha256"
    length_of_chain
       Number of certificates in the signers chain.
    chain
    A zero-based array of certificates in the signers chain. The members of the certificates are identical to
    those already explained before, with the same name.
       thumbprint
       issuer
       subject
       version
       algorithm
       serial
       not_before
       not_after
```

number_of_countersignatures

Number of the countersignatures of the signature.

countersignatures

A zero-based array of the countersignatures of the signature. Almost always it's just single timestamp one.

verified

Boolean, true if countersignature was successfully verified. More details about what the *verified* means is mentioned under the attribute *pe.is_signed*.

sign_time

Integer - unix time of the timestamp signing time.

digest

Signed digest of the countersignature.

digest alg

Algorithm used for the digest of the countersignature. Usually "sha1" or "sha256"

length_of_chain

Number of certificates in the countersigners chain.

chain

A zero-based array of certificates in the countersigners chain. The members of the certificates are identical to those already explained before, with the same name.

```
thumbprint
issuer
subject
version
algorithm
serial
not_before
not after
```

rich_signature

Structure containing information about the PE's rich signature as documented here.

offset

Offset where the rich signature starts. It will be undefined if the file doesn't have a rich signature.

length

Length of the rich signature, not including the final "Rich" marker.

key

Key used to encrypt the data with XOR.

raw data

Raw data as it appears in the file.

clear_data

Data after being decrypted by XORing it with the key.

version data

New in version 4.3.0.

Version fields after being decrypted by XORing it with the key.

```
\textbf{version} \ (\textit{version}, [\textit{toolid}])
```

New in version 3.5.0.

Function returning a sum of count values of all matching *version* records. Provide the optional *toolid* argument to only match when both match for one entry. More information can be found here:

http://www.ntcore.com/files/richsign.htm

Note: Prior to version 3.11.0, this function returns only a boolean value (0 or 1) if the given *version* and optional *toolid* is present in an entry.

Example: $pe.rich_signature.version(24215, 261) == 61$

toolid(toolid, [version])

New in version 3.5.0.

Function returning a sum of count values of all matching *toolid* records. Provide the optional *version* argument to only match when both match for one entry. More information can be found here:

http://www.ntcore.com/files/richsign.htm

Note: Prior to version 3.11.0, this function returns only a boolean value (0 or 1) if the given *toolid* and optional *version* is present in an entry.

Example: $pe.rich_signature.toolid(170, 40219) >= 99$

pdb_path

New in version 4.0.0.

Path of the PDB file for this PE if present.

Example: pe.pdb_path == "D:\workspace\2018_R9_RelBld\target\checkout\custprof\Release\custprof.pdb"

exports (function_name)

Function returning true if the PE exports function_name or false otherwise.

Example: pe.exports("CPlApplet")

exports (ordinal)

New in version 3.6.0.

Function returning true if the PE exports ordinal or false otherwise.

Example: pe.exports(72)

exports (/regular_expression/)

New in version 3.7.1.

Function returning true if the PE exports regular_expression or false otherwise.

Example: pe.exports(/^AXS@@/)

exports_index (function_name)

New in version 4.0.0.

Function returning the index into the export_details array where the named function is, undefined otherwise.

Example: pe.exports_index("CPlApplet")

exports_index (ordinal)

New in version 4.0.0.

Function returning the index into the export_details array where the exported ordinal is, undefined otherwise.

Example: pe.exports_index(72)

exports index (/regular expression/)

New in version 4.0.0.

Function returning the first index into the export_details array where the regular expression matches the exported name, undefined otherwise.

Example: pe.exports_index(/^ERS@@/)

number_of_exports

New in version 3.6.0.

Number of exports in the PE.

export_details

New in version 4.0.0.

Array of structures containing information about the PE's exports.

offset

Offset where the exported function starts.

name

Name of the exported function. It will be undefined if the function has no name.

forward name

The name of the function where this export forwards to. It will be undefined if the export is not a forwarding export.

ordinal

The ordinal of the exported function, after the ordinal base has been applied to it.

dll_name

New in version 4.0.0.

The name of the DLL, if it exists in the export directory.

export_timestamp

New in version 4.0.0.

The timestamp the export data was created..

number_of_imports

New in version 3.6.0.

Number of imported DLLs in the PE.

number_of_imported_functions

New in version 4.1.0.

Number of imported functions in the PE.

number_of_delayed_imports

New in version 4.2.0.

Number of delayed imported DLLs in the PE. (Number of IMAGE_DELAYLOAD_DESCRIPTOR parsed from file)

number_of_delay_imported_functions

New in version 4.2.0.

Number of delayed imported functions in the PE.

imports(dll name, function name)

Function returning true if the PE imports function_name from dll_name, or false otherwise. dll_name is case insensitive.

Example: pe.imports("kernel32.dll", "WriteProcessMemory")

imports (dll_name)

New in version 3.5.0.

Changed in version 4.0.0.

Function returning the number of functions from the *dll_name*, in the PE imports. *dll_name* is case insensitive.

Note: Prior to version 4.0.0, this function returned only a boolean value indicating if the given DLL name was found in the PE imports. This change is backward compatible, as any number larger than 0 also evaluates as true.

Examples: pe.imports("kernel32.dll"), pe.imports("kernel32.dll") == 10

imports (dll name, ordinal)

New in version 3.5.0.

Function returning true if the PE imports *ordinal* from *dll_name*, or false otherwise. *dll_name* is case insensitive.

Example: pe.imports("WS2 32.DLL", 3)

imports (dll_regexp, function_regexp)

New in version 3.8.0.

Changed in version 4.0.0.

Function returning the number of functions from the PE imports where a function name matches *function_regexp* and a DLL name matches *dll_regexp*. Both *dll_regexp* and *function_regexp* are case sensitive unless you use the "/i" modifier in the regexp, as shown in the example below.

Note: Prior to version 4.0.0, this function returned only a boolean value indicating if matching import was found or not. This change is backward compatible, as any number larger than 0 also evaluates as true.

Example: pe.imports(/kernel32.dll/i, /(Read|Write)ProcessMemory/) == 2

imports (import_flag, dll_name, function_name)

New in version 4.2.0.

Function returning true if the PE imports function_name from dll_name, or false otherwise. dll_name is case insensitive.

import_flag is flag which specify type of import which should YARA search for. This value can be composed by bitwise OR these values:

pe.IMPORT_STANDARD

Search in standard imports

pe.IMPORT_DELAYED

Search in delayed imports

pe.IMPORT_ANY

Search in all imports

Example: pe.imports(pe.IMPORT_DELAYED | pe.IMPORT_STANDARD, "kernel32.dll", "WriteProcessMemory")

imports (import_flag, import_flag, dll_name)

New in version 4.2.0.

Function returning the number of functions from the *dll_name*, in the PE imports. *dll_name* is case insensitive.

Examples: pe.imports(pe.IMPORT_DELAYED, "kernel32.dll"), pe.imports("kernel32.dll") == 10

imports (import_flag, dll_name, ordinal)

New in version 4.2.0.

Function returning true if the PE imports *ordinal* from *dll name*, or false otherwise. *dll name* is case insensitive.

Example: pe.imports(pe.IMPORT_DELAYED, "WS2_32.DLL", 3)

imports (import_flag, dll_regexp, function_regexp)

New in version 4.2.0.

Function returning the number of functions from the PE imports where a function name matches *function_regexp* and a DLL name matches *dll_regexp*. Both *dll_regexp* and *function_regexp* are case sensitive unless you use the "/i" modifier in the regexp, as shown in the example below.

Example: pe.imports(pe.IMPORT_DELAYED, /kernel32.dll/i, /(Read\Write)ProcessMemory/) == 2

import_details

New in version 4.2.0.

Array of structures containing information about the PE's imports libraries.

library_name

Library name.

number_of_functions

Number of imported function.

functions

Array of structures containing information about the PE's imports functions.

name

Name of imported function

ordinal

Ordinal of imported function. If ordinal does not exist this value is YR_UNDEFINED

rva

New in version 4.3.0.

Relative virtual address (RVA) of imported function. If rva not found then this value is YR_UNDEFINED

*Example: pe.import_details[1].library_name == "library_name"

delayed_import_details

New in version 4.2.0.

Array of structures containing information about the PE's delayed imports libraries.

library name

Library name.

number_of_functions

Number of imported function.

functions

Array of structures containing information about the PE's imports functions.

name

Name of imported function

ordinal

Ordinal of imported function. If ordinal does not exist this value is YR_UNDEFINED

rva

New in version 4.3.0.

Relative virtual address (RVA) of imported function. If rva not found then this value is YR_UNDEFINED

*Example: pe.delayed_import_details[1].name == "library_name"

import_rva (dll, function)

New in version 4.3.0.

Function returning the RVA of an import that matches the DLL name and function name.

*Example: pe.import_rva("PtImageRW.dll", "ord4") == 254924

import_rva (dll, ordinal)

New in version 4.3.0.

Function returning the RVA of an import that matches the DLL name and ordinal number.

*Example: pe.import_rva("PtPDF417Decode.dll", 4) == 254924

delayed_import_rva (dll, function)

New in version 4.3.0.

Function returning the RVA of a delayed import that matches the DLL name and function name.

*Example: pe.delayed_import_rva("QDB.dll", "ord116") == 6110705

delayed_import_rva (dll, ordinal)

New in version 4.3.0.

Function returning the RVA of a delayed import that matches the DLL name and ordinal number.

*Example: pe.delayed_import_rva("QDB.dll", 116) == 6110705

locale (locale_identifier)

New in version 3.2.0.

Function returning true if the PE has a resource with the specified locale identifier. Locale identifiers are 16-bit integers and can be found here:

http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/dd318693(v=vs.85).aspx

Example: pe.locale(0x0419) // Russian (RU)

language (language_identifier)

New in version 3.2.0.

Function returning true if the PE has a resource with the specified language identifier. Language identifiers are 8-bit integers and can be found here:

http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/dd318693(v=vs.85).aspx

Example: pe.language(0x0A) // Spanish

imphash()

New in version 3.2.0.

Function returning the import hash or imphash for the PE. The imphash is an MD5 hash of the PE's import table after some normalization. The imphash for a PE can be also computed with pefile and you can find more information in Mandiant's blog. The returned hash string is always in lowercase.

Example: pe.imphash() == "b8bb385806b89680e13fc0cf24f4431e"

section_index (name)

Function returning the index into the sections array for the section that has name. name is case sensitive.

Example: pe.section_index(".TEXT")

section index (addr)

New in version 3.3.0.

Function returning the index into the sections array for the section that has *addr. addr* can be an offset into the file or a memory address.

Example: pe.section_index(pe.entry_point)

is_pe

New in version 3.8.0.

Return true if the file is a PE.

Example: pe.is_pe

is_dll()

New in version 3.5.0.

Function returning true if the PE is a DLL.

```
Example: pe.is_dll()
is_32bit()
    New in version 3.5.0.
    Function returning true if the PE is 32bits.
    Example: pe.is_32bit()
is_64bit()
    New in version 3.5.0.
    Function returning true if the PE is 64bits.
    Example: pe.is_64bit()
rva_to_offset (addr)
```

IVa_to_offset (addr)

New in version 3.6.0.

Function returning the file offset for RVA *addr*. Be careful to pass relative addresses here and not absolute addresses, like *pe.entry_point* when scanning a process.

 $Example: pe.rva_to_offset(pe.sections[0].virtual_address) == pe.sections[0].raw_data_offset$

This example will make sure the offset for the virtual address in the first section equals the file offset for that section.

3.2 ELF module

New in version 3.2.0.

The ELF module is very similar to the *PE module*, but for ELF files. This module exposes most of the fields present in an ELF header. Let's see some examples:

```
import "elf"

rule single_section
{
    condition:
        elf.number_of_sections == 1
}

rule elf_64
{
    condition:
        elf.machine == elf.EM_X86_64
}
```

3.2.1 Reference

type

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Integer with one of the following values:

```
ET_NONE

No file type.
```

ET_REL

Relocatable file.

ET_EXEC

Executable file.

ET DYN

Shared object file.

ET CORE

Core file.

Example: $elf.type == elf.ET_EXEC$

machine

Integer with one of the following values:

EM_NONE

EM_M32

EM_SPARC

EM_386

EM 68K

EM 88K

EM_860

EM_MIPS

EM_MIPS_RS3_LE

EM PPC

EM_PPC64

EM_ARM

EM_X86_64

EM_AARCH64

Example: $elf.machine == elf.EM_X86_64$

entry_point

Entry point raw offset or virtual address depending on whether YARA is scanning a file or process memory respectively. This is equivalent to the deprecated entrypoint keyword.

number_of_sections

Number of sections in the ELF file.

sections

A zero-based array of section objects, one for each section the ELF has. Individual sections can be accessed by using the [] operator. Each section object has the following attributes:

name

Section's name.

Example: elf.sections[3].name == ".bss"

size

Section's size in bytes. Unless the section type is SHT_NOBITS, the section occupies sh_size bytes in the file. A section of SHT_NOBITS may have a non-zero size, but it occupies no space in the file.

offset

Offset from the beginning of the file to the first byte in the section. One section type, SHT_NOBITS

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described below, occupies no space in the file, and its offset member locates the conceptual placement in the file.

type

Integer with one of the following values:

SHT NULL

This value marks the section as inactive; it does not have an associated section. Other members of the section header have undefined values.

SHT PROGBITS

The section holds information defined by the program, whose format and meaning are determined solely by the program.

SHT SYMTAB

The section holds a symbol table.

SHT STRTAB

The section holds a string table. An object file may have multiple string table sections.

SHT RELA

The section holds relocation entries.

SHT HASH

The section holds a symbol hash table.

SHT DYNAMIC

The section holds information for dynamic linking.

SHT NOTE

The section holds information that marks the file in some way.

SHT NOBITS

A section of this type occupies no space in the file but otherwise resembles SHT_PROGBITS.

SHT REL

The section holds relocation entries.

SHT SHLIB

This section type is reserved but has unspecified semantics.

SHT_DYNSYM

This section holds dynamic linking symbols.

flags

Integer with section's flags as defined below:

SHF WRITE

The section contains data that should be writable during process execution.

SHF_ALLOC

The section occupies memory during process execution. Some control sections do not reside in the memory image of an object file; this attribute is off for those sections.

SHF EXECINSTR

The section contains executable machine instructions.

Example: elf.sections[2].flags & elf.SHF_WRITE

address

New in version 3.6.0.

The virtual address the section starts at.

number_of_segments

New in version 3.4.0.

Number of segments in the ELF file.

segments

New in version 3.4.0.

A zero-based array of segment objects, one for each segment the ELF has. Individual segments can be accessed by using the [] operator. Each segment object has the following attributes:

alignment

Value to which the segments are aligned in memory and in the file.

file size

Number of bytes in the file image of the segment. It may be zero.

flags

A combination of the following segment flags:

PF_R

The segment is readable.

PF W

The segment is writable.

PF X

The segment is executable.

memory_size

In-memory segment size.

offset

Offset from the beginning of the file where the segment resides.

physical_address

On systems for which physical addressing is relevant, contains the segment's physical address.

type

Type of segment indicated by one of the following values:

PT_NULL

PT_LOAD

PT_DYNAMIC

PT_INTERP

PT NOTE

PT_SHLIB

PT_PHDR

PT_LOPROC

PT_HIPROC

PT_GNU_STACK

virtual_address

Virtual address at which the segment resides in memory.

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dynamic_section_entries

New in version 3.6.0.

Number of entries in the dynamic section in the ELF file.

dynamic

New in version 3.6.0.

A zero-based array of dynamic objects, one for each entry in found in the ELF's dynamic section. Individual dynamic objects can be accessed by using the [] operator. Each dynamic object has the following attributes:

type

Value that describes the type of dynamic section. Builtin values are:

- DT_NULL
- DT_NEEDED
- DT_PLTRELSZ
- DT_PLTGOT
- DT_HASH
- DT_STRTAB
- DT_SYMTAB
- DT_RELA
- DT_RELASZ
- DT_RELAENT
- DT_STRSZ
- DT_SYMENT
- DT_INIT
- DT_FINI
- DT_SONAME
- DT_RPATH
- DT_SYMBOLIC
- DT_REL
- DT_RELSZ
- DT RELENT
- DT_PLTREL
- DT_DEBUG
- DT_TEXTREL
- DT_JMPREL
- DT_BIND_NOW
- DT_INIT_ARRAY
- DT_FINI_ARRAY
- DT_INIT_ARRAYSZ

```
DT_FINI_ARRAYSZ
          DT_RUNPATH
          DT_FLAGS
          DT_ENCODING
     value
           A value associated with the given type. The type of value (address, size, etc.) is dependant on the type of
           dynamic entry.
symtab_entries
     New in version 3.6.0.
     Number of entries in the symbol table found in the ELF file.
symtab
     New in version 3.6.0.
     A zero-based array of symbol objects, one for each entry in found in the ELF's SYMBTAB. Individual symbol
     objects can be accessed by using the [] operator. Each symbol object has the following attributes:
     name
           The symbol's name.
     value
           A value associated with the symbol. Generally a virtual address.
     size
           The symbol's size.
     type
           The type of symbol. Built values are:
           STT NOTYPE
```

STT_NOTYPE
STT_OBJECT
STT_FUNC
STT_SECTION
STT_FILE
STT_COMMON
STT_TLS

bind

The binding of the symbol. Builtin values are:

STB_LOCAL
STB_GLOBAL
STB_WEAK

shndx

The section index which the symbol is associated with.

telfhash()

Function returning Telfhash - TLSH hash of the ELF export and import symbols.

Example: elf.telfhash() = = "t166a00284751084526486df8b5df5b2fccb3f511dbc188c37156f5e714a11bc5d71014d"

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```
import md5()
```

Function returning Import Hash - MD5 hash of the ELF imported symbols.

 $Example: elf.import_md5() == "c3eca50cbb03400a6e91b9fe48da0c0c"$

3.3 Cuckoo module

The Cuckoo module enables you to create YARA rules based on behavioral information generated by Cuckoo sandbox. While scanning a PE file with YARA, you can pass additional information about its behavior to the cuckoo module and create rules based not only on what it *contains*, but also on what it *does*.

Important: This module is not built into YARA by default, to learn how to include it refer to *Compiling and installing YARA*. Good news for Windows users: this module is already included in the official Windows binaries.

Suppose that you're interested in executable files sending a HTTP request to http://someone.doingevil.com. In previous versions of YARA you had to settle with:

```
rule evil_doer
{
    strings:
        $evil_domain = "http://someone.doingevil.com"

    condition:
        $evil_domain
}
```

The problem with this rule is that the domain name could be contained in the file for perfectly valid reasons not related with sending HTTP requests to http://someone.doingevil.com. Furthermore, the malicious executable could contain the domain name ciphered or obfuscated, in which case your rule would be completely useless.

But now with the cuckoo module you can take the behavior report generated for the executable file by your Cuckoo sandbox, pass it alongside the executable file to YARA, and write a rule like this:

```
import "cuckoo"

rule evil_doer
{
    condition:
        cuckoo.network.http_request(/http:\/\/someone\.doingevil\.com/)
}
```

Of course you can mix your behavior-related conditions with good old string-based conditions:

```
import "cuckoo"

rule evil_doer
{
    strings:
        $some_string = { 01 02 03 04 05 06 }

    condition:
        $some_string and
        cuckoo.network.http_request(/http:\/\/someone\.doingevil\.com/)
}
```

But how do we pass the behavior information to the cuckoo module? Well, in the case of the command-line tool you must use the -x option in this way:

```
$yara -x cuckoo=behavior_report_file rules_file pe_file
```

behavior_report_file is the path to a file containing the behavior file generated by the Cuckoo sandbox in JSON format.

If you are using yara-python then you must pass the behavior report in the modules_data argument for the match method:

```
import yara
rules = yara.compile('./rules_file')
report_file = open('./behavior_report_file')
report_data = report_file.read()
rules.match(pe_file, modules_data={'cuckoo': bytes(report_data)})
```

3.3.1 Reference

network

http_request (regexp)

Function returning true if the program sent a HTTP request to a URL matching the provided regular expression.

Example: cuckoo.network.http_request(/evil\.com/)

http_get (regexp)

Similar to http_request (), but only takes into account GET requests.

http_post (regexp)

Similar to http_request (), but only takes into account POST requests.

http_user_agent (regexp)

Function returning true if the program sent a HTTP request with a user agent matching the provided regular expression.

Example: cuckoo.network.http_user_agent(/MSIE 6\.0/)

dns_lookup (regexp)

Function returning true if the program sent a domain name resolution request for a domain matching the provided regular expression.

Example: cuckoo.network.dns lookup(/evi\lambda.com/)

host (regexp)

Function returning true if the program contacted an IP address matching the provided regular expression.

Example: cuckoo.network.host(/192\.168\.1\.1/)

tcp (regexp, port)

Function returning true if the program contacted an IP address matching the provided regular expression, over TCP on the provided port number.

Example: cuckoo.network.tcp(/192\.168\.1\.1/, 443)

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```
udp (regexp, port)
```

Function returning true if the program contacted an IP address matching the provided regular expression, over UDP on the provided port number.

Example: cuckoo.network.udp(/192\.168\.1\.1/, 53)

registry

```
key access (regexp)
```

Function returning true if the program accessed a registry entry matching the provided regular expression.

Example: cuckoo.registry.key_access(/\\Software\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVersion\\Run/)

filesystem

```
file_access (regexp)
```

Function returning true if the program accessed a file matching the provided regular expression.

Example: cuckoo.filesystem.file_access(/autoexec\.bat/)

sync

```
mutex (regexp)
```

Function returning true if the program opens or creates a mutex matching the provided regular expression.

Example: cuckoo.sync.mutex(/EvilMutexName/)

3.4 Magic module

New in version 3.1.0.

The Magic module allows you to identify the type of the file based on the output of file, the standard Unix command.

Important: This module is not built into YARA by default, to learn how to include it refer to *Compiling and installing YARA*. Bad news for Windows users: **this module is not supported on Windows**.

There are two functions in this module: type() and mime_type(). The first one returns the descriptive string returned by file, for example, if you run file against some PDF document you'll get something like this:

```
$file some.pdf
some.pdf: PDF document, version 1.5
```

The type() function would return "PDF document, version 1.5" in this case. Using the $mime_type()$ function is similar to passing the --mime argument to file.:

```
$file --mime some.pdf
some.pdf: application/pdf; charset=binary
```

mime_type() would return "application/pdf", without the charset part.

By experimenting a little with the *file* command you can learn which output to expect for different file types. These are a few examples:

- JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01
- PE32 executable for MS Windows (GUI) Intel 80386 32-bit

- PNG image data, 1240 x 1753, 8-bit/color RGBA, non-interlaced
- ASCII text, with no line terminators
- Zip archive data, at least v2.0 to extract

libmagic will try and read its compiled file type database from /etc/magic.mgc by default. If this file doesn't exist, you can set the environment variable MAGIC to point to a magic.mgc file and libmagic will attempt to load from there as an alternative.

type()

Function returning a string with the type of the file.

Example: magic.type() contains "PDF"

mime_type()

Function returning a string with the MIME type of the file.

Example: magic.mime_type() == "application/pdf"

3.5 Hash module

New in version 3.2.0.

The Hash module allows you to calculate hashes (MD5, SHA1, SHA256) from portions of your file and create signatures based on those hashes.

Important: This module depends on the OpenSSL library. Please refer to *Compiling and installing YARA* for information about how to build OpenSSL-dependant features into YARA.

Good news for Windows users: this module is already included in the official Windows binaries.

Warning: The returned hash string is always in lowercase. This means that rule condition matching on hashes hash.md5(0, filesize) == "feba6c919e3797e7778e8f2e85fa033d" requires the hash string to be given in lowercase, otherwise the match condition will not work. (see https://github.com/VirusTotal/yara/issues/1004)

md5 (offset, size)

Returns the MD5 hash for *size* bytes starting at *offset*. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned string is always in lowercase.

Example: hash.md5(0, filesize) == "feba6c919e3797e7778e8f2e85fa033d"

md5 (string)

Returns the MD5 hash for the given string.

Example: hash.md5("dummy") == "275876e34cf609db118f3d84b799a790"

sha1 (offset, size)

Returns the SHA1 hash for the *size* bytes starting at *offset*. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned string is always in lowercase.

sha1 (string)

Returns the SHA1 hash for the given string.

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sha256 (offset, size)

Returns the SHA256 hash for the *size* bytes starting at *offset*. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned string is always in lowercase.

sha256 (string)

Returns the SHA256 hash for the given string.

checksum32 (offset, size)

Returns a 32-bit checksum for the *size* bytes starting at *offset*. The checksum is just the sum of all the bytes (unsigned).

checksum32 (string)

Returns a 32-bit checksum for the given string. The checksum is just the sum of all the bytes in the string (unsigned).

crc32 (offset, size)

Returns a crc32 checksum for the size bytes starting at offset.

crc32 (string)

Returns a crc32 checksum for the given string.

3.6 Math module

New in version 3.3.0.

The Math module allows you to calculate certain values from portions of your file and create signatures based on those results.

Important: Where noted these functions return floating point numbers. YARA is able to convert integers to floating point numbers during most operations. For example this will convert 7 to 7.0 automatically, because the return type of the entropy function is a floating point value:

```
math.entropy(0, filesize) >= 7
```

The one exception to this is when a function requires a floating point number as an argument. For example, this will cause a syntax error because the arguments must be floating point numbers:

```
math.in\ range(2, 1, 3)
```

entropy (offset, size)

Returns the entropy for *size* bytes starting at *offset*. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned value is a float.

Example: math.entropy(0, filesize) >= 7

entropy (string)

Returns the entropy for the given string.

Example: math.entropy("dummy") > 7

monte_carlo_pi (offset, size)

Returns the percentage away from Pi for the *size* bytes starting at *offset* when run through the Monte Carlo from Pi test. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned value is a float.

Example: $math.monte_carlo_pi(0, filesize) < 0.07$

monte_carlo_pi (string)

Return the percentage away from Pi for the given string.

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serial_correlation (offset, size)

Returns the serial correlation for the *size* bytes starting at *offset*. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned value is a float between 0.0 and 1.0.

Example: $math.serial_correlation(0, filesize) < 0.2$

serial_correlation(string)

Return the serial correlation for the given string.

mean (offset, size)

Returns the mean for the *size* bytes starting at *offset*. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned value is a float.

Example: math.mean(0, filesize) < 72.0

mean (string)

Return the mean for the given string.

deviation (offset, size, mean)

Returns the deviation from the mean for the *size* bytes starting at *offset*. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned value is a float.

The mean of an equally distributed random sample of bytes is 127.5, which is available as the constant math.MEAN BYTES.

Example: $math.deviation(0, filesize, math.MEAN_BYTES) == 64.0$

deviation (string, *mean*)

Return the deviation from the mean for the given string.

in_range (test, lower, upper)

Returns true if the *test* value is between *lower* and *upper* values. The comparisons are inclusive.

Example: math.in_range(math.deviation(0, filesize, math.MEAN_BYTES), 63.9, 64,1)

max (int, int)

New in version 3.8.0.

Returns the maximum of two unsigned integer values.

min (int, int)

New in version 3.8.0.

Returns the minimum of two unsigned integer values.

to number (bool)

New in version 4.1.0.

Returns 0 or 1, it's useful when writing a score based rule.

 $\label{eq:continuous} Example: \ math.to_number(SubRule1)*60 + math.to_number(SubRule2)*20 + math.to_number(SubRule3)*70 > 80$

abs (int)

New in version 4.2.0.

Returns the absolute value of the signed integer.

Example: math.abs(@a - @b) == 1

count (byte, offset, size)

New in version 4.2.0.

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Returns how often a specific byte occurs, starting at *offset* and looking at the next *size* bytes. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. *offset* and *size* are optional; if left empty, the complete file is searched.

Example: math.count(0x4A) >= 10

```
percentage (byte, offset, size)
```

New in version 4.2.0.

Returns the occurrence rate of a specific byte, starting at *offset* and looking at the next *size* bytes. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned value is a float between 0 and 1. *offset* and *size* are optional; if left empty, the complete file is searched.

Example: math.percentage(0xFF, filesize-1024, filesize) >= 0.9

Example: math.percentage(0x4A) >= 0.4

```
mode (offset, size)
```

New in version 4.2.0.

Returns the most common byte, starting at *offset* and looking at the next *size* bytes. When scanning a running process the *offset* argument should be a virtual address within the process address space. The returned value is a float. *offset* and *size* are optional; if left empty, the complete file is searched.

Example: math.mode(0, filesize) == 0xFF

to_string(int)

New in version 4.3.0.

Convert the given integer to a string. Note: integers in YARA are signed.

Example: math.to_string(10) == "10" Example: math.to_string(-1) == "-1"

```
to_string(int, base)
```

New in version 4.3.0.

Convert the given integer to a string in the given base. Supported bases are 10, 8 and 16. Note: integers in YARA are signed.

3.7 dotnet module

New in version 3.6.0.

The dotnet module allows you to create more fine-grained rules for .NET files by using attributes and features of the .NET file format. Let's see some examples:

```
import "dotnet"

rule not_exactly_five_streams
{
    condition:
        dotnet.number_of_streams != 5
}

rule blop_stream
{
    condition:
        for any i in (0..dotnet.number_of_streams - 1):
```

```
(dotnet.streams[i].name == "#Blop")
}
```

3.7.1 Reference

version

The version string contained in the metadata root.

Example: dotnet.version == "v2.0.50727"

module name

The name of the module.

Example: dotnet.module_name == "axs"

number_of_streams

The number of streams in the file.

streams

A zero-based array of stream objects, one for each stream contained in the file. Individual streams can be accessed by using the [] operator. Each stream object has the following attributes:

name

Stream name.

offset

Stream offset.

size

Stream size.

Example: dotnet.streams[0].name == "#~"

number_of_guids

The number of GUIDs in the guids array.

guids

A zero-based array of strings, one for each GUID. Individual guids can be accessed by using the [] operator.

Example: dotnet.guids[0] == "99c08ffd-f378-a891-10ab-c02fe11be6ef"

number_of_classes

The number of *classes* in the **file**.

classes

An array of .NET *classes* stored in the metadata. Individual *classes* can be **accessed** using the [] operator. Each class object contains the following **attributes**:

fullname

Class full name.

name

Class name.

namespace

Class namespace.

visibility

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Class visibility specifier, options are:

private public protected internal private protected protected internal

type

Type of the object, options are:

class interface

abstract

Boolean representing if class is abstract.

sealed

Boolean representing if class is **sealed**.

number_of_generic_parameters

Number of generic parameters.

generic_parameters

A zero-based array of generic parameters name. Individual parameters can be accessed using the [] operator.

number_of_base_types

Number of the base types.

base_types

A zero-based array of base types name. Individual base types can be accessed using the [] operator.

number of methods

Number of the methods.

methods

A zero-based array of method objects. Individual methods can be *accessed* by using the [] operator. Each object contains following **attributes**:

name

Method name.

visibility

Method visibility specifier, options are:

private public protected internal private protected protected internal

statio

Boolean representing if method is **static**.

virtual

Boolean representing if method is **virtual**.

final

Boolean representing if method is **final**.

abstract

Boolean representing if method is abstract.

return_type

Method return type name.

number_of_parameters

Number of the method parameters.

parameters

A zero-based array of method parameters. Individual parameters can be accessed by using the [] operator.

name

Parameter name.

type

Parameter type.

number_of_generic_parameters

Number of the method generic parameters.

generic_parameters

A zero-based array of method generic parameters. Individual parameters can be accessed by using the [] operator.

Example: dotnet.classes[0].fullname == "Launcher.Program"

number_of_resources

The number of resources in the .NET file. These are different from normal PE resources.

resources

A zero-based array of resource objects, one for each resource the .NET file has. Individual resources can be accessed by using the [] operator. Each resource object has the following attributes:

offset

Offset for the resource data.

length

Length of the resource data.

name

Name of the resource (string).

Example: uint16be(dotnet.resources[0].offset) == 0x4d5a

assembly

Object for .NET assembly information.

version

An object with integer values representing version information for this assembly. Attributes are:

```
major minor build_number revision_number
```

name

String containing the assembly name.

culture

String containing the culture (language/country/region) for this assembly.

Example: dotnet.assembly.name == "Keylogger"

Example: dotnet.assembly.version.major == 7 and dotnet.assembly.version.minor == 0

number of modulerefs

The number of module references in the .NET file.

modulerefs

A zero-based array of strings, one for each module reference the .NET file has. Individual module references can be accessed by using the [] operator.

Example: dotnet.modulerefs[0] == "kernel32"

typelib

The typelib of the file.

number_of_constants

The number of constants in the .NET file.

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constants

A zero-based array of strings, one for each constant the .NET file has. Individual constants can be accessed by using the [] operator.

number_of_assembly_refs

The number of objects for .NET assembly reference information.

assembly refs

Object for .NET assembly reference information.

version

An object with integer values representing version information for this assembly. Attributes are:

```
major minor build_number revision_number
```

name

String containing the assembly name.

public_key_or_token

String containing the public key or token which identifies the author of this assembly.

number_of_user_strings

The number of user strings in the file.

user_strings

An zero-based array of user strings, one for each stream contained in the file. Individual strings can be accessed by using the [] operator.

number_of_field_offsets

The number of fields in the field offsets array.

field_offsets

A zero-based array of integers, one for each field. Individual field offsets can be accessed by using the [] operator.

Example: $dotnet.field_offsets[0] == 8675309$

is_dotnet

New in version 4.2.0.

Function returning true if the PE is indeed .NET.

Example: dotnet.is_dotnet

3.8 Time module

New in version 3.7.0.

The Time module allows you to use temporal conditions in your YARA rules.

now()

Function returning an integer which is the number of seconds since January 1, 1970.

Example: pe.timestamp > time.now()

3.9 Console module

New in version 4.2.0.

The Console module allows you to log information during condition execution. By default, the log messages are sent to stdout but can be handled differently by using the C api (*Scanning data*).

Every function in the console module returns true for the purposes of condition evaluation. This means you must logically and your statements together to get the proper output. For example:

```
import "console"

rule example
{
    condition:
        console.log("Hello") and console.log("World!")
}
```

log (string)

Function which sends the string to the main callback.

Example: console.log(pe.imphash())

log (message, string)

Function which sends the message and string to the main callback.

Example: console.log("The imphash is: ", pe.imphash())

log (integer)

Function which sends the integer to the main callback.

Example: console.log(uint32(0))

log (message, integer)

Function which sends the message and integer to the main callback.

Example: console.log("32bits at 0: ", uint32(0))

log (float)

Function which sends the floating point value to the main callback.

Example: console.log(math.entropy(0, filesize))

log (message, float)

Function which sends the message and the floating point value to the main callback.

Example: console.log("Entropy: ", math.entropy(0, filesize))

hex (integer)

Function which sends the integer to the main callback, formatted as a hex string.

Example: console.hex(uint32(0))

hex (message, integer)

Function which sends the integer to the main callback, formatted as a hex string.

Example: console.hex("Hex at 0: ", uint32(0))

3.10 String module

New in version 4.3.0.

The String module provides functions for manipulating strings as returned by modules. The strings referenced here are not YARA strings as defined in the strings section of your rule.

to int (string)

New in version 4.3.0.

Convert the given string to a signed integer. If the string starts with "0x" it is treated as base 16. If the string starts with "0" it is treated base 8. Leading '+' or '-' is also supported.

```
Example: string.to\_int("1234") == 1234 Example: string.to\_int("-10") == -10 Example: string.to\_int("-010") == -8
```

to int (string, base)

New in version 4.3.0.

Convert the given string, interpreted with the given base, to a signed integer. Base must be 0 or between 2 and 36 inclusive. If it is zero then the string will be interpreted as base 16 if it starts with "0x" or as base 8 if it starts with "0". Leading '+' or '-' is also supported.

```
Example: string.to\_int("011", 8) == 9 Example: string.to\_int("-011", 0) == -9
```

length (string)

New in version 4.3.0.

Return the length of the string, which can be any sequence of bytes. NULL bytes included.

```
Example: string.length("AXSx00ERS") == 7
```

3.11 LNK module

The LNK module allows you to create more fine-grained rules for LNK files by using attributes and features of the LNK file format. This module exposes most of the fields present in an LNK file. Let's see some examples:

```
import "lnk"

rule is_lnk
{
    condition:
        lnk.is_lnk
}

rule machine_id_tracking
{
    condition:
        lnk.tracker_data.machine_id == "chris-xps"
}

rule local_base_path
{
    condition:
        lnk.link_info.local_base_path == "C:\\test\\a.txt"
}
```

The LNK documentation can be found on Microsoft's website: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/openspecs/windows_protocols/ms-shllink/16cb4ca1-9339-4d0c-a68d-bf1d6cc0f943

3.11.1 Reference

is_lnk

Return true if the file is an LNK.

Example: lnk.is_lnk

creation_time

An epoch integer that specifies the creation time (UTC) of the link target

Example: $lnk.creation_time == 1221247637$

access time

An epoch integer that specifies the access time (UTC) of the link target

Example: lnk.access_time == 1221247637

write_time

An epoch integer that specifies the write time (UTC) of the link target

Example: lnk.write_time == 1221247637

file size

An unsigned integer that specifies the size, in bytes, of the link target

Example: lnk.file_size > 100KB

link flags

The LinkFlags value specifies information about the shell link and the presence of optional portions of the LNK file. Values can be checked by performing a bitwise AND operation with the following constants:

HAS_LINK_TARGET_ID_LIST

HAS LINK INFO

HAS NAME

HAS_RELATIVE_PATH

HAS_WORKING_DIR

HAS_ARGUMENTS

HAS_ICON_LOCATION

IS_UNICODE

FORCE_NO_LINK_INFO

HAS_EXP_STRING

RUN_IN_SEPARATE_PROCESS

UNUSED_1

HAS_DARWIN_ID

RUN_AS_USER

HAS_EXP_ICON

NO_PIDL_ALIAS

UNUSED_2

RUN_WITH_SHIM_LAYER

FORCE_NO_LINK_TRACK

ENABLE_TARGET_METADATA

DISABLE_LINK_PATH_TRACKING

DISABLE_KNOWN_FOLDER_TRACKING

```
DISABLE KNOWN FOLDER ALIAS
```

ALLOW_LINK_TO_LINK

UNALIAS_ON_SAVE

PREFER_ENVIRONMENT_PATH

KEEP_LOCAL_ID_LIST_FOR_UNC_TARGET

Example: lnk.link_flags & lnk.HAS_LINK_INFO

file_attributes_flags

A file attributes flag that specifies information about the link target. Values can be checked by performing a bitwise AND operation with

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_READONLY

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_HIDDEN

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_SYSTEM

RESERVED 1

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_DIRECTORY

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_ARCHIVE

RESERVED_2

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_TEMPORARY

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_SPARSE_FILE

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_REPARSE_POINT

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_COMPRESSED

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_OFFLINE

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NOT_CONTENT_INDEXED

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_ENCRYPTED

Example: lnk.file_attributes_flags & lnk.FILE_ATTRIBUTE_READONLY

icon index

An integer that specifies the index of an icon within a given icon location.

show_command

An unsigned integer that specifies the expected window state of an application launched by the link. This *value* should be equal to one of

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_READONLY

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_HIDDEN

FILE_ATTRIBUTE_SYSTEM

Example: lnk.show_command == lnk.SW_SHOWNORMAL

has_hotkey

Boolean value to indicate whether a hotkey is present for the LNK file.

Example: lnk.has_hotkey

hotkey_flags

Flags that detail the hotkey that's present (if applicable), and modifiers for how it should

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hotkey

A string representing the hotkey that is assigned to launch the LNK.

Example: lnk.hotkey == "F5"

hotkey_modifier_flags

An unsigned integer that specifies bits that correspond to modifier keys on the keyboard. This value must be one or a combination of the

HOTKEYF_SHIFT

HOTKEYF_CONTROL

HOTKEYF_ALT

Example: lnk.hotkey_modifier_flags & lnk.HOTKEYF_SHIFT

link_target_id_list

An optional structure that specifies the target of the link.

number_of_item_ids

The number of ItemIDs within the list.

Example: lnk.link_target_id_list.number_of_item_ids == 4

item id list size

The size of the ItemID list.

Example: lnk.link_target_id_list.item_id_list_size == 0xBD

item_id_list

A zero-based array of ItemIDs structures. The data stored in a given ItemID is defined by the source that corresponds to the location in the target namespace of the preceding ItemIDs. This data uniquely identifies the items in that part of the namespace. Each ItemID has the following members:

data

The shell data source-defined data that specifies an item.

Example: $lnk.link_target_id_list.item_id_list[0].data == "\x1fP\xe00\xd0 \xea:i\x10\xa2\xd8\x08\x00+00\x9d"$

size

The size of the ItemID.

Example: $lnk.link_target_id_list.item_id_list[0].size == 0x12$

link info

The LinkInfo structure provides information necessary to resolve a link target if it is not found in its original location.

size

An unsigned integer that specifies the size, in bytes, of the LinkInfo structure. All offsets specified in this structure MUST be less than this value, and all strings contained in this structure MUST fit within the extent defined by this size.

Example: $lnk.link_info.size == 0x3C$

header_size

An unsigned integer that specifies the size, in bytes, of the LinkInfo header section. Note that if the value is 0x1C, then offsets to some optional fields (local_base_path_offset_unicode and common_path_suffix_offset_unicode) will not be set.

 $Example: lnk.link_info.header_size == 0x1C$

flags

Flags that specify whether the VolumeID, LocalBasePath, LocalBasePathUnicode, and CommonNetworkRelativeLink fields are present in this structure. Values can be checked by performing a bitwise AND operation with the following constants:

VOLUME_ID_AND_LOCAL_BASE_PATH

COMMON_NETWORK_RELATIVE_LINK_AND_PATH_SUFFIX

Example: lnk.link_info.flags & lnk.VOLUME_ID_AND_LOCAL_BASE_PATH

volume_id_offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the VolumeID field.

Example: lnk.link info.volume id offset == 0x1C

local_base_path_offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the LocalBasePath field.

Example: $lnk.link_info.local_base_path_offset == 0x2D$

common_network_relative_link_offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the CommonNetworkRelativeLink field.

common_path_suffix_offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the CommonPathSuffix field.

local_base_path_offset_unicode

An optional unsigned integer that specifies the location of the LocalBasePathUnicode field.

common_path_suffix_offset_unicode

An optional unsigned integer that specifies the location of the CommonPathSuffixUnicode field.

has_volume_id

Boolean flag which is set if a VolumeID structure is present.

Example: lnk.link_info.has_volume_id

volume id

An optional VolumeID structure (section 2.3.1) that specifies information about the volume that the link target was on when the link was created.

size

The size of the structure.

drive_type

An unsigned integer that specifies the type of drive the link target is stored on. It must be equal to one of the following:

DRIVE_UNKNOWN

DRIVE NO ROOT DIR

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DRIVE REMOVABLE

DRIVE FIXED

DRIVE_REMOTE

DRIVE_CDROM

DRIVE RAMDISK

Example: lnk.link_info.volume_id.drive_type & lnk.DRIVE_FIXED

drive_serial_number

An unsigned integer that specifies the drive serial number of the volume the link target is stored on.

Example: $lnk.link_info.volume_id.drive_serial_number == 0x307A8A81$

volume label offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of a string that contains the volume label of the drive that the link target is stored on.

volume label offset unicode

An optional unsigned integer that specifies the location of a string that contains the volume label of the drive that the link target is stored on.

data

A buffer of data that contains the volume label of the drive as a string defined by the system default code page or Unicode characters, as specified by preceding fields.

Example: lnk.link_info.volume_id.data == "\x00"

local_base_path

An optional, NULL-terminated string, defined by the system default code page, which is used to construct the full path to the link item or link target by appending the string in the CommonPathSuffix field.

Example: lnk.link_info.local_base_path == "C:\test\a.txt"

common_network_relative_link

The CommonNetworkRelativeLink structure specifies information about the network location where a link target is stored, including the mapped drive letter and the UNC path prefix.

size

The size of the structure.

flags

Flags that specify the contents of the DeviceNameOffset and NetProviderType fields. Values can be checked by performing a bitwise AND operation with the following constants:

VALID_DEVICE

VALID_NET_TYPE

Example: lnk.common_network_relative_link.flags & lnk.VALID_DEVICE

net_name_offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the NetName field.

device_name_offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the DeviceName field.

network_provider_type

An unsigned integer that specifies the type of network provider. If present, it must be one of the following:

WNNC_NET_AVID

WNNC NET DOCUSPACE

WNNC_NET_MANGOSOFT

WNNC_NET_SERNET

WNNC_NET_RIVERFRONT1

WNNC_NET_RIVERFRONT2

WNNC_NET_DECORB

WNNC_NET_PROTSTOR

WNNC_NET_FJ_REDIR

WNNC_NET_DISTINCT

WNNC_NET_TWINS

WNNC_NET_RDR2SAMPLE

WNNC_NET_CSC

WNNC_NET_3IN1

WNNC_NET_EXTENDNET

WNNC_NET_STAC

WNNC_NET_FOXBAT

WNNC_NET_YAHOO

WNNC_NET_EXIFS

WNNC_NET_DAV

WNNC_NET_KNOWARE

WNNC_NET_OBJECT_DIRE

WNNC_NET_MASFAX

WNNC_NET_HOB_NFS

WNNC_NET_SHIVA

WNNC_NET_IBMAL

WNNC_NET_LOCK

WNNC_NET_TERMSRV

WNNC_NET_SRT

WNNC_NET_QUINCY

WNNC_NET_OPENAFS

WNNC_NET_AVID1

WNNC_NET_DFS

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```
WNNC_NET_KWNP
```

WNNC_NET_ZENWORKS

WNNC_NET_DRIVEONWEB

WNNC_NET_VMWARE

WNNC NET RSFX

WNNC NET MFILES

WNNC_NET_MS_NFS

WNNC_NET_GOOGLE

Example: lnk.common_network_relative_link.network_provider_type == lnk.WNNC_NET_GOOGLE

net_name_offset_unicode

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the NetNameUnicode field.

device name offset unicode

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the DeviceNameUnicode field.

net_name

A NULL-terminated string, as defined by the system default code page, which specifies a server share path.

Example: lnk.link_info.common_network_relative_link.net_name == "\\server\share"

device_name

A NULL-terminated string, as defined by the system default code page, which specifies a device.

Example: lnk.link_info.common_network_relative_link.device_name == "Z:"

net_name_unicode

An optional, NULL-terminated, Unicode string that is the Unicode version of the NetName string.

device_name_unicode

An optional, NULL-terminated, Unicode string that is the Unicode version of the DeviceName string.

common_path_suffix

A NULL-terminated string, defined by the system default code page, which is used to construct the full path to the link item or link target by being appended to the string in the LocalBasePath field.

Example: $lnk.link_info.common_path_suffix == "\x00"$

local_base_path_unicode

An optional, NULL-terminated, Unicode string that is used to construct the full path to the link item or link target by appending the string in the CommonPathSuffixUnicode field.

common_path_suffix_unicode

An optional, NULL-terminated, Unicode string that is used to construct the full path to the link item or link target by being appended to the string in the LocalBasePathUnicode field.

name_string

An optional string that specifies a description of the shortcut that is displayed to end users to identify the purpose of the shell link.

relative_path

An optional string that specifies the location of the link target relative to the file that contains the shell link.

working_dir

An optional string that specifies the file system path of the working directory to be used when activating the link target.

Example: $lnk.working_dir == "C\x00:\x00\\x00e\x00e\x00e\x00o\x000"$

command_line_arguments

An optional string that stores the command-line arguments that are specified when activating the link target

 $Example: lnk.command_line_arguments == "-\x00a\x00d\x00d\x002\x00c\x00r\x00y\x00p\x00t\x000"$

icon location

An optional string that specifies the location of the icon to be used when displaying a shell link item in an icon view.

has_console_data

Boolean flag which is set if a ConsoleDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_console_data

console data

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The ConsoleDataBlock structure specifies the display settings to use when a link target specifies an application that is run in a console window.

block_size

The block size of this structure, which will be equal to lnk.CONSOLE_DATA_BLOCK_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.CONSOLE_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

fill attributes

An unsigned integer that specifies the fill attributes that control the foreground and background text colors in the console window. The following bit definitions can be combined to specify 16 different values each for the foreground and background color:

FOREGROUND_BLUE

FOREGROUND_GREEN

FOREGROUND_RED

FOREGROUND_INTENSITY

BACKGROUND BLUE

BACKGROUND GREEN

BACKGROUND RED

BACKGROUND INTENSITY

Example: lnk.console_data.fill_attributes & lnk.FOREGROUND_BLUE

popup_fill_attributes

An unsigned integer that specifies the fill attributes that control the foreground and background text color in the console window popup. The values are the same as for the FillAttributes field.

screen_buffer_size_x

A signed integer that specifies the horizontal size (X axis), in characters, of the console window buffer.

Example: $lnk.console_data.screen_buffer_size_x == 120$

screen_buffer_size_y

A signed integer that specifies the vertical size (Y axis), in characters, of the console window buffer.

Example: lnk.console_data.screen_buffer_size_y == 3000

window size x

A signed integer that specifies the horizontal size (X axis), in characters, of the console window.

Example: $lnk.console_data.window_size_x == 120$

window_size_y

A signed integer that specifies the vertical size (Y axis), in characters, of the console window.

Example: $lnk.console_data.window_size_y == 50$

window_origin_x

A signed integer that specifies the horizontal coordinate (X axis), in pixels, of the console window origin.

Example: $lnk.console_data.window_origin_x == 0$

window_origin_y

A signed integer that specifies the vertical coordinate (Y axis), in pixels, of the console window origin.

Example: $lnk.console_data.window_origin_y == 0$

font_size

An unsigned integer that specifies the size, in pixels, of the font used in the console window. The two most significant bytes contain the font height and the two least significant bytes contain the font width. For vector fonts, the width is set to zero.

font family

An unsigned integer that specifies the family of the font used in the console window. This value must be comprised of a font family and a font pitch. The values for the font family are as follows:

FF_DONTCARE
FF_ROMAN
FF_SWISS
FF_MODERN
FF_SCRIPT

FF DECORATIVE

A bitwise OR of one or more of the following font-pitch bits is added to the font family from the previous values:

TMPF NONE

TMPF_FIXED_PITCH

TMPF VECTOR

TMPF TRUETYPE

TMPF DEVICE

font_weight

An unsigned integer that specifies the stroke weight of the font used in the console window.

face_name

A 32-character Unicode string that specifies the face name of the font used in the console window.

cursor_size

An unsigned integer that specifies the size of the cursor, in pixels, used in the console window.

full screen

An unsigned integer that specifies whether to open the console window in full-screen mode.

quick_edit

An unsigned integer that specifies whether to open the console window in QuickEdit mode.

insert mode

An unsigned integer that specifies insert mode in the console window.

auto_position

An unsigned integer that specifies auto-position mode of the console window.

history_buffer_size

An unsigned integer that specifies the size, in characters, of the buffer that is used to store a history of user input into the console window

number_of_history_buffers

An unsigned integer that specifies the number of history buffers to use.

history_no_dup

An unsigned integer that specifies whether to remove duplicates in the history buffer.

color_table

A table of 16 32-bit, unsigned integers specifying the RGB colors that are used for text in the console window. The values of the fill attribute fields FillAttributes and PopupFillAttributes are used as indexes into this table to specify the final foreground and background color for a character.

has_console_fe_data

Boolean flag which is set if a ConsoleFEDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_console_fe_data

console_fe_data

The ConsoleFEDataBlock structure specifies the code page to use for displaying text when a link target specifies an application that is run in a console window.

block size

The block size of this structure, which will be equal to lnk.CONSOLE_FE_DATA_BLOCK_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.CONSOLE_FE_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

code_page

An unsigned integer that specifies a code page language code identifier.

has_darwin_data

Boolean flag which is set if a DarwinDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_darwin_data

darwin data

The DarwinDataBlock structure specifies an application identifier that can be used instead of a link target IDList to install an application when a shell link is activated.

block_size

The block size of this structure, which will be equal to lnk.DARWIN DATA BLOCK SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.DARWIN_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

darwin_data_ansi

A NULL-terminated string, defined by the system default code page, which specifies an application identifier.

darwin_data_unicode

An optional, NULL-terminated, Unicode string that specifies an application identifier.

has_environment_variable_data

Boolean flag which is set if a EnvironmentVariableDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_environment_variable_data

environment_variable_data

The Environment Variable DataBlock structure specifies a path to environment variable information when the link target refers to a location that has a corresponding environment variable.

block_size

The block size of this structure, which will be equal to lnk.ENVIRONMENT_VARIABLE_DATA_BLOCK_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.ENVIRONMENT_VARIABLE_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

target_ansi

A NULL-terminated string, defined by the system default code page, which specifies a path to environment variable information

Example: lnk.environment_variable_data.target_ansi == "%System-Root%\sysWOW64\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe"

target_unicode

An optional, NULL-terminated, Unicode string that specifies a path to environment variable information.

has_icon_environment_data

Boolean flag which is set if a IconEnvironmentDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_icon_environment_data

icon environment data

The IconEnvironmentDataBlock structure specifies the path to an icon. The path is encoded using environment variables, which makes it possible to find the icon across machines where the locations vary but are expressed using environment variables.

block_size

The block size of this structure, which will be equal to lnk.ICON_ENVIRONMENT_DATA_BLOCK_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.ICON_ENVIRONMENT_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

target_ansi

A NULL-terminated string, defined by the system default code page, which specifies a path that is constructed with environment variables

Example: lnk.icon_environment_data.target_ansi == "%Program-Files%\PeaZip\res\icons\peazip_new.icl"

target_unicode

An optional, NULL-terminated, Unicode string that specifies a path that is constructed with environment variables.

has_known_folder_data

Boolean flag which is set if a KnownFolderDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_known_folder_data

known_folder_data

The KnownFolderDataBlock structure specifies the location of a known folder. This data can be used when a link target is a known folder to keep track of the folder so that the link target IDList can be translated when the link is loaded.

block size

The block size of this structure, which will be equal to lnk.KNOWN_FOLDER_DATA_BLOCK_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.KNOWN_FOLDER_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the ItemID of the first child segment of the IDList specified by KnownFolderID. This value is the offset, in bytes, into the link target IDList.

Example: lnk.known folder data.offset == 177

known folder id

A value in GUID packet representation that specifies the folder GUID ID.

Example: lnk.known_folder_data.known_folder_id[15] == 142

has_property_store_data

Boolean flag which is set if a PropertyStoreDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_property_store_data

property_store_data

A PropertyStoreDataBlock structure specifies a set of properties that can be used by applications to store extra data in the shell link. (TODO: implement the rest of this structure)

block size

The block size of this structure, which will be greater than or equal to lnk.PROPERTY_STORE_DATA_BLOCK_MIN_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.PROPERTY_STORE_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

has_shim_data

Boolean flag which is set if a ShimDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_shim_data

shim_data

The ShimDataBlock structure specifies the name of a shim that can be applied when activating a link target.

block_size

The block size of this structure, which will be greater than or equal to lnk.SHIM_DATA_BLOCK_MIN_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.SHIM_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

layer_name

A Unicode string that specifies the name of a shim layer to apply to a link target when it is being **activated**.

has_special_folder_data

Boolean flag which is set if a SpecialFolderDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_special_folder_data

special folder data

The SpecialFolderDataBlock structure specifies the location of a special folder. This data can be used when a link target is a special folder to keep track of the folder, so that the link target IDList can be translated when the link is loaded.

block_size

The block size of this structure, which will be equal to lnk.SPECIAL_FOLDER_DATA_BLOCK_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.SPECIAL_FOLDER_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

offset

An unsigned integer that specifies the location of the ItemID of the first child segment of the IDList specified by SpecialFolderID. This value is the offset, in bytes, into the link target IDList.

special_folder_id

An unsigned integer that specifies the folder integer ID.

has_tracker_data

Boolean flag which is set if a TrackerDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_tracker_data

tracker_data

The TrackerDataBlock structure specifies data that can be used to resolve a link target if it is not found in its original location when the link is resolved. This data is passed to the Link Tracking service to find the link target.

block_size

The block size of this structure, which will be equal to lnk.TRACKER_DATA_BLOCK_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.TRACKER_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

machine_id

A NULL-terminated character string, as defined by the system default code page, which specifies the NetBIOS name of the machine where the link target was last known to reside.

Example: lnk.tracker_data.machine_id == "chris-xps"

droid_volume_identifier

A parsed Droid volume identifier GUID.

droid_file_identifier

A parsed Droid file identifier GUID.

droid_birth_volume_identifier

A parsed DroidBirth volume identifier GUID.

droid_birth_file_identifier

A parsed DroidBirth file identifier GUID.

has_vista_and_above_id_list_data

Boolean flag which is set if a VistaAndAboveIDListDataBlock structure is present.

Example: lnk.has_vista_and_above_id_list_data

vista_and_above_id_list_data

The VistaAndAboveIDListDataBlock structure specifies an alternate IDList that can be used instead of the LinkTargetIDList structure on platforms that support it.

block_size

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The block size of this structure, which will be greater than or equal to lnk.VISTA_AND_ABOVE_ID_LIST_DATA_BLOCK_MIN_SIZE.

block_signature

The signature of the block, which will be equal to lnk.VISTA_AND_ABOVE_ID_LIST_DATA_BLOCK_SIGNATURE.

number_of_item_ids

The number of ItemID entries in the list.

item_id_list

A zero-based array of ItemIDs structures. The data stored in a given ItemID is defined by the source that corresponds to the location in the target namespace of the preceding ItemIDs. This data uniquely identifies the items in that part of the namespace. Each ItemID has the following members:

data

The shell data source-defined data that specifies an item.

size

The size of the ItemID.

has_overlay

A boolean value that is true if the LNK has extra data appended to it.

Example: lnk.has_overlay

overlay_offset

An unsigned integer representing the offset into the LNK file of where the overlay starts (only set if the has_overlay flag is true).

Example: $lnk.overlay_offset == 0x1CB$

is_malformed

A boolean value that is true if the LNK failed to be parsed due to it having malformed data.

Example: lnk.is_malformed

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CHAPTER 4

Writing your own modules

For the first time ever, in YARA 3.0 you can extend its features to express more complex and refined conditions. YARA 3.0 does this by employing modules, which you can use to define data structures and functions, which can be later used from within your rules. You can see some examples of what a module can do in the *Using modules* section.

The purpose of the following sections is to teach you how to create your own modules for giving YARA that cool feature you always dreamed of.

4.1 The "Hello World!" module

Modules are written in C and built into YARA as part of the compiling process. In order to create your own modules you must be familiar with the C programming language and how to configure and build YARA from source code. You don't need to understand how YARA does its magic; YARA exposes a simple API for modules, which is all you need to know.

The source code for your module must reside in the *libyara/modules* directory of the source tree. It's recommended to use the module name as the file name for the source file, if your module's name is *foo* its source file should be *foo.c.*

In the *libyara/modules* directory you'll find a *demo.c* file we'll use as our starting point. The file looks like this:

```
#include <yara/modules.h>
#define MODULE_NAME demo

begin_declarations;
  declare_string("greeting");
end_declarations;
int module_initialize(
    YR_MODULE* module)
{
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
```

```
int module_finalize(
    YR_MODULE* module)
{
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}

int module_load(
    YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* context,
    YR_OBJECT* module_object,
    void* module_data,
    size_t module_data_size)
{
    yr_set_string("Hello World!", module_object, "greeting");
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
int module_unload(
    YR_OBJECT* module_object)
{
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
#undef MODULE_NAME
```

Let's start dissecting the source code so you can understand every detail. The first line in the code is:

```
#include <yara/modules.h>
```

The *modules.h* header file is where the definitions for YARA's module API reside, therefore this include directive is required in all your modules. The second line is:

```
#define MODULE_NAME demo
```

This is how you define the name of your module and is also required. Every module must define its name at the start of the source code. Module names must be unique among the modules built into YARA.

Then follows the declaration section:

```
begin_declarations;

declare_string("greeting");
end_declarations;
```

Here is where the module declares the functions and data structures that will be available for your YARA rules. In this case we are declaring just a string variable named *greeting*. We are going to discuss these concepts in greater detail in the *The declaration section*.

After the declaration section you'll find a pair of functions:

```
int module_initialize(
    YR_MODULE* module)
{
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
```

```
int module_finalize(
    YR_MODULE* module)
{
   return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
```

The module_initialize function is called during YARA's initialization while its counterpart module_finalize is called while finalizing YARA. These functions allow you to initialize and finalize any global data structure you may need to use in your module.

Then comes the module_load function:

```
int module_load(
    YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* context,
    YR_OBJECT* module_object,
    void* module_data,
    size_t module_data_size)
{
    set_string("Hello World!", module_object, "greeting");
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
```

This function is invoked once for each scanned file, but only if the module is imported by some rule with the import directive. The module_load function is where your module has the opportunity to inspect the file being scanned, parse or analyze it in the way preferred, and then populate the data structures defined in the declarations section.

In this example the module_load function doesn't inspect the file content at all, it just assigns the string, "Hello World!" to the variable *greeting* declared before.

And finally, we have the module_unload function:

```
int module_unload(
    YR_OBJECT* module_object)
{
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
```

For each call to module_load there is a corresponding call to module_unload. This function allows your module to free any resource allocated during module_load. There's nothing to free in this case, so the function just returns ERROR_SUCCESS. Both module_load and module_unload should return ERROR_SUCCESS to indicate that everything went fine. If a different value is returned the scanning will be aborted and an error reported to the user.

4.1.1 Building our "Hello World!"

Modules are not magically built into YARA just by dropping their source code into the *libyara/modules* directory, you must follow two further steps in order to get them to work. The first step is adding your module to the *module_list* file also found in the *libyara/modules* directory.

The module list file looks like this:

```
MODULE (tests)
MODULE (pe)
#ifdef CUCKOO_MODULE
```

```
MODULE (cuckoo) #endif
```

You must add a line MODULE(<name>) with the name of your module to this file. In our case the resulting module list is:

```
MODULE (tests)
MODULE (pe)

#ifdef CUCKOO_MODULE
MODULE (cuckoo)
#endif

MODULE (demo)
```

The second step is modifying the *Makefile.am* to tell the *make* program that the source code for your module must be compiled and linked into YARA. At the very beginning of *libyara/Makefile.am* you'll find this:

```
MODULES = libyara/modules/tests/tests.c
MODULES += libyara/modules/pe/pe.c

if CUCKOO_MODULE
MODULES += libyara/modules/cuckoo/cuckoo.c
endif
```

Just add a new line for your module:

```
MODULES = libyara/modules/tests/tests.c
MODULES += libyara/modules/pe/pe.c

if CUCKOO_MODULE
MODULES += libyara/modules/cuckoo/cuckoo.c
endif

MODULES += libyara/modules/demo/demo.c
```

And that's all! Now you're ready to build YARA with your brand-new module included. Just go to the source tree root directory and type as always:

```
./bootstrap.sh
./configure
make
sudo make install
```

Now you should be able to create a rule like this:

```
import "demo"

rule HelloWorld
{
    condition:
        demo.greeting == "Hello World!"
}
```

Any file scanned with this rule will match the HelloWord because demo.greeting == "Hello World!" is always true.

4.2 The declaration section

The declaration section is where you declare the variables, structures and functions that will be available for your YARA rules. Every module must contain a declaration section like this:

4.2.1 Basic types

Within the declaration section you can use declare_string(<variable name>), declare_integer(<variable name>) and declare_float(<variable name>) to declare string, integer, or float variables respectively. For example:

```
begin_declarations;

  declare_integer("foo");
  declare_string("bar");
  declare_float("baz");

end_declarations;
```

Note: Floating-point variables require YARA version 3.3.0 or later.

Variable names can't contain characters other than letters, numbers and underscores. These variables can be used later in your rules at any place where an integer or string is expected. Supposing your module name is "mymodule", they can be used like this:

```
mymodule.foo > 5
mymodule.bar matches /someregexp/
```

4.2.2 Structures

Your declarations can be organized in a more structured way:

```
begin_declarations;

declare_integer("foo");
 declare_string("bar");
 declare_float("baz");

begin_struct("some_structure");

declare_integer("foo");

begin_struct("nested_structure");
```

```
declare_integer("bar");
  end_struct("nested_structure");
  end_struct("some_structure");
  begin_struct("another_structure");
  declare_integer("foo");
  declare_string("bar");
  declare_string("baz");
  declare_float("tux");
  end_struct("another_structure");
end_declarations;
```

In this example we're using begin_struct(<structure name>) and end_struct(<structure name>) to delimit two structures named *some_structure* and *another_structure*. Within the structure delimiters you can put any other declarations you want, including another structure declaration. Also notice that members of different structures can have the same name, but members within the same structure must have unique names.

When referring to these variables from your rules it would be like this:

```
mymodule.foo
mymodule.some_structure.foo
mymodule.some_structure.nested_structure.bar
mymodule.another_structure.baz
```

4.2.3 Arrays

In the same way you declare individual strings, integers, floats or structures, you can declare arrays of them:

```
begin_declarations;

  declare_integer_array("foo");
  declare_string_array("bar");
  declare_float_array("baz");

  begin_struct_array("struct_array");

  declare_integer("foo");
  declare_string("bar");

  end_struct_array("struct_array");

end_declarations;
```

Individual values in the array are referenced like in most programming languages:

```
foo[0]
bar[1]
baz[3]
struct_array[4].foo
struct_array[1].bar
```

Arrays are zero-based and don't have a fixed size, they will grow as needed when you start initializing its values.

4.2.4 Dictionaries

New in version 3.2.0.

You can also declare dictionaries of integers, floats, strings, or structures:

```
begin_declarations;

declare_integer_dictionary("foo");
 declare_string_dictionary("bar");
 declare_float_dictionary("baz")

begin_struct_dictionary("struct_dict");

declare_integer("foo");
 declare_string("bar");

end_struct_dictionary("struct_dict");

end_declarations;
```

Individual values in the dictionary are accessed by using a string key:

```
foo["somekey"]
bar["anotherkey"]
baz["yetanotherkey"]
struct_dict["k1"].foo
struct_dict["k1"].bar
```

4.2.5 Functions

One of the more powerful features of YARA modules is the possibility of declaring functions that can be later invoked from your rules. Functions must appear in the declaration section in this way:

```
declare_function(<function name>, <argument types>, <return tuype>, <C function>);
```

<function name> is the name that will be used in your YARA rules to invoke the function.

<argument types> is a string containing one character per function argument, where the character indicates the type of the argument. Functions can receive four different types of arguments: string, integer, float and regular expression, denoted by characters: s, i, f and r respectively. If your function receives two integers <argument types> must be "ii", if it receives an integer as the first argument and a string as the second one <argument types> must be "is", if it receives three strings and a float <argument types> must be "sssf".

< return type> is a string with a single character indicating the return type. Possible return types are string ("s") integer ("i") and float ("f").

< C function > is the identifier for the actual implementation of your function.

Here you have a full example:

```
define_function(isum)
{
  int64_t a = integer_argument(1);
```

```
int64_t b = integer_argument(2);
  return_integer(a + b);
}

define_function(fsum)
{
  double a = float_argument(1);
  double b = float_argument(2);
  return_integer(a + b);
}

begin_declarations;
  declare_function("sum", "ii", sum);
end_declarations;
```

As you can see in the example above, your function code must be defined before the declaration section, like this:

```
define_function(<function identifier>)
{
    ...your code here
}
```

Functions can be overloaded as in C++ and other programming languages. You can declare two functions with the same name as long as they differ in the type or number of arguments. One example of overloaded functions can be found in the *Hash module*, it has two functions for calculating MD5 hashes, one receiving an offset and length within the file and another one receiving a string:

```
begin_declarations;

  declare_function("md5", "ii", "s", data_md5);
  declare_function("md5", "s", "s", string_md5);

end_declarations;
```

We are going to discuss function implementation more in depth in the *More about functions* section.

4.3 Initialization and finalization

Every module must implement two functions for initialization and finalization: $module_initialize$ and $module_finalize$. The former is called during YARA's initialization by $yr_initialize()$ while the latter is called during finalization by $yr_finalize()$. Both functions are invoked whether or not the module is being imported by some rule.

These functions give your module an opportunity to initialize any global data structure it may need, but most of the time they are just empty functions:

```
int module_initialize(
    YR_MODULE* module)
{
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
```

```
int module_finalize(
    YR_MODULE* module)
{
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
```

Any returned value different from ERROR_SUCCESS will abort YARA's execution.

4.4 Implementing the module's logic

Besides module_initialize and module_finalize every module must implement two other functions which are called by YARA during the scanning of a file or process memory space: module_load and module_unload. Both functions are called once for each scanned file or process, but only if the module was imported by means of the import directive. If the module is not imported by some rule neither module_load nor module_unload will be called.

The module_load function has the following prototype:

```
int module_load(
   YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* context,
   YR_OBJECT* module_object,
   void* module_data,
   size_t module_data_size)
```

The context argument contains information relative to the current scan, including the data being scanned. The module_object argument is a pointer to a YR_OBJECT structure associated with the module. Each structure, variable or function declared in a YARA module is represented by a YR_OBJECT structure. These structures form a tree whose root is the module's YR_OBJECT structure. If you have the following declarations in a module named *mymodule*:

```
begin_declarations;

declare_integer("foo");

begin_struct("bar");

declare_string("baz");

end_struct("bar");

end_declarations;
```

Then the tree will look like this:

Notice that both *bar* and *mymodule* are of the same type OBJECT_TYPE_STRUCT, which means that the YR_OBJECT associated with the module is just another structure like *bar*. In fact, when you write in your rules something like mymodule.foo you're performing a field lookup in a structure in the same way that bar.baz does.

In summary, the module_object argument allows you to access every variable, structure or function declared by the module by providing a pointer to the root of the objects tree.

The module_data argument is a pointer to any additional data passed to the module, and module_data_size is the size of that data. Not all modules require additional data, most of them rely on the data being scanned alone, but a few of them require more information as input. The *Cuckoo module* is a good example of this, it receives a behavior report associated with PE files being scanned which is passed in the module_data and module_data_size arguments.

For more information on how to pass additional data to your module take a look at the -x argument in *Running YARA* from the command-line.

4.4.1 Accessing the scanned data

Most YARA modules need to access the file or process memory being scanned to extract information from it. The data being scanned is sent to the module in the YR_SCAN_CONTEXT structure passed to the module_load function. The data is sometimes sliced in blocks, therefore your module needs to iterate over the blocks by using the foreach memory block macro:

```
int module_load(
    YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* context,
    YR_OBJECT* module_object,
    void* module_data,
    size_t module_data_size)
{
    YR_MEMORY_BLOCK* block;
    foreach_memory_block(context, block)
    {
        ..do something with the current memory block
    }
}
```

Each memory block is represented by a YR MEMORY BLOCK structure with the following attributes:

YR_MEMORY_BLOCK_FETCH_DATA_FUNC fetch_data

Pointer to a function returning a pointer to the block's data.

size_t size

Size of the data block.

size t base

Base offset/address for this block. If a file is being scanned this field contains the offset within the file where the block begins, if a process memory space is being scanned this contains the virtual address where the block begins.

The blocks are always iterated in the same order as they appear in the file or process memory. In the case of files the first block will contain the beginning of the file. Actually, a single block will contain the whole file's content in most cases, but you can't rely on that while writing your code. For very big files YARA could eventually split the file into two or more blocks, and your module should be prepared to handle that.

The story is very different for processes. While scanning a process memory space your module will definitely receive a large number of blocks, one for each committed memory region in the process address space.

However, there are some cases where you don't actually need to iterate over the blocks. If your module just parses the header of some file format you can safely assume that the whole header is contained within the first block (put some checks in your code nevertheless). In those cases you can use the first_memory_block macro:

```
int module_load(
    YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* context,
    YR_OBJECT* module_object,
    void* module_data,
    size_t module_data_size)
{
    YR_MEMORY_BLOCK* block;
    const uint8_t* block_data;

    block = first_memory_block(context);
    block_data = block->fetch_data(block)

    if (block_data != NULL)
    {
        ..do something with the memory block
    }
}
```

In the previous example you can also see how to use the fetch_data function. This function, which is a member of the YR_MEMORY_BLOCK structure, receives a pointer to the same block (as a self or this pointer) and returns a pointer to the block's data. Your module doesn't own the memory pointed to by this pointer, freeing that memory is not your responsibility. However keep in mind that the pointer is valid only until you ask for the next memory block. As long as you use the pointer within the scope of a foreach_memory_block you are on the safe side. Also take into account that fetch_data can return a NULL pointer, your code must be prepared for that case.

```
const uint8_t* block_data;

foreach_memory_block(context, block)
{
   block_data = block->fetch_data(block);

   if (block_data != NULL)
   {
      // using block_data is safe here.
   }
}

// the memory pointed to by block_data can be already freed here.
```

4.4.2 Setting variable's values

The module_load function is where you assign values to the variables declared in the declarations section, once you've parsed or analyzed the scanned data and/or any additional module's data. This is done by using the set_float, set_integer, and set_string functions:

```
void set_float (double value, YR_OBJECT* object, const char* field, ...)
void set_integer (int64_t value, YR_OBJECT* object, const char* field, ...)
void set_string (const char* value, YR_OBJECT* object, const char* field, ...)
```

These functions receive a value to be assigned to the variable, a pointer to a YR_OBJECT representing the variable itself or some ancestor of that variable, a field descriptor, and additional arguments as defined by the field descriptor.

If we are assigning the value to the variable represented by object itself, then the field descriptor must be NULL. For example, assuming that object points to a YR_OBJECT structure corresponding to some integer variable, we can set the value for that integer variable with:

```
set_integer(<value>, object, NULL);
```

The field descriptor is used when you want to assign the value to some descendant of object. For example, consider the following declarations:

```
begin_declarations;

begin_struct("foo");

declare_string("bar");

begin_struct("baz");

declare_integer("qux");

end_struct("baz");

end_struct("foo");

end_declarations;
```

If object points to the YR_OBJECT associated with the foo structure you can set the value for the bar string like this:

```
set_string(<value>, object, "bar");
```

And the value for qux like this:

```
set_integer(<value>, object, "baz.qux");
```

Do you remember that the module_object argument for module_load was a pointer to a YR_OBJECT? Do you remember that this YR_OBJECT is a structure just like bar is? Well, you could also set the values for bar and qux like this:

```
set_string(<value>, module_object, "foo.bar");
set_integer(<value>, module_object, "foo.baz.qux");
```

But what happens with arrays? How can I set the value for array items? If you have the following declarations:

```
begin_declarations;

declare_integer_array("foo");

begin_struct_array("bar")

declare_string("baz");
 declare_integer_array("qux");

end_struct_array("bar");

end_declarations;
```

Then the following statements are all valid:

```
set_integer(<value>, module, "foo[0]");
set_integer(<value>, module, "foo[%i]", 2);
set_string(<value>, module, "bar[%i].baz", 5);
set_string(<value>, module, "bar[0].qux[0]");
set_string(<value>, module, "bar[0].qux[%i]", 0);
set_string(<value>, module, "bar[%i].qux[%i]", 100, 200);
```

Those %i in the field descriptor are replaced by the additional integer arguments passed to the function. This works in the same way as printf in C programs, but the only format specifiers accepted are %i and %s, for integer and string arguments respectively.

The %s format specifier is used for assigning values to a certain key in a dictionary:

```
set_integer(<value>, module, "foo[\"key\"]");
set_integer(<value>, module, "foo[%s]", "key");
set_string(<value>, module, "bar[%s].baz", "another_key");
```

If you don't explicitly assign a value to a declared variable, array or dictionary item it will remain in an undefined state. That's not a problem at all, and is even useful in many cases. For example, if your module parses files from a certain format and it receives one from a different format, you can safely leave all your variables undefined instead of assigning them bogus values that don't make sense. YARA will handle undefined values in rule conditions as described in *Using modules*.

In addition to the set_float, set_integer, and set_string functions, you have their get_float, get_integer, and get_string counterparts. As the names suggest, they are used for getting the value of a variable, which can be useful in the implementation of your functions to retrieve values previously stored by module_load.

```
double get_float (YR_OBJECT* object, const char* field, ...)
int64_t get_integer (YR_OBJECT* object, const char* field, ...)

SIZED_STRING* get_string (YR_OBJECT* object, const char* field, ...)

There's also a function to get any YR_OBJECT in the objects tree:

YR_OBJECT* get_object (YR_OBJECT* object, const char* field, ...)
```

Here is a little exam...

Are the following two lines equivalent? Why?

```
set_integer(1, get_object(module_object, "foo.bar"), NULL);
set_integer(1, module_object, "foo.bar");
```

4.4.3 Storing data for later use

Sometimes the information stored directly in your variables by means of set_integer and set_string is not enough. You may need to store more complex data structures or information that doesn't need to be exposed to YARA rules.

Storing information is essential when your module exports functions to be used in YARA rules. The implementation of these functions usually require to access information generated by module_load which must kept somewhere. You may be tempted to define global variables to store the required information, but this would make your code non-thread-safe. The correct approach is using the data field of the YR OBJECT structures.

Each YR_OBJECT has a void* data field which can be safely used by your code to store a pointer to any data you may need. A typical pattern is using the data field of the module's YR_OBJECT, like in the following example:

```
typedef struct _MY_DATA
{
    int some_integer;
} MY_DATA;
int module_load(
    YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* context,
    YR_OBJECT* module_object,
    void* module_data,
    size_t module_data_size)
{
    module->data = yr_malloc(sizeof(MY_DATA));
    ((MY_DATA*) module_object->data)->some_integer = 0;
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
```

Don't forget to release the allocated memory in the module_unload function:

```
int module_unload(
    YR_OBJECT* module_object)
{
    yr_free(module_object->data);
    return ERROR_SUCCESS;
}
```

Warning: Don't use global variables for storing data. Functions in a module can be invoked from different threads at the same time and data corruption or misbehavior can occur.

4.5 More about functions

We already showed how to declare a function in *The declaration section*. Here we are going to discuss how to provide an implementation for them.

4.5.1 Function arguments

Within the function's code you get its arguments by using $integer_argument(n)$, $float_argument(n)$, $regexp_argument(n)$, $string_argument(n)$ or $sized_string_argument(n)$ depending on the type of the argument, where n is the 1-based argument's number.

string_argument(n) can be used when your function expects to receive a NULL-terminated C string, if your function can receive arbitrary binary data possibly containing NULL characters you must use sized_string_argument(n).

Here you have some examples:

```
int64_t arg_1 = integer_argument(1);
RE* arg_2 = regexp_argument(2);
char* arg_3 = string_argument(3);
```

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```
SIZED_STRING* arg_4 = sized_string_argument(4);
double arg_5 = float_argument(1);
```

The C type for integer arguments is int64_t, for float arguments is double, for regular expressions is RE*, for NULL-terminated strings is char* and for strings possibly containing NULL characters is SIZED_STRING*. SIZED_STRING structures have the following attributes:

SIZED STRING

length

String's length.

c string

char* pointing to the string content.

4.5.2 Return values

Functions can return three types of values: strings, integers and floats. Instead of using the C return statement you must use return_string(x), return_integer(x) or return_float(x) to return from a function, depending on the function's return type. In all cases x is a constant, variable, or expression evaluating to char*, int64_t or double respectively.

You can use return_string(YR_UNDEFINED), return_float(YR_UNDEFINED) and return_integer(YR_UNDEFINED) to return undefined values from the function. This is useful in many situations, for example if the arguments passed to the functions don't make sense, or if your module expects a particular file format and the scanned file is from another format, or in any other case where your function can't a return a valid value.

Warning: Don't use the C *return* statement for returning from a function. The returned value will be interpreted as an error code.

4.5.3 Accessing objects

While writing a function we sometimes need to access values previously assigned to the module's variables, or additional data stored in the data field of YR_OBJECT structures as discussed earlier in *Storing data for later use*. But for that we need a way to get access to the corresponding YR_OBJECT first. There are two functions to do that: module() and parent(). The module() function returns a pointer to the top-level YR_OBJECT corresponding to the module, the same one passed to the module_load function. The parent() function returns a pointer to the YR_OBJECT corresponding to the structure where the function is contained. For example, consider the following code snippet:

```
define_function(f1)
{
    YR_OBJECT* module = module();
    YR_OBJECT* parent = parent();

    // parent == module;
}
define_function(f2)
{
```

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```
YR_OBJECT* module = module();
YR_OBJECT* parent = parent();

// parent != module;

begin_declarations;

declare_function("f1", "i", "i", f1);

begin_struct("foo");

declare_function("f2", "i", "i", f2);
end_struct("foo");
```

In f1 the module variable points to the top-level YR_OBJECT as well as the parent variable, because the parent for f1 is the module itself. In f2 however the parent variable points to the YR_OBJECT corresponding to the foo structure while module points to the top-level YR_OBJECT as before.

4.5.4 Scan context

From within a function you can also access the YR_SCAN_CONTEXT structure discussed earlier in *Accessing the scanned data*. This is useful for functions which needs to inspect the file or process memory being scanned. This is how you get a pointer to the YR_SCAN_CONTEXT structure:

```
YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* context = scan_context();
```

Running YARA from the command-line

In order to invoke YARA you'll need two things: a file with the rules you want to use and the target to be scanned. The target can be a file, a folder, or a process.

```
yara [OPTIONS] RULES_FILE TARGET
```

In YARA 3.8 and below RULES_FILE was allowed to be a file with rules in source form or in compiled form indistinctly. In YARA 3.9 you need to explicitly specify that RULES_FILE contains compiled rules by using the -C flag.

```
yara [OPTIONS] -C RULES_FILE TARGET
```

This is a security measure to prevent users from inadvertently using compiled rules coming from a third-party. Using compiled rules from untrusted sources can lead to the execution of malicious code in your computer.

For compiling rules beforehand you can use the yarac tool. This way can save time, because for YARA it is faster to load compiled rules than compiling the same rules over and over again.

You can also pass multiple source files to yara like in the following example:

```
yara [OPTIONS] RULES_FILE_1 RULES_FILE_2 RULES_FILE_3 TARGET
```

Notice however that this only works for rules in source form. When invoking YARA with compiled rules a single file is accepted.

In the example above all rules share the same "default" namespace, which means that rule identifiers must be unique among all files. However you can specify a namespace for individual files. For example

```
yara [OPTIONS] namespace1:RULES_FILE_1 RULES_FILE_2 RULES_FILE_3 TARGET
```

In this case RULE_FILE_1 uses namespace1 while RULES_FILE_2 and RULES_FILE_3 share the default namespace.

In all cases rules will be applied to the target specified as the last argument to YARA, if it's a path to a directory all the files contained in it will be scanned. By default YARA does not attempt to scan directories recursively, but you can use the -r option for that.

Available options are:

-C --compiled-rules

RULES_FILE contains rules already compiled with yarac.

-c --count

Print only number of matches.

-d <identifier>=<value> --define=identifier=value

Define external variable. This option can be used multiple times.

-q --disable-console-logs

Disable printing console log messages.

--fail-on-warnings

Treat warnings as errors. Has no effect if used with –no-warnings.

-f --fast-scan

Fast matching mode.

-h --help

Show help.

-i <identifier> --identifier=<identifier>

Print rules named <identifier> and ignore the rest.

--max-process-memory-chunk=<size>

When scanning process memory read the data in chunks of the given size.

-1 <number> --max-rules=<number>

Abort scanning after matching a number of rules.

--max-strings-per-rule=<number>

Set maximum number of strings per rule (default=10000). If a rule has more then the specified number of strings an error will occur.

New in version 3.7.0.

-x <module>=<file> --module-data=<module>=<file>

Pass the content of <file> as data to <module>. Example: -x cuckoo=/cuckoo_report.json.

-n --negate

Print not satisfied rules only (negate).

-N --no-follow-symlinks

Do not follow symlinks when scanning.

-w --no-warnings

Disable warnings.

-m --print-meta

Print metadata.

-D --print-module-data

Print module data.

-e --print-namespace

Print rules' namespace.

-S --print-stats

Print rules' statistics.

-s --print-strings

Print matching strings.

-L --print-string-length

Print length of matching strings.

-g --print-tags

Print tags.

-r --recursive

Recursively search for directories. It follows symlinks.

--scan-list

Scan files listed in FILE, one per line.

-z <size> --skip-larger=<size>

Skip files larger than the given <size> in bytes when scanning a directory.

New in version 4.2.0.

-k <slots> --stack-size=<slots>

Allocate a stack size of "slots" number of slots. Default: 16384. This will allow you to use larger rules, albeit with more memory overhead.

New in version 3.5.0.

-t <tag> --tag=<tag>

Print rules tagged as <tag> and ignore the rest.

-p <number> --threads=<number>

Use the specified <number> of threads to scan a directory.

-a <seconds> --timeout=<seconds>

Abort scanning after a number of seconds has elapsed.

-v --version

Show version information.

Here you have some examples:

• Apply rule in /foo/bar/rules to all files in the current directory. Subdirectories are not scanned:

```
yara /foo/bar/rules .
```

• Apply rules in /foo/bar/rules to bazfile. Only reports rules tagged as Packer or Compiler:

```
yara -t Packer -t Compiler /foo/bar/rules bazfile
```

• Scan all files in the /foo directory and its subdirectories:

```
yara /foo/bar/rules -r /foo
```

• Defines three external variables *mybool*, *myint* and *mystring*:

```
yara -d mybool=true -d myint=5 -d mystring="my string" /foo/bar/rules bazfile
```

• Apply rules in /foo/bar/rules to bazfile while passing the content of cuckoo_json_report to the cuckoo module:

```
yara -x cuckoo=cuckoo_json_report /foo/bar/rules bazfile
```

CHAPTER 6

Using YARA from Python

YARA can be also used from Python through the yara-python library. Once the library is built and installed as described in *Compiling and installing YARA* you'll have access to the full potential of YARA from your Python scripts.

The first step is importing the YARA library:

```
import yara
```

Then you will need to compile your YARA rules before applying them to your data, the rules can be compiled from a file path:

```
rules = yara.compile(filepath='/foo/bar/myrules')
```

The default argument is filepath, so you don't need to explicitly specify its name:

```
rules = yara.compile('/foo/bar/myrules')
```

You can also compile your rules from a file object:

```
fh = open('/foo/bar/myrules')
rules = yara.compile(file=fh)
fh.close()
```

Or you can compile them directly from a Python string:

```
rules = yara.compile(source='rule dummy { condition: true }')
```

If you want to compile a group of files or strings at the same time you can do it by using the filepaths or sources named arguments:

```
rules = yara.compile(filepaths={
    'namespace1':'/my/path/rules1',
    'namespace2':'/my/path/rules2'
})
```

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```
rules = yara.compile(sources={
    'namespace1':'rule dummy { condition: true }',
    'namespace2':'rule dummy { condition: false }'
})
```

Notice that both filepaths and sources must be dictionaries with keys of string type. The dictionary keys are used as a namespace identifier, allowing to differentiate between rules with the same name in different sources, as occurs in the second example with the *dummy* name.

The compile method also has an optional boolean parameter named includes which allows you to control whether or not the include directive should be accepted in the source files, for example:

```
rules = yara.compile('/foo/bar/my_rules', includes=False)
```

If the source file contains include directives the previous line would raise an exception.

If includes are used, a python callback can be set to define a custom source for the imported files (by default they are read from disk). This callback function is set through the include_callback optional parameter. It receives the following parameters:

- requested_filename: file requested with 'include'
- filename: file containing the 'include' directive if applicable, else None
- namespace: namespace

And returns the requested rules sources as a single string.

If you are using external variables in your rules you must define those external variables either while compiling the rules, or while applying the rules to some file. To define your variables at the moment of compilation you should pass the externals parameter to the compile method. For example:

```
rules = yara.compile('/foo/bar/my_rules',
   externals= {'var1': 'some string', 'var2': 4, 'var3': True})
```

The externals parameter must be a dictionary with the names of the variables as keys and an associated value of either string, integer or boolean type.

The compile method also accepts the optional boolean argument error_on_warning. This arguments tells YARA to raise an exception when a warning is issued during compilation. Such warnings are typically issued when your rules contains some construct that could be slowing down the scanning. The default value for the error_on_warning argument is False.

In all cases compile returns an instance of the class yara. Rules Rules. This class has a save method that can be used to save the compiled rules to a file:

```
rules.save('/foo/bar/my_compiled_rules')
```

The compiled rules can be loaded later by using the load method:

```
rules = yara.load('/foo/bar/my_compiled_rules')
```

Starting with YARA 3.4 both save and load accept file objects. For example, you can save your rules to a memory buffer with this code:

```
import StringIO

buff = StringIO.StringIO()
rules.save(file=buff)
```

The saved rules can be loaded from the memory buffer:

```
buff.seek(0)
rule = yara.load(file=buff)
```

The result of load is also an instance of the class yara. Rules.

Starting with YARA 4.3.0, Rules have a warning member which contains a list of warnings generated by the compiler. This allows you to know if the compiler generated warnings without them being hard errors using the *error_on_warning* argument.

Instances of Rules also have a match method, which allows you to apply the rules to a file:

```
matches = rules.match('/foo/bar/my_file')
```

But you can also apply the rules to a Python string:

```
with open('/foo/bar/my_file', 'rb') as f:
  matches = rules.match(data=f.read())
```

Or to a running process:

```
matches = rules.match(pid=1234)
```

As in the case of compile, the match method can receive definitions for external variables in the externals argument.

```
matches = rules.match('/foo/bar/my_file',
  externals= {'var1': 'some other string', 'var2': 100})
```

External variables defined during compile-time don't need to be defined again in subsequent calls to the match method. However you can redefine any variable as needed, or provide additional definitions that weren't provided during compilation.

In some situations involving a very large set of rules or huge files the match method can take too much time to run. In those situations you may find useful the timeout argument:

```
matches = rules.match('/foo/bar/my_huge_file', timeout=60)
```

If the match function does not finish before the specified number of seconds elapsed, a TimeoutError exception is raised.

You can also specify a callback function when invoking the match method. By default, the provided function will be called for every rule, no matter if matching or not. You can choose when your callback function is called by setting the which_callbacks parameter to one of yara.CALLBACK_MATCHES, yara.CALLBACK_NON_MATCHES or yara.CALLBACK_ALL. The default is to use yara.CALLBACK_ALL. Your callback function should expect a single parameter of dictionary type, and should return CALLBACK_CONTINUE to proceed to the next rule or CALLBACK_ABORT to stop applying rules to your data.

Here is an example:

The passed dictionary will be something like this:

```
{
  'tags': ['foo', 'bar'],
  'matches': True,
  'namespace': 'default',
  'rule': 'my_rule',
  'meta': {},
  'strings': [StringMatch, StringMatch]
}
```

The *matches* field indicates if the rule matches the data or not. The *strings* field is a list of *yara.StringMatch* objects.

The match method returns a list of instances of the class yara. Match. Instances of this class have the same attributes as the dictionary passed to the callback function.

You can also specify a module callback function when invoking the match method. The provided function will be called for every imported module that scanned a file. Your callback function should expect a single parameter of dictionary type, and should return CALLBACK_CONTINUE to proceed to the next rule or CALLBACK_ABORT to stop applying rules to your data.

Here is an example:

```
import yara

def modules_callback(data):
   print(data)
   return yara.CALLBACK_CONTINUE

matches = rules.match('/foo/bar/my_file', modules_callback=modules_callback)
```

The passed dictionary will contain the information from the module.

You can also specify a warning callback function when invoking the match method. The provided function will be called for every runtime warning. Your callback function should expect two parameters. The first is an integer which contains the type of warning and the second is a string with the warning message. Your callback should return CALLBACK_CONTINUE to proceed with the scan or CALLBACK_ABORT to stop.

Possible values for the type are:

```
CALLBACK_TOO_MANY_MATCHES
```

Contents of the callback message depend on the type of the callback.

For CALLBACK_TOO_MANY_MATCHES, the message is a named tuple containing 3 items: namespace, rule and string. All contain string identifiers.

Here is an example:

If you do not use a warning callback a warning message will be sent to the normal python warning system for you and scanning will continue.

With YARA 4.2.0 a new console module was introduced which allows you to send log messages within YARA. These are, by default, printed to stdout in yara-python, but you can handle them in your own callback using the console_callback parameter.

Here is an example:

```
import yara

r = """
import "console"

rule a { condition: console.log("Hello from Python!") }

"""

def console(message):
    print(f"Callback: {message}")

rules = yara.compile(source=r)
rules.match("/bin/ls", console_callback=console)
rules.match("/bin/ls")
```

The type of the message parameter is a string.

You may also find that the default sizes for the stack for the matching engine in yara or the default size for the maximum number of strings per rule is too low. In the C libyara API, you can modify these using the YR_CONFIG_STACK_SIZE and YR_CONFIG_MAX_STRINGS_PER_RULE variables via the yr_set_configuration_uint32 function in libyara. The command-line tool exposes these as the --stack-size (-k) and --max-strings-per-rule command-line arguments. In order to set these values via the Python API, you can use yara.set_config with either or both stack_size and max_strings_per_rule provided as kwargs. At the time of this writing, the default stack size was 16384 and the default maximum strings per rule was 10000.

Also, yara.set_config accepts the *max_match_data* argument for controlling the maximum number of bytes that will be returned for each matching string. This is equivalent to using YR_CONFIG_MAX_MATCH_DATA with the yr_set_configuration_uint32 in the C API. By the default this is set to 512.

Here are a few example calls:

```
yara.set_config(stack_size=65536)
yara.set_config(max_strings_per_rule=50000, stack_size=65536)
yara.set_config(max_strings_per_rule=20000)
yara.set_config(max_match_data=128)
```

6.1 Reference

```
yara.compile(...)
```

Compile YARA sources.

Either filepath, source, file, filepaths or sources must be provided. The remaining arguments are optional.

Parameters

- **filepath** (str) Path to the source file.
- **source** (*str*) String containing the rules code.
- **file** (file-object) Source file as a file object.
- **filepaths** (*dict*) Dictionary where keys are namespaces and values are paths to source files.
- **sources** (*dict*) Dictionary where keys are namespaces and values are strings containing rules code.
- externals (dict) Dictionary with external variables. Keys are variable names and values are variable values.
- includes (boolean) True if include directives are allowed or False otherwise. Default value: *True*.
- **error_on_warning** (boolean) If true warnings are treated as errors, raising an exception.

Returns Compiled rules object.

Return type yara.Rules

Raises

- yara.SyntaxError If a syntax error was found.
- yara.Error If an error occurred.

```
yara.load(...)
```

Changed in version 3.4.0.

Load compiled rules from a path or file object. Either *filepath* or *file* must be provided.

Parameters

- **filepath** (str) Path to a compiled rules file
- **file** (file-object) A file object supporting the read method.

Returns Compiled rules object.

Return type yara.Rules

Raises yara.**Error**: If an error occurred while loading the file.

```
yara.set_config(...)
```

Set the configuration variables accessible through the yr_set_configuration API.

Provide either *stack_size*, *max_strings_per_rule*, or *max_match_data*. These kwargs take unsigned integer values as input and will assign the provided value to the yr_set_configuration(...) variables YR_CONFIG_STACK_SIZE, YR_CONFIG_MAX_STRINGS_PER_RULE, and YR_CONFIG_MAX_MATCH_DATA respectively.

Parameters

- stack_size (int) Stack size to use for YR_CONFIG_STACK_SIZE
- max_strings_per_rule (int) Maximum number of strings to allow per yara rule. Will be mapped to YR_CONFIG_MAX_STRINGS_PER_RULE.
- max_match_data (int) Maximum number of bytes to allow per yara match. Will be mapped to YR_CONFIG_MAX_MATCH_DATA.

Returns None

Return type NoneType

Raises yara. Error: If an error occurred.

class yara. Rules

Instances of this class are returned by yara.compile() and represents a set of compiled rules.

```
match (filepath, pid, data, externals=None, callback=None, fast=False, timeout=None, modules_data=None, modules_callback=None, warnings_callback=None, which_callbacks=CALLBACK_ALL, console_callback=None)
Scan a file, process memory or data string.
```

Either *filepath*, *pid* or *data* must be provided. The remaining arguments are optional.

Parameters

- **filepath** (str) Path to the file to be scanned.
- pid (int) Process id to be scanned.
- data (str/bytes) Data to be scanned.
- **externals** (dict) Dictionary with external variables. Keys are variable names and values are variable values.
- callback (function) Callback function invoked for each rule.
- **fast** (bool) If true performs a fast mode scan.
- **timeout** (*int*) Aborts the scanning when the number of specified seconds have elapsed.
- modules_data (dict) Dictionary with additional data to modules. Keys are module names and values are *bytes* objects containing the additional data.
- modules_callback (function) Callback function invoked for each module.
- warnings_callback (function) Callback function invoked for warning, like yara.CALLBACK_TOO_MANY_MATCHES.
- which_callbacks (int) An integer that indicates in which cases the callback function must be called. Possible values are yara.CALLBACK_ALL, yara.CALLBACK_MATCHES and yara.CALLBACK_NON_MATCHES.
- **console_callback** (function) Callback function invoked for each console module call.

Raises

- yara.TimeoutError If the timeout was reached.
- yara.Error If an error occurred during the scan.

save (...)

Changed in version 3.4.0: Save compiled rules to a file. Either *filepath* or *file* must be provided.

param str filepath Path to the file.

6.1. Reference

param file-object file A file object supporting the write method.

raises yara.Error: If an error occurred while saving the file.

class yara.Match

New in version 4.3.0.

Objects returned by yara.Rules.match(), representing a match.

rule

Name of the matching rule.

namespace

Namespace associated to the matching rule.

tags

Array of strings containing the tags associated to the matching rule.

meta

Dictionary containing metadata associated to the matching rule.

strings

List of StringMatch objects.

class yara.StringMatch

New in version 3.4.0.

Objects which represent string matches.

identifier

Name of the matching string.

instances

List of StringMatchInstance objects.

is_xor(

Returns a boolean if the string is using the xor modifier.

class yara.StringMatchInstance

New in version 4.3.0.

Objects which represent instances of matched strings.

matched data

Bytes of the matched data.

matched_length

Length of the matched data.

offset

Offset of the matched data.

xor_key

XOR key found for the string.

plaintext()

Returns the plaintext version of the string after xor key is applied. If the string is not an xor string then no modification is done.

CHAPTER 7

The C API

You can integrate YARA into your C/C++ project by using the API provided by the *libyara* library. This API gives you access to every YARA feature and it's the same API used by the command-line tools yara and yarac.

7.1 Initializing and finalizing libyara

The first thing your program must do when using *libyara* is initializing the library. This is done by calling the $yr_initialize()$ function. This function allocates any resources needed by the library and initializes internal data structures. Its counterpart is $yr_finalize()$, which must be called when you are finished using the library.

In a multi-threaded program only the main thread must call $yr_initialize()$ and $yr_finalize()$. No additional work is required from other threads using the library.

7.2 Compiling rules

Before using your rules to scan any data you need to compile them into binary form. For that purpose you'll need a YARA compiler, which can be created with $yr_compiler_create()$. After being used, the compiler must be destroyed with $yr_compiler_destroy()$.

You can use <code>yr_compiler_add_file()</code>, <code>yr_compiler_add_fd()</code>, or <code>yr_compiler_add_string()</code> to add one or more input sources to be compiled. Both of these functions receive an optional namespace. Rules added under the same namespace behave as if they were contained within the same source file or string, so, rule identifiers must be unique among all the sources sharing a namespace. If the namespace argument is <code>NULL</code> the rules are put in the <code>default</code> namespace.

The yr_compiler_add_file(), yr_compiler_add_fd(), and yr_compiler_add_string() functions return the number of errors found in the source code. If the rules are correct they will return 0. If any of these functions return an error the compiler can't be used anymore, neither for adding more rules nor getting the compiled rules.

For obtaining detailed error information you must set a callback function by using $yr_compiler_set_callback()$ before calling any of the compiling functions. The callback function has the following prototype:

```
void callback_function(
   int error_level,
   const char* file_name,
   int line_number,
   const YR_RULE* rule,
   const char* message,
   void* user_data)
```

Changed in version 4.0.0.

Possible values for error_level are YARA_ERROR_LEVEL_ERROR and YARA_ERROR_LEVEL_WARNING. The arguments file_name and line_number contain the file name and line number where the error or warning occurred. file_name is the one passed to $yr_compiler_add_file()$ or $yr_compiler_add_fd()$. It can be NULL if you passed NULL or if you're using $yr_compiler_add_string()$. rule is a pointer to the YR_RULE structure representing the rule that contained the error, but it can be NULL it the error is not contained in a specific rule. The user_data pointer is the same you passed to $yr_compiler_set_callback()$.

By default, for rules containing references to other files (include "filename.yara"), YARA will try to find those files on disk. However, if you want to fetch the imported rules from another source (eg: from a database or remote service), a callback function can be set with yr_compiler_set_include_callback().

This callback receives the following parameters:

- include_name: name of the requested file.
- calling_rule_filename: the requesting file name (NULL if not a file).
- calling_rule_namespace: namespace (NULL if undefined).
- user_data same pointer passed to yr_compiler_set_include_callback().

It should return the requested file's content as a null-terminated string. The memory for this string should be allocated by the callback function. Once it is safe to free the memory used to return the callback's result, the include_free function passed to $yr_compiler_set_include_callback()$ will be called. If the memory does not need to be freed, NULL can be passed as include_free instead. You can completely disable support for includes by setting a NULL callback function with $yr_compiler_set_include_callback()$.

The callback function has the following prototype:

```
const char* include_callback(
   const char* include_name,
   const char* calling_rule_filename,
   const char* calling_rule_namespace,
   void* user_data);
```

The free function has the following prototype:

```
void include_free(
    const char* callback_result_ptr,
    void* user_data);
```

After you successfully added some sources you can get the compiled rules using the $yr_compiler_get_rules()$ function. You'll get a pointer to a YR_RULES structure which can be used to scan your data as described in Scanning data. Once $yr_compiler_get_rules()$ is invoked you can not add more sources to the compiler, but you can call $yr_compiler_get_rules()$ multiple times. Each time this function is called it returns a

pointer to the same YR_RULES structure. Notice that this behaviour is new in YARA 4.0.0, in YARA 3.X and 2.X yr_compiler_get_rules () returned a new copy the YR_RULES structure.

Instances of YR_RULES must be destroyed with yr_rules_destroy().

7.3 Defining external variables

If your rules make use of external variables (like in the example below), you must define those variables by using any of the $yr_compiler_define_XXXX_variable$ functions. Variables must be defined before rules are compiled with $yr_compiler_add_XXXX$ and they must be defined with a type that matches the context in which the variable is used in the rule, a variable that is used like $my_var = 5$ can't be defined as a string variable.

While defining external variables with <code>yr_compiler_define_XXXX_variable</code> you must provide a value for each variable. That value is embedded in the compiled rules and used whenever the variable appears in a rule. However, you can change the value associated to an external variable after the rules has been compiled by using any of the <code>yr rules define XXXX variable functions</code>.

7.4 Saving and retrieving compiled rules

Compiled rules can be saved to a file and retrieved later by using $yr_rules_save()$ and $yr_rules_load()$. Rules compiled and saved in one machine can be loaded in another machine as long as they have the same endianness, no matter the operating system or if they are 32-bit or 64-bit systems. However files saved with older versions of YARA may not work with newer versions due to changes in the file layout.

You can also save and retrieve your rules to and from generic data streams by using functions $yr_rules_save_stream()$ and $yr_rules_load_stream()$. These functions receive a pointer to a YR_STREAM structure, defined as:

```
typedef struct _YR_STREAM
{
    void* user_data;

    YR_STREAM_READ_FUNC read;
    YR_STREAM_WRITE_FUNC write;
} YR_STREAM;
```

You must provide your own implementation for read and write functions. The read function is used by $yr_rules_load_stream()$ to read data from your stream and the write function is used by $yr_rules_save_stream()$ to write data into your stream.

Your read and write functions must respond to these prototypes:

```
size_t read(
    void* ptr,
    size_t size,
    size_t count,
    void* user_data);

size_t write(
    const void* ptr,
    size_t size,
    size_t count,
    void* user_data);
```

The ptr argument is a pointer to the buffer where the read function should put the read data, or where the write function will find the data that needs to be written to the stream. In both cases size is the size of each element being read or written and count the number of elements. The total size of the data being read or written is size * count. The read function must return the number of elements read, the write function must return the total number of elements written.

The user_data pointer is the same you specified in the YR_STREAM structure. You can use it to pass arbitrary data to your read and write functions.

7.5 Scanning data

Once you have an instance of YR_RULES you can use it directly with one of the $yr_rules_scan_XXXX$ functions described below, or create a scanner with $yr_scanner_create()$. Let's start by discussing the first approach.

The YR_RULES you got from the compiler can be used with $yr_rules_scan_file()$, $yr_rules_scan_fd()$ or $yr_rules_scan_mem()$ for scanning a file, a file descriptor and a in-memory buffer respectively. The results from the scan are returned to your program via a callback function. The callback has the following prototype:

```
int callback_function(
    YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* context,
    int message,
    void* message_data,
    void* user_data);
```

Possible values for message are:

```
CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_MATCHING
CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_NOT_MATCHING
CALLBACK_MSG_SCAN_FINISHED
CALLBACK_MSG_IMPORT_MODULE
CALLBACK_MSG_MODULE_IMPORTED
CALLBACK_MSG_TOO_MANY_MATCHES
CALLBACK_MSG_CONSOLE_LOG
```

Your callback function will be called once for each rule with either a <code>CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_MATCHING</code> or <code>CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_NOT_MATCHING</code> message, depending if the rule is matching or not. In both cases a pointer to the <code>YR_RULE</code> structure associated with the rule is passed in the <code>message_data</code> argument. You just need to perform a typecast from <code>void*</code> to <code>YR_RULE*</code> to access the structure. You can control whether or not YARA calls your callback function with <code>CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_MATCHING</code> and <code>CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_NOT_MATCHING</code> messages by using the <code>SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_MATCHING</code> and <code>SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_NOT_MATCHING</code> as described later in this section.

This callback is also called with the CALLBACK_MSG_IMPORT_MODULE message. All modules referenced by an import statement in the rules are imported once for every file being scanned. In this case message_data points to a YR_MODULE_IMPORT structure. This structure contains a module_name field pointing to a null terminated string with the name of the module being imported and two other fields module_data and module_data_size. These fields are initially set to NULL and 0, but your program can assign a pointer to some arbitrary data to module_data while setting module_data_size to the size of the data. This way you can pass additional data to those modules requiring it, like the *Cuckoo module* for example.

Once a module is imported the callback is called again with the CALLBACK_MSG_MODULE_IMPORTED. When this happens message_data points to a YR_OBJECT_STRUCTURE structure. This structure contains all the information provided by the module about the currently scanned file.

If during the scan a string hits the maximum number of matches, your callback will be called once with the CALLBACK_MSG_TOO_MANY_MATCHES. When this happens, message_data is a YR_STRING* which points to the string which caused the warning. If your callback returns CALLBACK_CONTINUE, the string will be disabled and scanning will continue, otherwise scanning will be halted.

Your callback will be called from the console module (*Console module*) with the CALLBACK_MSG_CONSOLE_LOG message. When this happens, the message_data argument will be a char* that is the string generated by the console module. Your callback can do whatever it wants with this string, including logging it to an external logging source, or printing it to stdout.

Lastly, the callback function is also called with the CALLBACK_MSG_SCAN_FINISHED message when the scan is finished. In this case message_data is NULL.

Notice that you shouldn't call any of the yr_rules_scan_XXXX functions from within the callback as those functions are not re-entrant.

Your callback function must return one of the following values:

```
CALLBACK_CONTINUE
CALLBACK_ABORT
CALLBACK_ERROR
```

If it returns CALLBACK_CONTINUE YARA will continue normally, CALLBACK_ABORT will abort the scan but the result from the yr_rules_scan_XXXX function will be ERROR_SUCCESS. On the other hand CALLBACK_ERROR will abort the scanning too, but the result from yr_rules_scan_XXXX will be ERROR CALLBACK ERROR.

The user_data argument passed to your callback function is the same you passed yr_rules_scan_XXXX. This pointer is not touched by YARA, it's just a way for your program to pass arbitrary data to the callback function.

All yr_rules_scan_XXXX functions receive a flags argument that allows to tweak some aspects of the scanning process. The supported flags are the following ones:

```
SCAN_FLAGS_FAST_MODE SCAN_FLAGS_NO_TRYCATCH SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_MATCHING SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_NOT_MATCHING
```

The SCAN_FLAGS_FAST_MODE flag makes the scanning a little faster by avoiding multiple matches of the same string when not necessary. Once the string was found in the file it's subsequently ignored, implying that you'll have a single match for the string, even if it appears multiple times in the scanned data. This flag has the same effect of the -f command-line option described in *Running YARA from the command-line*.

SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_MATCHING and SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_NOT_MATCHING control whether the callback is invoked for rules that are matching or for rules that are not matching respectively. If SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_MATCHING is specified alone, the callback will be called for matching rules with the CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_MATCHING message but it won't be called for non-matching rules. If SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_NOT_MATCHING is specified alone, the opposite happens, the callback will be called with CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_NOT_MATCHING messages but not with CALLBACK_MSG_RULE_MATCHING messages. If both flags are combined together (the default) the callback will be called for both matching and non-matching rules. For backward compatibility, if none of these two flags are specified, the scanner will follow the default behavior.

Additionally, yr_rules_scan_XXXX functions can receive a timeout argument which forces the scan to abort after the specified number of seconds (approximately). If timeout is 0 it means no timeout at all.

7.5.1 Using a scanner

The yr_rules_scan_XXXX functions are enough in most cases, but sometimes you may need a fine-grained control over the scanning. In those cases you can create a scanner with yr_scanner_create(). A scanner is simply a

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wrapper around a YR_RULES structure that holds additional configuration like external variables without affecting other users of the YR_RULES structure.

A scanner is particularly useful when you want to use the same YR_RULES with multiple workers (it could be a separate thread, a coroutine, etc) and each worker needs to set different set of values for external variables. In that case you can't use yr_rules_define_XXXX_variable for setting the values of your external variables, as every worker using the YR_RULES will be affected by such changes. However each worker can have its own scanner, where the scanners share the same YR_RULES, and use yr_scanner_define_XXXX_variable for setting external variables without affecting the rest of the workers.

This is a better solution than having a separate YR_RULES for each worker, as YR_RULES structures have large memory footprint (specially if you have a lot of rules) while scanners are very lightweight.

7.6 API reference

7.6.1 Data structures

YR COMPILER

Data structure representing a YARA compiler.

YR_SCAN_CONTEXT

Data structure that holds information about an on-going scan. A pointer to this structure is passed to the callback function that receives notifications about matches found. This structure is also used for iterating over the

YR MATCH

Data structure representing a string match.

int64 t base

Base offset/address for the match. While scanning a file this field is usually zero, while scanning a process memory space this field is the virtual address of the memory block where the match was found.

int64 toffset

Offset of the match relative to base.

int32_t match_length

Length of the matching string

const uint8_t* data

Pointer to a buffer containing a portion of the matching string.

int32_t data_length

Length of data buffer. data_length is the minimum of match_length and MAX_MATCH_DATA.

Changed in version 3.5.0.

YR_META

Data structure representing a metadata value.

```
const char* identifier
```

Meta identifier.

int32_t type

One of the following metadata types:

```
META_TYPE_INTEGER META_TYPE_STRING META_TYPE_BOOLEAN
```

YR_MODULE_IMPORT

const char* module name

Name of the module being imported.

void* module data

Pointer to additional data passed to the module. Initially set to NULL, your program is responsible for setting this pointer while handling the CALLBACK_MSG_IMPORT_MODULE message.

size t module data size

Size of additional data passed to module. Your program must set the appropriate value if module_data is modified.

YR_RULE

Data structure representing a single rule.

const char* identifier

Rule identifier.

const char* tags

Pointer to a sequence of null terminated strings with tag names. An additional null character marks the end of the sequence. Example: $tag1\0tag2\0tag3\0.$ To iterate over the tags you can use $yr_rule_tags_foreach()$.

YR META* metas

Pointer to a sequence of YR_META structures. To iterate over the structures use $yr_rule_metas_foreach()$.

YR_STRING* strings

Pointer to a sequence of YR_STRING structures. To iterate over the structures use yr_rule_strings_foreach().

YR_NAMESPACE* ns

Pointer to a YR_NAMESPACE structure.

YR_RULES

Data structure representing a set of compiled rules.

YR STREAM

New in version 3.4.0.

Data structure representing a stream used with functions $yr_rules_load_stream()$ and $yr_rules_save_stream()$.

void* user data

A user-defined pointer.

YR_STREAM_READ_FUNC read

A pointer to the stream's read function provided by the user.

YR_STREAM_WRITE_FUNC write

A pointer to the stream's write function provided by the user.

YR_STRING

Data structure representing a string declared in a rule.

const char* identifier

String identifier.

YR_NAMESPACE

Data structure representing a rule namespace.

const char* name

Rule namespace.

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7.6.2 Functions

int yr_initialize (void)

Initialize the library. Must be called by the main thread before using any other function. Return *ERROR_SUCCESS* on success another error code in case of error. The list of possible return codes vary according to the modules compiled into YARA.

int yr_finalize (void)

Finalize the library. Must be called by the main free to release any resource allocated by the library. Return *ERROR_SUCCESS* on success another error code in case of error. The list of possible return codes vary according to the modules compiled into YARA.

int yr_compiler_create(YR_COMPILER** compiler)

Create a YARA compiler. You must pass the address of a pointer to a YR_COMPILER, the function will set the pointer to the newly allocated compiler. Returns one of the following error codes:

ERROR_SUCCESS

ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY

void yr_compiler_destroy (YR_COMPILER* compiler)

Destroy a YARA compiler.

void **yr_compiler_set_callback** (*YR_COMPILER* compiler*, YR_COMPILER_CALLBACK_FUNC *callback*, void* *user_data*)

Changed in version 3.3.0.

Set a callback for receiving error and warning information. The *user_data* pointer is passed to the callback function.

void yr_compiler_set_include_callback (YR_COMPILER*

compiler,

YR_COMPILER_INCLUDE_CALLBACK_FUNC callback, YR_COMPILER_INCLUDE_FREE_FUNC include_free, void* user_data)

New in version 3.7.0: Set a callback to provide rules from a custom source when include directive is invoked. The *user_data* pointer is untouched and passed back to the callback function and to the free function. Once the callback's result is no longer needed, the include_free function will be called. If the memory does not need to be freed, include_free can be set to NULL. If *callback* is set to NULL support for include directives is disabled.

int **yr_compiler_add_file**(*YR_COMPILER* compiler*, FILE* *file*, const char* *namespace*, const char* *file_name*)

Compile rules from a *file*. Rules are put into the specified *namespace*, if *namespace* is NULL they will be put into the default namespace. *file_name* is the name of the file for error reporting purposes and can be set to NULL. Returns the number of errors found during compilation.

int **yr_compiler_add_fd**(*YR_COMPILER* compiler*, YR_FILE_DESCRIPTOR *rules_fd*, const char* *namespace*, const char* *file_name*)

New in version 3.6.0.

Compile rules from a *file descriptor*. Rules are put into the specified *namespace*, if *namespace* is NULL they will be put into the default namespace. *file_name* is the name of the file for error reporting purposes and can be set to NULL. Returns the number of errors found during compilation.

int **yr_compiler_add_string** (*YR_COMPILER* compiler*, const char* *string*, const char* *namespace_*)

Compile rules from a *string*. Rules are put into the specified *namespace*, if *namespace* is NULL they will be put into the default namespace. Returns the number of errors found during compilation.

int yr_compiler_get_rules (YR_COMPILER* compiler, YR_RULES** rules)

Get the compiled rules from the compiler. Returns one of the following error codes:

ERROR_SUCCESS

```
ERROR INSUFFICIENT MEMORY
```

int **yr_compiler_define_integer_variable** (*YR_COMPILER* compiler*, const char* *identifier*, int64_t *value*)

Define an integer external variable.

int **yr_compiler_define_float_variable** (*YR_COMPILER* compiler*, const char* *identifier*, double value)

Define a float external variable.

int **yr_compiler_define_boolean_variable**(*YR_COMPILER* compiler*, const char* *identifier*, int *value*)

Define a boolean external variable.

int **yr_compiler_define_string_variable** (*YR_COMPILER* compiler*, const char* *identifier*, const char* *value*)

Define a string external variable.

int **yr_rules_define_integer_variable** (*YR_RULES* rules*, const char* *identifier*, int64_t *value*)

Define an integer external variable.

int yr_rules_define_boolean_variable (YR_RULES* rules, const char* identifier, int value)

Define a boolean external variable.

int **yr_rules_define_float_variable** (*YR_RULES* rules*, const char* *identifier*, double *value*)

Define a float external variable.

int **yr_rules_define_string_variable** (*YR_RULES* rules*, const char* *identifier*, const char* *value*)

Define a string external variable.

void **yr_rules_destroy** (*YR_RULES* rules*)
Destroy compiled rules.

int yr_rules_save (YR_RULES* rules, const char* filename)

Save compiled *rules* into the file specified by *filename*. Only rules obtained from $yr_compiler_get_rules()$ can be saved. Those obtained from $yr_rules_load()$ or $yr_rules_load_stream()$ can not be saved. Returns one of the following error codes:

ERROR_SUCCESS

ERROR_COULD_NOT_OPEN_FILE

int yr_rules_save_stream (YR_RULES* rules, YR_STREAM* stream)

New in version 3.4.0.

Save compiled *rules* into *stream*. Only rules obtained from $yr_compiler_get_rules()$ can be saved. Those obtained from $yr_rules_load()$ or $yr_rules_load_stream()$ can not be saved. Returns one of the following error codes:

ERROR_SUCCESS

int yr_rules_load (const char* filename, YR_RULES** rules)

Load compiled rules from the file specified by *filename*. Returns one of the following error codes:

ERROR_SUCCESS

ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY

ERROR_COULD_NOT_OPEN_FILE

ERROR_INVALID_FILE

ERROR_CORRUPT_FILE

ERROR_UNSUPPORTED_FILE_VERSION

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int yr_rules_load_stream (YR_STREAM* stream, YR_RULES** rules)

```
New in version 3.4.0.
    Load compiled rules from stream.
                                         Rules loaded this way can not be saved back using
    yr_rules_save_stream(). Returns one of the following error codes:
         ERROR SUCCESS
         ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY
         ERROR INVALID FILE
         ERROR_CORRUPT_FILE
         ERROR_UNSUPPORTED_FILE_VERSION
int yr_rules_scan_mem (YR_RULES* rules, const uint8_t* buffer, size_t buffer_size, int flags,
                        YR CALLBACK FUNC callback, void* user data, int timeout)
    Scan a memory buffer. Returns one of the following error codes:
         ERROR_SUCCESS
         ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY
         ERROR_TOO_MANY_SCAN_THREADS
         ERROR_SCAN_TIMEOUT
         ERROR_CALLBACK_ERROR
         ERROR_TOO_MANY_MATCHES
int yr_rules_scan_file(YR_RULES*)
                                                         char*
                                       rules,
                                                const
                                                                 filename,
                                                                                   flags,
                         YR CALLBACK FUNC callback, void* user data, int timeout)
    Scan a file. Returns one of the following error codes:
         ERROR SUCCESS
         ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY
         ERROR_COULD_NOT_MAP_FILE
         ERROR_TOO_MANY_SCAN_THREADS
         ERROR SCAN TIMEOUT
         ERROR CALLBACK ERROR
         ERROR_TOO_MANY_MATCHES
int yr_rules_scan_fd(YR_RULES*
                                    rules,
                                              YR_FILE_DESCRIPTOR
                                                                      fd,
                                                                              int
                                                                                   flags,
                      YR CALLBACK FUNC callback, void* user data, int timeout)
    Scan a file descriptor. In POSIX systems YR_FILE_DESCRIPTOR is an int, as returned by the open()
    function. In Windows YR_FILE_DESCRIPTOR is a HANDLE as returned by CreateFile().
    Returns one of the following error codes:
         ERROR_SUCCESS
         ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY
         ERROR_COULD_NOT_MAP_FILE
         ERROR_TOO_MANY_SCAN_THREADS
         ERROR_SCAN_TIMEOUT
         ERROR_CALLBACK_ERROR
         ERROR TOO MANY MATCHES
```

yr_rule_tags_foreach (rule, tag)

Iterate over the tags of a given rule running the block of code that follows each time with a different value for tag of type const char*. Example:

```
const char* tag;

/* rule is a YR_RULE object */

yr_rule_tags_foreach(rule, tag)
{
    ..do something with tag
}
```

yr_rule_metas_foreach (rule, meta)

Iterate over the YR_META structures associated with a given rule running the block of code that follows each time with a different value for *meta*. Example:

```
YR_META* meta;

/* rule is a YR_RULE object */
yr_rule_metas_foreach(rule, meta)
{
    ..do something with meta
}
```

yr_rule_strings_foreach (rule, string)

Iterate over the YR_STRING structures associated with a given rule running the block of code that follows each time with a different value for *string*. Example:

```
YR_STRING* string;

/* rule is a YR_RULE object */
yr_rule_strings_foreach(rule, string)
{
    ..do something with string
}
```

yr_string_matches_foreach (context, string, match)

Iterate over the YR_MATCH structures that represent the matches found for a given string during a scan running the block of code that follows, each time with a different value for *match*. The *context* argument is a pointer to a YR_SCAN_CONTEXT that is passed to the callback function and *string* is a pointer to a YR_STRING. Example:

```
YR_MATCH* match;

/* context is a YR_SCAN_CONTEXT* and string is a YR_STRING* */

yr_string_matches_foreach(context, string, match)
{
    ..do something with match
}
```

yr_rules_foreach (rules, rule)

Iterate over each YR_RULE in a YR_RULES object running the block of code that follows each time with a different value for rule. Example:

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```
YR_RULE* rule;
/* rules is a YR_RULES object */
yr_rules_foreach(rules, rule)
{
    ..do something with rule
}
```

void yr_rule_disable (YR_RULE* rule)

New in version 3.7.0.

Disable the specified rule. Disabled rules are completely ignored during the scanning process and they won't match. If the disabled rule is used in the condition of some other rule the value for the disabled rule is neither true nor false but undefined. For more information about undefined values see *Undefined values*.

```
void yr_rule_enable (YR_RULE* rule)
```

New in version 3.7.0.

Enables the specified rule. After being disabled with $yr_rule_disable()$ a rule can be enabled again by using this function.

```
int yr_scanner_create (YR_RULES* rules, YR_SCANNER **scanner)
```

New in version 3.8.0.

Creates a new scanner that can be used for scanning data with the provided provided rules. *scanner* must be a pointer to a YR_SCANNER, the function will set the pointer to the newly allocated scanner. Returns one of the following error codes:

```
ERROR INSUFFICIENT MEMORY
```

```
void yr_scanner_destroy (YR_SCANNER *scanner)
```

New in version 3.8.0.

Destroy a scanner. After using a scanner it must be destroyed with this function.

```
void yr_scanner_set_callback (YR_SCANNER *scanner, YR_CALLBACK_FUNC callback, void* user_data)
```

New in version 3.8.0.

Set a callback function that will be called for reporting any matches found by the scanner.

```
void yr_scanner_set_timeout (YR_SCANNER* scanner, int timeout)
```

New in version 3.8.0.

Set the maximum number of seconds that the scanner will spend in any call to yr_scanner_scan_xxx.

```
void yr_scanner_set_flags (YR_SCANNER* scanner, int flags)
```

New in version 3.8.0.

Set the flags that will be used by any call to yr_scanner_scan_xxx. The supported flags are:

```
SCAN_FLAGS_FAST_MODE: Enable fast scan mode. SCAN_FLAGS_NO_TRYCATCH: Disable exception handling. SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_MATCHING: If this SCAN_FLAGS_REPORT_RULES_NOT_MATCHING
```

```
int yr_scanner_define_integer_variable (YR_SCANNER* scanner, const char* identifier, int64 t value)
```

New in version 3.8.0.

Define an integer external variable.

int yr_scanner_define_boolean_variable (YR_SCANNER* scanner, const char* identifier, int value)

New in version 3.8.0.

Define a boolean external variable.

int **yr_scanner_define_float_variable** (YR_SCANNER* scanner, const char* identifier, double value)

New in version 3.8.0.

Define a float external variable.

int yr_scanner_define_string_variable (YR_SCANNER* scanner, const char* identifier, const char* value)

New in version 3.8.0.

Define a string external variable.

int yr_scanner_scan_mem_blocks (YR_SCANNER* scanner, YR_MEMORY_BLOCK_ITERATOR* iterator)

New in version 3.8.0.

Scan a series of memory blocks that are provided by a YR_MEMORY_BLOCK_ITERATOR. The iterator has a pair of *first* and *next* functions that must return the first and next blocks respectively. When these functions return *NULL* it indicates that there are not more blocks to scan.

In YARA 4.1 and later the *first* and *next* functions can return *NULL* and set the *last_error* field in YR_MEMORY_BLOCK_ITERATOR to *ERROR_BLOCK_NOT_READY*. This indicates that the iterator is not able to return the next block yet, but the operation may be retried. In such cases *yr_scanner_scan_mem_blocks* also returns *ERROR_BLOCK_NOT_READY* but the scanner maintains its state and this function can be called again for continuing the scanning where it was left. This can be done multiple times until the block is ready and the iterator is able to return it.

Notice however that once the iterator completes a full iteration, any subsequent iteration should proceed without returning <code>ERROR_BLOCK_NOT_READY</code>. During the first iteration the iterator should store in memory any information that it needs about the blocks, so that it can be iterated again without relying on costly operations that may result in a <code>ERROR_BLOCK_NOT_READY</code> error.

Returns one of the following error codes:

```
ERROR_SUCCESS

ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY

ERROR_TOO_MANY_SCAN_THREADS

ERROR_SCAN_TIMEOUT

ERROR_CALLBACK_ERROR

ERROR_TOO_MANY_MATCHES

ERROR_BLOCK_NOT_READY
```

int **yr_scanner_scan_mem** (YR_SCANNER* scanner, const uint8_t* buffer, size_t buffer_size)
New in version 3.8.0.

Scan a memory buffer. Returns one of the following error codes:

```
ERROR_SUCCESS

ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY

ERROR_TOO_MANY_SCAN_THREADS

ERROR_SCAN_TIMEOUT
```

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```
ERROR_CALLBACK_ERROR
ERROR_TOO_MANY_MATCHES
```

int yr_scanner_scan_file (YR_SCANNER* scanner, const char* filename)

New in version 3.8.0.

Scan a file. Returns one of the following error codes:

```
ERROR_SUCCESS

ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY

ERROR_TOO_MANY_SCAN_THREADS

ERROR_SCAN_TIMEOUT

ERROR_CALLBACK_ERROR

ERROR_TOO_MANY_MATCHES
```

int yr_scanner_scan_fd (YR_SCANNER* scanner, YR_FILE_DESCRIPTOR fd)

New in version 3.8.0.

Scan a file descriptor. In POSIX systems YR_FILE_DESCRIPTOR is an int, as returned by the open() function. In Windows YR_FILE_DESCRIPTOR is a HANDLE as returned by CreateFile().

Returns one of the following error codes:

```
ERROR_SUCCESS

ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY

ERROR_TOO_MANY_SCAN_THREADS

ERROR_SCAN_TIMEOUT

ERROR_CALLBACK_ERROR

ERROR_TOO_MANY_MATCHES
```

YR_RULE* yr_scanner_last_error_rule (YR_SCANNER* scanner)

New in version 3.8.0.

Return a pointer to the YR_RULE which triggered a scanning error. In the case where the rule is unable to be determined, NULL is returned.

YR_STRING* yr_scanner_last_error_string (YR_SCANNER* scanner)

New in version 3.8.0.

Return a pointer to the YR_STRING which triggered a scanning error.

7.6.3 Error codes

ERROR_SUCCESS

Everything went fine.

ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_MEMORY

Insufficient memory to complete the operation.

ERROR_COULD_NOT_OPEN_FILE

File could not be opened.

ERROR_COULD_NOT_MAP_FILE

File could not be mapped into memory.

ERROR INVALID FILE

File is not a valid rules file.

ERROR_CORRUPT_FILE

Rules file is corrupt.

ERROR_UNSUPPORTED_FILE_VERSION

File was generated by a different YARA and can't be loaded by this version.

ERROR TOO MANY SCAN THREADS

Too many threads trying to use the same YR_RULES object simultaneously. The limit is defined by $YR_MAX_THREADS$ in ./include/yara/limits.h

ERROR_SCAN_TIMEOUT

Scan timed out.

ERROR CALLBACK ERROR

Callback returned an error.

ERROR_TOO_MANY_MATCHES

Too many matches for some string in your rules. This usually happens when your rules contains very short or very common strings like 01 02 or FF FF FF. The limit is defined by YR_MAX_STRING_MATCHES in <code>./include/yara/limits.h</code>

ERROR_BLOCK_NOT_READY

Next memory block to scan is not ready; custom iterators may return this.

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