



Journey into Building Security Tools

For Cairo/Starknet Smart Contracts



© 2023 FuzzingLabs - Building Cairo Security Tools - ETHCC6

Patrick Ventuzelo (@Pat Ventuzelo)

- Founder & CEO of FuzzingLabs | Senior Security Researcher
 - Fuzzing and vulnerability research
 - 100+ bugs founds in L1/L2 protocols
 - Development of security tools
 - **thoth**, <u>cairo-fuzzer</u>, <u>octopus</u>, etc.
- Training/Online courses
 - **Rust** Security Audit & Fuzzing
 - **Go** Security Audit & Fuzzing
 - WebAssembly Reversing & Analysis
 - Ethereum/Solidity Security (WIP)
 - Cairo/Starknet Security (WIP)
- Blockchain security since 2016
 - Public Speaker: EthCC speaker (x3), Devcon, DSS
 - Research about EVM reversing & Tx analysis
 - Lead developer of <u>Beaconfuzz</u>, beacon chain differential fuzzer
 - **Fuzzing and audits** of dozen of L1/L2 protocol implementations
 - Currently building a **web3 profiling & deanonymization tool**

FUZZING

LABS





Thoth, the Cairo/Starknet security toolkit



Compilation - Cairo into JSON artifact

builtins output

```
from starkware.cairo.common.alloc import alloc
from starkware.cairo.common.serialize import serialize word
func array sum(arr : felt*, size) -> (sum):
    if size == 0:
        return (sum=0)
    end
    let (sum of rest) = array sum(arr=arr + 1, size=size - 1)
    return (sum=[arr] + sum of rest)
end
func main{output ptr : felt*}():
    const ARRAY SIZE = 3
    # Allocate an array.
    let (ptr) = alloc()
    assert [ptr] = 9
   assert [ptr + 1] = 16
   assert [ptr + 2] = 25
    let (sum) = array sum(arr=ptr, size=ARRAY SIZE)
    serialize word(sum)
    return ()
end
```





Why Thoth has been created?

- Thoth, the Cairo/Starknet security toolkit github
- Problematic
 - Most contracts on the mainnet/testnet are **not verified**
 - **Only** the full **JSON artifact** is mandatory and stored online
- Goal
 - Analysis of closed source contract for due diligence
 - Help developers to understand compiler operations
 - Thoth is intended to be a complete tool
- Name: Thoth
 - God of the **moon**, **sacred texts**, mathematics, sciences, magic, messenger and recorder of the deities, **master of knowledge**, and patron of scribes.
 - Inspired by other amazing tools
 - <u>Octopus, Slither, Mythril</u>, etc.
- Only the bytecode is the Truth



Not Verified







Thoth 0.1.0 - Disassembler

- "Visual representation of the bytecode as a linear sequence of instructions."
- Several data are in the **JSON**.
- Interesting information
 - Builtins
 - Structures
 - Events
 - Constants representation
 - Functions ID and names matching

"data": [
"0x40780017fff7fff",	
"0×1",	
"0x208b7fff7fff7ffe",	
"0x400380007ffc7ffd",	
"0x482680017ffc8000",	
"0×1",	
"0x208b7fff7fff7ffe",	
"0x20780017fff7ffd",	
"0x5",	
"0x480680017fff8000",	
"0v0"	

offset 0:			
offset 0:	ADD	AP, 1	
offset 2:			
func s	tarkware.cairo.commo	on.serialize.serialize_w	ord{output_ptr : felt*}(word : felt;
offset 3:	ASSERT_EQ	[FP-3], [[FP-4]]	
offset 4:	ASSERT_EQ	[AP], [FP-4] + 1	
offset 4:	ADD	AP, 1	
offset 6:			
offset 7:	JNZ		
offset 7: offset 9: offset 9: offset 11:	JNZ ASSERT_EQ ADD RET	5 [AP], 0 AP, 1	
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11:	ASSERT_EQ ADD	[AP], 0	
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11: offset 12: offset 12:	ASSERT_EQ ADD RET ASSERT_EQ ADD	[AP], 0 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-4] + 1 AP, 1	
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11: offset 12: offset 12: offset 14:	ASSERT_EQ ADD RET ASSERT_EQ ADD ASSERT_EQ	[AP], 0 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-4] + 1 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-3] + -1	
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11: offset 12: offset 12: offset 14: offset 14:	ASSERT_EQ ADD RET ASSERT_EQ ADD ASSERT_EQ ADD	[AP], 0 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-4] + 1 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-3] + -1 AP, 1	
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11: offset 12: offset 12: offset 14: offset 14: offset 16:	ASSERT_EQ ADD RET ASSERT_EQ ADD ASSERT_EQ ADD CALL	[AP], 0 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-4] + 1 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-3] + -1 AP, 1 7	#mainarray_sum
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11: offset 12: offset 12: offset 14: offset 14: offset 16: offset 16:	ASSERT_EQ ADD RET ASSERT_EQ ADD ASSERT_EQ ADD CALL ADD	[AP], 0 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-4] + 1 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-3] + -1 AP, 1 7 AP, 2	#mainarray_sum
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11: offset 12: offset 12: offset 14: offset 14: offset 16: offset 16: offset 18:	ASSERT_EQ ADD RET ASSERT_EQ ADD ASSERT_EQ ADD CALL ADD ASSERT_EQ	[AP], 0 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-4] + 1 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-3] + -1 AP, 1 7 AP, 2 [AP], [[FP-4]]	#mainarray_sum
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11: offset 12: offset 12: offset 14: offset 14: offset 16: offset 16: offset 18: offset 18:	ASSERT_EQ ADD RET ASSERT_EQ ADD ASSERT_EQ ADD CALL ADD ASSERT_EQ ADD	[AP], 0 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-4] + 1 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-3] + -1 AP, 1 7 AP, 2 [AP], [[FP-4]] AP, 1	
offset 9: offset 9: offset 11: offset 12: offset 12: offset 14: offset 14: offset 16: offset 16: offset 18:	ASSERT_EQ ADD RET ASSERT_EQ ADD ASSERT_EQ ADD CALL ADD ASSERT_EQ	[AP], 0 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-4] + 1 AP, 1 [AP], [FP-3] + -1 AP, 1 7 AP, 2 [AP], [[FP-4]]	

Thoth 0.2.0 - Decompiler

- "A decompiler is a computer program that takes bytecode as input, and attempts to create a high-level source file that (ideally) can be successfully compiled."
- Features
 - Recovery of parameters from function calls.
 - Generation of imports.
- The first version of the decompiler
 - Similar to the disassembly output.
 - AP/FP is **complicated** to understand **for beginners.**
 - Limited support of **if/else** blocks.

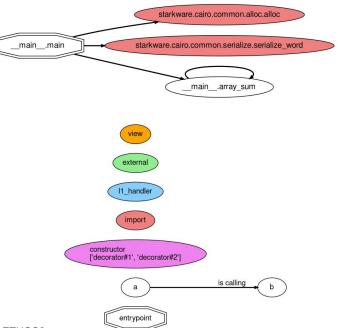
```
func main .array sum{}(arr : felt*, size : felt) -> (sum : felt)
    if [AP-3] == 0:
        # 0 -> 0x0
        [AP] = 0;
                         ap ++
        return([ap-1])
    [AP] = [FP-4] + 1;
                           ap ++
    [AP] = [FP-3] + -1;
                           ap ++
             ([ap-2], [ap-1])
    [AP] = [[FP-4]];
                         ap ++
    [AP] = [AP-1] + [AP-2];
                                 ap ++
    return([ap-1])
func main .main{output ptr : felt*}()
    alloc()
    # 9 -> 0x9
    [AP] = 9:
                 ap ++
    [AP-1] = [[AP-2]]
    # 16 -> 0x10
    [AP] = 16:
                  ap ++
    [AP-1] = [[AP-3]+1]
    # 25 -> 0x19
    [AP] = 25;
                  ap ++
    [AP-1] = [[AP-4]+2]
    [AP] = [AP-4]:
                      ap ++
    # 3 -> 0x3
    [AP] = 3:
                 ap ++
    array sum([ap-2], [ap-1])
    [AP] = [FP-3];
                      ap ++
    [AP] = [AP-2];
                      ap ++
    serialize word([ap-2], [ap-1])
```



Thoth 0.2.0 - Call Graph

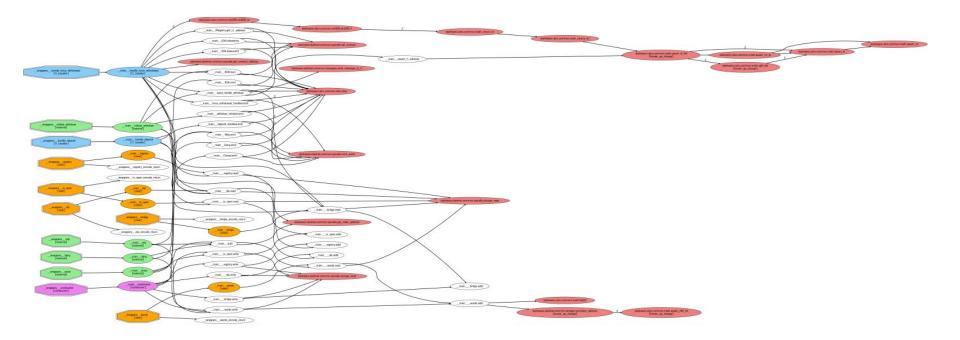
- "Call graph represents calling **relationships between subroutines** in a computer program."
- **Node** represents a function.
- Edge(a, b) indicates that function a calls function b.
- Legend:
 - Colors for important functions (import, constructor, etc.)
 - Octagonal shape for **entry-point**.



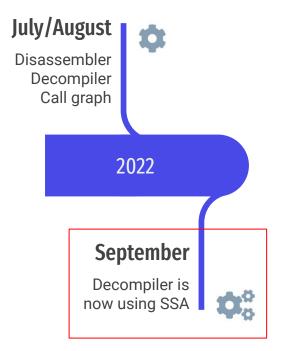




Thoth 0.2.0 - Advanced example (dai bridge)









Thoth 0.3.0 - SSA Decompiler

- Major decompilation improvement
 - By leveraging on the **CFG**.
 - Introduction of Single Static Assignment (SSA).
 - Creation of a **virtual stack of variable** per basic block.
- Single Static Assignment (SSA)
 - "Static single assignment form (abbreviated SSA form/SSA) is a property of an intermediate representation (IR), which requires that each variable is assigned exactly once, and every variable is defined before it is used."
 - Each variable is assigned once.
 - Each variable is defined before being used.
 - phi node (Φ) represents multiple potential value for a same variable chosen depending on the predecessor of the current block.

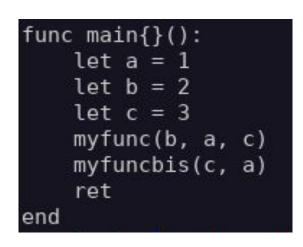
```
// Function 0
func main .main{}(){
    v0 = 3
              // 0x3
   assert v1 = 47
    if (v1 == 0) {
        v_2 = v_1
    else:
        v3 = 2
                 // 0x2
    v4 = 50
    v5 = \Phi(v2, v3) + 3
    assert v4 = v6 + v5
    if (v6 == 0) {
        v7 = v6
   else:
        v8 = 2
                  // 0x2
    assert v9 = \Phi(v7, v8) - 53
    if (v9 == 0) {
        v10 = 25
                    // 0x19
    else:
        v11 = 2
                   // 0x2
    assert v12 = \Phi(v10, v11) + 47
    if (v12 == 0) {
        v13 = 25
                    // 0x19
   else:
        v14 = 2
                   // 0x2
```



Thoth 0.3.0 - Decompiler evolution

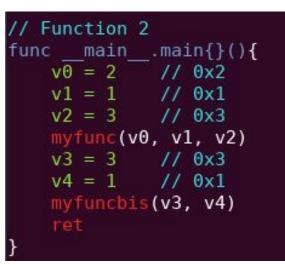
• Original Source code

• Thoth 0.1.0

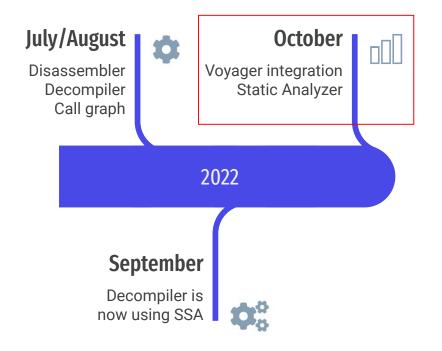


func main .main{}() # 2 -> 0x2 [AP] = 2; ap ++ # 1 -> 0x1 [AP] = 1:ap ++ # 3 -> 0x3 [AP] = 3; ap ++ myfunc([ap-3], [ap-2], [ap-1]) $# 3 -> 0 \times 3$ [AP] = 3;ap ++ # 1 -> 0x1 [AP] = 1;ap ++ myfuncbis([ap-2], [ap-1])

• Thoth 0.3.0



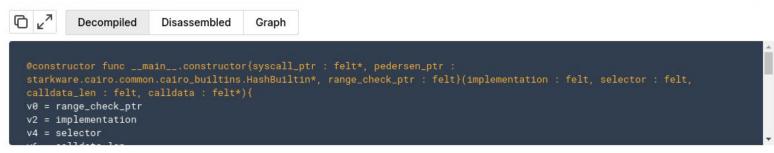




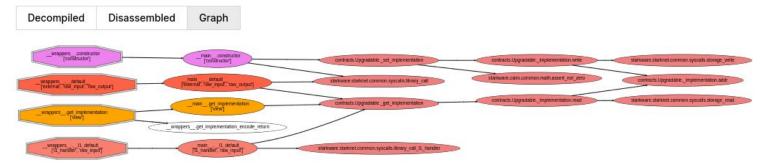


Thoth 0.4.0 - integration inside Voyager





Attribution: This uses Thoth, the Cairo/Starknet bytecode analyzer, disassembler and decompiler created and maintained by FuzzingLabs.



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Thoth 0.4.0 - Static Analyzer

- The analyzer allows to **detect and analyze** particular behaviors in smart contracts.
 - Using the previously extracted information.

• Analytics

- Interesting facts about the contract.
- ERC detections, strings, etc.

• Optimization

- Detection of potential bytecode optimization.
- Constants propagation, unused assignment, unused imports, etc.

Security

- Detection of security vulnerabilities & flaws.
- Integer overflow, Reentrancy, etc.

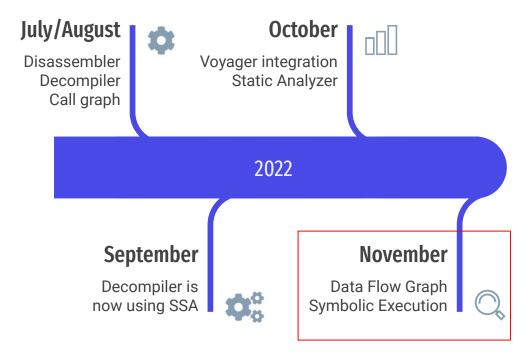
Analyzer	Command-Line argument	Description	Impact	Precision	Category	
erc20		Detect if a contract is an ERC20 Token	Informational	High	Analytics	
ERC721	erc721	Detect if a contract is an ERC721 Token Informational		High	Analytics	
Strings	strings	Detect strings inside a contract	Informational		Analytics	
Functions	functions	Retrieve informations about the contract's Informational functions		High	Analytics	
Statistics	statistics	General statistics about the contract		High	Analytics	
Assignations	tions assignations List of variable assignations		Informational	High	Optimization	
Integer overflow	int_overflow	Detect direct integer overflow/underflow		Medium	Security	
Function naming	function_naming	Detect functions names that are not in Information snake case		High	Security	
/ariable aming variable_naming		Lable_naming names that are not in snake case		High	Security	



Thoth 0.4.0 - Example

```
-/Documents/thoth/thoth (master) » thoth local ../tests/json_files/cairo_integer_overflow.json -a --color
[Analytics] Functions
  - (0) vulnerable function
        - cyclomatic complexity : 1
        - instructions : 6
  - (1) main (entry point)
        - cyclomatic complexity : 1
       - instructions : 4
[Analytics] Statistics
  - functions : 3
  - builtins : 1
  - structs : 6
  - calls : 2
[Optimization] Assignations
  - v0 = 1809251394333065606848661391547535052811553607665798349986546028067936010240
  - v1 = v0 * f0 integer
  - v3 = f0 output ptr
  - v5 = v1
  - v6 = f1 output ptr
    v8 = 1
```

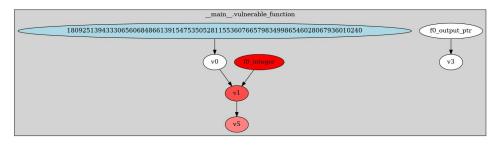


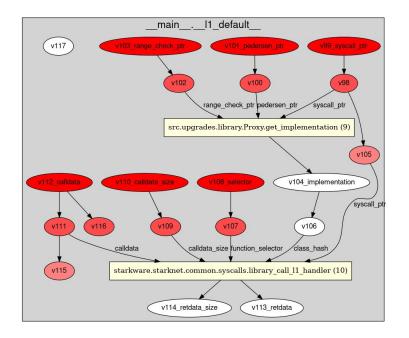




Data Flow Graph & Tainting

- Data Flow Graph (DFG)
 - Variables and constants dependencies representation.
- Tainting
 - Allows identifying supplied arguments propagation impact.

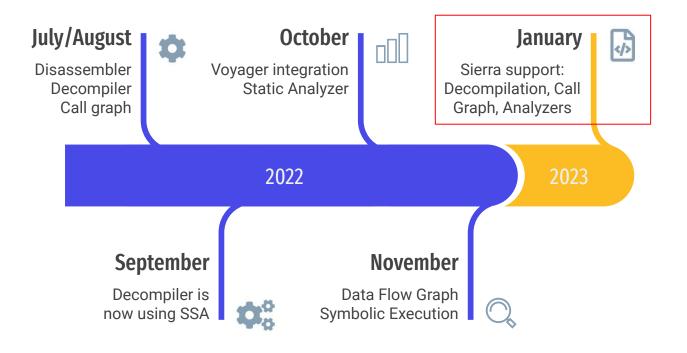




• Implement Symbolic execution

• To mathematically solve the constraints to reach certain paths and detect potential issue and/or optimizations.







Cairo 1.0 and Sierra

• Cairo 1.0

- New compiler
- Syntax changed (subset to Rust)
- More intuitive libraries
- Improved expressibility, security, and syntax.
- Sierra (Safe Intermediate Representation)
 - Intermediate representation layer
 - between Cairo 1.0 and Cairo byte code.
 - Ensure that every Cairo run
 - i.e. a Cairo program and its input can be proven
- Further readings:
 - Cairo 1.0 Annoncement <u>link</u>
 - Cairo 1.0 is Here <u>link</u>
 - Getting Started With Cairo 1.0 <u>link</u>
 - Cairo 1.0 and Sierra <u>link</u>
 - Under the hood of Cairo 1.0: Exploring Sierra <u>link</u>



Cairo 1.0 is Here

Or, as the ancient Egyptians would say, 'Hieroglyphics just got a whole lot easier'



StarkWare · Follow Published in StarkWare · 3 min read · Jan 5

🖑 126 🛛 Q 1

TL;DR

- Cairo 1.0 first release is here!
- Developers can start writing and testing Cairo 1.0 programs
- Feature parity with the older version of Cairo will be reached in the coming weeks
- Support for StarkNet contracts will be added in the upcoming StarkNet Alpha version



Thoth 0.7.0 - Support of Sierra

• Decompilation - <u>link</u>



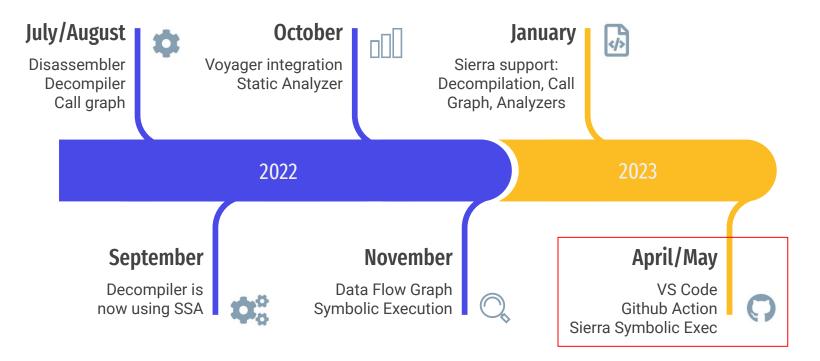
Call Graph



revoke_ap_tracking struct_construct<Unit

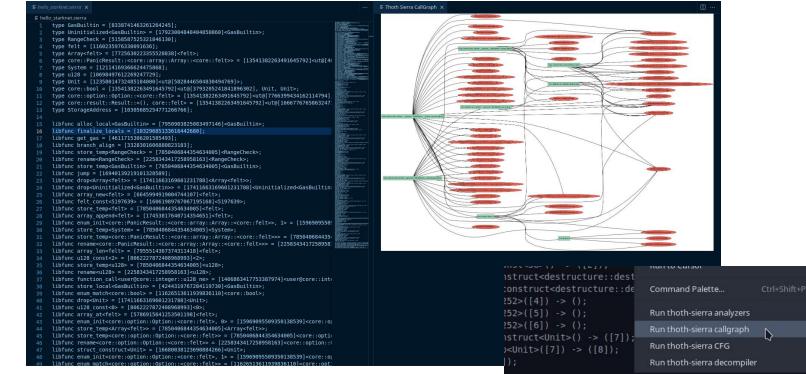
drop-Unit> burn_gas array_new<felt> store_temp<Array<felt

array append<felt





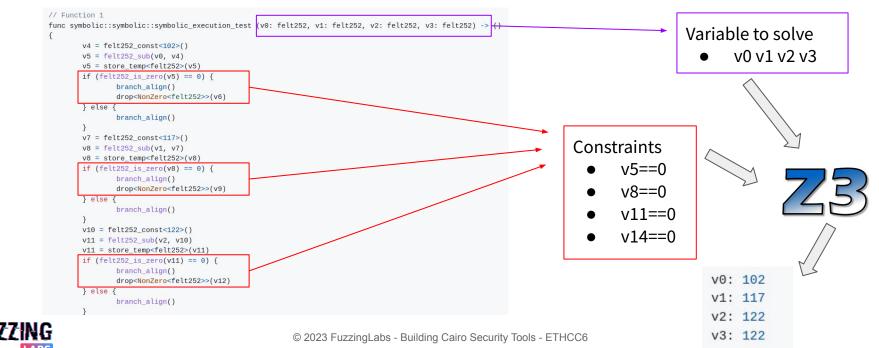
Thoth 0.8.0 - VS Code plugin & Github action

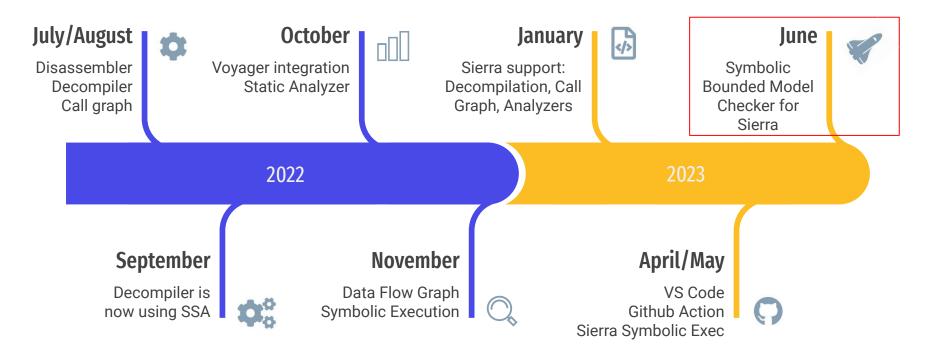




Thoth 0.8.0 - Sierra Symbolic Execution

- Mathematically **solve the constraints** to reach certain paths/states in the code.
 - Documentation <u>link</u>







Thoth 0.9.0 - Symbolic Bounded Model Checker for Sierra

- <u>Thoth-checker</u> Symbolic Bounded Model Checker for Sierra
 - Formal verification of testing function written directly in Cairo
 - Equivalent in EVM: <u>a16z/halmos</u>
- Check failed

```
fn thoth_test_product(mut a: felt252) {
    let c = a * 2;
    assert(c == 11, '');
}
```

- \$ ~ thoth-checker -f ./test_checker_2.sierra
- [+] Thoth Symbolic bounded model checker

[FAIL] test_checker::test_checker::thoth_test_product

Check succeeded

```
fn add(mut a: felt252, mut b: felt 252) -> felt252 {
    let c = a + b;
    c
}
fn thoth_test_sum() {
    let sum = add(1, 2);
    assert(sum == 3, '');
}
$ ~ thoth-checker -f ./test_checker_3.sierra
```

[+] Thoth Symbolic bounded model checker

test_checker::test_checker::thoth_test_sum SUCCESS



Cairo-fuzzer



Cairo-Fuzzer - Architecture

• Architecture

- Coverage-guided
- Multithreaded with good scalability
 - 70k exec/s for 1 thread
 - 440k exec/s for 10 threads
- Execution engines
 - <u>lambdaclass/cairo-vm</u> for Cairo contract
 - Iambdaclass/starknet in rust for StarkNet contract

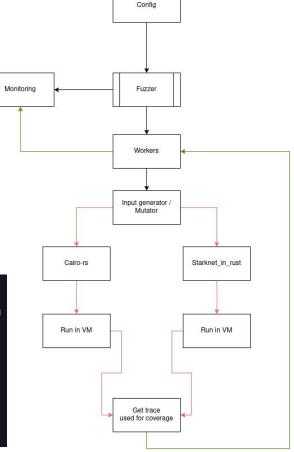
--help

• Usable as a library

Features

- Property testing
- Minimizer
- Replayer
- Usage of dictionary
- etc.

oti	ons:	
	cores <cores></cores>	Set the number of threads to run [default: 1]
	contract <contract></contract>	Set the path of the JSON artifact to load [default:]
	function <function></function>	Set the function to fuzz [default:]
	workspace /ORKSPACE	Workspace of the fuzzer [default: fuzzer_workspace]
	<pre>inputfolder <inputfolder></inputfolder></pre>	Path to the inputs folder to load [default:]
	crashfolder <crashfolder></crashfolder>	Path to the crashes folder to load [default:]
	inputfile <inputfile></inputfile>	Path to the inputs file to load [default:]
	crashfile <crashfile></crashfile>	Path to the crashes file to load [default:]
	<pre>dict <dict></dict></pre>	Path to the dictionnary file to load [default:]
	logs	Enable fuzzer logs in file
	seed <seed></seed>	Set a custom seed (only applicable for 1 core run)
	run-time <run time=""></run>	Number of seconds this fuzzing session will last
	config <config></config>	Load config file
	replay	Replay the corpus folder
	minimizer	Minimize Corpora
	proptesting	Property Testing
	iter <ttfr></ttfr>	Iteration Number [default: -1]





Print help

Cairo-Fuzzer - Example

- 12 cores
- 460k exec/seconds
- <u>demo</u>

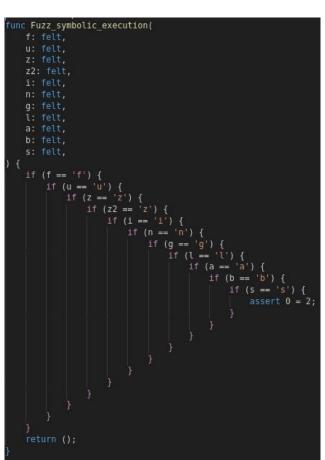
rgo run --release -- --cores 12 --contract tests/fuzzinglabs.json --functio

cairo-fuzzer git:(update_03_07_2023) × cargo run --release -- --cores 12 --contract tests/fuzzinglabs.json --function "Fuzz_sym Finished release [optimized] target(s) in 0.18s

Running `target/release/cairo-fuzzer --cores 12 --contract tests/fuzzinglabs.json --function Fuzz_symbolic_execution`



	Seed: 1689265491399 Inputs loaded 0 Running 12 threads							
	1.00 uptime 2.00 uptime		fuzz cases fuzz cases	466269.88 fcps 460106.95 fcps	8 coverage 8 coverage	8 inputs 8 inputs	0 crashes [0 crashes [0 unique] 0 unique]
HODKED	3.00 uptime	1365000 1	fuzz cases	454726.64 fcps	9 coverage	9 inputs	0 crashes [0 unique]
WUKKER	7 INPUT => 4.00 uptime 5.00 uptime	1806000 1	122, 122, 105, fuzz cases fuzz cases	110, 103, 108, 97, 451285.76 fcps 449421.35 fcps	98, 115] ERROR 11 coverage 11 coverage	12 inputs 12 inputs	instruction failed: 613 crashes [1462 crashes [1 unique] 1 unique]





Future developments



Future developments

- Future of <u>thoth</u> & <u>cairo-fuzzer</u>
 - Speed and documentation improvements
 - Tutorials
- Planning to build more fuzzer & security tools!
 - WebAssembly
 - Substrate
 - Cosmos/CosmWasm
 - Algorand
 - etc.
- Contacts us if you need customs security tool development!
 - Twitter: <u>@Pat Ventuzelo</u>
 - Mail: <u>patrick@fuzzinglabs.com</u>
- Thanks for your time! Any questions?

