

ZX Vega Firmware

As I only have the compiled software, this is slightly tricky, however there are many binary tools available to aid with initial tests.

Most of the output would be garbage, so some patient scrolling is required! However, there are some snippets of helpful information to get us started.

```
VEGA@
0.1.64 20150909
The Sinclair ZX Spectrum Vega.
Copyright (C) 2015 Retro Computers Limited.
www.retro-computers.co.uk www.zxvega.co.uk
Concept, CAD, hardware design, C, ARM and Z80
programming: Chris Smith. www.zxdesign.info
SMEM
The Sinclair ZX Spectrum Vega.
Copyright (C) 2015 Retro Computers Limited.
www.retro-computers.co.uk www.zxvega.co.uk
Concept, CAD, hardware design, C, ARM and Z80
programming: Chris Smith. www.zxdesign.info
STMP
2m?`
kvjU<v
```

This is surprisingly helpful! We can see the copyright notices, but more importantly three chunk headers (VEGA, SMEM, STMP)

Later on, we have this:-

```
mkdosfs
NO NAME FAT16
This is not a bootable disk. Please insert a bootable floppy and
press any key to try again ...
```

Again, this is handy as we know the filesystem is FAT16 made by mkdosfs. This will help us later on.

Ignoring the first two chunked headers, we are interested in the third – STMP, as this tells us where the file format comes from, which will help us proceed. A quick look on google gives us <https://www.rockbox.org/wiki/SbFileFormat>

there is also a copy of the tool at <https://github.com/ee/wiki/elftosb>

And, as we know the main chip is from NXP (renamed from freescale), there is further

documentation at: <https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/KBLELFTOSBUG.pdf>

Using the documents from Rockbox, we can now decode the STMP chunk.

Start	Length	Type	Value	Use
0x00	20	uchar	35c5b7bf564c0c6deca694c5b48 071976c03b586	SHA1(STMP chunk) Also IV for encryption
0x14	4	u32	“STMP”	Magic
0x18	1	u8	0x01	Major version of format
0x19	1	u8	0x01	Minor version of format
0x1A	2	u16	0x0000	Flags
0x1C	4	u32	0x00008840	Image size in blocks (0x8840 x 16 = 0x88400) Offset to first boot tag in blocks
0x20	4	u32	0x00009000	(0x9000 x 16 = 0x90000)
0x24	4	u32	0x00000000	First bootable section
0x28	2	u16	0x0001	Number of encryption keys
0x2A	2	u16	0x0007	Start block for key dictionary (7 x 16 = 0x70)
0x2C	2	u16	0x0006	Size of header in blocks (6 x 16 = 0x60)
0x2E	2	u16	0x0001	Number of sections headers
0x30	2	u16	0x0001	Size of chunk headers in blocks
0x32	2	uchar	0x6136	Padding
0x34	4	u32	0x2d800a09	Second signature
0x38	8	u64	0x0001c256e2a2b280	Creation time in μ s since 2000
0x40	4	u32	0x00000999	Product major version
0x44	4	u32	0x00000999	Product minor version
0x48	4	u32	0x00000999	Product sub version
0x4C	4	u32	0x00000999	Component major version
0x50	4	u32	0x00000999	Component minor version
0x54	4	u32	0x00000999	Component sub version
0x58	2	u16	0x0000	Drive tag
0x5A	6	uchar	0xcd6212000ec5	Padding

Following this block we have the DEK block. This is a block of Data Encryption Keys. Each of these is created with a Key Encryption Key (KEK). This is where we end. We don't have the KEK.

According to the rockbox documentation, the key uses AES-128 in CBC mode to encrypt the DEK with a KEK. In non-technical terms, this means there are millions of different combinations needed to brute force the key.

Not to say we can't use side channel mechanisms instead...