Application Binary Interface Analysis:

State of the ABIGAIL onion.

Dodji Seketeli <dodji@redhat.com>
Presentation plan

1) What is ABIGAIL
2) Modus operandi
3) Recent notable milestones
4) What’s brewing
What is ABIGAIL

- ABI Generic Analysis & Instrumentation Library
- Library of tools to
  - Compare the ABI of two ELF binaries
  - Get a textual representation of the ABI of a binary
  - Compare the ABI of binaries of a distribution package
    - Deb, RPM, tar.
- Libabigail: a shared library to write more tools.
How it works (1/2)

- Libabigail Front-End
  - Builds an Internal Representation
    - Declarations
      - Functions & variables
      - ELF symbol
      - Types of declarations
        - Sub-declarations
        - Sub-types
    - ABI Corpus
How it works (2/2)

• Middle End
  – Acts on the IR
    • Compares two instances of ABI Corpus
    • Builds an IR of the result of the comparison (Diff IR)
    • Performs transformations on the Diff IR
      – Categorization
      – Suppression
  
• Back End
  – Walks the (Diff) IR to emit
    • ABIXML
    • Change reports
Recent Milestones

- Support of DWARF 5 (GCC 11, LLVM 14)
- Multi-front-end architecture
  - Supports CTF debug info
- Multi-back-end architecture
  - Different reports back-ends
On the horizon

- Support BTF for Kernel ABI analysis
- Support projects-specific requests
  - Library-set ABI analysis
Questions?

- https://sourceware.org/libabigail/
- https://sourceware.org/git/gitweb.cgi?p=libabigail.git
- https://inbox.sourceware.org/libabigail/
- irc://irc.oftc.net#libabigail
Thank you!