# Vine installation and user manual

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## 1 Introduction

This document is a guide for setting up and running Vine, the static analysis component of the BitBlaze Binary Analysis Framework. It assumes that you have some familiarity with Linux. The instructions are based on the release of Vine mentioned in the header, running on a vanilla Ubuntu 9.04 distribution of Linux. It includes details about how to install Vine, and then walks through a simple usage example intermixed with explanations about the tools used.

The example takes a trace from a simple program with symbolic keyboard input, and generates an STP file which models the weakest precondition of the control-flow path the program took. In other words, the conditions on the inputs that cause it to take a execute a certain path of code. The trace file was generated using TEMU, the dynamic component of the BitBlaze Binary Analysis Framework, but it is included in the **examples** directory of the Vine distribution so you can try out the tool without using TEMU.

## 2 Installation

Vine is written using a combination of OCaml and C++, and distributed in source code form. Therefore the main steps in installing it are installing the prerequisite software it requires, and then compiling the source code. To install prerequisite software, we recommend that you use a recent version of Ubuntu Linux, for which we have verified that all the needed packages are already available. The compilation is performed automatically using configure and Makefile scripts like many other Linux applications. The following subsections cover these tasks in more detail, and then we finish by giving complete listing of the commands needed for our recommended platform.

#### 2.1 Prerequisites

Our recommended platform for using Vine is a 32-bit x86 version of Ubuntu Linux, version 9.04 (code named "Jaunty Jackalope"); we used such a system in preparing these instructions. The needed packages all also exist in Debian Linux, so the process there should work in almost the same way. It is possible to use Vine with other Linux distributions, but you may need to compile some of the prerequisite software from source. The pure OCaml parts of Vine also work fine on 64-bit x86-64 Linux platforms, but the library it uses for the semantics of x86 instructions expects to run on a 32-bit platform when processing 32-bit code, so a 32-bit platform is needed to make complete use of Vine. If you are using an x86-64 version of Ubuntu or Debian, we recommend installing a parallel 32-bit version of your OS packages using a mechanism called a "chroot", but how to do so is beyond the scope of this manual (or you could use another kind of virtual machine).

If you don't have any of the prerequisites already installed, they will require about 300MB to download, and take up about 1.1GB of disk space once installed. A build of Vine itself requires about 320MB.

#### 2.1.1 C++ compiler

For compiling the C++ code in Vine, we recommend the G++ compiler from GCC which is standard on Linux; the default version in Ubuntu 9.04 is 4.3.3, and the package name is g++.

#### 2.1.2 The VEX library

Vine uses the VEX library (which is also used by Valgrind) to get information about the behavior of x86 instructions. The current version of Vine is designed to work with SVN revision r1856 of VEX, which is maintained in the Valgrind SVN repository at svn://svn.valgrind.org/vex/trunk. For your convenience, we have included an appropriate version of VEX with the release, and it will be compiled automatically.

#### 2.1.3 STP

Vine interfaces with STP, a satisfiability-modulo-theories (SMT) decision procedure for bit vector (bounded integer) arithmetic and arrays. Vine can either interact directly with the prover through a programmatic interface, or it can produce formulas in STP's text format. The directory stp contains x86 and x86-64 binaries for a version of STP we have tested to work well with Vine. If you would like to use a different version of STP, it is available in source form at http://people.csail.mit.edu/vganesh/STP\_files/stp.html.

#### 2.1.4 Binutils libraries

Vine uses the GNU BFD (Binary File Descriptor) library and related libraries from the GNU Binutils to parse the structure of executables, and for human-readable dissassembly. On Ubuntu they are distributed in a package named binutils-dev (version 2.19.1 in Ubuntu 9.04).

(A technical legal point: the VEX library with which Vine links is distributed under version 2 of the GNU GPL only, whereas versions 2.18 and later of the GNU Binutils are distributed only under versions 3 and later of the GNU GPL. Unfortunately, versions 2 and 3 of the GPL are mutually incompatible, so if you plan to distribute copies of Vine for platforms where the Binutils are not system libraries in the sense of the GPL, you may wish to use version 2.17 or earlier of the Binutils instead.)

#### 2.1.5 OCaml build tools

Most of Vine is implemented in the functional language OCaml, so OCaml development tools are required. In addition to the standard OCaml compiler and tools, Vine uses the Findlib library for managing OCaml packages, and the CamlIDL tool for generating interfaces to C code. In Ubuntu 9.04, these are available as the ocaml package (version 3.10.2), the ocaml-findlib package (version 1.2.1), and the camlidl package (version 1.05). Optionally, you can also install the natively compiled versions of the OCaml build tools (which are somewhat faster) from the ocaml-native-compiler package.

#### 2.1.6 ocamlgraph

The ocamlgraph library provides graph data structures and algorithms, which Vine uses to represent control flow graphs. Unfortunately, an interface that Vine uses changed incompatibly in version 0.99 of the library, so the source code we distribute supports only version 0.99 and later. In Ubuntu 9.04, it is available as the package libocamlgraph-ocaml-dev. Note, however, that the version of the library packaged in earlier versions of Ubuntu is not compatible. If a recent version of ocamlgraph is not packaged for your system, you have several options:

 Compile ocamlgraph from source. You can obtain the source for the latest version of ocamlgraph from http://ocamlgraph.lri.fr/. Note that it only supports installation in /usr/lib or /usr/local/lib. Also, some versions of ocamlgraph have a Makefile bug that causes them to look for interface files in the wrong location, which can be fixed by applying the following patch to Makefile.in:

```
--- Makefile.in.orig
+++ Makefile.in
@@ -210,7 +210,7 @@
install-findlib: META
ifdef OCAMLFIND
- $(OCAMLFIND) install ocamlgraph META *.mli \
+ $(OCAMLFIND) install ocamlgraph META $(LIBDIR)/*.mli \
graph$(LIBEXT) graph.cmx graph.cmo graph.cmi $(CMA) $(CMXA)
endif
```

2. Make a backport package. If you would like to have the installation of ocamlgraph managed by your regular package manager, another option is to build a package yourself. For instance, a suitable package for Ubunutu 8.04 can be built and installed using Debian sources, as follows:

3. Patch the Vine source. Because Vine does not use the extra functionality introduced in the new library version, another option is to change the Vine code that uses the library back to the older interface. This requires four one-line changes in four files under ocaml, as in the following patch:

Index: ocaml/vine\_cfg.mli
\_\_\_\_\_\_

```
--- ocaml/vine_cfg.mli
+++ ocaml/vine_cfg.mli
@@ -299,7 +299,7 @@
module Component :
sig
- val scc : G.t -> int * ( G.V.t -> int )
+ val scc : G.t -> G.V.t -> int
  val scc_list : G.t -> G.V.t list list
end
Index: ocaml/vine_cfg.ml
--- ocaml/vine_cfg.ml
+++ ocaml/vine_cfg.ml
@@ -1271,7 +1271,7 @@
    if cfg#has_edge rb ra then false
    else (cfg#add_edge rb ra; true) (* temporary backedge *)
  in
- let (_,scc) = Component.scc cfg in
+ let scc = Component.scc cfg in
  let group = scc a in
  let newcfg = new cfg 8 cfg#get_iter_labels_function cfg#vardecls in
  let (outside: 'a bb) =
Index: ocaml/vine_callstring.ml
_____
--- ocaml/vine_callstring.ml
+++ ocaml/vine_callstring.ml
@@ -178,7 +178,7 @@
  else
    csg.graph
  in
- let (_,scc) = Component.scc g in
+ let scc = Component.scc g in
  let group = scc a in
  let addifgroup v newg =
    if scc v = group then
Index: utils/chop.ml
_____
--- utils/chop.ml
+++ utils/chop.ml
@@ -243,7 +243,7 @@
      fun () -> cfg#remove_edge t s
    )
  in
```

```
- let (_,scc) = Component.scc cfg in
+ let scc = Component.scc cfg in
    (* make sure we really have a cycle *)
let () = assert(scc (cfg#get_id s) = scc (cfg#get_id t)) in
let group = scc (cfg#get_id s) in
```

#### 2.1.7 Other OCaml libraries

Vine also uses several further OCaml libraries:

- ExtLib provides an extended standard library (e.g., more data structures) for OCaml; version 1.5.1 is in the package libextlib-ocaml-dev.
- GDome2 is a document object model for dealing with XML documents that Vine uses via its OCaml bindings. Version 0.2.6 is available as the package libgdome2-ocaml-dev.

#### 2.1.8 IAT<sub>E</sub>X

Vine's documentation (including this document) is written using the LATEX markup language, so you will need to install it to rebuild the documentation. On Ubuntu 9.04, the needed parts are included under the texlive, texlive-latex-extra, and transfig packages. To build an HTML version of the documentation, we also use HEVEA, which is in the hevea package.

#### 2.2 Compiling

#### 2.2.1 Unpacking

Vine is distributed as a gzip-compressed tar archive, which you can unpack into a directory vine-1.0 using the command "tar xvzf vine-1.0.tar.gz".

#### 2.2.2 Configure

To prepare the Vine source for compilation, you'll need to run the **configure** script in the Vine source directory. The script accepts all of the standard options and environment variables for autoconf-based configure scripts, though most should not be necessary.

#### 2.2.3 Build code

After the configuration script has finished, you can compile Vine by running make in the top-level Vine directory. This will compile first the C++ library and then the OCaml modules.

#### 2.2.4 Build documentation

To generate the documentation that comes with Vine, go to the vine/doc subdirectory and give the command "make doc".

#### 2.3 Summary

To recap the steps described above, we now show a script for all of the commands needed to compile Vine, starting with a fresh installation of Ubuntu 9.04. (This is also found as the file docs/install-vine-release.sh in the Vine source.)

```
#!/bin/bash
# Instructions for installing Vine release 1.0 on Ubuntu 9.04 Linux 32-bit
# Commands that require root access are preceded with "sudo".
# The prerequisite packages are about 300MB of downloads, and require
# 1.1GB once installed; Vine itself requires about 320MB.
# Last tested 2009-08-17
# This script will build Vine in a "$HOME/bitblaze" directory,
# assuming that vine-1.0.tar.gz is in /tmp.
cd ~
mkdir bitblaze
cd bitblaze
# Prerequisite packages:
# For compiling C++ code:
sudo apt-get install g++
# For OCaml support:
sudo apt-get install ocaml ocaml-findlib libgdome2-ocaml-dev camlidl \
                     libextlib-ocaml-dev ocaml-native-compilers
# Ocamlgraph >= 0.99c is required; luckily the version in Ubuntu 9.04
# is now new enough.
sudo apt-get install libocamlgraph-ocaml-dev
# For the BFD library:
sudo apt-get install binutils-dev
# For building documentation:
sudo apt-get install texlive texlive-latex-extra transfig hevea
# Vine itself:
tar xvzf /tmp/vine-1.0.tar.gz
(cd vine-1.0 && ./configure)
(cd vine-1.0 && make)
(cd vine-1.0/doc/howto && make doc)
```

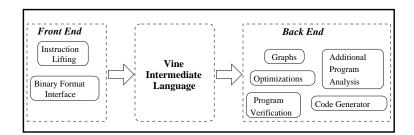


Figure 1: Vine Overview

## 3 Vine Overview

Figure 1 shows a high-level picture of Vine. The Vine static analysis component is divided into a platform-specific front-end and a platform-independent back-end. At the core of Vine is a platform-independent intermediate language (IL) for assembly. Previously, we also used the name IR (intermediate representation) for this language, and that abbreviation persists in some command and option names, and as a file extension. The IL is designed as a small and carefully specified language that faithfully represents the assembly languages. Assembly instructions in the underlying architecture are translated to the Vine IL, a process we refer to as *lifting*, via the Vine front-end. All back-end analyses are performed on the platform-independent IL. Thus, program analyses can be written in an architecture-independent fashion and do not need to directly deal with the complexity of an instruction set such as x86. This design also provides extensibility—users can easily write their own analysis on the IL by building on top of the core utilities provided in Vine.

The Vine front-end currently supports translating 32-bit x86 to the IL. It uses a set of thirdparty libraries to parse different binary formats and produce assembly. The assembly is then translated into the Vine IL in a syntax-directed manner.

The Vine back-end supports a variety of core program analysis utilities. The back-end has utilities for creating a variety of different graphs, such as control flow and program dependence graphs. The back-end also provides an optimization framework. The optimization framework is usually used to simplify a specific set of instructions. We also provide program verification capabilities such as symbolic execution, calculating weakest preconditions, and interfacing with decision procedures. Vine can also write out lifted Vine instructions as valid C code via the code generator back-end.

To combine static and dynamic analysis, we also provide an interface for Vine to read an execution trace generated by a dynamic analysis component such as TEMU. The execution trace can be lifted to the IL for various further analysis.

## 4 The Vine Intermediate Language

The Vine IL is the target language during lifting, as well as the analysis language for back-end program analysis. The semantics of the IL are designed to be faithful to assembly languages. Table 1 shows the syntax of Vine IL. The lexical syntax of identifiers and strings are as in C.

```
decl^* stmt^*
              ::=
program
                     var var;
decl
              ::=
                     lval = exp; | jmp(exp); | cjmp(exp, exp, exp); | halt(exp); | assert(exp);
stmt
              ::=
                     | label label: | special string; | { decl* stmt*}
label
                      identifier
              ::=
                     var | var[exp]
lval
              ::=
                     ( exp ) | lval | name(label) | exp \diamond_b exp | \diamond_u exp | const
exp
              ::=
                     | let lval = exp in exp | cast(exp) cast_kind: \tau_{reg}
cast_kind
                     Unsigned | U | Signed | S | High | H | Low | L
              ::=
                     identifier: \tau
var
              ::=
\diamond_b
                     + | - | * | / | /$ | % | %$ | << | >> | @>> | & | ^ | |
              ::=
                     | == | <> | < | <= | > | >= | <$ | <=$ | >$ | >=$
                     - | !
\Diamond_u
              ::=
const
              ::=
                     integer:\tau_{\rm reg}
τ
              ::=
                     \tau_{reg} \mid \tau_{mem}
                     reg1_t | reg8_t | reg16_t | reg32_t | reg64_t
\tau_{reg}
              ::=
                     mem321_t | mem641_t | \tau_{reg}[const]
              ::=
	au_{mem}
```

Table 1: The grammar of the Vine Intermediate Language (IL).

Integers may be specified in decimal, or in hexadecimal with a prefix of 0x. Comments may be introduced with //, terminated by the end of a line, or with /\*, terminated by \*/.

The base types in the Vine IL are 1, 8, 16, 32, and 64-bit-wide bit vectors, also called registers. 1-bit registers are used as booleans; false and true are allowed as syntactic sugar for 0:reg1\_t and 1:reg1\_t respectively. There are also two kinds of aggregate types, which we call arrays and memories. Both are usually used to represent the memory of a machine, but at different abstraction levels. An array consists of distinct elements of a fixed register type, accessed at consecutive indices ranging from 0 up to one less than their declared size. By contrast, memory indices are always byte offsets, but memories may be read or written with any type between 8 and 64 bits. Accesses larger than a byte use a sequence of consecutive bytes, so accesses at nearby addresses might partially overlap, and it is observable whether the memory is little-endian (storing the least significant byte at the lowest address) or big-endian (storing the most significant byte at the lowest address). Generally, memories more concisely represent the semantics of instructions, but arrays are easier to analyze, so Vine analyses will convert memories into arrays, a process we sometimes call deendianization. The current version of Vine supports two little-endian memory types, with either 32-bit or 64-bit address sizes.

Expressions in Vine are side-effect free. Variables and constants must be labeled with their type (separated with a colon) whenever they appear. The binary and unary operators are similar to those of C, with the following differences:

- Not-equal-to is <>, rather than !=.
- The division, modulus, right shift, and ordered comparison operators are explicitly marked for signedness: the unadorned versions are always unsigned, while the signed variants are suffixed with a \$ (for "signed"), or in the case of right shift prefixed with an @ (for "arithmetic").
- There is no distinction between logical and bitwise operators, so & also serves for &&, | also serves for ||, and ! also serves for ~.

There is no implicit conversion between types of different widths; instead, all conversions are through an explicit cast operator that specifies the target type. Widening casts are either Unsigned (zero-extending) or Signed (sign-extending), while narrowing casts can select either the High or Low portion of the larger value. (For brevity, these are usually abbreviated by their first letters.) A let expression, as in functional languages, allows the introduction of a temporary variable.

A program in Vine is a sequence of variable declarations, followed by a sequence of statements; block structure is supported with curly braces. (In fact, the parser allows declarations to be intermixed with statements, but the effect is as if the declarations had all appeared first.) Some documents also refer to statements as "instructions," but note that more complex machine instructions translate into several Vine statements. The most frequent kind of statement is an assignment to a variable or to a location in an array or memory variable. Control flow is unstructured, as in assembly language: program locations are specified with labels, and there are unconditional (jmp) and conditional (cjmp) jumps. The argument to jmp and the second and third arguments to cjmp may be either labels (introduced by name), or a register expression to represent a computed jump. The first argument to cjmp is a reg1\_t that selects the second (for 1) or third (for 0) argument as the target.

A program can halt normally at any time by issuing the halt statement. We also provide assert, which acts similar to a C assert: the asserted expression must be true, else the machine halts. A special in Vine corresponds to a call to an externally defined procedure or function. The argument of a special indexes what kind of special, e.g., what system call. The semantics of special is up to the analysis; its operational semantics are not defined. We include special as an instruction type to explicitly distinguish when such calls may occur that alter the soundness of an analysis. A typical approach to dealing with special is to replace special with an analysis-specific summary written in the Vine IL that is appropriate for the analysis.

## 5 Example

We now illustrate the use of Vine with an example. In it, we will take a trace generated by TEMU from a program that parses an integer and checks whether it is equal to 5. We will use Vine to build a version of the execution path in which the input is symbolic, and compute a path condition: a formula over the inputs which, if true, causes execution to take the same path. Finally, we will use STP to solve the path condition and reconstruct an input that would cause the program to take the same path. The trace is included in the examples directory under the name five.trace.

#### 5.1 Generating the IL and the STP formula

We start with a trace (generated, for instance, by TEMU) that records the instructions executed on a program run, the data values they operated on, and which data values were derived from a distinguished set of ("tainted") input values. We're going to do operations where we consider that input to be a symbolic variable, but the first step is to interpret the trace. The x86 instructions in the trace are a pretty obscure representation of what is actually happening in the program, so we'll translate them into a cleaner intermediate language (IL, abbreviated IR in command options).

First, let us check if we have got a meaningful trace. One way to do so is to print the trace, and see that at least the expected instructions are marked as tainted. For this, you may use the trace\_reader command utility in Vine. As shown below, in the output you should be able to see the compare instruction that comapares the input to the immediate value 5. The presence of tainted operands in any instruction are indicated by the record containing "T1".

```
% cd bitblaze/vine
% ./trace_utils/trace_reader -trace examples/five.trace | grep T1
...
804845a: cmpl $0x5,-0x4(%ebp) I@0x00000000[0x00000005] \
T0 M@0xbffffac4[0x0000005] T1 {15 (1001, 0) (1001, 0) \
(1001, 0) (1001, 0) }
```

Of course, the real output of that command contains many of instructions, but we've picked out a key one: an instruction from the main program (you can tell because the address is in the 0x08000000 range) in which a value from the stack (-0x4(%ebp)) is compared (a cmpl instruction) with a constant integer 5 (\$0x5). The later fields on the line represent the instruction operands and their tainting.

We can then use the **appreplay** utility to both convert the trace into IL for and then to generate an STP formula given the constraints on the symbolic input. The invocation looks like:

```
% ./trace_utils/appreplay -trace examples/five.trace \
    -stp-out five.stp -ir-out five.il -wp-out five.wp
    ...
Time to create sym constraint from TM: 0.288464
```

This command line produces the final STP file as foo.stp, and the intermediate files foo.il and foo.wp to demonstrate the steps of the processing. Remember that Vine uses its own IL to model the semantics of instructions in a simpler RISC-like form. The IL and WP output files are in this IL language. If you aren't interested in these files, you can omit the -ir-out and -wp-out options. You can learn about other options that may be supplied to appreplay in Section 6.

In essence, appreplay models the logic of the executed instructions, generating a path constraint needed to force the execution down the path taken in the trace. A variable post is introduced, which is the conjunction of the conditions seen along the path. In the file foo.il, you can see this variable is assigned at each conditional branch point as  $post = post \land condition$ , where a condition is a variable modeling the compare operation's result that must be true to force execution to continue along the path taken. (Because the language is explicitly typed and appreplay is careful to generate unique names, the full name of the post variable is likely something like post\_1034:reg1\_t, where the part after the colon tells you it's a one-bit (boolean) variable.)

This weakest precondition formula is then converted to the format of the STP solver's input.

#### 5.2 Querying STP

Now, in the last step we wish to ask the question "what input values force the execution down the path taken in the execution?". In the formula we've built, this is equivalent to asking for a set of assignments that make the variable **post** true. We use STP to solve this formula for us. The STP

file has the symbolic INPUT variable marked free (along with the initial contents of memory), and it asserts that the final value of **post** is true.

A symbolic formula F is valid if it is true in all interpretations. In other words, F is valid if all assignments to the free (symbolic) variables make F true. Given a formula, STP decides whether it is valid or not. If it is invalid, then there exists at least one set of inputs that make the formula false, and STP can report such an assignment (a *counterexample*). We use this feature to get the assignment to the free INPUT variable in the formula that makes the execution follow the traced path. Since we don't need to impose any additional constraints, beyond the ones included in **post**, the formula we ask STP to try to falsify is FALSE, which should be easily to falsify as long as the constraints are satisfiable.

To do this, we add the following 2 lines at the end of the STP file and run STP on it:

% cat >>five.stp QUERY(FALSE); COUNTEREXAMPLE; % ./stp/stp five.stp Invalid. ASSERT( INPUT\_1001\_0\_61 = 0hex35 );

STP's reply of Invalid. indicates it has determined that the query formula FALSE is not valid: there is an assignment to the program inputs that satisfies the other assertions in the file (i.e., would lead the program to execute the same path that was observed), but still leaves FALSE false. As a counterexample it gives one such input (in this case, the only possible one), in which the input has the hex value 0x35 (ASCII for 5).

### 6 Documentation of various utilities in Vine

Here is a slightly more detailed explanation of the Vine utilities used in the example.

#### 6.1 Appreplay

- -trace : specifies the TEMU execution trace file to process
- -state and -state-range are used to initialize ranges of memory locations from a TEMU state snapshot.
- -conc-mem-idx is an optimization to do some constant propagation, which appears to help STP quite a bit. This will likely become deprecated once some of the STP optimization issues are resolved.
- -prop-consts is another optimization that propagates all constant values using Vine's evaluator.
- -use-thunks if set to true, the generated IR will have calls to functions to update the processor's condition codes (EFLAGS for the x86). If false, this code will be inlined instead. For most analysis purposes this should be disabled. It may be useful for generating a smaller IR with the intent of giving it to the evaluator rather than to STP.

- -use-post-var if this is set to true, then assert statements will be rewritten to update a variable 'post', such that at the end of the trace post will have value true if and only if all assertions would have passed. This is mostly for backwards compatibility for before we introduced the assert statement.
- -deend performs "deendianization", i.e. rewrites all memory expressions to equivalent array expressions. This should usually be enabled.
- -concrete initializes all the 'input' symbols to the values they had in the trace.
- -verify-expected is mostly for regression/sanity tests, in conjunction with -concrete. -verify-expected adds assertions to verify the all operands subsequently computed from those symbols have the same value as they did in the trace, as they should in this case.
- -include-all translates and includes *all* instructions, rather than only those that (may) operate on tainted data. Generally not desirable, but sometimes useful for debugging.
- -ir-out specify the output ir file.
- -wp-out and -stp-out tell appreplay to compute the weakest precondition (WP) over the variable post (described above), and convert the resulting IR to an STP formula. the formula holds for inputs that would follow the same execution path as in the trace.

## 7 Troubleshooting

This section lists some errors that you may encounter while using Vine, and gives suggestions on resolving them.

• Incompatible types in Vine cfg

```
File "vine_cfg.ml", line 1301, characters 16-33: This expression has type G.V.t -> int but is here used with type 'a * 'b
```

This error occurs if you try to compile Vine with a version of the ocamlgraph library older than 0.99, which has an incompatible type for one function. It can be avoided by using a newer version of the library, or worked around by modifying the Vine source; see Section 2.1.6 for more details.

• Size assertion in VEX

```
vex: priv/host-x86/hdefs.c:2332 (emit_X86Instr):
Assertion 'sizeof(UInt) == sizeof(void*)' failed.
```

This error occurs if you try to use a 64-bit version of Vine to process 32-bit x86 code. Because the VEX library does not support cross-platform operation, Vine can only translate x86 code when compiled in 32-bit mode. However, you can still compile and run an x86 version of Vine on an x86-64 platform (see Section 2.1 for further discussion). You can also generate a Vine IL file on a 32-bit platform and then do further processing on a 64-bit one.

• OCaml stack overflow

Fatal error: exception Stack\_overflow

This error occurs when an OCaml program tries to use more stack space than is available. If it occurs even on a very small input, it could be caused by an infinite recursion bug, but more commonly it is caused by processing a large data structure with a recursive algorithm. One potential fix is to increase the amount of stack space available. For native-compiled OCaml programs, stack usage is limited by the operating system's stack size resource limit, which may have a small default value such as 8MB. You can remove this limit with a shell command, such as ulimit -s unlimited in an sh-style shell or limit stacksize unlimited in a cshstyle shell; see your shell's documentation for more details. Sometimes debugging versions of programs use more stack space, so if you encounter this error with the .dbg version of a program, try the version without that suffix. If the error was caused by recursion, a stack backtrace should reveal what function was the culprit; to obtain one, rerun the program with the OCAMLRUNPARAM environment variable set to b.

## 8 Reporting Bugs

Though we cannot give any guarantee of support for Vine, we are interested in hearing what you are using it for, and if you encounter any bugs or unclear points. Please send your questions, feature suggestions, bugs (and, if you have them, patches) to the bitblaze-users mailing list. Its web page is: http://groups.google.com/group/bitblaze-users.