

REA Gives Your Coding Agent a Reverse-Engineering Toolkit

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REA Gives Your Coding Agent a Reverse-Engineering Toolkit

One server that lets a coding agent take closed software apart

36 kinds of targets it can inspect	3,205 cases checked on one function	63 code bytes matched exactly
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REA is an open-source tool that lets a coding agent take apart software on your disk. It plugs into Claude Code, Codex, Cursor or any assistant that speaks MCP, the protocol that connects a model to outside tools. After one setup command, the agent can open a program in a disassembler such as Hopper, Ghidra or IDA (tools that turn machine code back into readable instructions), or read the packaged code of a desktop or Android app. It covers 36

kinds of targets. Each finding comes with its evidence: the instructions, the callers, the bytes behind a constant, and what could not be resolved.

Reverse engineering usually means an expert reading a disassembler line by line. In REA's DX-Ball case study, one prompt asked how a 1996 Windows game turns a brick's position on screen into a left or right sound pan. REA showed the agent that function's instructions and the constants it reads from memory: multiply by 1.5625, subtract 500, then scale. The agent's rewrite in C returned the same values as the original across 3,205 test inputs, and compiling it with the game's own 1996 compiler produced the same 63 bytes of machine code. Across 55 rewritten functions so far, 33 compile to identical bytes.

The Hacker News thread on it mixed delight with talk of lawsuits. The project allows security research, interoperability and software you own or are authorised to examine, but not cheats or getting around copy protection and licence checks.

Read More: [VectorCraft Rebuilds Illustrator in Rust, and Scores Itself 62% Ready](#), where the team promised never to inspect the installed Adobe app.

Sources:

- [REA repository](#)
- [REA website](#)
- [DX-Ball case study](#)
- [Comparison of six agent-to-disassembler bridges](#)
- [Hacker News discussion](#)

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