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THE MULTIPLE WAYS TO AUTOMATE THE APPLICATION OF SOFTWARE COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST PHYSICAL ATTACKS: PITFALLS AND GUIDELINES

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INTRODUCTION

- In 2008, for an average person: 230 embedded chips used every day !
- Number of Cyber-Physical Systems is expected to grow
- Lots of them...
 - Connected watches
 - Connected buildings
 - Smartphones
 - Monitors for human health in hospitals
 - •
- ... manipulate sensitive data
 - Where you are
 - Messages between you and someone else
 - Pictures / videos of you or your house
 - Health data

. . .

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INTRODUCTION

- Encryption is used to protect this data
 - Secure transfers of data between connected objects and servers or cloud
 - Once encrypted, data cannot be recovered without the key



- Cryptanalysis: The designs of encryption algorithms used are well studied
 - Security relatively to attacker's means
 - Lot of research teams try to break them
 - Their designs are a lot studied!



INTRODUCTION: CRYPTOGRAPHY

- Black box assumption
 - the attacker has no physical access to the key, nor to any internal processing, but can only observe external information and behavior





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PHYSICAL ATTACKS: SIDE-CHANNEL ATTACKS

- In reality: grey box
 - Side channel information leakage:





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 - Side channel information leakage
 - System vulnerable to faults





INTRODUCTION

- Encryption is used to protect this data
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- Cryptanalysis: The designs of encryption algorithms used are well studied
 - Security relatively to attacker's means
 - Lot of research teams try to break them
 - Their designs are a lot studied!
- Physical attacks are the only effective way to break cryptanalysisresistant crypto ciphers
 - That's why their countermeasures are usually evaluated on crypto blocks
 - But their range of target is BROADER than that



- Introduction
- Side channel attacks detailed example: how correlation power analysis works
- Fault injection attacks detailed example: how differential fault attacks works
- Hardware countermeasures
- Software countermeasures

Why we want to apply them automatically Survey of existing approaches to apply some of them automatically Why we should take the compiler into account while applying countermeasure Why applying countermeasures within compilation process is valuable

Conclusion



PHYSICAL ATTACKS: SIDE-CHANNEL ATTACKS





PHYSICAL ATTACKS: SIDE-CHANNEL ATTACKS

- General approach:
 - Divide and conquer: the key is recovered bit by bit or byte by byte
 - The attacker has a model of the electrical consumption / electromagnetic emission /...
- Attack steps:
 - Choose a target intermediate value
 - That depends only of one byte of the key ideally





• General approach:

- Divide and conquer: the key is recovered bit by bit or byte by byte
- The attacker has a model of the electrical consumption / electromagnetic emission /...

- Choose a target intermediate value
- Compute a theoretical emission for this value for all key hypothesis
 - With a model of emission (hamming weight or hamming distance usually used)
 - The theoretical emission is computed for all key hypothesis for N plaintexts
 - We get Nx256 theoretical emissions (attack of one byte of the key)





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- Measure emission through several encryptions
 - At least one encryption per plaintext
 - Measurements have to be aligned





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- Compute a theoretical emission for this value for all key hypothesis
- Measure emission through several encryptions
- Compare measurements with theoretical values
 - Highest correlation between theory and traces gives a key candidate





PHYSICAL ATTACKS: SIDE-CHANNEL ATTACKS

General approach: Divide an by byte The attac ectromagnetic This is **an example** of how side channel emission attacks can be mounted. Attack step Choose BUT: they can target other kind of bothesis Compute applications (web browsers, verifypin, ...), Measure and can also be used to help monitoring Compare fault injection attacks Highe didate Ν AES plaintexts N traces keys . . . intermediate theoretical values emissions correlation 256 HW(value) Nx256 key hypothesis **N 1818** which fits best ciphertexts measurements







- General approach:
 - Divide and conquer: the key is recovered bit by bit or byte by byte
 - Perform a fault during encryption
 - The encryption will generate a bad ciphertext
 - Compare the bad ciphertext with the reference one
- Attack steps:
 - Choose a target instruction or data





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- Choose a target instruction or data
- Compute the effect of the fault for all keys and plaintexts on the ciphertext
 - Use a model of the fault like instruction skip or data nullified





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- Collect the ciphertexts for all plaintexts while faulting the chip
- Compare ciphertexts obtained with the theoretical ones









COUNTERMEASURES

- Side-channel:
 - Hiding
 - Lower the SNR (Signal Noise Ratio) in measurements
 - Masking
 - Break the direct link between emissions and the key

Fault injection attacks:

- Fault tolerance
 - A fault won't change the behavior of the program
- Fault detection
 - A fault will be detected and put the program/chip in a predefined state



HARDWARE COUNTERMEASURES

• Side-channel:

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- Dual rail with precharge logic
 - 0 and 1 are encoded with (0,1) and (1,0) couples
 - Output of each gate is precharged with either (0,0) or (1,1)
 - Hamming weight and Hamming distance are independent of data

• Insert noise

- Random voltage scaling
- Variable clock speed (temporal desynchronization)

Filter power consumption

• Make the power consumption as constant as possible





 $\begin{array}{c} HW(01)=1 \\ HW(10)=1 \end{array} \} = \\ HD(00,01)=1 \\ HD(00,10)=1 \end{array} \} = \\ \end{array}$



- Fault injection attacks:
 - Encapsulation

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- Prevent the attack by making the access to components hard
- Detector of light emission / magnetic field
 - Detect signals which may be related to a fault injection
- Integrity
 - Check the absence of control flow corruption (CFI)
 - Check data integrity
- Error correcting memory
 - The memory is able to correct a certain number of errors in the data











HARDWARE COUNTERMEASURES

- Side-channel:
 - Dual rail with precharge logic
 - Insert noise
 - Filter power consumption
- Fault injection attacks:
 - Encapsulation
 - Detector of light emission / magnetic field
 - Control flow integrity
 - Error correcting memory

• Problems / Limitations:

- Requires expertise
- Takes time to implement
- Costly hardware
- Impossible to update
- Countermeasure is applied everywhere, even on uncritical code



- Side-channel:
 - Instructions shuffling & Temporal desynchronization
 - Make alignment of measurements fail
 - Dependency analysis between instructions based on registers used or defined



- Masking
 - Combine the key with a random number to change the profile of the leakage
 - All the algorithm is modified so that everything is computed using the masked key

```
mask = rand();
masked_key = key xor mask;
```

a = a xor key; b = a; return b; a = a xor masked_key; b = a; return b xor mask;

between the 2 forms

everything is computed masked the mask is removed from the result at the end



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SOFTWARE COUNTERMEASURES

- Fault injection attacks:
 - Code duplication
 - Some parts of the code are duplicated / Duplication of all instructions
 - Tolerance of one instruction-skip fault

```
add r3, r4, #1 😝 add r3, r4, #1
if (password == "ok") {
                                                                    add r3, r4, #1
  if (password == "ok") { ... }
    duplicate code
                                                    duplicate instructions
```

- Control flow integrity
 - At each basic block, check that we come from a legitimate basic block
 - Detection of instruction-modification fault that change the control flow





SOFTWARE COUNTERMEASURES

- Side-channel:
 - Instructions shuffling & Temporal desynchronization
 - Masking
- Fault injection attacks:
 - Code duplication
 - Control flow integrity
 - Error detecting codes throughout the algorithms

• Problems:

- Requires expertise
- Takes time to implement
- Implementation on every critical functions
- Compilation can optimize out countermeasures
- Performance cost



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Automatically apply them ? HOW ?



















COUNTERMEASURES: HOW TO APPLY THEM ? \rightarrow SOURCE CODE

- Steps to do once:
 - Write a parser
 - Write a transformation pass for critical parts
 - Write a file emitter for targeted format

• Steps to do for every file:

- Transform file
- Compile file
- Disassemble file
- Check that countermeasures are still here
- Disabling compiler optimizations (-O0) to skip the checking phase is a bad idea
 - Horrible performance
 - Register spilling \rightarrow new leakage
- **References that use this approach:** [Eldib, LNCS, 2014] [Lalande, LNCS, 2014] [Luo, ASAP, 2015]



COUNTERMEASURES: HOW TO APPLY THEM ? \rightarrow WITHIN THE COMPILER

- Steps to do once:
 - Update the parser
 - Add a transformation pass to transform critical parts
 - Check once for all that later transformations do not threaten the countermeasure
 - If necessary, deactivate or transform some of them
- Steps to do for every file:
 - Compile file
 no need to be a security expert here
- The code resulting is correctly optimized
- References that use this approach: [Agosta, IEEE TCAD, 2015] [Agosta, DAC, 2012] [Agosta, DAC, 2013] [Barry, CS2, 2016] [Bayrak, IEEE TC, 2015] [Malagón, Sensors, 2012] [Moss, LNCS, 2012]
 - [Bayrak, IEEE TC, 2015]: hybrid approach between the "assembly" and "within the compiler" approaches. Uses the compiler to **decompile** a binary file up to an intermediate representation before applying the countermeasure.



COUNTERMEASURES: HOW TO APPLY THEM ? \rightarrow ASSEMBLY CODE

- Steps to do once:
 - Write a parser
 - Write analysis passes which reconstruct some higher level information if necessary
 - Write the transformation
 - Write a file emitter
- Steps to do for every file:
 - Compile the file
 - Disassemble it
 - Transform it
 - Reassemble it



- The resulting code is secured but performance can be affected
 - Compiler uses registers as if they won't be used for something else
 - The need for additional registers while applying countermeasure may lead to register spilling
- References that use this approach: [Bayrak, DAC, 2011] [Moro, 2014] [Rauzy, JCEN, 2016] CPSEd 2017 | Belleville Nicolas | 38



COUNTERMEASURES: HOW TO APPLY THEM ? \rightarrow DETAILED EXAMPLES

Level	Team	Approach
Source code	Lalande & al. Eldib & al.	 CFI applied on C code Use clang as a parser and apply Masking with a SMT solver
Within the compiler	Agosta & al. Barry & al.	 Modified LLVM (new passes & modified passes). Hiding applied automatically. Modified LLVM (new passes & modified passes). Instruction Duplication applied automatically.
Assembly code	Bayrak & al. Moro & al.	Random precharging applied automatically.Instruction Duplication applied automatically.

- J.-F. Lalande, K. Heydemann, and P. Berthomé. Software Countermeasures for Control Flow Integrity of Smart Card C Codes. In European Symposium on Research in Computer Security, pages 200–218. Springer, 2014.
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- N. Moro, K. Heydemann, E. Encrenaz, and B. Robisson. Formal Verification of a Software Countermeasure Against Instruction Skip Attacks. Journal of Cryptographic Engineering, 4(3):145–156, 2014.



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COUNTERMEASURES: HOW TO APPLY THEM ? \rightarrow IN A NUTSHELL

Level	Pros	Cons
Source code	 More or less straightforward 	 Countermeasure can be optimized out during compilation Assembly code MUST be checked after compilation
Within the compiler	 Provide security AND performance Optimizations can be controlled 	 Harder to implement. Requires to have access to the compiler source code
Assembly code	 Countermeasure not optimized out Can even secure binary programs without their source code 	 Can be hard to take all instructions into account or to do high level transformations Performance more affected



CONCLUSION

- Physical attacks are an important threat for cyber-physical systems
 - They are the only effective way to break encryption
 - Their range of target is broader than encryption
 - Best security levels are reached by combining hardware and software countermeasures
- Securing is costly
 - Automatic application of **software** countermeasures or automatic design of **hardware** with countermeasures can reduce this cost
- Compilation is usually forgotten in potential threats to countermeasures
 - source code ≠ binary
- Securing during compilation is valuable
 - Enables to optimize the performance cost of a countermeasure
- Hardware has to be taken into account too
 - binary ≠ what is really executed
 - Speculative execution within the processor



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Pay attention to these!



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Thank you for your attention

Questions?

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