GRADUATE SCHOOL AND RESEARCH CENTER AT THE HEART OF THE DIGITAL SOCIETY





Screaming Channels

When Electromagnetic Side Channels Meet Radio Transceivers Giovanni Camurati, Sebastian Poeplau, Marius Muench, Tom Hayes, Aurélien Francillon



Secure systems: E-Passport, Smartcard, ...







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Crypto against stealing, cloning, tampering, ...





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Crypto against stealing, cloning, tampering, ...

Generally protected against attacks which require physical access





Physical activity depends on logic data





Power (current)



Physical activity depends on logic data





Direct EM



Power (current)

Physical activity depends on logic data







depends on logic data





Retrieve traces

AESLeak



Attack

- SPA, CPA, TPA, ...
- SEMA, CEMA, TEMA, ...





































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 \checkmark

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Crypto protects the communication channel







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Crypto against stealing, cloning, tampering, ...

Generally protected against attacks which require physical access Connected devices: Smart watch, camera, ...

Crypto protects the communication channel

Only remote attacks are considered

















Mixed-signal chip









Data

dependent noise



Mixed-signal chip







Mixed-signal chip

Data dependent noise









Data dependent noise

Memory

Noise sensitive transmitter







Easy propagation

Data dependent noise

Noise sensitive transmitter





Screaming Channels What if ... the leak is broadcast? Can we exploit it?

Antenna + SDR RX





Antenna + SDR RX



Radio Off

2.0





Radio Off Radio TX

Antenna + SDR RX





Radio Off Radio TX

Antenna + SDR RX






























Screaming Channels: Leak Broadcast



From digital noise to noise on the radio signal

Mixed-signal chips



Idea:

CPU + Crypto + Radio Same chip





Mixed-signal chips



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CPU + Crypto + Radio Same chip



Benefits:

Low Power, Cheap, Small Easy to integrate





Mixed-signal chips



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Benefits:

Low Power, Cheap, Small Easy to integrate



Examples: BT, BLE, WiFi, GPS, etc













Digital: Inherently noisy





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Retrieve traces

AESLeak



Attack

- Correlation (Template) Radio Analysis, ...
- Up to 2m 10m









$$I = A_k \cos(\varphi_k) \quad \longrightarrow \quad$$

$$Q = A_k \sin(\varphi_k)$$







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RX (quadrature ampl. demod.)

 $\frac{GA_k}{2} AES(t) \cos((\omega + \omega_{clk})t + \varphi_k)$



RX (quadrature ampl. demod.)





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Targets: Cortex-M4 + BT TX TinyAES, mbedTLS





Attacking



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Extraction: Automated via radio Known plaintext





Attacking



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Attacks: Correlation, Template Code based on ChipWhisperer



Attacking



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Attacks: Correlation, Template Code based on ChipWhisperer Much more advanced attacks exist




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Cable







Cable



15 cm













2 *m*

15 *cm*











m

cm



m











15 cm



2m



3 *m*



5 *m*











cm



m



m



m



m





Protection



Resource constraint devices: Cost, power, time to market, etc.







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Classic HW/SW: Masking, noise, key refresh (expensive, not complete)







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Masking, noise, key refresh (expensive, not complete) Specific (SW): Radio off during sensitive computations (real time constraints)







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Classic HW/SW:

Masking, noise, key refresh (expensive, not complete)



Radio off during sensitive computations (real time constraints)

Specific (HW): Consider impact of coupling on security during design and test (hard, expensive)



Final remarks

1-5. (G) Propagation of TEMPEST Signals (U). - There are four basic means by which compromising emanations may be propagated. They are: electromagnetic radiation; conduction; modulation of an intended signal; and acoustics. A brief explanation of each follows.

a. (G) Electromagnetic Radiation (U). - Whenever a RED signal is generated or processed in an equipment, an electric, magnetic or electromagnetic field is generated. If this electromagnetic field is permitted to exist outside of an equipment, a twofold problem is created; first the electromagnetic field may be detected outside the Controlled Space (CS); second the electromagnetic field may couple onto BLACK lines connected to or located near the equipments, which exit the CS of the installation.

b. (c) Line Conduction. - Line Conduction is defined as the emanations produced on any external or interface line of an equipment, which, in any way, alters the signal on the external or interface lines. The external lines include signal lines, control and indicator lines, and a.c. and d.c. powerlines.

c. (G) Fortuitous Conduction. - Emanations in the form of signals propagated along any unintended conductor such as pipes, beams, wires, cables, conduits, ducts, etc.

d. (C) [Six lines redacted.]



Figure 1-5. - Amplitude-Modulated Carrier (U) (U)

e. (G) Acoustics (U) - Characteristically plaintext processing systems are primarily electrical in function. However, other sources of CE exist where mechanical operations occur and sound is produced. Keyboards, printers, relays -- these produce sound. and consequently can be sources of compromise.

Tempest Fundamentals [5] From '80s Declassified 2000



Propagation of leaks:



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Tempest Fundamentals [5] From '80s Declassified 2000

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Propagation of leaks:

- 1. Radiation
- 2. Conduction

1. Acoustic



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Tempest Fundamentals [5] From '80s Declassified 2000



- 1. Radiation
- 2. Conduction
- 3. Modulation of an intended signal (redacted)
- 4. Acoustic





Responsible Disclosure

Major vendors & multiple CERTS



Multiple acknowledgements of the relevance and generality of the problem



2 vendors are reproducing our results 1 vendor is actively looking at short/long-term countermeasures





General problem if sensitive processing and wireless tx

- HW AES, WiFi, other chips
- any device with radio?





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A new point in the threat model space

Remote EM attacks





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- HW AES, WiFi, other chips
- any device with radio?



- A new point in the threat model space
 - Remote EM attacks



Must be considered

- Design and test of new devices
- Smart countermeasures (specific)







General problem if sensitive processing and wireless tx

- HW AES, WiFi, other chips
- any device with radio?



- A new point in the threat model space
 - Remote EM attacks



- Must be considered
 - Design and test of new devices
 - Smart countermeasures (specific)



- More distant, less traces
- Different crypto and wireless technologies
- Attack the protocol



Questions?

Code https://www.github.com/eurecom-s3/screaming_channels More Info https://s3.eurecom.fr/tools/screaming_channels





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Third-Party Images

 "nRF51822 - Bluetooth LE SoC : weekend die-shot" - CC-BY– Modified with annotations. Original by zeptobars https://zeptobars.com/en/read/nRF51822-Bluetooth-LE-SoC-Cortex-M0



Backup slides

Which devices?

- We do not want to blame a specific vendor
 - Especially because the problem is general
 - But you can find all names and details in the paper and on our website
- The problem is general
 - Ack by vendors
 - Attack on several BLE devices of the same vendor
 - Signs of leaks on other (Wi-Fi) devices
 - Also different types of leaks
 - Still need more investigations (time...)





What about hopping?

- Real BT communications use frequency hopping
 - The carrier changes values (in a given set) following a pseudorandom sequence
 - The frequency of the leak changes too
- We can still attack
 - We can listen to multiple frequencies, or with a large bandwidth
 - Actually, we already plan to exploit more replicas of the leak
 - Tom Hayes, Sebastian Poeplau, and Aurélien Francillon worked on an IEEE 802.15.4 sniffer that concurrently listens to all channels, we could reuse the same ideas



What about Wi-Fi?

- The problem is in the mixed-signal design, not in the protocol
- We ended up on a BT chip by chance, and then decided to go deeper (increasing the distance)
- We have signs of (different) leaks in 2 Wi-Fi chips
- But for sure now we have to try more chips





What about Hardware AES?

- Hardware AES implementations are used for link layer encryption
- Attacking turns out to be more difficult than software AES
 - Faster calculation, higher radio resolution is needed
 - Most of the time blackbox implementations
- We ran some experiments - 4/16 bytes recovered



Threat model?

- For these devices, side channels were not in the threat model
 - Close physical proximity/access not too realistic
 - Low cost, low impact
- But now attacks could be mounted from a large distance
 - EM side channels become important
 - Indeed remote timing side channels (cache) are already considered



Some Attack Data

Distance	Environment	Implementat ion	# Attack Traces	# Template Traces
1 m	Office	tinyAES	52589 x 500	70000 x 500
3 m	Anechoic Room	tinyAES	718 x 500	70000 x 500
5m	Anechoic Room	tinyAES	428 x 500	70000 x 500
10 m	Anechoic Room	tinyAES	1428 x 500	130000 x 500



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