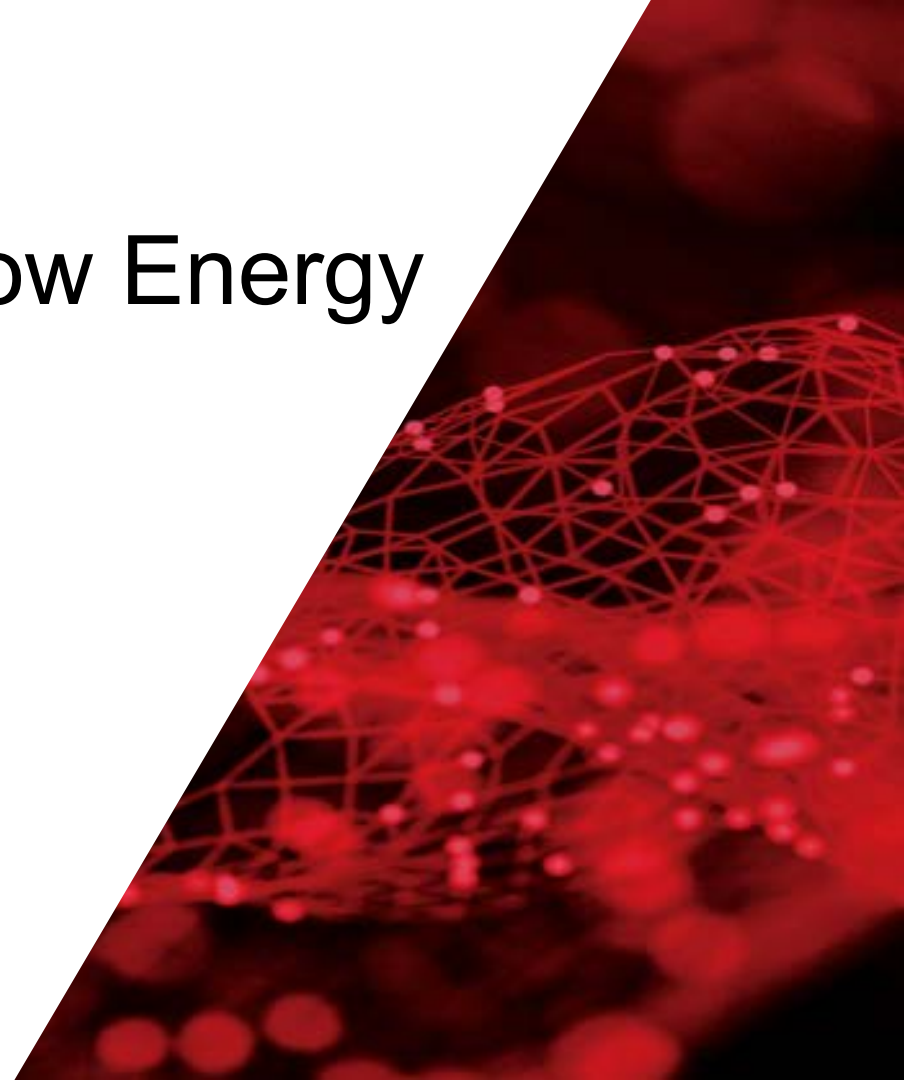


# Breaking Bluetooth Low Energy

Maxine Filcher  
Security Consultant





# Agenda

- Part 1
  - BLE Protocol Basics
- Part 2
  - Vulnerabilities
- Part 3
  - Code





# Whoami

- Maxine Filcher
- Security Consultant with IOActive
- US Army Veteran
- B.S. Info Assurance & Cybersecurity
  - Minor: Law & Policy
- SANS Women's Academy 2018 Cohort
- GSEC, GCIH, GPEN
  - maxine.filcher@ioactive.com
  - @FreqyXin

Disclaimer:

I am not a Bluetooth Developer  
This is not a comprehensive class on Bluetooth



# Part I

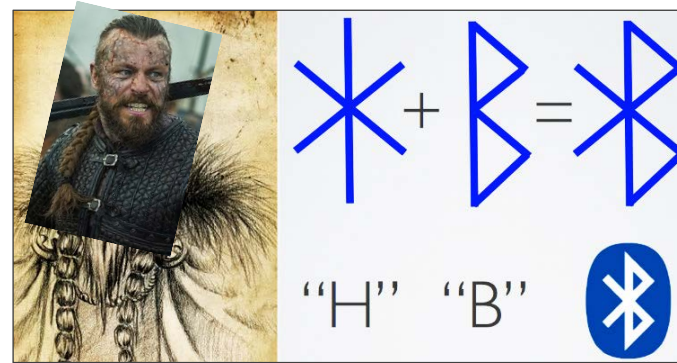
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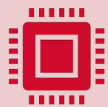
# A Quick History

- Herald “Bluetooth”
- King of Norway and Denmark



- Hedy Lamarr
- 1914-2000
- Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum (FHSS)
- Radio Controlled Torpedoes
- George Antheil & Self-playing Piano's





## Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE)

Point-to-Point  
Low energy consumption  
2.4 – 2.485 GHz



## Bluetooth Mesh

Many-to-Many  
Supports 32,767 nodes per mesh network



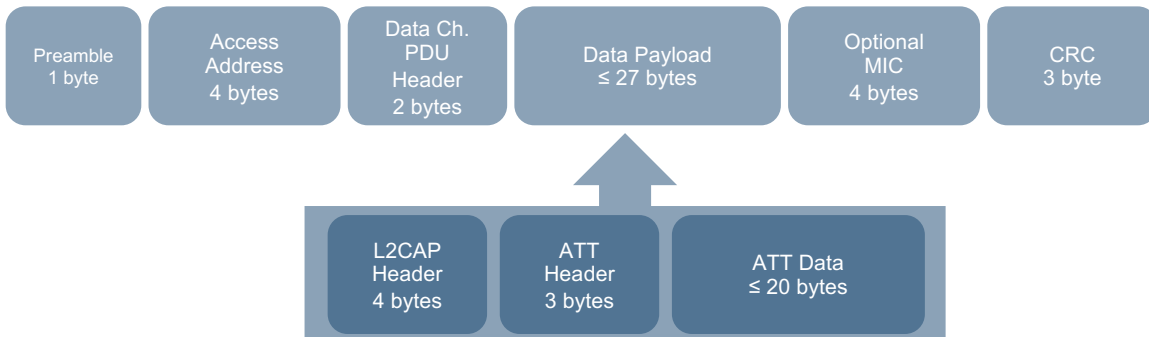
# The Protocol

- Advertising
  - 3 Channels for advertisement 37, 38, 39
  - 4 Advertising PDU Types
- Connecting
  - 36 Channels (Japan, Spain, France have 23)
  - 1 MHz spacing
  - FHSS:
    - Channel = (currentChannel + hop) % 37

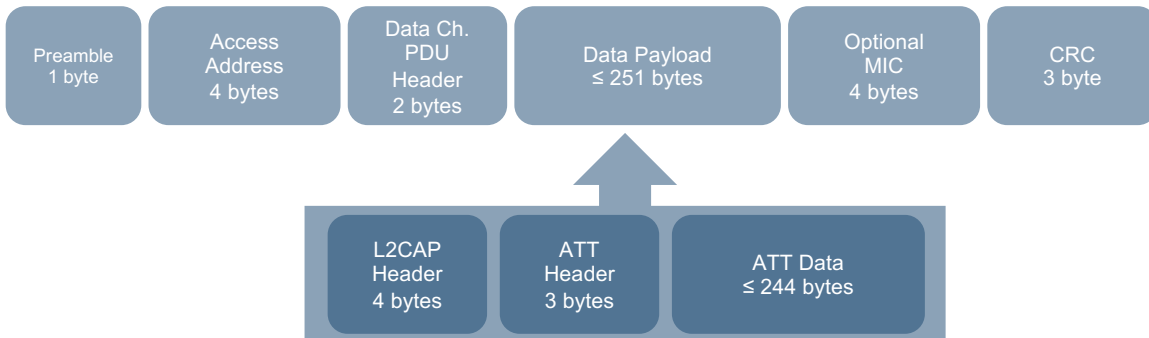


# Link Layer Packet Organization

BLE  
4.0/4.1



BLE  
4.2/5.0







# Broadcasting and Connections

- One way
  - Connectionless
  - Two Roles
    - Broadcaster
    - Observer
  - iBeacons
- Two way
  - Additional Protocol Layers
  - Two Roles
    - Central
    - Peripheral
  - Phone to Thingy52



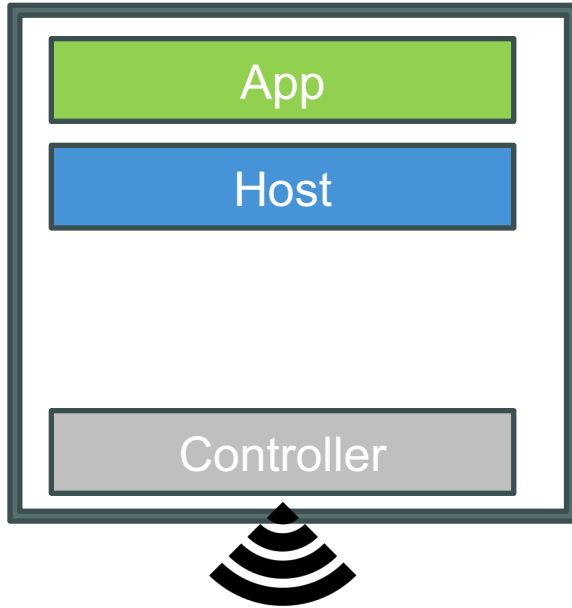
# Connections

- Devices:
  - Central (i.e. Phone)
    - Connection Initiator
    - Controls timing and data exchange
  - Peripheral (i.e. Thingy 52)
    - Advertises
    - Accepts incoming connections

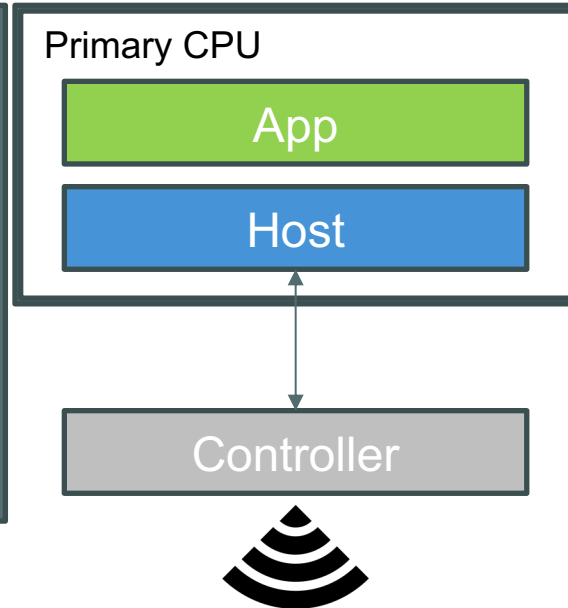


# Common Configurations

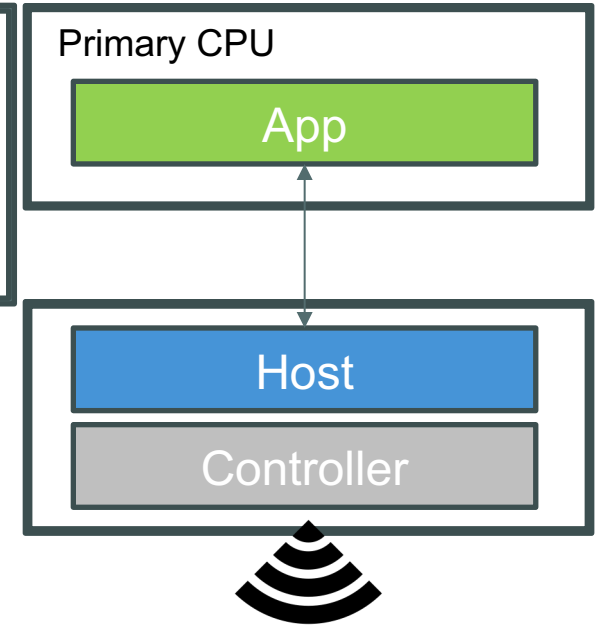
- SoC



- IC over HCI

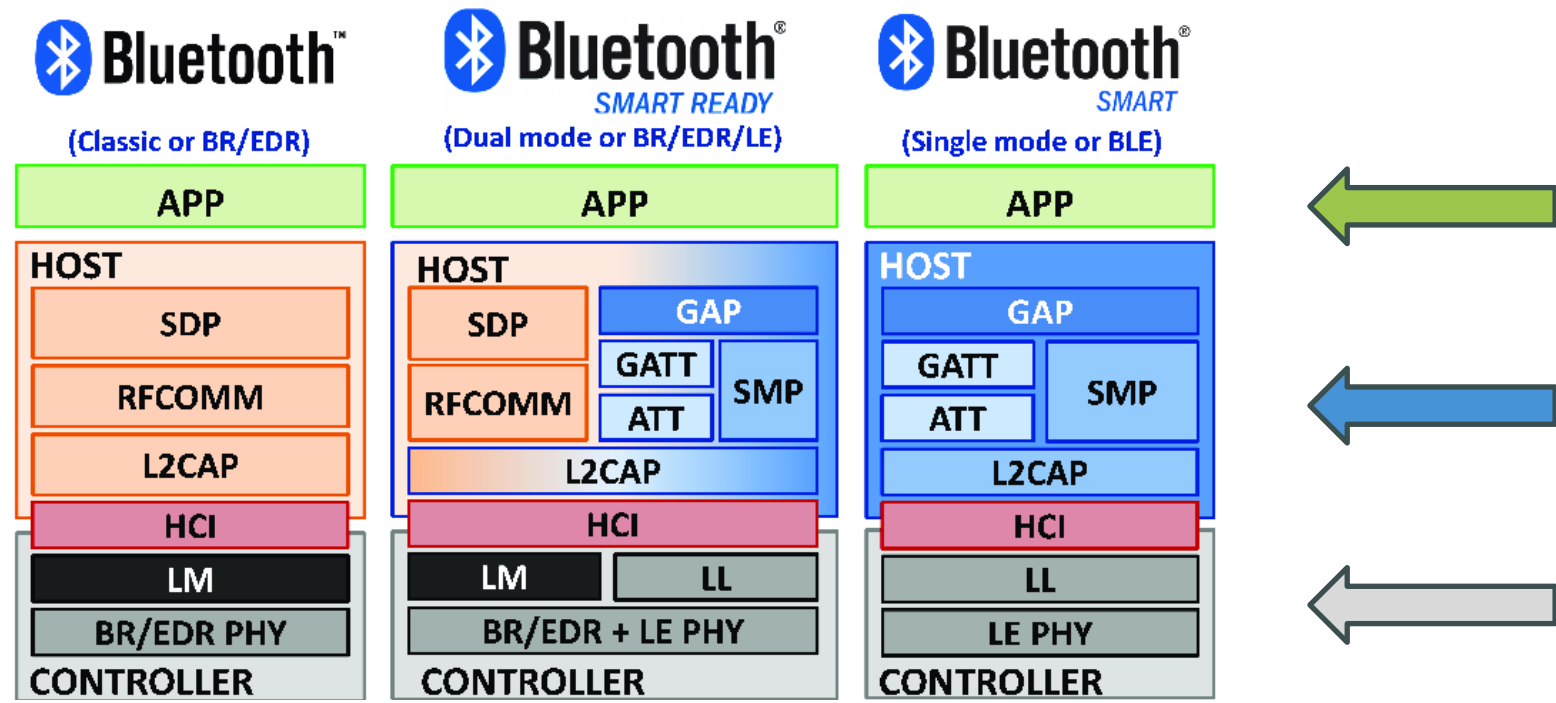


- Dual IC





# Bluetooth Protocol Stack





# Layers of Interest

- Logical Link
  - Modifies connection params
  - Performs encryption/decryption
- HCI
  - Commands and Events for host and controller interaction
- L2CAP
  - ‘Like’ TCP
  - Enables many protocols coexisting
  - Encapsulation from upper to lower layers



# Link Layer

- CRC creation and verification
- Encryption (AES)
- Random number generation



# L2CAP

- Controls ATT and SM
- Fragments packets into 27 (4.1) / 251 (4.2+) byte payload



# SM

- Protocol
- Security Key generation and exchange algorithms
- Pairing
- Bonding
- Encryption Reestablishment



# Part II

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# Bluetooth Vulnerabilities

- Blueborne – Smart Devices, wormable via BLE
- Bleedingbit – Wireless APs, security bypass & malicious OTA
- SweynTooth – BLE chips, DoS



# Bleedingbit

- <https://www.armis.com/bleedingbit/>
- Armis
- CVE-2018-16986
- CVE-2018-7080
- TI BLE Chip RCE Vulnerability
- Cisco, Aruba, Meraki





# SweynTooth

- <https://asset-group.github.io/disclosures/sweyntooth/>
- 2019 / 2020
- Singapore University of Technology and Design
  - Matheus E. Garbelini, Sudipta Chattopadhyay, Chundong Wang





# CVE-2019-16336 / CVE-2019-17519

- Cypress PSoC4/6 BLE Component 3.41/2.60
- *NXP KW41Z 3.40* SDK
- Link Layer Length Overflow
- DoS
- Potential for Further RCE

# Part III

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# BLE Fuzzing

- A shift in research



# NCCGroup's BLEsuite

- <https://github.com/nccgroup/BLESuite>
- BLE python library
- Fuzzing tool







# Foreshadowing

- [https://github.com/nccgroup/BLESuite/blob/master/docs/examples/advanced\\_manual\\_packets.py](https://github.com/nccgroup/BLESuite/blob/master/docs/examples/advanced_manual_packets.py)
- Channel ID -



```
31     # Careful, this packet can cause your Bluetooth adapter to crash. Likely since the CID is unexpected and not
32     # known how to be handled
33     connection_manager.l2cap_send_raw(connection, L2CAP_Hdr(cid=int(os.urandom(1).encode('hex'), 16)) / os.urandom(16))
```



# The Issues

## Support for python 3 ? #14



Open

MrSpock opened this issue on Sep 28, 2019 · 2 comments



MrSpock commented on Sep 28, 2019

Python 2 support ends in 2020.  
Is there a schedule/plan for Python3 migration ?



5



KarenSimonyan commented on Dec 24, 2019

Hi,  
Are there any updates on this topic?



hubert3 commented on May 17

bump



# GO!

- <https://github.com/go-ble/ble>
- Go Module for BLE





# Go BLE Scanner Demo

DEMO



# Additional Info

- ‘Introduction to BLE Exploitation’ – IOActive webinar (May 2020) <https://act-on.ioactive.com/acton/media/34793/ioactive-webinars#block-b1574346531854>
- Getting Started With Bluetooth Low Energy: Tools and Techniques for Low-Power Networking
- Hacking Exposed Wireless: Wireless Security Secrets and Solutions  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkMJSkfvo46OWMWzCqQUkFdVg27ILF7Hi>



Thank You

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