### RomHack 2019



# Reverse Engineering of IoT Devices:

hack an home router

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#### What we will talk about ...



- Introduction
- Information gathering
- Emulation environment using QEMU
- Analyze how the device works
- Modify the firmware

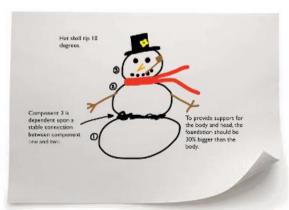
# Engineering



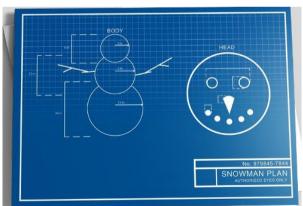
What is "engineering"? "the science of making things"

- Define "product requirements"
- Design the product
- Build or manufacture the product

Requirements



Design Blueprint



Product



# Reverse Engineering



What is "reverse engineering"?

• It is the "engineering" process done in reverse order and, usually, with limited scope

What is this example project "limited scope"?

modify the router firmware to add features and programs

**Product** 



Design Blueprint



Requirements



# Information Gathering

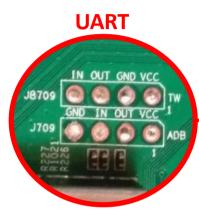


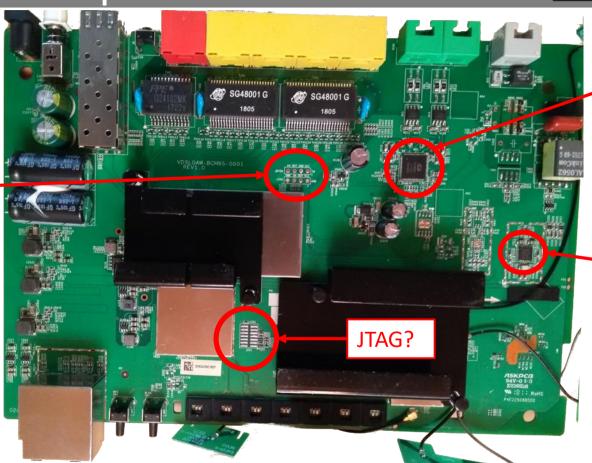
- Who makes the device?
- Is there an ODM (*Original Design Manufacturer*)?
- Open the case
- Identify main device components
- Locate UART and possibly JTAG Interfaces
- Get the firmware and the root file system



# Mainboard Top





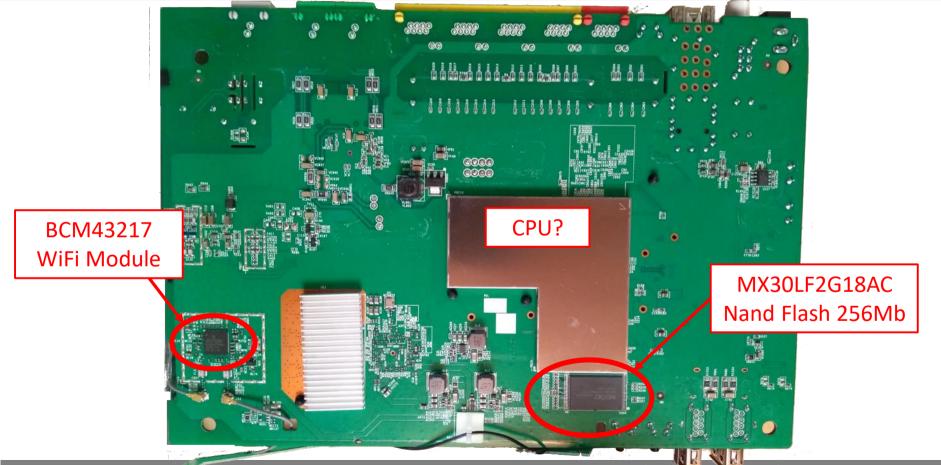


ZL88801 Telephone Module

BCM6303 XDSL CPE Line Driver

#### Mainboard Bottom

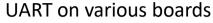


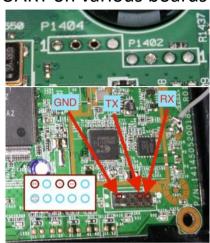


#### Locate the UART interface



- Search on Internet
- Identify potential serial headers candidates
- Sometimes marked in the PCB's silkscreen
- Usually 4 pins: Vcc, Gnd, Tx, Rx
- Use a multimeter to find potential candidates
- Locate pins on SOC and follow PCB traces
- Use tools like Jtagulator
- Oscilloscope or Logic Analyzer to locate Tx (a little out)

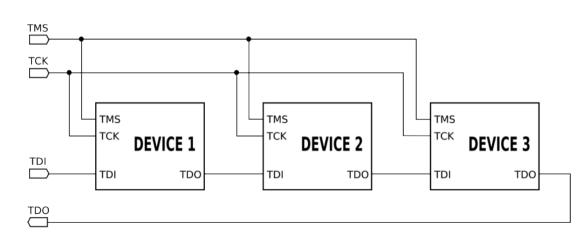




#### The JTAG interface



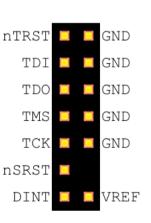
- JTAG is an industry standard for testing PCB after manufacture
- Allows access to read/write flash memory contents and can be used as a primary means for an in-circuit emulator
- Multiple devices are daisy-chained together
- Pins:
   TCK test clock
   TDI test data in
   TDO test data out
   TMS test mode sel.
   TRST test reset (opt.)



#### Locate the JTAG interface



- No standard pinout, but few popular pinouts: <a href="http://www.jtagtest.com/pinouts/">http://www.jtagtest.com/pinouts/</a>
- Search on the Internet
- Look for headers labeled TCK, TDI, TDO, TMS
- Look for 1x5/6, 2x5, 2x7, 2x10 pin headers and, with a multimeter,
  - Look for GND and VCC and compare to popular pinouts
  - Often there are pullups (1-100k) for TMS, TDI and TRST, TRST can also be pulled low
  - TDO should be high impedance
- Locate pins on SOC and follow PCB traces
- Use tools like Jtagulator



# Repopulate the interfaces











#### Connect the serial cable



#### Why repopulate the interfaces?



- UART (Serial Interface)
  - Watch what is printed on the serial console during the boot cycle and find bootloader and OS version
  - Watch the firmware upgrade cycle
  - Use a USB TTL serial adapter and a terminal emulator on the PC

#### JTAG

- Read the firmware out of the flash eeprom
- Break into the boot cycle and use JTAG to do "in circuit debugging"
- Attach an interface board, like Bus Pirate, to the JTAG interface
- Use OpenOCD, to dump eeprom and to do "in circuit debugging"

# Getting the firmware file



- Follow the easiest path first
- If the supplier has a website with firmware updates go and download the firmware file
- If the firmware update can be downloaded directly only by the device, sniff the communication with *wireshark*
- If the bootloader has a CLI and a dump flash command, use the bootloader CLI
- Otherwise, download the eeprom image through the JTAG connector using Bus Pirate and OpenOCD

#### Get info from the firmware



Get basic info from the firmware file

```
$ file DVA-5592 A1 WI 20180405.sig
DVA-5592 A1 WI 20180405.sig: data
$ binwalk DVA-5592 A1 WI 20180405.sig
DECIMAL HEXADECIMAL DESCRIPTION
512 0x200
                   JFFS2 filesystem, little endian
24379992 0x1740258 gzip compressed data, from
                   Unix, last modified:
                   2018-04-11 10:40:16
```

#### Extract content from firmware



- Install Jefferson to extract files from JFFS2 file system
- Use binwalk to extract content from firmware

```
$ binwalk -e DVA-5592 A1 WI 20180405.sig
$ ls -lh DVA-5592 A1 WI 20180405.sig.extracted
-rw-rw-r-- 1 val val 30K ott 21 13:28 1740258
-rw-rw-r-- 1 val val 24M ott 21 13:27 200.jffs2
drwxrwxr-x 5 val val 4,0K ott 21 13:28 jffs2-root
$ file 1740258
1740258: POSIX tar archive (GNU)
$ tar -tvf 1740258
drwxr-xr-x l.fornalczyk/adb boards/
drwxr-xr-x l.fornalczyk/adb
                            boards/963138 VD5....ipk
```

#### Looking at the extracted files



Looking at the extracted files

```
$ ls jffs2-root/
fs_1 fs_2 fs_3
```

It seems we have 3 file systems: "/boot" and "/" splitted in two

```
$ ls -lh fs_1
-rw-r--r-- 1 val val 0 ott 21 13:28 a
-rw-r--r-- 1 val val 260K ott 21 13:28 cferam.000
-rw-r--r-- 1 val val 1,2M ott 21 13:28 vmlinux.lz
```

- cferam.000 is the boot loader image based on Broadcom CFE (Common Firmware Environment)
- vmlinux.lz is the kernel, in an unusual CFE compressed format

### Looking at other files



/sbin/init is missing (but it's not true), busybox is there

```
$ ls -lh fs 2/bin/busybox
-rwsr-sr-x 1 val val 382K fs 2/bin/busybox
$ strings fs 2/bin/busybox
BusyBox v1.17.3 (2018-04-11 12:29:54 CEST)
$ arm-linux-readelf -a fs 2/bin/busybox
program interpreter: /lib/ld-uClibc.so.0]
$ ls -lh fs 2/lib/ld-uClibc*
lrwxrwxrwx ld-uClibc.so.0 -> ld-uClibc-0.9.33.2.so
$ ls -1 fs 3/lib/libgcrypt.so.11*
lrwxrwxrwx libgcrypt.so.11 -> libgcrypt.so.11.5.3
```

○ • ○ ○ ○ - Information Gathering

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# Boot output on serial console - 1



Output on serial console during boot

```
CFE version 1.0.38-118.3-S for BCM963138 (32bit,SP,LE)
generic
Chip ID: BCM63136B0, ARM Cortex A9 Dual Core: 1000MHz
Total Memory: 268435456 bytes (256MB)
NAND ECC BCH-4, page size 0x800 bytes, spare size 64 bytes
NAND flash device: , id 0xc2da block 128KB size 262144KB
Linux version 3.4.11-rt19 (l.fornalczyk@quelo) (qcc version
4.5.4 20120306 (prerelease) (Linaro GCC 4.5-2012.03) )
CPU: ARMv7 Processor [414fc091] revision 1 (ARMv7)
iffs2: version 2.2 (NAND) (SUMMARY) (ZLIB) (LZMA) (RTIME)
```

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# Boot output on serial console - 2



```
[2.502000] Found YAPS PartitionSplit Marker at 0x080FFF00
[2.503000] Creating 8 MTD partitions on "brcmnand.0":
[2.504000] 0x000000000000-0x000000020000
                                       00 : "bootfs 1"
  /etc/inittab
                                       00 : "rootfs 1"
   ::sysinit (etc/init.d/rcS S boot)
                                       00 : "upgrade"
   ::shutdown:/etc/init.dvrcS K shutdown
                                       00 : "conf fs"
   tts/0::askfirst:/bin/login
                             00000fe000000 : "conf factory"
   ttyS0::askfirst:/bin/loginx0000100000
                                       00 : "bbt"
[2.517000] 0x0000000000000-0x000010000000 : "flash"
Init started: BusyBox v1.17.3 (2018-04-11 12:29:54 CEST)
starting pid 235, tty '': '/etc/init.d/rcS S boot'
Starting boot.sh ...
Restore passwd ....
Restore group ....
Starting /etc/rc.d/S11services.sh ...
Starting Configuration Manager (B)
```

#### Boot output on serial console - 3



```
CM TR-181 ready
 CM TR-98 ready
Epicentro Software Version: DVA-5592 A1 WI 20180405
Epicentro Platform Version: 6.0.0.0028
 Starting /etc/rc.d/S13acsd.sh ...
 Starting /etc/rc.d/S20volp.sh ...
 Starting /etc/rc.d/S60ipset.sh ...
 Starting /etc/rc.d/S70vpn.sh ...
 Starting /etc/rc.d/S94printkd.sh ...
```

Searching «Epicentro Software» on Internet gives the ODM (Original Design Manufacturer): ADB www.adbglobal.com

#### What was found



- Processor ARMv7 Cortex-A9 Multicore
- 256Mb NAND Flash
- Linux version 3.4.11-rt19 (September 2012)
- uClibc version 0.9.33.2 (May 2012)
- BusyBox version 1.17.3 (October 2010)
- Libgcrypt version 1.4.5 (December 2009)
- Epicentro software by ADB (adbglobal.com)

#### **QEMU** Emulation



Choosing Board and CPU emulation in QEMU

```
$ qemu-system-arm -M help|egrep Cortex-A9
realview-pbx-a9 ARM RealView Platform for Cortex-A9
vexpress-a9
ARM Versatile Express for Cortex-A9
xilinx-zynq-a9 Xilinx Zynq Platform for Cortex-A9
$ qemu-system-arm -M vexpress-a9 -cpu help
cortex-a9
```

# Choosing a Build System



- The Yocto Project
  - very powerful, builds a root file system and create a custom Linux distribution. But it has a steep learning curve
- Buildroot
   builds the root file system and the kernel, easy and fast to
   learn, very good user manual
- Openwrt/LEDE Build System tailored to build a replacement router firmware, documentation scattered in the web site, requires more time to learn compared to Buildroot

#### Choosing a Buildroot version



- Based on uClibc 0.9.33.2
- Gnu libgcrypt crypto library compatible with version 1.5 (with library file: libgcrypt.so.11)
- With custom kernel version 3.4.1-rt19
- Other libraries with compatible versions
- The version to use is: buildroot-2014.02
- This version doesn't run on Ubuntu 16.04 or 18.04
- Use Debian Wheezy (2013) in a docker Container

#### The Dockerfile



 The Dockerfile builds a minimal Debian Wheezy container to run Buildroot

```
FROM debian: wheezy
RUN apt-get update
RUN apt-get upgrade
RUN apt-get install -y -q \
    bash \
RUN mkdir -p
                  /src/misc
ADD startup.sh
                  /src/misc/startup.sh
RUN chmod a+x
                  /src/misc/startup.sh
                  /src/misc ; ./startup.sh
ENTRYPOINT cd
```

#### The Docker run command



• Docker run maps user and home directory in the Docker Container

docker run	-h BRHOST	\
	rm	\
	-v /tmp/.X11-unix:/tmp/.X11-unix	\
	-v \$HOME:\$HOME	\
	-e DISPLAY=\$GDISPLAY	\
	-e GUSERNAME=\$GUSERNAME	\
	-e GUID=\$GUID	\
	-e GGROUP=\$GGROUP	\
	-e GGID=\$GGID	\
	-e GHOME=\$GHOME	\
	-e GSHELL=\$SHELL	\
	-e GRUNXTERM=\$GRUNXTERM	\
	-e GPWD=\$GPWD	\
	-it digiampietro/buildroot-armv7	

#### Docker run in action



```
valerio@ubuntu-hp:~$ ls -ld br
drwxrwxr-x 6 valerio valerio 4096 ott 26 22:30 br
valerio@ubuntu-hp:~$ grep VERSION /etc/os-release
VERSION="18.04.1 LTS (Bionic Beaver)"
VERSION ID="18.04"
 ERSION CODENAME=bionic
valerio@ubuntu-hp:~$ br/.../docker/dockrun.sh
valerio@BRHOST:~$ ls -ld br
drwxrwxr-x 6 valerio valerio 4096 Oct 26 20:30 br
valerio@BRHOST:~$ grep VERSION /etc/os-release
VERSION ID="7"
VERSION="7 (wheezy)"
```

### Buildroot configuration



- Based on "qemu\_arm\_vexpress\_defconfig"
- With the following main modifications
  - Build packages and libraries with debugging symbols, don't strip binaries, no gcc optimization
  - Build gdb, gdbserver, Itrace, strace and cross gdb for the host
  - Include mtd and jffs2 file system and tools also for the host
  - Include main libraries used in the router (libgcrypt, expat, roxml, libxml2, Mini-XML)

# Linux kernel configuration



- With the following additional settings
  - Versatile Express platform type with Device Tree support
  - Preemptible Kernel
  - NAND Device Support and Support for NAND Flash Simulator
  - JFFS2 file system with LZMA compression

### uClibc configuration



- Minor modifications to be compatible with the router's binaries (like native POSIX threading etc.)
- To include debugging symbols, uClibc don't obey to the general option included in the Buildroot configuration, has his own flag for this purpose; the problem is that enabling his own flag the compilation gives impossible to fix errors
- in Compiler Warnings add the string "-ggdb", this is the work around to compile the uClibc with debugging symbols

#### The upgrade process - 1

ROMHRCK

Start pid 4 /usr/sbin/upgrade-prepare.sh cwmp /usr/sbin/upgrade.sh Signature OK **Boot and** Root file /usr/sbin/flash eraseall -j -p 0 -1 8 /dev/mtd3 system Writing boot & root filesystems... (514+94720)\*256 -> dd if=/tmp/upgrade/fw.bin bs=256 skip=514 count=94720 /usr/sbin/nandwrite -s 524288 /dev/mtd3 -

[...] Found YAPS **PartitionSplit Marker** at 0x080FFF00 [...] Creating 2 MTD partitions on "brcmnand.0": [...] 0x000007f000000-0x000008100000 : "bootfs\_2"

[...] 0x000008100000-0x00000fcc0000 : "rootfs 2"

#### The upgrade process - 2



```
Installing packages...
opkg ... -f /tmp/new rootfs/etc/opkg.conf -o
/tmp/new rootfs install ...
Umount /tmp/new rootfs
Writing first block of cferam...
dd if=/tmp/upgrade/fw.bin bs=256 skip=2 count=512
/usr/sbin/nandwrite /dev/mtd8 -
rebooting...
```

### The upgrade process - summary



- The upgrade script to analyze is /usr/sbin/upgrade.sh
- The firmware is signed, signature is checked with sig\_verify
   \$file 2> /dev/null
- Boot and root file systems are written in a single nandwrite operation
- A JFFS2 partition splitter proprietary kernel module is used to create the two partitions on the fly
- A JFFS2 end marker open source kernel module is used to delimit the end of the root file system partition
- Some additional packages are added, based on board type
- The cferam boot loader is written with another nandwrite operation

### Reverse engineering sig\_verify



sig\_verify is a stripped binary, but calls library functions. We put breakpoints on these calls in the emulation environment

```
$ arm-linux-readelf --sym -D sig verify
Symbol table for image:
 Num Buc: Value Size Type Bind Vis Ndx Name
       0: 00008928
   16
                    O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fseek
  29 1: 00008994
                     O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND strcmp
   40 3: 000089dc
                    O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND gcry md ctl
   38 11: 000089d0
                     O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fputs
  23 14: 00008964
                     O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fread
      15: 00008898
                     O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND printf
      16: 00008a0c
                     0 FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND gcry md get algo ...
   41 16: 000089e8
                     O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND close
     17: 000088e0
                     O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND lseek
                     0 FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND gcry md open
      19: 000088c8
                     0 FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND gcry md write
     19: 000088bc
                     O FUNC GLOBAL DEFAULT UND gcry check version
      20: 000088a4
```

#### Running sig verify in GDB - 1



#### Start gdb server in the emulation environment

```
# gdbserver :9000 sig_verify --readonly \
    DVA-5592_A1_WI_20180405.sig
```

#### Start gdb in the host machine

# Running sig\_verify in GDB - 2



- Reads the last 256 bytes from the file (signature)
- Calls gcry\_md\_open,gcry\_md\_write, gcry md ctl to calculate SHA1 checksum
- Calls gcry\_sexp\_build 3 times to build the 3 sexpressions and then gcry\_pk\_verify to verify the signature with the following parameters
  - SHA1 message digest
  - **Signature** (the firmware file last 256 bytes)
  - The public key (embedded in the sig verify binary)

## Running sig\_verify in GDB - 3



- The public key (MPI modulus and exponent) can be dumped from memory to recover the public key in the standard .pem format
- Unfortunately the private key remains unknown, it is not included in router's certificates files in the folder /etc/certs

#### Restricted shell



- Firmware modification through the upgrade seems impossible
- The router allows telnet/ssh but present a Cisco-like restricted shell

```
$ telnet 192.168.1.1
Connected to 192.168.1.1.
Escape character is '^]'.
Login: admin
Password:
                  D-Link
       WARNING: Authorised Access Only
Welcome
DLINK#
```

### Escaping the restricted shell - 1

- ROMHACK
- /etc/shells suggests that the restricted shell is a Clish (or Klish), open source, shell
- /bin/clish is a script:

```
exec /bin/clish.elf -l -x /tmp/clish
```

• In /etc/init.d/services.sh:

```
ln -s /etc/clish/prod /tmp/clish # factory mode
ln -s /etc/clish /tmp/clish # normal mode
```

 clish xml startup files are: /etc/clish/prod/startup.xml /etc/clish/startup.xml

### Escaping the restricted shell - 2



In /etc/clish/startup.xml:

• "factory-mode" is an hidden command: it is a command to try:

```
DLINK# factory
DLINK(factory)# factory-mode
DLINK(factory)#
DLINK(factory)# Connection closed by foreign host.
```

## Escaping the restricted shell - 3



 Factory mode is special: no WiFi, no Internet, no DHCP server, but it allows a non privileged shell login:

```
Login: admin
Password:
                  D-Link
       WARNING: Authorised Access Only
Welcome
DLINK# system shell
BusyBox v1.17.3 built-in shell (ash)
Enter 'help' for a list of built-in commands.
/root $
```

/root \$ ps -ef



## The Quest for Root - 1 Looking for processes running with root privileges

PID USER	/1006 9	Ь2 Ст			
261 0 724 S < /sbin/udevddaemon 326 0 2332 S cm 365 0 1800 S logd 368 0 704 S ec 2383 0 820 S dns 2630 0 2480 S cwmp 2631 0 1204 S inetd -f 2633 0 736 S yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/ 2658 0 664 S wpspbc 3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho 3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	PID USER		VSZ	STAT	COMMAND
326 0 2332 S cm  365 0 1800 S logd  368 0 704 S ec  2383 0 820 S dns  2630 0 2480 S cwmp  2631 0 1204 S inetd -f  2633 0 736 S yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/  2658 0 664 S wpspbc  3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho  3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	1 0		1184	l S	init
365 0 1800 S logd 368 0 704 S ec 2383 0 820 S dns 2630 0 2480 S cwmp 2631 0 1204 S inetd -f 2633 0 736 S yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/ 2658 0 664 S wpspbc 3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho 3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	261 0		724	S <	/sbin/udevddaemon
368 0 704 S ec  2383 0 820 S dns  2630 0 2480 S cwmp  2631 0 1204 S inetd -f  2633 0 736 S yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/  2658 0 664 S wpspbc  3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho  3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	326 0		2332	2 S	cm
2383 0 820 S dns 2630 0 2480 S cwmp 2631 0 1204 S inetd -f 2633 0 736 S yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/ 2658 0 664 S wpspbc 3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho 3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	365 0		1800	) S	logd
2630 0 2480 S cwmp 2631 0 1204 S inetd -f 2633 0 736 S yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/ 2658 0 664 S wpspbc 3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho 3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	368 0		704	S	ec
2631 0 1204 S inetd -f 2633 0 736 S yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/ 2658 0 664 S wpspbc 3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho 3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	2383 0		820	) S	dns
2633 0 736 S yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/ 2658 0 664 S wpspbc 3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho 3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	2630 0		2480	) S	cwmp
2658 0 664 S wpspbc 3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho 3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	2631 0		1204	S	inetd -f
3089 0 2316 S hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho 3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	2633 0		736	S S	yamp -c /tmp/yamp.conf -p /tmp/
3647 0 1068 S chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf	2658 0		664	S	wpspbc
	3089 0		2316	S	hostapd -B /tmp/wlan/config/ho
	3647 0		1068	3 S	chronyd -n -f /tmp/chrony.conf
4191 0 696 S /sbin/rngd -r /dev/urandom -W 4000	4191 0		696	S	/sbin/rngd -r /dev/urandom -W 4000
4211 0 7136 S voip	4211 0		7136	S	voip



- Identify each process and executable version using "strings" and/or running the executable with options "-v -version -h -h -help"
- Identify open source executables
- Search the internet for known vulnerabilities for the specific executable version
- Check if the vulnerability is exploitable in the specific loT device configuration



- If no exploitable vulnerability has found select a process candidate to reverse engineer to find vulnerabilities
- Operating system binaries with no known vulnerabilities are hard to crack
- Lower level binaries (dns, voip ...) are more difficult to crack
- Higher level executables with bigger configuration files are less difficult to crack



- The most interesting process is "cm": router configuration with root privileges is done by the "cm" process (add users, configure dhcp server, set ip address etc.)
- "cm" uses shell scripts to carry out his duties
- The "cmclient" command, running as normal user, is used by restricted shell and web interface to talk to the "cm" process to configure the router
- "cmclient" is used, in startup scripts, to configure the "cm" process



- In a startup script there is:
   cmclient DOM Device /etc/cm/tr181/dom/
- This loads the xml files in the directory to configure the cm process /etc/cm/tr181/dom/Management.xml
- That has the following snippet

```
<object name="Users.User.{i}."</pre>
         access="readOnly"
         minEntries="0"
         maxEntries="unbounded"
         numEntriesParameter="UserNumberOfEntries"
         enableParameter="Enable"
         set="Users.sh"
         add="Users.sh"
         del="Users.sh"
```



Reconfigure the cm process

```
cmclient DOM Device /tmp/fakeManagement.xml
```

It has the following snippet

```
<object name="Users.User.{i}."
...
enableParameter="Enable"
set="../../tmp/fakeUsers.sh"
add="../../tmp/fakeUsers.sh"
del="../../tmp/fakeUsers.sh"
>
```

Trigger the execution of the «fakeUsers.sh» script with

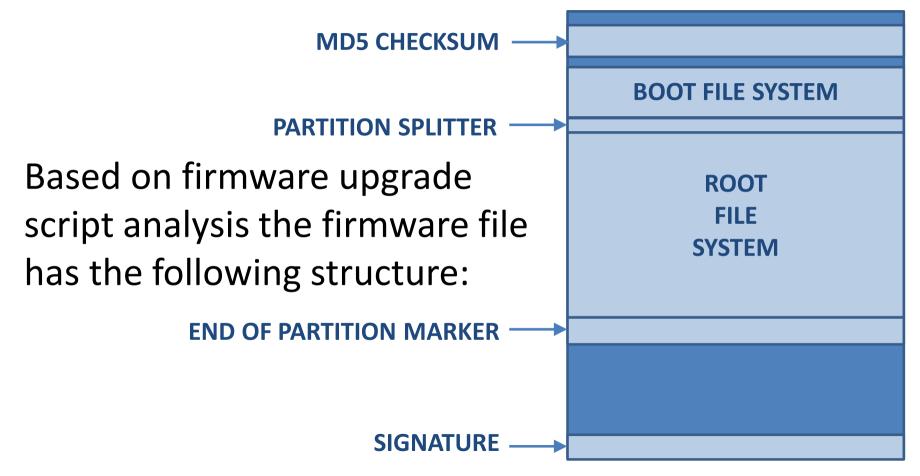
```
cmclient ADD Device.Users.User
```



```
/root $ cat > /tmp/hack-script.sh
   copy/paste of the script, CTRL-D to terminate the copy
/root $ chmod a+x /tmp/hack-script.sh
/root $ /tmp/hack-script.sh
/root $ su -
BusyBox v1.17.3 (2018-04-11) built-in shell (ash)
Enter 'help' for a list of built-in commands.
yet another solution by Advanced Digital Broadcast SA
root@localhost:~# id
uid=0 (root) gid=0 (root)
groups=0 (root), 19 (remoteaccess), 20 (localaccess)
```

#### Firmware Modification Kit - 1

**ORIGINAL FIRMWARE** 



#### Firmware Modification Kit - 2



- Extract the root file system, modify it
- Create the new root file system image
- Pad the file system image to the same size as the original root file system image (the USB key will be used for additional software)
- Reassemble the firmware file putting together all the pieces, excluding the signature, using the "dd" command
- The unsigned firmware file is ready

## Loading the unsigned firmware



• The upgrade script checks the firmware signature:

```
sig_verify $file 2> /dev/null
ret_code=$?
```

As root copy the upgrade script in /tmp Modify it:
 sig verify \$file 2> /dev/null

```
ret_code=0

Temporary replace it with mount:
```

Temporary replace it with mount:

```
mount --bind /tmp/upgrade.sh \
/usr/sbin/upgrade.sh
```

Do the upgrade through the web interface

Demo Time



## Demo Time

#### **DEMO**



### Summary



- Reverse engineering can be really challenging
- Clearly define the limited scope of the project
- Start gathering information following the easiest path first
- If some information is missing or difficult to get move forward, go back only if absolutely needed
- Search on Internet for known vulnerabilities
- Select to hack processes running as root and with a large attack surface

#### Useful Links & Documentation - 1



#### **GitHub repositories related to the Home Router Example**

- Adbtools2, Tools for hacking ADB Epicentro routers, including firmware modification: <a href="https://github.com/digiampietro/adbtools2">https://github.com/digiampietro/adbtools2</a>
- **Buildroot-armv7**: a set of scripts, configuration files and Buildroot external tree to setup a Qemu emulation environment to run and reverse engineer the Netgear DVA 5592 executables: <a href="https://github.com/digiampietro/buildroot-armv7">https://github.com/digiampietro/buildroot-armv7</a>
- **Hacking-gemtek**: a complete reverse engineering project on another home router: <a href="https://github.com/digiampietro/hacking-gemtek">https://github.com/digiampietro/hacking-gemtek</a>

#### Reverse engineering and physical disassembly

 Introduction to reverse engineering, Mike Anderson, Embedded Linux Conference 2018, slides and videos:

https://elinux.org/images/c/c5/IntroductionToReverseEngineering\_Anderson.pdf
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v7UaMsgg\_c

#### Useful Links & Documentation - 2



#### **Recommended Books**

- Chris Simmonds Mastering Embedded Linux Programming Second Edition -Packt Publishing 2017
- Norman Matloff, Peter Jay Salzman The Art of Debugging with GDB, DDD and Eclipse - NO STARCH PRESS 2008

#### Hardware tools

- Bus Pirate: <a href="http://dangerousprototypes.com/docs/Bus Pirate">http://dangerousprototypes.com/docs/Bus Pirate</a>
- Jtagulator: <a href="http://www.grandideastudio.com/jtagulator/">http://www.grandideastudio.com/jtagulator/</a>
- J-Link debug probes: <a href="https://www.segger.com/products/debug-probes/j-link/">https://www.segger.com/products/debug-probes/j-link/</a>

#### JTAG and UART interfaces

Popular pinouts: <a href="http://www.jtagtest.com/pinouts/">http://www.jtagtest.com/pinouts/</a>

### Useful Links & Documentation - 3



#### **Software**

- Buildroot: <a href="https://buildroot.org/">https://buildroot.org/</a>
- Putty terminal emulator: <a href="https://www.putty.org/">https://www.putty.org/</a>
- OpenOCD (Open On-Chip Debugger) provides debugging, in-system programming and boundary-scan testing for embedded target devices: <a href="http://openocd.org/">http://openocd.org/</a>
- Wireshark, network protocol analyzer: <a href="https://www.wireshark.org/">https://www.wireshark.org/</a>
- Binwalk, firmware analysis tool: <a href="https://github.com/ReFirmLabs/binwalk">https://github.com/ReFirmLabs/binwalk</a>
- Jefferson, JFFS2 filesystem extraction tool: <a href="https://github.com/sviehb/jefferson">https://github.com/sviehb/jefferson</a>

**Question Time** 





## Question Time

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### The End



# Thank You

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