

HT and Trusted IC

-- HT Detection Methods

Cybersecurity Specialization
-- Hardware Security

Logic Test-based HT Detection

- # Idea: run different test vectors (TV) and monitor the circuit's output and behavior.
 - # Why it works: if the HT is triggered, its malicious payload/behavior will be observed.
 - # Full coverage test is impractical:
 - Combinational block with n inputs: 2^n TVs
 - Sequential logic with m flip flops: 2^{n+m} cases
 - # Random test will fail
 - HTs are triggered by rare TVs
- Generate rare TVs to activate HT!

SCA-based HT Detection

- # Idea: monitor side channel information during execution at test-time
- # Why it works: presence of HT on chip will show on some physical parameters and can be observed through certain side channels.
- # May capture non-functional HTs
- # May have high false alarm rate
 - Fabrication variations
 - Measurement errors
 - Modeling errors

Power Side Channels

- # IDDQ: measure I_{dd} at quiescent state (when circuit is not switching and inputs are stable). HT circuitry will consume leakage power.
 - False alarm due to high leakage in ICs.
- # IDDT: when there is switching activity on HT circuitry, it will consume dynamic power.
 - Need to (partially) activate HT
- # Limitations
 - Fails on small HT and always-on HT
 - Sensitive to noise and errors

Delay and other Side Channels

- # Path delay: HT can change the delay of a path (either gate, or wire, or both).
 - Kill switch: (gate) delay gets longer
 - Parametric HTs: delay changes when wire is thinner or gets re-routed
- # Limitation
 - Not all path delays can be measured
 - Fabrication variation and other noise
- # Electro-magnetic emission: Switching at HT circuitry produce EM radiation

Test Time Approaches: Summary

- # Logic test-based approaches
 - + Good for small HT
 - + Robust under noise and variation
 - Cannot handle large HT
 - Hard to generate test pattern/vector
- # SCA based approaches
 - + Good for large HT
 - + Can handle non-functional HT
 - Sensitive to noise and variation
 - Cannot detect small HT

Run-Time Monitoring

- # Idea: monitor the execution at real time
- # Why it works: HT causes malicious behavior
- # Coupled with interrupt mechanism
 - Stop the execution once HT is detected
- # Complementary to test-time approaches
 - 100% detection not possible at test time
- # Resource and performance overhead
 - Monitoring unit takes resource
- # Effective for known type of HTs

HT Detection Examples

HW Trojans	Logic Test	Power SCA	Delay SCA	Run time
Parametric	X	V	V	X
Big	?	V	?	V
Small	V	X	V	?
Tight	V	V	V	?
Loose	V	?	V	?
Always-on	X	X	V	X
Leak info	X	V	X	V