

Emulating Samsung's Baseband for Security Testing

Grant Hernandez & Marius Muench

Tyler Tucker, Hunter Searle, Weidong Zhu
Patrick Traynor & Kevin Butler



Intros

Grant Hernandez

- Recent Ph.D. graduate (University of Florida)
- Works on Android security and firmware analysis
- Just joined Qualcomm's product security team



Marius Muench

- Ph.D. graduate (EURECOM)
- By now PostDoc @ VUsec
- Builds tooling for better dynamic analysis of embedded systems



Outline

- Motivation
- Previous baseband work
- Initial journey in baseband vulnerability research
- Reverse engineering Samsung's baseband firmware
- Building a baseband emulator
- Emulator based fuzzing with AFL
- n-day and 0-day vulnerability discovery
- Crashing basebands over-the-air
- Conclusions

What is a baseband processor?

- A dedicated device that implements the 2G - 5G cellular protocols
- Seamlessly routes mobile data, calls, SMS, and more while on the go
- The “phone” part of your smartphone
- Each vendor below implements their own baseband
- Typically runs embedded firmware using a Real Time Operating System (RTOS)
- Separate CPU core(s) from the application processor

Qualcomm



Why basebands?

- Large attack surface due to multi-mode support of complicated standards
- Some components you can expect to find in a baseband:
 - Custom DSPs and radio drivers
 - Multiple ASN.1 decoders
 - Custom IP stack
 - Multiple voice & video codecs
 - X.509 parsing
 - DNS parsing
 - ...and plenty more obscure protocols unique to cellular
- Remote baseband attacks can be devastating
 - Silent full call & data MITM, independent of operating system
 - Escalation to application processor

Samsung's “Shannon” Baseband

- Present on Samsung smartphones with the EXYNOS chipset (non US phones)
- 2G - 5G “multi-mode” baseband
- Uses ARM Cortex-R ISA
- An interesting vulnerability research target
 - Previously demonstrated over-the-air attacks
 - Less exploit mitigations than application processor
- 2016: Breaking Band (Nico Golde, Daniel Komaromy - REcon)
- 2018: A Walk with Shannon (Amat Cama - Infiltrate)
- 2020: How to Design a Baseband Debugger (David Berard, Vincent Fargues - SSTIC)

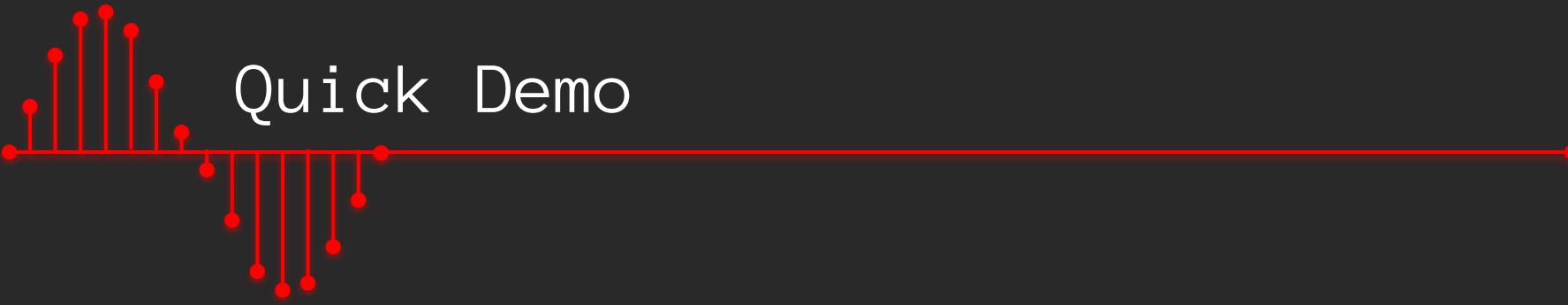


Other baseband exploit work

- 2009: Fuzzing the Phone in Your Phone (Collin Mulliner, Charlie Miller - BHUSA)
- 2011: SMS of Death (Collin Mulliner, Nico Golde, J.P. Seifert - USENIX SEC)
- 2011: Baseband Attacks (Ralf-Phillip Weinman - WOOT)
- 2017: Path of Least Resistance: Cellular Baseband to Application Processor Escalation on Mediatek Devices (György Miru - Comsecuris Blog)
- 2018: Exploitation of a Modern Baseband (Marco Grassi, et al. - BHUSA)
- 2018: There is life in the Old Dog yet (Nico Golde - Comsecuris Blog)
- 2019: Touching the Untouchables (LTEFuzz) (Kim et al. (KAIST) - IEEE S&P)
- 2019: Exploiting Qualcomm WLAN and Modem OTA (QualPwn) (Tencent Blade - BHUSA)
- 2020: BaseSAFE: Baseband SANitized Fuzzing through Emulation (Maier et al. - WiSec)
- ...and more -- but not much more

Introducing ShannonEE

- An Emulation Environment for the Shannon baseband
- Executes baseband firmware directly - no pre-processing required
- No physical devices required, scalable to as many cores as you have available
- Cold boots baseband and brings up most RTOS tasks
- Core Features:
 - Python API for prototyping
 - ModKit & FFI for extending & exploring the baseband
 - Integrated coverage-guided fuzzing with system-level AFL
 - GDB for triaging crashes
 - Support for multiple SoC versions



Quick Demo

[21]

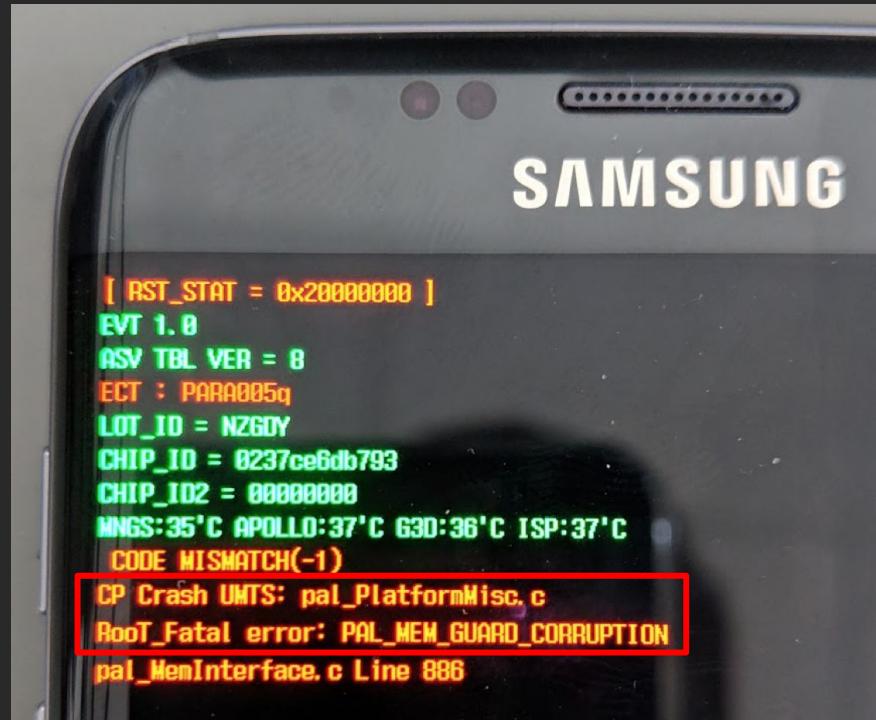
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PD5o2ghfHE0n_QOSEAvq26uu5MuBNUrc/view?usp=sharing



Early research attempts (May 2019)

- Static vs. dynamic analysis
- We started on a project to fuzz basebands over-the-air
 - No experience with SDR / cellular, but lots of reversing and exploitation knowledge
 - How hard could it be?
- ✗ Cellular protocols standards are pretty much one big recursive acronym
- ✗ Wrestled with radios and base station code for months before finally getting a working setup
- Test setup:
 - Modified a 2G base station's GSM / GPRS downlink (L2 -> L1) packet paths to randomly bitflip packets
 - Targeted a mix of phones, created an ADB logcat monitor for crashes

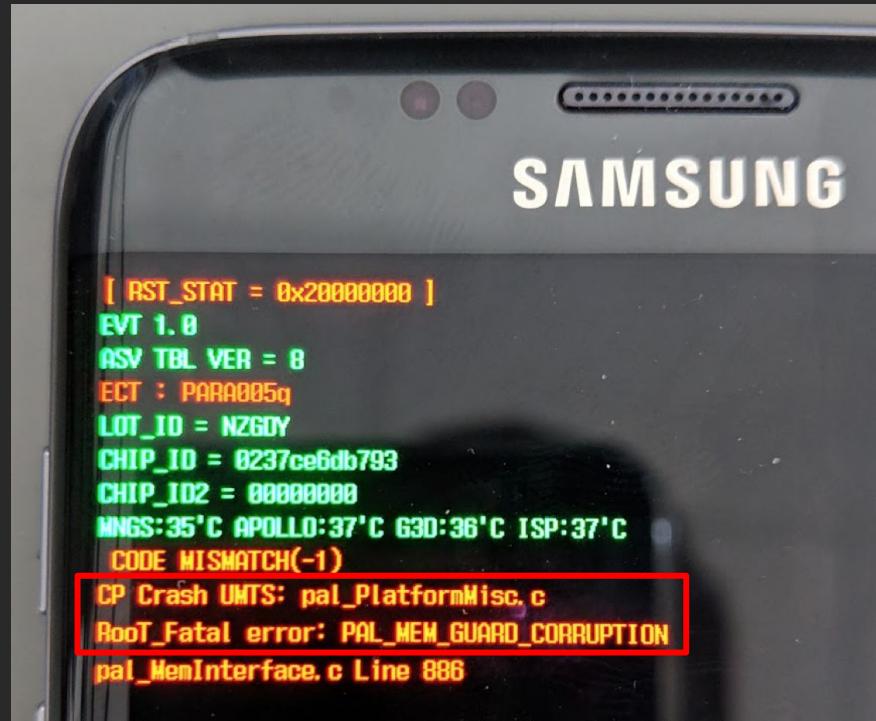
Crashes without a clue



We got crashes, but no modem dumps due to root!

Next to impossible to identify root cause

Crashes without a clue



We got crashes, but no modem dumps due to root!

Next to impossible to identify root cause

So you want to fuzz basebands?

- We **don't** recommend OTA live fuzzing at all!
- Researchers developed fuzzers and found bugs, but:
 - basebands are more fragile than you think: hangs and weird behavior are normal during test
 - often implement spec loosely or only subset
 - state machines are complex, especially in error/repetition cases
 - a significant amount of corruptions do not result in good crashes

We got crashes, but no modem dumps due to root!
Next to impossible to identify root cause

Shannon Anti-debug

```
void modem_print_registers(void)
{
    uint isDeviceLocked;
    undefined4 *puVar1;
    uint uVar2;

    uVar2 = 0;
    isDeviceLocked = get_device_rooted();
    if ((isDeviceLocked & 0xff) == 0) {
        log_early_uart("Device is rooted\n");
        log_early_uart("szError : %s \n",exception_record);
        return;
    }
}
```

Modem stack trace is suppressed if device is unlocked (OS_Fatal_Error)

```
if ((isNonRoot & 0xff) == 0) {
    (&DAT_00002f80)[hexval] = 0xd;
    // RooT check!!!!!
    (&DAT_00002f81)[hexval] = 10;
    *(undefined *) (hexval + 0x2f82) = 0x52;
    *(undefined *) (hexval + 0x2f83) = 0x6f;
    (&DAT_00002f84)[hexval] = 0x6f;
    *(undefined *) (hexval + 0x2f85) = 0x54;
    *(undefined *) (hexval + 0x2f86) = 0;
}
```

If device is unlocked, RooT is displayed during modem dumps (bootloader)

To get modem dumps we need root, but rooting suppresses modem logs 

How do we find & debug memory corruptions?

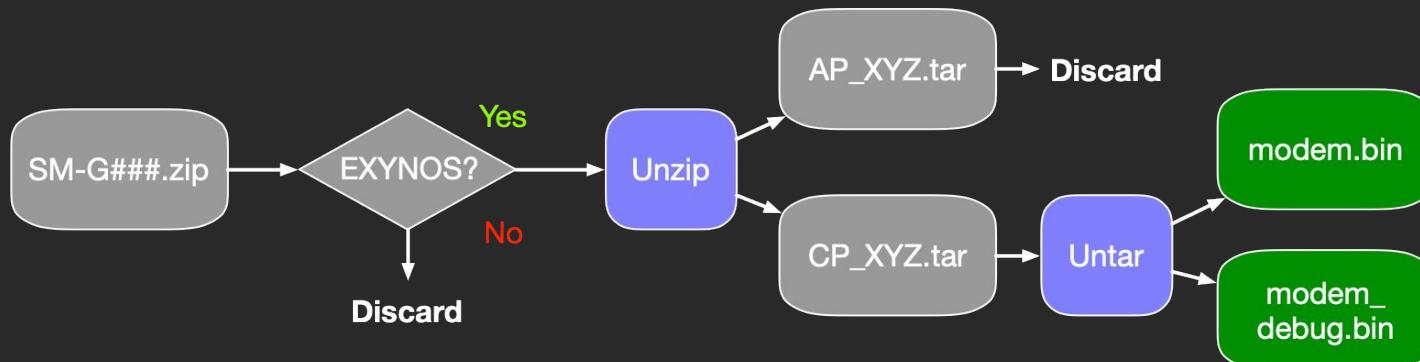
- Modern anti-debug makes on-target difficult without other exploits
- Manual reverse engineering is an option, but basebands are huge (doesn't scale)
 - See https://github.com/grant-h/shannon_s5000/
- Ideal setup:
 - GDB
 - Coverage guided fuzzing
 - Snapshotting
- **The most viable approach for scaling and automating our research is emulation**



Initial Firmware Reversing

Extracting modem.bin

- Firmware available at SamMobile
- Purchased Samsung S10 for research and targeted SM-G973F firmware



- Previous researchers and papers mentioned that `modem.bin` is encrypted
 - None of our images were `_(`)_/_`
- Well reverse engineered already: <https://github.com/Comsecuris/shannonRE>

00000000:	544f	4300	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	TOC.....
00000010:	0080	0040	1004	0000	0000	0000	0500	0000	...	@.....
00000020:	424f	4f54	0000	0000	0000	0000	2004	0000	BOOT.....	...
00000030:	0000	0040	401e	0000	d597	ad57	0100	0000	...	@@....W..
00000040:	4d41	494e	0000	0000	0000	0000	6022	0000	MAIN.....	`"..
00000050:	0000	0140	a079	5402	3fb1	20ef	0200	0000	...@.	yT.?..
00000060:	5653	5300	0000	0000	0000	0000	009c	5402	VSS.....	T..
00000070:	0000	8047	60f6	5d00	04e5	2907	0300	0000	...G`.]...)....
00000080:	4e56	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	NV.....
00000090:	0000	6045	0000	1000	0000	0000	0400	0000	..`E..
000000a0:	4f46	4653	4554	0000	0000	0000	00aa	0700	OFFSET.....
000000b0:	0000	0000	0056	0800	0000	0000	0500	0000V..

	Entry Name						File Offset			
	Load Address	Size	CRC	Count/Entry ID						
00000000:	[544f 4300 0000 0000 0000 0000]	[0000 0000]	[0000 0000]	TOC.....					
00000010:	[0080 0040]	[1004 0000]	[0000 0000]	[0500 0000]	...@...	
00000020:	424f 4f54	0000 0000	0000 0000	2004 0000	BOOT.....				
00000030:	0000 0040	401e 0000	d597 ad57	0100 0000	...@@.....	W....				
00000040:	4d41 494e	0000 0000	0000 0000	6022 0000	MAIN.....	^"..				
00000050:	0000 0140	a079 5402	3fb1 20ef	0200 0000	...@.yT.?				
00000060:	5653 5300	0000 0000	0000 0000	009c 5402	VSS.....	T.				
00000070:	0000 8047	60f6 5d00	04e5 2907	0300 0000	...G`..])....				
00000080:	4e56 0000	0000 0000	0000 0000	0000 0000	NV.....				
00000090:	0000 6045	0000 1000	0000 0000	0400 0000	..`E.....				
000000a0:	4f46 4653	4554 0000	0000 0000	00aa 0700	OFFSET.....				
000000b0:	0000 0000	0056 0800	0000 0000	0500 0000V.....				

	Entry Name						File Offset		
	Load Address	Size	CRC	Count/Entry ID					
00000000:	544f 4300 0000 0000 0000 0000	0000 0000		TOC.....	...				
00000010:	0080 0040	1004 0000	0000 0000	0500 0000	...	@...	...		
00000020:	424f 4f54 0000 0000 0000 0000	2004 0000		BOOT.....	...				
00000030:	0000 0040	401e 0000	d597 ad57	0100 0000	...	@...	W...		
00000040:	4d41 494e 0000 0000 0000 0000	6022 0000		MAIN.....	.."				
00000050:	0000 0140	a079 5402	3fb1 20ef	0200 0000	...@.	yT..?	.		
00000060:	5653 5300 0000 0000 0000 0000	009c 5402		VSS.....	.T.				
00000070:	0000 8047	60f6 5d00	04e5 2907	0300 0000	...G`]	.)	.		
00000080:	4e56 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000	0000 0000		NV.....					
00000090:	0000 6045	0000 1000	0000 0000	0400 0000	..`E				
000000a0:	4f46 4653 4554 0000 0000 0000	00aa 0700		OFFSET.....					
000000b0:	0000 0000	0056 0800	0000 0000	0500 0000	...	V...			

00000020:	424f 4f54 0000 0000 0000 0000	2004 0000	BOOT.....	...
00000030:	0000 0040	401e 0000	d597 ad57	0100 0000

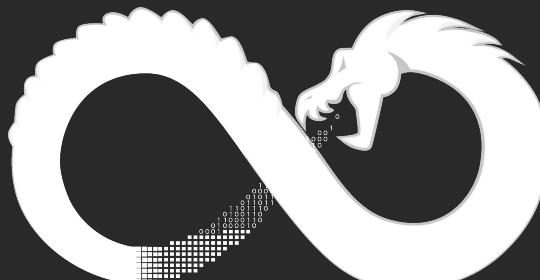
00000020:	424f 4f54 0000 0000 0000 0000	2004 0000	BOOT.....	...
00000030:	0000 0040	401e 0000	d597 ad57	0100 0000
00000040:	4d41 494e 0000 0000 0000 0000	6022 0000	MAIN.....	?"..
00000050:	0000 0140	a079 5402	3fb1 20ef	0200 0000

00000020:	424f	4f54	0000	0000	0000	0000	2004	0000	BOOT.....	...
00000030:	0000	0040	401e	0000	d597	ad57	0100	0000	...@@...	...W...



00000420:	3c00	00ea	d8f1	9fe5	d8f1	9fe5	d8f1	9fe5	<.....
00000430:	d8f1	9fe5	feff	ffe4	d4f1	9fe5	d4f1	9fe5
00000440:	f81b	0000	fc1b	0000	241c	0000	0000	0000\$.
00000450:	004c	4254	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	.LBT.
00000460:	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000

Looks like ARM “always” conditionals!
Let’s disassemble from here :)



Exception Vectors

```
40000000 3c 00 00 ea      b          boot_RESET
-- Flow Override: CALL_RETURN (CALL_TERMINATOR)
```

```
LAB_40000004                                XREF[1]:
```

40000004 d8 f1 9f e5	ldr	pc=>boot_UDI, [DAT_400001e4]
40000008 d8 f1 9f e5	ldr	pc=>boot_SWI, [DAT_400001e8]
4000000c d8 f1 9f e5	ldr	pc=>boot_PREFETCH, [DAT_400001ec]
40000010 d8 f1 9f e5	ldr	pc=>boot_DATA_ABORT, [DAT_400001f0]

```
boot_NA                                XREF[1]:
```

40000014 fe ff ff ea	b	boot_NA
40000018 d4 f1 9f e5	ldr	pc=>boot_IRQ, [DAT_400001f4]
4000001c d4 f1 9f e5	ldr	pc=>boot_FIQ, [DAT_400001f8]

Shannon Boot Mode

- Bootloader debug prints using UART
 - Saved to early boot log, can be dumped from kernel as well
- DUMP mode activated during crash dump
- BOOT mode for normal startup
- Who signals these boot modes?

```
if (boot_mode == DUMP_MODE) {  
    boot_unk_common_setup();  
    uart_putc('#');  
    boot_crash_or_dump();  
    boot_unk_crash();  
    uart_puts(s_Done_40000550);  
    FUN_40000d84(&DAT_00002e00);  
}  
else {  
    if (boot_mode == BOOT_MODE) {  
        boot_unk_common_setup();  
        uart_putc('#');  
        boot_prepare_mpu_next_ram();  
        uart_puts(s_Boot_40000568);  
        nextFnPointer = boot_comm_ap();  
        if ((void *)0x10000000 < nextFnPointer) {  
            boot_stage2(nextFnPointer);  
            goto LAB_400004f0;  
        }  
        r0 = s_Xxx!_40000570;  
    }  
    else {  
        r0 = s_Unknown_4000055c;  
    }  
    uart_puts(r0);  
}
```

A side-quest to the Samsung Kernel

- Examined the Samsung S10's kernel sources to better understand the modem's boot
 - Samsung S10 Kernel - <https://github.com/grant-h/SM-G973F-Kernel>
- drivers/misc/modem_v1
 - `modem_io_device.c` - dev node ioctl handler (for booting), read/write for commands
 - `link_device_memory.h` - **Contains structs on shared memory regions**
- Cellular Boot Daemon (CBD) communicates with `/dev/umts_boot0` (modem_v1)
 - `IOCTL_MODEM_RESET` - Reset and await new boot
 - `IOCTL_SECURITY_REQUEST` - Establish modem bootloader secure boot
 - `IOCTL_MODEM_ON`, `IOCTL_MODEM_BOOT_ON` - Start boot process
 - `IOCTL_MODEM_DL_START` - Download code to modem memory
 - `IOCTL_MODEM_BOOT_OFF` - Finalizes boot process

Cross-core Comms

- Modem driver in Linux maps shared memory region between CP and AP for DMA-based IPC (ring buffers)
- Commands are queued in a full-duplex fashion
- Commands come from Samsung RIL

```
#define MEM_IPC_MAGIC      0xAA
#define MEM_CRASH_MAGIC    0xDEADDEAD
#define MEM_BOOT_MAGIC     0x424F4F54
#define MEM_DUMP_MAGIC     0x44554D50
```

link_device_memory.h

```
struct __packed shmem_4mb_phys_map {
    u32 magic;
    u32 access;

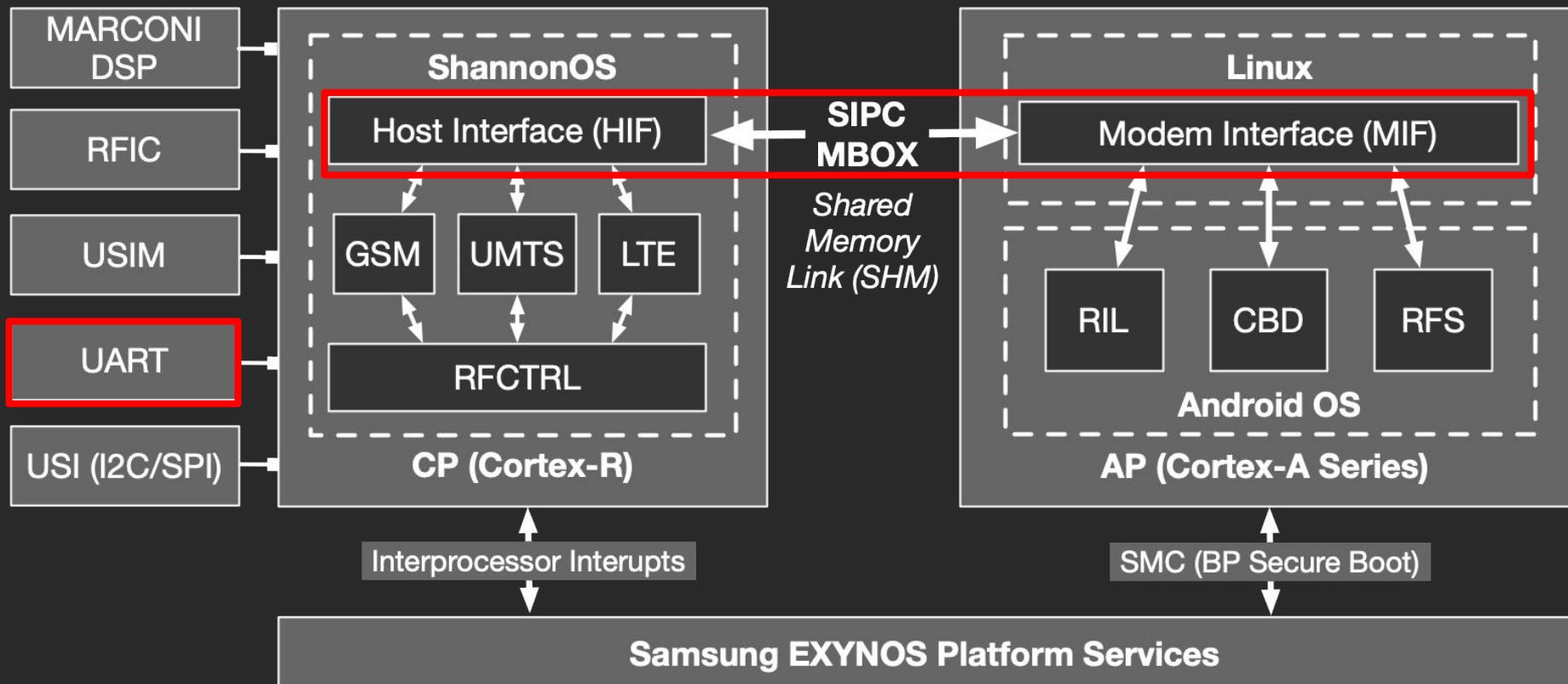
    u32 fmt_tx_head, fmt_tx_tail;
    u32 fmt_rx_head, fmt_rx_tail;

    u32 raw_tx_head, raw_tx_tail;
    u32 raw_rx_head, raw_rx_tail;
    ...

    char fmt_tx_buff[SHM_4M_FMT_TX_BUFF_SZ];
    char fmt_rx_buff[SHM_4M_FMT_RX_BUFF_SZ];
    ...

    char raw_tx_buff[SHM_4M_RAW_TX_BUFF_SZ];
    char raw_rx_buff[SHM_4M_RAW_RX_BUFF_SZ];
};
```

Peripherals





Choose your weapon

avatar² + QEMU

Displaying the Boot UART

```
if (boot_mode == DUMP_MODE) {
    boot_unk_common_setup();
    uart_putc('#');
    boot_crash_or_dump();
    boot_unk_crash();
    uart_puts(s_Done_40000550);
    FUN_40000d84(&DAT_00002e00);
}
else {
    if (boot_mode == BOOT_MODE) {
        boot_unk_common_setup();
        uart_putc('#');
    }
}
```

```
self.create_peripheral(UARTPeripheral,
0x84000000, 0x1000, name='boot_uart')
```

```
boot_stage2(nextFnPointer);
goto LAB_400004f0;
}
r0 = s_XxX!_40000570;
}
else {
    r0 = s_Unknown_4000055c;
}
uart_puts(r0);
```

```
class UARTPeripheral(ShannonPeripheral):
    def hw_read(self, offset, size):
        if offset == 0x18:
            return self.status

        return 0

    def hw_write(self, offset, size, value):
        if offset == 0:
            sys.stderr.write(chr(value & 0xff))
            sys.stderr.flush()
        else:
            self.log_write(value, size, "UART")

        return True

    def __init__(self, name, address, size, **kwargs):
        super(UARTPeripheral, self).__init__(name,
                                             address, size)
        self.status = 0
        self.write_handler[0:size] = self.hw_write
        self.read_handler[0:size] = self.hw_read
```

```
0x405fb812: LOG_clk_per[83000800] <= 30000000
0x405fb812: 00000200 <= LOG_clk_per[83000c00]
0x405fb812: LOG_clk_per[83000c00] <= 00003200
0x405fb812: 00003200 <= LOG_clk_per[83000c00]
0x405fb886: 00000000 <= LOG_clk_per[8300184c]
0x405fb886: LOG_clk_per[8300184c] <= 00100000
0x405fb886: 00100000 <= LOG_clk_per[8300184c]
0x405fb886: LOG_clk_per[8300184c] <= 00100000
0x405fb886: 00000000 <= LOG_clk_per[83001a0c]
0x405fb886: LOG_clk_per[83001a0c] <= 00000004
0x405fba78: 00000000 <= LOG_clk_per[83000004]
0x405fba78: LOG_clk_per[83000004] <= 00000514
0x405fba78: 00000000 <= LOG_clk_per[83000008]
0x405fba78: LOG_clk_per[83000008] <= 00000514
0x405fbb02: 00003200 <= LOG_clk_per[83000c00]
405fb16a: 20000000 <= LOG_clk_per[B00T_CLK_0]
405fb16a: 20000000 <= LOG_clk_per[B00T_CLK_0]
405fb16a: 20000000 <= LOG_clk_per[B00T_CLK_0]
0x405fbb16: 00003200 <= LOG_clk_per[83000c00]
0x405fbb16: 07000001 <= LOG_clk_per[83000a00]
405fb16a: 20000000 <= LOG_clk_per[B00T_CLK_0]
405fb16a: 20000000 <= LOG_clk_per[B00T_CLK_0]
405fb16a: 20000000 <= LOG_clk_per[B00T_CLK_0]
405fb16a: 20000000 <= LOG_clk_per[B00T_CLK_0]
```

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hrKDB6m0LnSYJ4WzmgpYBqvmlebcyJcw/view?usp=sharing>

Snapshot support

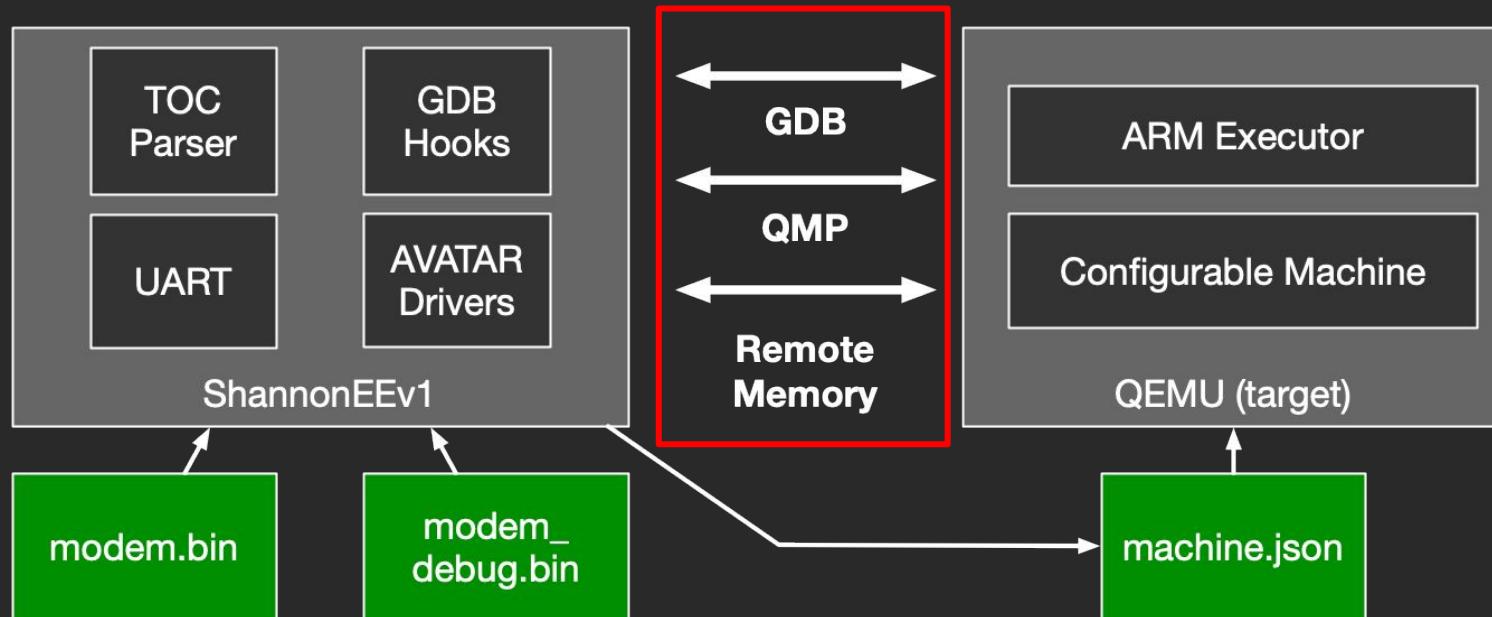
- Piece of cake with Avatar's remote QMP protocol support
- Care needed to snapshot Avatar PyPeripherals alongside QEMU memory

```
def snapshot(self, snapshot_name):  
    monitor = self.qemu.protocols.monitor  
  
    log.info("Performing snapshot " + snapshot_name)  
  
    peripherals = {}  
    for mem in self.avatar.memory_ranges:  
        if hasattr(mem.data, 'python_peripheral'):  
            per = mem.data.python_peripheral  
            log.info("Snapshotting " + str(per))  
            peripherals[mem.begin] = per  
  
    with open('avatar-snapshot-%s' % snapshot_name, 'wb') as fp:  
        pickle.dump(peripherals, fp)  
  
    log.info("Snapshotting qemu state...")  
    result = monitor.execute_command('human-monitor-command',  
                                    {"command-line": "savevm %s" % snapshot_name})  
    log.info("Snapshot result: " + result)  
  
    self.qemu.cont(blocking=False)
```

The tooling so far

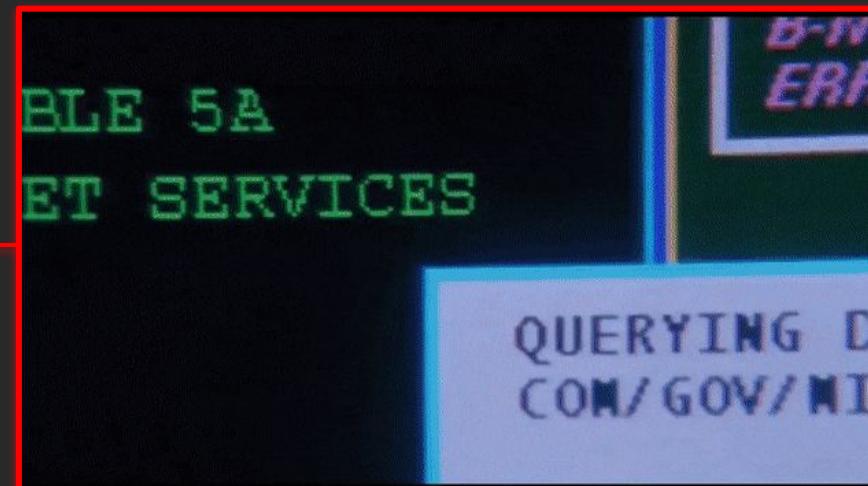
Avatar <-> QEMU IPC is slow

GDB hooks and remote memory are the primary bottleneck





hacking montage



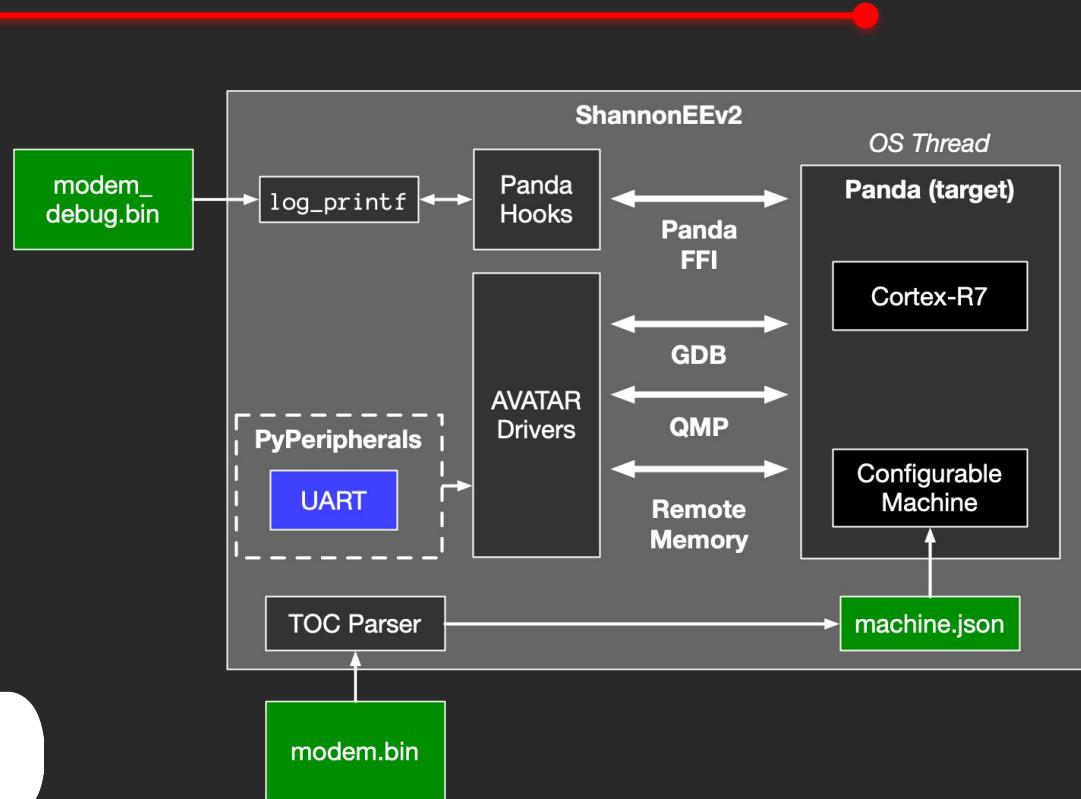
Moving to Panda

- Platform for Architecture-Neutral Dynamic Analysis
- First release in 2013
- Modified QEMU
 - Record & Replay Infrastructure
 - Plugin infrastructure
 - Callbacks to QEMU runtime state
- Already integrated in avatar2-infrastructure
- **Still has the same performance issues!**



Enter PyPanda

- import panda -> QEMU as a thread
 - No more IPC!
 - Single python interpreter with FFI for PANDA C functions
 - Can replace all GDB hooks with native panda hooks in Python
- **HUGE speedup!**



Emulating Peripherals: pal_init1()

- A huge monolith function that starts all modem subsystems and tasks
 - Activates malloc heap
 - Loads NV items
 - Starts timers
 - Initializes DSP(s)
 - Starts all tasks
- Iteratively emulated peripherals by watching for crash strings or infinite loops
- MMIO monitoring used to see which peripherals needed more modeling
- Simple automated cyclic-bit pattern heuristic
- **Partially emulated: PMIC, CLK, DSP, SOC, SIPC/SHM, TIMER, GIC**

```
00000040: [4d41 494e 0000 0000 0000 0000] [6022 0000] [MAIN.....] ["..."]
00000050: [0000 0140] [a079 5402] [3fb1 20ef] [0200 0000] [...]@.yT.?..[...]
```

We reached the banner!



```
[VARIANT/PALVar/Platform_EV/CHIPSET/S5000AP/device/User/src/pal_main.c] - BandSet: Done.
```

```
=====
```

DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM

- ARM Emulation Baseboard | Cortex-R7
- Software Build Date : Jul 19 2019 05:03:07
- Software Builder :
- Compiler Version : ARM RVCT 50.6 [Build 422]

```
Platform Abstraction Layer (PAL) Powered by  
CP Platform Part
```

```
=====
```

```
[INFO] OS_Create_Event_Group(0x4177b710, ACPM_PMIC_RX_EVENT)
```

```
[VARIANT/PALVar/Platform_EV/HAL/Common/driver/Acpm/src/hw_Acpm.c] - [ACPM] Shannon OS  
[_ShannonOS_3.2_R8_AC5]
```



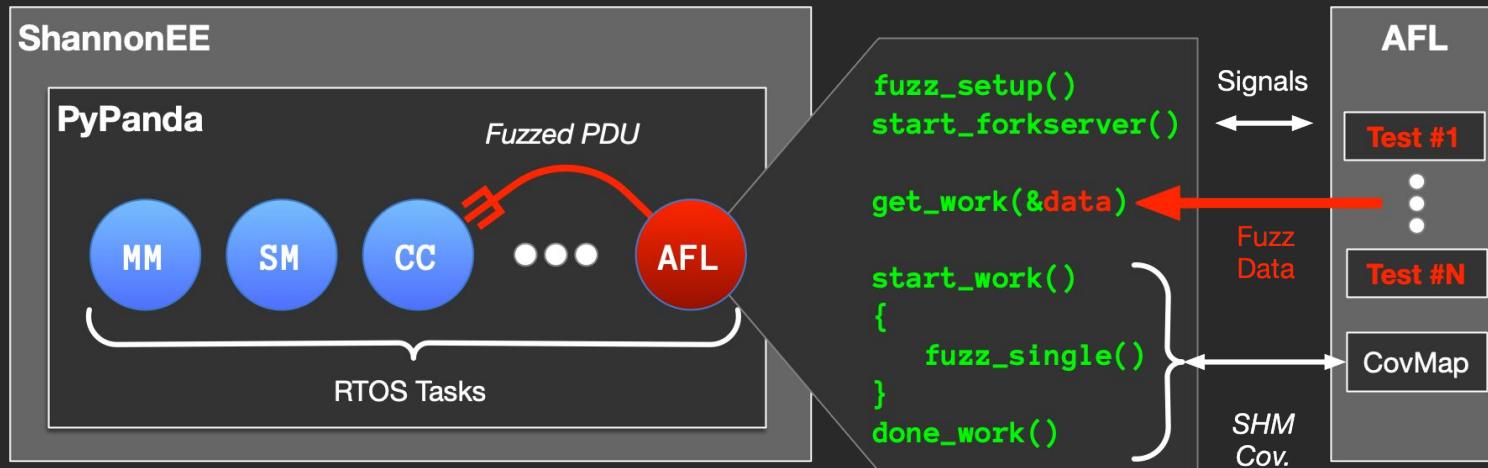
Fuzz' n' Roll

Enter Triforce-AFL

- Originally developed in 2017
- Invokes AFL from within the guest via hypercalls
- We combined the patch-set with some afl++ additions
 - Better coverage-collection
 - Persistent mode
- **Fuzzing from within using the AFL Task**

Using the ModKit for the AFL Task

- Wrote our own **ModKit**
- Inject custom tasks inside the emulated baseband
- C-based compiled modules
- Dynamic baseband symbol resolution for a nice FFI
 - Provides access to recovered Shannon symbols
- Mods dynamically linked into RWX page in baseband memory



Task Targeting

- Target the task message queues
- Increases accuracy as significant processing before radio payloads
 - No need for manual rehosting of functions, just need the right message IDs
- Inter-task messaging
 - pal_SendMsg(QID, msg)
 - pal_RecvMsg(QID)

```
struct qitem_header {
    union {
        struct {
            uint16_t src; // source queue
            uint16_t dst; // destination queue
        };
        uint32_t dir;
    };
    uint16_t size; // size of the payload
    uint16_t msgId; // [msgGroup:8] [msgNumber:8]
} PACKED;
```

GSM SM (GPRS) Fuzzing Harness

```
struct qitem_sm {
    struct qitem_header header;
    char *pdu; // payload inline
} PACKED;
```

- Harness run by AFL Task to play nice with the RTOS scheduler

```
const char TASK_NAME[] = "AFL_GSM_SM\0";
static pal_qid_t qid;
// called once before forkserver
int fuzz_single_setup()
{
    // dynamically look up the QID
    qid = queueName2id("SM");

    struct qitem_sm * init =
malloc(sizeof(struct qitem_sm));

    init->header.size = 0;
    // 0x3407 SMREG_INIT_REQ
    init->header.msgId = 0x3407;
    pal_SendMsg(qid, init);

    return 1;
}
```

GSM SM fuzz_single()

```
// called for each test case
void fuzz_single()
{
    uint32_t input_size;
    uint16_t size;

    struct qitem_sm * item =
        malloc(sizeof(struct qitem_sm));
    char * pdu = malloc(AFL_MAX_INPUT);

    item->pdu = pdu;

    char * buf = getWork(&input_size);
}

// Only target the RADIO_MSGs
item->header.msgGroup = 0x3414;
item->header.size = size;
memcpy(item->pdu, buf, size);

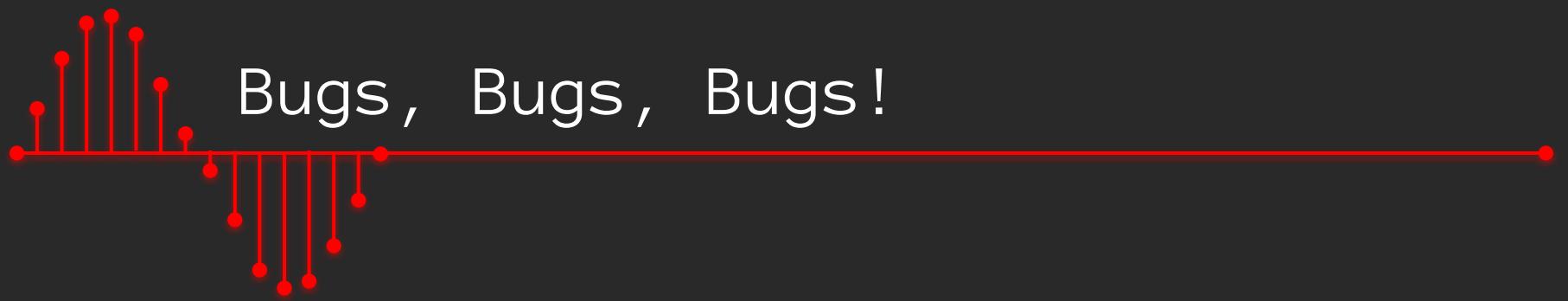
// memory range to collect coverage
startWork(0, 0xffffffff);

// immediately reschedules to target task
pal_SendMsg(qid, item);
// returns here when task done processing
doneWork(0);
}
```

american fuzzy lop 2.06b (GSM_MM)

process timing	overall results
run time : 0 days, 0 hrs, 0 min, 52 sec	cycles done : 0
last new path : 0 days, 0 hrs, 0 min, 0 sec	total paths : 93
last uniq crash : none seen yet	uniq crashes : 0
last uniq hang : 0 days, 0 hrs, 0 min, 27 sec	uniq hangs : 2
cycle progress	map coverage
now processing : 1 (1.08%)	map density : 942 (0.04%)
paths timed out : 0 (0.00%)	count coverage : 1.64 bits/tuple
stage progress	findings in depth
now trying : calibration	favored paths : 11 (11.83%)
stage execs : 38/40 (95.00%)	new edges on : 52 (55.91%)
total execs : 18.8k	total crashes : 0 (0 unique)
exec speed : 960.0/sec	total hangs : 28 (2 unique)
fuzzing strategy yields	path geometry
bit flips : n/a, n/a, n/a	levels : 2
byte flips : n/a, n/a, n/a	pending : 93
arithmetics : n/a, n/a, n/a	pend fav : 11
known ints : n/a, n/a, n/a	own finds : 80
dictionary : n/a, n/a, n/a	imported : 0
havoc : 0/0, 0/0	variable : 91
trim : 0.00%/4, n/a	

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zGFQmlkJ7VuT-K-wDInJo4nhwJl7GpvL/view?usp=sharing>



Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!

N-day Rediscovery

- Let's rediscover an n-day in Shannon
- Targeted ~2017 Galaxy S7 firmware (Amat's research environment)
- Built harness for GSM & GPRS radio packet handlers
 - Call control (CC)
 - Mobility Management (MM)
 - Session management (SM)
- AFL automatically rediscovered the GPRS PDP_NETWORK_ACCEPT crash from “A Walk with Shannon”!

0-day Fuzzing

- **Target:** the GSM and GPRS protocol stacks (2 and 2.5G)
- Why 2G?
 - Lowest hanging fruit in baseband,
 - Trivial fake base station based attack model (no mutual authentication in 2G)
- Coverage guided fuzzing generated test cases (blank initial seeds)
- Coverage debugging using PANDA and plotting using GHIDRA's Dragondance
- Ran across 30 CPU cores for 5 days of CPU time (highly scalable)
- **Rediscovered two n-days (S7 Edge) and one 0-day (S10) vulnerability!**
 - In disclosure process with Samsung
- LTE is next on our list :)

“Call of Death” n-day

- On the S7 we discovered a previously unknown overflow in the parsing of the call setup bearer Information Element (IE) (3GPP 24.008 - 5.2.2)
- This packet is incorrectly parsed by the baseband when a call is incoming
- Heap based buffer overflow
- **We confirmed that this vulnerability is no longer!
Bounds checking has been added in the latest modem versions**

ShannonEE Triage

```
[2.17512] [AFL] 0x4500013d pal_MsgSendTo(CC (23))
[2.17539] [CC] 0x40d3e3c7 0b101: [cc_Main.c] - CC TASK
[2.17570] [CC] 0x40d3de45 0b10: [cc_Main.c] - cc_UpdStackId :CcCurrentStackId: 0
[2.17612] [CC] 0x4088ddb9 0b101: [cc_MsgDescription.c] - cc_MapSubTypeToMessageNum SubType = 5
[2.17990] [CC] 0x40d3dfcf 0b101: [cc_Main.c] - [StackNo] 0
[2.18022] [CC] 0x40d3e051 0b100: [cc_Main.c] - CC <= <RADIO MSG> SETUP_IND
[2.18059] [CC] 0x40d3e245 0b1010: [cc_Main.c] - PRIVACY! MT message : SETUP
<..snip...
[2.18775] [CC] 0x40d3a7d5 0b100: [cc_PduCodec.c] - ----- Displaying Information Elements -----
[2.18814] [CC] 0x40d39beb 0b100: [cc_PduCodec.c] - Received SETUP From Network
[2.18846] [CC] 0x40d39c05 0b100: [cc_PduCodec.c] - 2 Mandatory IE ->...[24.008]-9.3.23.2
[2.18870] [CC] 0x40d39c21 0b100: [cc_PduCodec.c] - BearerCapabilityOne -> ...
[2.19013] [CC] 0x408a775b 0b101: [cc_MtCallEstablishment.c] - Entering cc_DecodeSetupIndMsg...[24.008] -
5.2.2...
[2.19066] [CC] 0x408a7841 0b10: [cc_MtCallEstablishment.c] - TransactionId -> 11
[2.19164] [CC] 0x40d407a7 0b100: [cc_Main.c] - Bearer 1 Capability ->.....
[2.19230] [CC] 0x40d40997 0b100: [cc_Main.c] - Network Transfer Capability -> CC_NTWK_SPEECH_BEARER
<..snip...
[2.20447] [CC] 0x4103e933 0b100: [bc_utilities.c] - Setting BC_LENGTH_OF_BEARER (0) = 0x82
[ERROR] FATAL ERROR (CC): from 0x40fc1e69 [pal_PlatformMisc.c:146 - Fatal error:PAL_MEM_GUARD_CORRUPTION
pal_MemInterface.c Line 886]
```

Breakpoint 4, 0x40fc8960 in ?? ()

[Legend: Modified register | Code | Heap | Stack | String]

registers

\$r0 : 0x43694ae8	→ 0x30303030	→ 0x00000000	→ 0xea000023	→ 0x00000000 → [loop detected]
\$r1 : 0x43694af8	→ 0x30303030	→ 0x00000000	→ 0xea000023	→ 0x00000000 → [loop detected]
\$r2 : 0x30303030	→ 0x00000000	→ 0xea000023	→ 0x00000000	→ [loop detected]
\$r3 : 0x43694ad0	→ 0xaaaaaaaaaa	→ 0x00000000	→ 0xea000023	→ 0x00000000 → [loop detected]
\$r4 : 0x43694a80	→ 0x00000004	→ 0x00000000	→ 0x00000000	→ 0x00000000 → [loop detected]
\$r5 : 0x00000004	→ 0xe59ff15c			
\$r6 : 0x43694aa0	→ 0x30308004			
\$r7 : 0x0000008c6	→ 0x00000e311			
\$r8 : 0x408a61e0	→ 0x2e2f2e2e0			
\$r9 : 0x00000000	→ 0xea000023			
\$r10 : 0x42ef9494	→ 0x43694aa0			
\$r11 : 0x42c97838	→ 0x00000000			
\$r12 : 0x00000000	→ 0xea000023			
\$sp : 0x42ef9448	→ 0x00000041			
\$lr : 0x40fc88bb	→ 0x00f04f90			
\$pc : 0x40fc8960	→ 0x3faaf1b2			
\$cpsr: [negative zero CARRY over]				

stack

```
gef> shell xxd -e ./cc-crash-min
00000000: 30303030 30303030 30303030 30303030 0000000000000000
00000010: 80040533 30303030 30303030 30303030 3...00000000000000
00000020: 30303030 30303030 30303030 30303030 0000000000000000
00000030: 30303030 30303030 30303030 30303030 0000000000000000
00000040: 30303030 30303030 30303030 30303030 0000000000000000
00000050: 30303030 30303030 30303030 30303030 0000000000000000
00000060: 30303030 30303030 30303030 30303030 0000000000000000
00000070: 30303030 30303030 30303030 30303030 0000000000000000
00000080: 30303030 30303030 30303030 30303030 0000000000000000
00000090: 30303030 0000000000000000 0000000000000000 0000000000000000
```

code:arm:ARM

threads

0x40fc8954	add r1, r3
0x40fc8956	it eq
0x40fc8958	subeq r1, #20
→ 0x40fc8960	cmp.w r2, #2863311530 ; 0aaaaaaaaaa
0x40fc8964	bne.n 0x40fc896c
0x40fc8966	adds r0, r0, #4
0x40fc8968	cmp r1, r0
0x40fc896a	bhi.n 0x40fc895e
0x40fc896c	cmp r0, r1

trace

[#0] Id 1, stopped 0x40fc8960 in ?? (), reason: BREAKPOINT

[#0] 0x40fc8960 → cmp.w r2, #2863311530 ; 0aaaaaaaaaa

[#1] 0x40fc88ba → str r0, [sp, #16]

gef> x/16wx \$r0

0x43694ae8:	0x30303030	0x30303030	0x30303030	0x30303030
0x43694af8:	0x30303030	0x30303030	0x30303030	0x30303030
0x43694b08:	0x30303030	0x30303030	0x30303030	0x30303030
0x43694b18:	0x30303030	0x30303030	0x43693030	0x4378ba20



Experimental Setup

- **SDR:** bladeRF x40 (\$420)
- **Base station:** YateBTS (modified with exploit payload)
- **Target device:** Samsung S10 / S7
- **SIM Card:** Osmocom USIM (for easy phone connection)
- Thanks to Tyler Tucker for recording the demo and managing the test setup!





<https://youtu.be/Bhs054ma5OQ>

Crash Triggered!

```
RILD2  : Read: MODEM not Online - IO_STATUS [2]
chatty : uid=10142(com.sec.android.inputmethod) identical 1 line
SKBD   : and isTosAccept false
CASS   : Modem status : 0x04 -> 0x02
CASS   : CP CRASH_EXIT
RILD2  : IoChannelReader poller stopped
boot   : cbd: m: status_loop: deviceOff = 0
boot   : cbd: m: status_loop: get event 2
boot   : cbd: m: status_loop: DBG_LOW, wait onrestart by rild
SKBD   : and isTosAccept false
RILD2  : DoModemSilentReset()
```

Output of adb logcat during S7 crash



Let's wrap it up

Remaining Challenges & Future Work

- Cellular-tailored stateful fuzzing is a requirement to get deeper code coverage
- The physical layer is ignored - what are we missing by not supporting it?
 - DSPs are attack surface too
- A holistic analysis of baseband attack surface
 - What has been covered and what remains

Takeaways

- We need scalable tools to keep up with the ever increasing amount of cellular protocol implementations and attack surface, especially with widespread 5G on the horizon.
- Building a baseband emulator, even with undocumented hardware configurations can be done. We can bring this methodology to other basebands.
- We MUST emulate basebands for the level of introspection required to debug memory corruptions. Over-the-air testing alone is not sufficient.

Releases

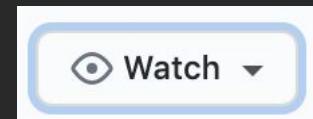


<https://github.com/grant-h/ShannonBaseband>

- GHIDRA Tools
 - Shannon firmware loader
 - Debug annotation script
 - Auto-renamer
- Shannon reversing details
 - Export of 2017 Shannon image (reversed)
 - On-device log parser (.BTL) and file format info
- Firmware samples



<https://github.com/grant-h/ShannonEE>



- **ShannonEE** (will be released after disclosures + QA)

Acknowledgements



NSF/SRC CNS-1815883

Semiconductor
Research
Corporation



NWO 628.001.030 ("TROPICS")



AFOSR FA8560-18-S-1201
AFRL/AFOSR-2018-003



ONR OTA-N00014-20-1-2205

Thanks !



@Digital_Cold

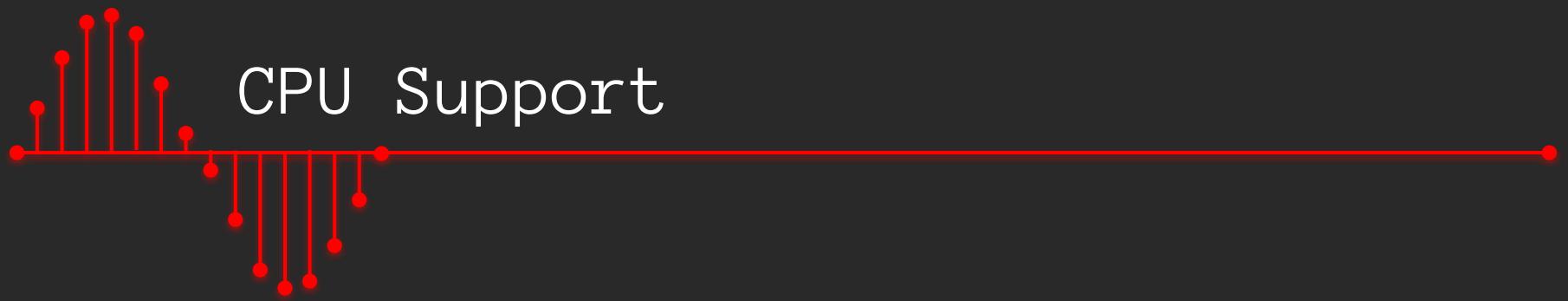


@nSinusR



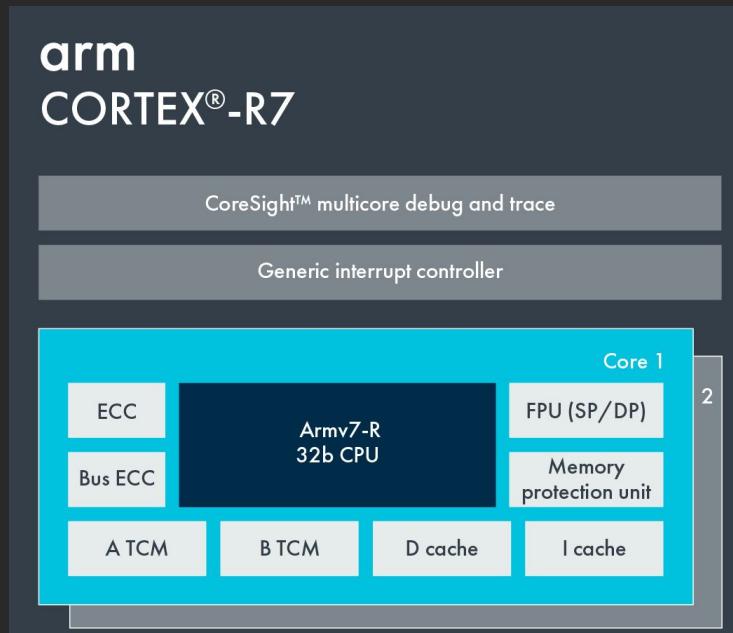


Backup Slides



Shannon CPU Support

- ARM Cortex-R7 (identified from strings and previous work)
- QEMU doesn't support this ARM variant
 - This seems like it could derail things before they even get started
- QEMU does support the R5
- **What would be required to get the R7 working?**
 - Time to read the processor documentation



Taken from
<https://developer.arm.com/ip-products-processors/cortex-r/cortex-r7>

```

diff --git a/target/arm/cpu.c b/target/arm/cpu.c
index 04b062c..9f6d05e 100644
--- a/target/arm/cpu.c
+++ b/target/arm/cpu.c
@@ -1132,6 +1132,15 @@ static void cortex_r5_initfn(Object *obj)
    define_arm_cp_regs(cpu, cortexr5_cp_reginfo);
}

+static void cortex_r7_initfn(Object *obj)
+{
+    ARMCPU *cpu = ARM_CPU(obj);
+
+    cortex_r5_initfn(obj);
+    // granth: not sure how many there actually are
+    cpu->pmsav7_dregion = 32;
+}
+
 static const ARMCPURegInfo cortexa8_cp_reginfo[] = {
    { .name = "L2LOCKDOWN", .cp = 15, .crn = 9, .crm = 0, .opc1 = 1, .opc2 = 0,
      .access = PL1_RW, .type = ARM_CP_CONST, .resetvalue = 0 },
@@ -1573,6 +1582,7 @@ static const ARMCPUInfo arm_cpus[] = {
    { .name = "cortex-m4",   .initfn = cortex_m4_initfn,
      .class_init = arm_v7m_class_init },
    { .name = "cortex-r5",   .initfn = cortex_r5_initfn },
+   { .name = "cortex-r7",   .initfn = cortex_r7_initfn },
    { .name = "cortex-a7",   .initfn = cortex_a7_initfn },

```

Not much
after all :)

ShannonLoader for GHIDRA

- Automates the extraction of TOC entries into memory regions
- Extracts MPU tables for extra RAM/MMIO regions, allowing for XREFs
- Resolves overlapping memory regions and applies MPU permissions (RO/RW, X)
- Useful for batch loading of modem firmware (e.g. when BinDiffing)

Name:

ShannonLoader

Description: A loader for Samsung's Shannon modem binaries.

Author:

Grant Hernandez

Created-on: 3/1/2020

Version: 9.1.2



Automated memory map extraction

- MPU enables coarse-grained permission control (rwx) over memory regions
- ShannonEE parses MPU configurations to automatically create regions in Panda
- Uses binary patterns ([0-255] based regex) to reliably find MPU signature

```
00000000 - 00002e40 TOC_BOOT_LOW (rwx)
00002e40 - 00008000 SPLIT_2e40_51c0 (r-x)
00100000 - 00120000 MPU22_00100000 (rw-)
04000000 - 04020000 MPU1_04000000 (r-x)
04800000 - 04804000 MPU2_04800000 (rw-)
40000000 - 40002e40 TOC_BOOT (rwx)
40002e40 - 40010000 SPLIT_40002e40_d1c0 (r-x)
40010000 - 43010000 TOC_MAIN (rwx)
43010000 - 45600000 SPLIT_43010000_25f0000 (rwx)
45600000 - 45700000 NV (rw-)
45700000 - 46000000 MPU3_45700000 (rwx)
...
47300000 - 47382000 SPLIT_47300000_82000 (rw-)
47382000 - 47382100 DSPPeripheral (<class 'hw.DSPPeripheral.DSPPeripheral'>)
...
```

Multi-SoC

```
class S355AP(ShannonSOC):
    peripherals = [
        SOCPeripheral(DSPPeripheral, 0x4751b000, 0x100, name="DSPPeripheral", sync=[137, 292]),
        SOCPeripheral(PMICPeripheral, 0x96450000, 0x1000, name="PMIC"),
        SOCPeripheral(S355DSPBufferPeripheral, 0x47504000, 0x1000, name="DSPB"),
    ]

    CHIP_ID = 0x03550000
    SIPC_BASE = 0x95b40000
    SHM_BASE = 0x48000000
    SOC_BASE = 0x83000000
    SOC_CLK_BASE = 0x83002000
    CLK_PERIPHERAL = S355APC1kPeripheral
    TIMER_BASE = SOC_BASE + 0xc000

    name = "S355AP"
```



Backtrace Logging

Modem Backtrace Logging (BTL)

- Dumped on crash, but can be manually extracted (.BTL files)
- Reverse engineered BTL task
- LZ4 encoded log ring buffer in baseband memory
 - Log entries are pointers to format strings in modem_debug.bin
 - Varargs are pointers or literals, depending on format specifier
- Not 100% reverse engineered, but good enough to compare ShannonEE with real modem logging

