

# Bluetooth, Suffering, and You

## Part I: Into The Bluetooth-verse

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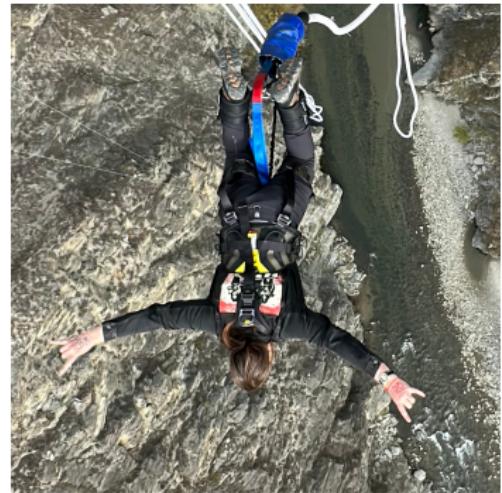
# Who the BLEEP are you?

Yeah, what the title says!

- What will today be about? **Bluetooth Biznatches!**
- What should I learn? **Basics of Bluetooth and Limitations**
- Why pay attention? **Basically wireless wires and Attacks!**

# Whoami

- PhD
- Bluetooth Security Researcher
- Research Scientist



# What is this?

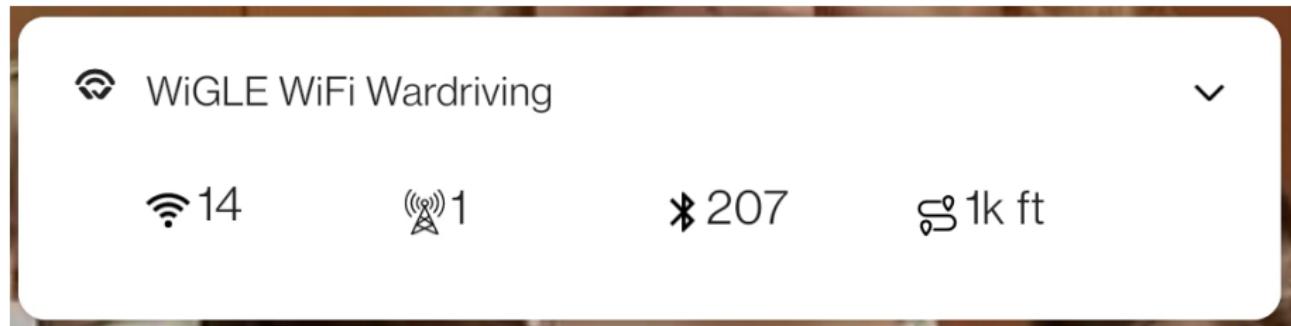


Figure 1: Wiggle War Drive - Landing Strip

## “Lightning” Headphones That Require Bluetooth

Josh Whiton:

A crazy experience — I lost my earbuds in a remote town in Chile, so tried buying a new pair at the airport before flying out. But the new wired, iPhone, lightning-cable headphones didn't work. Strange.

# Why is Bluetooth Important?

- Ubiquity of devices in the wild
- What is Bluetooth purposed for?
  - Replace Wires... Wirelessly...
- Embedded Systems? Internet of Things!
  - Ex: Medical, Home, Space, Towns, Roads, Sensors, etm.

# What is Bluetooth (A History)

- Who pioneered a key component of Bluetooth???



# What is Bluetooth (A History)

- Hedy Lamarr: Secret runaway, Movie star, scientific leader, all around bad-ass



# What is Bluetooth (A History)

- Designs the first modern airplane wing
- Discovered how to manipulate radio frequencies (called frequency hopping) to form an unbreakable code to protect classified messages from being intercepted by the German military
  - Technology (e.g. spread spectrum) that made wireless phones, GPS systems, and many other devices of our day possible
- Her work was a forerunner to modern day Bluetooth technology used in mobile phones and Wi-Fi systems
- She was marketed as the most beautiful woman in the world by Hollywood film makers

# BR/ED vs BLE

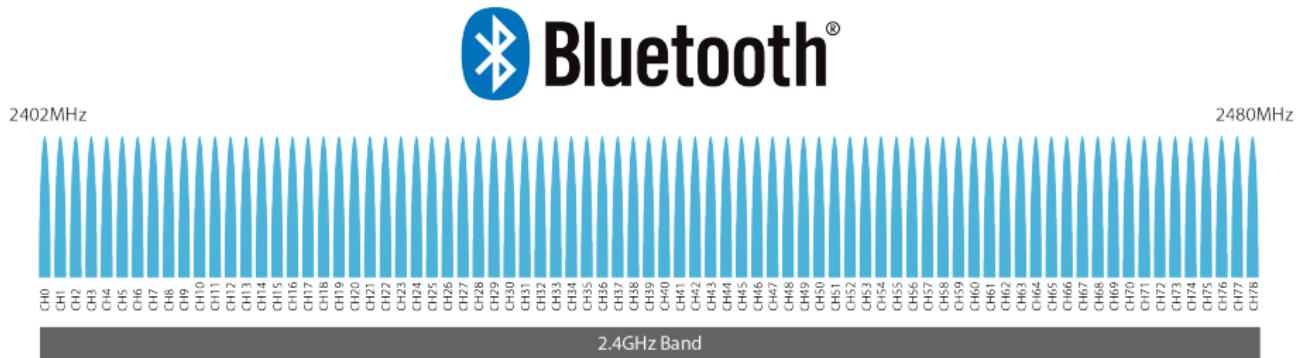


Figure 3: Bluetooth Classic Spectrum

- 79 number of (pairing) channels
- Freq. hoping to minimize interference
  - Defense in depth
- Larger power requirements minimize effectiveness for embedded systems

# BR/ED vs BLE

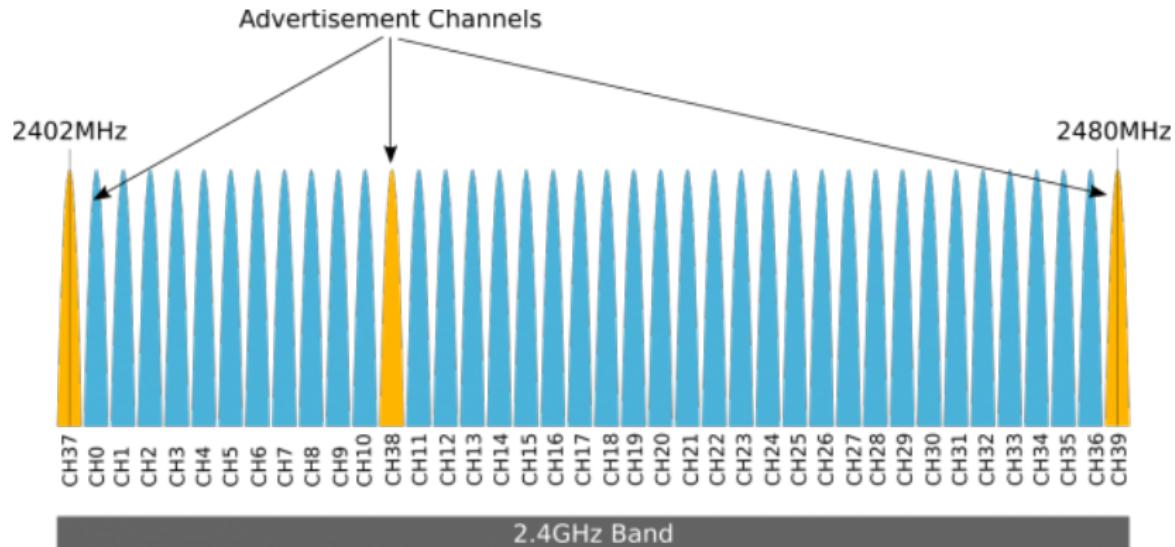


Figure 4: Bluetooth Low Energy Spectrum

- Three pairing channels; simplified sniffing of pairing
- Post connection return to classic frequency hopping
  - Capture of handshake provides easier eavesdropping
- Lower power requirements; ideal for embedded systems

# BLE - Must Know Basics

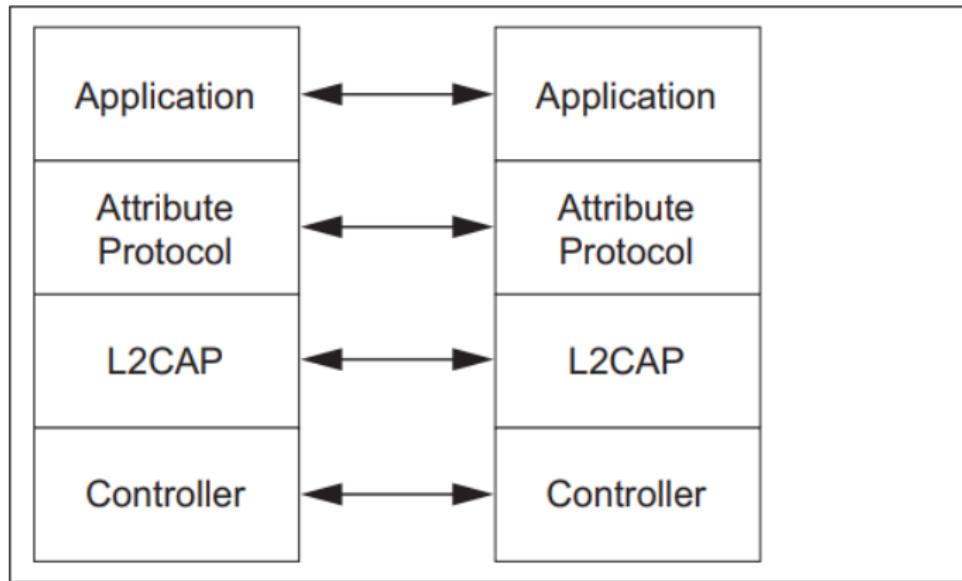
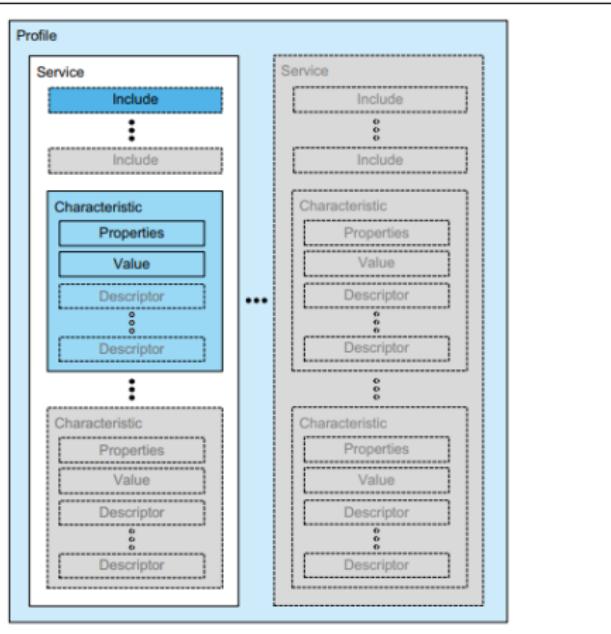


Figure 5: Protocol model [14]

- Everything goes through the HCI Layer; bottom most layer
  - HW-2-SW translation

# BLE - Must Know Basics - High-level BLE Structure



- Device, Services, Characteristics, Descriptors
- Characteristics have to be read once to populate data
  - Second read allows determining the data

Figure 6: GATT-Based Profile hierarchy [14]

# What Hardware Exists

## Bluetooth Hardware:

- Ubertooth One – Bluetooth Classic listener
- UD100-G03 Bluetooth Adapter – USB Bluetooth device effective for Bluetooth sniffing and interaction
- HackRF – Software-Defined Radio (SDR) that can be tuned to capture Bluetooth Radio Frequency (RF) spectrum transmissions
- Micro:Bit – USB Bluetooth Low Energy development device; very inexpensive
- Embedded Systems - ESP32, RTL8720DN/BW16 (Arduino IDE Codable)

# What Code Libraries Exist

What libraries are out there you say?

- btzen
- $\mu$ python bluetooth / aioble
- bleak
- pybluez
- simplepyble
- NoBLE
- BLEno
- PyBT
- PyGATT

Note: A generally found reference is ukBaz Bluetooth Writings

# What about Reference Material?

- Bluetooth Special Interest Group Specs
- BlueZ Reference Documentation

What about the tools?



# Tools in the Ether

- gatttool
  - Useful, mainly depreciated
- bettercap
  - Go framework meant as an all-in-one solution; incorporated in older *bleah* toolset
- Blue Hydra
  - Bluetooth device sniffing and tracking
- hcitool
  - Command Line tool for configuring Bluetooth
- HCIDump
  - Tool similar to TCPDump to capture Bluetooth traffic on the host
- Bluetoothctl
  - Interactive Bluetooth control tool
- BlueSoleil
  - Windows-based software for service enumeration and interaction with Bluetooth devices

# Sanity Check via Tools

- Learning the basics with tools
  - dbus-send, dbus-monitor, gdbus, busctl
  - btmon, btmgmt, bluetoothctl



## Sanity Check via Tools - bluetoothctl

```
[Light Orb]# pair F0:98:7D:0A:05:07
Attempting to pair with F0:98:7D:0A:05:07
Failed to pair: org.bluez.Error.AuthenticationFailed
[CHG] Device F0:98:7D:0A:05:07 ServicesResolved: no
[CHG] Device F0:98:7D:0A:05:07 Connected: no
[DEL] Descriptor (Handle 0x4a10)
      /org/bluez/hci0/dev_F0_98_7D_0A_05_07/service0001/char0002/desc0004
      00002902-0000-1000-8000-00805f9b34fb
      ClientCharacteristicConfiguration
```

Figure 7: bluetoothctl - Light Orb Test

Cool... - Now What?



# What D-Bus is this?

- Linux specific orientation to work
- Not as familiar with Windows layer for Bluetooth API/Interaction
- From Armis 2023 White Paper:
  - “The first significant stack is Linux’s BlueZ stack, which was used by early Android versions, and is still in use by Linux and other OSs derived from it, such as Samsung’s Tizen OS. Later on, Android developed its own stack, called Bluedroid or Fluoride, used in all Android devices from version 4.2 onwards. Windows has its own Bluetooth stack, since Windows XP, and Apple created two variations of the Bluetooth stack, one for iOS, and the other for OSX.”

# Basics

- D-Bus developed and maintained by freedesktop.org
  - URL: [www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/dbus](http://www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/dbus)
- D-Bus uses code agnostic low-level API reference implementation that works/portable to any Linux or UNIX flavor
  - Make use of Python API calls with tool
- D-Bus is a message bus system; providing a simple way for applications to talk to one another
  - Provides a system daemon and a per-user-login-session daemon [1]

# D-Bus Interfaces - Basics



- D-Bus interaction and enumeration is done via a series of interfaces
- Interfaces exist for each “layer” of interactivity with the GATT Server

# D-Bus Interfaces - Little Bit Deeper Now

- Several types of D-Bus interfaces; each with separate purposes
  - Methods = Functions
  - Signals =?? Periodic Communications ?? \\_\\_ (o.O) \\_\\_ /
  - Properties = Properties
- Examples of interfaces:
  - Device - org.bluez.Device1
  - GATT Service - org.bluez.GattService1
  - Properties - org.freedesktop.DBus.Properties
  - Introspection - org.freedesktop.DBus.Introspectable

# D-Bus Interfaces - busctl

```
(user kali)-[~/Documents/Blueman]
$ busctl tree org.bluez
└/org
  └/org/bluez
    └/org/bluez/hci0
      ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6
      |  ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0001
      |  |  └/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0001/char0002
      |  |    └/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0001/char0002/desc0004
      |  └/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0029
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char002b
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char002d
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char002f
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0031
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0033
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0035
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0037
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0039
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char003b
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char003d
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char003f
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0041
      |    ├/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0043
      |    └/org/bluez/hci0/dev_CC_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0028/char0045
```

# D-Bus Interfaces - busctl - Introspection

NAME	TYPE	SIGNATURE	RESULT/VALUE	FLAGS
<b>org.bluez.Device1</b>	interface	-	-	-
.CancelPairing	method	-	-	-
.Connect	method	-	-	-
.ConnectProfile	method	s	-	-
.Disconnect	method	-	-	-
.DisconnectProfile	method	s	-	-
.Pair	method	-	-	-
.Adapter	property	o	"/org/bluez/hci0"	emits-change
.Address	property	s	"CC:50:E3:B6:BC:A6"	emits-change
.AddressType	property	s	"public"	emits-change
.Alias	property	s	"2b00042f7481c7b056c4b410d28f33cf"	emits-change writable
.Appearance	property	q	-	emits-change
.Blocked	property	b	false	emits-change writable
.Class	property	u	-	emits-change
.Connected	property	b	true	emits-change
.Icon	property	s	-	emits-change
.LegacyPairing	property	b	false	emits-change
.ManufacturerData	property	a{qv}	-	emits-change
.Modalias	property	s	-	emits-change
.Name	property	s	"2b00042f7481c7b056c4b410d28f33cf"	emits-change
.Paired	property	b	false	emits-change
.RSSI	property	n	-	emits-change
.ServiceData	property	a{sv}	-	emits-change
.ServicesResolved	property	b	true	emits-change
.Trusted	property	b	false	emits-change writable
.TxPower	property	n	-	emits-change
.UUIDs	property	as	3 "000000ff-0000-1000-8000-00805f9b34fb	emits-change
.WakeAllowed	property	b	-	emits-change writable
<b>org.freedesktop.DBus.Introspectable</b>	interface	-	-	-
.Introspect	method	-	s	-
<b>org.freedesktop.DBus.Properties</b>	interface	-	-	-
.Get	method	ss	v	-
.GetAll	method	s	a{sv}	-
.Set	method	ssv	-	-

# D-Bus Interfaces - Introspection

- Compare returned data against ‘busctl’ visibility
- Create rough structures
  - Enough to proceed with enumeration
- Understanding: Each interface is explored via an **introspection** interface
  - Using the introspection interface’s introspect method (-.-;)

# Abstracting Introspection

- Produces an XML map of the introspected interface's information
  - Contains (1) [Sub-]Interfaces and (2) [Sub-]Nodes associated to the introspected interface

```
[!] Introspection E-Tree Information:      <Element 'node' at 0x74b486f0c2c0>
  Child Tag: [ interface ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'org.freedesktop.DBus.Introspectable'} ]
  Child Tag: [ interface ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'org.bluez.GattService1'} ]
  Child Tag: [ interface ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'org.freedesktop.DBus.Properties'} ]
  Child Tag: [ node ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'char002f'} ]
  Child Tag: [ node ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'char0031'} ]
  Child Tag: [ node ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'char0034'} ]
  Child Tag: [ node ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'char0037'} ]
  Child Tag: [ node ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'char003a'} ]
  Child Tag: [ node ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'char003d'} ]
  Child Tag: [ node ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'char003f'} ]
  Child Tag: [ node ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'char0042'} ]
[!] Introspection E-Tree Information:      <Element 'node' at 0x74b486f0cc70>
  Child Tag: [ interface ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'org.freedesktop.DBus.Introspectable'} ]
  Child Tag: [ interface ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'org.bluez.GattCharacteristic1'} ]
  Child Tag: [ interface ] - Child Attrib: [ {'name': 'org.freedesktop.DBus.Properties'} ]
```

Figure 10: Etree XML Example - Light Orb

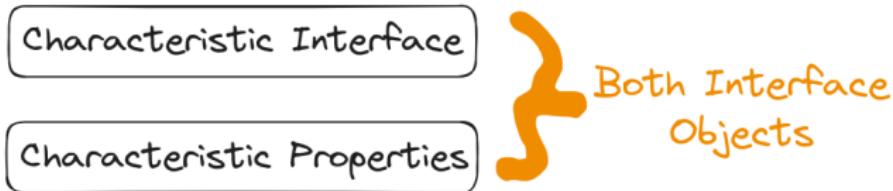
# Signature-ing a Time Sink - Characteristic

```
(user kali)-[~/Documents/BluZInteract]
$ busctl introspect org.bluez /org/bluez/hci0/dev_00_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/service0001/char0002
NAME          TYPE      SIGNATURE RESULT/VALUE           FLAGS
org.bluez.GattCharacteristic1    interface -        -           -
                                 method   a{sv}   hq           -
.AcquireNotify     method   a{sv}   hq           -
.AcquireWrite      method   a{sv}   hq           -
.ReadValue         method   a{sv}   ay           -
.StartNotify       method   -        -           -
.StopNotify        method   -        -           -
.WriteValue        method   aya{sv} -           -
.Flags            property as      1 "indicate"  emits-change
.MTU              property q       500          emits-change
.NotifyAcquired   property b       -           emits-change
.Notifying         property b       false         emits-change
.Service          property o      "/org/bluez/hci0/dev_00_50_E3_B6_BC_A6/"  emits-change
.UUID             property s      "00002a05-0000-1000-8000-00805f9b34fb"  emits-change
.Value             property ay     0           emits-change
.WriteAcquired    property b       -           emits-change
org.freedesktop.DBus.Introspectable interface -        -           -
.Introspect        method   -        s           -
org.freedesktop.DBus.Properties    interface -        -           -
.Get               method   ss      v           -
.GetAll            method   s       a{sv}         -
.Set               method   ssv     -           -
.PropertiesChanged signal  sa{sv}as -           -
```

Figure 11: busctl - Inspecting BlueZ Characteristic

# Reads + Writes - Read Method I

Requirements:



Read - Method 01:

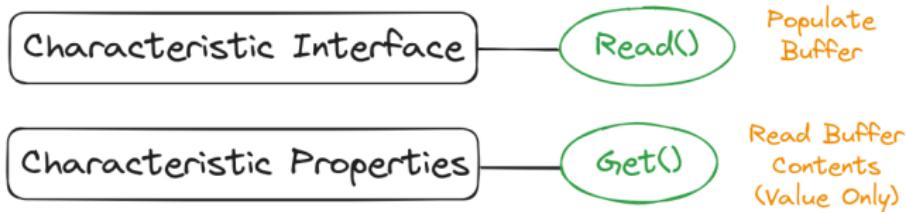


Figure 12: I/O - Read Method 01

## Reads + Writes - Read Method II

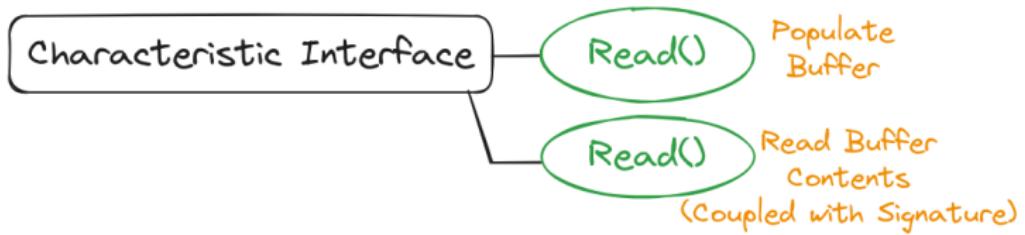


Figure 13: I/O - Read Method 02

## Reads + Writes - Write Method

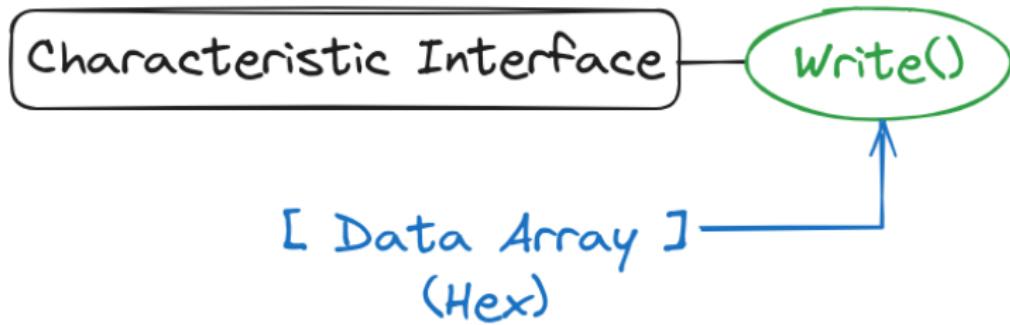
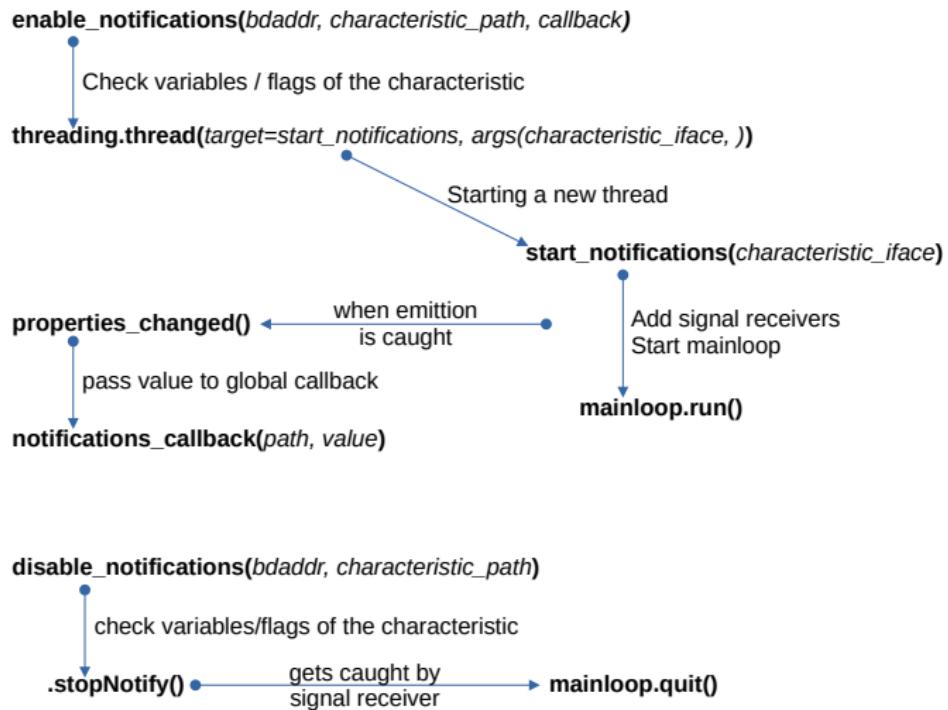


Figure 14: I/O - Write Method

# Emissions - Signals + Notifications

- What are signals/emissions?
  - Messages which might be received asynchronously [11]
  - Application must register interest in the signal
  - Provide callback function to process the signal and any arguments

# Emissions - Signals + Notifications - BT SIG Example Flow

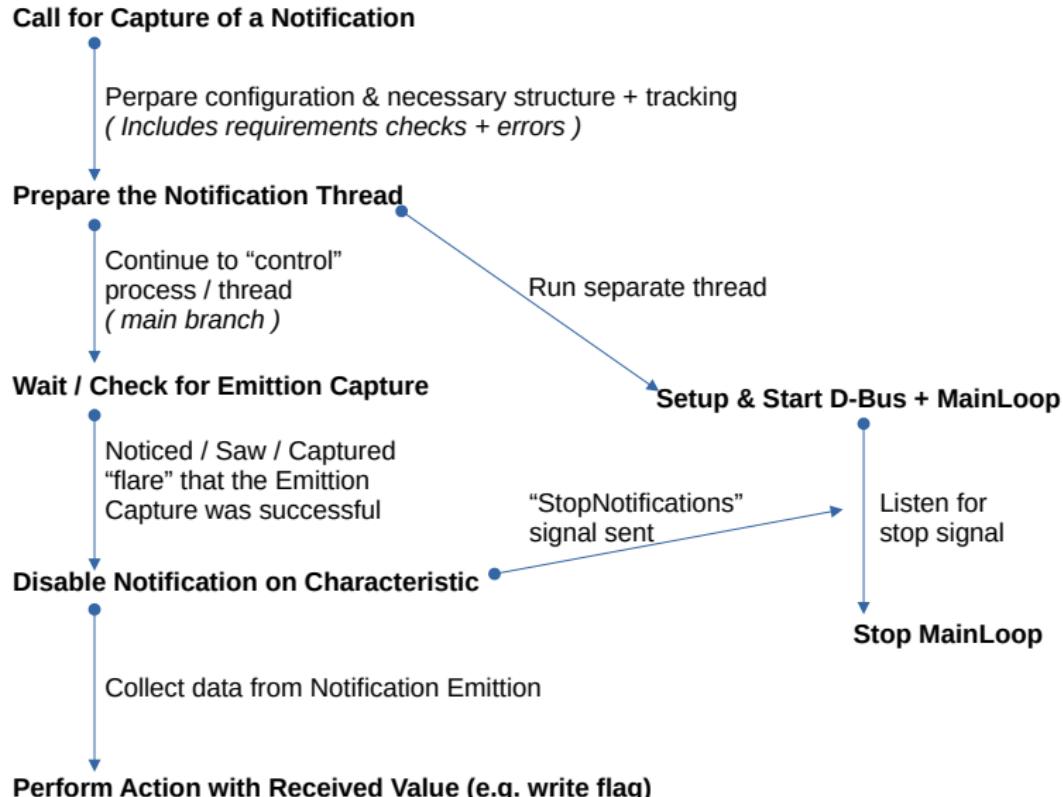


# Emissions - Signals + Notifications - Pseudo Code

- Functionality Requirements:

- Capture and parse “PropertiesChanged” Emission
- Stop the GLib MainLoop (Engine)
- Configure D-Bus & GLib MainLoop
- Validate the passed characteristic
- Configure & run the thread
- Act on Emission’s data

# Emissions - Signals + Notifications - Developed Flow



# What about Bluetooth Battle?



# Known Custom Tools

- BLEJuice
  - Man-in-the-Middle tool for Bluetooth Low Energy
  - Creates a fake device as a clone
- BLEJack
  - Bluetooth Low Energy connection Hijacking tool
  - Requires time to map the hopping pattern variables
- GATTacker
  - Node.js package for BLE
  - Focused on Man-in-the-Middle and other attacks

# Moar Custom Tools

- Bluesnarfer
  - Bluetooth attacking tool
- Bluediving
  - Bluetooth penetration testing suite
- Spooftooth
  - Tool for automating masquerading and spoofing Bluetooth device information
- blefuzzV21.sh
  - Bluetooth Low Energy Fuzzer Version 21

# Moar Custom Tools

- Bluetooth Stack Smasher (bss)
  - Performs several L2CAP checks sending malicious packets
- gr-Bluetooth
  - Tool written to sniff Bluetooth using a HackRF One
- ubertooth-btle
  - Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) sniffing and more
- BlueDucky
  - Bluetooth Rubber Ducky

Online search can show sets for Classic and Low Energy; Black Arch Bluetooth

# Bluetooth CTF/Training

Bluetooth CTFs:

- GitHub - [hackgnar/ble\\_ctf](#): A Bluetooth low energy capture the flag
- GitHub - [hackgnar/ble\\_ctf\\_infinity](#): Advanced: Bluetooth low energy capture the flag

# Known Vulnerabilities

- Braktooth
- Blueborne
- KNOB Attack
- BLUFFS attack
- SweynTooth
- CVE-2023-45866 (Android Keyboard; JustWorks)

# KNOB Vulnerability

## Key Negotiation of Bluetooth (KNOB)

- Attack on the encryption key negotiation protocol of Bluetooth BR/EDR
  - Allows an attacker to make two+ victims agree on an encryption key with only 1 byte (8 bits) of entropy
  - Can then brute force the negotiated encryption keys, decrypt eavesdropped ciphertext, inject valid encrypted messages (in real-time)

# BrakTooth

## BrakTooth

- Targets the Bluetooth Link Manager
- Impacts categorized into crashes and deadlocks
  - Majority can be viewed as DoS
- One vulnerability reported that allows Arbitrary Code Execution in IoTs
  - Requires knowledge of firmware layout on target device

# SweynTooth

## SweynTooth

- 12 Bluetooth based vulnerabilities in BLE software development kits
- Three types of flaw results: Crash, Deadlock, Security Bypass
  - Security Bypass due to out-of-order request during Secure Connections pairing
  - Allows arbitrary read/write

# BLUFFS Vulnerability

## BLUFFS

- Six “novel” attacks that break Bluetooth session forward security and future security
  - Exploits two novel vulnerabilities related to unilateral and repeatable session key derivation; at architectural level
- Low-cost tool kit to perform and automatically check effectiveness of the attacks
- Enables device impersonation and machine-in-the-middle across sessions via comprise of a single key

# Blueborne

## Blueborne

- The attack does not require the targeted device to be set on discoverable mode or to be paired to the attacker's device
- The targeted user is not required to authorize or authenticate the connection to the attacker's device
- Armis Labs identified eight vulnerabilities which can be used as part of the attack vector
  - “The vulnerabilities described above, and the related exploitation techniques are not very complex. They demonstrate how protocols which are difficult to implement are susceptible to bug”

# CVE-2023-45866

## CVE-2023-45866

- “Bluetooth HID Hosts in BlueZ may permit an unauthenticated Peripheral role HID Device to initiate and establish an encrypted connection, and accept HID keyboard reports, potentially permitting injection of HID messages when no user interaction has occurred in the Central role to authorize such access”
- Essentially a “JustWorks” scenario for a headless keyboard

# Questions

Questions?

# Research Details

- Git Repo: <https://github.com/Mauddib28/bleep-tool>

```
[*] Start Main()
-----
          \-->
    Bluetooth Landscape Exploration & Enumeration Platform
      \----->
[*] Starting User Interaction Exploration
=====
[*] COMPLETE USER SELECTED DEVICE EXPLORATION
=====
[*] Scanning for Discoverable Devices
[*] Searching for Discoverable Devices
[*] Starting Discovery Process with Timing
    !     -     Press Ctrl-C to end scan

[+] Completed Discovery
The following devices have been discovered:
  1:           1C:B3:C9:2E:37:94
  2:           13:40:B3:66:D5:AD
  3:           A8:A7:95:3A:30:90
  4:           6C:03:E6:E0:86:FD
  5:           6B:40:B3:5F:95:FE
  6:           5C:C5:76:AD:97:01
  7:           64:A2:F9:BC:8E:95

Please select the above device to return: █
```

# Check Point - Lessons / Observations [End?]

- Make, take, and create clear documentation
  - Can you understand it in a week? month? year?
- Odd Behavior
  - Double read the GATT, Initialized GATT cannot be altered
  - D-Bus willingly forgets
  - W to Arduino Descriptors = panic crash
  - Default buffer character limit
- How to create and customize a basic BLE server
  - Remove blind testing and finger-crossing
  - **Note:** Not all BLE are the same!!

# Signature-ing a Time Sink

- BlueZ git.kernel repository documentation [16]
  - API documentation for various components (e.g. Device, Service, Characteristic, Descriptor)
  - *Note:* Documentation is explanation of C/C++ code being abstracted via Python
- Read / Write interaction via D-Bus structures more complex than original PyBlueZ research variant
  - Defined interface (e.g. characteristic\_interface) to access D-Bus methods
  - R+W **must** have “dict\_options” passed; even if empty ({}')

# Signature-ing a Time Sink

- Reading: straight forward and easy
  - Ex: `characteristic_interface.ReadValue({})`
  - Returns: `dbus.Array([dbus.Byte(0)], signature=dbus.signature('y'))`

# Signature-ing a Time Sink

- Writing: more complex with lots of trail/error
  - Ex: characteristic\_interface.WriteValue("1", {})
  - Returns: ERROR: dbus.connection: Unable to set arguments ('1', {}) according to signature 'aya{sv}': < class 'TypeError' >: an integer is required (got type str)
- Requirement was to pass the value as an array
  - Ex: .WriteValue([1], {})
  - Note: Information that can be decoded from the signature

# Emissions - Signals + Notifications - Back to the Research

- "... need details of the signal to be received so [one] can specify these details when registering with the system bus" [11]
  - Ex: `bus.add_signal_reciever(greeting_signal_received,  
dbus_interface = 'com.example.greeting', signal_name =  
'Greeting signal')`
- Learned via Pain:
  - *Every add\_signal\_reciever()* generated gets called **whenever** a corresponding signal event occurs
  - Object and Interface aspects are **not** interchangeable;  
Characteristic Object has no StartNotify

# Signal-ing Madness Herein

- Begin w/ attempt to **only** monitor the hci0 BlueZ device
  - `sudo dbus-monitor --system 'path='/org/bluez/hci0' ''`
- Return of the GLib...
  - While notification signals (e.g. PropertiesChanged) arrive on D-Bus after .StartNotify() method call, signal receiver not actively get data until GLib MainLoop running
  - **MAJOR** pain point in getting signals off the ground
- The use of ‘path\_keyword=“path” ’ within add\_signal\_receiver()  
**sets** what the name of the variable that will contain the path information

# Bibliography References I



## Freedesktop

What is D-Bus, Published 2022

<https://www.freedesktop.org/wiki/Software/dbus/>

Last Accessed: 2024-03-28 22:43:19 EST



## GNU

Knowing the Details of D-Bus Services

[https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html\\_node/dbus/Introspection.html](https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html_node/dbus/Introspection.html)

Last Accessed: 2024-04-01 19:48:34 EST



## Programiz

Python Decorators

<https://www.programiz.com/python-programming/decorator>

Last Accessed: 2024-04-01 19:52:34 EST

# Bibliography References II



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