

# INTERNET --- OF TEENS

# Smells like Teen Spirit - Internet of Teens @nullcon

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- Eric Sesterhenn
- Principal Security Consultant
- Pentesting/Code Auditing at X41
- Father of a daughter



- 0-Day warning!
- None of the issues here has been fixed (checked 14.02.2018)
- Will be reported in the next few days
- Everything found by reading code





IoT and Security is like teens and sex -  
everybody talks about it nobody has it

# What will we look at?

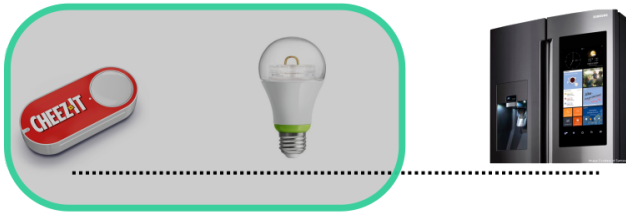


**Contiki**

The Open Source OS for the Internet of Things

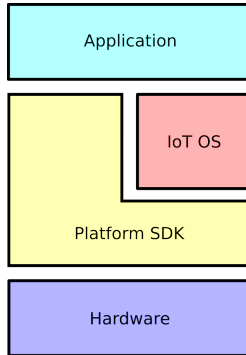


# What will we look at?



less than 1MB of RAM, no MMU, often 16/32 Bit

# What will we look at?



Between 50 and 300 kLoC without platform drivers





Name	Issues reported
RIOT OS Core	3
Wakaama	3
Tiny-ASN1	5
SPIFFS	4
TinyDTLS	7
CCN-Lite	>15
OONF	3



- We have secure languages
- We have extensive test suites and fuzzing
- We have a lot of hardening techniques
- We have static and dynamic analysis tools





	Audits	Static Analysis	Fuzzing	Hardening
Contiki	No	No	No	No
MyNewt	No	Coverity	1 (lwIP)	No
RIOT	No	Clang?	1 (SPIFFS)	Stack Prot.
Zephyr	No	Coverity	No	Stack Prot.



- Manages access to memory
- Allows to set access restrictions
- Without it, no separation of user space and kernel space
- Additionally, no users, no sandboxes...

- Contiki - no
- MyNewt - no
- RIOT - no
- Zephyr - on X86



- How to secure IoT?
- Sprinkle some magic cryptographic dust on it...

“The security functionality in Zephyr hinges mainly on the inclusion of cryptographic algorithms, and on its monolithic system design.”





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```
1 dtls_ticks(&now);
2 #if (defined(WITH_CONTIKI) || defined(RIOT_VERSION))
3 /* FIXME: need something better to init PRNG here */
4 dtls_prng_init(now);
5 #else /* WITH_CONTIKI */
```

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- Uses *rand()*
- man 3 rand: "...so this function will be a weak pseudo-random generator."

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```
1 dtls_prng(unsigned char *buf,  
    ↪ size_t len) {  
2     while (len--)  
3         *buf++ = rand() & 0xFF;  
4     return 1;  
5 }
```

---





- No entropy pool
- *random\_rand()* to read CPU HWRNGs directly
- Fallback to *gcc rand()*
- nRF51 can fail/hang forever -> not handled
- CC13xx/CC26xx might return 0, always < 0xFFFF



- Some pools, entropy is never added
- Some unused HWRNG
- *ble\_hs\_hci\_util\_rand()* and *HAL\_RNG\_GenerateRandomNumber()* can fail



- No entropy pool
- Several PRNG
- Code to read CPU HWRNGs directly - not used...



- No Pools
- Driver to use HWRNG
- Fallback to time-based and PRNG
- xoroshiro128 is not cryptographically secure
- mbedtls has its own pool



- Think */dev/urandom*
- A pool, that can not fail!
- Possible input from multiple sources
- Everything provided by the OS
- Cryptographically secure PRNG
- Depending on the device, you might need a */dev/random* equivalent for long lived keys

- *malloc()* might be a bad idea depending on your threat model ...
- External non-IoT code likes *malloc()*
- Usually fallback to platform SDK





- Mostly avoids *malloc()* and friends!
- Uses memb memory block allocator and mmem managed memory allocator



- Commonly used in Contiki
- Metadata out of band (in an array)
- Always checks all blocks  $O(n)$  in *alloc()*/*free()*
- Continuous block of memory, no guard pages/overflow protection





- Only used by AVR ELF loader
- Metadata out of band (linked list)
- Continuous block of memory, no guard pages/overflow protection
- Overwrite of block always hits used memory except for the last block!



- Double linked allocated and free area list
- Metadata inline
- Double free check for *DEBUG\_MALLOC*
- No Safe Unlinking
- No Guard Checks



- Classic Integer Overflow
- Fixed in glibc and others in 2002
- *baselibs/src/calloc.c*

---

```
1  /* FIXME: This should look
2  └
3      for multiplication overflow
4  void *calloc(size_t nmemb,
5               size_t size)
6  {
7
8               void *ptr;
9
10              size *= nmemb;
11              ptr = malloc(size);
```

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- *baselibs/src/-  
malloc.c*
- Integers can  
overflow from  
additions as well...

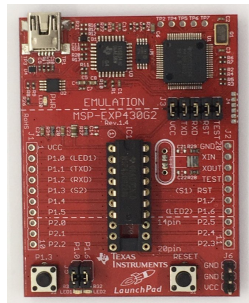
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```
1 void *malloc(size_t size) {  
2     ...  
3     if (size == 0)  
4         return NULL;  
5  
6     /* Add the obligatory arena  
7        header, and round up */  
8     size = (size + 2 * sizeof(struct  
        ↪ arena_header) - 1) &  
        ↪ ARENA_SIZE_MASK;
```

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# Allocators - RIOT

- Just one by MSP430
- Wrapper for *sbrk()*
- Double Free Protection...  
*free()* is not implemented  
;-)





- Common pattern?
- Used by MSP430 - *sys/oneway-malloc/oneway-malloc.c*
- Reported, not yet fixed...

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```
1 void __attribute__((weak))  
   ↪ *calloc(size_t size, size_t  
   ↪ cnt)  
2 {  
3     void *mem = malloc(size * cnt);  
4     if (mem) {  
5         memset(mem, 0, size * cnt);  
6     }  
7     return mem;  
8 }
```

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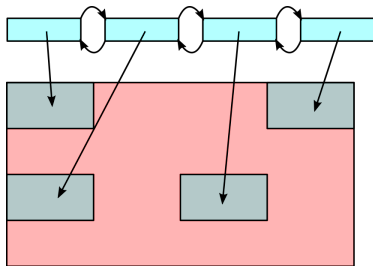


- Slab for fixed sized objects
- Heap for variable sized objects

# Allocators - Zephyr Slab



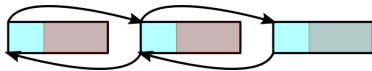
- Continuous block of memory
- Free chunks linked in list
- Allocated blocks not tracked by allocator
- No double free detection
- No guards







- Metadata inline
- No double free protection
- No safe unlinking





- *kernel/mempool.c*
- Looks familiar?

---

```
1 void *k_malloc(size_t nmemb,  
    ↪ size_t size) {  
2     ...  
3     #ifdef CONFIG_ASSERT  
4         __ASSERT(!__builtin_mul_overflow_  
    ↪ (nmemb, size,  
    ↪ &bounds),  
5         "requested size overflow");  
6     #else  
7         bounds = nmemb * size;  
8     #endif
```

---



- *kernel/mempool.c*
- yawn...

---

```
1 void *k_malloc(size_t size) {
2     struct k_mem_block block;
3
4     /* get a block large enough to
5     * hold an initial (hidden)
6     * block descriptor, as well
7     * as the space the caller
8     * requested */
9     size += sizeof(struct
        ↪ k_mem_block);
```

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- Always fun to look at, none of them hardened
- Browsers in 2018 bring their own hardened allocators...
- Some more bugs in there, not all *realloc()* implementations POSIX compliant - Original block should not be touched/freed on failure

# What else to attack?



- Depends on your goal ... but ... Parsers :-)
- Want to get *root* to install your own software? Filesystems
- Want to abuse the device? Network
- "Borrowed code" - Code from other projects, where stuff might already be fixed



- *apps/webbrowser/-  
www.C*
- Easily found
- Only overwrites the  
current web site  
displayed

---

```
1 static char
   ↳ url[WWW_CONF_MAX_URLLEN + 1];
2 static void
3 set_link(char *link)
4 {
5     ...
6     } else if(*link == ISO_slash &&
7               *(link + 1) == ISO_slash) {
8     ...
9     strncpy(&url[5], link,
   ↳ WWW_CONF_MAX_URLLEN);
```

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- *subsys/net/lib/-  
lwm2m/-  
lwm2m\_engine.c*

- *snprintk()* behaves like *snprintf()*

- Returns the amount of bytes it would print
- Other cases check just  $< 0$

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```
1 static char buf[32];  
2 ...  
3 for (i = 0; i < tkl; i++) {  
4     pos += snprintk(&buf[pos], 31 -  
        ↪ pos, "%x", token[i]);  
5 }
```

---



- *z1-websense.c*

- Same class as above

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```
1  #define ADD(...) do { \  
2      blen += snprintf(&buf[blen], \  
3      ]  
    ↪      sizeof(buf) - blen, __VA_ARGS__)  
4  } while(0)
```

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Popular Open Source IoT OS are

- Written in C :(
- Not hardened
- Buggy in the allocators
- Not providing good randomness infrastructure

- Q & A
- [x41-dsec.de/reports/smells.pdf](https://www.x41-dsec.de/reports/smells.pdf)
- [eric.sesterhenn@x41-dsec.de](mailto:eric.sesterhenn@x41-dsec.de)
- Sorry no Twitter... stalk me on LinkedIn if you must ;-)

