Virginia Tech



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Design Overview

This section could include the following:

- 1. ECDSA Based Authentication (SSL-TLS):
- We have designed our protocol based on the crude working of SSL-TLS.
- We use Elliptic Curve Cryptography for implementing Digital Signature Algorithm.
- 2. Software/hardware security features:
- On-board TRNG to produce a random nonce
- Key Generation Python script using 'ecdsa' module
- Low power and High Latency ECC and SHA2 Libraries

Defensive Highlight

> Secure Boot (Implemented) :

- This feature enables a two-way Authentication of Application Processor and the individual Components.
- Keys are provisioned to the AP and the Components during the Build process.
- A pair of Keys for AP and a pair for Components are obtained from the sec256k1 ECC curve during the Make process and stored in header files.
- TRNG based nonce generation offers protection against Replay attacks.
- Secure Boot works due to the TRNG based nonce generation and security offered by ECDSA.

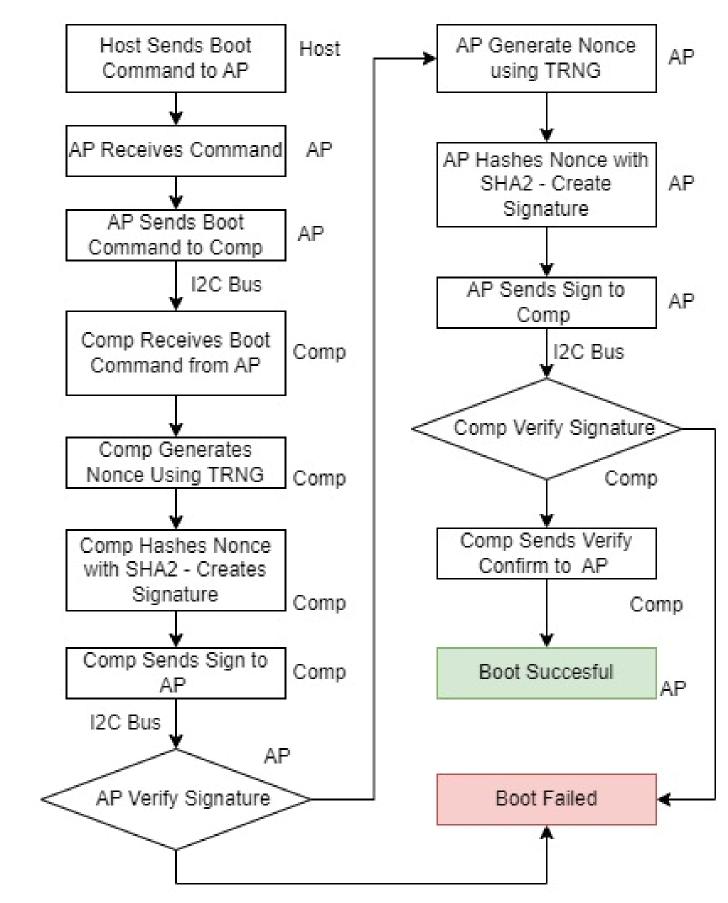
> Secure Attest (Implemented):

- Feature Offers protection against AP spoofing.
- Uses Authentication Based on ECDSA used in Secure Boot.
- User Enters Pin and AP verifies the PIN.
- Once PIN is accurately verified, AP sends Attest command to Component.
- Component receives command and generate nonce using TRNG, hashes the nonce using SHA2 and sends to AP for verification. After successful verification, AP initiates the same process.
- Attest Data can be Encrypted using AES by the component and decrypted by the AP (Suggestive Update)

> Secure Replace (Suggestive Update)

- Hash the plain text Replace pin during the Build process and store in Header file.
- Use 'strncmp' to compare hash of user input replace pin and pin present in Header File.
- 'strncmp' provides protection against Buffer Overflow.
- Could not implement in current design due to inconsistency in our own SHA2 library and the 'Hashlib' offered by python

Secure Boot Flowchart



Offensive Highlight

This section should include:

➤ We Developed an attack based on the Replay Attack and exploiting the MD5 Hash Collision

Attack Description

- Victim Team used urandom() function in 'make' file to generate a 12 alphanumeric character nonce (password) for AP and individual components.
- These passwords were hashed using MD5 and stored in header files and sent through I2C in between AP and Comp.
- We serially printed these MD5 hashes using print_info() and then used an online MD5 Hash Decrypting Tool.
- Then we used the output of that tool as the password to spoof AP of the victim design.

Proposed Fix:

- Using a safer Hashing algorithm like SHA256 instead of MD5.
- Use 'strncmp' function with a character instead of strcmp

References

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- 2. Waruhari, Philomena and Lawrence Nderu. "An Elliptic curve digital signature algorithm (ECDSA) for securing data: an exemplar of securing patient's data." (2017).
- 3. https://github.com/corkami/collisions
- 4. https://www.dcode.fr/md5-hash
- 5. https://pypi.org/project/ecdsa/