

Applied Research in Firmware security of embedded devices

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Module: SEAR

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Abstract

- Complete, but very succinct summary of the paper
- Half a page long
- Short description of research(brief statements of the purpose, methods, results and conclusions)

In recent years embedded devices have become very popular in many countries worldwide, they are often used in households, factories, and even in infrastructure objects. Their usage is predicted to increase steadily in the next decades. Our focus is that all embedded devices run on Firmware, which is basically computer software that is meant to work with specific hardware. The Firmware is not as secure as we would like it to be, there are many ways of hacking (reverse engineering) it so that one (the hacker) can find how exactly it operates and if there are any holes that can be exploited for benefit or used to harm either the users or the creators of the firmware.

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List of Figures

1 Introduction

- Provide the reader with everything they need to know to understand what you are doing and why
- Length: max 3 pages
- Theoretical background (literature review)
- Why the work is important
- Specific research question
- (if applicable) Hypothesis to be tested
- Divide into subsections

The research we are conducting is about firmware security mainly but we will touch on the topic of embedded devices also because the two work together. In general, most devices with firmware are relatively easy to reverse engineer by hackers who want to find vulnerabilities that they can exploit to attack different parts of the eco-system. Therefore the goal of this research is to find a way to increase firmware security.

2 Methods

- How you performed the experiment / interview / survey or how you set up your comparative analysis
- Length: min. 2 pages
- Methodology (Research strategy, material, planning): which method you used, why, how it was carried out
- NO results or interpretation in this section!

We should primarily focus on experiments and research papers as material. Because these two sources give us a deep understanding of the underlying structure and the causes of the problem. Every paper you read should be logged on one of the following pages. To prove our research we maybe provide interviews.

3 Results

- Share the data you found
- Length: min. 2 pages
- Describe the results (do NOT add your interpretation/analysis)
- Graphs, figures and tables that show your data belong in this section. Describe the graphs and explain what the reader is seeing

4 Discussion

- Interpret the results from the previous section
- Answer your research question/s and explain if your hypothesis was proven right or not: Refer to starting point (objective research question)
- Length: max. 4 pages
- Evaluate process (Reflection: how did it go)
- Further research (how your research could be improved, what else could be done)