Hardware Hacking: A Brief Primer on Reverse Engineering Bluetooth Transmissions

Edward Warren

Overview

- I. whoami
- II. Getting Started
- III. OSINT Resources for Bluetooth & IoT devices
- IV.A Brief History of Bluetooth
- V. Select Tools for Bluetooth IoT Analysis
- VI. Select Tools for Bluetooth Sniffing
- VII.Medical Information at Risk
- VIII.Trial & Error
- IX. Reverse Engineering BLE Transmissions
- X. Android Application Secrets
- XI. Conclusions

#:whoami

- > Jr. Security Analyst @ 5 SEDARA
- ➤ Former Managed Wi-Fi Technical Support Rep III at Spectrum Business
- A dude who likes more than software bugs
- > From Buffalo, NY



(Actual footage of my Fence)

Getting Started

> Recon the attack surface of the device or application

> Utilize Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)

> Have a clear mission or objective

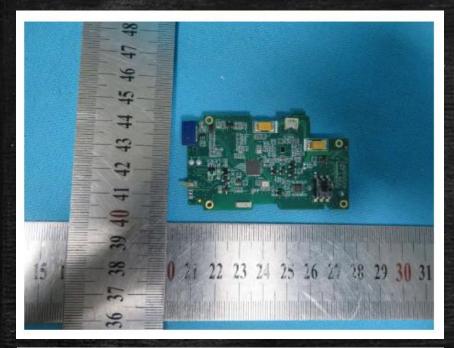
OSINT Resources For Bluetooth & IoT Devices

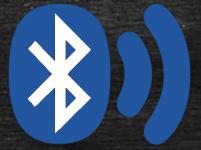
FCC IDs are required for all wireless emitting devices sold in the USA.

By searching an FCC ID, you can find details on the wireless operating frequency (including strength), photos of the device, user manuals for the device, and reports on the wireless emissions ect.

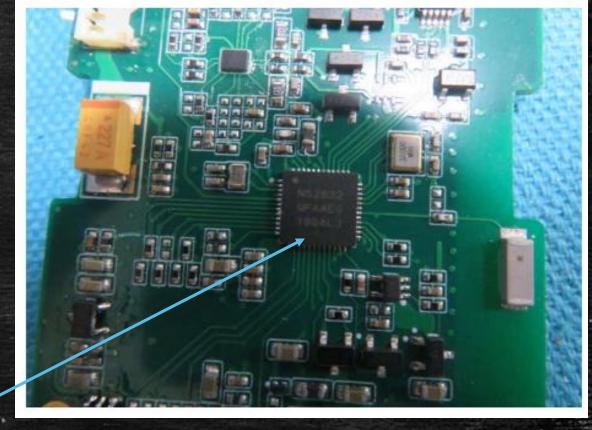












fcc.io

NRF52832, Bluetooth SoC supporting Bluetooth Low Energy, Bluetooth mesh & NFC (https://www.nordicsemi.com/-/media/Software-and-other-downloads/Product-Briefs/nRF52832-product-brief.pdf)



A Brief history of Bluetooth

What is Bluetooth? It's not an acronym and doesn't stand for anything. So what does it mean?

The name dates back to the Viking era, specifically King Harald Gormsson, who earned the nickname Bluetooth due a dead tooth which had an apparently distinct blue color.

He is also known for unifying Denmark and Norway in 958 AD. The Bluetooth logo is a combination of two runes, Hagall (*) and Bjarkan (*), which form the initials of Harald Bluetooth.



(https://www.bluetooth.com/about-us/bluetooth-origin)

A Brief history of Bluetooth Continued...

Bluetooth Classic is better suited for applications that require high data transfer rates and longer range,

whereas BLE is better suited for applications that require low power consumption and intermittent communication.



Select Tools for Bluetooth IoT Analysis



github.com/skylot/jadx



www.bettercap.org



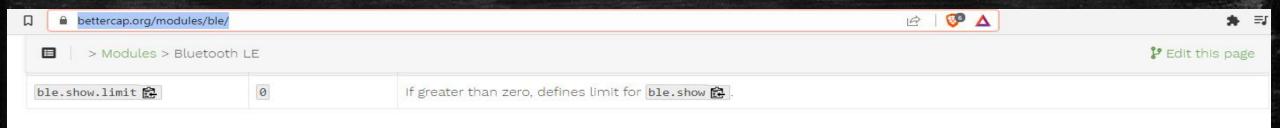
gitlab.com/AuroraOSS/AuroraStore



www.wireshark.org

Handles	Service > Characteristics	Properties	Data import androides
0001 → 0007 0003 0005 0007	Generic Access (1800) Device Name (2a00) Appearance (2a01) Peripheral Preferred Connection Parameters (2a04)	READ, WRITE READ READ	Generic Speaker Unknown Connection Interval: 20 → 36 Slave Latency: 0 Connection Supervision Timeout Multiplier: 200
0008 → 000b 000a	Generic Attribute (1801) Service Changed (2a05)	INDICATE	ousClass1.createFromParcel(public Parcelable ousClass1.createFromParcel(return new Parcel
000c → 0011 000e 0011	1910 fff4 fff2	NOTIFY WRITE	(int) ParcelableVolumeInfol) public Parcelable (int) ParcelableVolumeInfol) return new Parcelable interface Cancel
0012 → 0015 0014	Battery Service (180f) Battery Level (2a19)	READ, NOTIFY	
0016 → 001e 0018 001a 001c 001e	Device Information (180a) Manufacturer Name String (2a29) Model Number String (2a24) Hardware Revision String (2a27) Firmware Revision String (2a26)	READ READ READ READ	Generic Tech co.
001f → 0022 0021	7363191269656e657269736669727374 73632b1269656e657269736669727374	READ, WRITE , NOTIFY	000000

In Bluetooth GATT or (Generic Attribute Profiles) is a protocol that defines how data is exchanged between Bluetooth devices. GATT is a client-server protocol, where a GATT server stores attribute data and provides access methods to a remote client.



Examples

Connect, enumerate and read characteristics from the BLE device 04:52:de:ad:be:ef 🔁 (requires ble.recon on 🔁 first):

> ble.enum 04:52:de:ad:be:ef

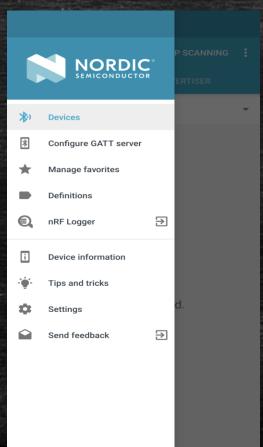
盘

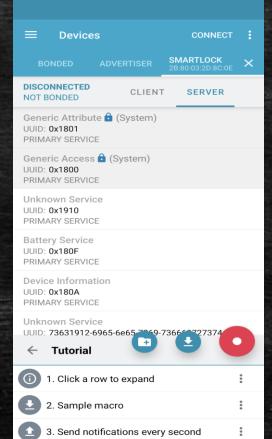
Hacking a Loccess smartlock using bettercap:

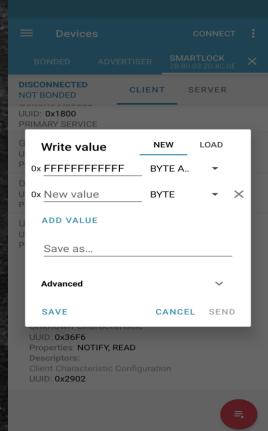


Honorable Mention









Select Tools for Bluetooth Sniffing







nrf52840 sniffer ~25\$

Ubertooth One ~125\$

Ellisys Bluetooth Explorer ~25,000\$

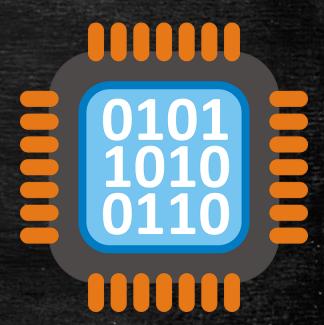
HOST

INTERFACE

CONTROLLER







Find . -name "Random Bluetooth Blood Pressure Monitor"

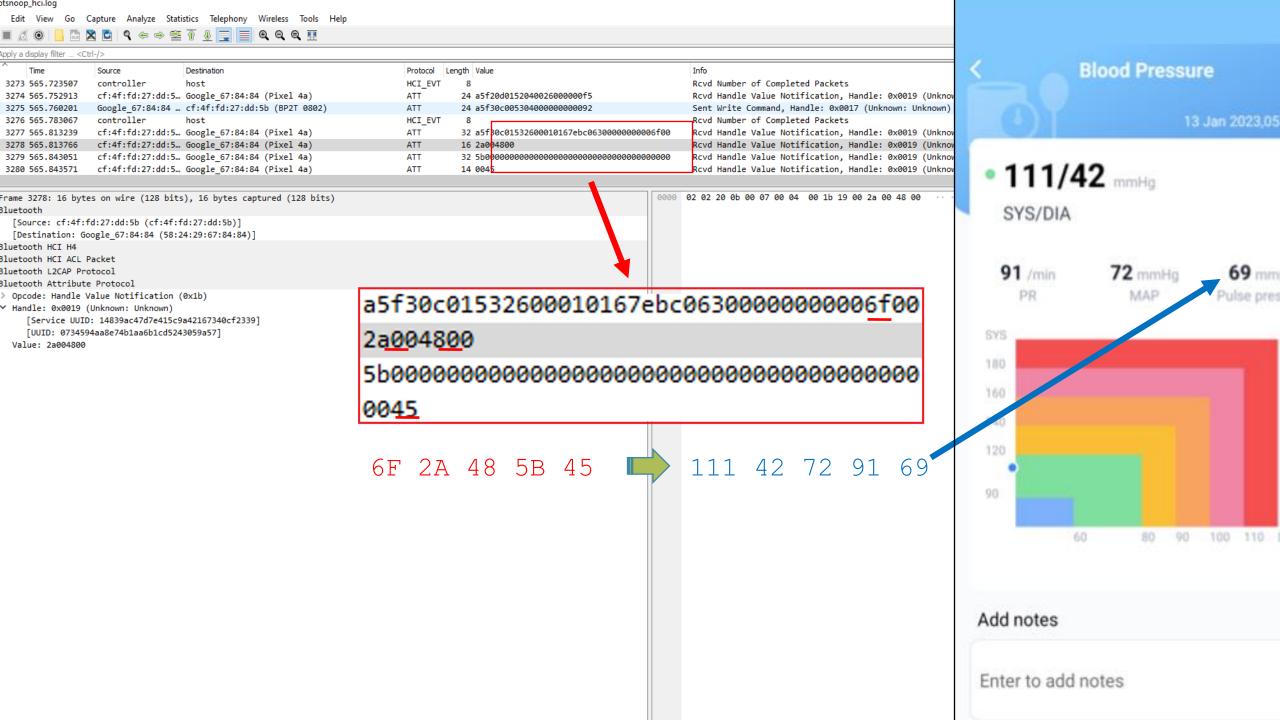


```
btatt
        Time Source Destinati Proto Lengt Value
                                                                               Info
    3275 565... Goog... cf:4f... ATT
                                  24 a5f30c00530400000000000092
                                                                               Sent Write Command, Handle: 0x0017 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3277 565... cf:4... Googl... ATT
                                 32 a5f30c01532600010167ebc06300000000006f00
                                                                               Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
                                                                               Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3278 565... cf:4... Googl... ATT
                                 16 2a004800
    3279 565... cf:4... Googl... ATT
                                 Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3280 565... cf:4... Googl... ATT
                                 14 0045
                                                                               Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3281 565... Goog... cf:4f... ATT
                                 20 a5f40b005400002a
                                                                               Sent Write Command, Handle: 0x0017 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3283 565... cf:4... Googl... ATT
                                 20 a5f40b015400003c
                                                                               Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
                                                                               Sent Write Command, Handle: 0x0017 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3284 565... Goog... cf:4f... ATT
                                 32 a5f20d0055140032303233303131323139323133
                                                                               Sent Write Command, Handle: 0x0017 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3285 565... Goog... cf:4f... ATT
                                 20 3400000000000004f
    3287 565... cf:4... Googl... ATT
                                 24 a5f20d0155040026000000e6
                                                                               Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3288 565... Goog... cf:4f... ATT
                                 24 a5f30c0056040000000000038
                                                                               Sent Write Command, Handle: 0x0017 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3290 566... cf:4... Googl... ATT
                                 32 a5f30c015626000101be5dc06300000000007400
                                                                               Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
    3291 566... cf:4... Googl... ATT
                                  Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
                                                                               Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
                                 18 0000000000f5
    3292 566... cf:4... Googl... ATT
Frame 3275: 24 bytes on wire (192 bits), 24 bytes captured (192 bits)
     Encapsulation type: Bluetooth H4 with linux header (99)
    Arrival Time: Jan 12, 2023 19:22:24.745082000 Eastern Standard Time
     [Time shift for this packet: 0.000000000 seconds]
     Epoch Time: 1673569344.745082000 seconds
     [Time delta from previous captured frame: 0.007288000 seconds]
     [Time delta from previous displayed frame: 0.007288000 seconds]
     [Time since reference or first frame: 565.760201000 seconds]
     Frame Number: 3275
     Frame Length: 24 bytes (192 bits)
    Capture Length: 24 bytes (192 bits)
     [Frame is marked: False]
     [Frame is ignored: False]
    Point-to-Point Direction: Sent (0)
     [Protocols in frame: bluetooth:hci_h4:bthci_acl:bt]/2cap:btatt]
> Bluetooth
  Bluetooth HCI H4
  Bluetooth HCI ACL Packet
 Sent Write Command, Handle: 0x0017 (Unknown: Unknown)
  ~ "Rcvd Handle Value Notification, Handle: 0x0019 (Unknown: Unknown)
```

0000 02 02 00 13 00 0f 00 04 00 52 17 00 a5 f3 0c 00 0010 53 04 00 00 00 00 00 92

Value: a5f30c0053040000000000092

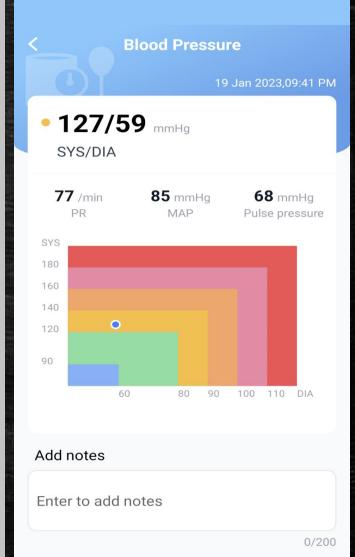
S.....



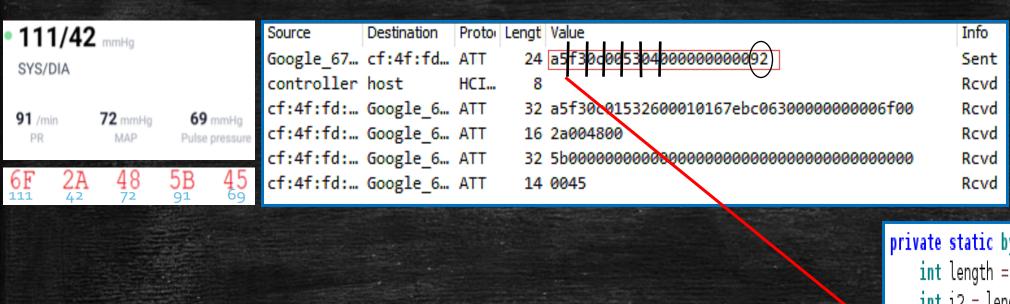
Trial & ERROR

7F/127 3B/59 55/85 4D/77

```
20 a508f700210000c6
Googl... cf:4f... ATT
                                                                       Sent
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 7f008b0055004d0000783a0020783a0020000040
                                                                       Rcvd
                                                                              u
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 a508f70120200005002aa10e6300000001003a00
                                                                       Rcvd
Googl... cf:4f... ATT
                       20 a508f700200000ad
                                                                       Sent
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 7f003b0055004d0000783a0020783a00200000d6
                                                                       Rcvd
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 a508f7011f200005002aa10e6300000001003a00
                                                                       Rcvd
Googl... cf:4f... ATT
                       20 a508f7001f00000b
                                                                       Sent
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 7f003b0055004d0000783a0020783a002000007d
                                                                       Rcvd
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 a508f7011e200005002aa10e6300000001003a00
                                                                       Rcvd
Googl... cf:4f... ATT
                       20 a508f7001e000060
                                                                       Sent
                       32 7f003b0055004d0000783a0020783a0020000087
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                                                                       Rcvd
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 a508f7011d200005002aa10e6300000001003a00
                                                                       Rcvd
Googl... cf:4f... ATT
                       20 a508f7001d0000dd
                                                                       Sent
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 7f003b0055004d0000783a0020783a002000002c
                                                                       Rcvd
                                                                              u
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 a508f7011c200005002aa10e6300000001003a00
                                                                       Rcvd
Googl... cf:4f... ATT
                       20 a508f7001c0000b6
                                                                       Sent
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 7f003b0055004d0000783a0020783a0020000074
                                                                       Rcvd
cf:4f... Googl... ATT
                       32 a508f7011b200005002aa10e6300000001003a00
                                                                       Rcvd
```

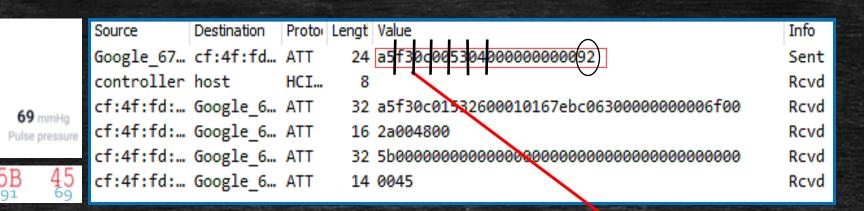


```
public final class BleService extends Service {
   public static final Companion Companion = new Companion(null);
   private boolean connected;
   private Observable<RxBleConnection> connectionObservable;
   private RxBleDevice device;
   private int deviceType;
   private boolean isConnecting;
   private boolean isScanning;
   private Disposable loopDis;
   private byte[] pool;
   private RxBleClient rxbleClient;
   private Disposable scanDisposable;
   private Disposable state;
   private final UUID write uuid = UUID.fromString("8B00AC
                                                                                    6E1A3");
   private final UUID notify uuid = UUID fromString("073459
                                                                                     59A57");
   private CompositeDisposable connectionDisposable = new CompositeDisposable();
   private final Lazy checkReconnectBleCount$delegate = LazyKt.lazy(BleService$checkReconnectBleCount$2.INSTANCE);
   private String currentMarAddress = "";
   private final BleBinder binder = new BleBinder();
   private final Lazy receiveListener$delegate = LazyKt.lazy(new BleService$receiveListener$2(this));
```



```
int i2 = length + 8;
                                                                                                              byte[] bArr2 = new byte[i2];
                                                                                                            ► bArr2[0] = -91;
          01011011 = 91
                                                                                                              bArr2[1] = (byte) i;
                                                                A5
                                                                        F3
                                                                               0C
                                                                                             53
                                                                                                  04
                                                                                      00
                                                   Hex
                                                                                                              bArr2[2] = (byte) (~i);
          10100101 = -91
                                                   Dec
                                                               165
                                                                       243
                                                                               12
                                                                                             83
                                                                                                              bArr2[3] = 0;
                                                Byte Array
                                                                 0
                                                                                       3
                                                                                                              bArr2[4] = (byte) seqNo;
    Calculator
                                     \times
                                                 Position
                                                                                                               bArr2[5] = (byte) length;
    Programmer
                                                                                                               bArr2[6] = (byte) (length << 8);
                                                                                                               System.arraycopy(bArr, 0, bArr2, 7, length);
                                   Α5
                                                                                                               bArr2[i2 - 1] = BleCRC.calCRC8(bArr2);
HEX
      A5
                                                                                                               addNo();
      165
                                                                                                               return bArr2;
      1010 0101
```

```
private static byte[] getReq(int 1, byte[] bArr)
    int length = bArr.length;
```



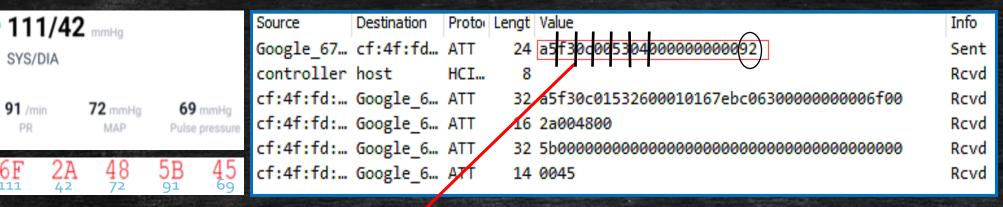
111/42 mmHg

SYS/DIA

91 /min

Hex	A5	F3	0C	00	53	04
Dec	165	243	12	0	83	4
Byte Array Position	0	1	2	3	4	5

```
private static byte[] getReq(int 1, byte[] bArr)
    int length = bArr.length;
    int i2 = length + 8;
    byte[] bArr2 = new byte[i2];
    bArr2[8] = -91;
    bArr2[1] = (byte) i;
   bArr2[2] = (byte) (~i);
   bArr2[3] = 0;
    bArr2[4] = (byte) seqNo;
    bArr2[5] = (byte) length;
    bArr2[6] = (byte) (length << 8);
    System.arraycopy(bArr, 0, bArr2, 7, length);
    bArr2[i2 - 1] = BleCRC.calCRC8(bArr2);
    addNo();
    return bArr2;
```



```
public class Bp2BleCmd {
    public static final int FACTORY RESET = 227;
    public static final int FACTORY RESET ALL = 238;
    public static final int FILE READ END = 244;
    public static final int FILE_READ_PKG = 243;
    public static final int FILE READ START = 242;
    public static final int GET CONFIG = 0;
    public static final int GET FILE LIST = 241;
    public static final int GET INFO = 225;
    public static final int GET_PHY_STATE = 14;
    private static final int HEAD = 165;
    public static final int MSG TYPE INVALID = -1;
    public static final int RESET = 226;
    public static final int RT DATA = 8;
    public static final int RT STATE = 6;
    public static final int SET_CONFIG = 11;
    public static final int SET_PHY_STATE = 15;
    public static final int SET TIME = 236;
    public static final int SWITCH STATE = 9;
    private static final int TYPE_NORMAL_SEND = 0;
    private static int seqNo;
```

Hex	A5	F3	0C	00	53	04
Dec	165	243	12	0	83	4
Byte Array Position	0	1	2	3	4	5

```
private static byte[] getReq(int 1, byte[] bArr)
   int length = bArr.length;
   int i2 = length + 8;
   byte[] bArr2 = new byte[i2];
   bArr2[0] = -91;
   bArr2[1] = (byte) i;
   bArr2[2] = (byte) (~i);
   bArr2[3] = 0;
   bArr2[4] = (byte) seqNo;
   bArr2[5] = (byte) length;
   bArr2[6] = (byte) (length << 8);
    System.arraycopy(bArr, 0, bArr2, 7, length);
   bArr2[i2 - 1] = BleCRC.calCRC8(bArr2);
    addNo();
   return bArr2;
```

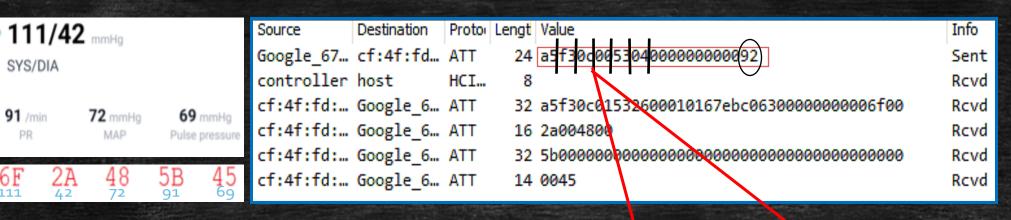
```
111/42 mmHg
                               Source
                                           Destination
                                                      Proto: Lengt Value
                               Google_67... cf:4f:fd... ATT
                                                              24 a5f30c00530400000000009
                                                                                                                   Sent
SYS/DIA
                               controller host
                                                      HCI...
                                                                                                                   Rcvd
                               cf:4f:fd:... Google 6... ATT
                                                                                                                   Rcvd
                                                              32 45 30 c 0 1 5 3 2 6 0 0 0 1 0 1 6 7 e b c 0 6 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 6 f 0 0
                     69 mmHg
91 /min
          72 mmHa
                              cf:4f:fd:... Google_6... ATT
                                                              16 22004800
                                                                                                                   Rcvd
                    Pulse pressure
                               cf:4f:fd:... Google_6... ATT
                                                              Rcvd
                              cf:4f:fd:... Google_6... ATT
                                                              14 0045
                                                                                                                   Rcvd
```

```
public class Bp2BleCmd {
    public static final int FACTORY RESET = 227;
   public static final int FACTORY RESET ALL = 238;
    public static final int FILE_READ_END = 244;
    public static final int FILE_READ_PKG = 243;
    public static final int FILE READ START = 242;
    public static final int GET CONFIG = 0;
    public static final int GET FILE LIST = 241;
    public static final int GET INFO = 225;
    public static final int GET_PHY_STATE = 14;
    private static final int HEAD = 165;
    public static final int MSG TYPE INVALID = -1;
    public static final int RESET = 226;
    public static final int RT DATA = 8;
    public static final int RT STATE = 6;
    public static final int SET_CONFIG = 11;
    public static final int SET_PHY_STATE = 15;
    public static final int SET_TIME = 236;
    public static final int SWITCH STATE = 9;
    private static final int TYPE_NORMAL_SEND = 0;
   private static int seqNo;
```

```
public Er2RequestPkg build()
                                   public Er2BleResponse(byte[] bArr)
     int length / this.data.l
                                      this.buf = bArr;
     byte[] bAr = new byte[l
     this.buf ≠ bArr;
                                      this.head = bArr[0];
     int i = 0
                                      this.cmd = bArr[1];
     bArr[0] \neq -91;
     bArr[1] = this.cmd;
                                      this. cmd = bArr[2];
     bArr[2] = this._cmd;
                                      this.pkgType = bArr[3];
     bArr[3] = 0;
                                      this.pkgNo = bArr[4];
     bArr[4] = this.pkgNo;
```

```
0C
                                       53
  Hex
              A5
                     F3
                                 00
                                            04
  Dec
             165
                    243
                           12
                                       83
                                  0
Byte Array
                                  3
              0
                                             5
 Position
```

```
private static byte[] getReq(int 1, byte[] bArr)
   int length = bArr.length;
   int i2 = length + 8;
   byte[] bArr2 = new byte[i2];
   bArr2[0] = -91;
   bArr2[1] = (byte) i;
   bArr2[2] = (byte) (~i);
   bArr2[3] = 0;
   bArr2[4] = (byte) seqNo;
   bArr2[5] = (byte) length;
   bArr2[6] = (byte) (length << 8);
   System.arraycopy(bArr, 0, bArr2, 7, length);
   bArr2[i2 - 1] = BleCRC.calCRC8(bArr2);
   addNo();
   return bArr2;
```



 $\begin{array}{rcl}
11110011 &=& 243 \\
00001100 &=& 12
\end{array}$

Hex	A5	F3	0C	00	53	04
Dec	165	243	12	0	83	4
Byte Array Position	0	1	2	3	4	5

```
private static byte[] getReq(int 1, byte[] bArr) {
    int length = bArr.length;
   int i2 = length + 8;
    byte[] bArr2 = new byte[i2];
    bArr2[0] = -91;
    bArr2[1] = (byte) i;
    bArr2[2] = (byte)^{(\sim i)};
    bArr2[3] = 0;
    bArr2[4] = (byte) seqNo;
    bArr2[5] = (byte) length;
    bArr2[6] = (byte) (length << 8);
    System.arraycopy(bArr, 0, bArr2, 7, length);
    bArr2[i2 - 1] = BleCRC.calCRC8(bArr2);
    addNo();
    return bArr2;
```

```
public static byte[] fileReadPkg(int i) {
    return getReq(243, new byte[]{(byte) i, (byte) (i >> 8), (byte) (i >> 16), (byte) (i >> 24)});
}
```

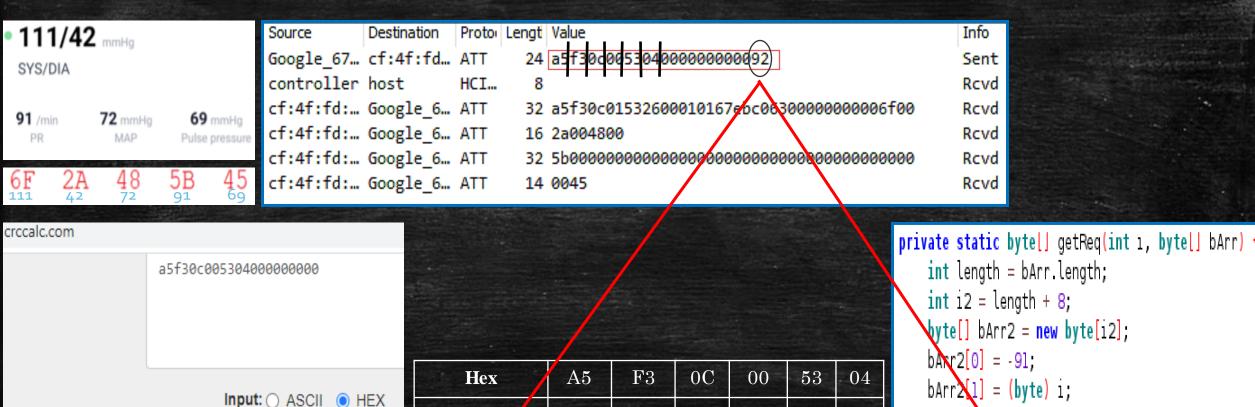
```
111/42 mmHg
                            Source
                                        Destination
                                                  Proto: Lengt Value
                            Google_67... cf:4f:fd... ATT
                                                          24 a5f30d0053040000000000092
                                                                                                            Sent
SYS/DIA
                             controller host
                                                  HCI...
                                                                                                            Rcvd
                            cf:4f:fd:... Google 6... ATT
                                                          32 a5f30c01532800010167ebc063000000000006f00
                                                                                                            Rcvd
                   69 mmHg
91 /min
         72 mmHa
                            cf:4f:fd:... Google_6... ATT
                                                          16 2a004800
                                                                                                            Rcvd
                  Pulse pressure
                            cf:4f:fd:... Google 6... ATT
                                                          Rcvd
                 5B
91
                            cf:4f:fd:... Google 6... ATT
                                                          14 0045
                                                                                                            Rcvd
```

```
public class Bp2BleCmd {
    public static final int FACTORY RESET = 227;
    public static final int FACTORY RESET ALL = 238;
    public static final int FILE READ END = 244;
    public static final int FILE READ PKG = 243;
    public static final int FILE READ START = 242;
    public static final int GET CONFIG = 0;
    public static final int GET FILE LIST = 241;
    public static final int GET INFO = 225;
    public static final int GET_PHY_STATE = 14;
    private static final int HEAD = 165;
    public static final int MSG TYPE INVALID = -1;
    public static final int RESET = 226;
    public static final int RT DATA = 8;
    public static final int RT STATE = 6;
    public static final int SET_CONFIG = 11;
    public static final int SET_PHY_STATE = 15;
    public static final int SET_TIME = 236;
    public static final int SWITCH STATE = 9;
    private static final int TYPE_NORMAL_SEND = 0;
   private static int seqNo;
```

```
public Er2RequestPkg/build()
                                  public Er2BleResponse(byte] bArr)
    int length = this.data.l
                                     this.buf = bArr;
    byte[] bArr = new byte[l
    this.buf = bArv:
                                     this.head = bArr[0];
    int i = 0;
                                     this.cmd = bArr[1];
    bArr[0] = -91
    bArr[1] = this.cmd;
                                     this. cmd = bArr[2];
    bArr[2] = this. cmd;
                                     this.pkgType = bArr[3];
    bArr[3] = 0:
                                     this.pkgNo = bArr[4];
    bArr[4] = this.pkgNo;
```

```
0C
                                       53
                                            04
  Hex
             A5
                     F3
                                 00
  Dec
             165
                    243
                           12
                                       83
Byte Array
                                  3
              0
                                             5
 Position
```

```
private static byte[] getReq(int 1, byte[] bArr)
   int length = bArr.length;
   int i2 = length + 8;
   byte[] bArr2 = new byte[i2];
   bArr2[0] = -91;
   DArr2[1] = (byte) i;
   bArr2[2] = (byte) (~i);
   bArr2[3] = 0;
   bArr2[4] = (byte) seqNo;
   bArr2[5] = (byte) length;
   bArr2[6] = (byte) (length << 8);
   System.arraycopy(bArr, 0, bArr2, 7, length);
   bArr2[i2 - 1] = BleCRC.calCRC8(bArr2);
   addNo();
   return bArr2;
```



Dec

Byte Array

Position

Algorithm

CRC-8

Result

0x92

165

0

243

12

83

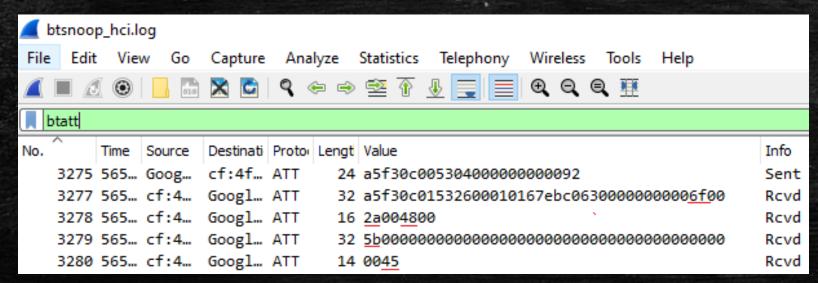
5

```
int i2 = length + 8;
byte[] bArr2 = new byte[i2];
bArr2[0] = -91;
bArr [1] = (byte) i;
bArr2[2] = (byte) (~i);
bArr2[3] = 0;
bArr2[4] = (byte) seqNo;
bArr2[5] = (byte length;
bArr2[6] = (byte) \ ength << 8);
System.arraycopy(bArr, 0, bArr2, 7, length);
bArr2[i2 - 1] = BleCRC.calCRC8(bArr2);
addNo();
return bArr2;
```

Wireshark Search Filter Basic Cheat sheet

Btatt
bthci_cmd.le_long_term_key [BLE]
bthci_cmd.link_key Bluetooth Classic

If neither of the latter two strings are present then the devices aren't using Bluetooth Encryption.



See https://github.com/actuator/bsides/blob/main/BLEMITMPOC.gif

Android App Secrets

```
public final class BuildConfig {{
    public static final String API_APPID = "______";
    public static final String API_SECRET = "_____";
    public static final String BUILD_TYPE = "release";
    public static final boolean DEBUG = false;
    public static final String LIBRARY_PACKAGE_NAME = "com."
```

Conclusions

- CWE-311: Missing Encryption of Sensitive Data
- CWE-798: Use of Hard-coded Credentials
- https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/311.html
- ☐ /in/edwardwar/
- ☐ github.com/actuator/bsides

