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Wasefire

A framework for secure firmware development

Julien Cretin
Google

Jean-Michel Picod
Google

with the help of other Googlers and external collaborators

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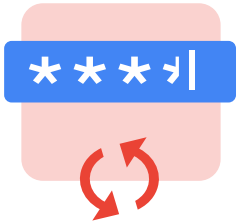
Security and Privacy Research

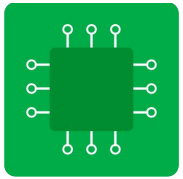
Firmware security issues are still too frequent

Common security issues

Memory corruption

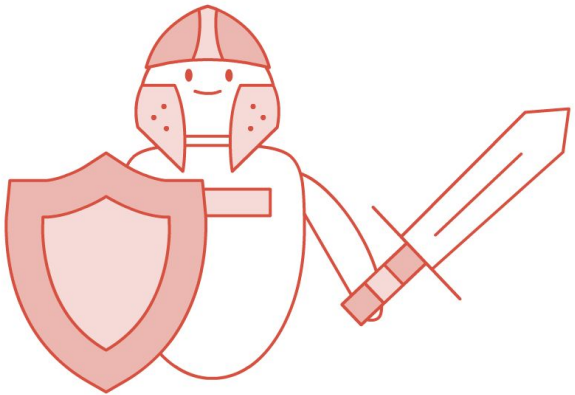


Default credentials



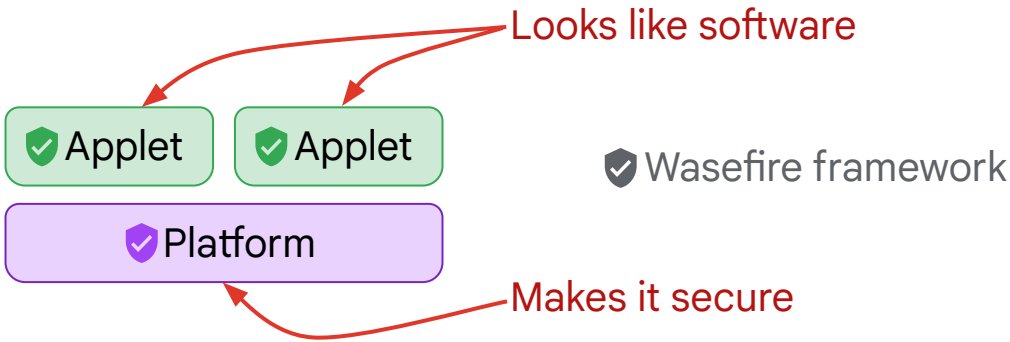
Side channel attacks

Manual or no updates



We need a secure platform that takes care of the security on behalf of the developer

Introducing Wasefire



Agenda

Goals and properties

Architecture and design

Guided tutorial

Current state and future work

Guided exercises

Goals and properties

Secure by default

Hardened platform

Built with side-channel attacks and fault injections in mind

Sandboxed applets

Applets need specific API permissions to interact with the platform (and hardware)

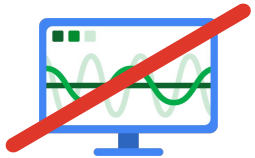
All upgradable

Platform and applets are upgradable by design

For all software engineers

Language agnostic

Developers can use the language, IDE, and workflow they are most comfortable with



Hardware independent

Development can be done on a desktop machine without special hardware

Open source

Hardware vendors can provide proprietary platforms

Why not Global Platform?

More than NFC and smartcard

More languages to choose from

Execution and validation specified

Architecture and design

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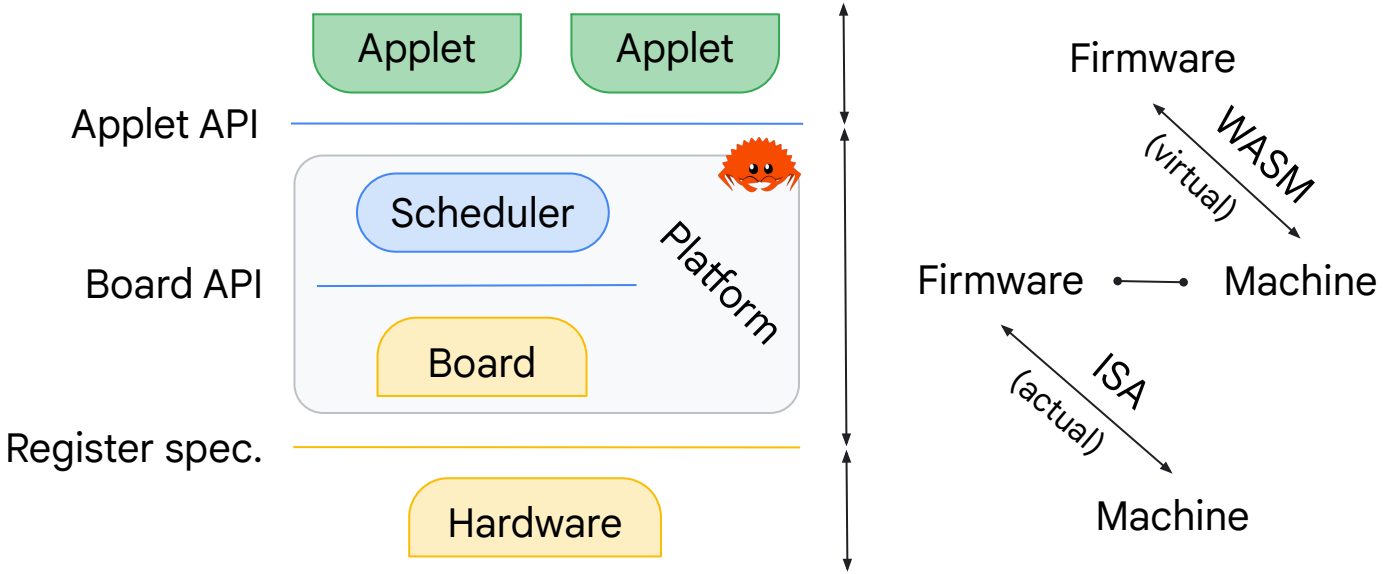
WebAssembly virtual machine



Applet and board APIs

Communication

GPIO, LED, buttons, UART, SPI, USB, BLE, ...

Cryptography

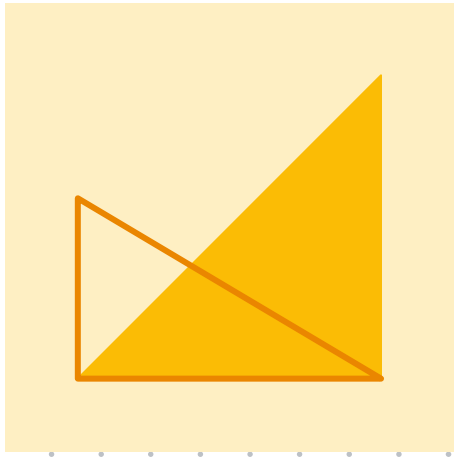
TRNG, DRBG, AES, SHA, HMAC, ECC, PQC, ...

Foundational toolkit

Debug output, perf. measurements, timers, storage, ...

Guided tutorial

https://google.github.io/wasefire/quick/index.html
https://docs.rs/wasefire



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How to use LEDs

```
// Access the number of LEDs on the board.
let num_leds = led::count();
assert!(led_index < num_leds);

// Turn a LED on.
led::set(led_index, led::On);

// Turn a LED off.
led::set(led_index, led::Off);
```

How to use buttons

```rust
// Access the number of buttons on the board.
let count = button::count();
assert!(index < count);

// Create a callback called on each button event.
let handler = move |state| match state {
    button::Pressed => debug!("Button pressed"),
    button::Released => debug!("Button released"),
};

// Start listening for button events.
let listener = button::Listener::new(index, handler);

// Stop listening (automatic when dropped).
listener.stop();
```

How to use timers

```
// Create a timer (the callback runs on each timer trigger).
let blink = clock::Timer::new(|| led::set(0, !led::get(0)));

// Start the timer to trigger periodically.
blink.start(clock::Periodic, Duration::from_millis(200));

// Stop the timer (automatic when dropped).
blink.stop();

// A timer may also be started to trigger only once.
let timeout = clock::Timer::new(|| debug!("Timed out!"));
timeout.start(clock::Oneshot, Duration::from_secs(10));
```

How to access a serial

```
// Access the number of UARTs on the board.
let num_uarts = uart::count();
assert!(uart_index < num_uarts);

// Access a UART.
let serial = uart::Uart(uart_index);

// Access the USB serial.
let serial = usb::serial::UsbSerial;
```

How to read from a serial

```
// Non-blocking read (returns 0 if no data available).
let len = serial::read(&serial, &mut buffer).unwrap();

// Blocks until the buffer is filled.
serial::read_all(&serial, &mut buffer).unwrap();

// Blocks until data is available then non-blocking read.
let len = serial::read_any(&serial, &mut buffer).unwrap();
```

How to write to a serial

```
// Non-blocking write (returns 0 if not ready to write).
let len = serial::write(&serial, &buffer).unwrap();

// Blocks until the buffer is completely written.
serial::write_all(&serial, &buffer).unwrap();

// Blocks until ready to write then non-blocking write.
let len = serial::write_any(&serial, &buffer).unwrap();

// Flushes buffers (for cases where the serial is buffered).
serial::flush(&serial).unwrap();
```

How to use the persistent store

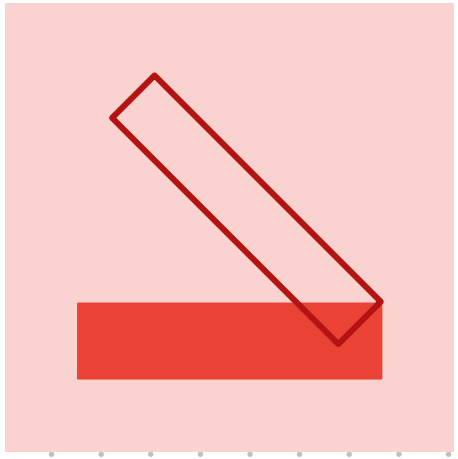
```
// Keys are integers smaller than 4096.
let key = 283;
// Values are byte slices shorter than 1023.
let value = b"hello";

// Insert an entry (overwrite any existing one).
store::insert(key, value).unwrap();

// Find an entry.
match store::find(key).unwrap() {
    Some(value) => debug!("Found {value:02x?}"),
    None => debug!("Not found."),
}

// Remove an entry (no-op if nothing to remove).
store::remove(key).unwrap();
```

Current state and future work



Where we are

Boards	Nordic nRF52840, RISC-V board to come soon Host with web UI
Applet Languages	Rust and AssemblyScript (low-level API only)
Scheduler	Currently limited to running 1 applet on 1 core Multi-applets and multi-core support to be added
Platform	Upgradability and applet management to be added

Already being used!

Used internally

One project so far and OpenSK will be ported to Wasefire

2 research projects with one university

Improving hardware performance and security

Ongoing research project with 5 universities

Result will be a hardware device powered by Wasefire

Takeaways

Wasefire is still in its early stages

Contributions and collaborations are welcome

Ongoing research projects with academics

Guided exercises

https://google.github.io/wasefire/exercises/index.html

(You'll need a Github account or a Linux laptop)

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Thank you!

For more information:

https://google.github.io/wasefire/