

# Cryptography in the Wild: The Security of Cryptographic Implementations

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Daniel De Almeida Braga

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## Context and Motivations

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# Cryptography in the Wild...

- Cryptography has many applications
  - Confidentiality
  - Integrity
  - Authentication
  - ...

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- Cryptography has many applications
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- Protocols are built upon *primitives*



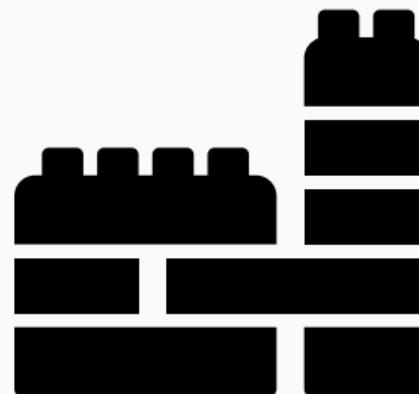
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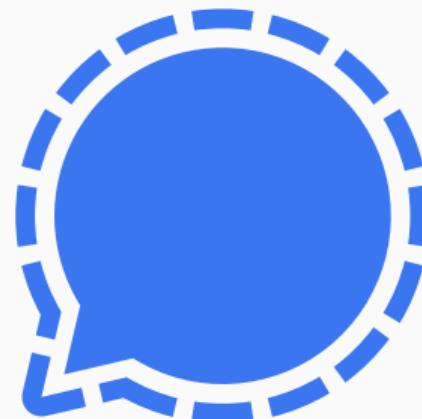
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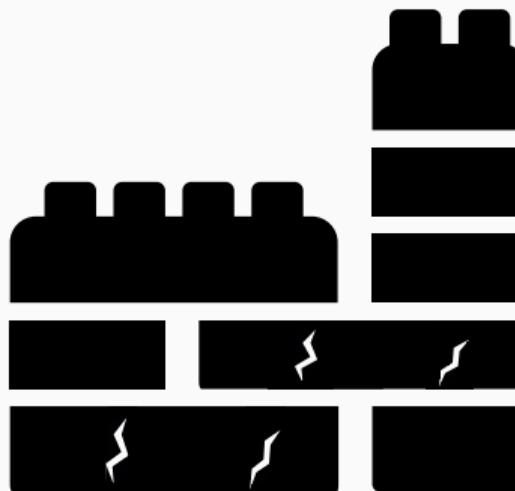
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# ... What About Security?

Multiple security considerations:

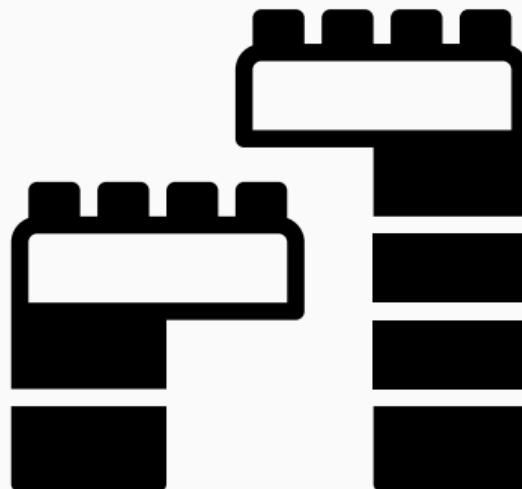
- Primitive security



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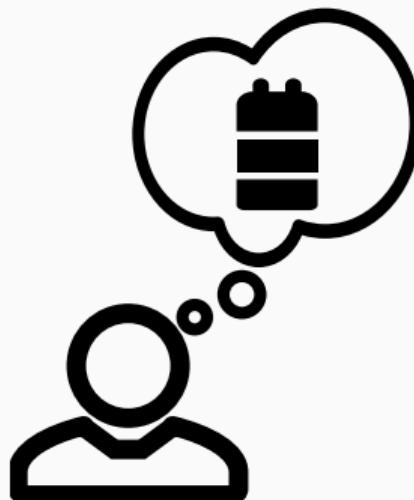
- Primitive security
- Logical security of the protocol



# ... What About Security?

Multiple security considerations:

- Primitive security
- Logical security of the protocol
- Implementation security



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# Cryptographic Implementation Security

## Generic bugs

- Buffer overflows
- Arithmetic errors
- Missing verification
- ...



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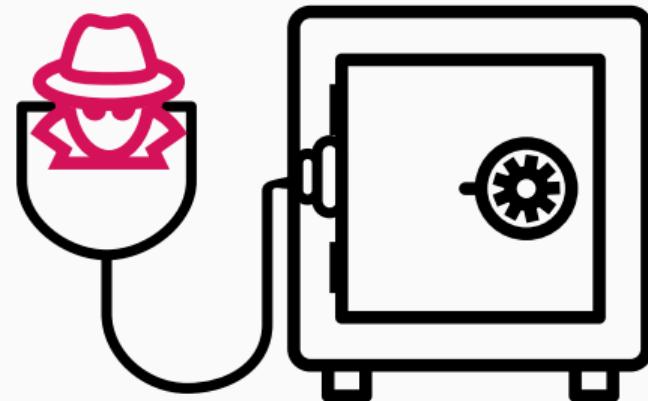
## Side channel leakage

# Cryptographic Implementation Security

## Generic bugs

- Buffer overflows
- Arithmetic errors
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- ...

## Side channel leakage



# Secret Dependent Execution

```
def processPassword(pwd):  
    if "a" in pwd:  
        res = long_processing(pwd)  
    else:  
        res = short_processing(pwd)  
    return res
```

Gain information with overall timing:



0.5 seconds ⇒ no *a*



10 seconds ⇒ *a*

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def processPassword(pwd):  
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```
def processPassword2(pwd):  
    if "a" in pwd:  
        res = long_processing(pwd)  
    else:  
        res = long_processing2(pwd)  
    return res
```

Gain information with overall timing:

-  0.5 seconds ⇒ no *a*
-  10 seconds ⇒ *a*

# Secret Dependent Execution

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Gain information with overall timing:

- ⌚ 0.5 seconds ⇒ no *a*
- ⌚ 10 seconds ⇒ *a*

```
def processPassword2(pwd):  
    if "a" in pwd:  
        res = long_processing(pwd)   
    else:  
        res = long_processing2(pwd)  
    return res
```

Gain information with execution flow:

- Execute `long_processing` ⇒ *a*
- Else, no *a* in `pwd`

# Secret Independent Execution<sup>1</sup>

- Control flow does not depend on secret

```
if secret:  
    [...]  
else:  
    [...]
```

<sup>1</sup> P. Kocher. *Timing Attacks on Implementations of Diffie-Hellman, RSA, DSS, and Other Systems*. In CRYPTO'96.

# Secret Independent Execution<sup>1</sup>

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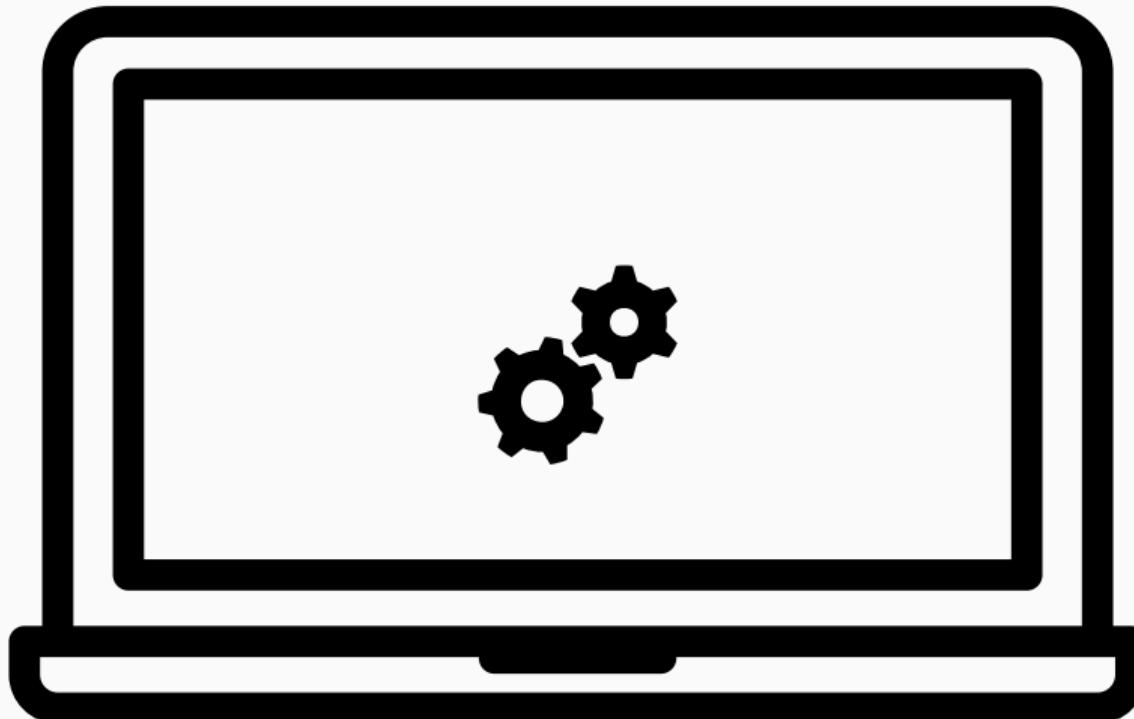
```
if secret:  
    [...]  
else:  
    [...]
```

- Memory access does not depend on secret

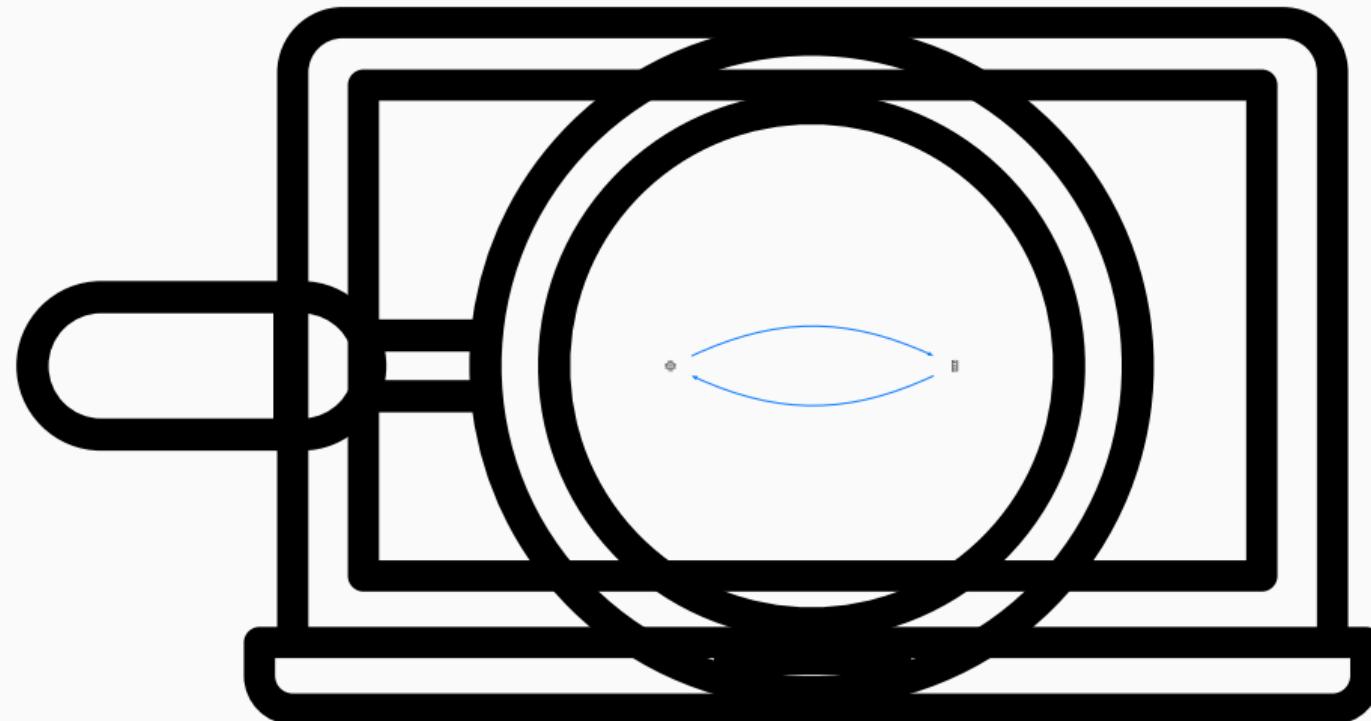
```
x = array[secret]
```

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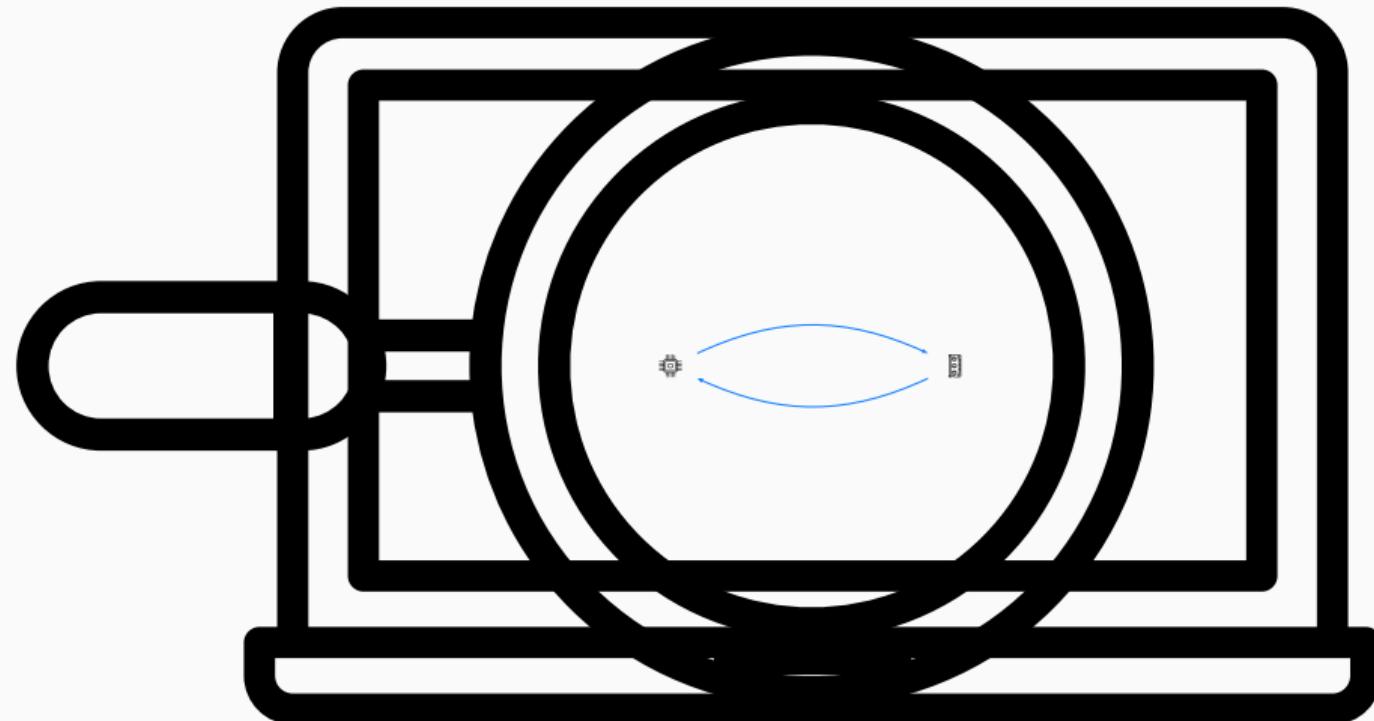
# Shared Component - Memory



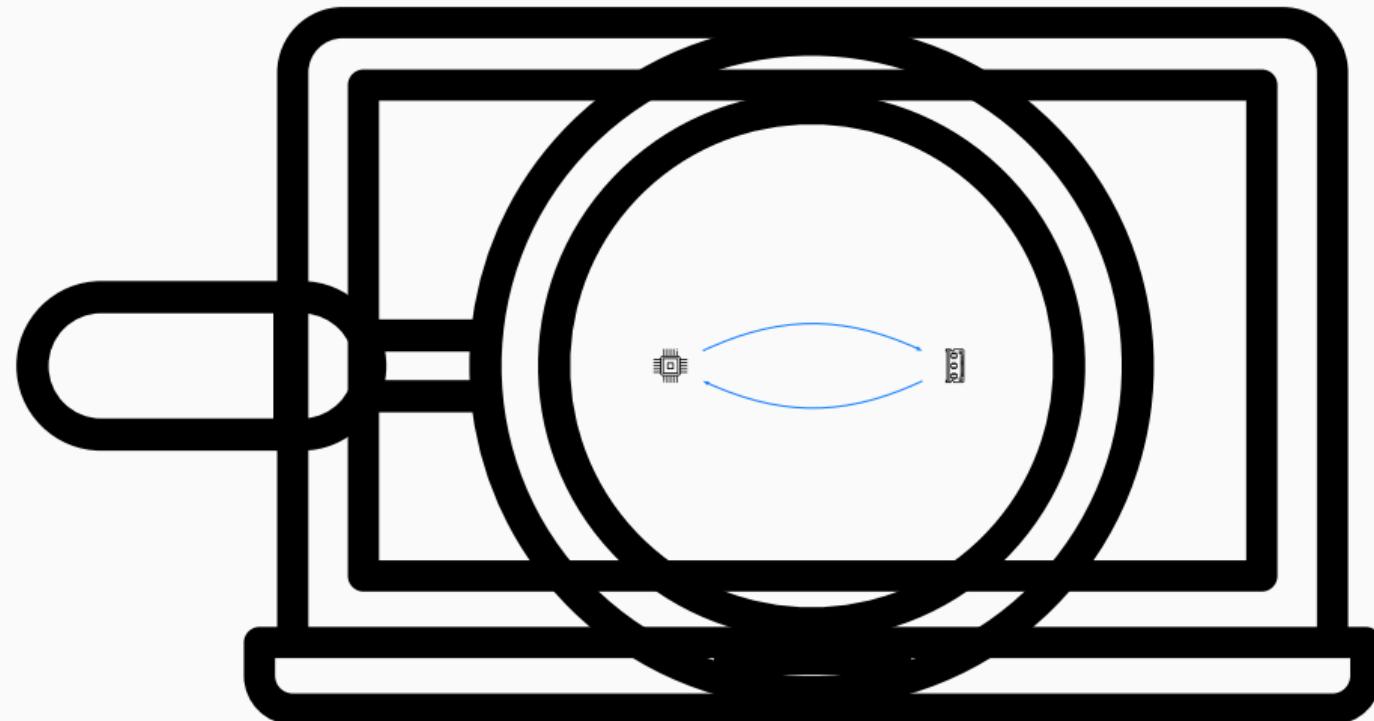
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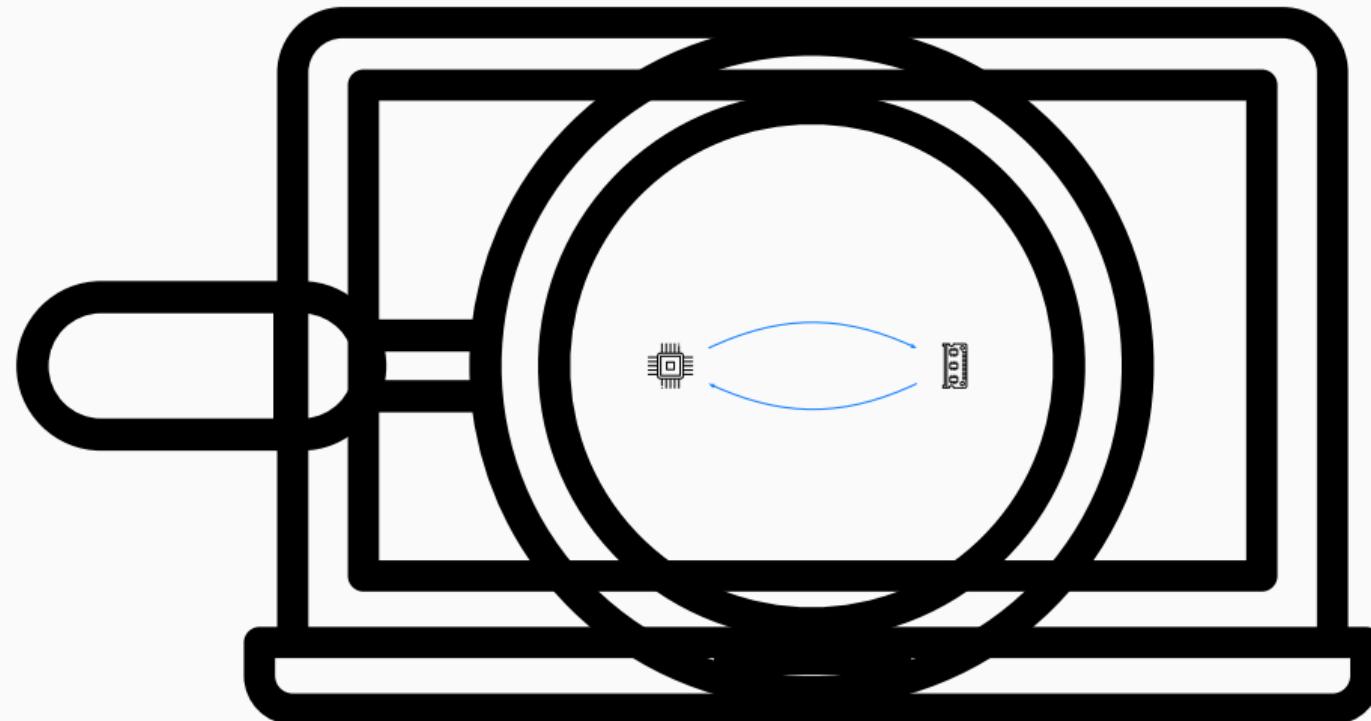
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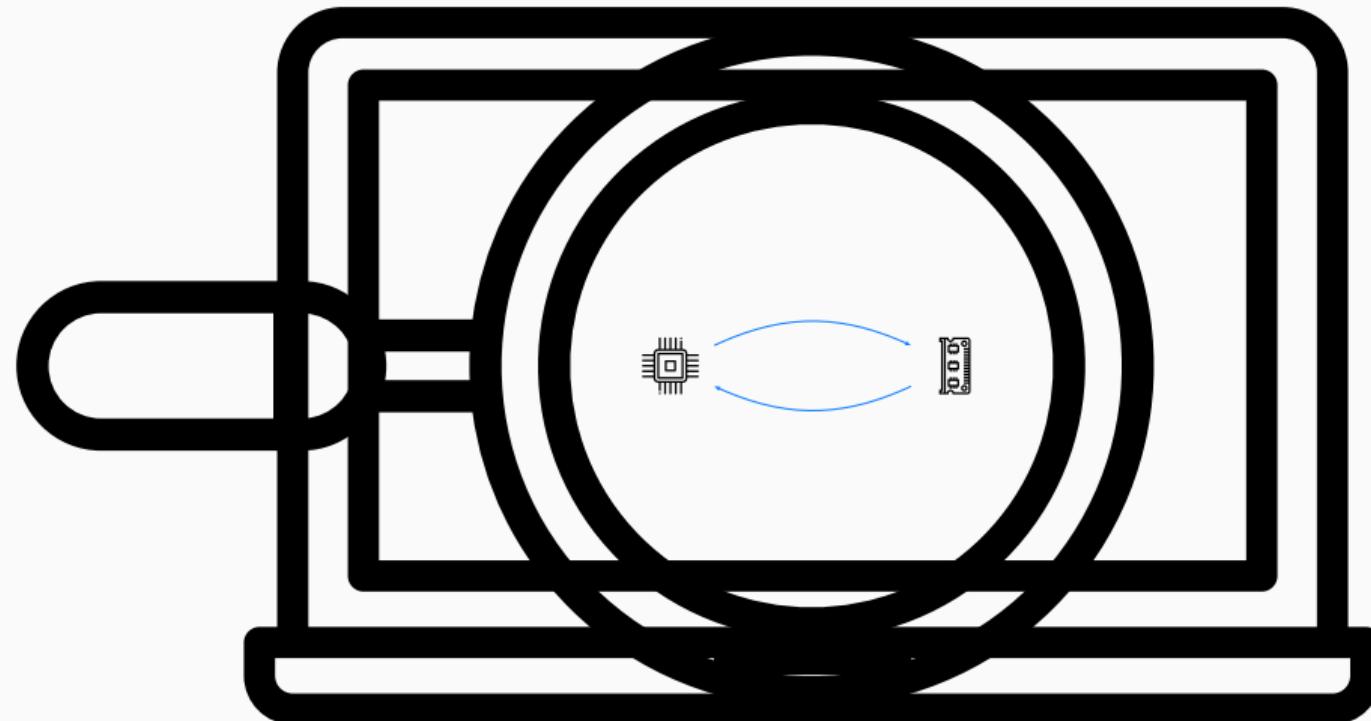
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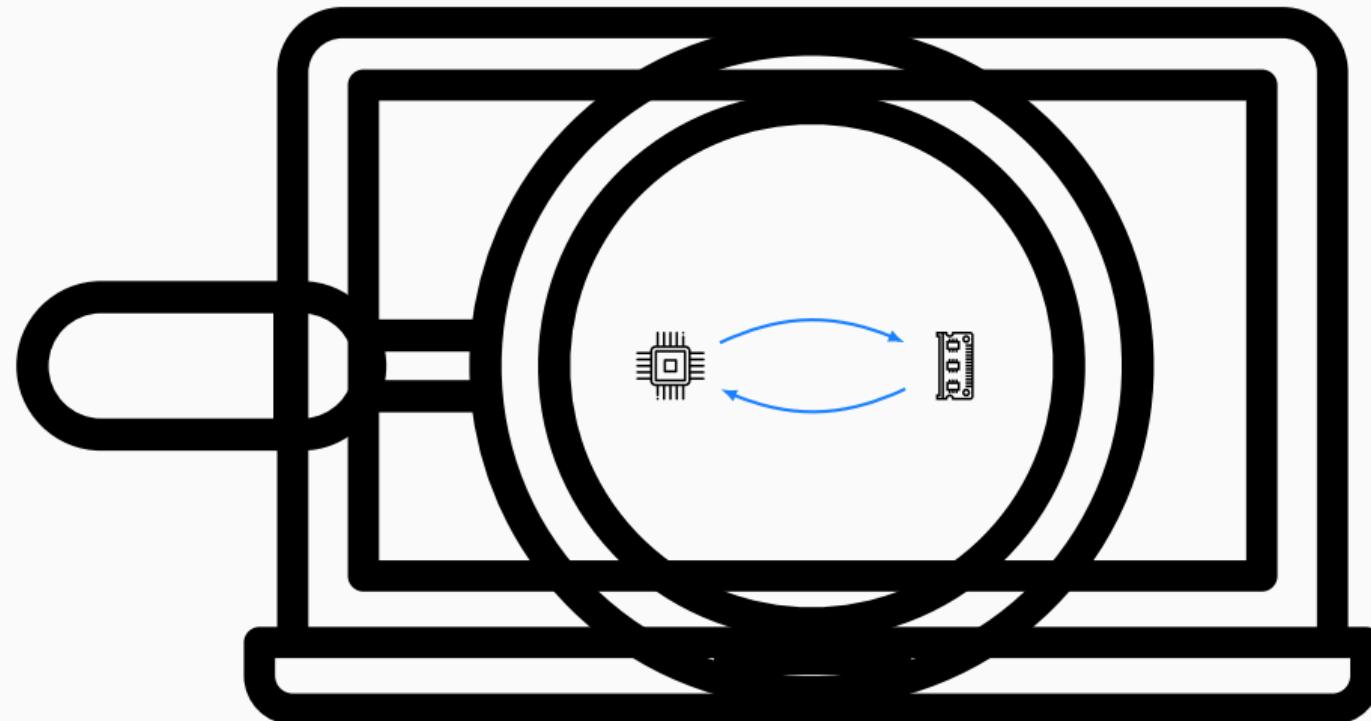
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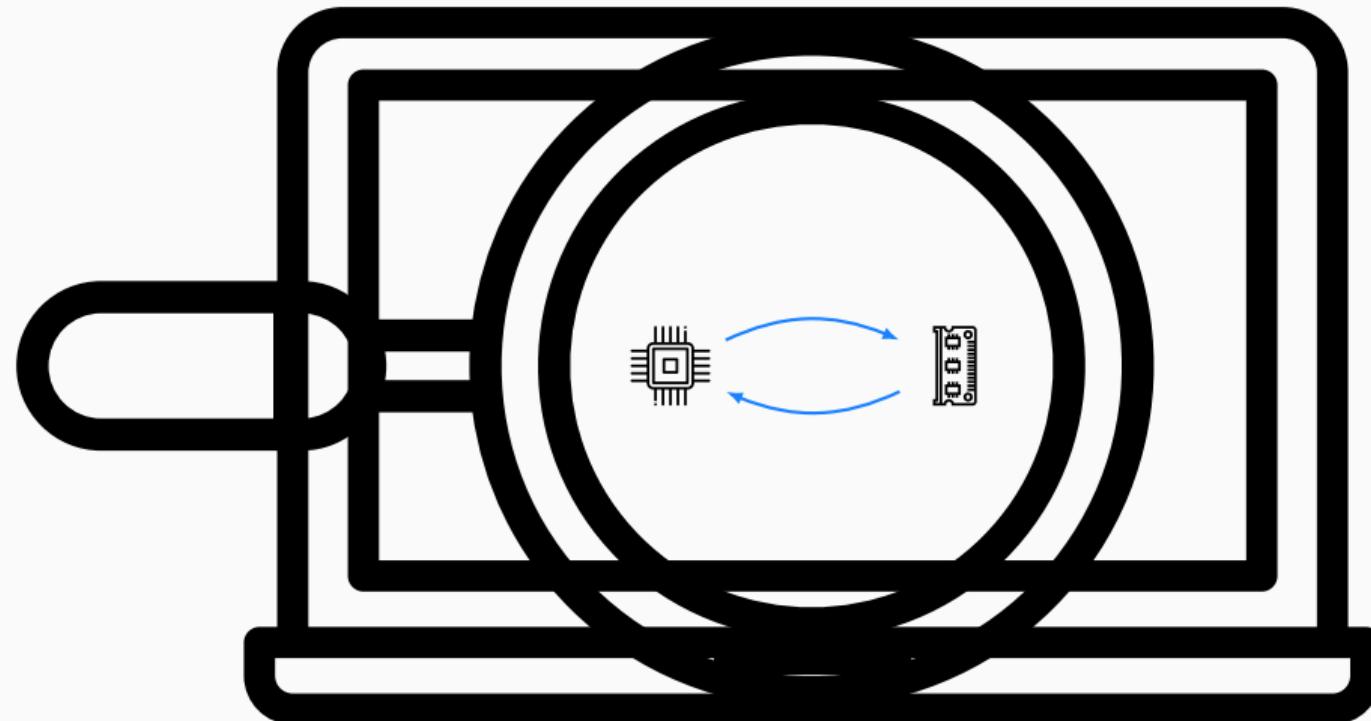
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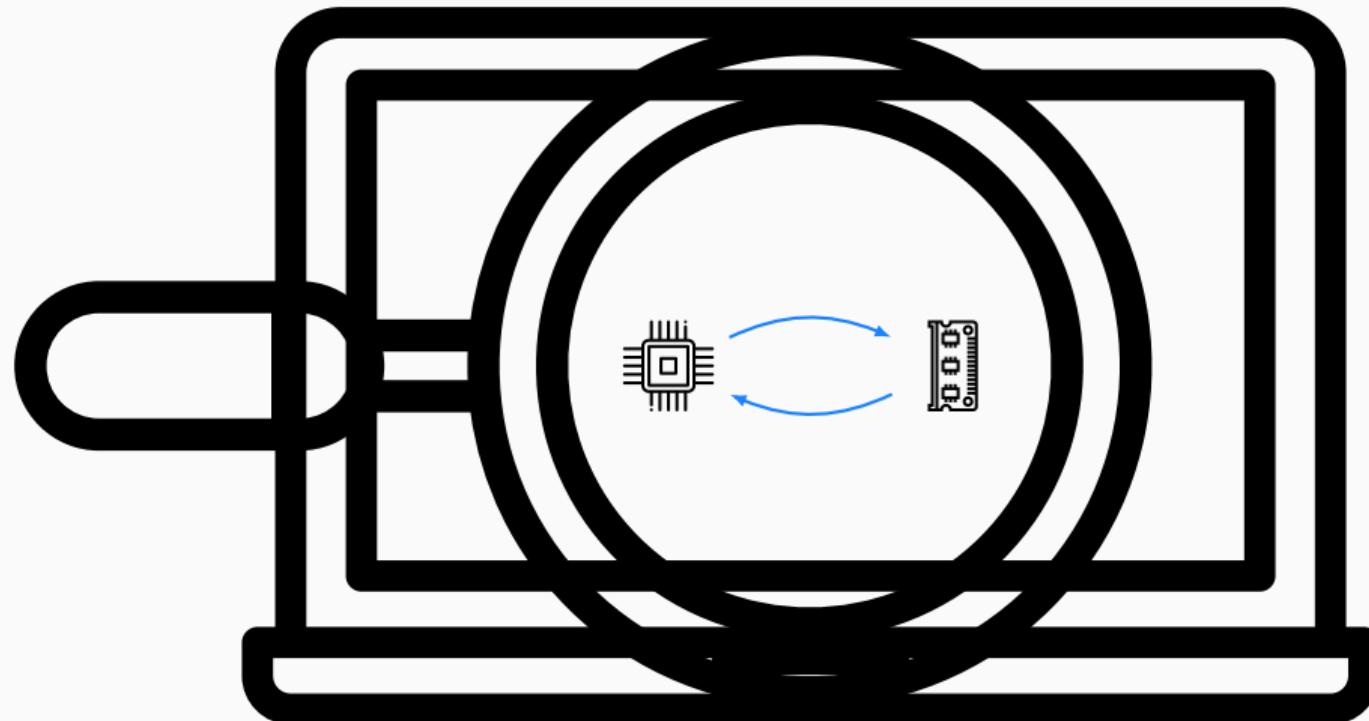
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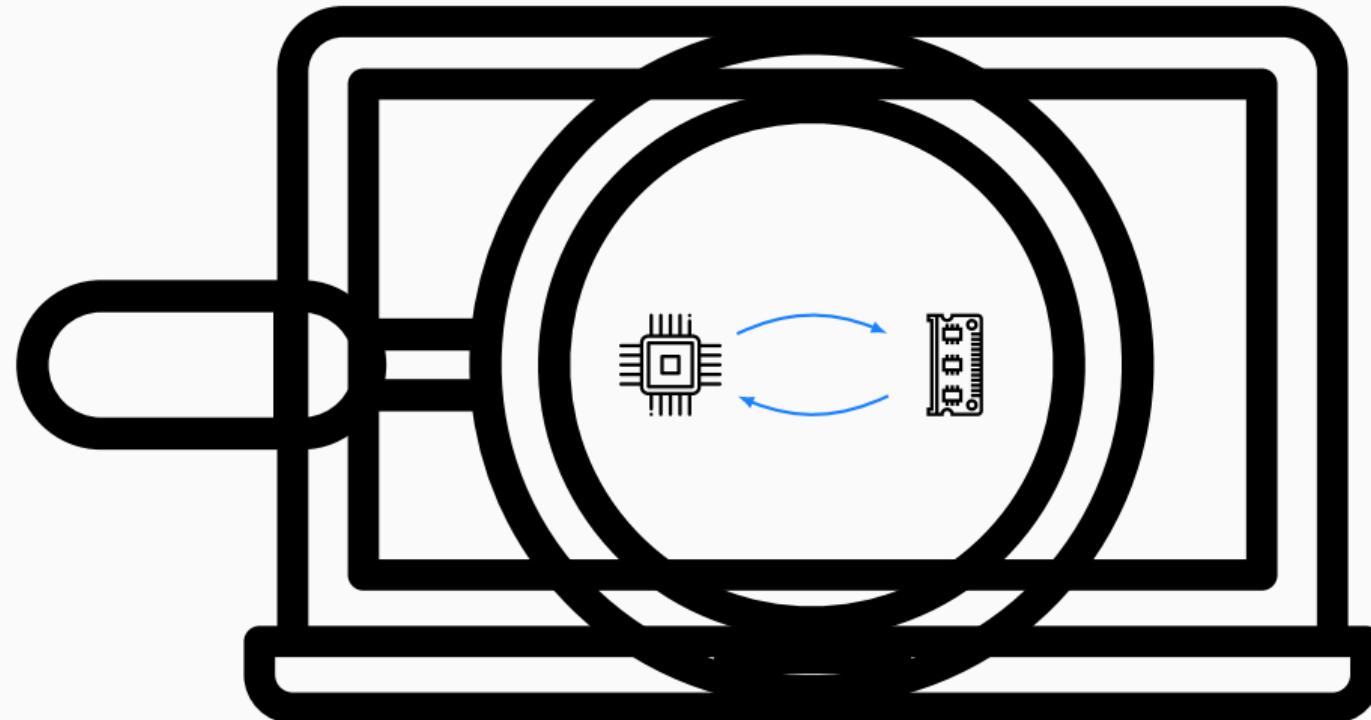
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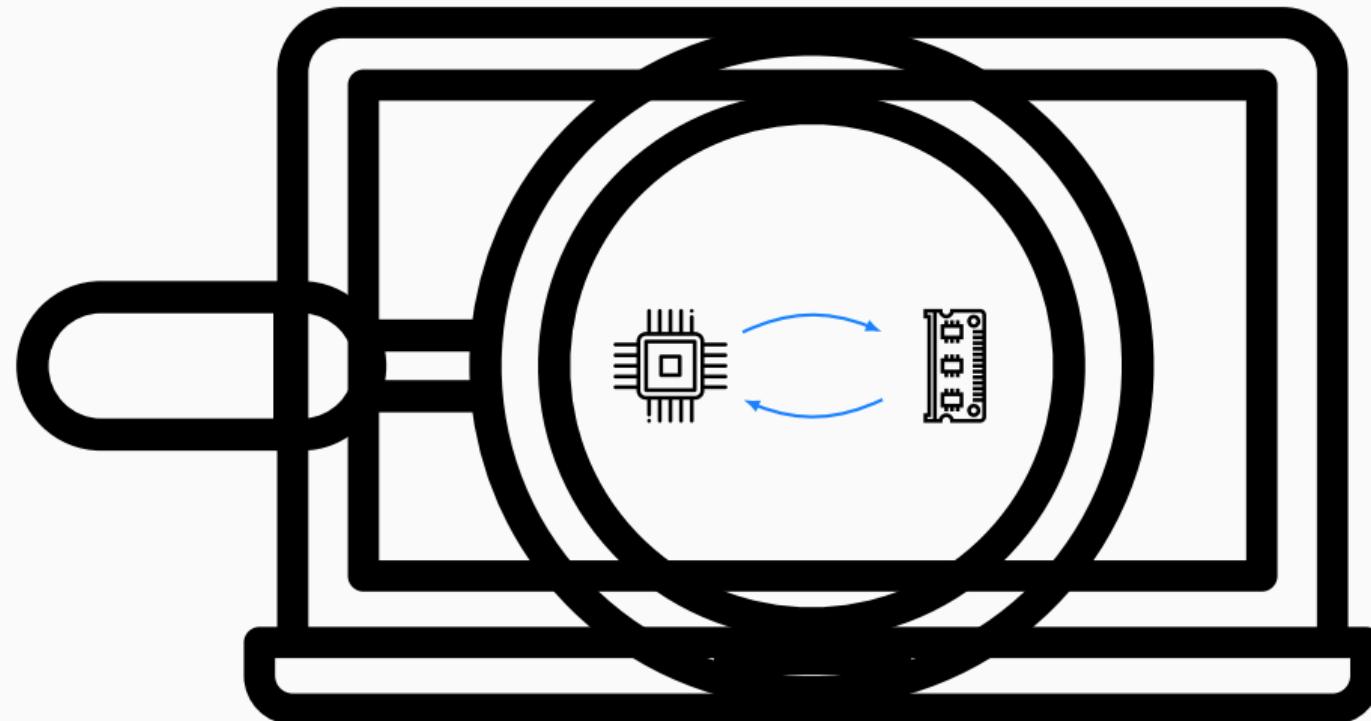
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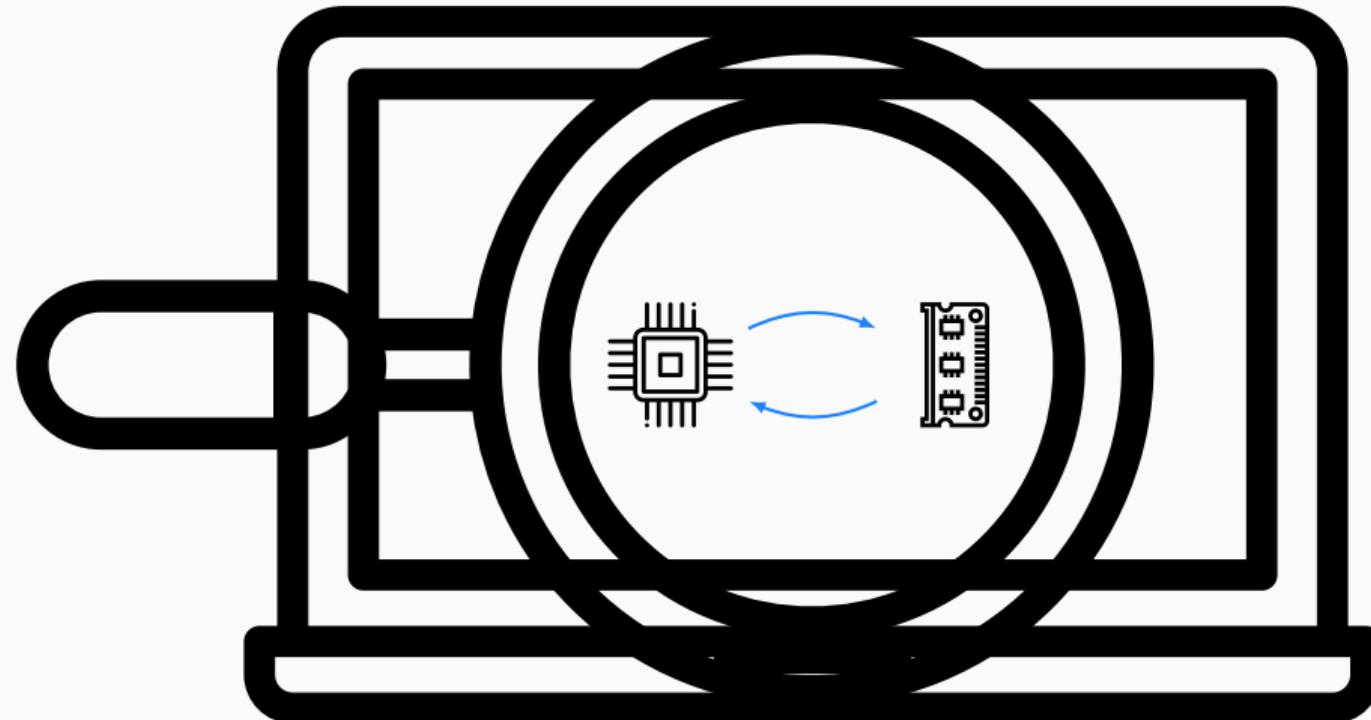
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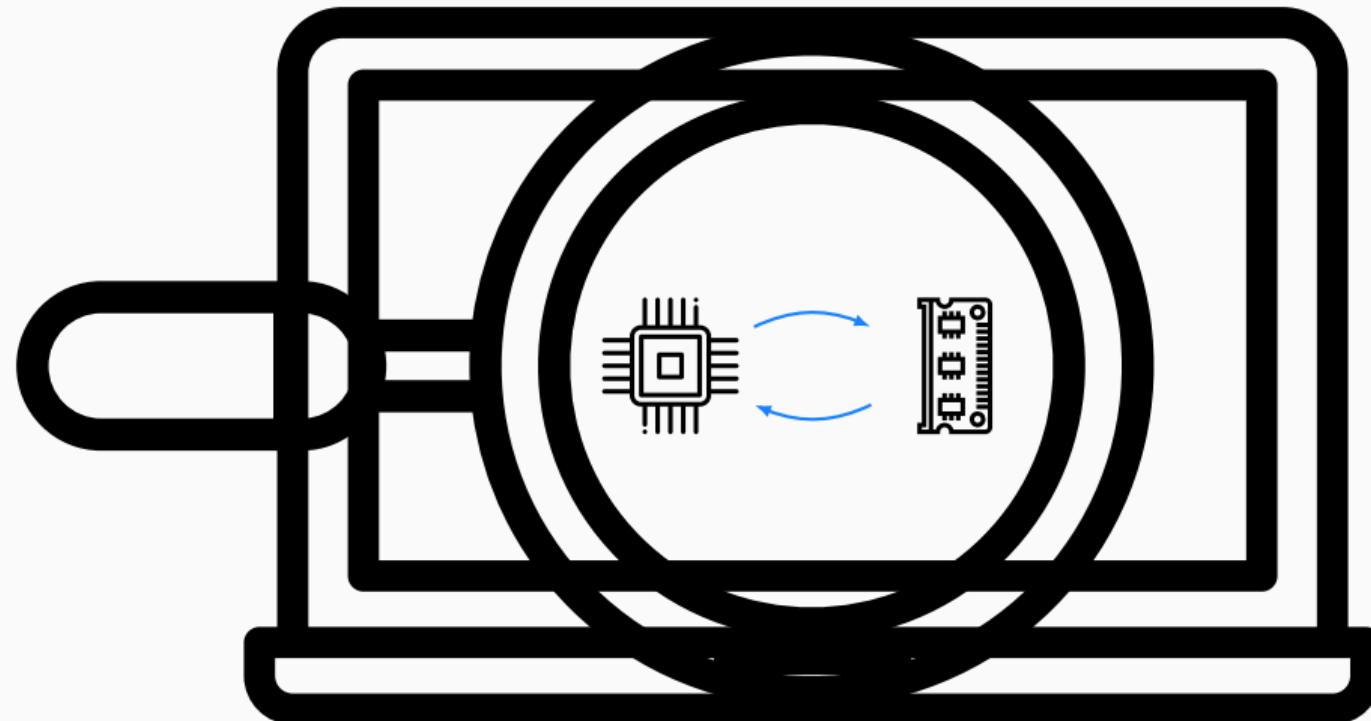
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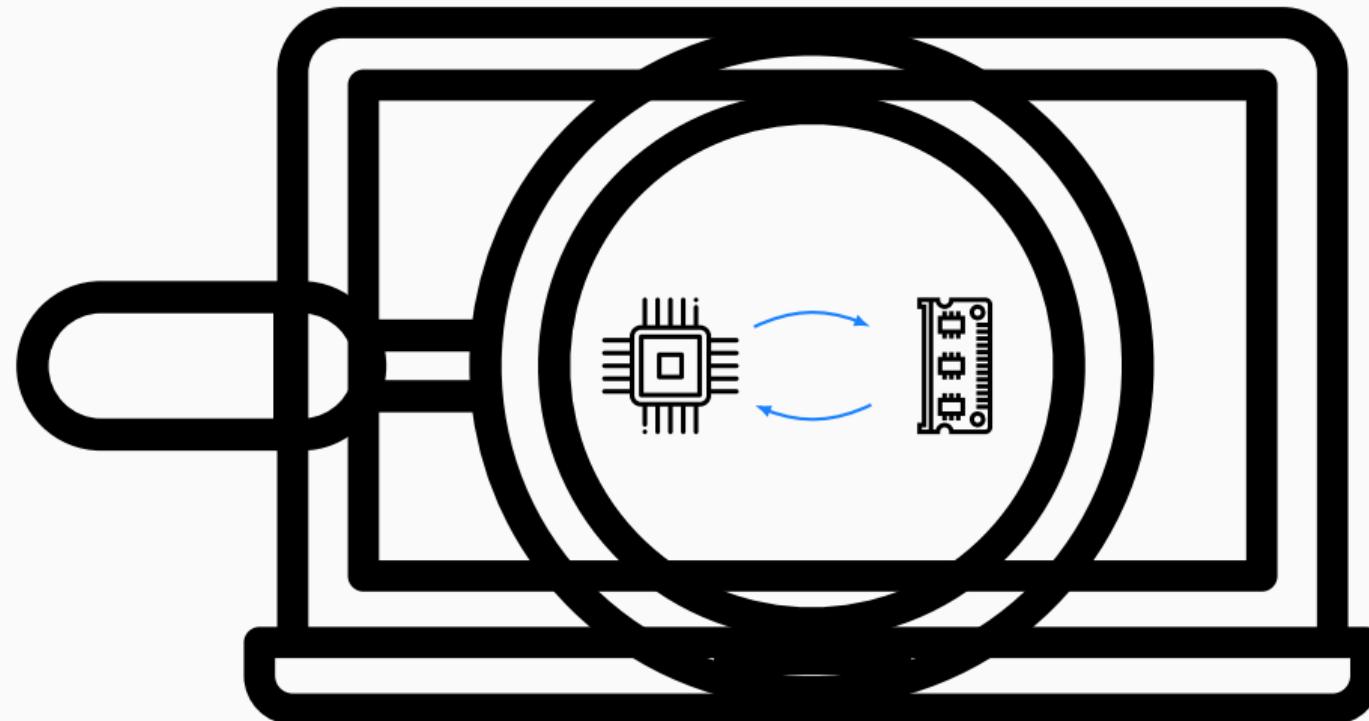
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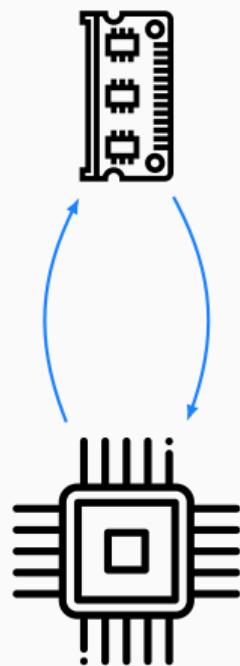
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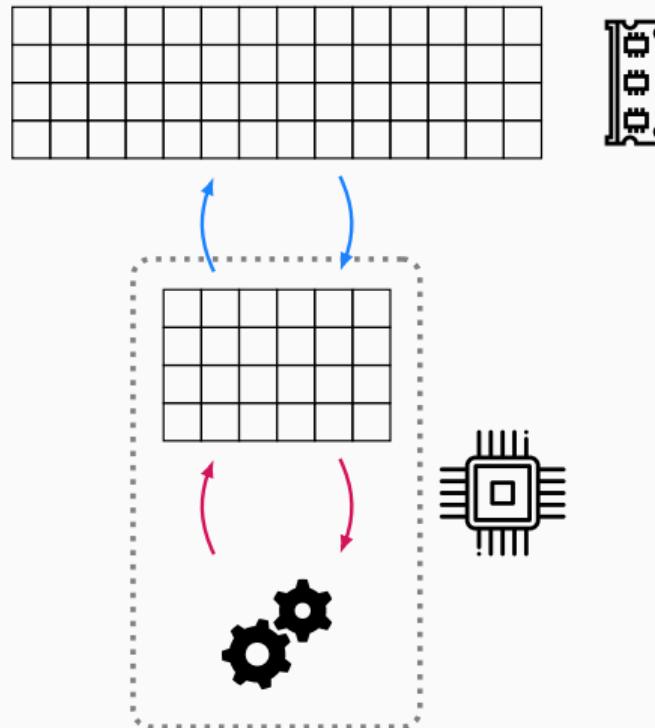
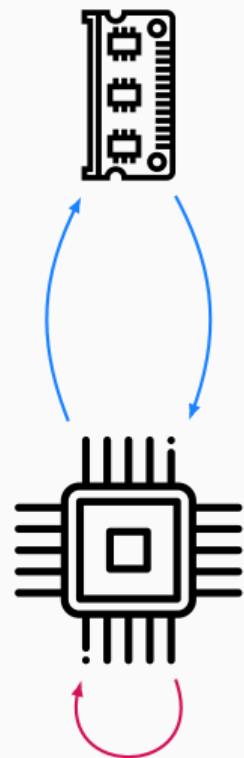
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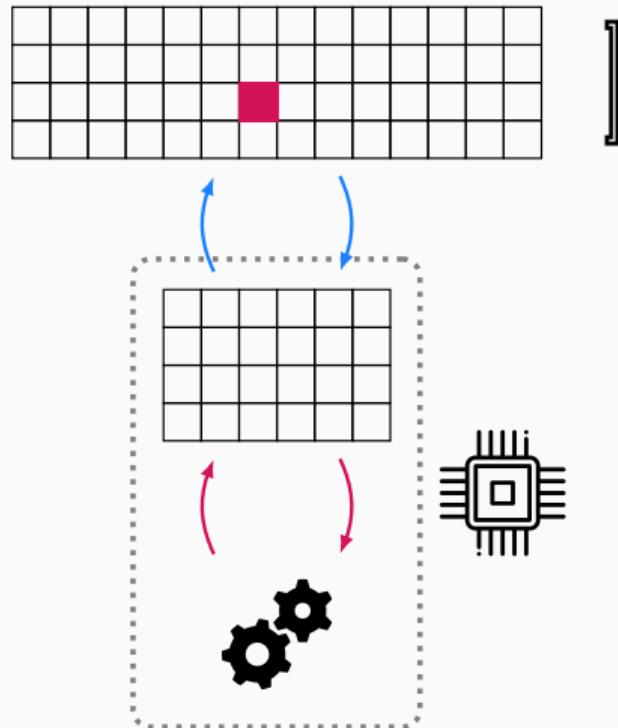
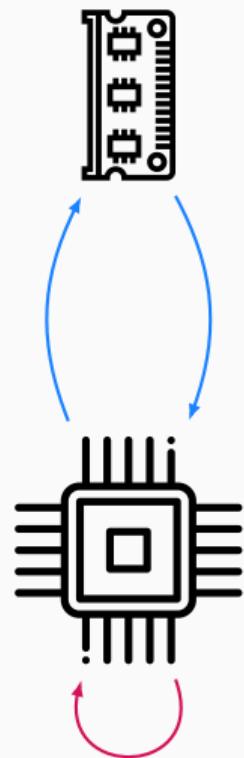
# Memory Latency



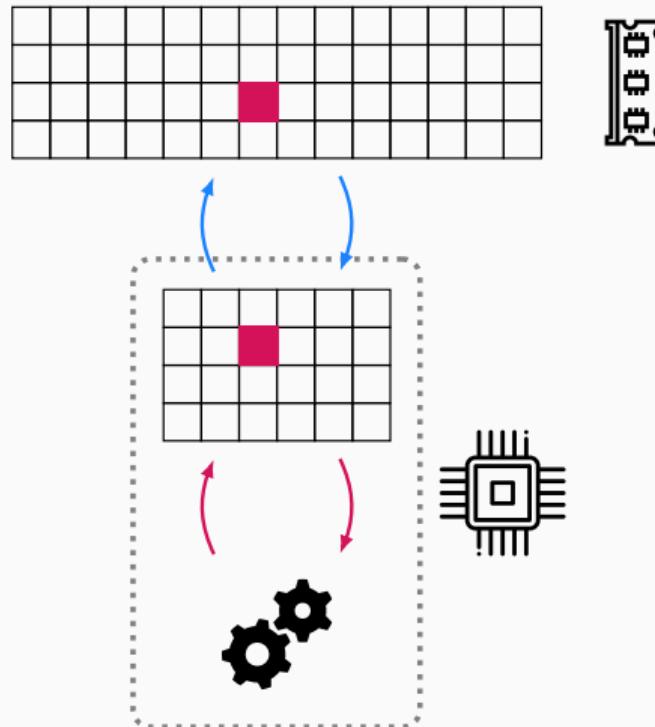
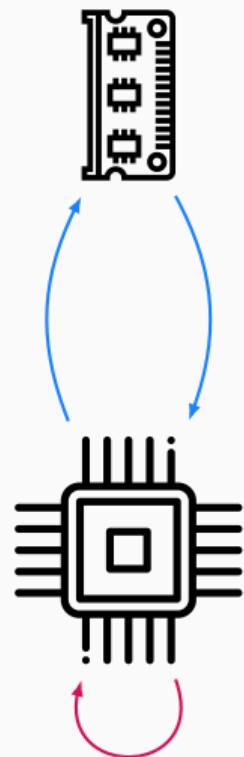
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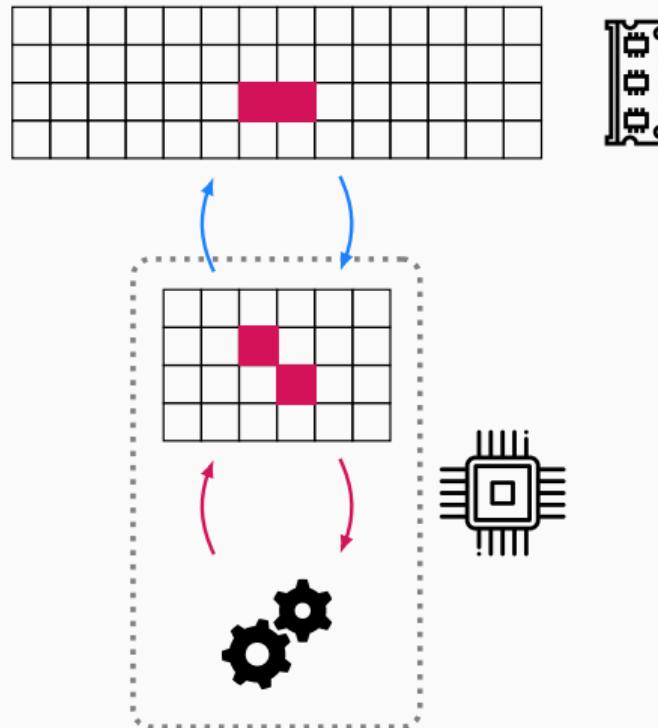
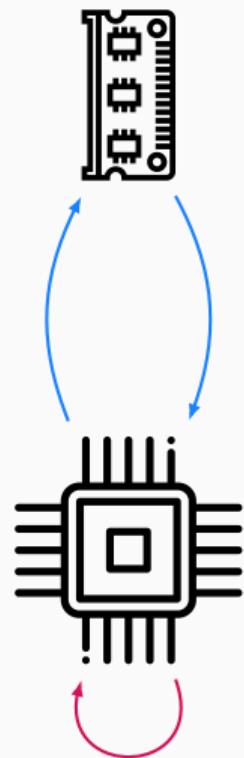
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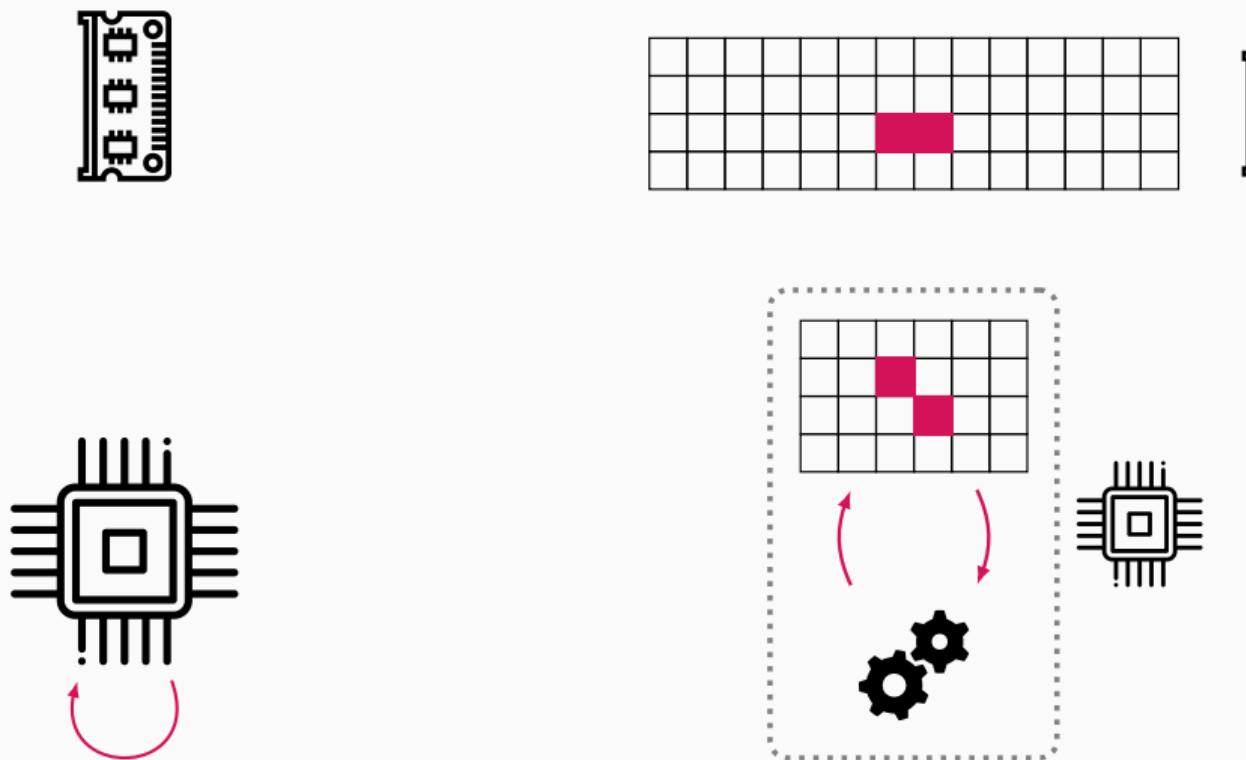
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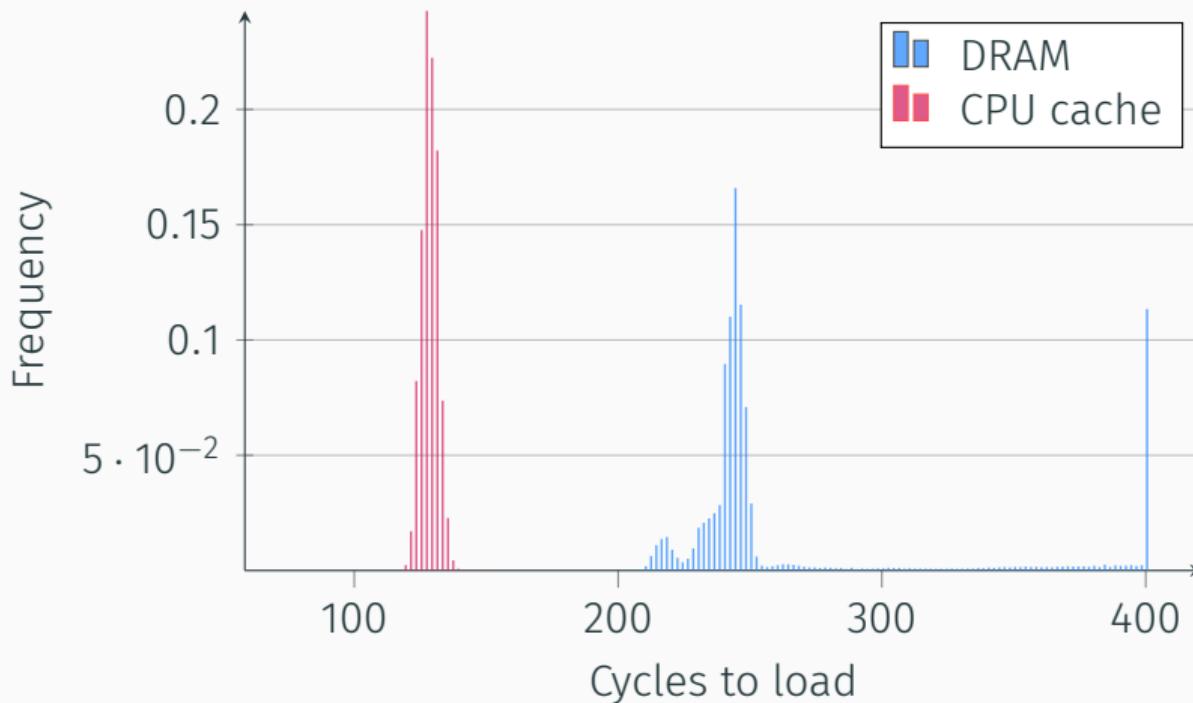
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# FLUSH+RELOAD<sup>1</sup>

**Goal:** spy on data/instructions access

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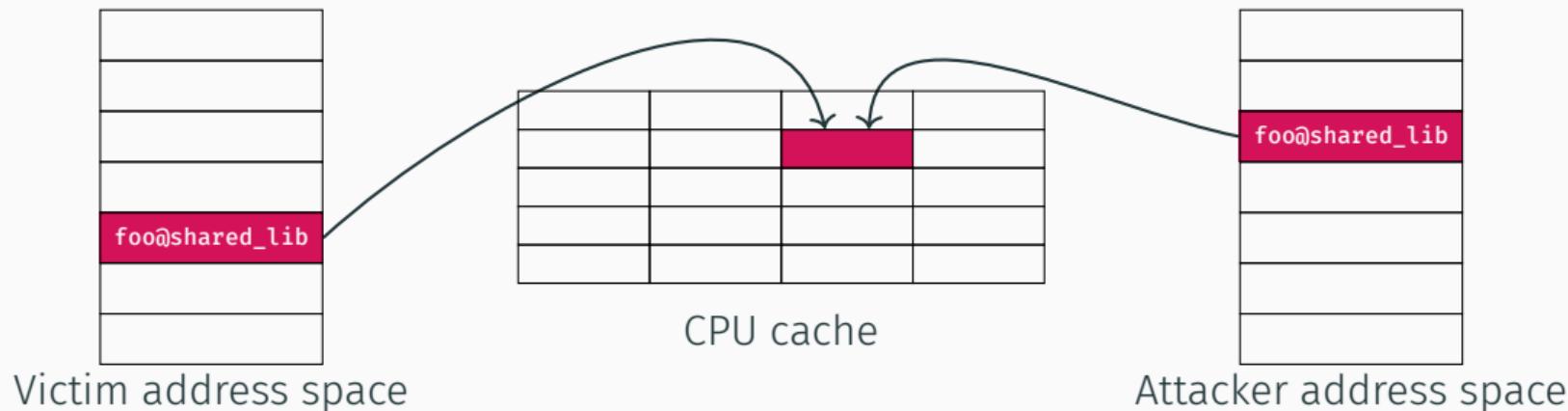
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**Concept:** Abuse cache contention



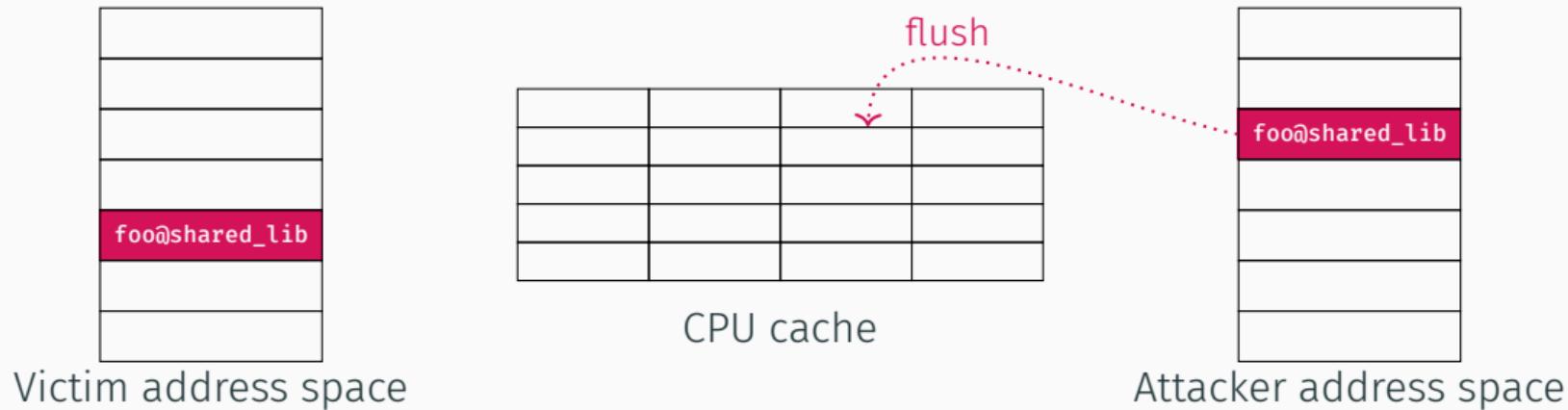
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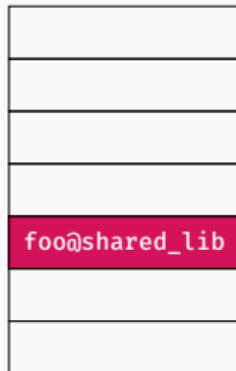
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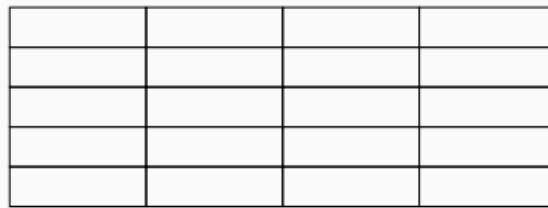


1. Maps the victim's address space
2. Flush the instruction we monitor

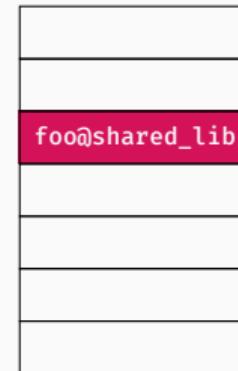
# FLUSH+RELOAD



Victim address space



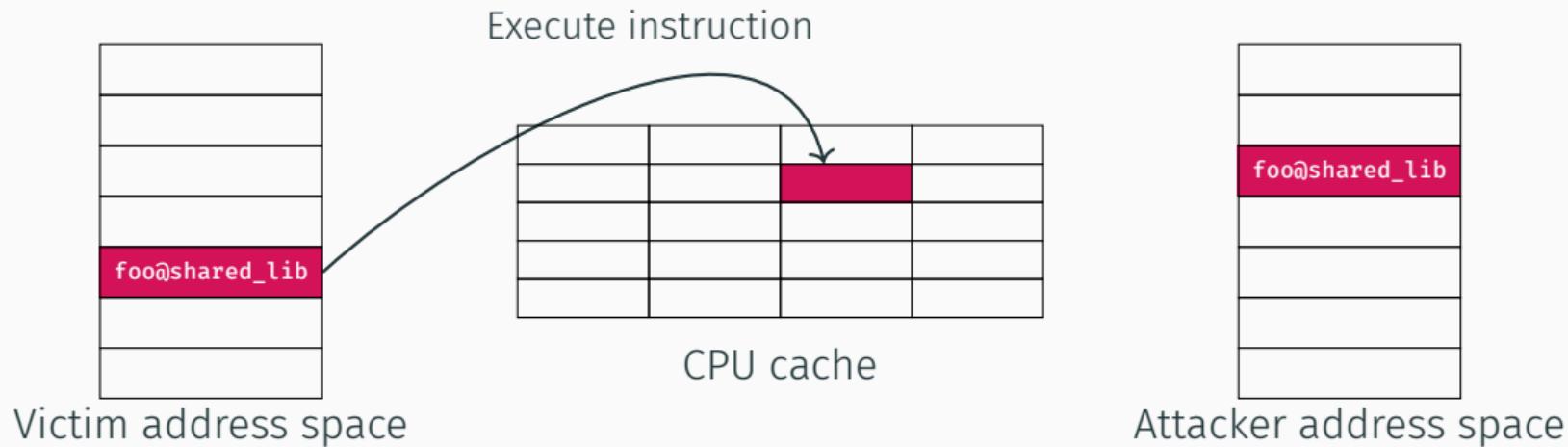
CPU cache



Attacker address space

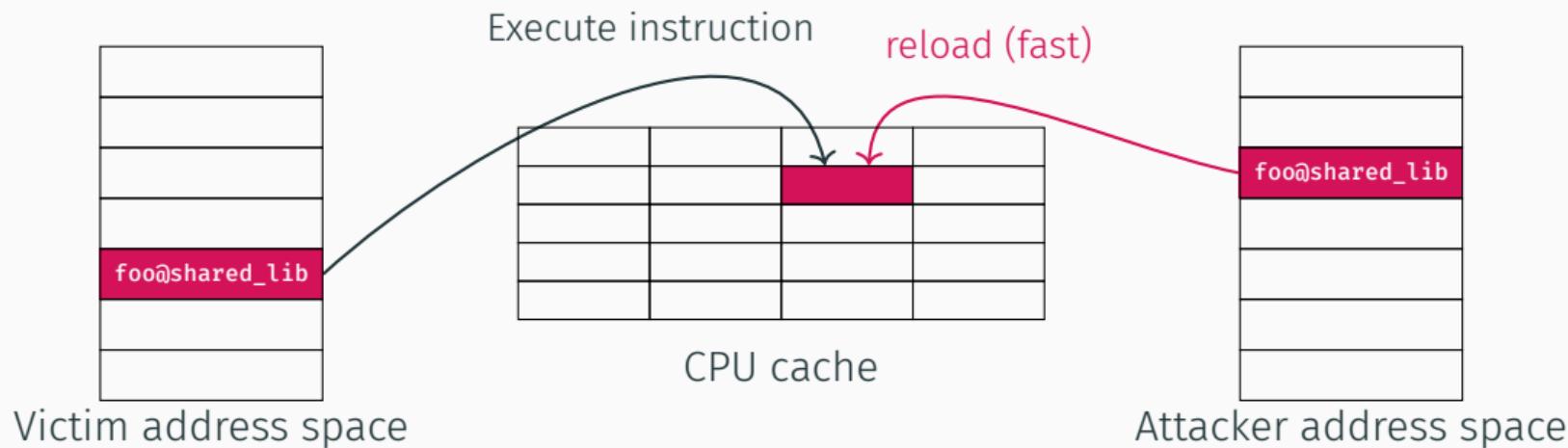
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3. See how much time it takes to reload

# FLUSH+RELOAD



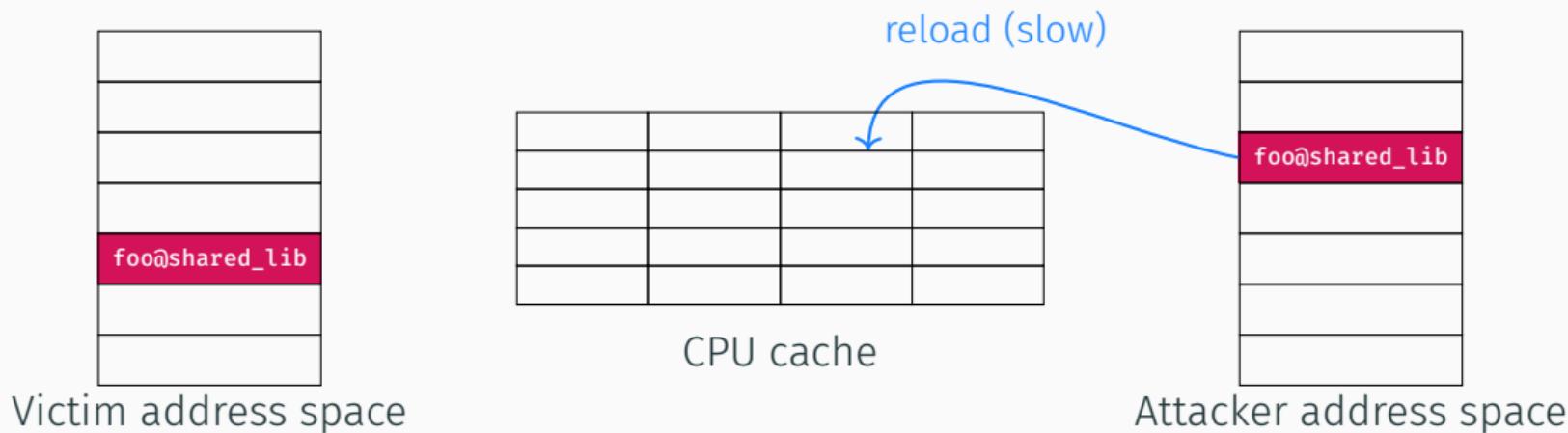
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  - Fast  $\Rightarrow$  the victim already executed

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Victim address space

CPU cache

Attacker address space

1. Maps the victim's address space
2. Flush the instruction we monitor
3. See how much time it takes to reload
  - Fast  $\Rightarrow$  the victim already executed
  - Slow  $\Rightarrow$  the victim did not

# FLUSH+RELOAD

**Goal:** spy on data/instructions access

**Assumption:** shared memory (e.g. spyware)

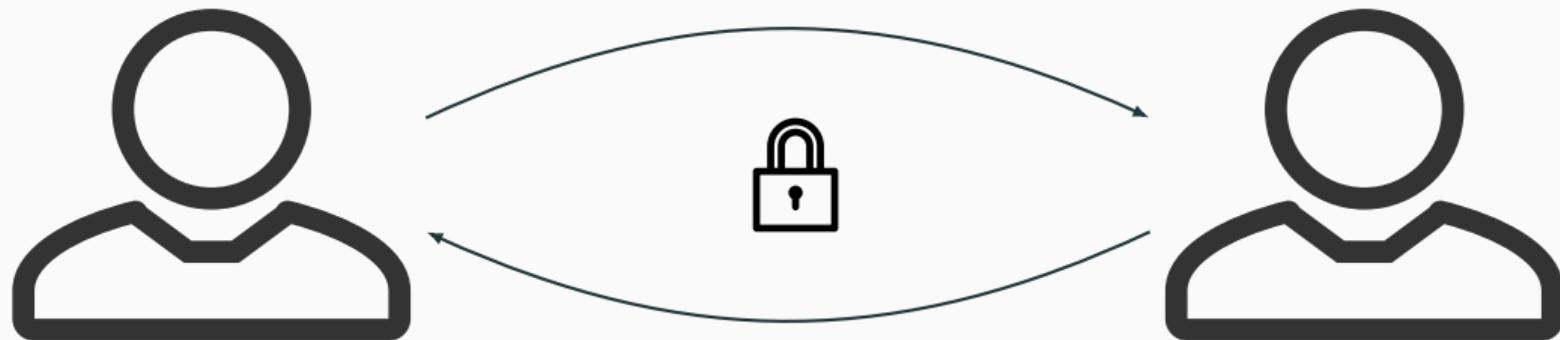
**Concept:** Abuse cache contention

**Limitations:**

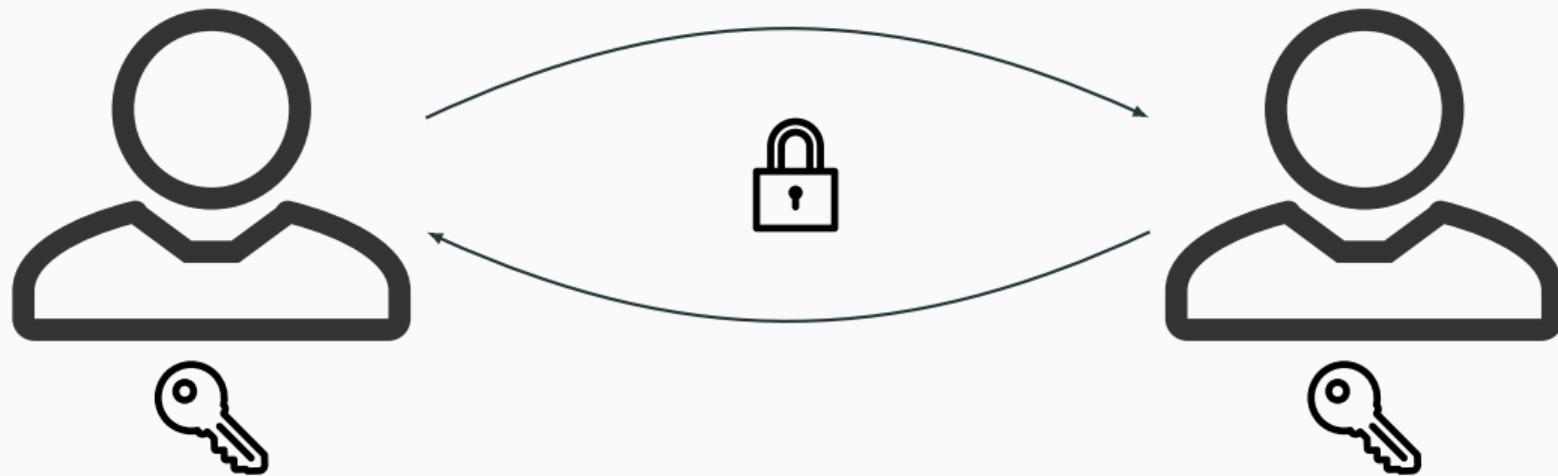
- Spatial resolution
- Temporal resolution
- Hardware optimizations



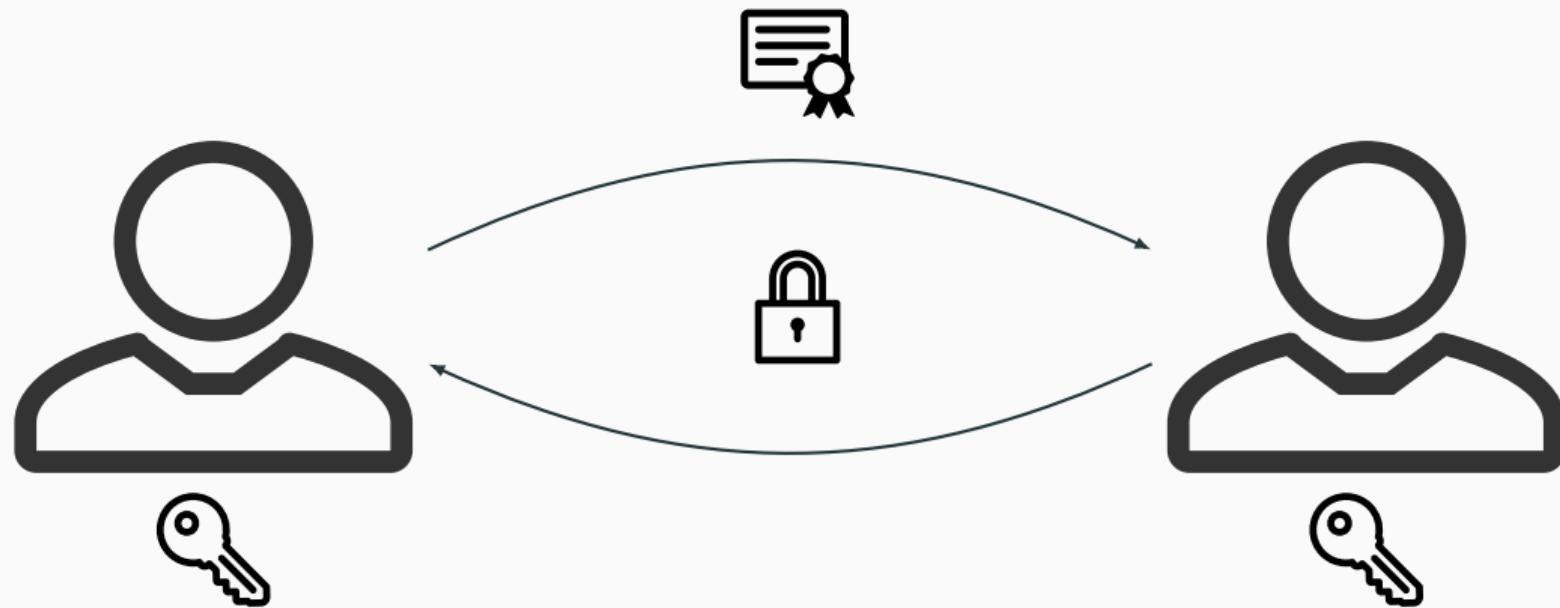
# Password Authenticated Key Exchange (PAKE)



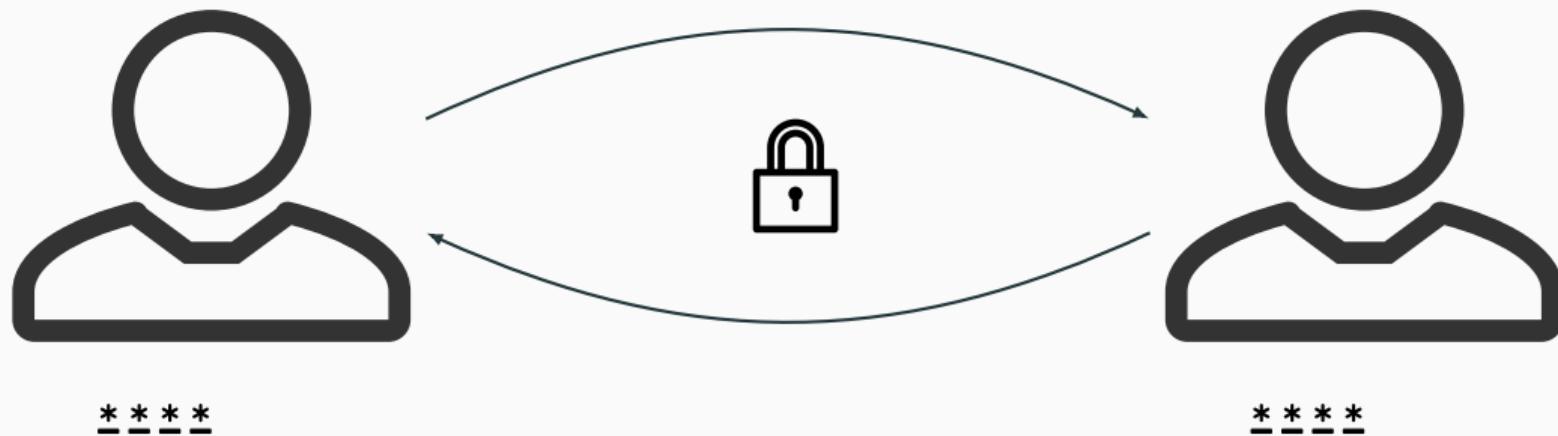
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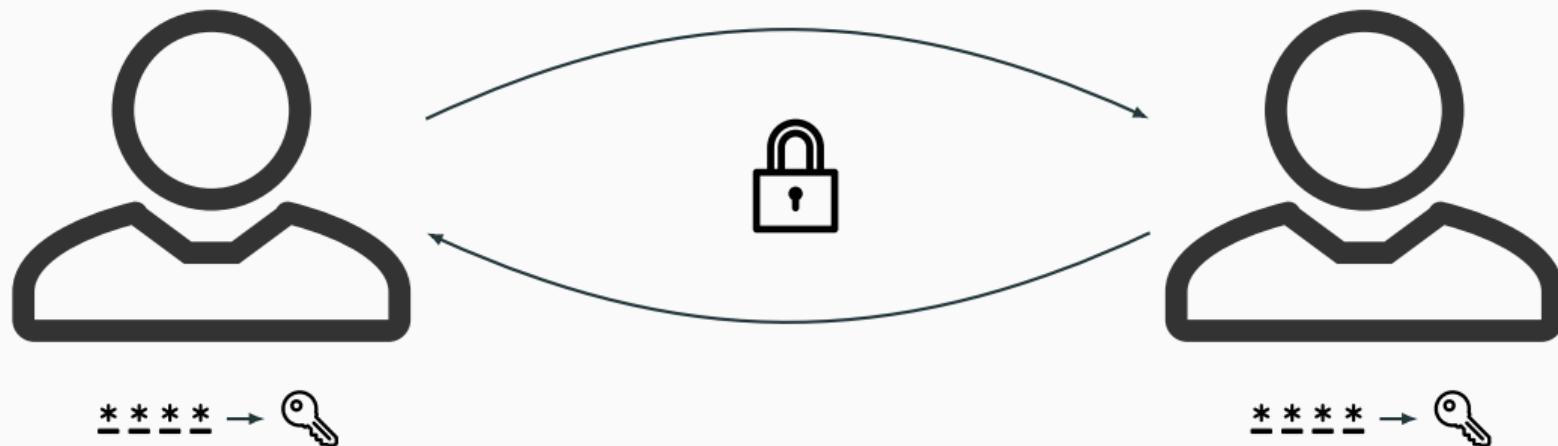
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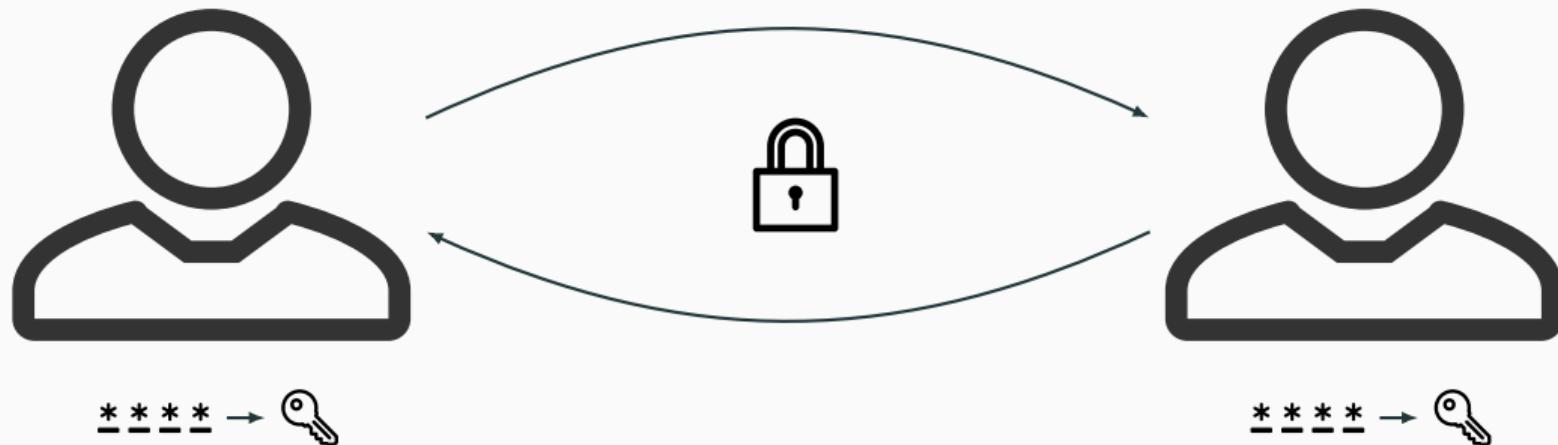
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⚠ Needs to resist to (offline) dictionary attacks

# Lots of different PAKEs<sup>1</sup>

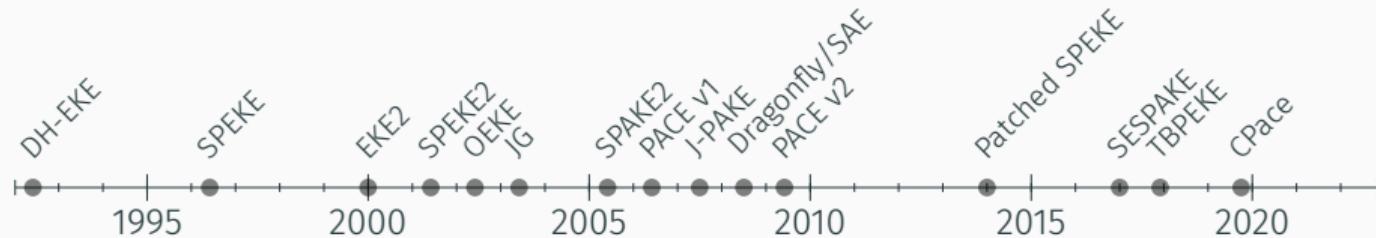
- Balanced

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# Lots of different PAKEs<sup>1</sup>

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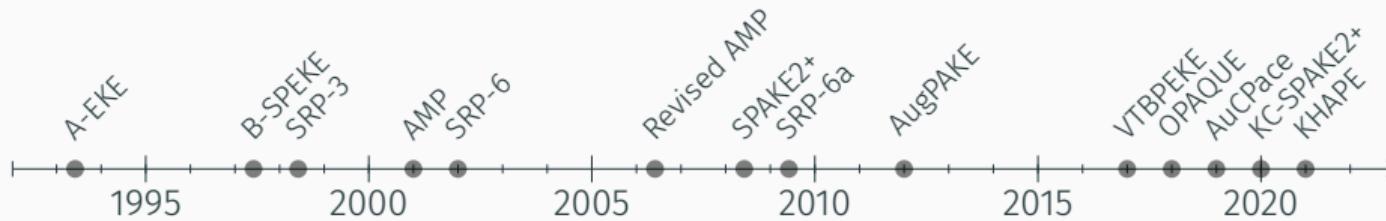
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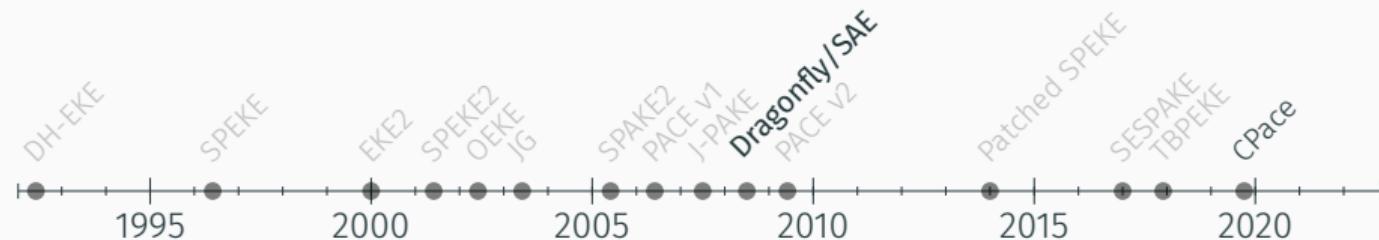
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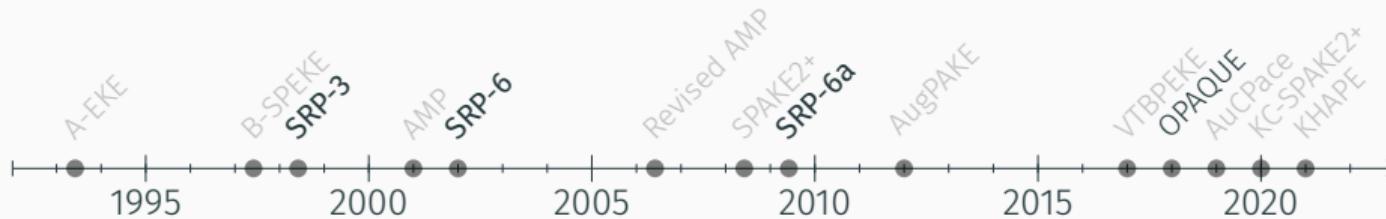
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## My Contributions

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### Cryptography in the Wild: The Security of Cryptographic Implementations

- I. Assess the security of PAKEs implementations against microarchitectural side-channel attacks
- II. Investigate the remanence of side-channel, despite their long history
- III. Explore other solutions to provide secure implementations

# My Contributions

## Peer-reviewed:

**S&P'22** User study on constant-time verification tools usage

*J. Jancar, M. Fourné, D. De Almeida Braga, M. Sabt, P. Schwabe, G. Barthe, P.A. Fouque, Y. Acar*

**CCS'21** Password recovery attack against SRP implementation

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**ACSAC'20** Dragonblood is Still Leaking

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**TCHES'20** Attack on the SCP10 standard

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## Under submission:

- Novel attack on Dragonfly, and secure implementation

*D. De Almeida Braga, M. Sabt, P.A. Fouque, N. Kulatova, K. Bhargavan*

## Ongoing work:

- Follow-up study on constant-time tools usability
- Prefetcher-based side-channel attack

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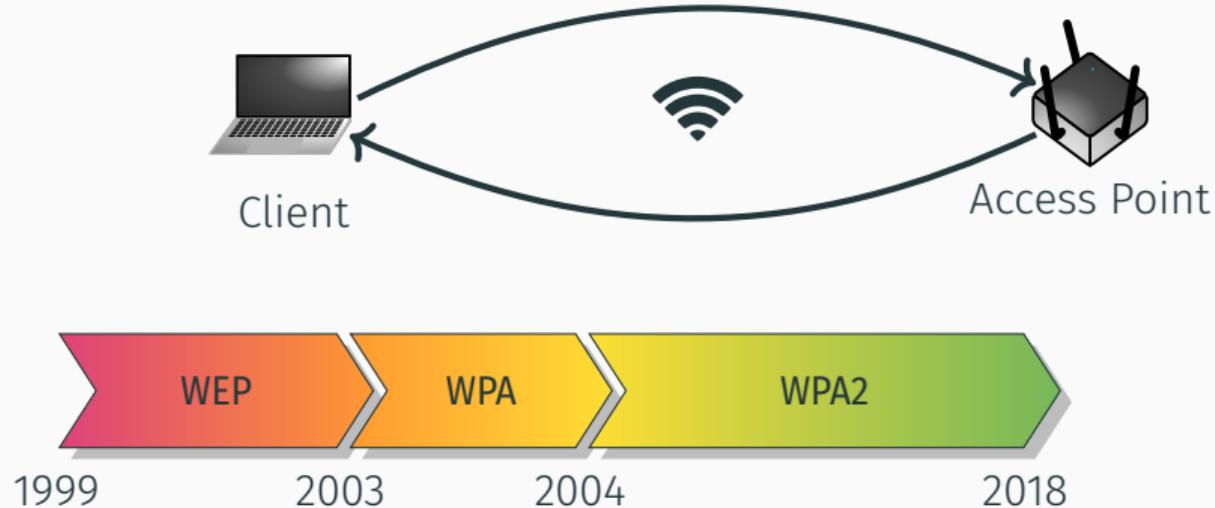
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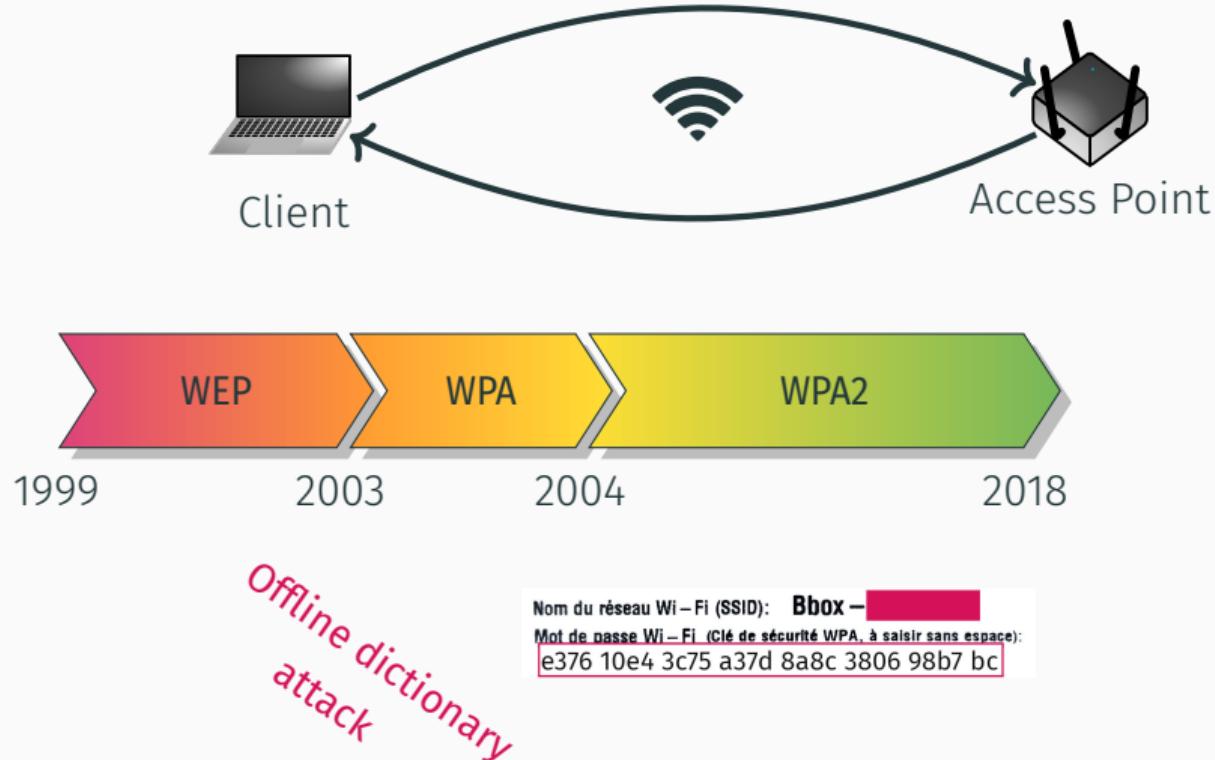
## Side Channels in Dragonfly/SAE (WPA3)

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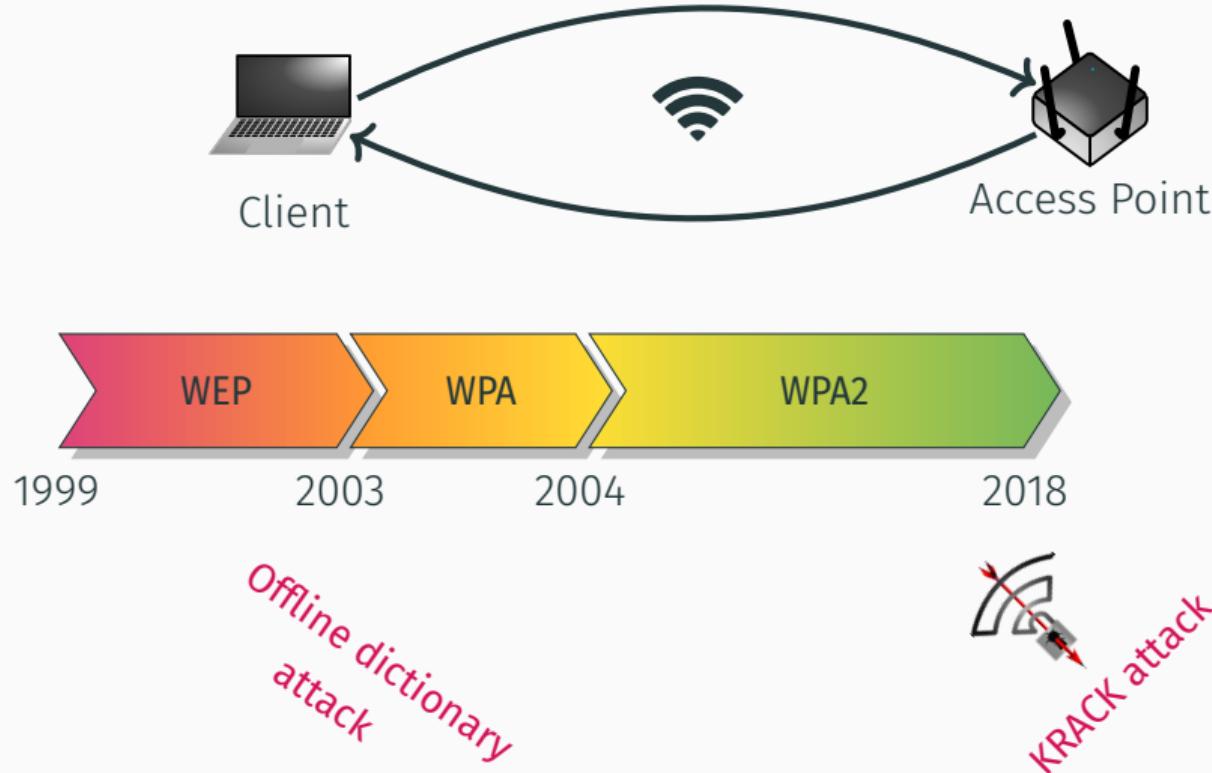
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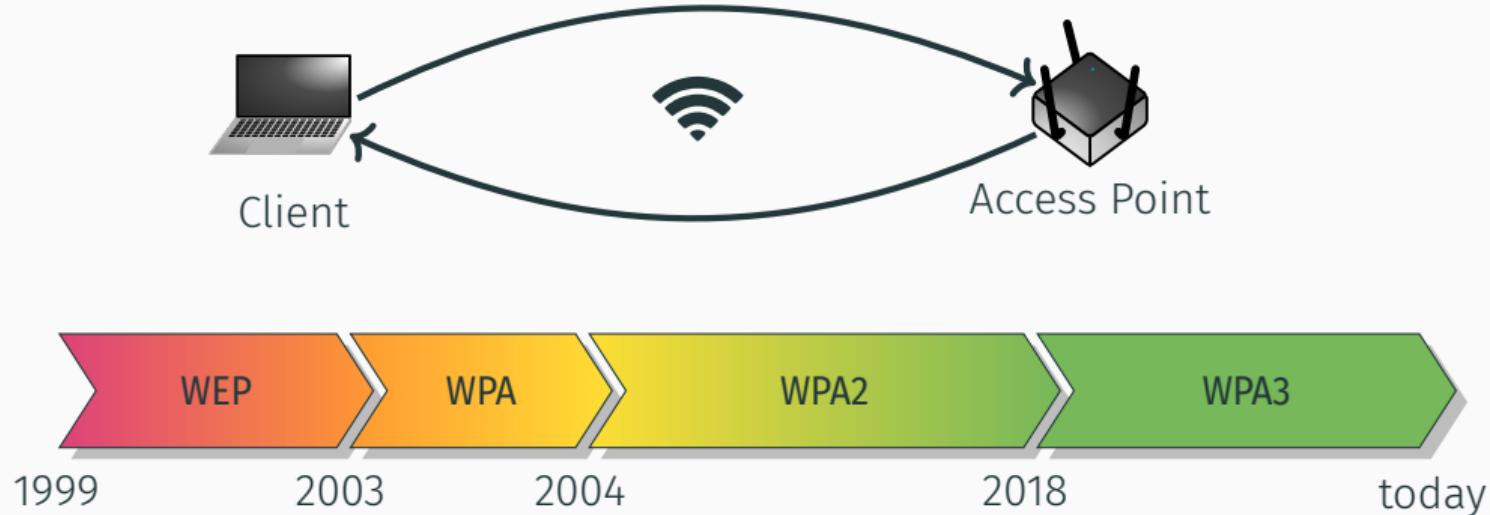
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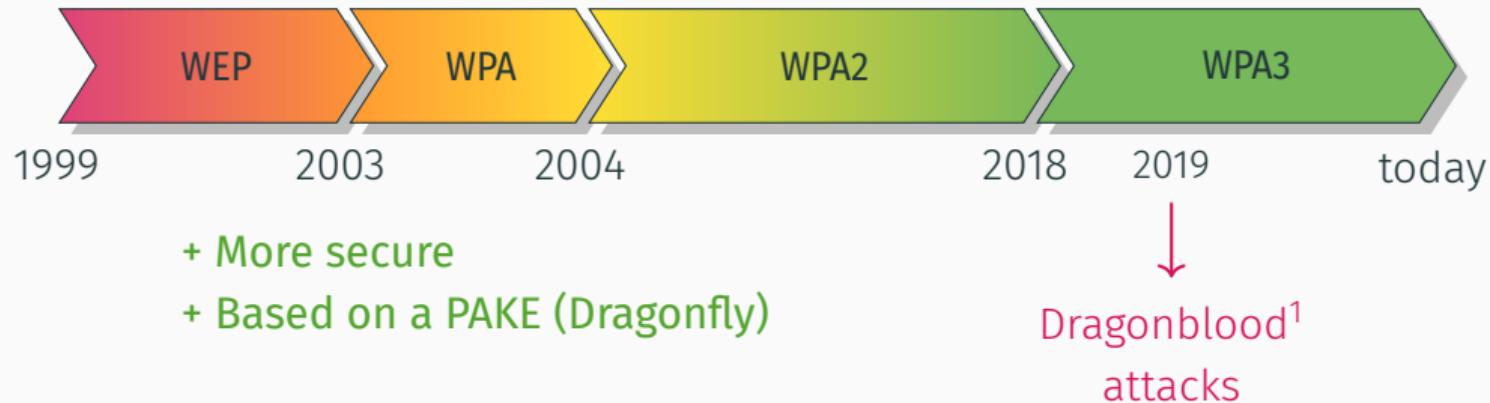
# Toward Secure Wi-Fi Protocols...



- + More secure
- + Based on a PAKE (Dragonfly<sup>1</sup>)

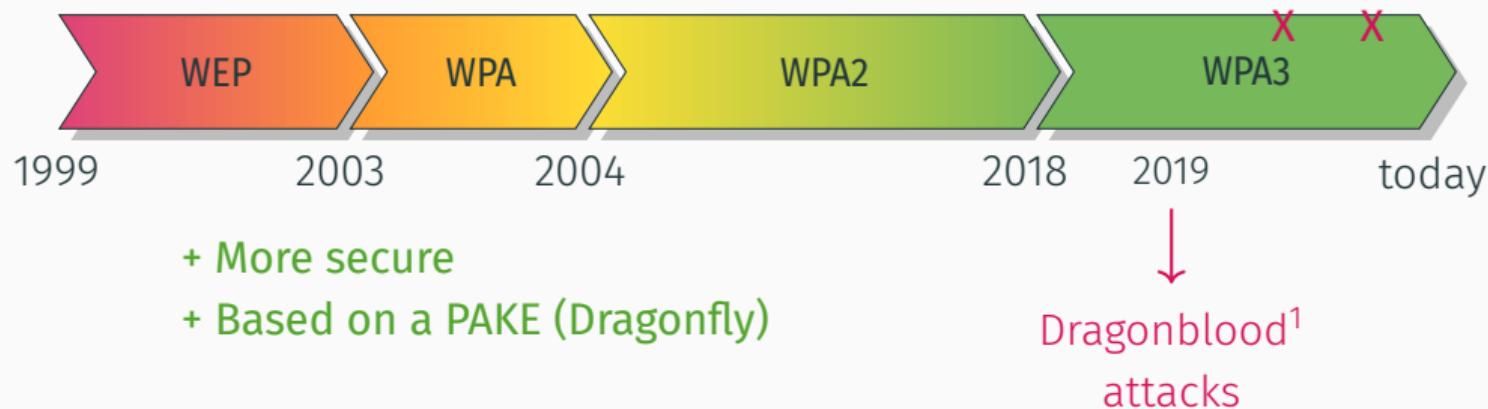
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# ... But Still not Bulletproof



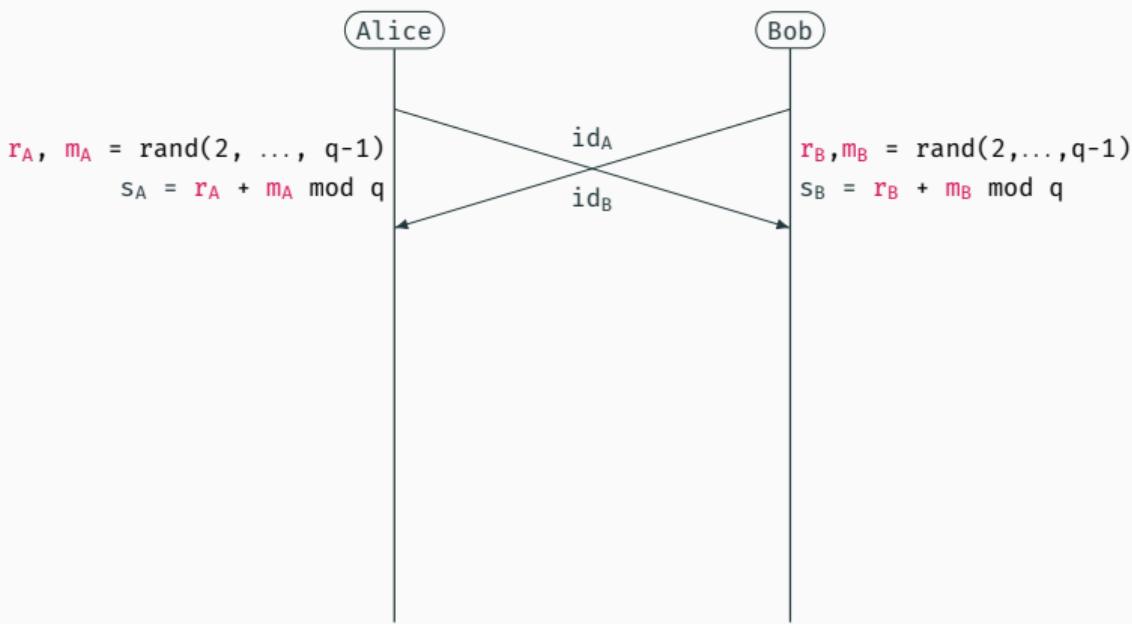
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# ... But Still not Bulletproof

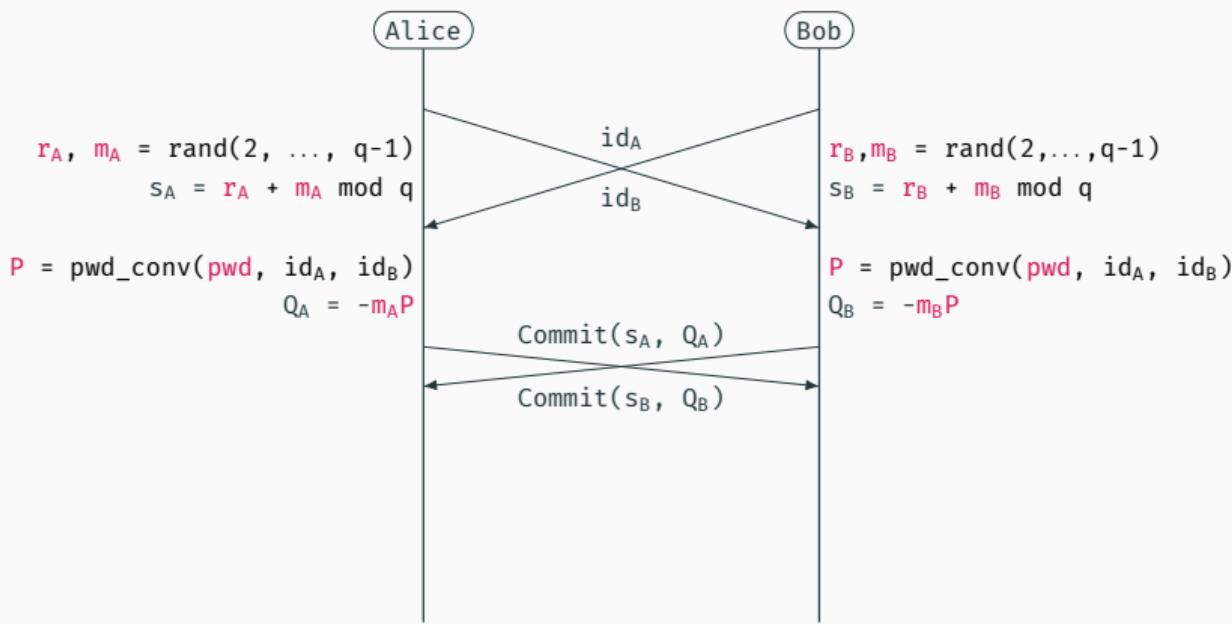


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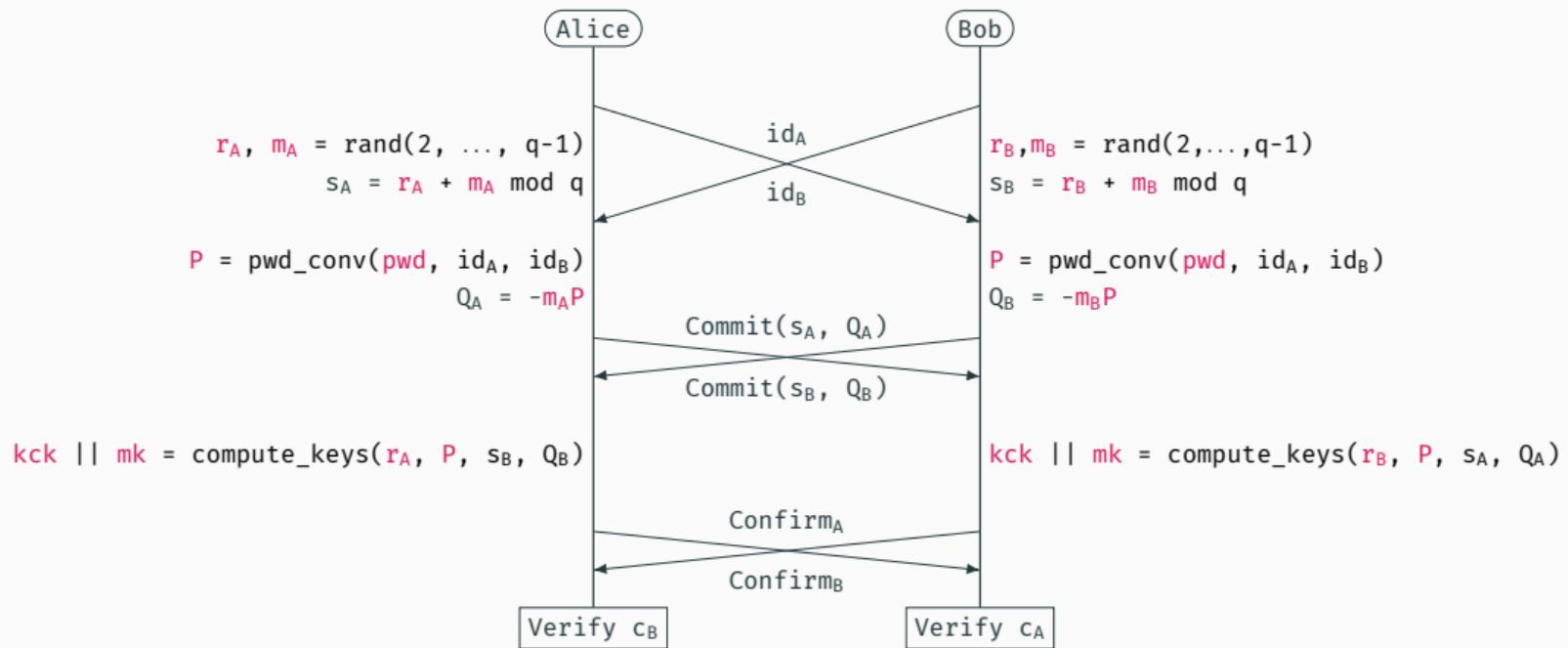
# Dragonfly / SAE - A Balanced PAKE



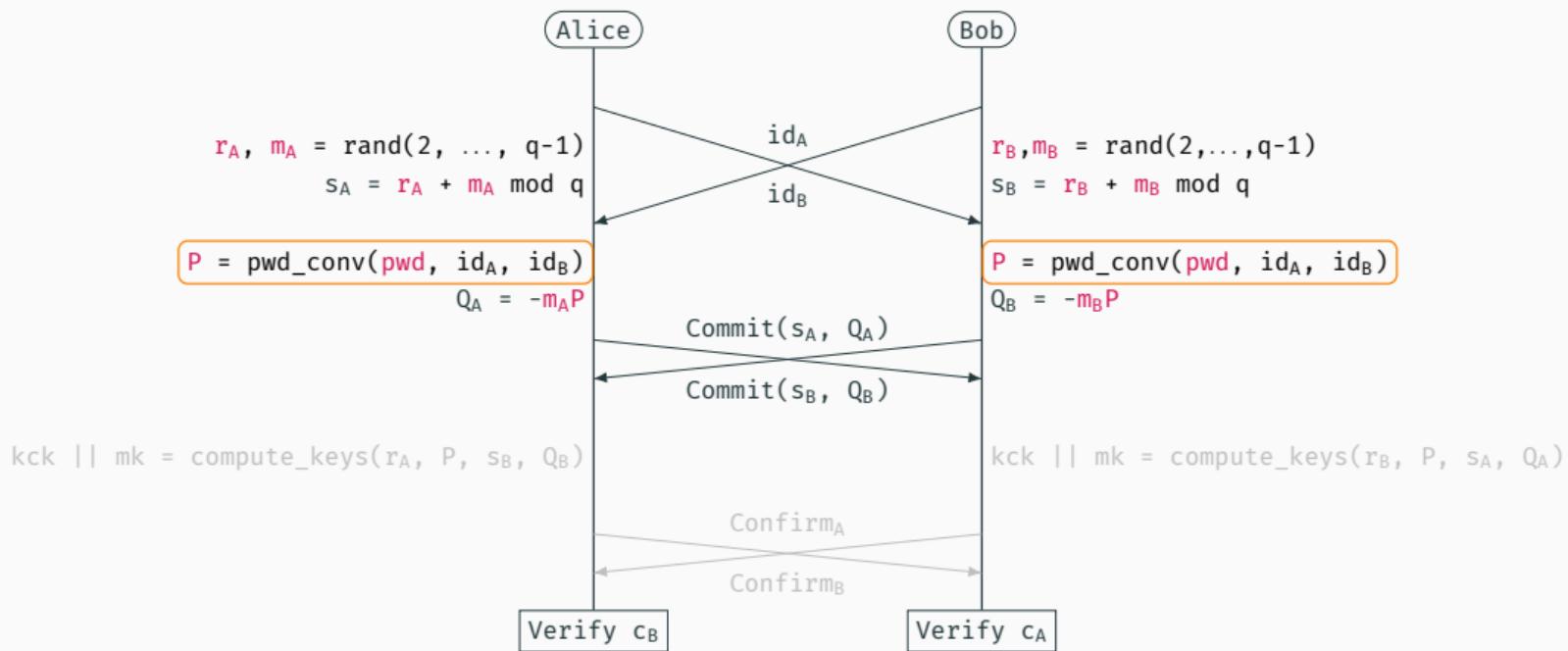
# Dragonfly / SAE - A Balanced PAKE



# Dragonfly / SAE - A Balanced PAKE



# Dragonfly / SAE - A Balanced PAKE



# Dragonblood is Still Leaking: Practical Cache-based Side-Channel in the Wild

Daniel De Almeida Braga, Mohamed Sibt and Pierre-Alain Fouque

*Presented at ACSAC 2020*

🏆 2<sup>nd</sup> place at CSAW Applied Research competition 2020

# First attack (ACSAC 2020)

A cache-attack that lets us extract  
information during the password conversion  
leading to an offline dictionary attack.

# First attack (ACSAC 2020)

FLUSH+RELOAD<sup>1</sup> and PDA<sup>2</sup>



A cache-attack that lets us extract

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leading to an offline dictionary attack.

<sup>1</sup> Y. Yarom and K. Falkner. Flush+Reload: a High Resolution, Low Noise, L3 Cache Side-Channel Attack. In USENIX Security Symposium'14.

<sup>2</sup> T. Allan et al. Amplifying side channels through performance degradation. In ACSAC'16

# First attack (ACSAC 2020)

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Password to point on an Elliptic Curve

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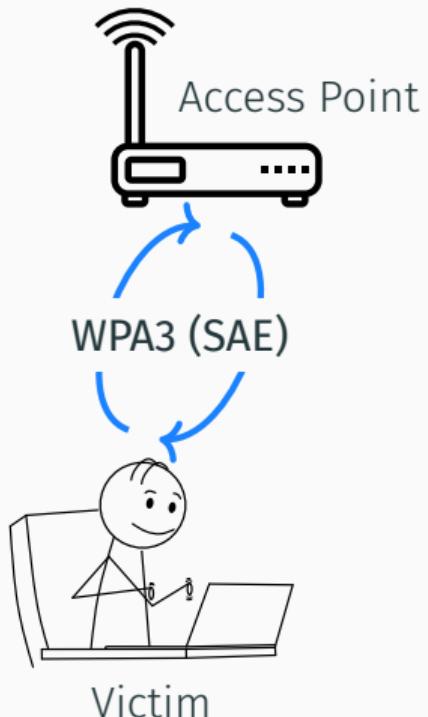
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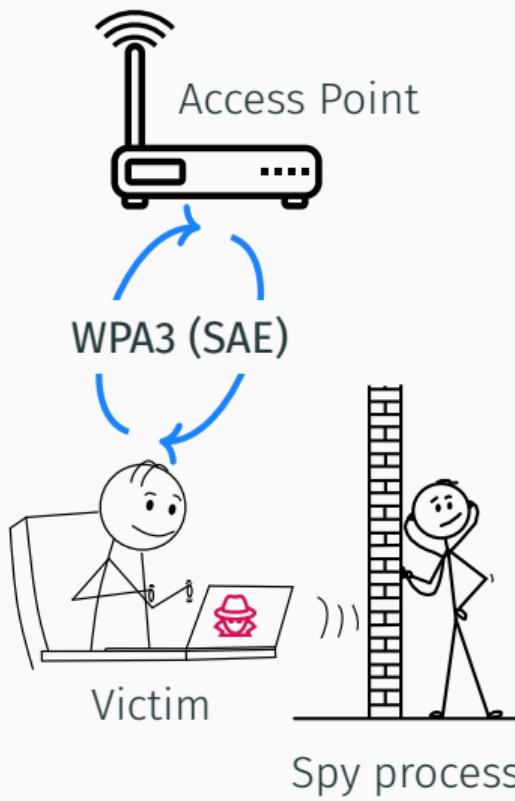
leading to an offline dictionary attack.

Passive attacker can eliminate wrong passwords from a list

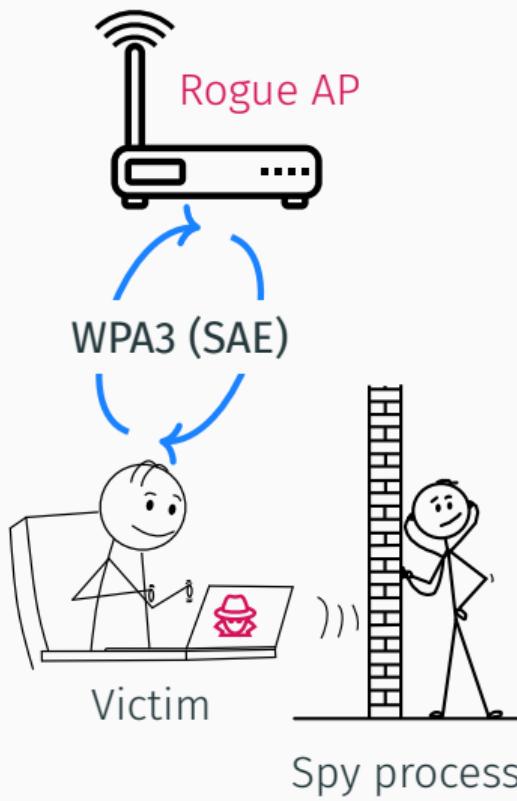
# Attack Workflow



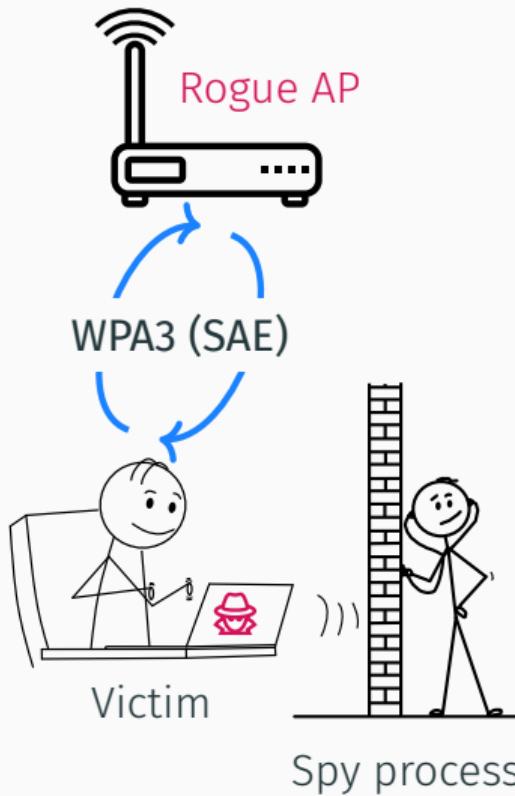
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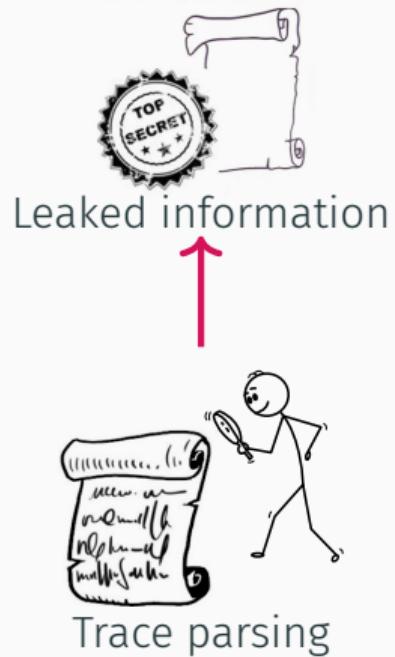


## Spying/Data Acquisition

- Implementation specific
- Usually noisy measurement

Comparison metric: Signal to Noise ratio

# Attack Workflow



# Attack Workflow

## Offline Dictionary Attack



Password  
qwertg123  
654t23  
B6K289

Remaining passwords

# Attack Workflow

## Offline Dictionary Attack

$H(\text{secret}) = 10\dots$



password  
qwertg123  
656123  
B6K289

Remaining passwords

# Attack Workflow

## Offline Dictionary Attack

x	H(x)
secret	10..
pwd <sub>1</sub>	
pwd <sub>2</sub>	
pwd <sub>3</sub>	
...	
pwd <sub>n</sub>	



password  
qwertg123  
654t23  
B6K289

Remaining passwords

# Attack Workflow

## Offline Dictionary Attack

x	H(x)
secret	10..
pwd <sub>1</sub>	01..
pwd <sub>2</sub>	10..
pwd <sub>3</sub>	11..
...	...
pwd <sub>n</sub>	10..



Password  
qwertg123  
654t23  
B6K289

Remaining passwords

# Attack Workflow

## Offline Dictionary Attack

x	H(x)
secret	10..
pwd <sub>1</sub>	01..
pwd <sub>2</sub>	10..
pwd <sub>3</sub>	11..
...	...
pwd <sub>n</sub>	10..



Password  
qwertg123  
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Remaining passwords

# Attack Workflow

## Offline Dictionary Attack

x	$H(x \parallel pub_1)$	$H(x \parallel pub_2)$
secret	10..	00..
pwd <sub>1</sub>	01..	X
pwd <sub>2</sub>	10..	00..
pwd <sub>3</sub>	11..	X
...	...	...
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Password  
qwertzy123  
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Remaining passwords

# Attack Workflow

## Offline Dictionary Attack

x	$H(x \parallel pub_1)$	$H(x \parallel pub_2)$
secret	10..	00..
pwd <sub>1</sub>	01..	X
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Remaining passwords

# Attack Workflow



# SAE - Probabilistic Password Conversion (EC)

```
def HuntingAndPecking(pwd, MACA, MACB, ec)

    seed = Hash(MACA, MACB, pwd, i= 0)
    xcand = KDF(seed, label)

    is xcand a point's coordinate?      (1/2 chance to happen)
```

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```
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is  $x_{cand}$  a point's coordinate? (1/2 chance to happen)

↳  $x, seed_x = x_{cand}, seed$

# SAE - Probabilistic Password Conversion (EC)

```
def HuntingAndPecking(pwd, MACA, MACB, ec)
```

```
    seed = Hash(MACA, MACB, pwd, i=40)
```

```
    xcand = KDF(seed, label)
```

is  $x_{cand}$  a point's coordinate? (1/2 chance to happen)

```
    x, seedx = xcand, seed
```

```
    pwd = get_random()
```

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    xcand = KDF(seed, label)      ← 🕵️: new iteration
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# Improves Upon Previous Attack

## Data Leaked:

- Number of iterations to convert the password... for a set of public MAC addresses

## Amount of Information:

- 2 bits on average

## Practical evaluation:

- 10 measurements get reliable information

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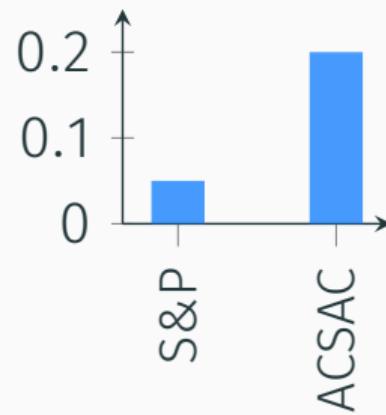
## Amount of Information:

- 2 bits on average

## Practical evaluation:

- 10 measurements get reliable information

Better signal to noise ratio  
than the original attack



# Impact and Lesson Learned



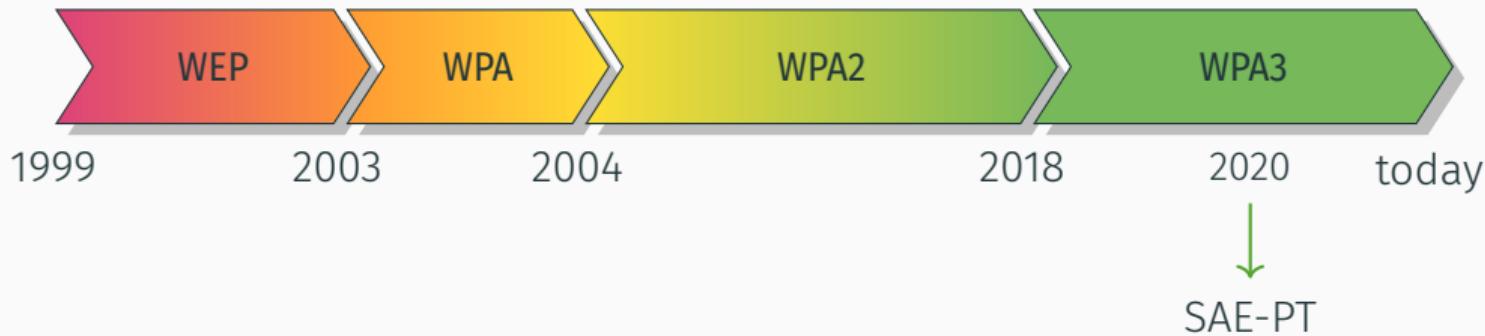
- 2 Practical attacks against iwd and FreeRadius (EAP-pwd)
  - 20 traces needed to recover a password from HavelBeenPwned
  - $\approx 0.01\text{€}$  on AWS instances
- 3 security patches deployed

Material available at <https://gitlab.inria.fr/ddealmei/poc-iwd-acSac2020>

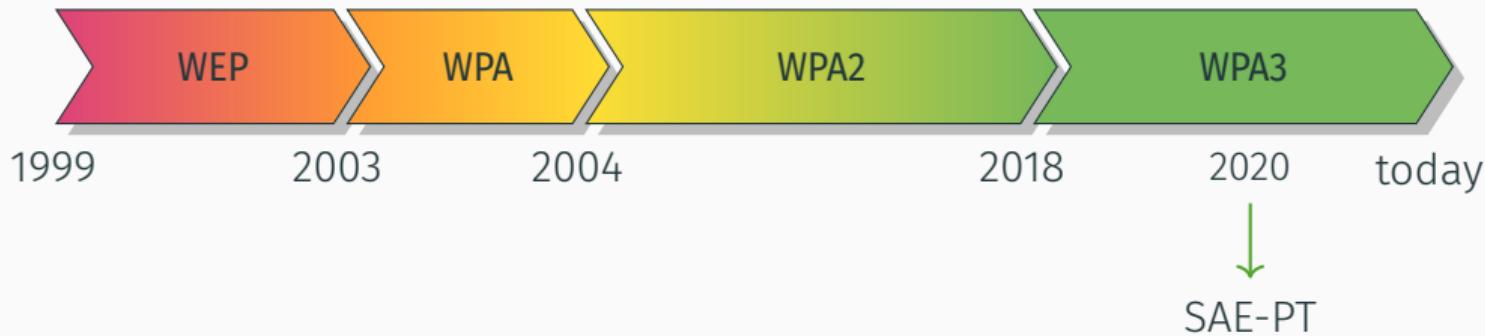
Current official recommendations do not consider microarchitectural attacks

Listen to CFRG members' warnings!

# Improving the Password Conversion



# Improving the Password Conversion



- Better password conversion (SSWU)
  - Deterministic
  - Straightforward constant-time implementation
- ⚠ Not backward compatible

# Looking Under the Hood

We mostly analyzed Wi-Fi daemons...



... what about their dependencies, like crypto libraries?

# A Novel Side-Channel Attack on Dragonfly Implementation and a Formally Verified Implementation

Daniel De Almeida Braga, Mohamed Sabt, Pierre-Alain Fouque,  
Natalia Kulatova, Karthikeyan Bhargavan

*Under submission*

# SAE - Probabilistic Password Conversion (EC)

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def HuntingAndPecking(pwd, MACA, MACB, ec)
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# Looking Under the Hood

```
def set_compressed_point(x, fmt, ec)
```

- Branching on the compression format
- Affects SAE (legacy version)
- 1-bit leakage
- Narrow scope outside of Dragonfly

# Looking Under the Hood

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def set_compressed_point(x, fmt, ec)
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```
def bin2bn(buf, buf_length)
```

- Skipping leading 0 bytes
- Affects both SAE and SAE-PT
- 8-bit leakage with proba 1/256
- Wide scope (targets utility function)

# Looking Under the Hood

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- Skipping leading 0 bytes
- Affects both SAE and SAE-PT
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- Wide scope (targets utility function)

## Affected projects:

- hostap/wpa\_supplicant with OpenSSL/WolfSSL
- iwd with ell
- FreeRadius with OpenSSL

# "Obviously" Vulnerable, yet Difficult to Exploit

- Very few conditional instructions (one cache line or less)
- Many false positives with "vanilla" Flush+Reload
- Using existing attack to create a new distinguisher

Abuse prefetching behaviors to create a new distinguisher!

# Prefetcher-based Side Channel

```
def set_compressed_point(x, fmt, ec):
    y = compute_y(x, ec)

    if y = fmt mod 2:
        y = ec.p - y
    P = init_point(x, y, ec)
    [...]
    return P
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# Prefetcher-based Side Channel

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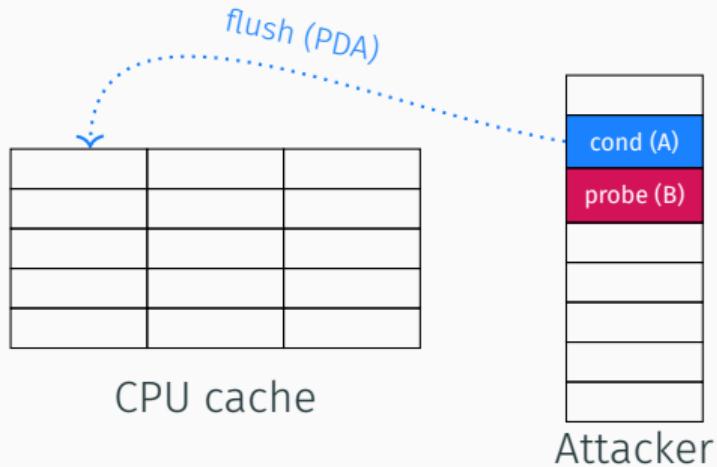
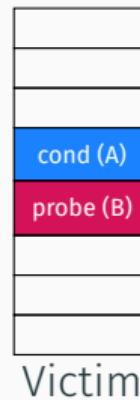
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    [...]

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```



nb hits: 0

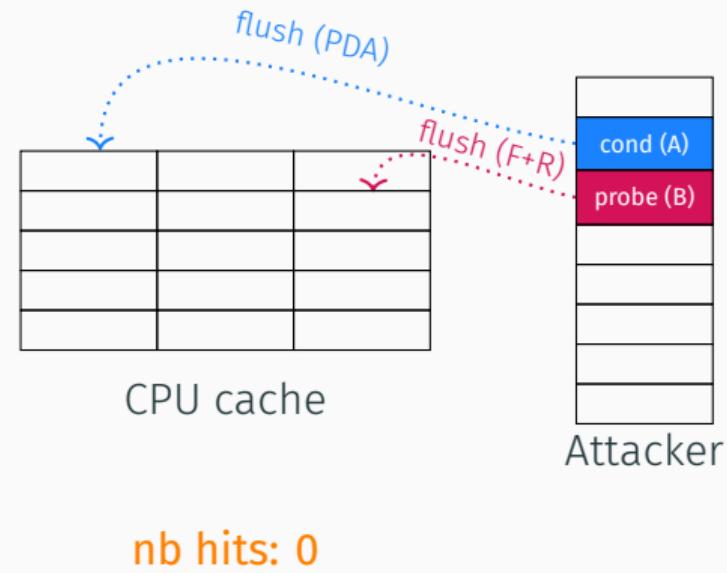
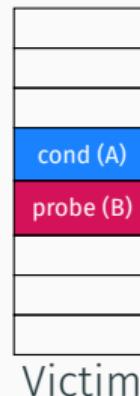
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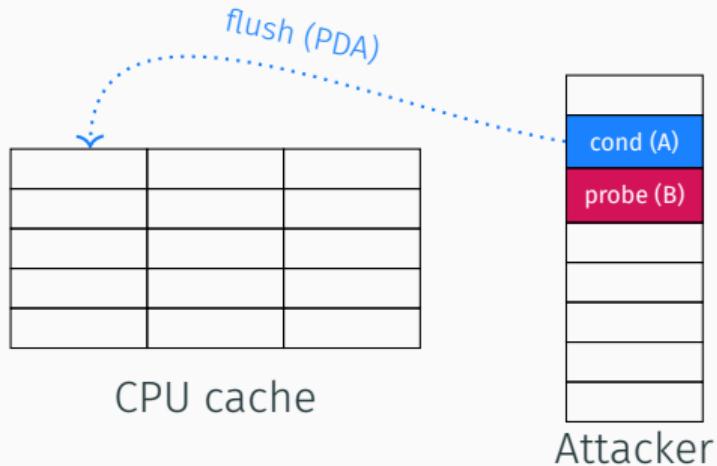
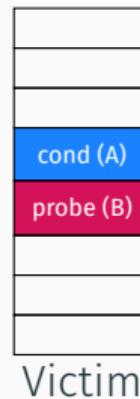
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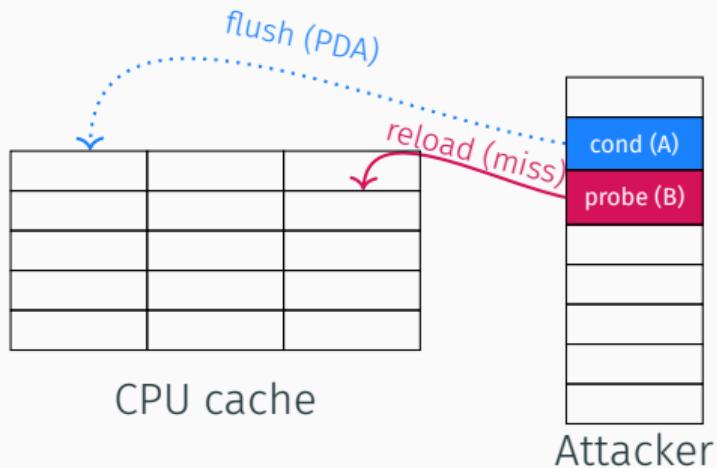
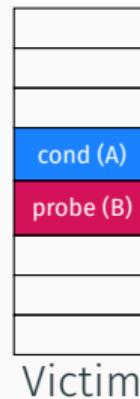
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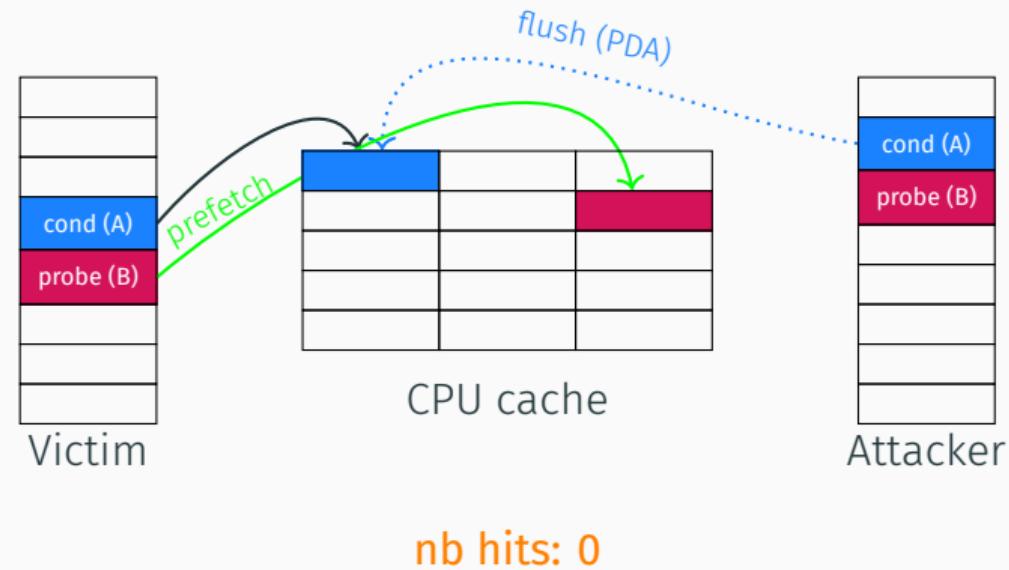
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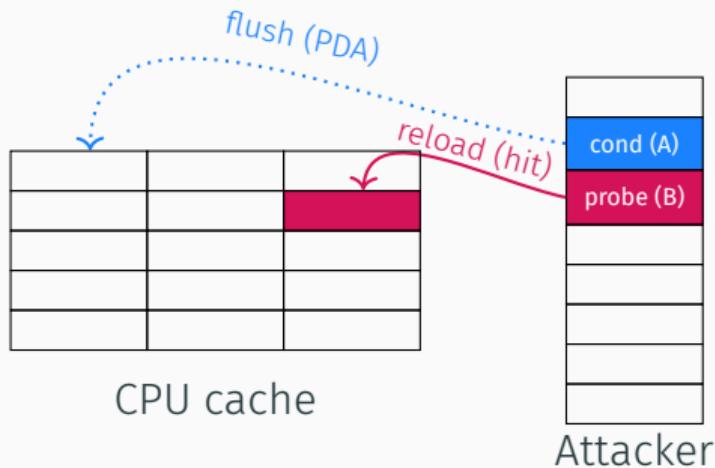
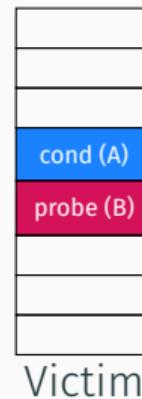
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nb hits: 1

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```

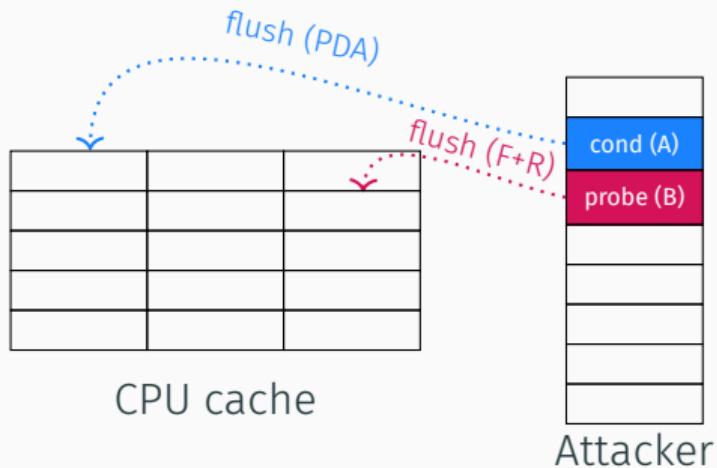
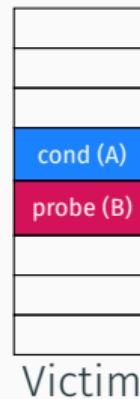
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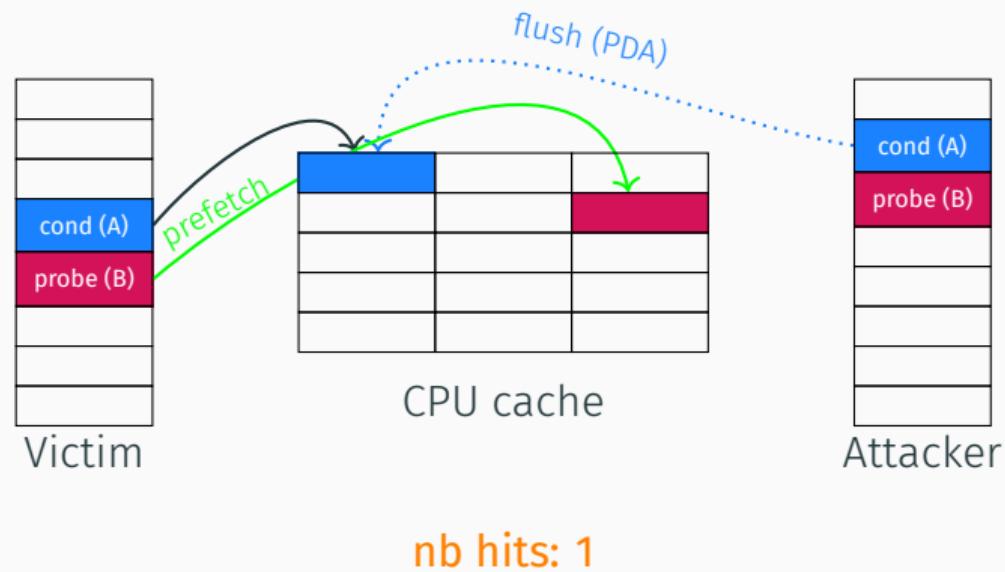
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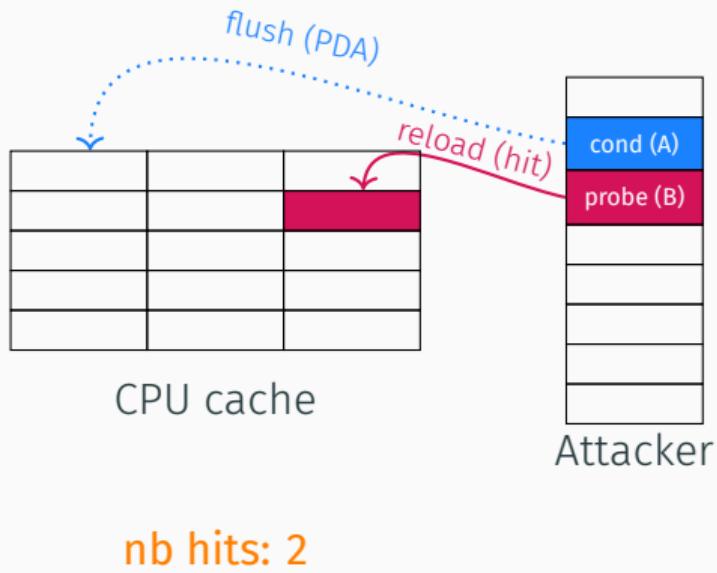
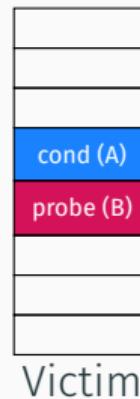
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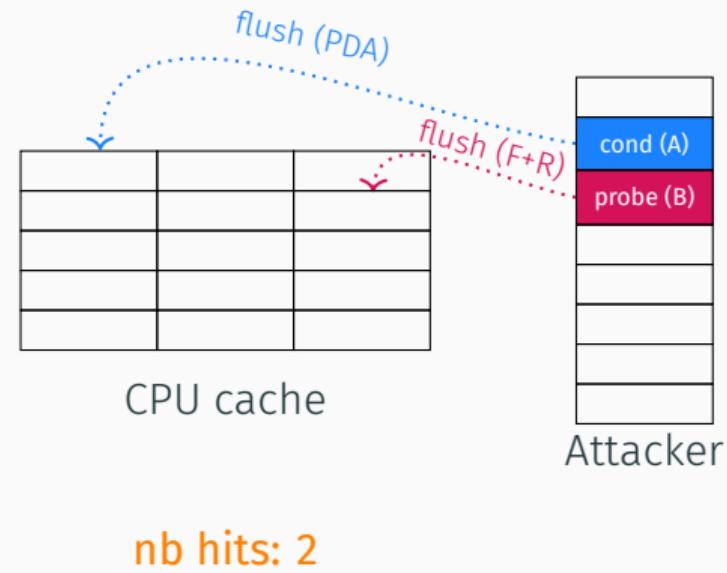
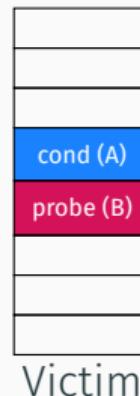
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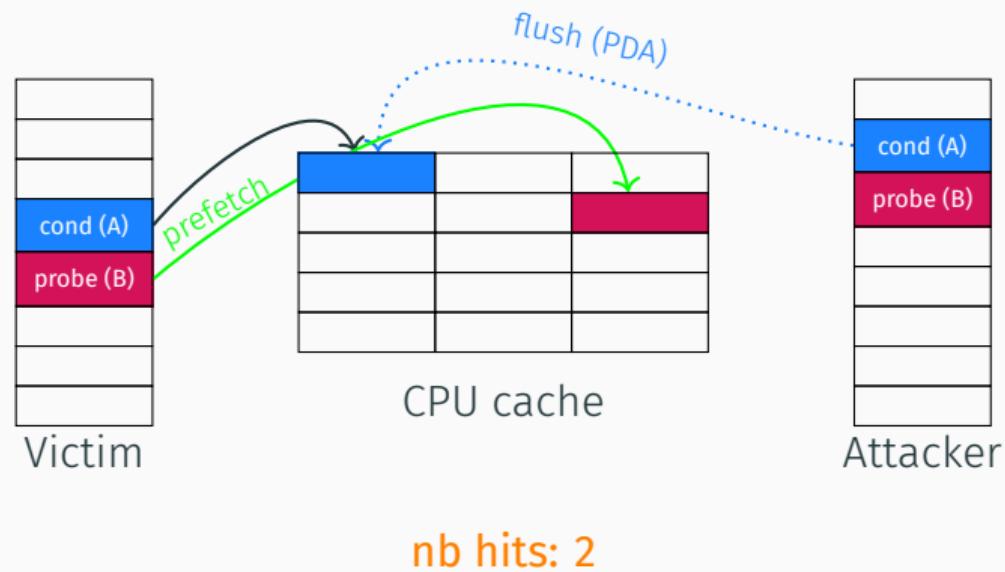
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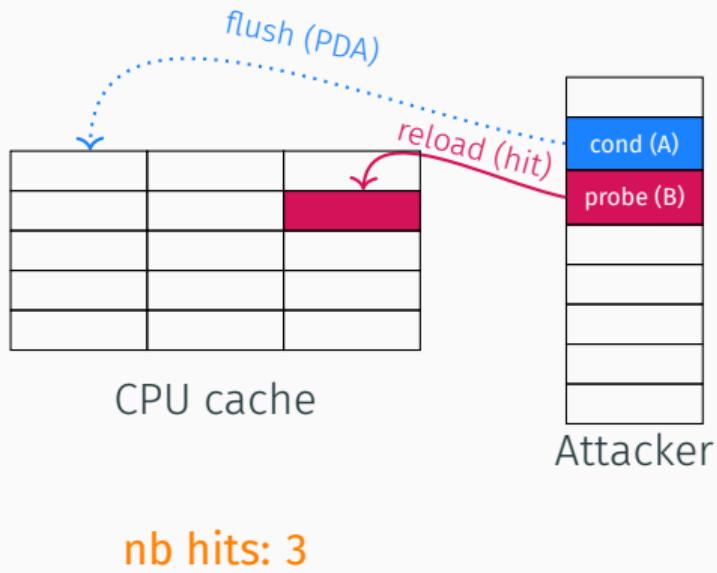
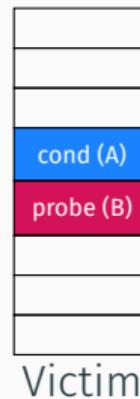
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```



# Prefetcher-based Side Channel

```

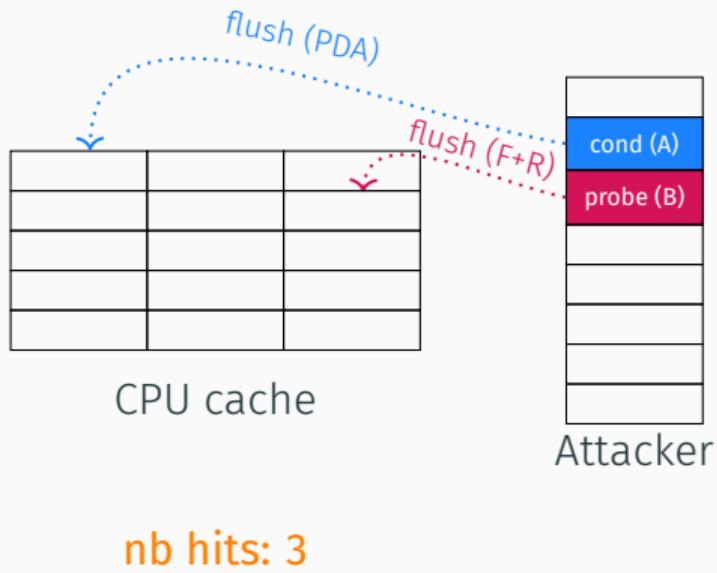
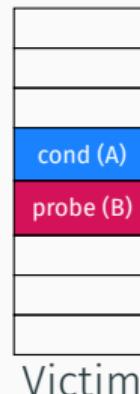
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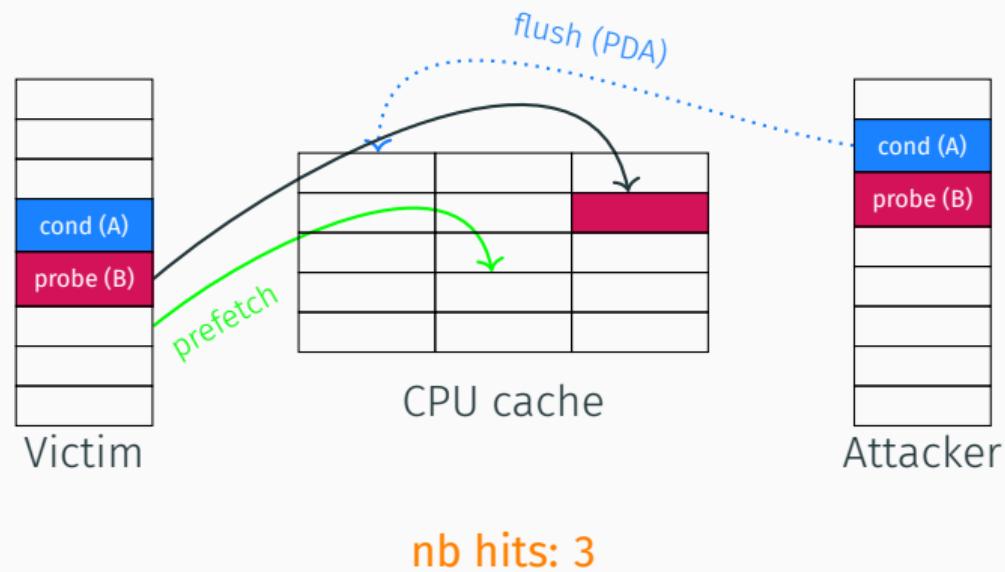
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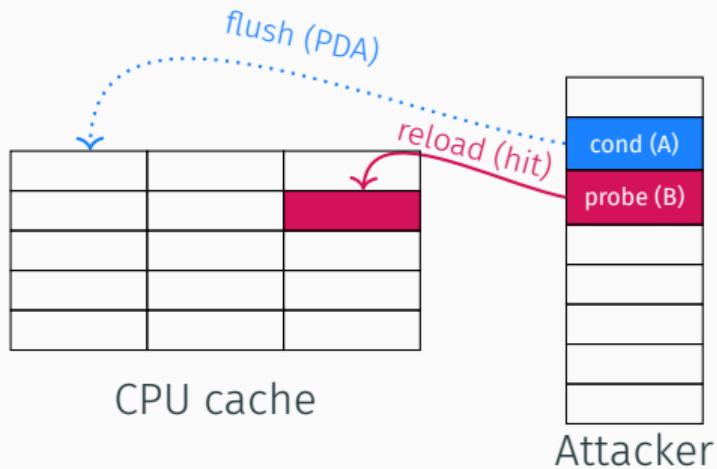
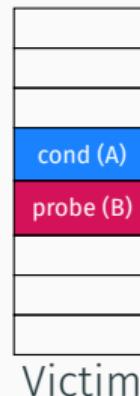
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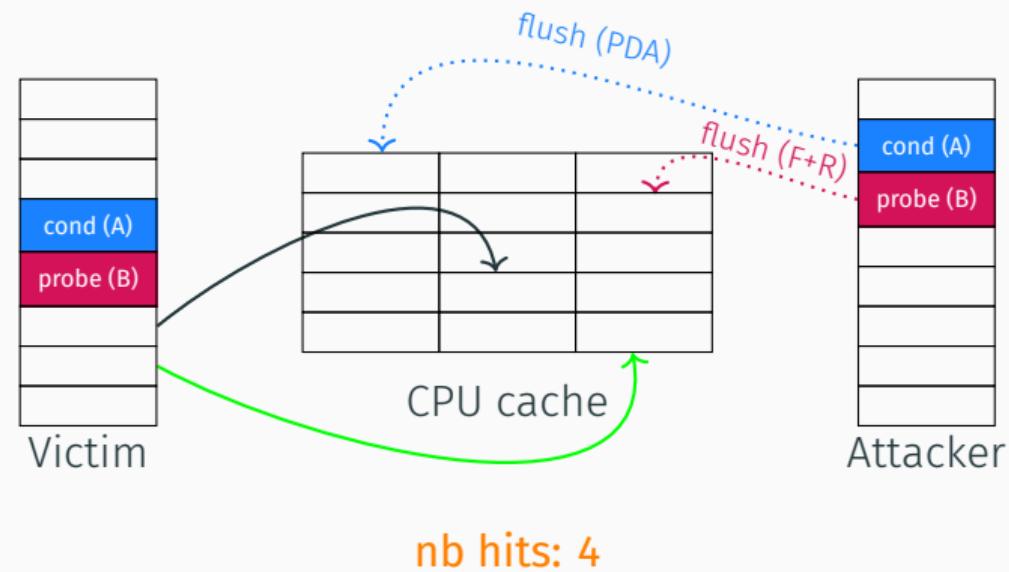
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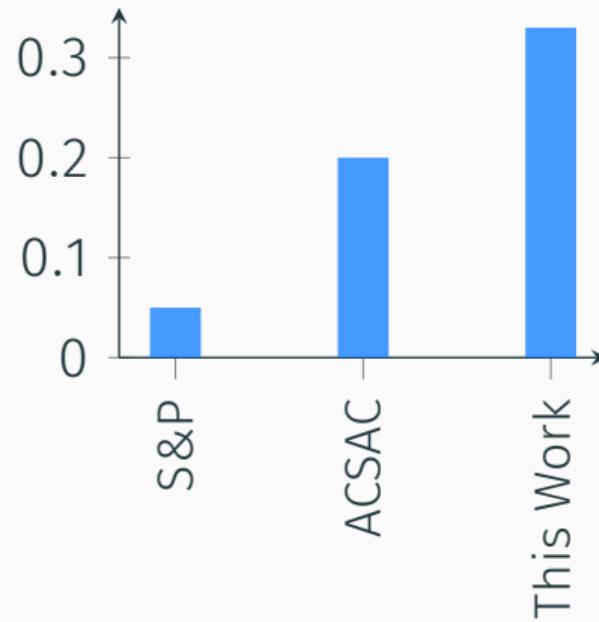
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Very accurate distinguisher, with a better spatial resolution!



# Sustainable patch for hostap

- Cryptographic libraries refused to patch
- Many other potential vulnerabilities ( $\approx 400$ )

Shall we replace them?

---

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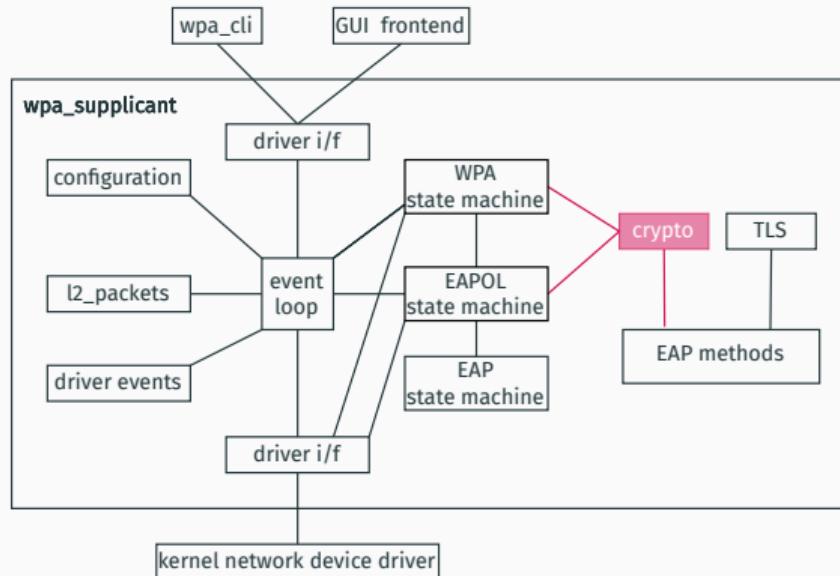
## HaCl\*: A Formally Verified Cryptographic Library<sup>1</sup>

- Memory-safety
- Functional correctness
- Secret independence

---

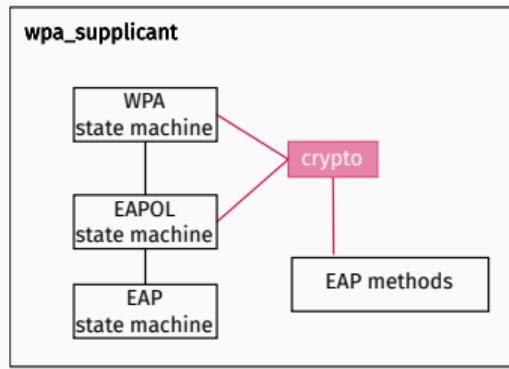
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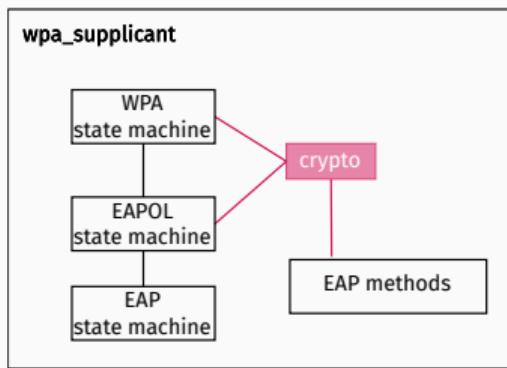
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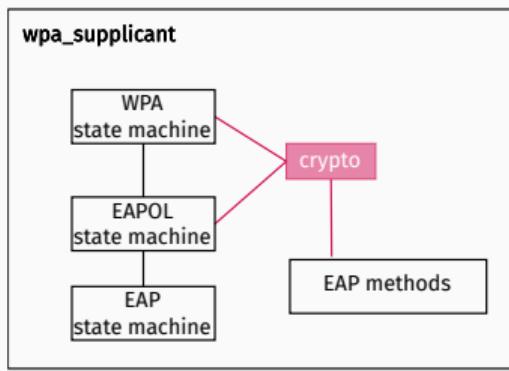
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Material available at

- [https://gitlab.inria.fr/ddealmei/artifact\\_dragondoom](https://gitlab.inria.fr/ddealmei/artifact_dragondoom)
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## Constant-time Tools & Usage

---

# “They’re not that hard to mitigate”: What Cryptographic Library Developers Think About Timing Attacks

Jan Jancar<sup>1</sup>, Marcel Fourné<sup>2</sup>, Daniel De Almeida Braga<sup>3</sup>, Mohamed Sabt<sup>3</sup>,  
Peter Schwabe<sup>2</sup>, Gilles Barthe<sup>2</sup>, Pierre-Alain Fouque<sup>3</sup> and Yasemin Acar<sup>2,4</sup>

*Published at S&P 2022*



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR SECURITY AND PRIVACY

2



3

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

4

# Survey

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 27 libraries

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(Amazon), RustCrypto, ...

 44 valid responses

Various roles (developers,  
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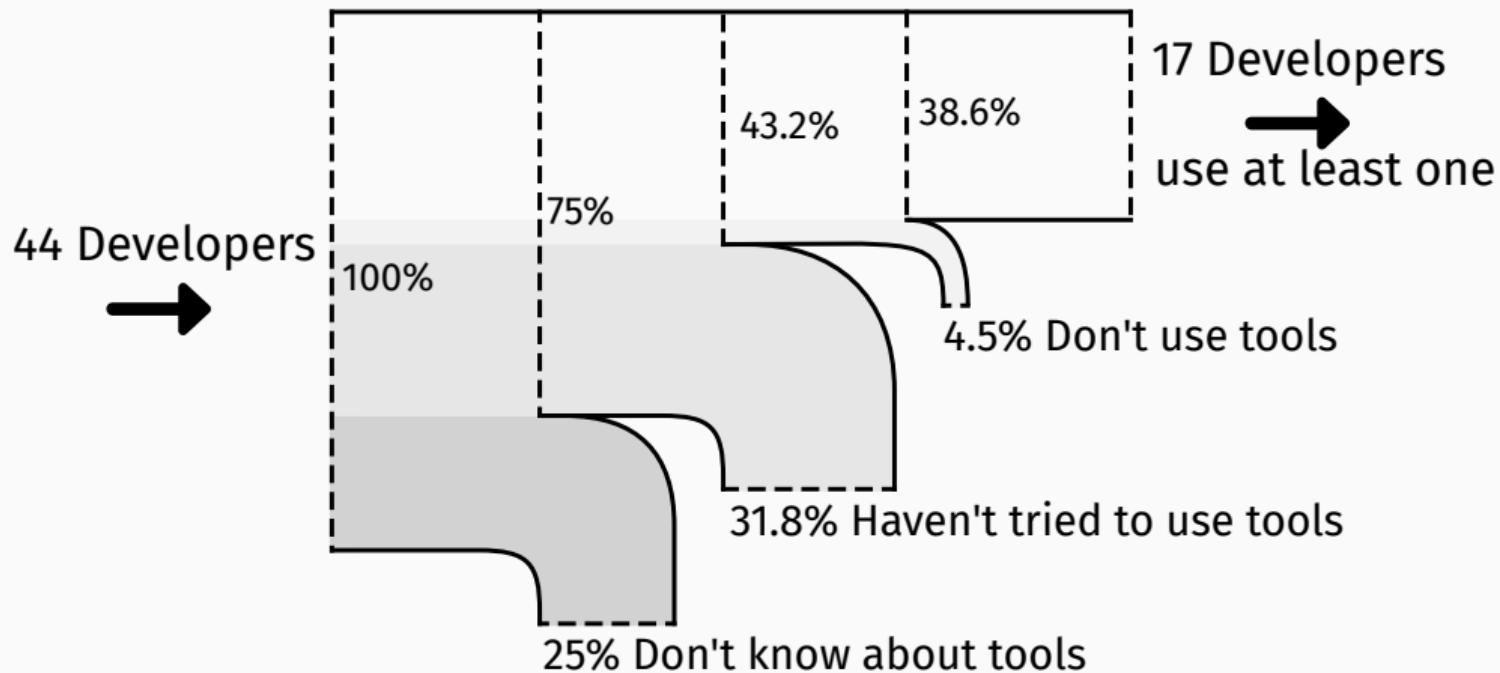
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# Leaky Pipeline<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Figure by Jan Jancar

# Developers' Concerns

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*"Static analysis tools tend to have a **high engineering overhead**: getting the tool to run, deploying it to CI systems, maintaining the installation over the years"*

*"[...] so far it seems formal analysis tools (at least where we've tried to apply it to correctness) are **not really usable by mere mortals yet.**"*

## Concluding Notes

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# Practical Impact

- 5 practical Proof of Concept attacks

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# Limitations and Future Work

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## Academic - Real-World Gap

- What does make a tool usable?
- How to enforce formal verification for constant-time programming?
- Would another tool change anything?

## Peer-reviewed:

**S&P'22** “They’re not that hard to mitigate”: What Cryptographic Library Developers Think About Timing Attacks

*J. Jancar, M. Fourné, D. De Almeida Braga, M. Sabt, P. Schwabe, G. Barthe, P.A. Fouque, Y. Acar*

**CCS'21** PARASITE: PAssword Recovery Attack against Srp Implementations in ThE wild

*D. De Almeida Braga, P.A. Fouque, M. Sabt*

**ACSAC'20** Dragonblood is Still Leaking: Practical Cache-based Side-Channel in the Wild

*D. De Almeida Braga, P.A. Fouque, M. Sabt*

**TCES'20** The Long and Winding Path to Secure Implementation of GlobalPlatform SCP10

*D. De Almeida Braga, P.A. Fouque, M. Sabt*

## Under submission:

- Novel attack on Dragonfly, and secure implementation

*D. De Almeida Braga, M. Sabt, P.A. Fouque, N. Kulatova, K. Bhargavan*

## Ongoing work:

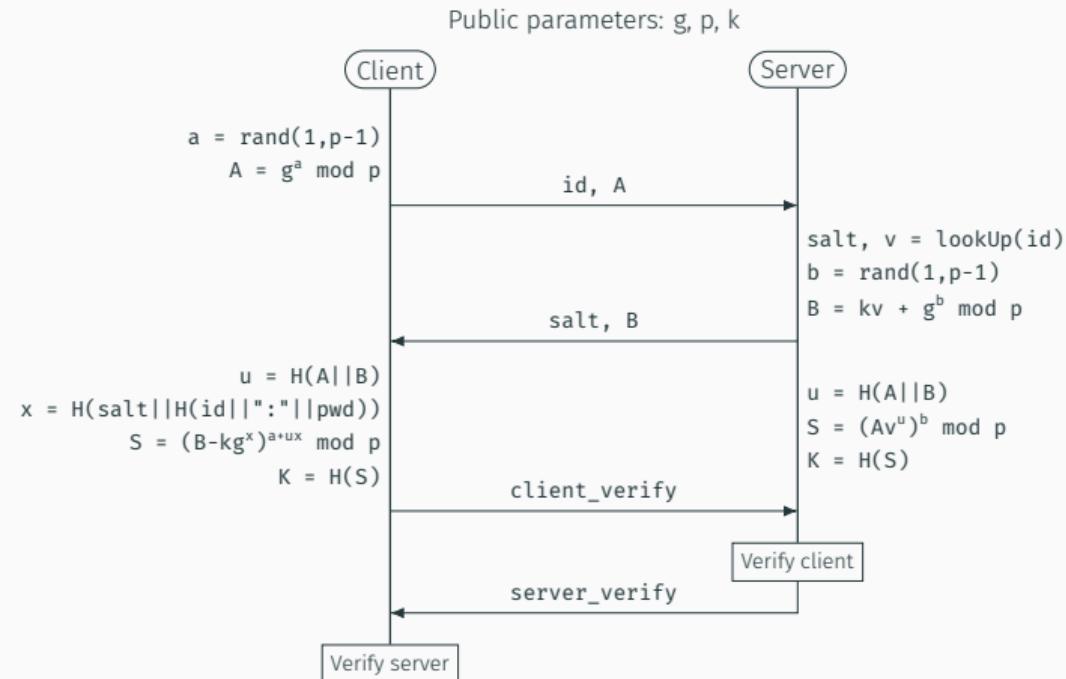
- Follow-up study on constant-time tools usability
- Prefetcher-based side-channel attack

# **PARASITE: PAssword Recovery Attack against Srp Implementations in ThE wild**

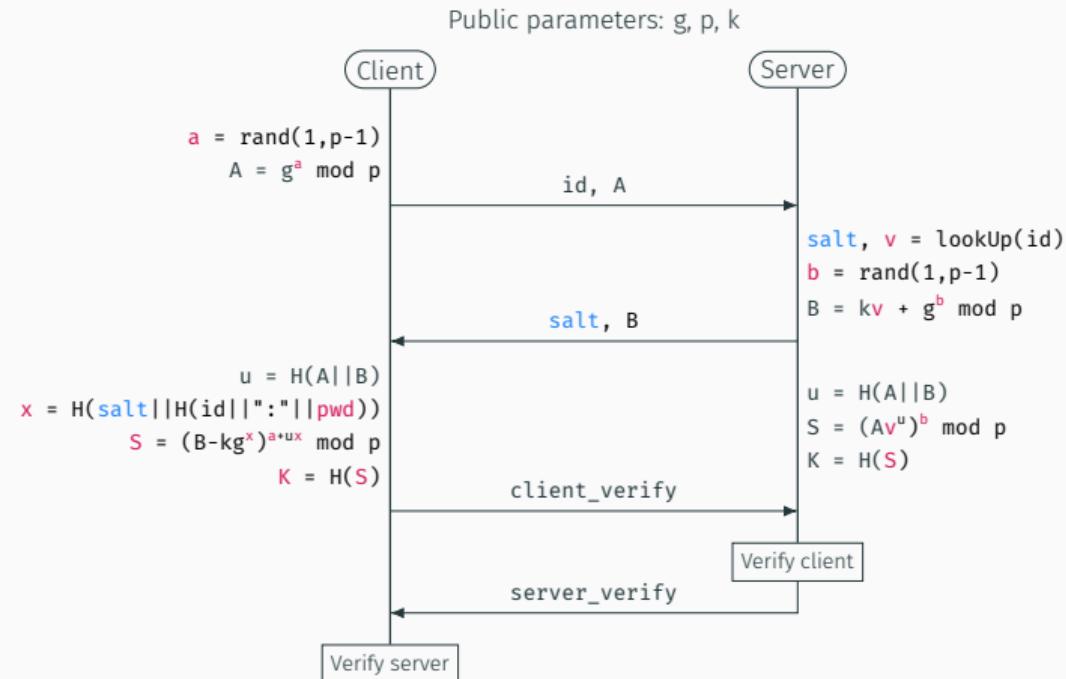
Daniel De Almeida Braga, Mohamed Sabt and Pierre-Alain Fouque

*Presented at CCS 2021*

# SRP - A Legacy Asymmetric PAKE



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# Exploiting the Leakage

**Attacker's Goal:** Recover the password

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**Challenge:** operations are very fast, hence tricky to reliably observe for an attacker

**Solution:** Identify bit patterns in the exponent, based on arithmetic overflows.

## Impact and Lesson

**Impact:** Large impact analysis on open source projects

- 6 projects
- 10 packages/libraries
- 6 programming languages

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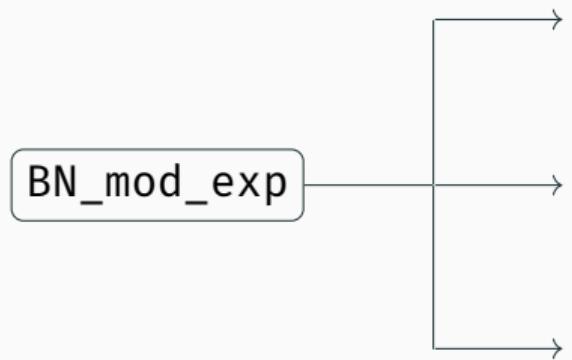
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Who knows how many closed-source projects?

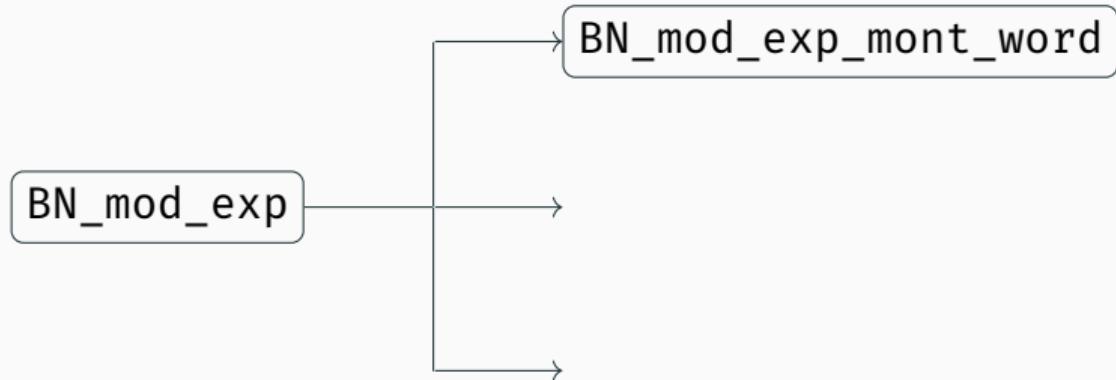
# Modular exponentiation in OpenSSL

BN\_mod\_exp

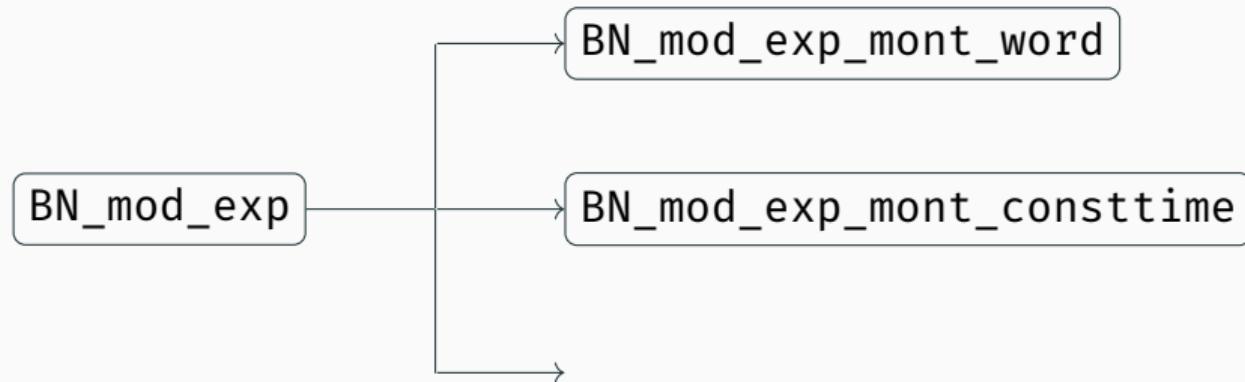
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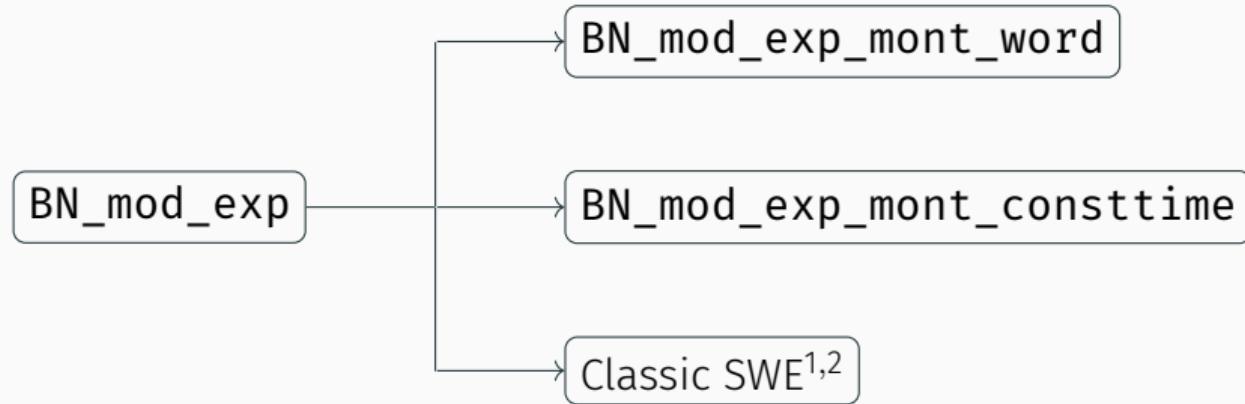
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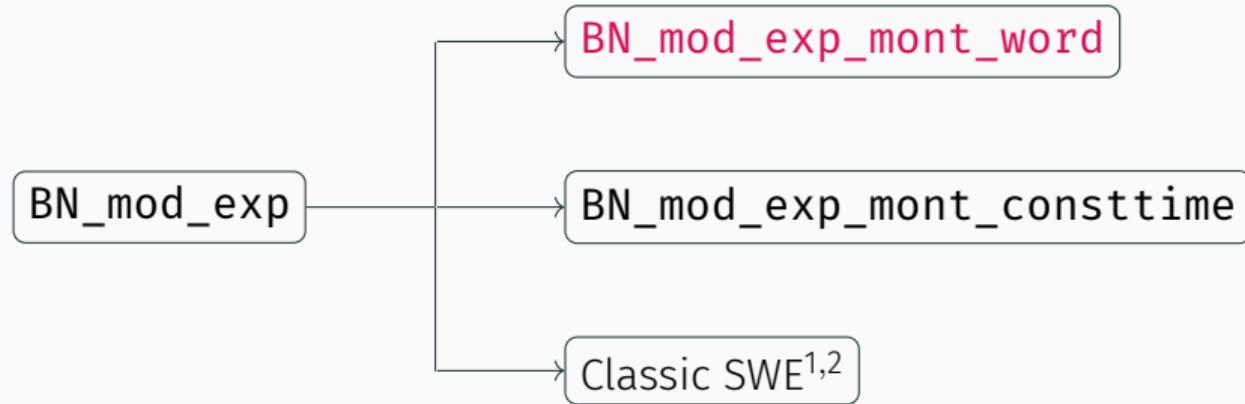
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# Optimized Square-and-Multiply

bin(x) = 1 1 0 1 0 ...

res =  $g^x \bmod p$

w processor word (e.g. 64 bits)

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def BN_mod_exp_mont_word(g, x, p):
    w = g # uint64_t
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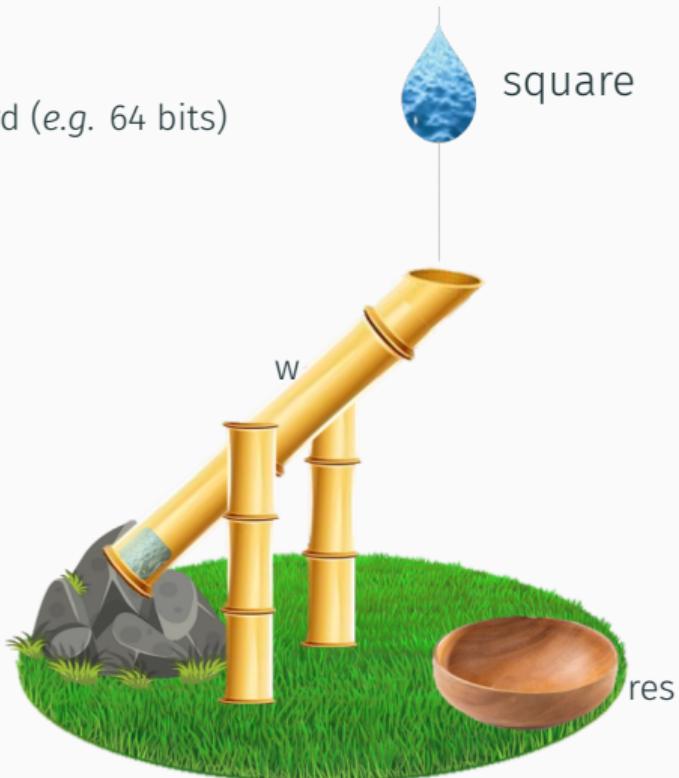
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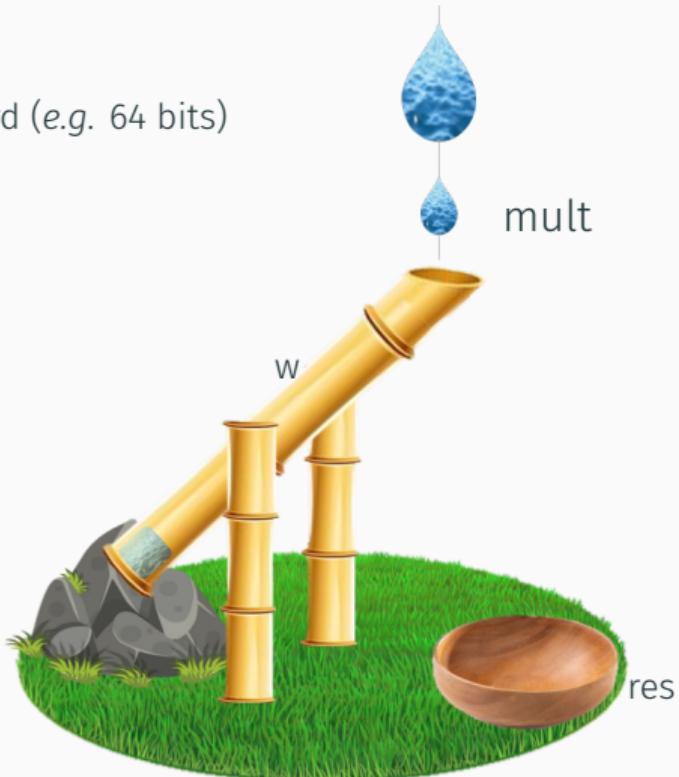
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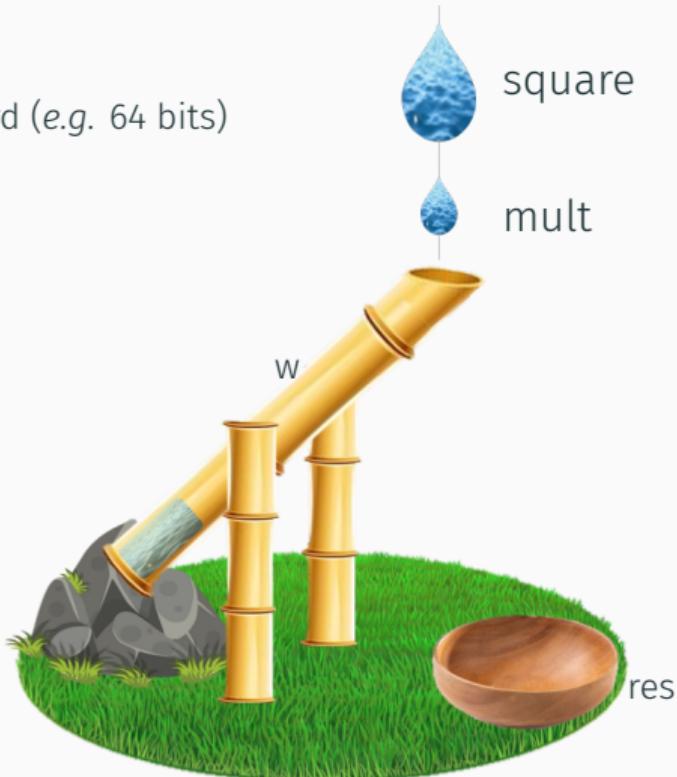
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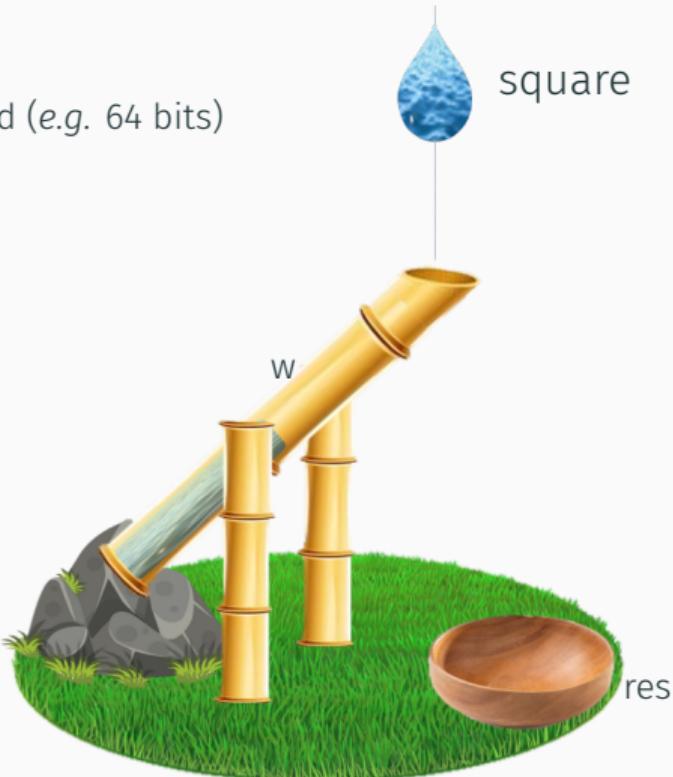
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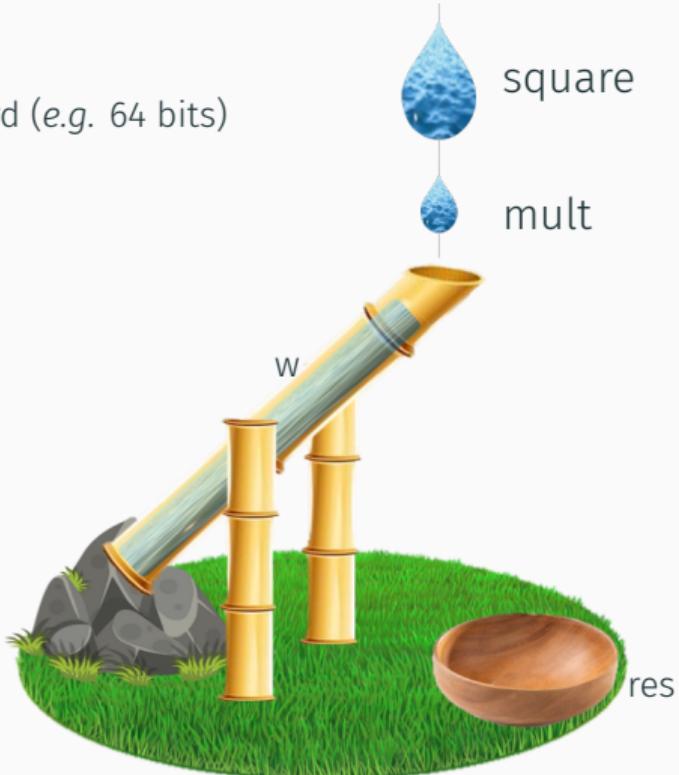
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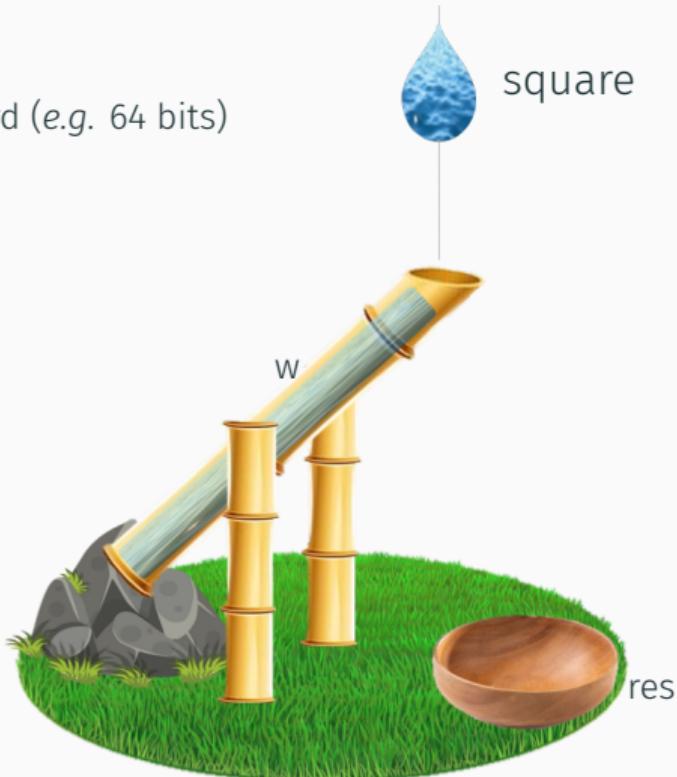
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        if (next_w / w) != w:
            res = BN_mod_mul(res, w, p)
            next_w = 1
        w = next_w;
        res = BN_mod_sqr(res, p)
        if BN_is_bit_set(x, b):
            → next_w = w × g
            if (next_w / g) != w:
                res = BN_mod_mul(res, w, p)
                next_w = g
            w = next_w
```

# Optimized Square-and-Multiply

bin( $x$ ) = 1 1 0 1 0 ...

$\text{res} = g^x \bmod p$

w processor word (e.g. 64 bits)



```
def BN_mod_exp_mont_word(g, x, p):
    w = g # uint64_t
    res = BN_to_mont_word(w) # bignum
    for b in range(bitlen-2, 0, -1):
        → next_w = w × w
        if (next_w / w) != w:
            res = BN_mod_mul(res, w, p)
            next_w = 1
        w = next_w;
        res = BN_mod_sqr(res, p)
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# Optimized Square-and-Multiply

bin( $x$ ) = 1 1 0 1 0 ...

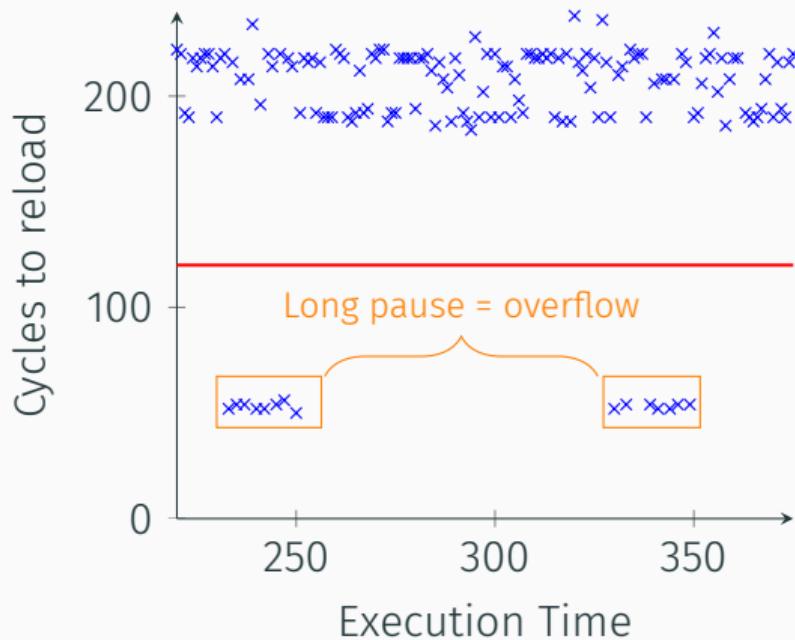
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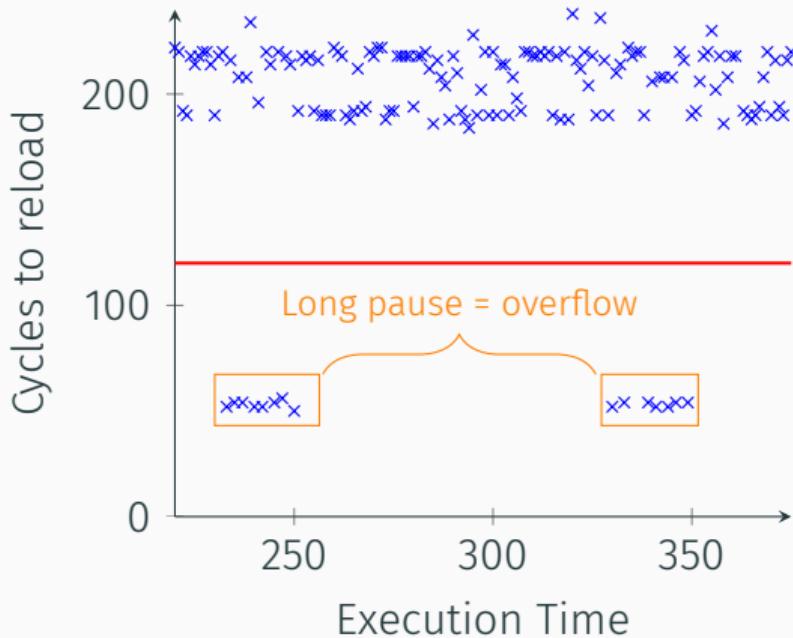


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            w = next_w
```

# Trace Interpretation



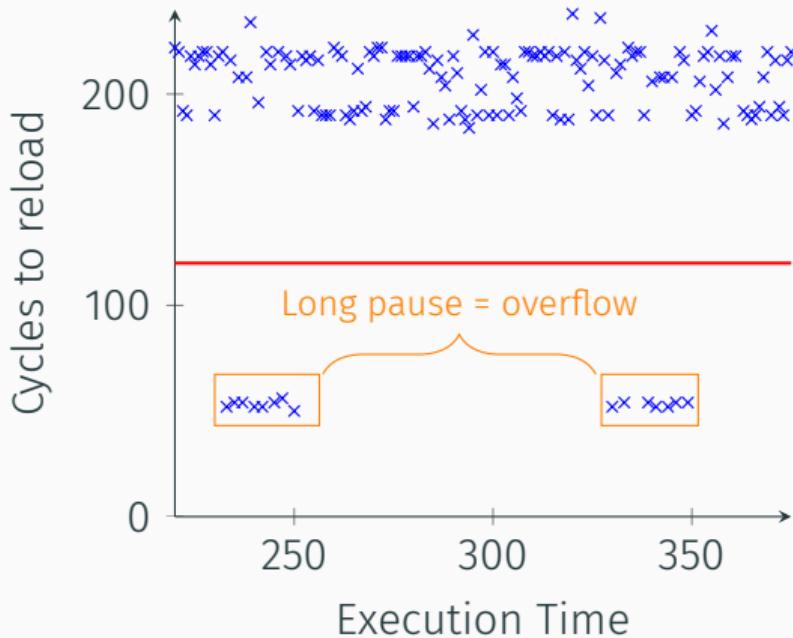
# Trace Interpretation



Rules ( $b \in \{0, 1\}$ ):

- $bbbb \Rightarrow 111b$
- $bbbbbb \Rightarrow yyyyb$ ,  $yyyy \in \{110b, 10bb, 0111\}$
- $bb\dots b \Rightarrow 0\dots 0yyyyb$

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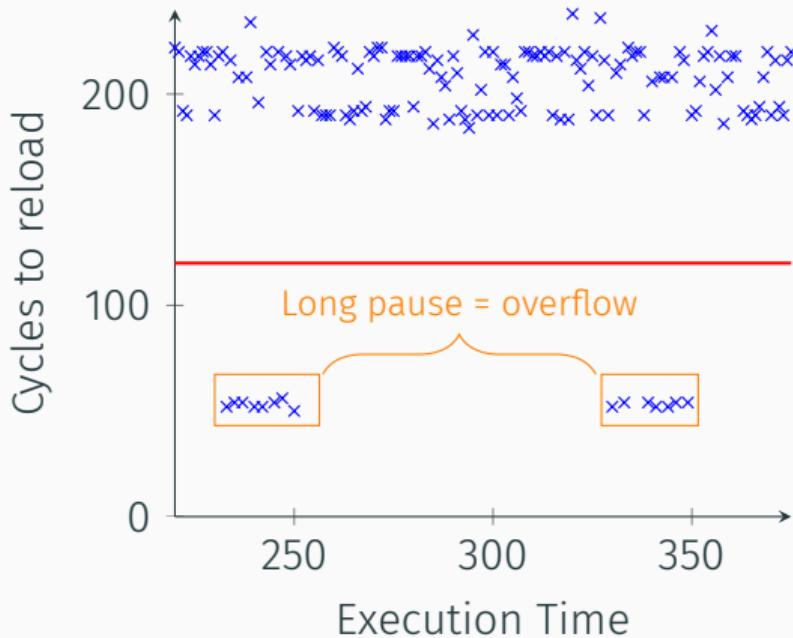


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bbbb bbbbb bbbbbbb bbbbb bbhhh bbbb  
4 5 6 5 5 4

# Trace Interpretation

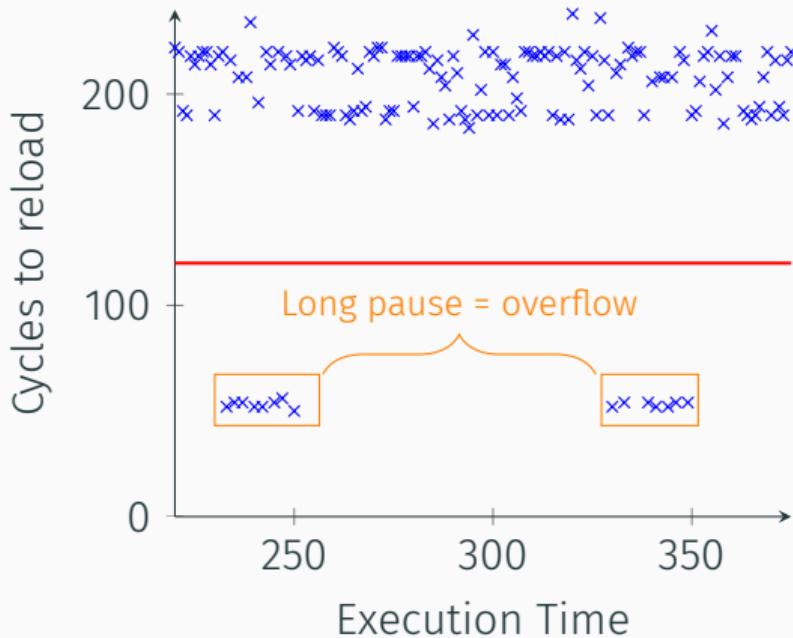


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- $bb\dots b \Rightarrow 0\dots 0yyyyb$

bbbb    bbbbb    bbbbbb    bbbbb    bbbbbb    bbbb  
4            5            6            5            5            4  
↓  
111b

# Trace Interpretation

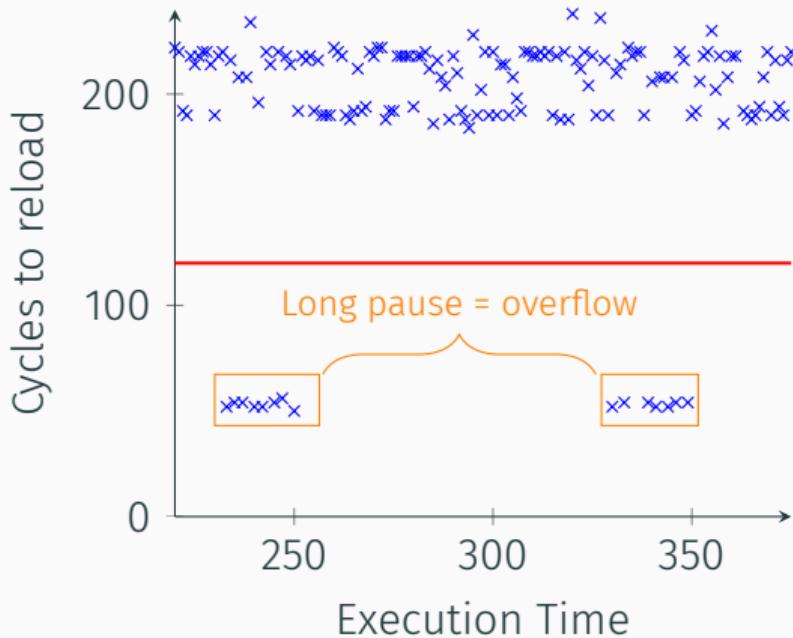


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bbbb bbbbb bbbbbbb bbbbb bb bbbb  
4 5 6 5 5 4  
↓ ↓  
111b yyyyb

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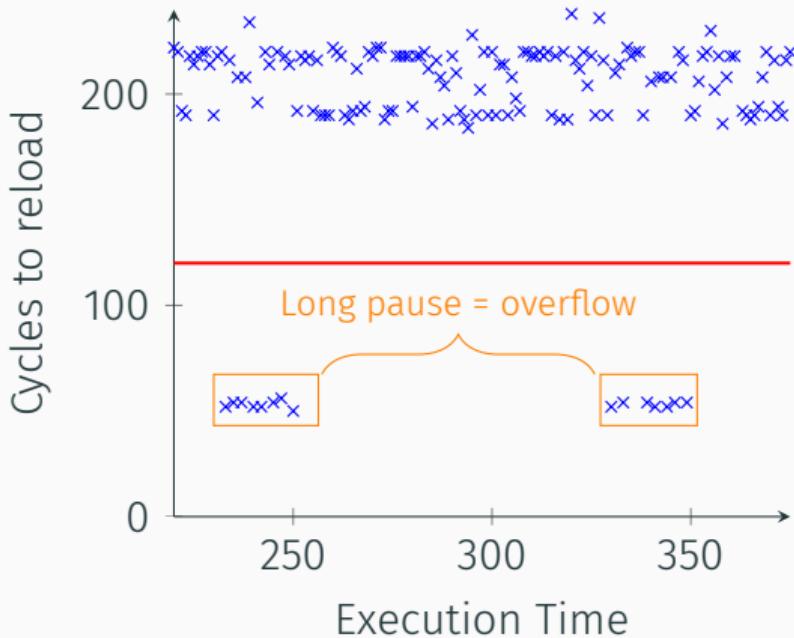


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bbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbb	
4	5	6		5	5	4
↓	↓	↓				
111b	yyyyb	0yyyyb				

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bbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbb
4	5	6	5	5	4
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
111b	yyyyb	0yyyyb	yyyyb		

# Trace Interpretation

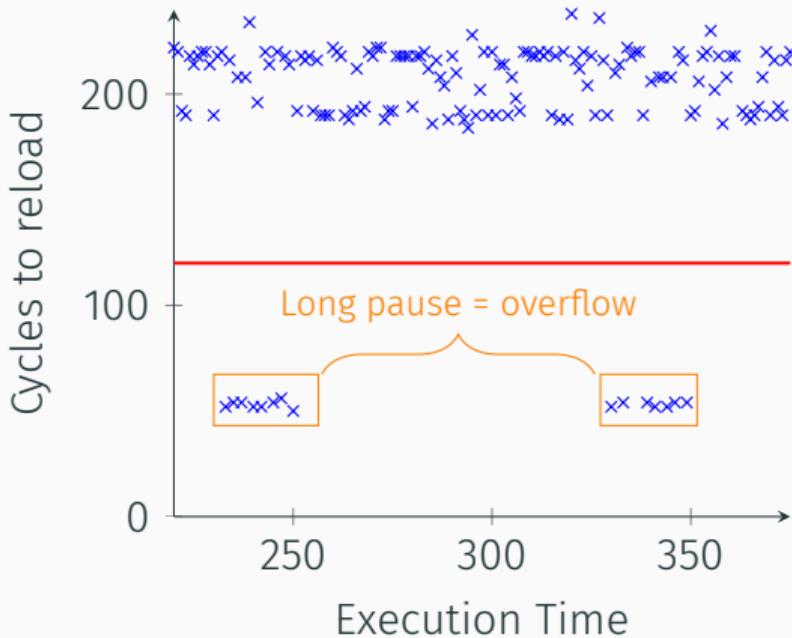


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bbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbb
4	5	6	5	5	4	
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	
111b	yyyyb	0yyyyb	yyyyb	yyyyb		

# Trace Interpretation



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bbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbbbb	bbbb
4	5	6	5	5	4	
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
111b	yyyyb	0yyyyb	yyyyb	yyyyb	yyyyb	bbbb

## Dictionary Attack

Client:  $x = H(salt \parallel H(user\_id : password))$

$$v = g^x \bmod p$$

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**trace:** 1 1 1 b y y y y b 0 y y y y b 1 1 1 b 0 y y y y b

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**trace:**    1 1 1 b y y y y b 0 y y y y b 1 1 1 b 0 y y y y b

pwd\_1    1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1

pwd\_2    1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 1

pwd\_3    0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0

pwd\_4    1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1

pwd\_5    0 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0

...

pwd\_n    1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1

---

Password

x value

---

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**trace:**    1 1 1 b y y y y b 0 y y y y b 1 1 1 b 0 y y y y b

pwd\_1    1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1

pwd\_2    1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 1

pwd\_3    0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0

pwd\_4    1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1

pwd\_5    0 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0

...

pwd\_n    1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1

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trace: 1 1 1 b y y y y b 0 y y y y b 1 1 1 b 0 y y y y b

pwd\_1 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1

pwd\_2 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 1

pwd\_3 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0

pwd\_4 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1

pwd\_5 0 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0

...

pwd\_n 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1

---

Password

x value

---

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Client:  $x = H(salt \parallel H(user\_id : password))$

$$v = g^x \bmod p$$

trace: 1 1 1 b y y y y b 0 y y y y b 1 1 1 b 0 y y y y b

pwd_1	1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1	15
pwd_2	1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 1	14
pwd_3	0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0	11
pwd_4	1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1	0
pwd_5	0 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0	11
...		
pwd_n	1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1	12

Password	x value	Diff score
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## Single Measurement Attack

- Very accurate measurement
- Each bit of information halves the number of possible passwords
  - $k$  bits of information  $\Rightarrow$  false positive/negative with probability of  $2^{-k}$

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For an  $n$ -bit exponent, we get  $k = 0.4n + 2$  bits on average (verified empirically)

SHA-1: 66 bits of information

SHA-256: 104 bits of information

# Mitigations

Two choices:

- Patch OpenSSL TLS-SRP by adding the proper flag
  - Most projects use the bignum API, not the whole SRP
  - Difficult to propagate
  - Root cause of the issue remains
- Switch to a secure by default implementation (flag for insecure/optimized)
  - No flag ⇒ secure implementation (potential performance loss)
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