



# PP Smartcard: Final Presentation

## Team 1

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# Agenda

## 1. Random Number Generation

## 2. Countermeasures

- a. Own Implementation
- b. Dummy Operations
- c. Shuffling
- d. Masking

## 3. Attack

- a. Countermeasure Attacks
- b. DPA Improvements
- c. Masking

## 4. Conclusion

# Random Number Generator

```
int getRandomNumber()  
{  
    return 4; // chosen by fair dice roll.  
              // guaranteed to be random.  
}
```

<https://xkcd.com/221/>

# Random Number Generation

RNG possible with

- (1) HW random number generation sources
- (2) cryptographically secure pseudo random number generator and a small amount of random entropy (e.g. 128 bits)

- (1) Atmega644 does not have a HW RNG
  - divert other hardware features to harvest randomness
  - General Problem:** high bitrate hard to achieve
- (2) Harvest low bitrate entropy from Atmega644 hardware features and generate high bitrate pseudorandom numbers with cryptographic algorithm



# Hardware RNG on Atmega644

Atmega644 does not have a HW RNG

→ Harness other hardware features for randomness harvesting



## ADC

Floating ADC pins,  
lower bits of digitized values  
change unpredictable

- + High bit change rate  
→ high entropy bitrate
- Worthless for us as  
attacker can simply pull  
the pins to zero

## Uninitialized Memory

Some bits always 0 or 1  
Some “randomly” differ after  
reboots

- + Easy to harvest (XOR  
every byte in uninitialized  
block of memory)
- Entropy needs to be  
collected before RAM is  
used
- Finite amount per  
execution

## Watchdog Timer

Jitter between internal  
watchdog oscillator and  
smartcard terminal clock

- + Sources known: depends  
on manufacturing **and**  
environment
- Low bitrate

# RNG based on Watchdog Timer Jitter

Watchdog interrupt: Triggered by watchdog timer (~ every 16ms)  
Uses internal watchdog clock with high jitter

Entropy collection: Counter TCNT0 running in *normal mode*  
Every WDT ISR stores 8-bit counter value:

0x11XXXXXX  
identical most of the time | appear to be “random”

After 32 interrupts (512ms): 256 bit of counter values,  
128 appear to be random

→ create one 32 bit value with jenkins hash (shift and XOR)

Peak performance: ~64 bit/second

Problems:

- Good quality, but: bitrate too low for RNG tests  
DIEHARD (requires > 300MB) and DIEHARDER (> 1GB)
- Bitrate could be higher for our applications
- First byte after 0.5 seconds, protocol allows AES before!

# Cryptographically Secure Pseudo RNG

- PRNG based on Skein hashing (as specified in Skein specification)
- Skein: SHA-3 competition finalist, based on Threefish block cipher
- Can be used with 128 bit entropy

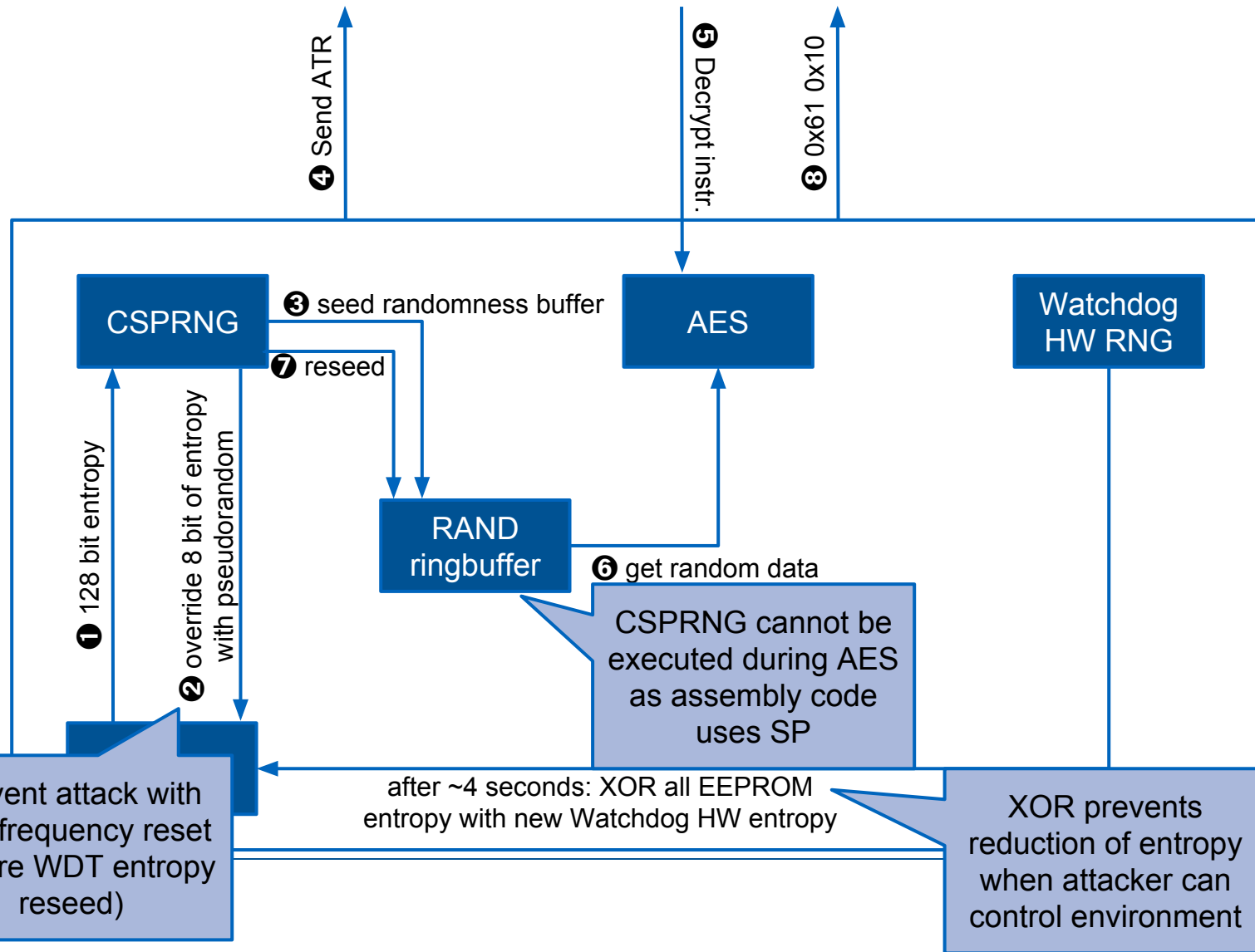
**Implementation:** Fthreefish library, targeted at high performance applications

- Assembly implementation
- **Overall performance:** 285 cycles per byte

Decision process:

- Fthreefish is the best performance implementation of a CSPRNG for AVR
- Cryptographic quality by far high enough  
→ Entropy gathering remains weakest point in our RNG architecture

# RNG Architecture





# RNG Architecture - Performance & Security

- Terminal accepts more than 250 ms delay for encryption  
→ use time after encryption to refill RNG buffer
- Sufficient for generation of more than 1000 bytes of pseudorandom  
→ more than enough for any countermeasure

## Security considerations:

- Quality of entropy not really known
- New WDT entropy is added to EEPROM via XOR  
→ entropy quality cannot decrease
- EEPROM values could also be initialized to truly random values after programming of card

⇒ Attacking RNG is not the easiest way to attack the hardened card!

# PRNG Analysis

**DILBERT** By SCOTT ADAMS



<https://www.random.org/analysis/dilbert.jpg>

# PRNG Analysis

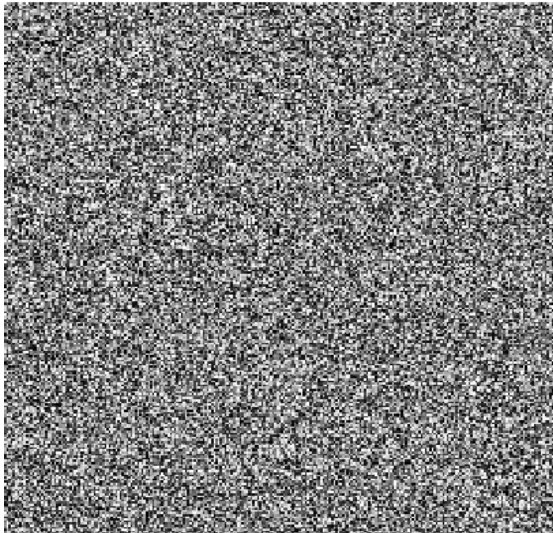
	Compression,	Entropy
• Ours:	100.0166%	7.999986
• C rand():	100.0167%	7.994336

```
>> runtest(x)
```

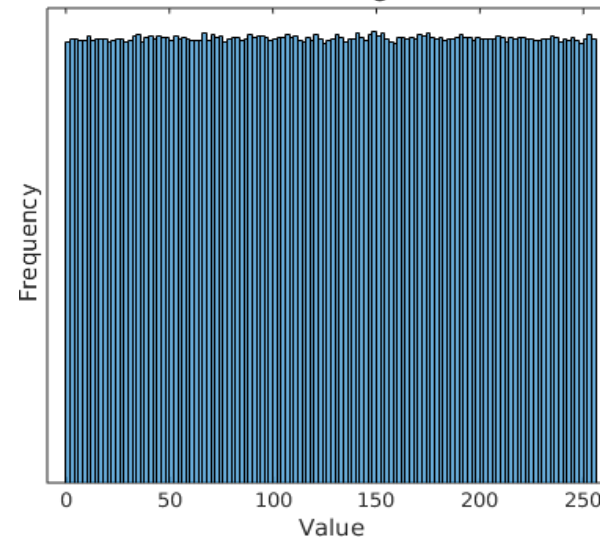
```
ans =
```

```
0
```

PRNG Plot



PRNG Histogram





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# Own Implementation (-Os)

	Original	Clone ( <i>improved</i> )
<b>Total code size</b>	<i>unknown</i>	4850 B
<b>Total data size</b>	<i>unknown</i>	253 B
<b>AES execution time</b>	<b>4.604 ms</b>	<b>4.087 ms (4.5 ms)</b>
<b>AES code size</b>	<i>unknown</i>	1816 B
<b>AES data size</b>	<i>unknown</i>	192 B

# Own Implementation

	O0	O3	Os
Traces (min)	200	500	1000
Time	0.76s	1.54s	3.06s

- Compiler optimization influences the code structure
- **util/delay.h** relies on optimization flags

# Dummy Operations

- Dummy Operations = Table Lookups  
→ Disguised as SB operation
- Used at:
  - First round SB
  - Last round SB
  - End of AES (remaining)
- Current configuration (per AES):
  - 80 operations total
  - 240 random values
  - 3 Compares / 1 modulo
- Same amount of operations per AES cycle!!!  
(no information retrievable from execution times)

```
// get a random value for the XOR operations
uint8_t value = rng_get_random_byte();

// this loop will at least execute once
// operations = rng_get_random_byte() % (modulo + 1);
do {
    // use arbitrary index for table lookup
    uint8_t rndIndex = rng_get_random_byte();

    // dummy operation should be similar to the
    // original SB operation
    value ^= pgm_read_byte(aes_invsbox+rndIndex);

    ++completedOperations;
    ++counter;
} while (counter < operations);

// XOR on volatile to avoid compiler optimization
dummy_result ^= value;
```

# Dummy Operations (cont.)

	Base	Base + RNG	Dummy Operations
<b>Total code size</b>	4,850B (7.4%)	12,222B (18.6%)	12,438B (19.0%)
<b>Total data size</b>	253B (6.2%)	1,550B (37.8%)	1,554B (37.9)
<b>AES execution time</b>	<b>4.09 ms</b>	<b>4.09 ms</b>	<b>13.25 ms</b>



# Shuffling

- Possibilities:
  - Random array permutation (Fisher–Yates shuffle)
  - Operations at SB and RK in arbitrary order
  - SB and SR interchangeable
- Used at:
  - All RK operations
  - All SB operations
  - 2 times array refresh per AES
- Current configuration (per AES):
  - $2 * 15 = 30$  random numbers
  - $2 * 15 * 3 = 90$  copy operations

```
/* **** Permutation Array **** */
void aes128_update_shuffling_array() {
    uint8_t i = 15; // array end
    uint8_t j = 0; // init value
    do{
        //generate a random number [0, n-1]
        j = rng_get_random_byte() % (i+1);

        //swap the last element with element at random index
        uint8_t temp = permutation_array[i];
        permutation_array[i] = permutation_array[j];
        permutation_array[j] = temp;
        --i;
    } while ( i != 0);
}
```

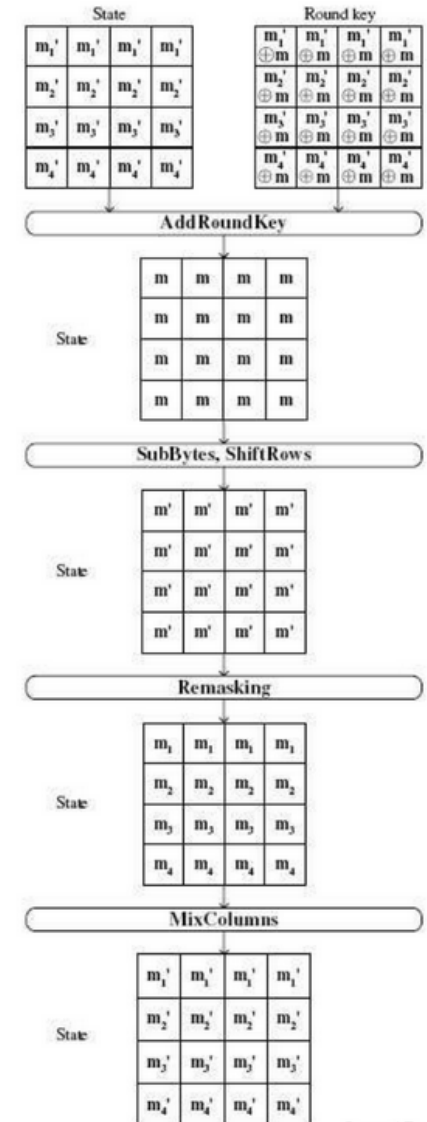


# Shuffling (cont.)

	Base + RNG	Shuffling
Total code size	12,222B (18.6%)	12,446B (19.0%)
Total data size	1,550B (37.8%)	1,566B (38.2%)
AES execution time	4.087 ms	7.40 ms (+3.31 ms)

# Masking

- Precompute masks:
  - 6 random masks, 4 computed masks
  - Precompute inverse SBox values
- Mask expansion key:
  - Expansion key calculation before the ATR
  - Masking of expansion key before each AES
- Start: Mask challenge
- End: Unmask challenge
- Remasking in between: MK → possible mask removal
- Mask State / Expansion Key → SR → SB  
→ [ RK → MK → invremask → SR → SB ] → RK → unmask



# Masking (cont.)

	Base + RNG	Masking
Total code size	12,222B (18.6%)	13,080B (20.0%)
Total data size	1,550B (37.8%)	1,992B (48.6%)
AES execution time	4.087 ms	6.4 ms (+ 2.61 ms)

- New SBox uses a lot of data space
- In-place calculation of SBox possible and tested (no extra memory, but longer computation time)



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# Countermeasures Attack

	Traces	Time	% rel. to Pure AES
<b>Original</b>	200	0.63s	40%
<b>Pure AES</b>	500	1.54s	100%
<b>Dummy Ops.</b>	3200	9.86s	+540%
<b>Shuffling</b>	6300	18.63s	+1160%

- DPA Improvements:
  - compression more efficient
  - core dpa works good with countermeasure

# Second Order DPA (1)

Idea:

- requirement: two intermediate values, sharing the same mask
- $u_m \oplus v_m = (u \oplus m) \oplus (v \oplus m) = u \oplus v$

Preprocessing is needed in order to attack:

- $|HW(u_m) - HW(v_m)|$
- new samples size  $\tilde{l} = \frac{l \cdot (l - 1)}{2}$

DPA:

- hypothetical power consumption:  
 $H = HW(u \oplus v)$
- same correlation core

# Second Order DPA (2)

## Results:

- first-order DPA: **not successful**  
⇒ Implementation correct
- second-order DPA: **not successful**

## Problem:

- our masking implementation doesn't reuse masks

$$m \neq m'$$

⇒ not vulnerable by second-order DPA

## Practical Problems:

- huge amount of traces
- heavy compression required to get reasonable amount of samples
- quadratic effort due to preprocessing





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# Project Management

Problems:

- RNG
  - complex implementation
  - blocking task for countermeasures

Plan  Reality 

# Conclusion

- Learned:
  - In-depth & hands-on SmartCard & DPA knowledge
  - Algorithmic efficiency
  - Don't rely on security implemented by others
  - Review sessions
- Achieved:
  - Attack on original card
  - Cloned the SmartCard
  - Hardened the CloneCard
  - Good randomness solution
  - Attack-Analysis on hardened card
  - Great team & teamwork
- Further improvements:
  - Faster AES implementation
  - Examine optimal compiler flags
  - Combine hiding techniques



# Thank you!

