

*Seguridad Informatica - Fall 2024*

Module IV: Physical security  
Lecture 1

# Introduction

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IMDEA Software Institute

# Organization

- ***3 classes***
  - December 2nd 12:00–14:00 (Monday)
  - December 9th 12:00–14:00 (Monday)
  - December 16th 12:00–14:00 (Monday)
- Each lecture is complemented by ***reading assignments***
  - ***Read*** (and try to understand) ***them!***
- Final ***exam***: January 13 at 11:00

# Organization

- Lecture 1 – Introduction
- Lecture 2 – Cache-based side channel attacks
- Lecture 3 – Speculative execution attacks
- Lecture 4 – Non-interference
- Lecture 5 – Automated detection of speculative leaks

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December 2nd

- Lecture 1 – Introduction
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- Lecture 1 – Introduction

December 9th

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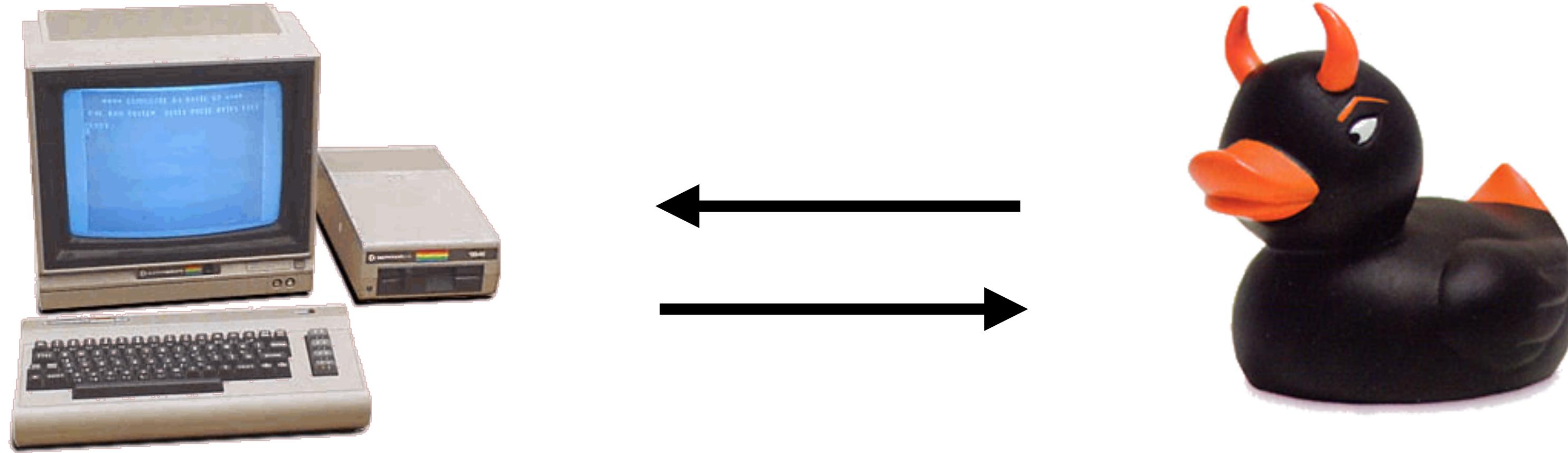
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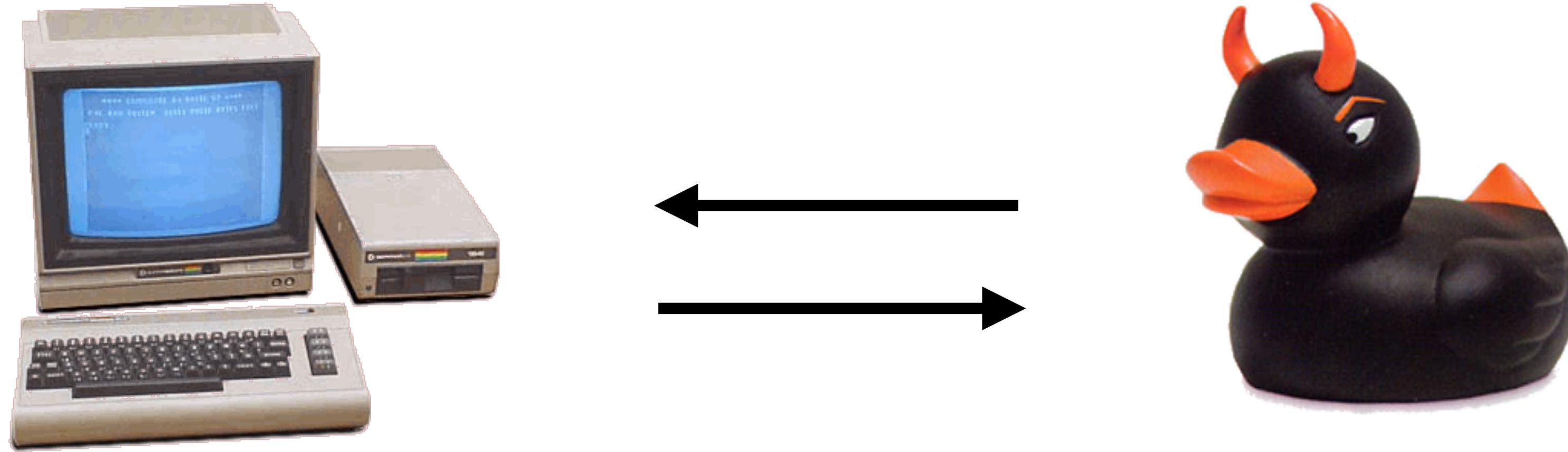
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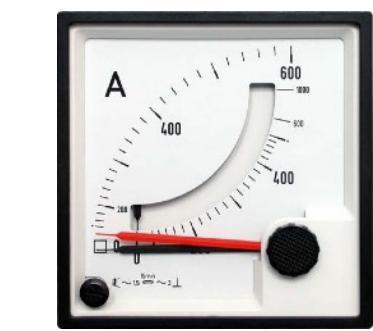
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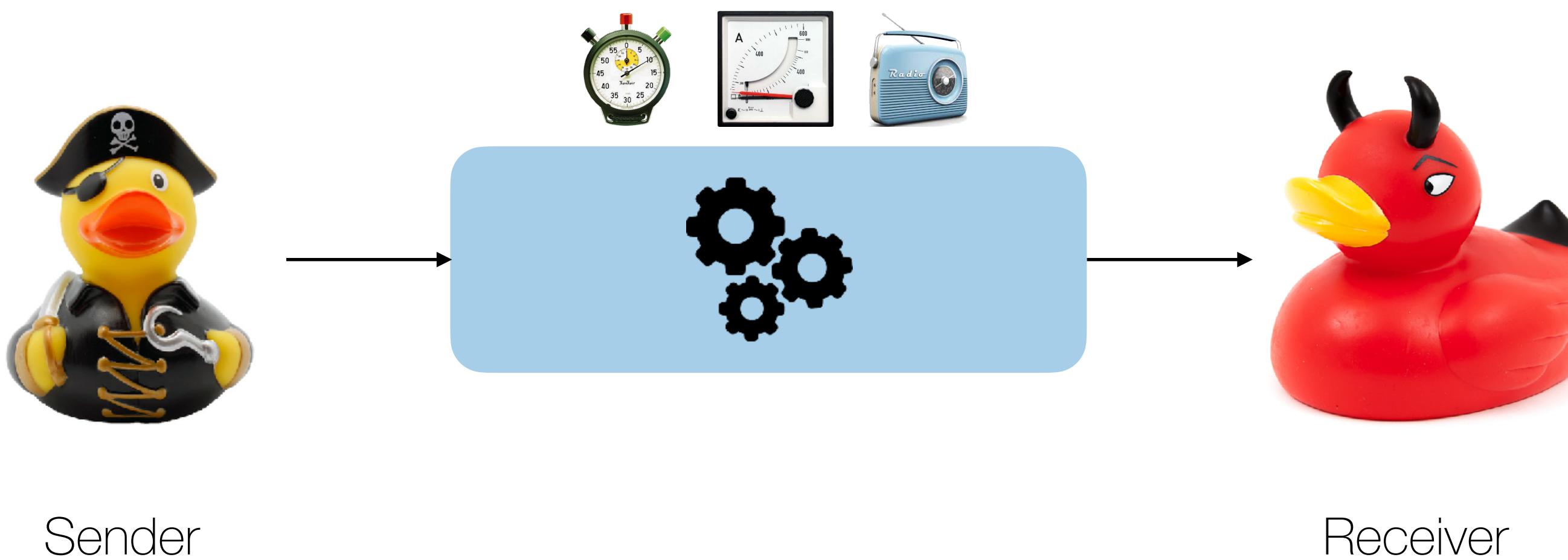
Seemingly **secure** programs  
can still **leak** information



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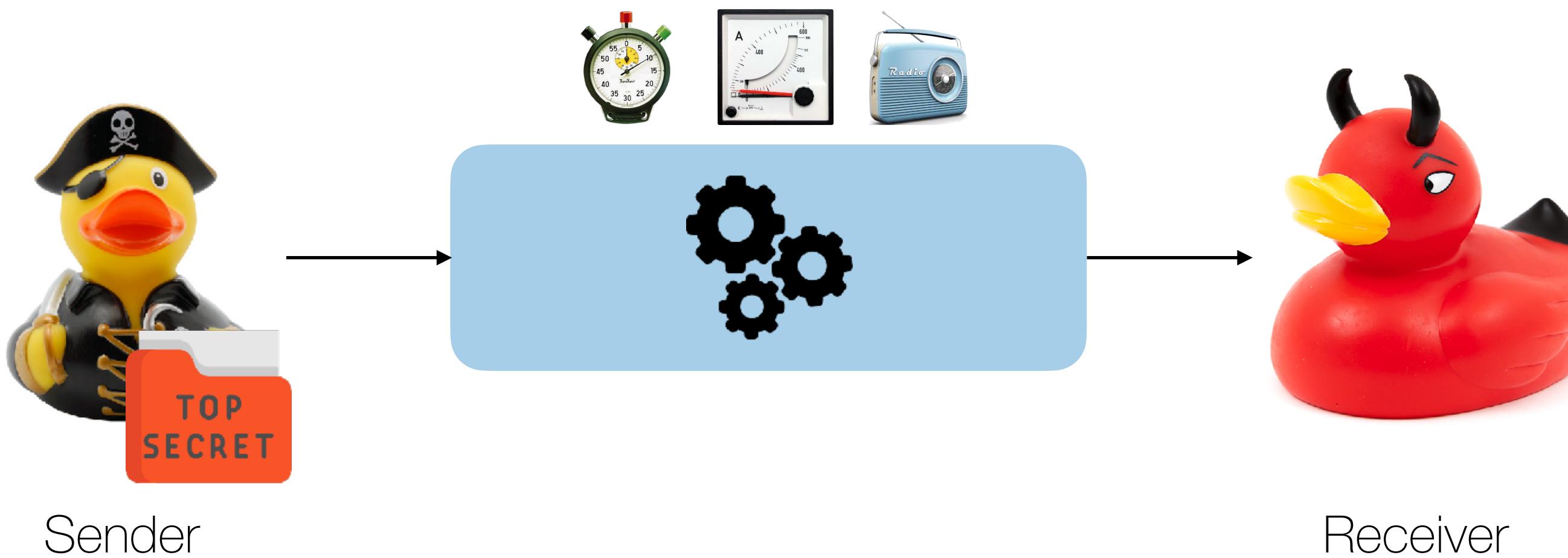
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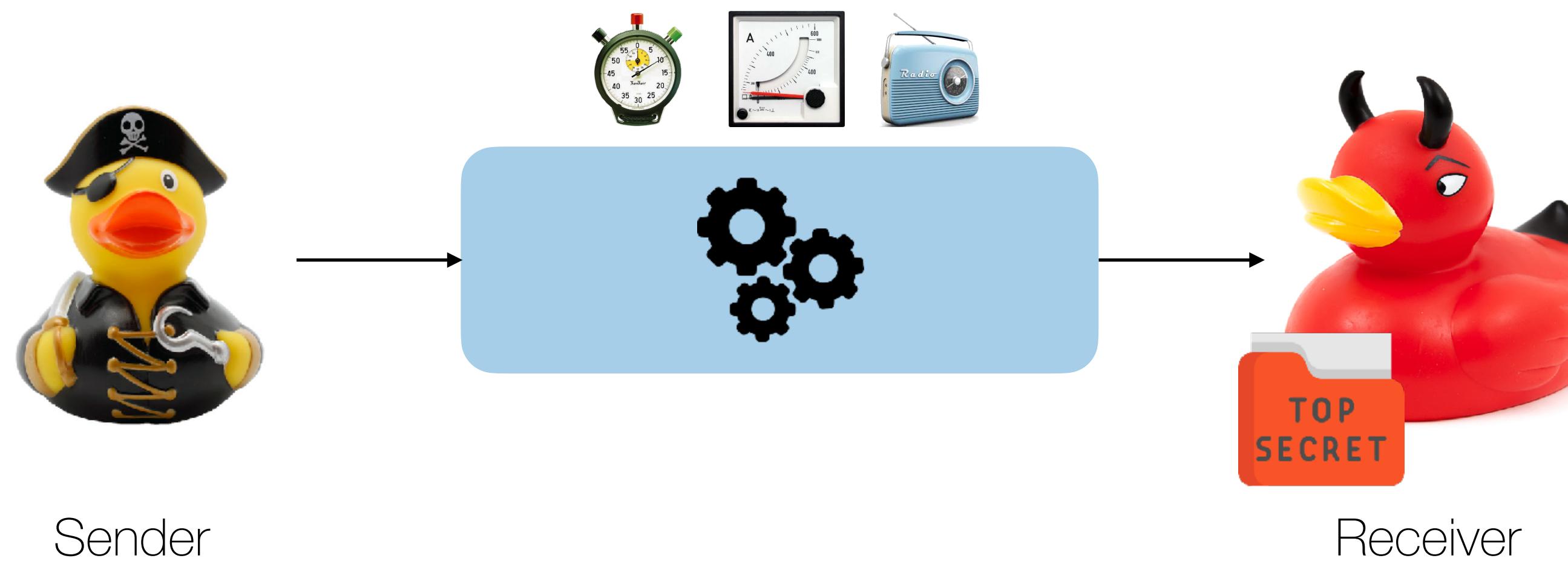
**Covert channel:** Two collaborating parties exchange information over a **channel not intended for communication**

# Covert & side channels



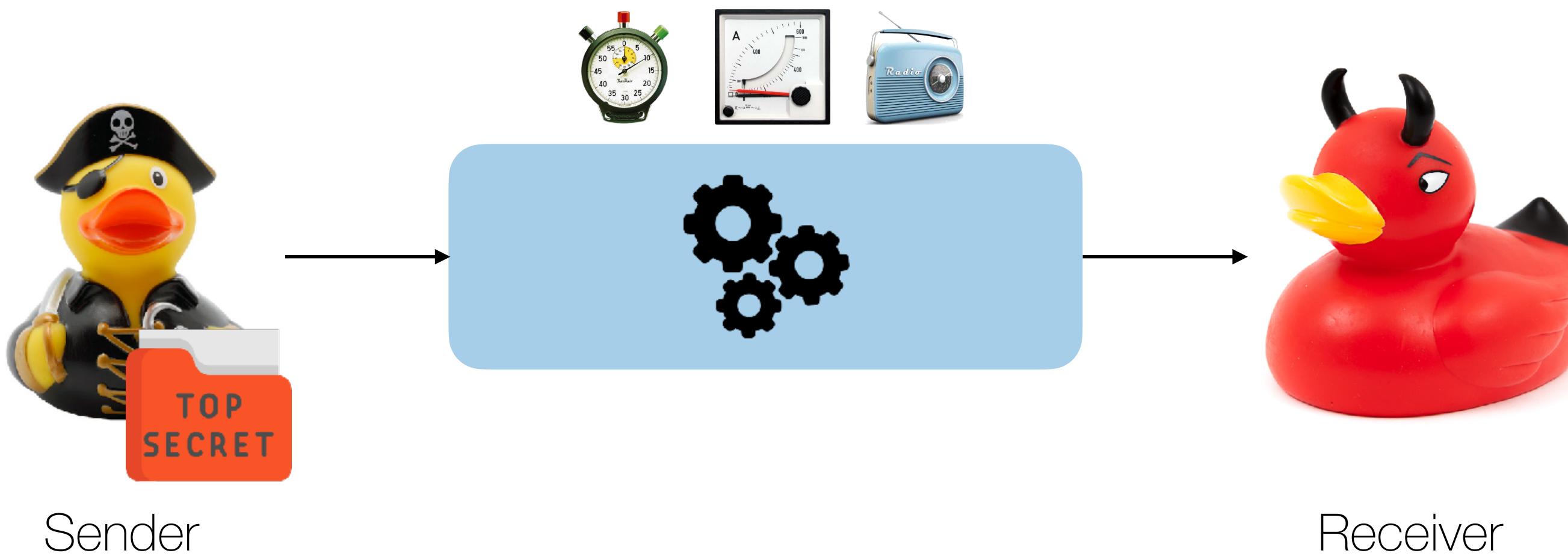
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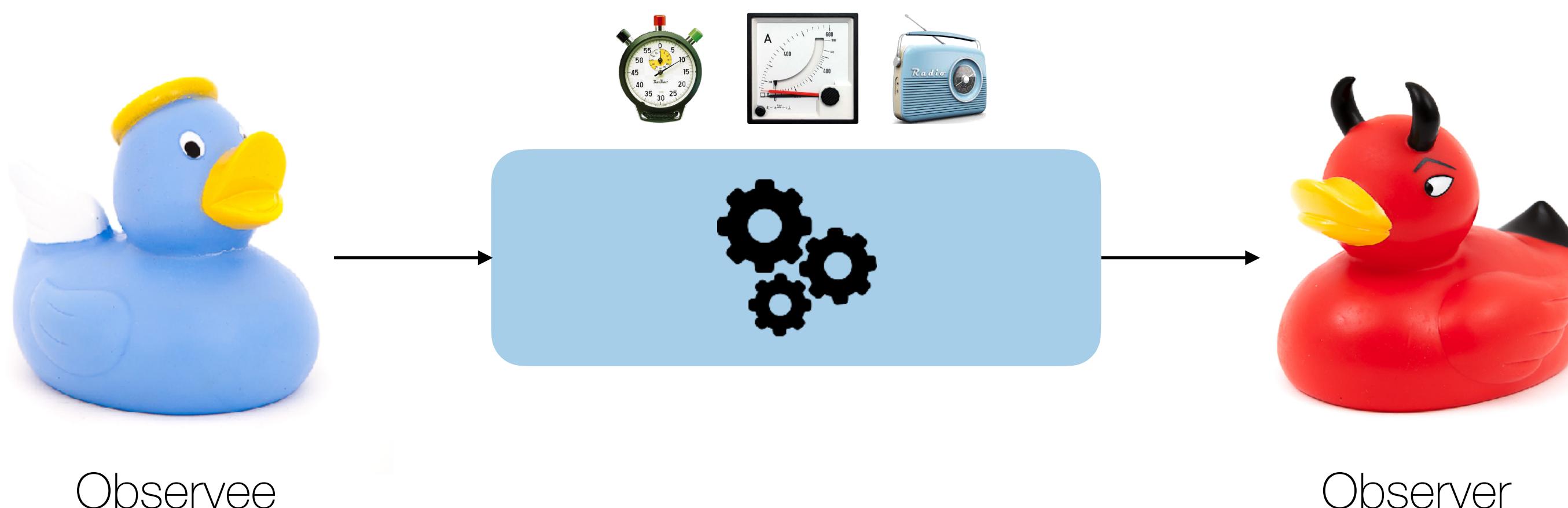


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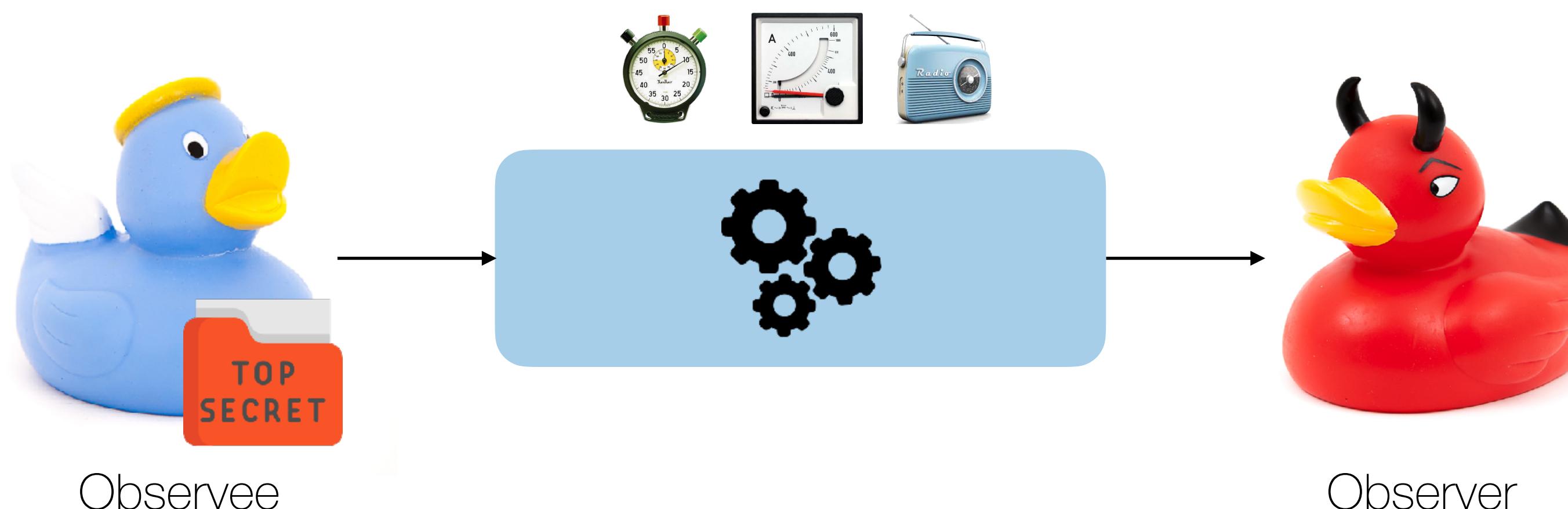
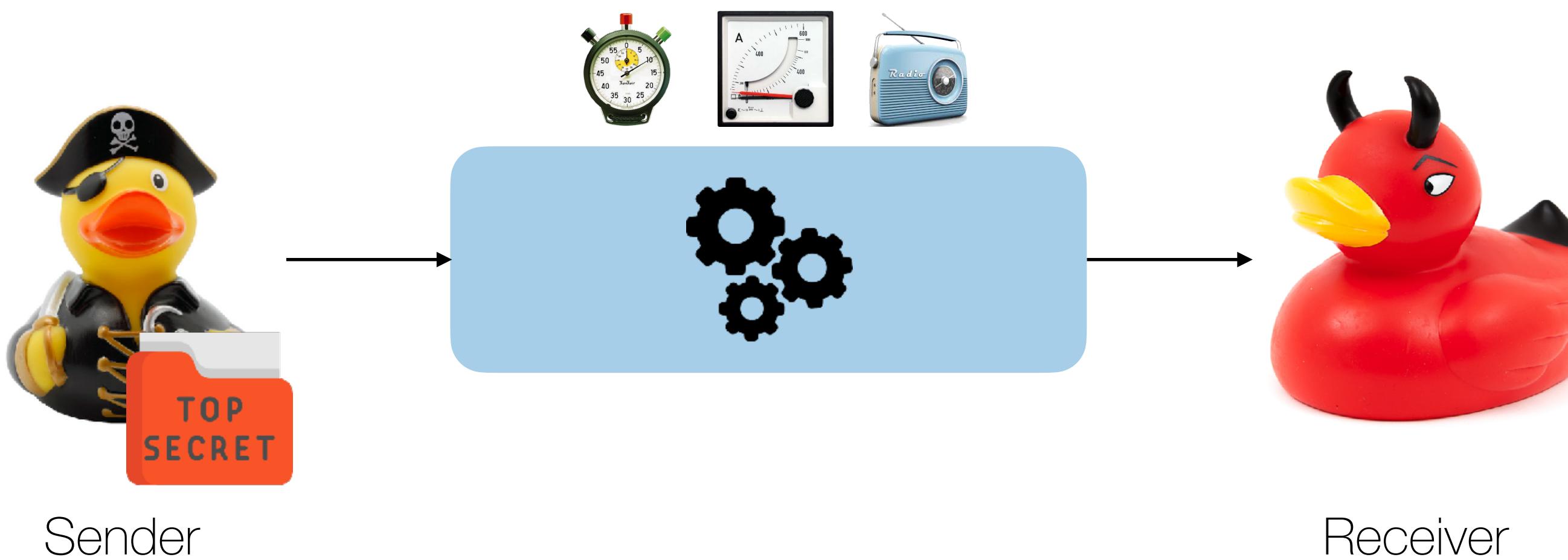


**Covert channel:** Two collaborating parties exchange information over a **channel not intended for communication**



**Side channel:** Attacker extracts information about a victim's computation by observing a **channel not intended for communication**

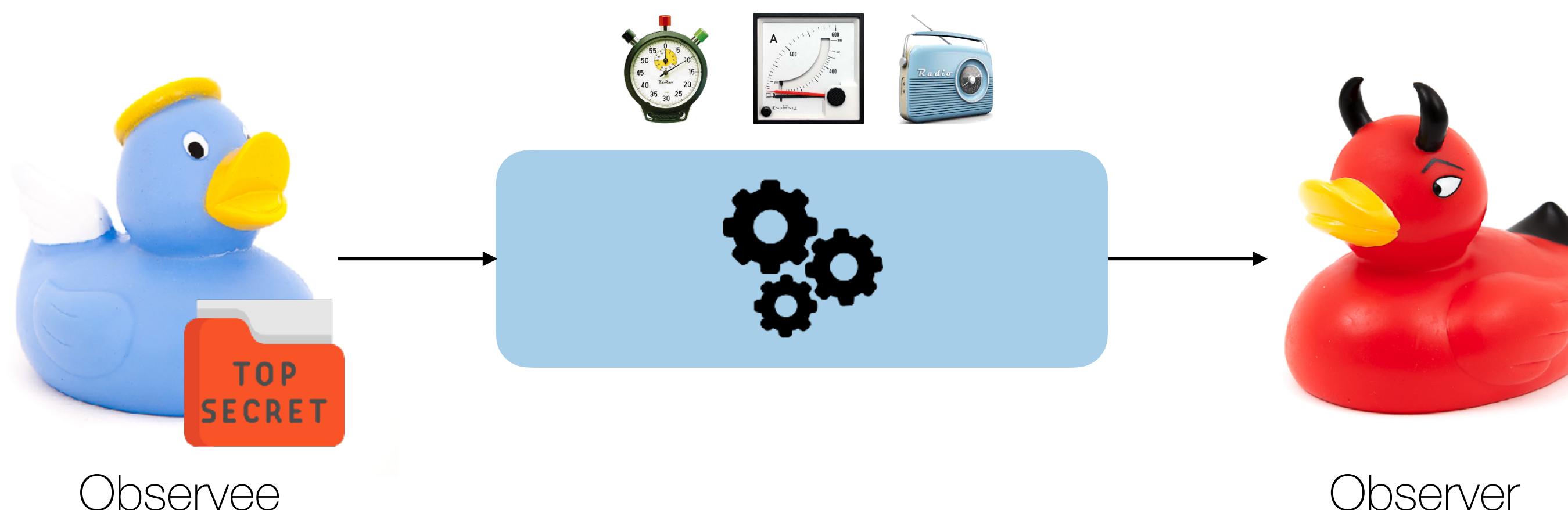
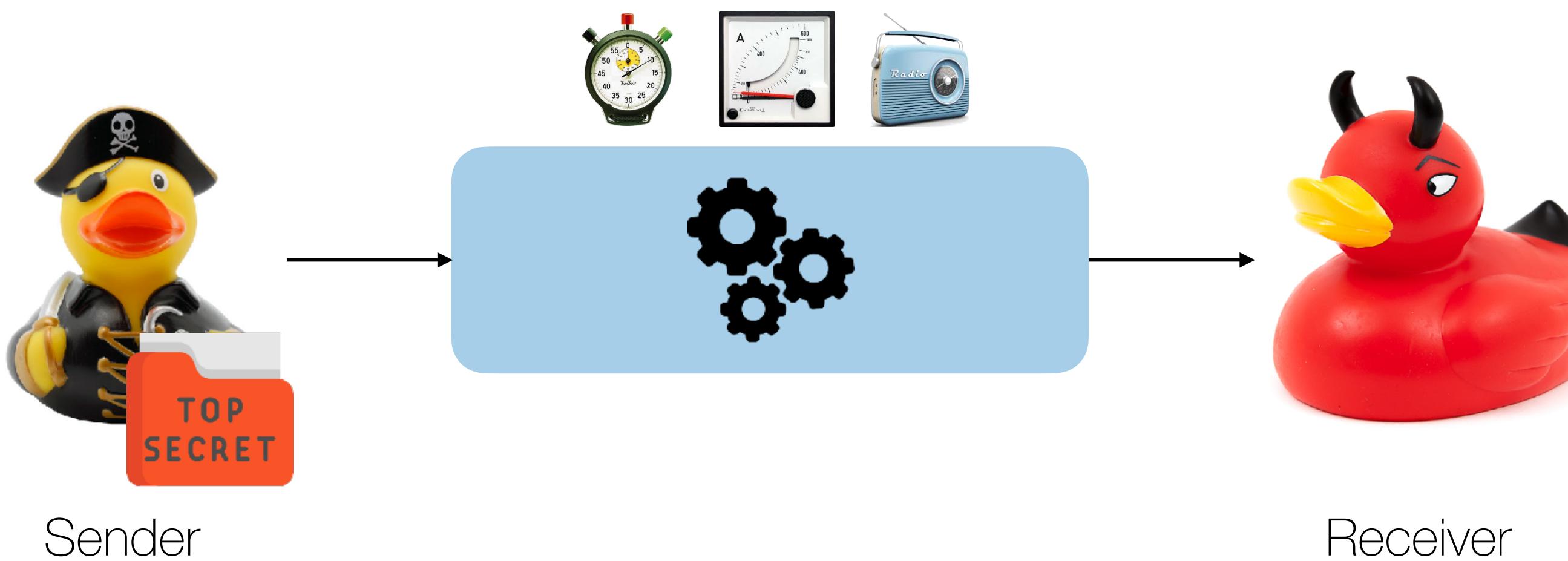
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# Ex: Control-flow side channels

Input: key  $k$ , ciphertext  $c$

```
x:=1  
for i=0 to |k|-1  
    x:=x*x mod n  
    if k[i]==1 then  
        x:=x*c mod n  
return x
```

RSA decryption  
 $c^k \bmod n$

- **First attack:** Kocher (1996) shows how secret keys can be recovered from timing measurements
- **Remote attack:** Boneh & Brumley (2003) recover full keys from standard OpenSSL RSA implementation over network

# Ex: Cache-based Side Channel

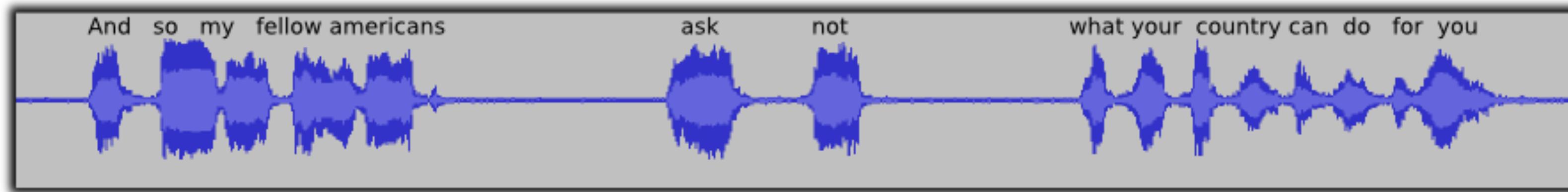


# Ex: Speculative execution attacks

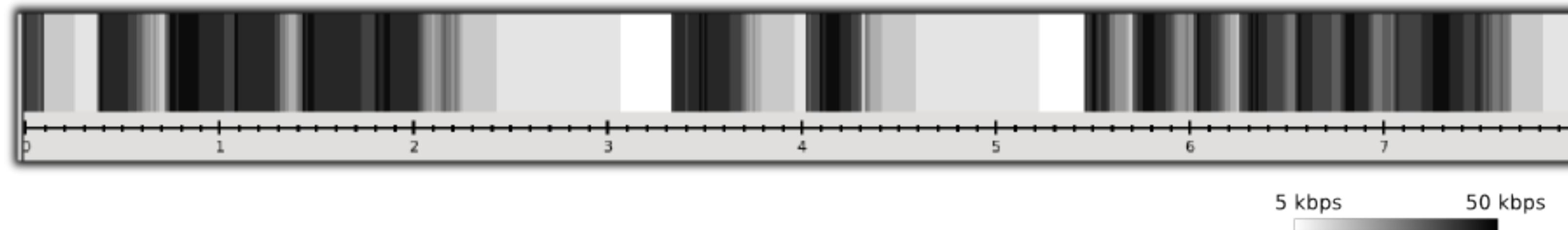


# Ex: Traffic Side Channel

Sound waveform:

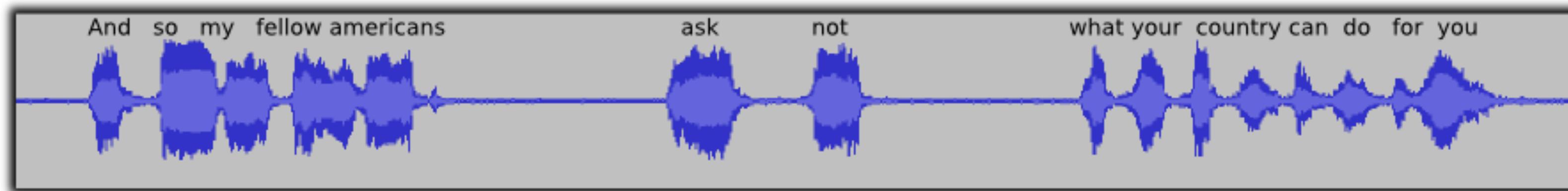


Variable Bitrate (VBR) packet sizes:

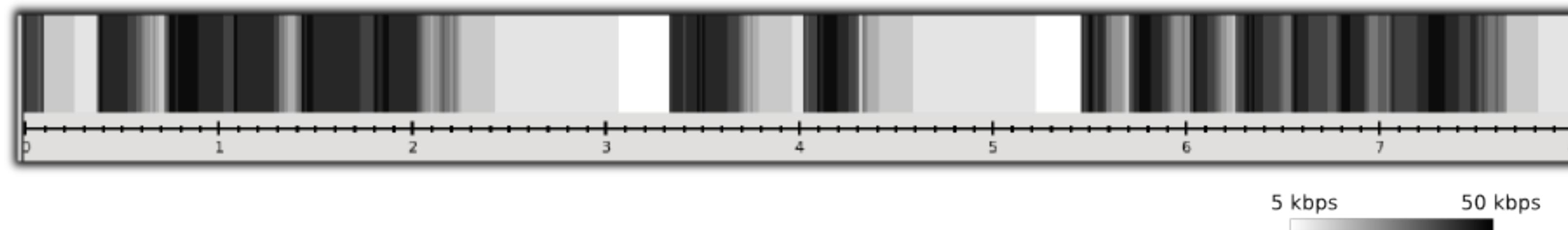


# Ex: Traffic Side Channel

Sound waveform:



Variable Bitrate (VBR) packet sizes:



Has been exploited for identifying ***language*** (Wright '07), ***phrases*** (Wright '08), ***speakers*** (Backes '09), ***conversations*** (White '11)

# Observation

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- Side-channels often introduced by ***performance-enhancing techniques***
  - Caching
  - Speculative execution
  - Deduplication
  - Compression
  - ...

Cache-timing attacks on AES

On the Power of Simple Branch Prediction Analysis

**On Information Leakage in Deduplicated Storage Systems**

Spot me if you can:  
Uncovering spoken phrases in encrypted VoIP conversations

# Observation

- Side-channels often introduced by ***performance-enhancing techniques***
  - Caching
  - Speculative execution
  - Deduplication
  - Compression
  - ...
- Pattern or coincidence?
  - Performance-enhancing techniques reduce resource consumption ***on average***, but not in the ***worst case***.
  - This introduces ***variations into the consumption profile*** that can be exploited by adversaries, i.e., side-channels.

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# Closing side-channels, radically



CPUs  
Compilers  
Virtual machines  
Networks  
...  
minimize time  
space consumption  
energy  
...

# Closing side-channels, radically



CPUs  
Compilers  
Virtual machines  
Networks  
...      flatten  
~~minimize~~      time  
                  space  
                  energy  
                  consumption

Dramatic performance penalties