



TigerBytes

Rochester Institute of Technology

*Brandon Adler**

*Thomas Cenova**

*Eric Scheler**

Stuart Nevans Locke

Jason Blocklove

Max Proskauer

Prateek Talukdar

Alden Davidson

Advised by: Dr. Ziming Zhao and Dr. Marcin Łukowiak



Outline

- Secure Design
 - Our System
 - Hardware and Software v2.0
- Attack Phase
 - Attack highlights
- General Comments
 - Lessons learned



Our Secure Design

SW

- MESH user's passwords are salted and hashed
- Each entry of the game table is authenticated to prevent tampering
- Game binaries are encrypted and authenticated
 - Game's HMAC is checked before installation and play
- PetaLinux networking and root account is disabled

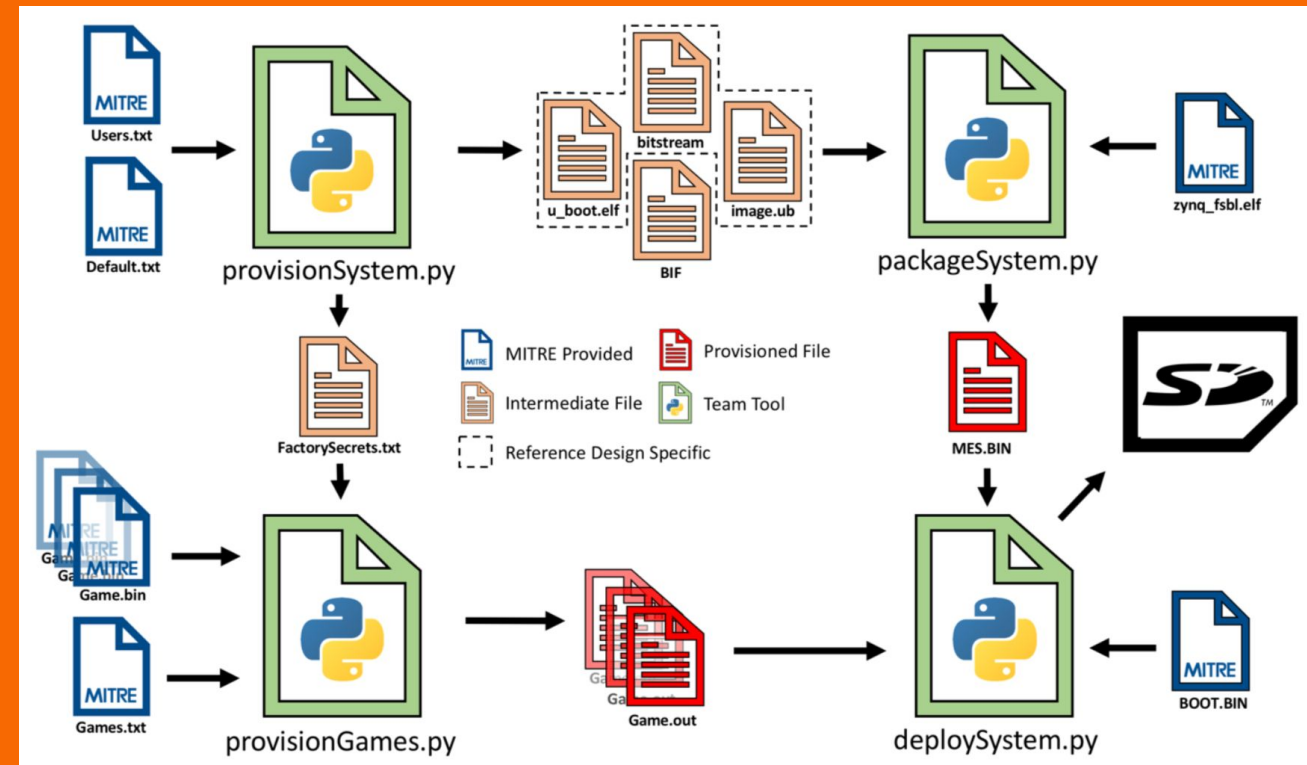
HW

- Disabled all unused peripherals (Ethernet, SPI, I2C)
 - Reduces attack entry points
- Removed unused hw components (HDMI IN, GPIO...)



Our Secure Design Continued

- ProvisionSystem.py - Generates HMAC and encryption keys and generates Header file used in MESH
- ProvisionGames.py - Encrypts games with key from FactorySecrets.txt, adds metadata, and generates HMAC of the entire file





Our Secure Design v2.0 - SW

What things did you want to do, but didn't have time for?

- Utilize SCrypt or Argon2 for password hashing

What things did you think of after-the-fact?

- Keys were plaintext in DDR so our design was very vulnerable to memory dumps

What mistakes did you make that you realized during the attack phase?

- Should have used RSA for signatures
- We weren't randomizing memory addresses within U-Boot or PetaLinux
- Games should have remained encrypted while loading into PetaLinux



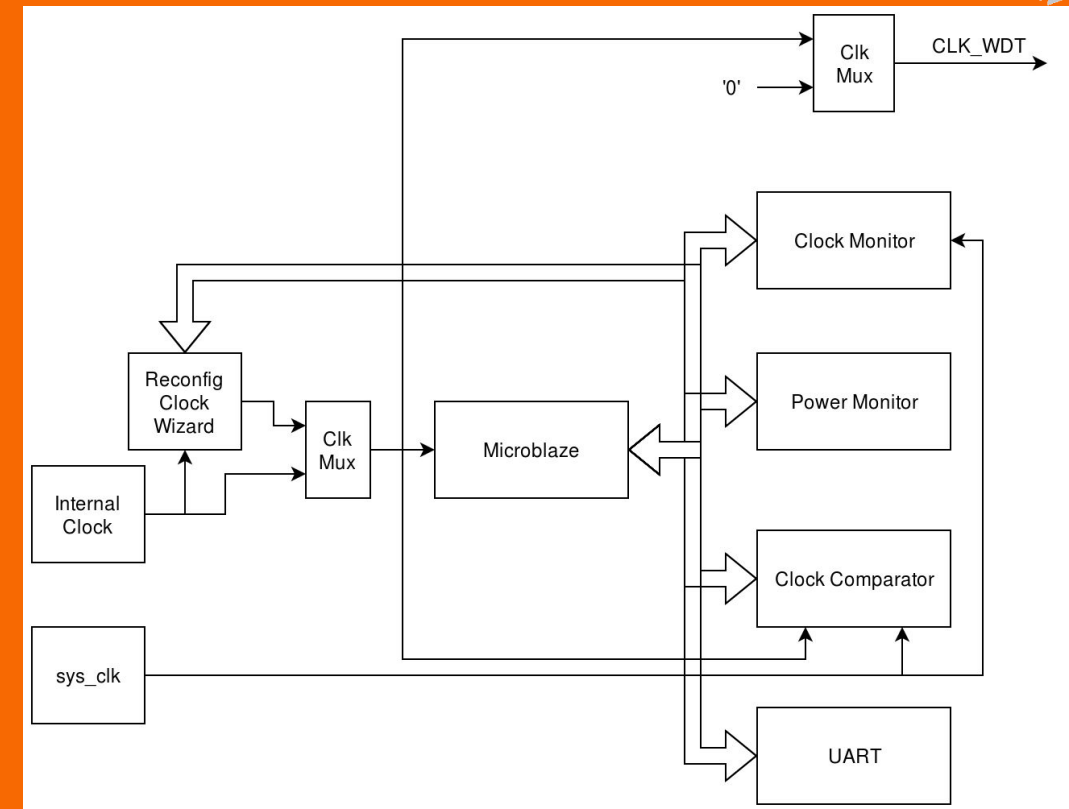
Our Secure Design v2.0 - HW

Planned Implementation

- Implement a hardware monitoring system to monitor the clock and power on the SoC.

Post attack revised implementation

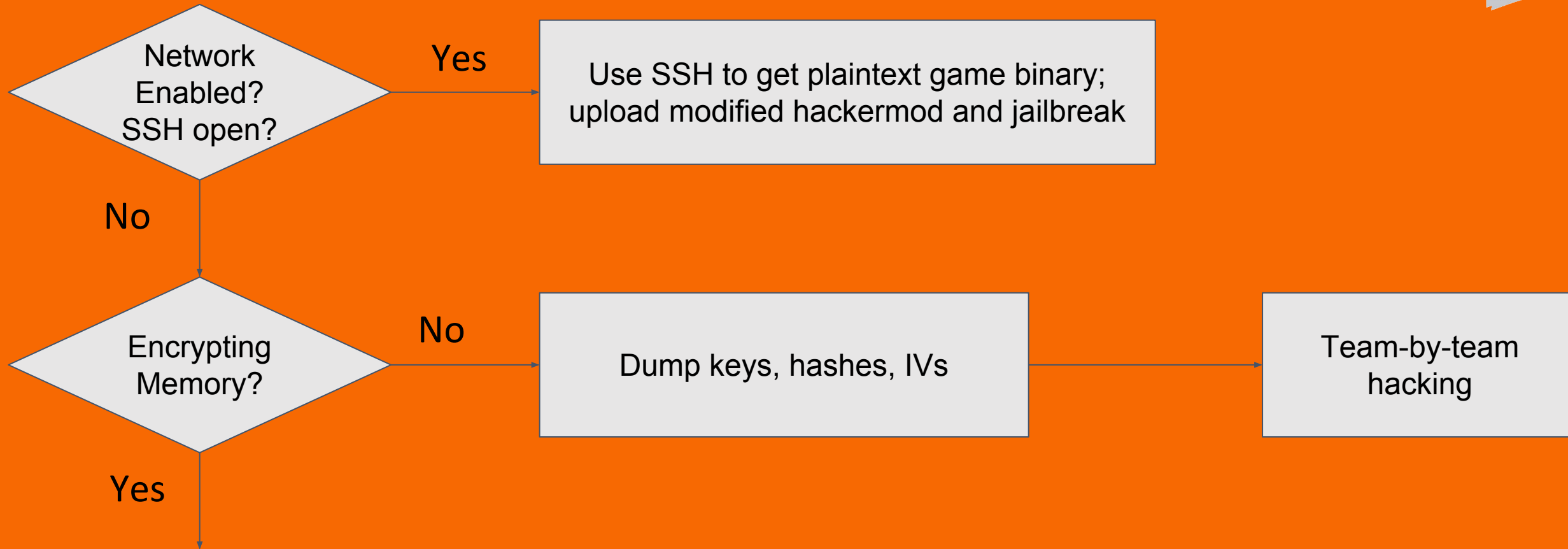
- Place all sensitive information into BRAM to prevent DDR dumping (BRAM clears on resets)
- Encrypt main memory by routing it through encryption/decryption block in PL for data protection



HW Monitoring System Block Diagram



Attack Approaches We used





Attack Highlight #1: Design Flaw in Encryption

Team **A** used *bcrypt* to protect user PINs. If we brute-force a PIN using *hashcat* on GPUs, it may take up to 60 hours...

But, we found a design flaw in their game encryption, which enabled us to brute-force the PIN in minutes.

It turns out, they calculate a unique key for each user for game encryption

user_key = *master_key* XOR (*user_name* and *user_pin*)

master_key can be dumped from memory; *user_name* is known



Attack Highlight #1: Design Flaw in Encryption

Therefore, to brute-force *pinbypass*'s PIN, we do not have to crack *bcrypt*.

```
def bf_pinbypass(username, pin):  
    sys_game_key = #key dumped from memory  
  
    ret = msd_xor(sys_game_key, bytes('').join(username + pin), "utf 8"))  
    return ret  
  
def decryptPINBYPASS(pin, game_bin):  
    cipher_game_key = game_bin[104:136]  
  
    aes = AES.new(bf_pinbypass("pinbypass", pin), AES.MODE_GCM, nonce=game_bin[72:88])  
    plain_game_key = aes.decrypt(cipher_game_key)  
  
    game_bin_for_decrypt = game_bin[200:216]  
  
    aes2 = AES.new(plain_game_key, AES.MODE_GCM, nonce=game_bin[136:152])  
    plain_game_bin = aes2.decrypt(game_bin_for_decrypt)  
  
    if plain_game_bin[:4] == b'\x7f\x45\x4c\x46':  
        print("decryption matches")  
        print(pin)  
        exit(0)
```



Attack Impacts and Countermeasures

- What is the impact of this attack?
 - We can break a system very quickly
- Suggested Fix:
 - Unique key for each user is a good idea. But, those keys should be independent.



Attack Highlight #2: Brute-force Another PIN

Team **B** used *public-key crypto* to protect user PINs. It takes 1 second to try a PIN on a core.

We dumped the ciphertext of PIN from memory, then brute-forced the PIN on a AWS instance with 96 cores.

A design flaw in their system and luck helped us brute-force the PIN in 10 hrs.

The first digit doesn't matter; The second digit for us was 0. We cracked the PIN by just trying 5% of the PIN space!!

```
// pinbypass pin in memory
char* pinMem = "2583481e128bcb2692c1a2fbe16192f0a06e5b9aee62502f5fd629cf302d8886af6fa9

int main(int argc, char** argv)
{
    setbuf(stdout, NULL);|
    int pin = atoi(argv[1]);

    for (; pin < 99999999; pin++)
    {
        char pin_string[9] = {0};
        sprintf(pin_string, "%08d", pin);
        //printf("%s\n", pin_string);

        if (pin % 1000 == 0)
            printf("Trying %d: \n", pin);

        if (verifyPinECDH(publickey, pin_string, salt, pinMem))
        {
            fprintf(stdout, "Here you go: %d\n", pin);
            exit(0);
        }
    }
}
```



Other Attacks

- Quad SPI hot swap
- FTP (anonymous root access)



What We Learned

- Dumping DDR is a very effective attack vector
 - Wasn't cleared after soft reboot
 - ASLR would have made this much more difficult
- Protecting secrets and IP is essential
 - Only plaintext in memory when in-use
 - Or use specialized memory when available

Questions?



Backup

