



MELTDOWN & SPECTRE FOR NARRATIVE PEOPLE

SPECTRE: VARIANT 1 (CVE-2017-5753)

42

- ▶ This is code of the victim
- ▶ **x** is controlled by the attacker
- ▶ attacker wants to read **array1[x]** out of bounds
- ▶ **array2** is used to leak the value of y (like in Meltdown)

```
if (x < array1_size)  
    y = array2[array1[x] * 256];
```


1. Attacker manipulates branch prediction

2. Speculatively runs even when $x > \text{array1_size}$

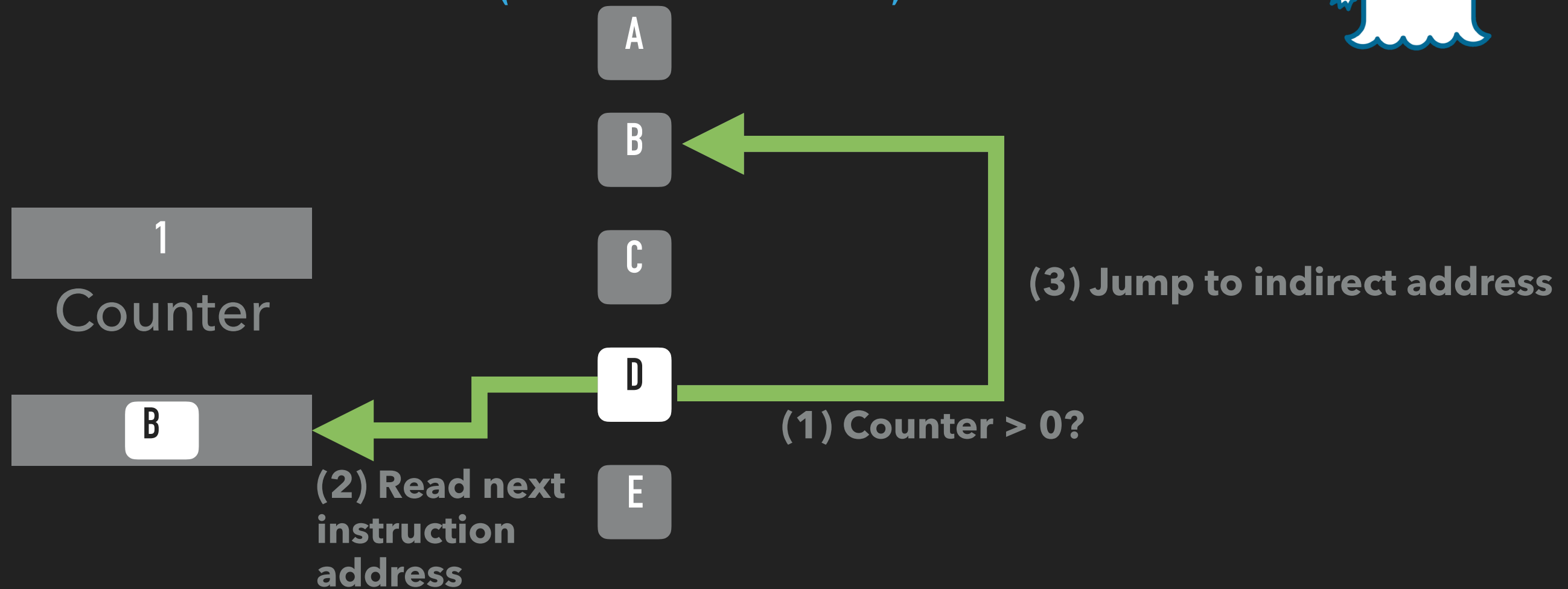
3. The cache timing of `array2[..]` leaks the value `array1[x]`







SPECTRE: VARIANT 2 (CVE-2017-5715)



SPECTRE: VARIANT 1 (CVE-2017-5753)



```
if (x < array1_size)
```

```
    y = array2[array1[x] * 256];
```

- ▶ This is code of the victim
 - ▶ **x** is controlled by the attacker
 - ▶ attacker wants to read `array1[x]` out of bounds
 - ▶ `array2` is used to leak the value of `y` (like in Meltdown)
1. Attacker manipulates branch prediction
 2. Speculatively runs even when `x > array1_size`
 3. The cache timing of `array2[..]` leaks the value `array1[x]`