

# CPE 426 Intro to Hardware Security

## Or, the world is more than software

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CalPoly Fall 2024

Department of Computer Engineering

# Outline

- Instructor Introduction
- Why hardware (system) security?
- Course Structure
- Physical Attacks
- Physical Tamper Resistance (probably next time)
- Reading Assignments

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# Who is this guy?

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Winter Quarter 2024

[View Other Quarters](#)[Class List](#)[Calendar](#)**CPE 315-15**

Computer Architecture

**CPE 315-16 LAB**

Computer Architecture

**CPE 400-03**

Special Problems for Undergraduates

**CPE 461-02**

Senior Project I

**CPE 462-02**

Senior Project II

**CSC 400-03**

Special Problems

**CSC 491-03**

Senior Project I

**CSC 492-03**

Senior Project II

**CSC 497-03**

Research Senior Project I

**View another Quarter**

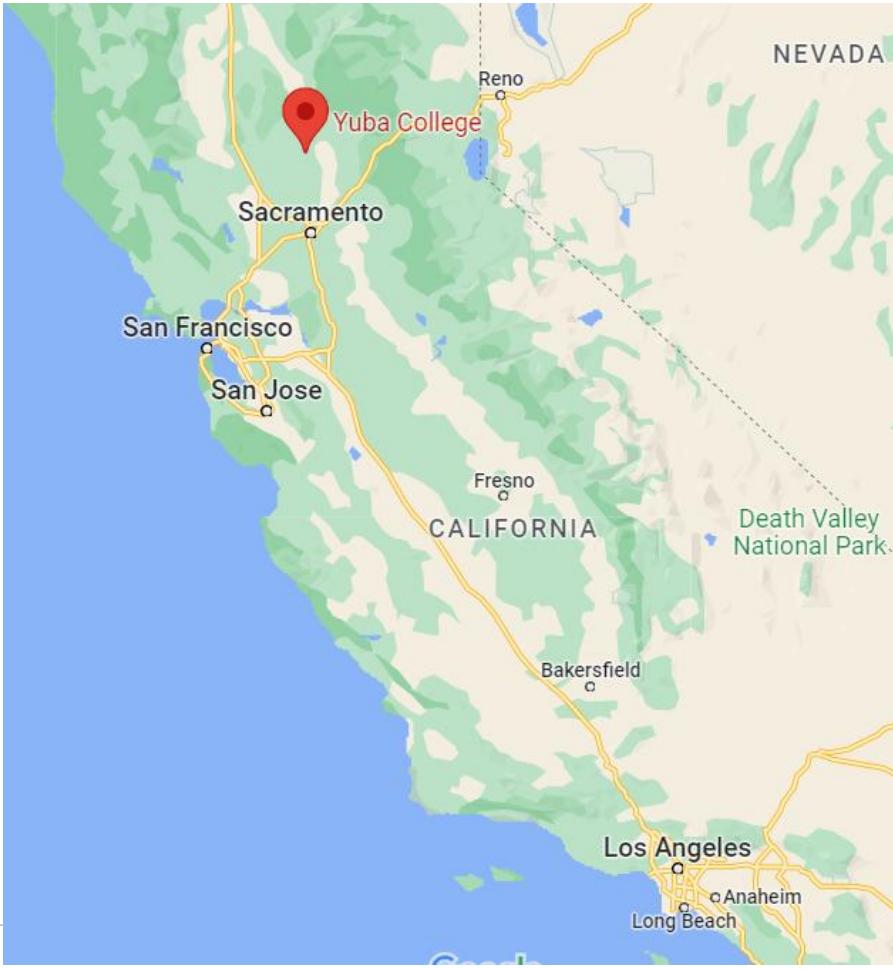
x

For detailed enrollment history, see [Poly Profile](#).  
(#) is the number of units attempted

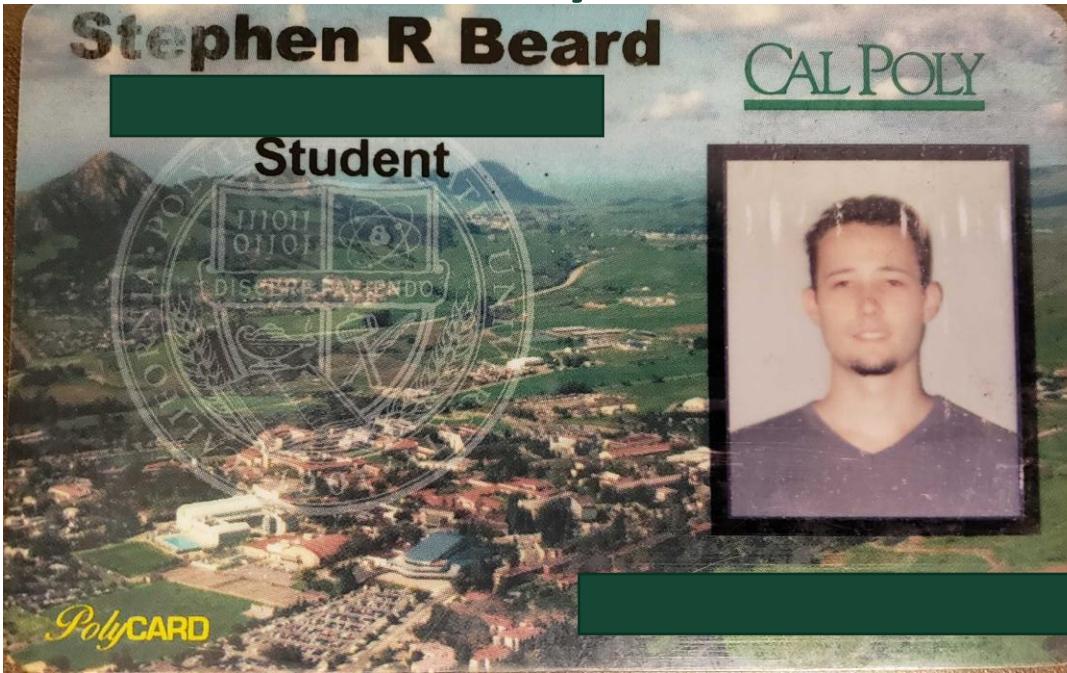
**2023 - 2024**[Fall](#) [Winter](#)**2022 - 2023**[Fall](#) [Winter](#) [Spring](#)**2021 - 2022**[Fall](#) [Winter](#) [Spring](#) [Summer](#)**2020 - 2021**[Spring](#)**2009 - 2010**[Fall \(15\)](#) [Winter \(14\)](#) [Spring \(13\)](#)**2008 - 2009**[Fall \(12\)](#) [Winter \(17\)](#) [Spring \(15\)](#)**2007 - 2008**[Fall \(13\)](#) [Winter \(14\)](#) [Spring \(12\)](#)

Unknown schedule





# Cal Poly 2007



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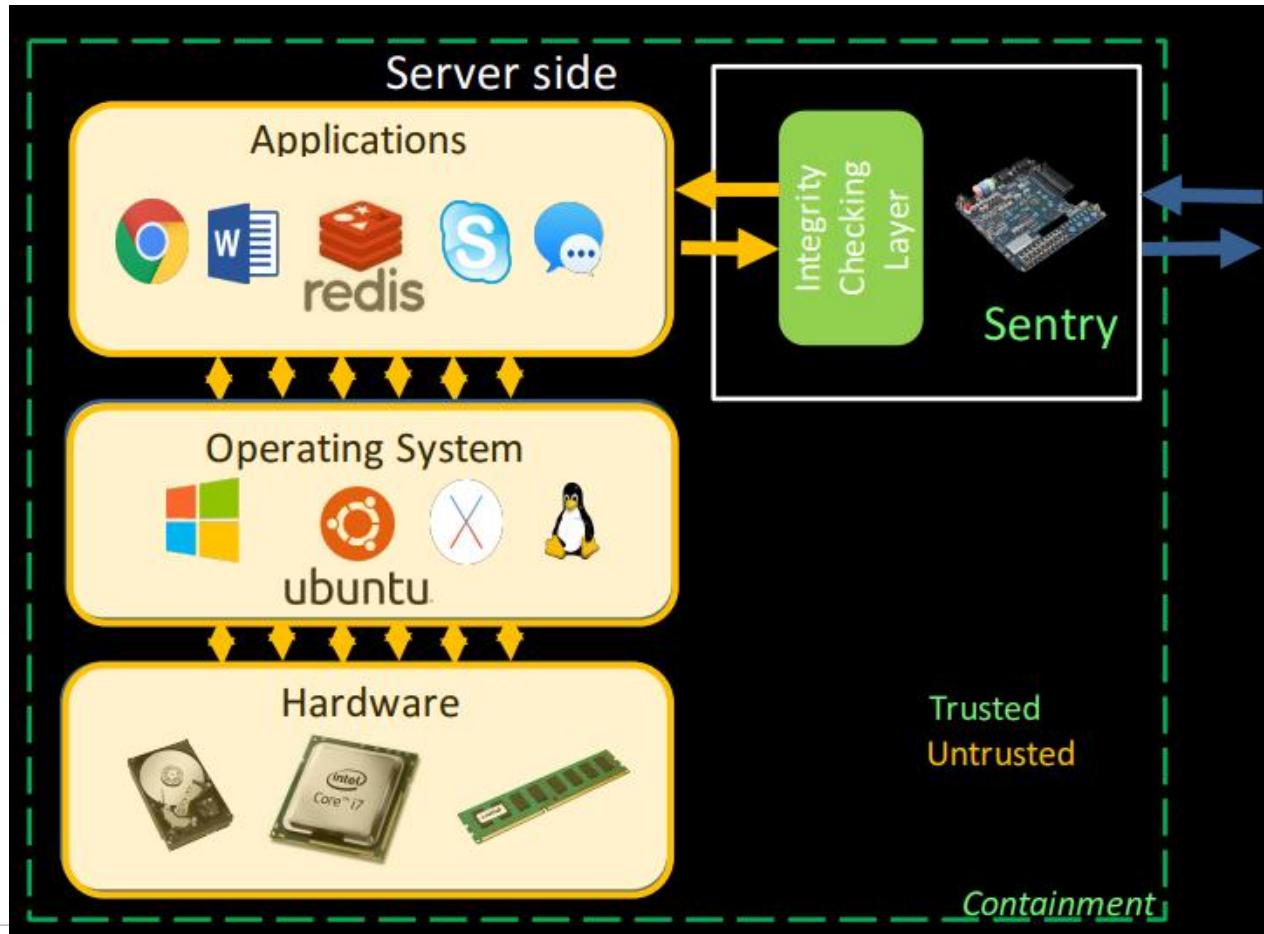
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America's  
**SEED FUND**  
SBIR.STTR

# Tigerstone



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**TWO SIGMA**



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# Why Hardware Security?

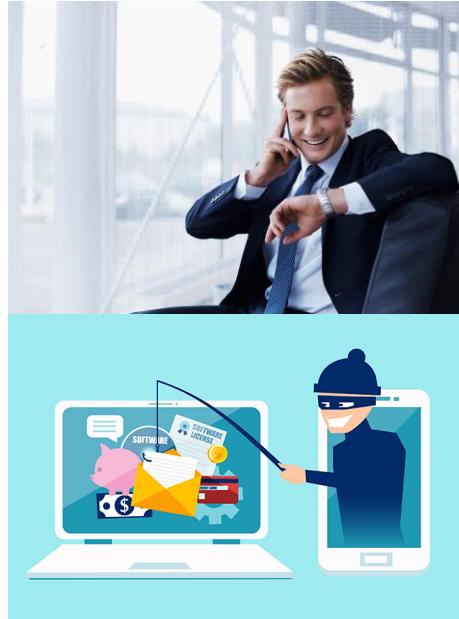
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# Computer Security

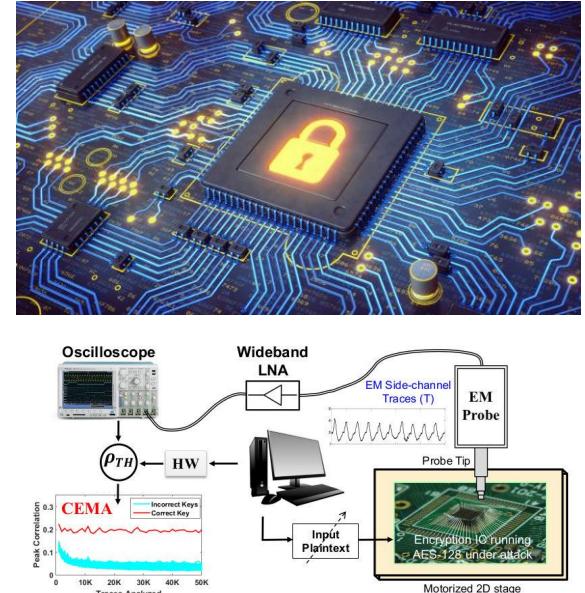
What people think of



What is most likely



What is scariest

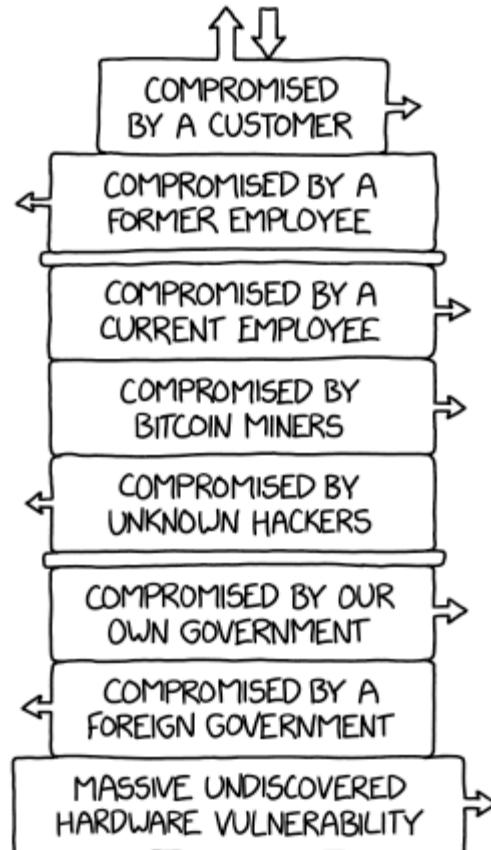


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[1] Google Images

[2] <https://www.soscanhelp.com/blog/top-phishing-scams-of-2021>

## THE MODERN TECH STACK



## Current World Population

**7,975,497,292**

[view all people on 1 page >](#)

### TODAY

Births today  
**179,656**

Deaths today  
**75,424**

Population Growth today  
**104,232**

### THIS YEAR

Births this year  
**100,334,796**

Deaths this year  
**42,122,951**

Population Growth this year  
**58,211,845**

### WORLD POPULATION SECTIONS

[Top 20 Countries LIVE](#)

[Past, present, and future](#)

[Global Growth Rate](#)

[Historical data](#)

[Forecast](#)

[Milestones](#)

[by Region](#)

[by Religion](#)

[Population Density](#)

[Population by Country](#)

[All-time total](#)

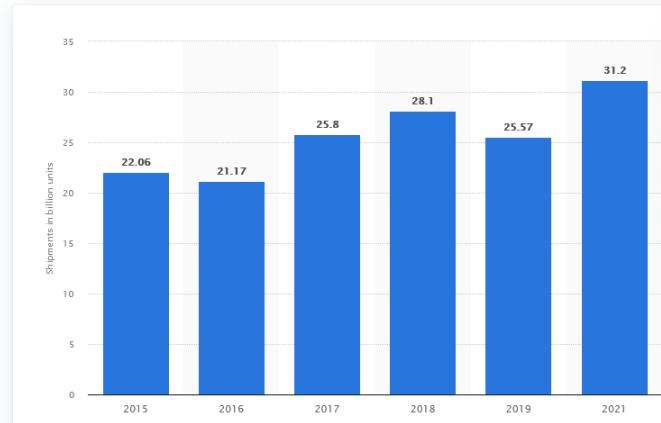
[\[Sources and methods\]](#)

[Demographics](#) | [Age Structure](#) | [Sex Ratio](#) | [Population Pyramid](#) | [Median Age](#) |  
[Fertility Rate](#) | [Life Expectancy](#) | [Urbanization](#)

Technology & Telecommunications › Hardware

PREMIUM +

## Microcontroller unit (MCU) shipments worldwide from 2015 to 2021 (in billions)



### DOWNLOAD

[PDF](#) + [XLS](#) + [PNG](#) + [PPT](#) +

### Source

- Show sources information
- Show publisher information
- Use Ask Statista Research Service

### Release date

June 2022

### Region

Worldwide

### Survey time period

2015 to 2021

© Statista 2022

Show source

### Microcontroller unit (MCU) shipments worldwide 2015-2021

Published by [Thomas Alsop](#), Jul 21, 2022

 In 2021, global shipments of microcontroller units amounted to approximately 31.2 billion units, a 13 percent increase from the figure recorded in 2020. Total MCU sales grew by around 27 percent, up to 20.2 billion U.S. dollars.

# The Current Approach to



Stranger hacks family's baby monitor and talks to child at night

By CHANTE OWENS January 7, 2016



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# Reported Incidents

DAWN LIM SECURITY 11:08:11 5:28 PM

WIRED

## COUNTERFEIT CHIPS PLAGUE U.S. MISSILE DEFENSE

“We do not want a \$12 million THAAD [Terminal High Altitude Area Defense] interceptor to be destroyed by a \$2 part”<sup>1</sup>

### German missiles 'hacked by foreign source'

Newsweek

By Conor Gaffey 7/8/15 at 4:52 PM

“An exposed point is a computer chip which controls the guidance of the weapon”<sup>2</sup>

### Researchers can slip an undetectable trojan into Intel's Ivy Bridge CPUs

New technique bakes super stealthy hardware trojans into chip silicon.



by Dan Goodin - Sep 18, 2013 10:57am EDT

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“...a hardware trojan can be introduced at a later stage of the design process by changing the ‘doping’ on a few transistors on the chip”<sup>3</sup>

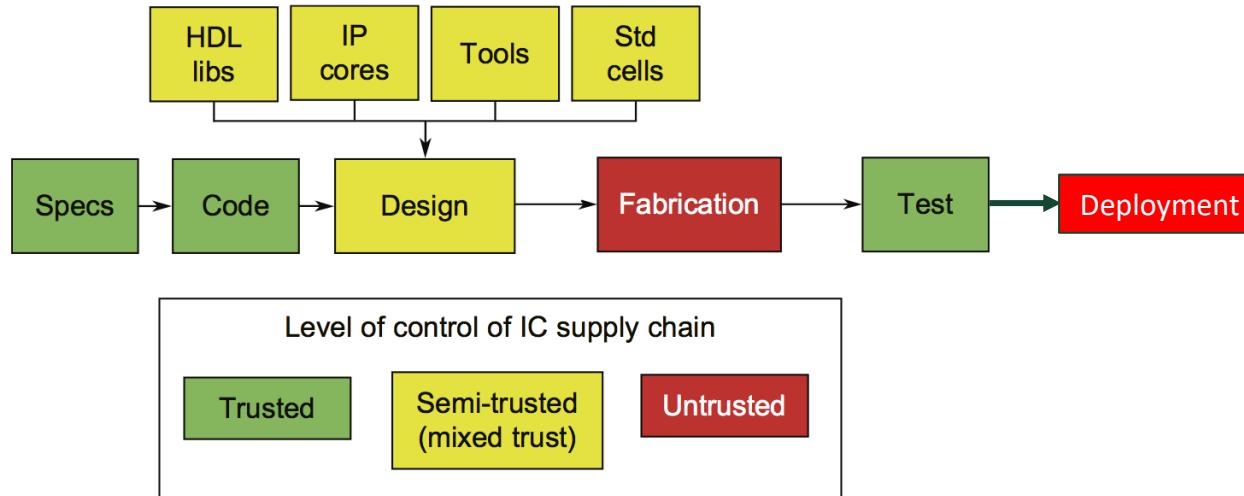
TECHNOLOGY

The New York Times

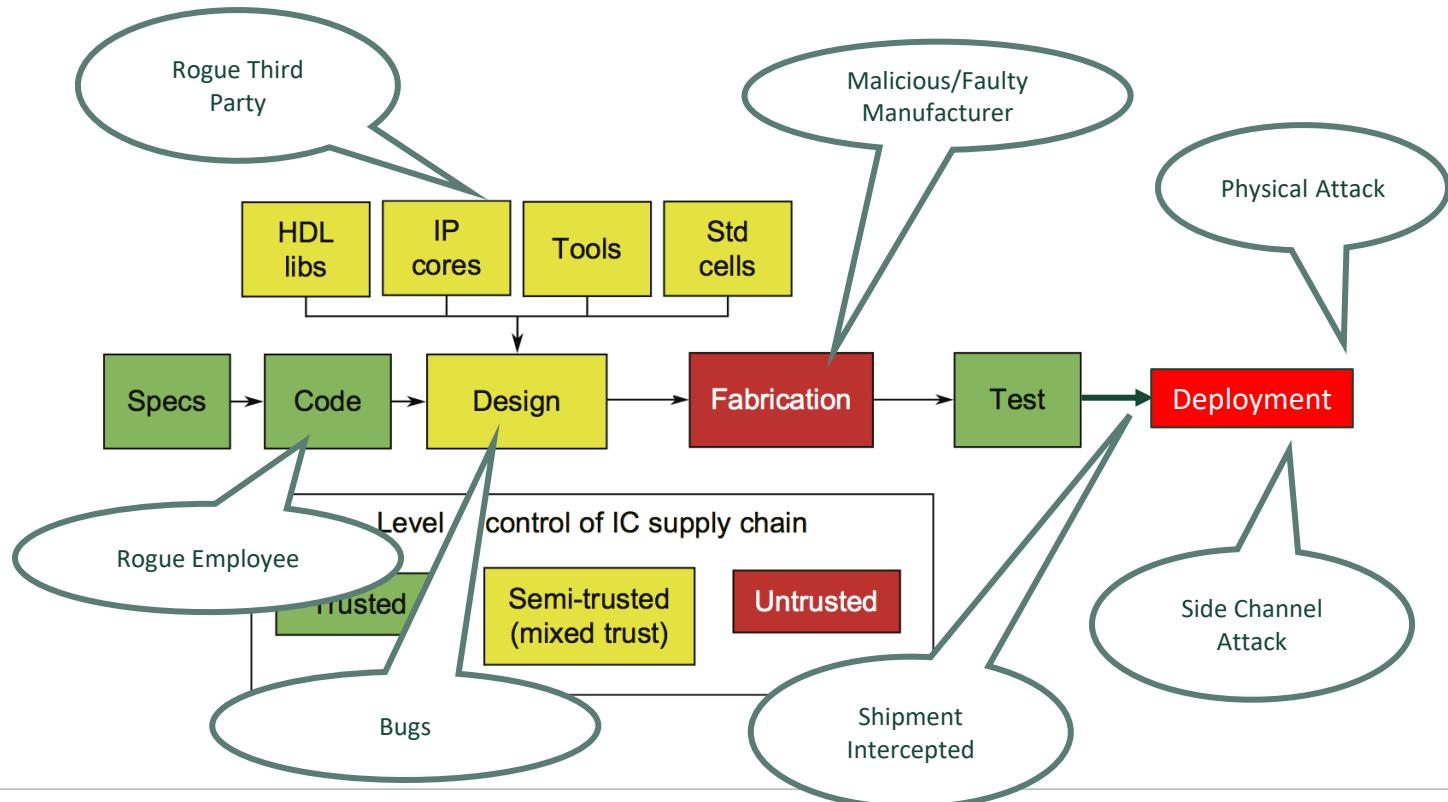
### Adding Math to List of Security Threats

“A subtle multiplier bug would make it possible for an attacker to break the protection afforded to some electronic messages by public key cryptography.”<sup>4</sup>

# IC Supply Chain – a designer's perspective



# Example Threats



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# Course Structure

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# Read the Syllabus

# Course Topics

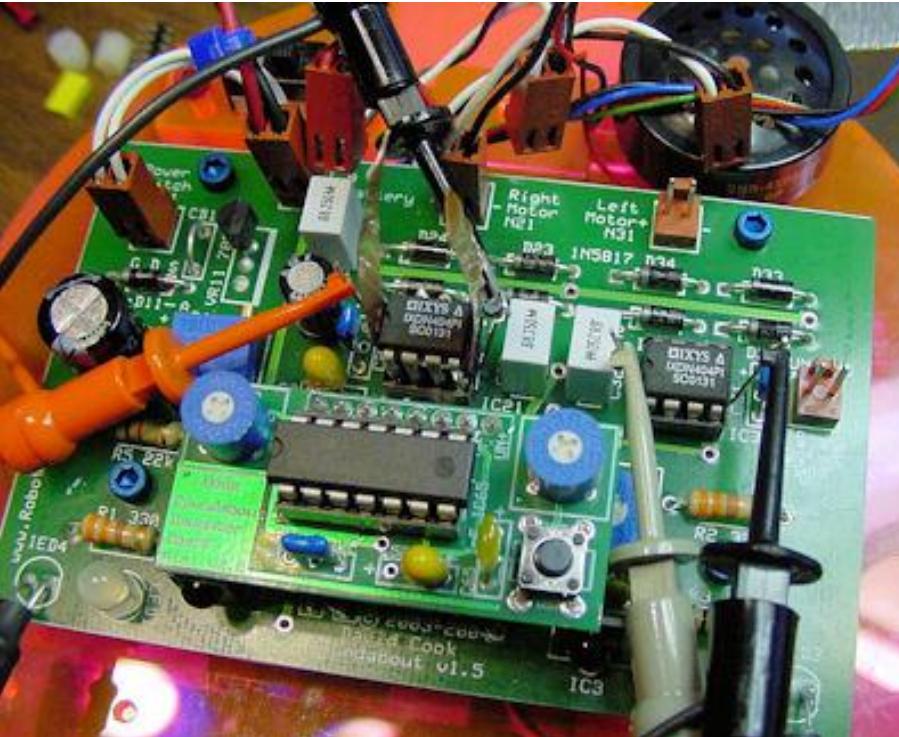
1. Intro and Physical Attacks
2. Physically unclonable functions (PUFs) and Sources of Randomness in hardware
3. Hardware trojans
4. Formal Methods
5. Side Channels  
<End Part 1>
6. Speculative Execution Attacks
7. Secure Co-Processors
8. Encrypted Execution and Data (Secure Processors?!)
9. Hybrid Hardware/Software Techniques (E.g. SGX, taint tracking, hardware validation of software properties)

# Grading Breakdown

Category	Weight
Labs	30%
Final Project	40%
1 Presentation	10%
Class Participation	10%
10 Reading Responses	10%

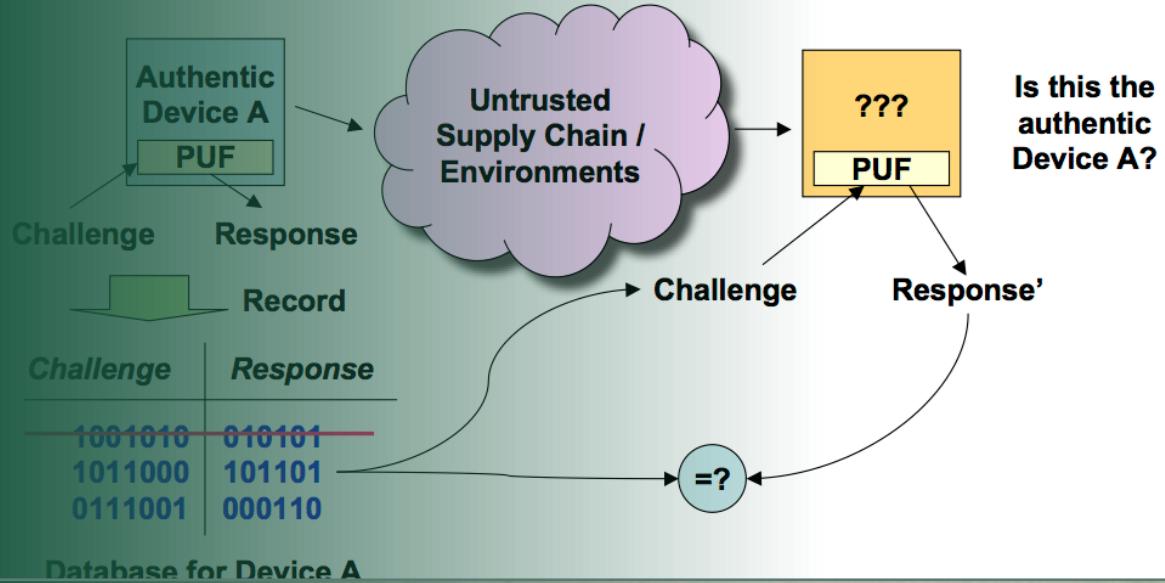
# Week 1

## Physical Attacks



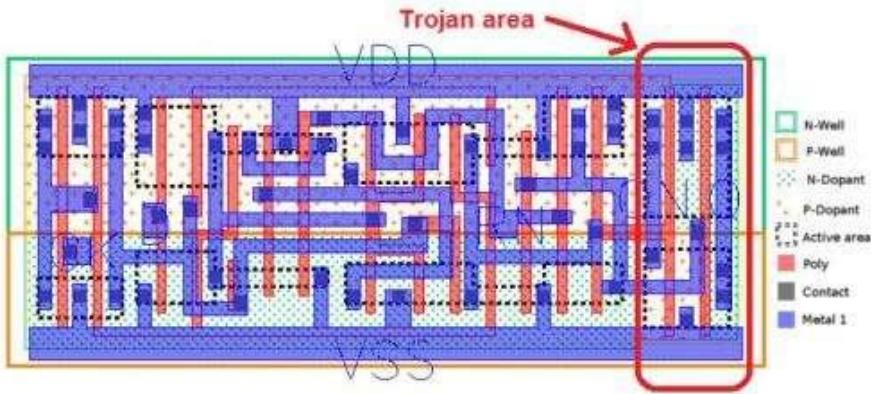
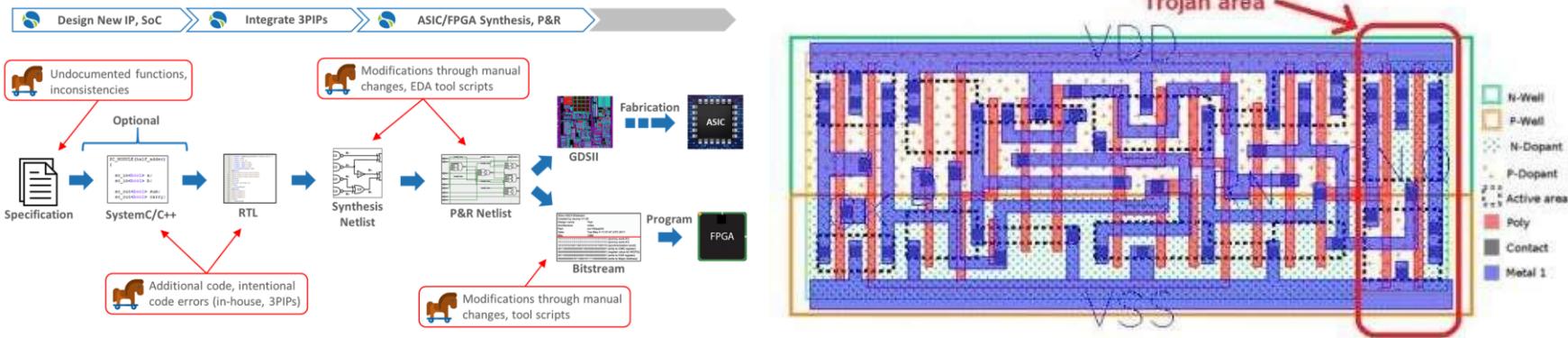
# Week 2

## HW PUF + Randomness



# Week 3

## Hardware Trojans

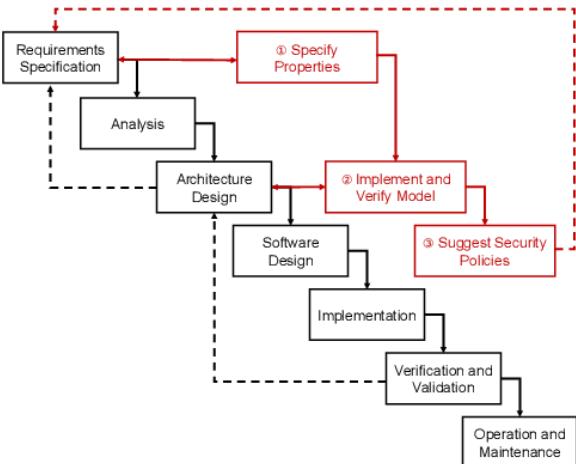
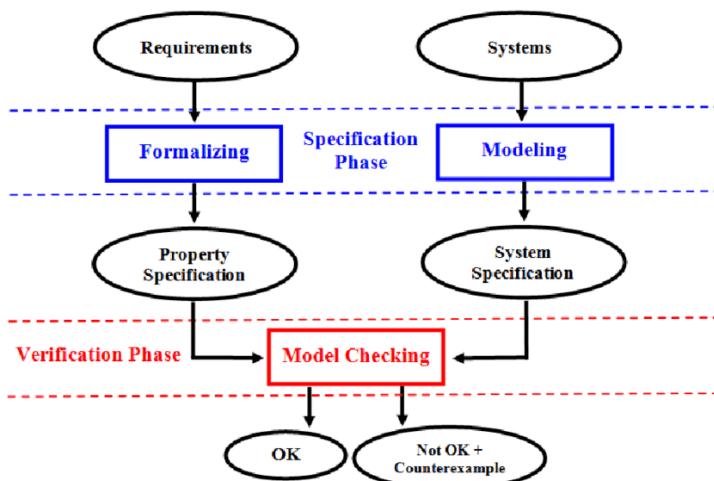


# Week 4

## Formal Methods

TABLE III  
SPECIAL Z SYMBOLS

Symbol	Meaning
$f : X \rightarrow Y$	Function between $X$ and $Y$
$f : X \leftrightarrow Y$	Relation between $X$ and $Y$
$\text{id}_X$	The identity function on $X$
$\text{dom } f$	The domain of $f$
$\text{ran } f$	The range of $f$
$f(X)$	Image of the set $X$ under the function $f$
$f \oplus g$	Function which takes values of the function $f$ except on the domain of $g$ , where it takes the values of $g$
$f \circ g$	Functional composition where the domain of $g$ must equal the range of $f$
$X \setminus Y$	Set difference of $X$ and $Y$



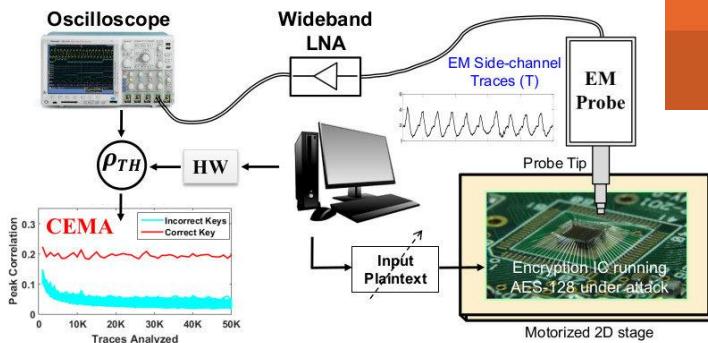
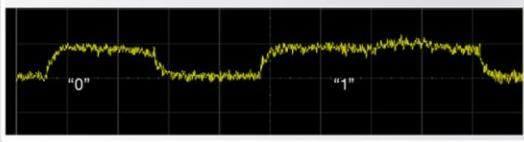
# Week 5

## Side Channels

RSA Timing/Power Attack

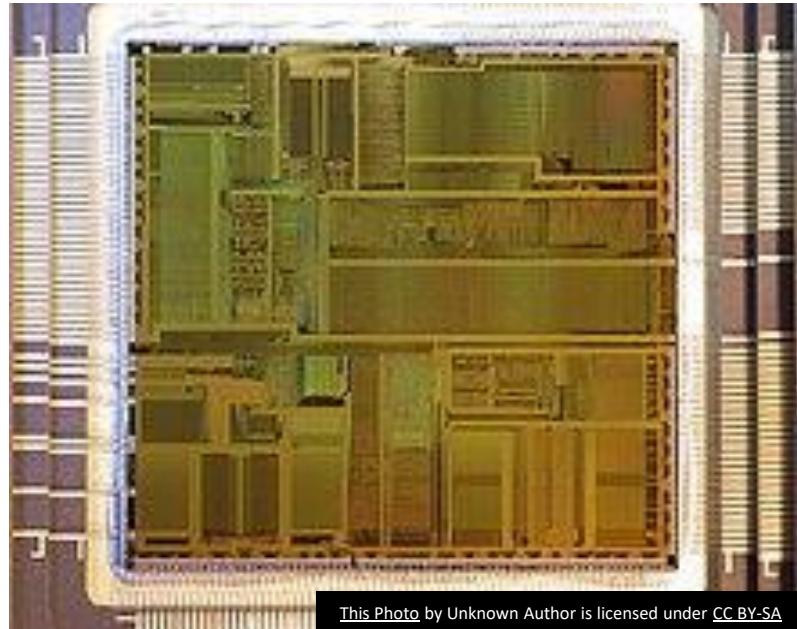
$$c = m^e \pmod{n}$$

$$x^n = \begin{cases} x \cdot (x^2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ (x^2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

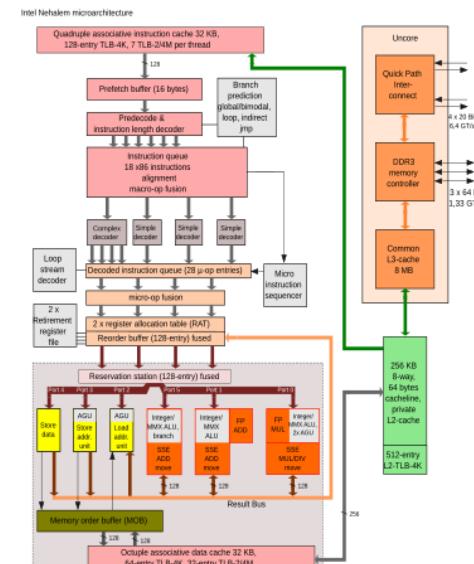


# Week 6

## Advanced Architecture in two days



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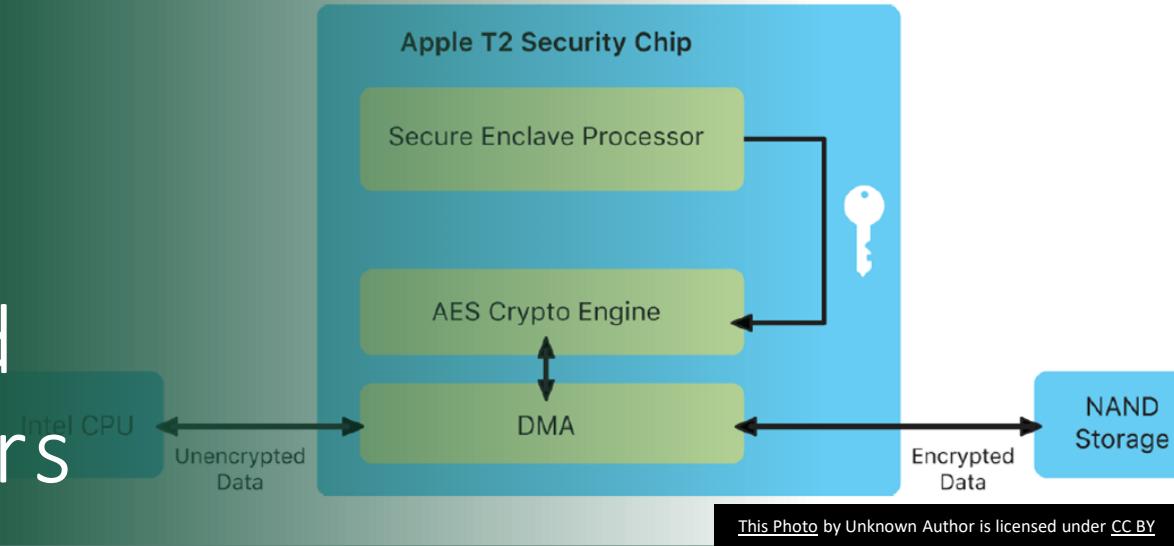
## Week 7 Speculative Exploits



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# Week 8

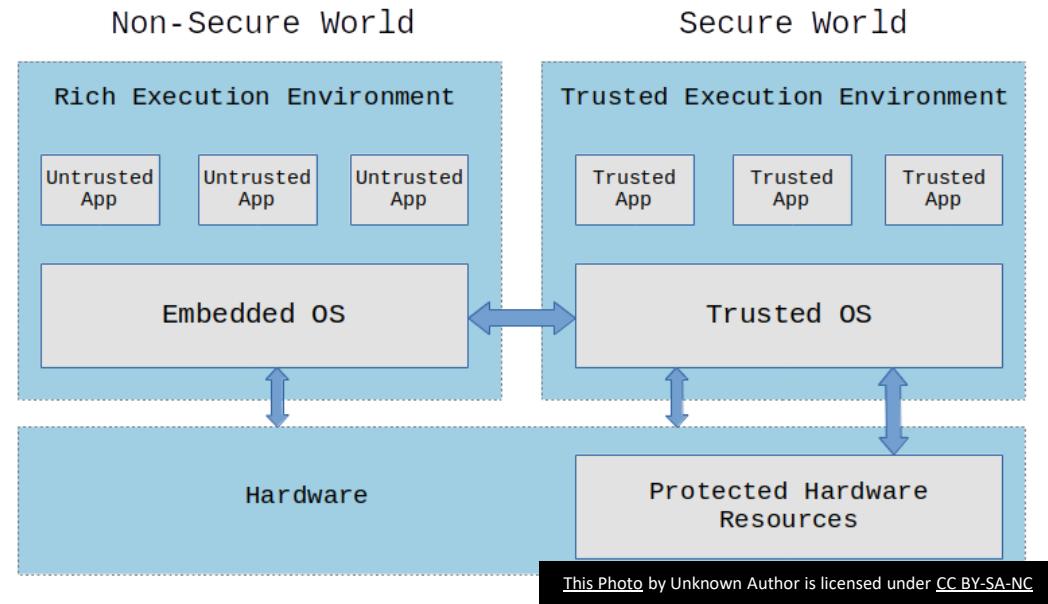
## Enclaves and Co-Processors



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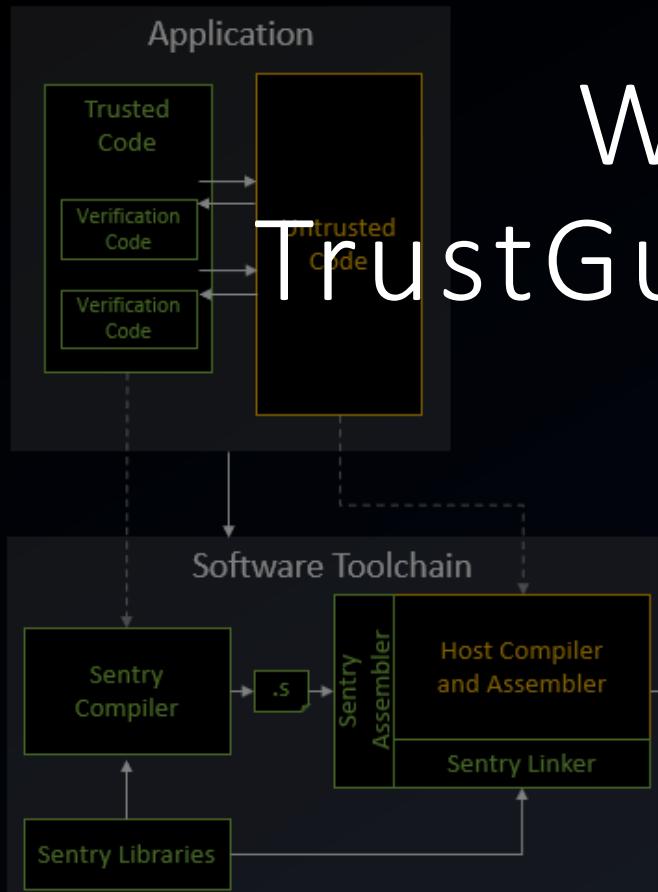
# Week 9 Secure Execution



# TrustGuard Design

Compile time

Runtime



# Week 10 TrustGuard + Trojan Hunt

# TODOs

- Group Formation + Topic Interest Survey

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# For Thursday

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# Physical Attacks: Definition

Physical attacks are attacks that involve penetrating the physical security protecting information systems



# Physical attacks: Reason

Theft of Service

E.g. Cable, Satellite TV

Cloning and Overbuilding

E.g. Headphones

Theft of Information/IP

E.g. Apple vs. Samsung

Denial of Service

E.g. Routers



# Physical Attacks: Categories

Three types of physical attacks:

Non-Invasive

Invasive

Semi-Invasive

# Physical Attacks: Non-Invasive\*

Do not require preparations of the device under test such as decapsulation or deprocessing

Advantage: easily reproducible, inexpensive, no tamper evidence

Limitations: time consuming, limited capabilities

Example: Wire Taps, USB kill



# Physical Attacks: Non-Invasive

## Passive

Side Channel Attacks (Week 5)

Power Analysis

Timing Analysis

Electromagnetic Emission

Sound

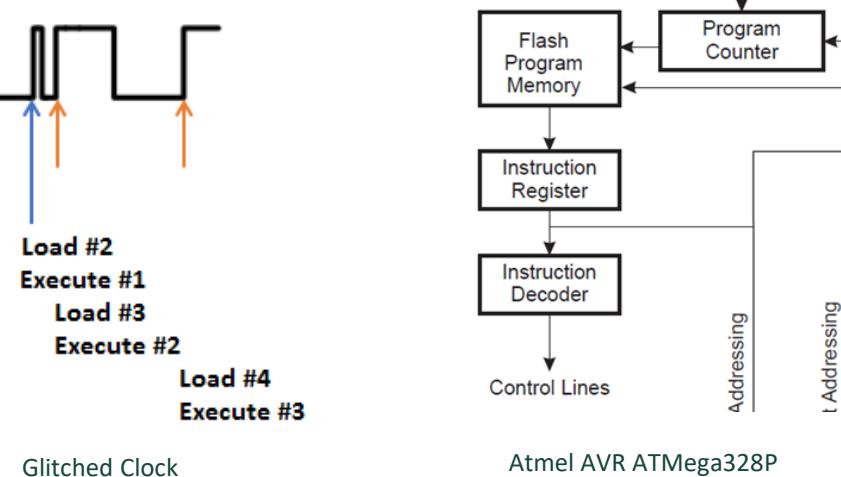
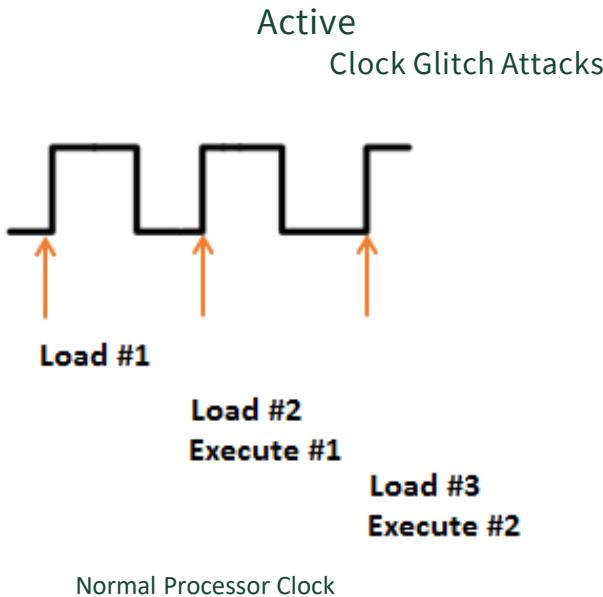
# Physical Attacks: Non-Invasive

## Active

## Brute Force / Black Box Attacks



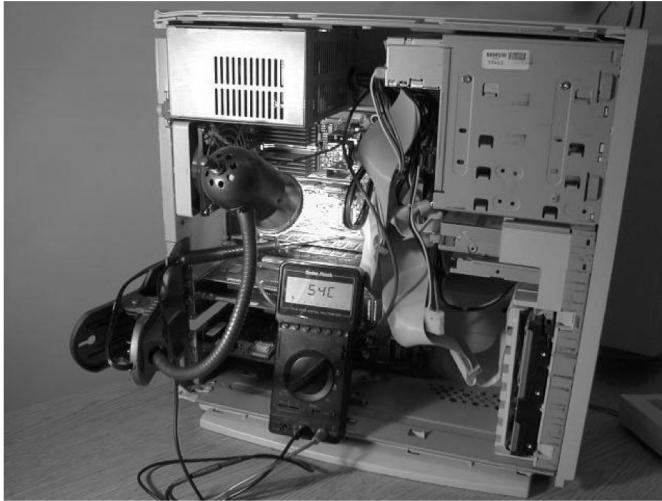
# Physical Attacks: Non-Invasive



# Physical Attacks: Non-Invasive

Active

Light bulb attack



# Physical Attacks: Non-Invasive

Active

Cold boot attack



[1] J. Alex Halderman, Seth D. Schoen, Nadia Heninger, William Clarkson, William Paul, Joseph A. Calandrino, Ariel J. Feldman, Jacob Appelbaum, and Edward W. Felten. Lest we remember: cold-boot attacks on encryption keys. 2009.

# Physical Attacks: Non-Invasive

Active

Power surge attack

DON'T GET ARRESTED

**What is your stance on malicious use?**  
USBKill.com strongly condemns malicious use of its products.

The USB Killer is developed and sold as a testing device. Use of the device can permanently damage hardware. Customers agree to the terms and conditions of sale, and acknowledge the consequences of use.



# Physical Attacks: Non-Invasive

Physical access attacks

Evil Maid Attack / Server Room Hack



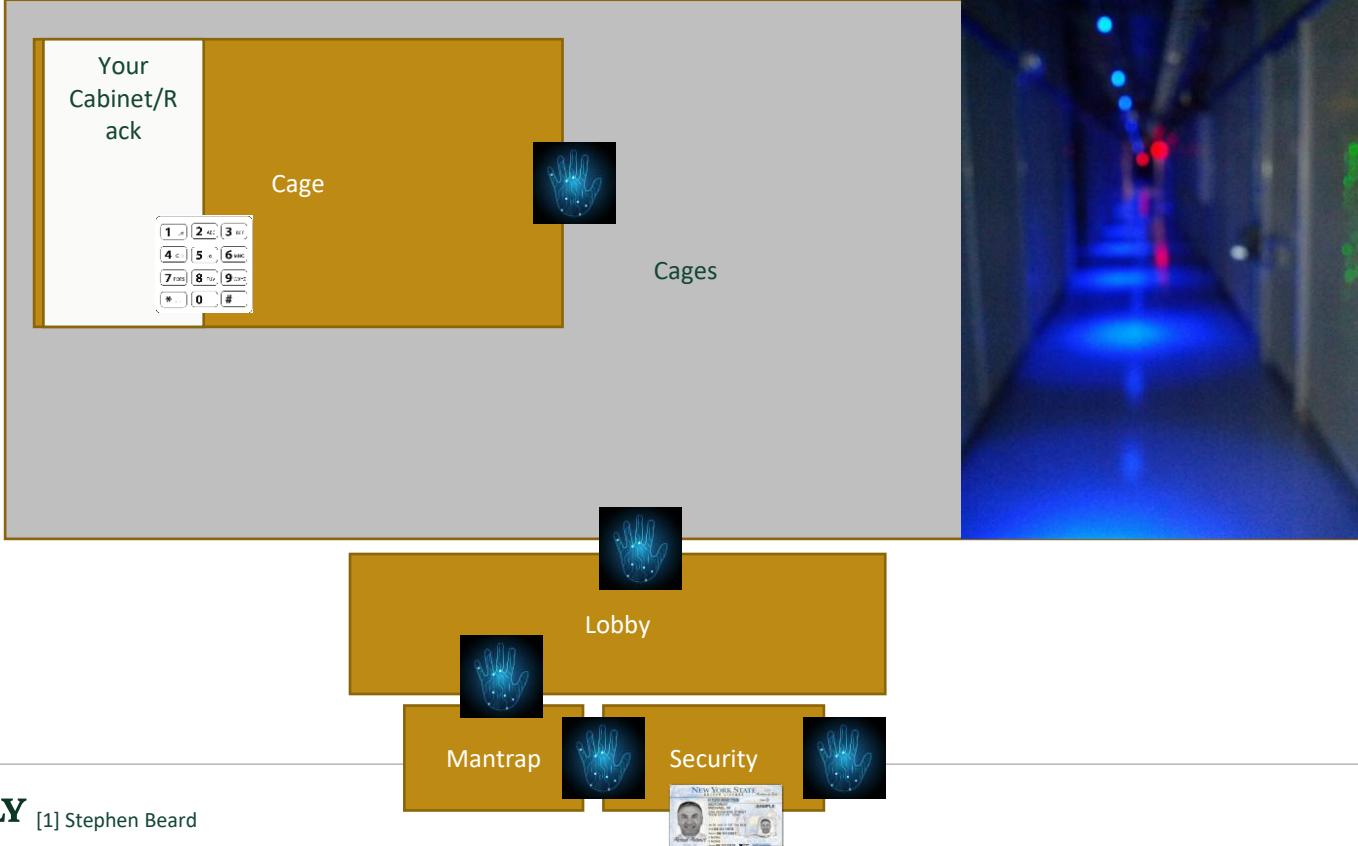
# “Evil Maid” Attack

Originally coined by computer security researcher Joanna Rutkowska in 2009

Original attack is an example

Any physical access can lead to almost undetectable modifications

# Typical Colo (Equinix) Data Center Security



# Physical Attacks: Invasive

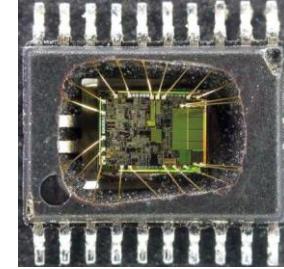
Require expensive decapsulation and deprocessing equipment, knowledgeable attackers and time

Advantages: Almost unlimited capabilities

Limitations: Time consuming, Expensive, Leave tamper evidence, May be destructive

# Decapsulation

Manual



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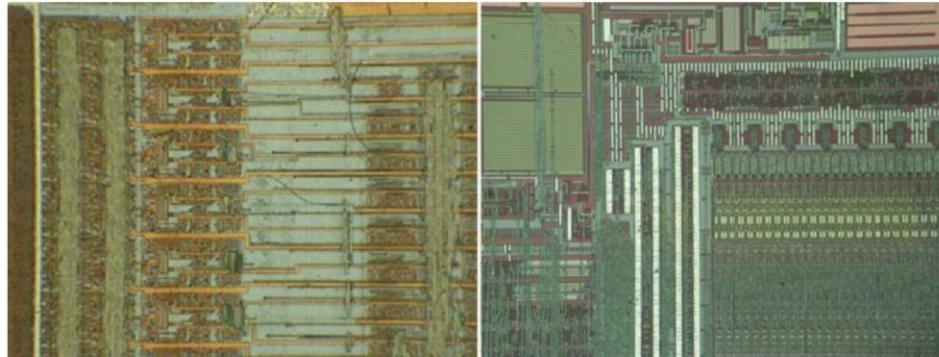
[1] Mohammad Tehranipoor, 2012, ECE 4451/5451: *Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust: Physical Attacks and Tamper resistance*  
[2] Google Images

# Physical Attacks: Invasive

## Sample Preparation

Deprocessing: removing layers of the circuit to gain access to deeper layers

- Wet chemical etching
- Plasma(dry) etching
- Mechanical Polishing

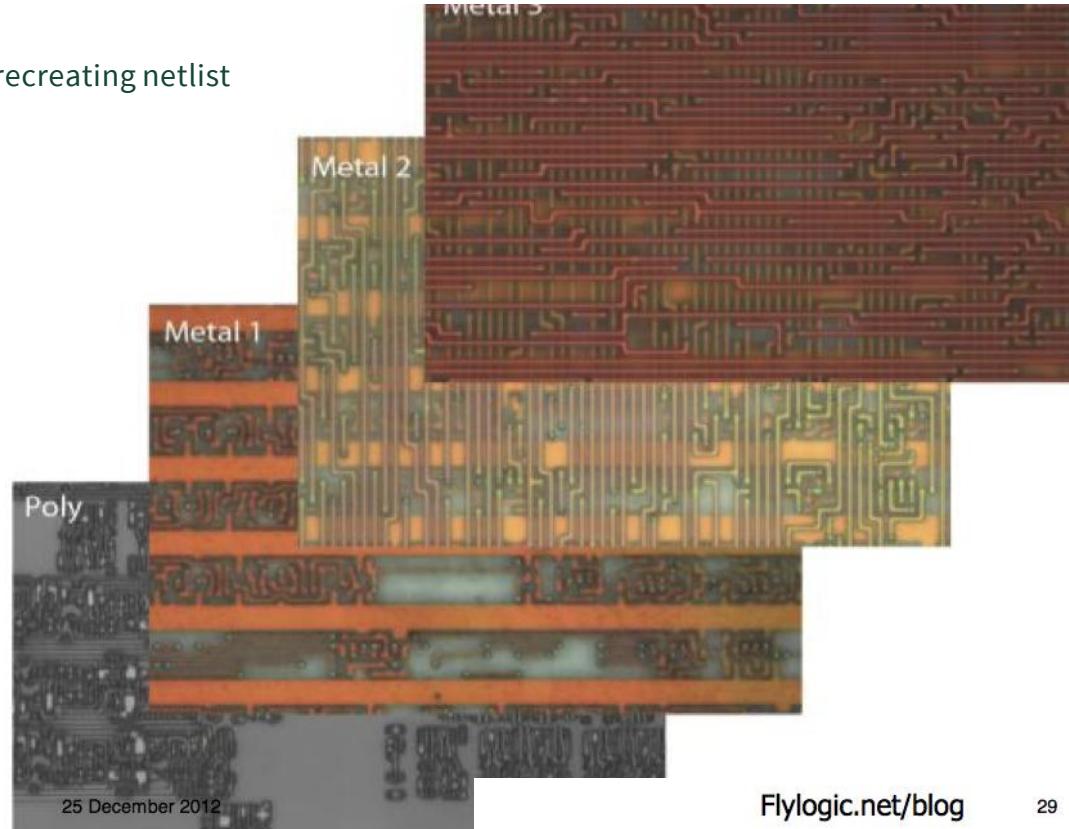


[1] Mohammad Tehranipoor, 2012, ECE 4451/5451: *Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust: Physical Attacks and Tamper resistance*

# Physical Attacks: Invasive

Reverse Engineering

Remove and photograph all layers, recreating netlist



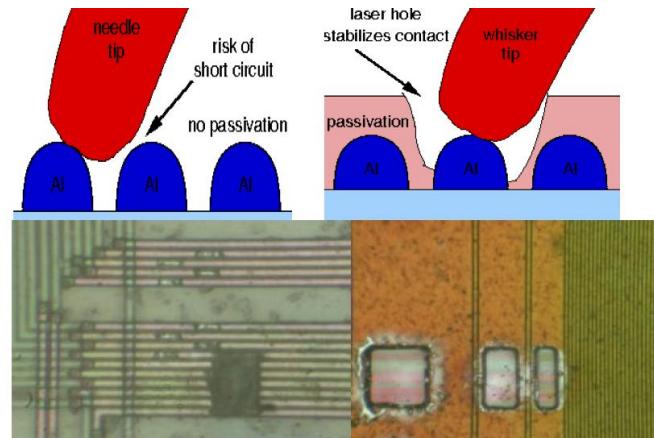
[Flylogic.net/blog](http://Flylogic.net/blog)

29

# Physical Attacks: Invasive

## Microprobing

Eavesdrop on internal signals  
Inject test signals

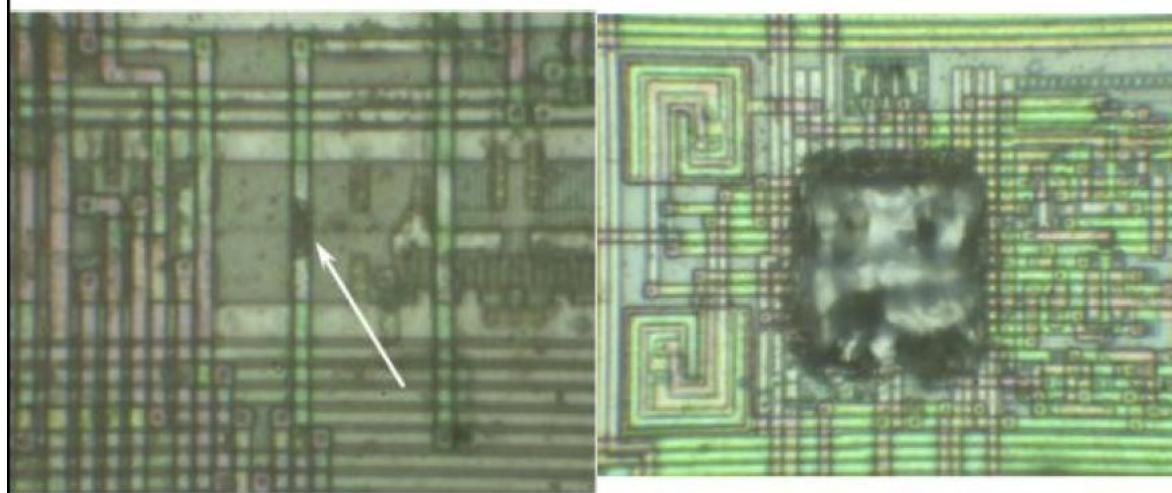


[1] Mohammad Tehranipoor, 2012, ECE 4451/5451: *Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust: Physical Attacks and Tamper resistance*

# Physical Attacks: Invasive

Chip Modification

Disable security protection circuitry



[1] Mohammad Tehranipoor, 2012, ECE 4451/5451: *Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust: Physical Attacks and Tamper resistance*

# Physical Attacks: Semi-Invasive

In-between, similar to invasive attacks in that they require decapsulation, but no deprocessing

Advantages: Almost unlimited capabilities, Inexpensive

Limitations: Time consuming, Leave tamper evidence.

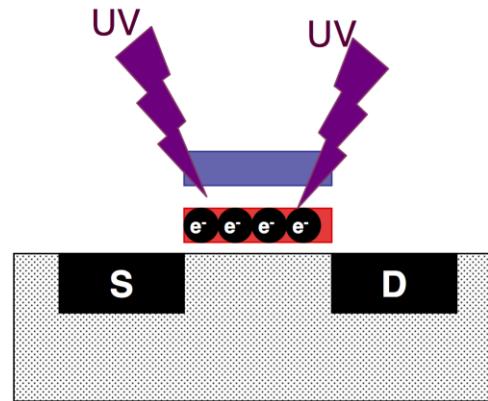
# Physical Attacks: Semi-Invasive

## UV Light Attacks

Use UV light and heat to inject a targeted fault

Locating the security fuse

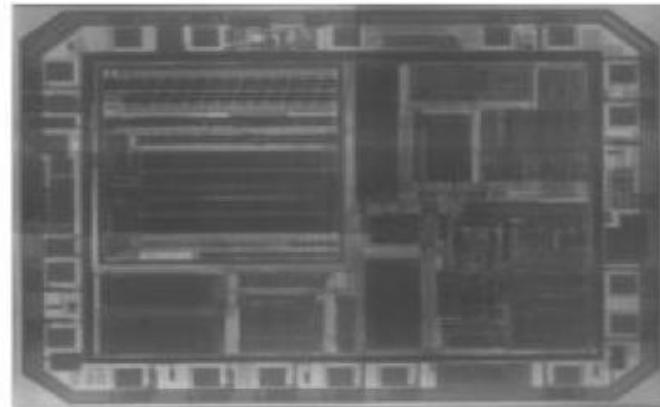
Resetting it to read out memory content



# Physical Attacks: Semi-Invasive

Advanced Imaging Techniques

Observe with IR light from rear side



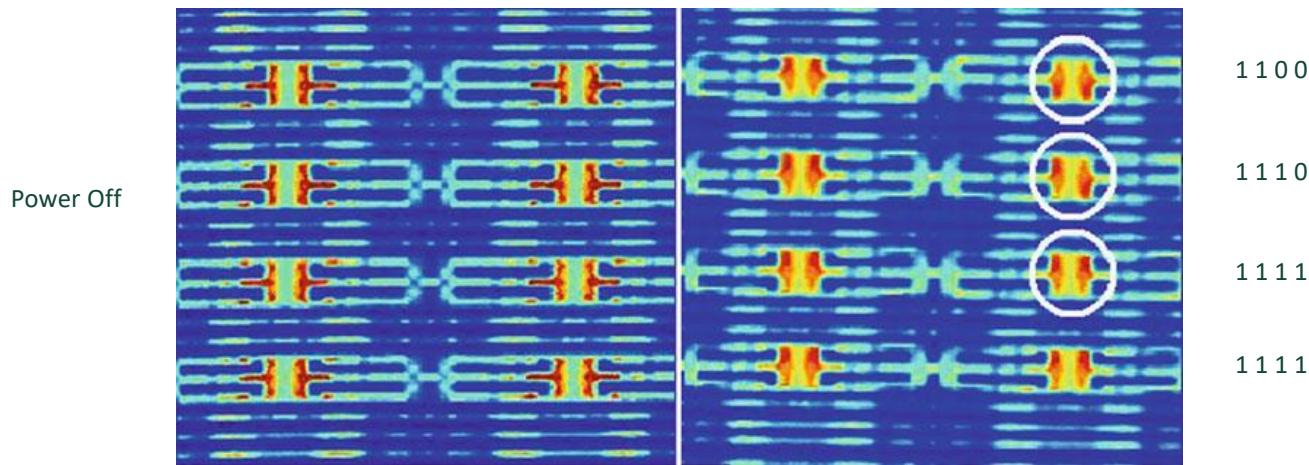
[1] Mohammad Tehranipoor, 2012, ECE 4451/5451: *Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust: Physical Attacks and Tamper resistance*

# Physical Attacks: Semi-Invasive

Active Photon Probing (of a memory cell)

Ionize regions of IC

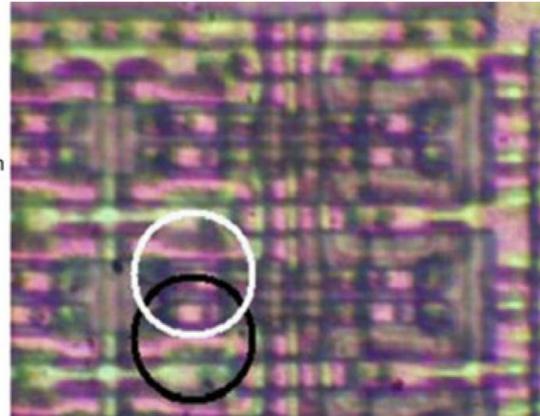
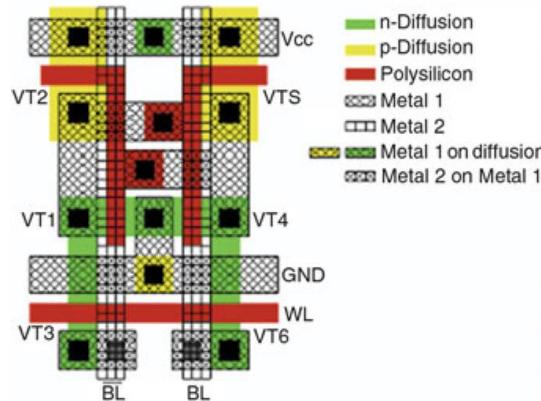
Laser scanning



[1] Mohammad Tehranipoor, 2012, ECE 4451/5451: *Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust: Physical Attacks and Tamper resistance*

# Physical Attacks: Semi-Invasive

Optical Fault Injection  
Change bit in SRAM



[1] Mohammad Tehranipoor, 2012, ECE 4451/5451: *Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust: Physical Attacks and Tamper resistance*

Now you've learned how attacks work /  
can you defend against physical attacks?

Can you hack



?

Can you hack



?

Can you hack



?



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# Physical Tamper Resistance

Resistance to tampering (intentional malfunction or sabotage) by either the normal users of a product, package, or system or others with physical access to it.

Ranges from special screws to complex crypto processors

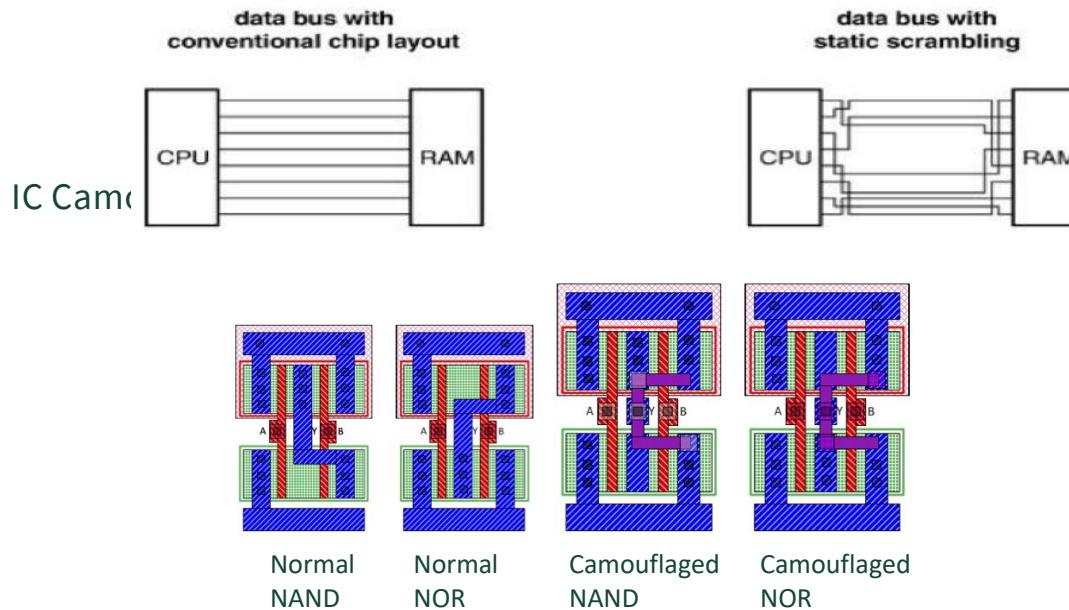
The screws on your laptop

IBM 4758



# Countermeasures to ensure PTR

## Bus Scrambling



[1] Jeyavijayan Rajendran, Michael Sam, Ozgur Sinanoglu, and Ramesh Karri. 2013. Security analysis of integrated circuit camouflaging.

# Countermeasures to ensure PTR

Top-layer Sensor Meshes



- Tamper Sensor



Voltage  
Sensor



Light  
Sensor



Clock  
Frequency  
Sensor

# Summary

## Physical Attacks

From \$1 screw drivers to \$100,000 workstations

Non-invasive attacks

Invasive attacks

Semi-invasive attacks

## Physical Tamper Resistance

From \$0.1 screws to \$5,000 secure processors

Bus Scrambling

IC Camouflaging

Sensors

# Reading Assignments

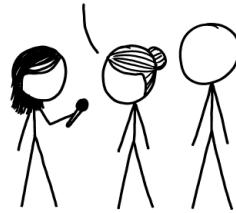
Read the paper on Cold Boot and Andrew Appel's retrospective on his involvement in voting machine hacking. Both are on Canvas.

Before Thursday's class, complete the short response reading assignment "quiz"

Group formation survey and topic interest questionnaire will be sent out shortly\*

**ASKING AIRCRAFT DESIGNERS  
ABOUT AIRPLANE SAFETY:**

NOTHING IS EVER FOOLPROOF,  
BUT MODERN AIRLINERS ARE  
INCREIBLY RESILIENT. FLYING IS  
THE SAFEST WAY TO TRAVEL.



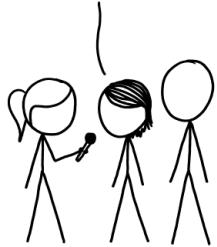
**ASKING BUILDING ENGINEERS  
ABOUT ELEVATOR SAFETY:**

ELEVATORS ARE PROTECTED BY  
MULTIPLE TRIED-AND-TESTED  
FAILSAFE MECHANISMS. THEY'RE  
NEARLY INCAPABLE OF FALLING.



**ASKING SOFTWARE  
ENGINEERS ABOUT  
COMPUTERIZED VOTING:**

THAT'S TERRIFYING.

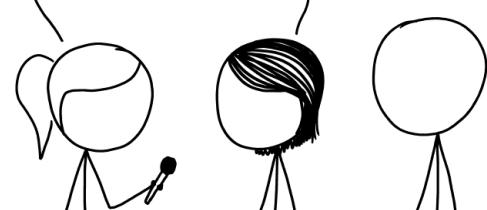


WAIT, REALLY?

| DON'T TRUST VOTING SOFTWARE AND DON'T  
LISTEN TO ANYONE WHO TELLS YOU IT'S SAFE.

WHY?

| I DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW TO PUT THIS, BUT  
OUR ENTIRE FIELD IS BAD AT WHAT WE DO,  
AND IF YOU RELY ON US, EVERYONE WILL DIE.

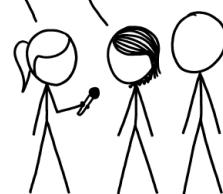


THEY SAY THEY'VE FIXED IT WITH  
SOMETHING CALLED "BLOCKCHAIN."

AAAAA!!!

| WHATEVER THEY SOLD  
YOU, DON'T TOUCH IT.  
BURY IT IN THE DESERT.

| WEAR GLOVES.



# References

- [1] Mohammad Tehranipoor and Cliff Wang. 2011. Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust. Springer.
- [2] Mohammad Tehranipoor, 2012, ECE 4451/5451: Introduction to Hardware Security and Trust: Physical Attacks and Tamper resistance
- [3] Jeyavijayan Rajendran, Michael Sam, Ozgur Sinanoglu, and Ramesh Karri. 2013. Security analysis of integrated circuit camouflaging
- [4] Jacques J. A. Fournier and Philippe Loubet-Moundi. Memory Address Scrambling Revealed Using Fault Attacks. *2010*
- [5] ChipWhisperer git documentation Advanced Tutorials
- [6] J. Alex Halderman, Seth D. Schoen, Nadia Heninger, William Clarkson, William Paul, Joseph A. Calandrino, Ariel J. Feldman, Jacob Appelbaum, and Edward W. Felten. Lest we remember: cold-boot attacks on encryption keys. 2009.
- [7] Sudhakar Govindavajhala and Andrew W. Appel. Using Memory Errors to Attack a Virtual Machine. 2003