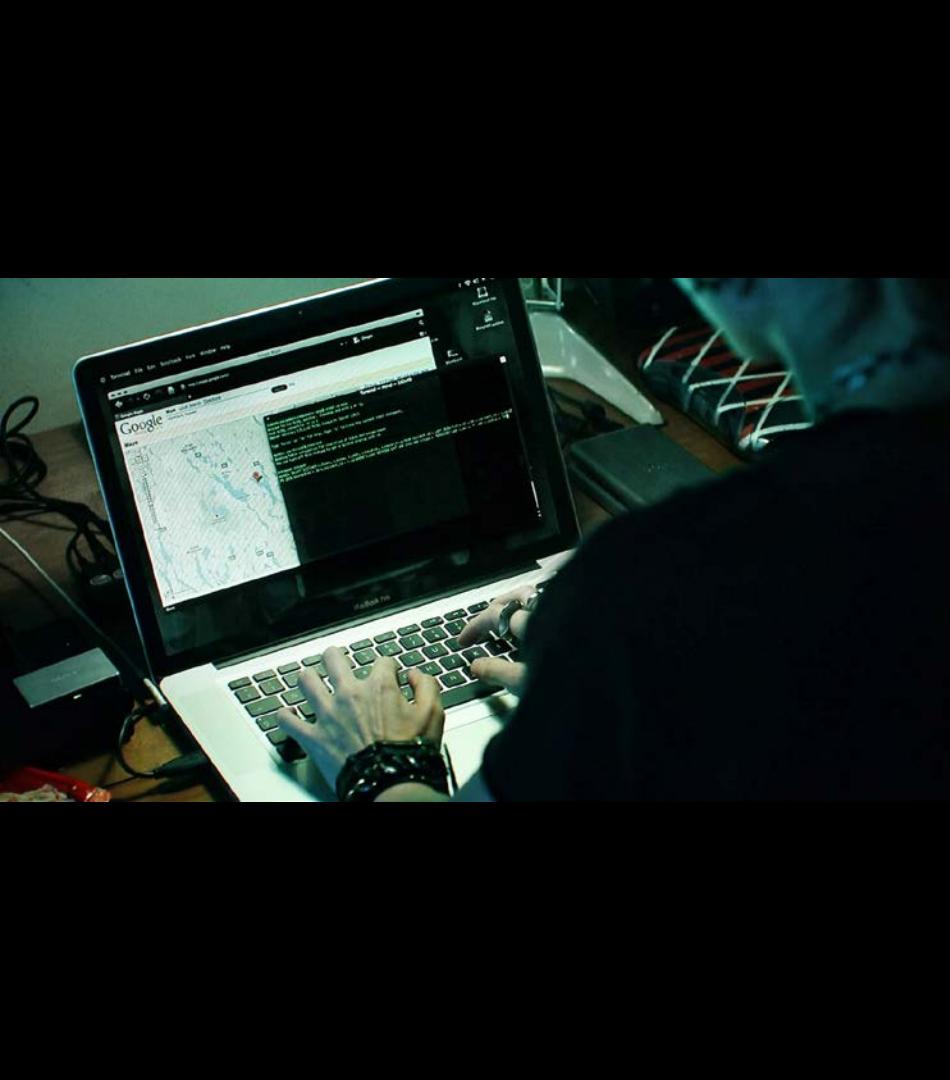


The Industrial Internet of Sitting Ducks

Jos Wetzel



A photograph showing a person from behind, working on a laptop. The laptop screen displays a map on the left and some text/code on the right. The background is dark, suggesting a low-light environment.

Jos Wetzels



Midnight Blue

Independent
Security Researcher

ICS
IoT
Automotive
Medical
Access Controls
Networking & Firewalls

UNIVERSITY
OF TWENTE.
(Former)
Security Researcher

Critical Infrastructure
Embedded BinSec
HIDS / NIDS



@s4mvartaka



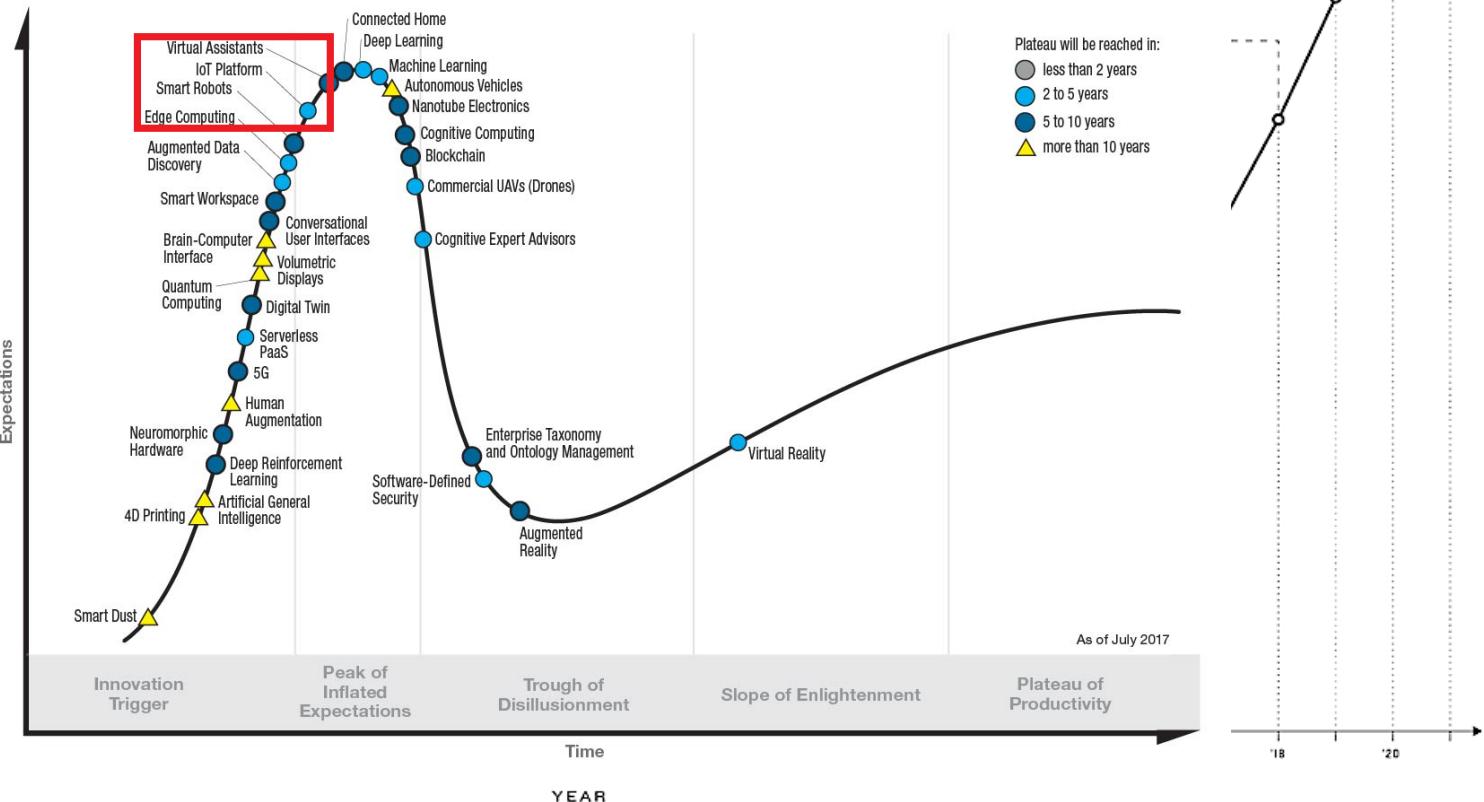
www.midnightbluelabs.com
[samvartaka.github.io](https://github.com/samvartaka)

THE INTERNET OF THINGS

AN EXPLOSION

Gartner Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies, 2017

2020
50.1 BILLION
Taking population predictions into account, there will be about 8.6 devices per human on the planet.



“

We are seeing a market failure for cybersecurity and privacy. (...) Currently there is no basic level, no level zero defined for the security and privacy of connected and smart devices.

- ENISA / Infineon / NXP / STM

Pizza Hut made shoes that will order pizza



Moxie: Showerhead with wireless speaker



Parents warned over exploding fidget spinners powered by Bluetooth

You Can Only Wash Google And Levi's New \$350 'Connected' Jacket Ten Times



★★★★★ Scdragon · 8 days ago

Wifi does not connect

Wifi connectivity does not work. Stuck in setup mode.



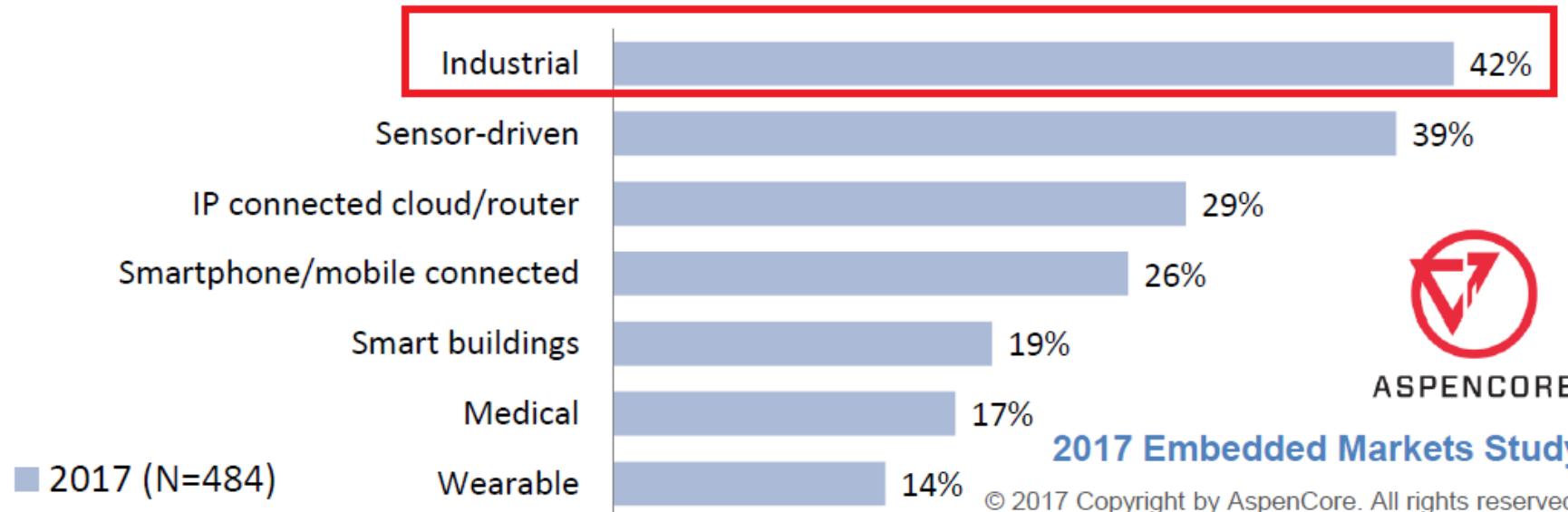
Maid: Smart Microwave Oven



INDUSTRIAL Internet of Things

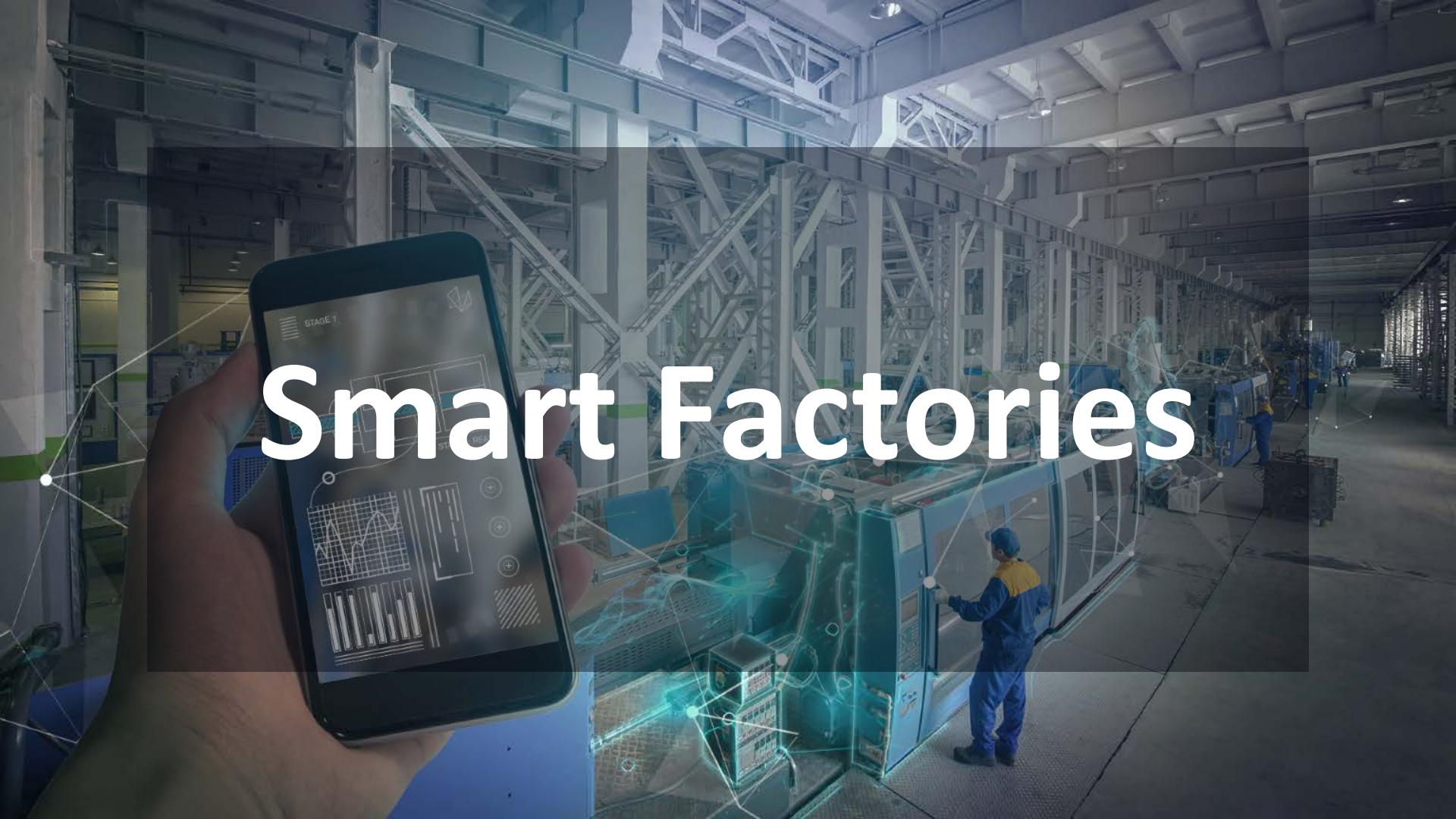
CONSUMER Internet of Things

If you are developing Internet of Things (IoT) applications, please indicate the type of application.



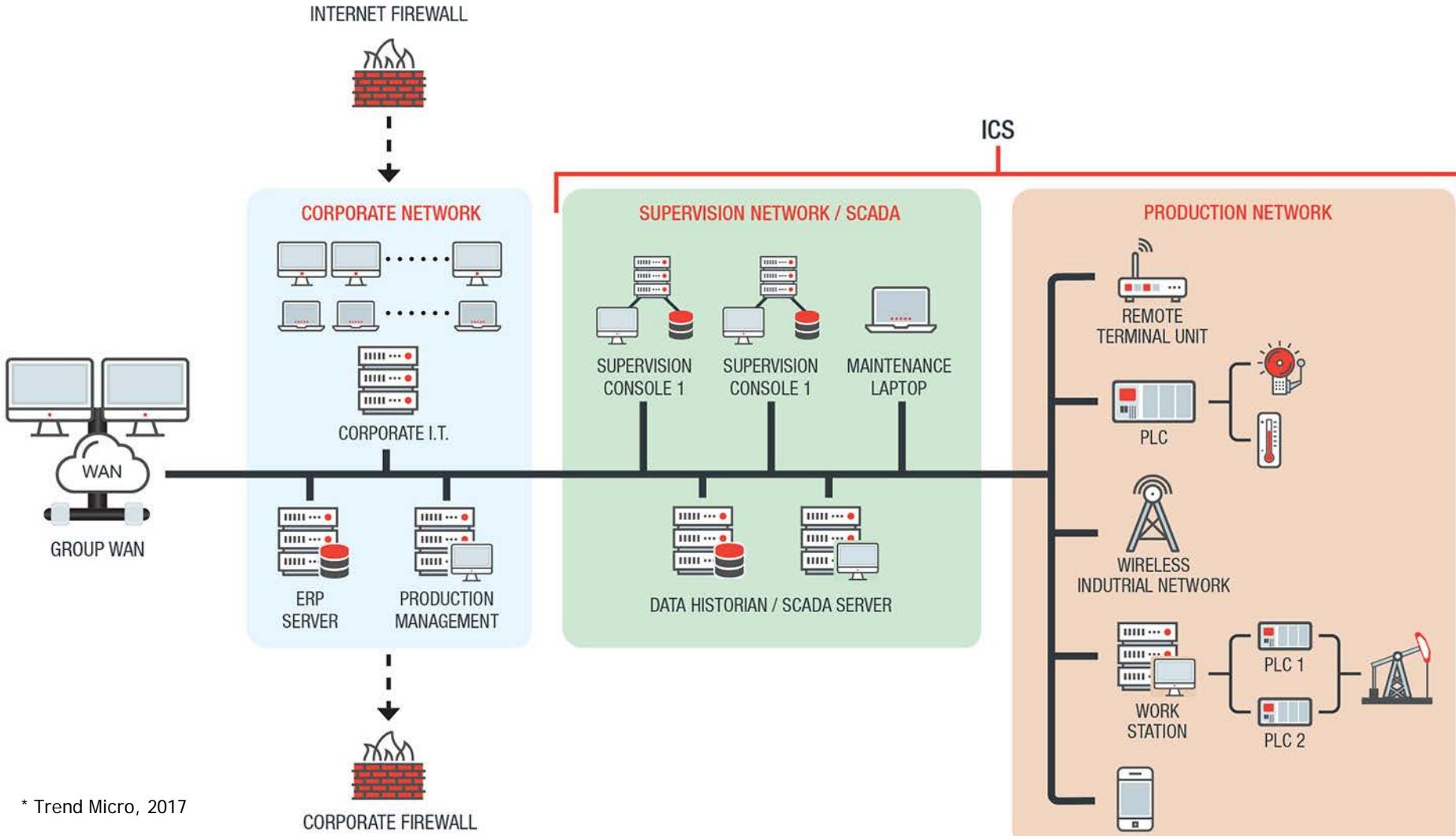
ASPENCORE

Smart Factories





Critical Infrastructure



PLCs



RTUs



Gateways, Modems

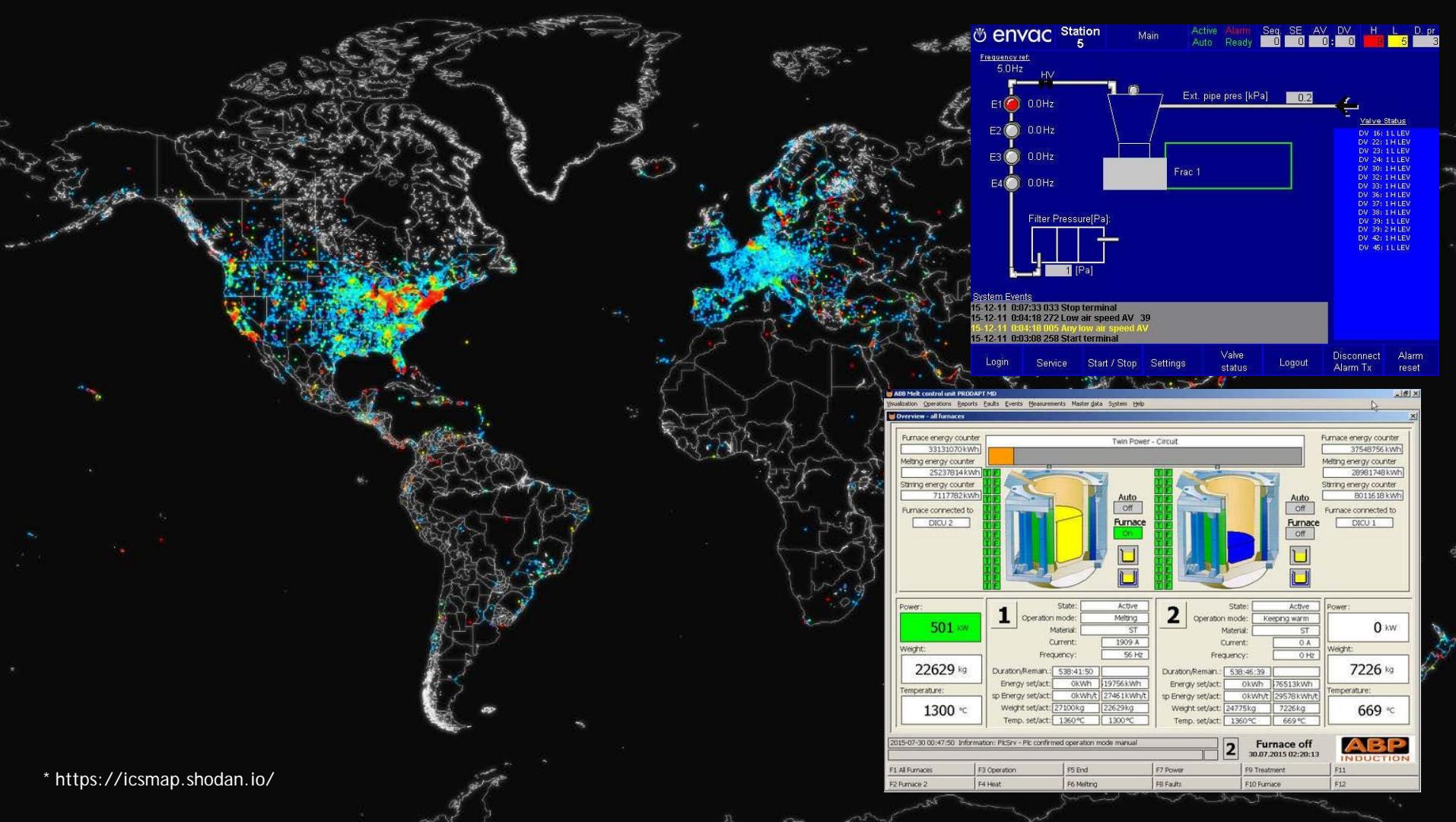


Sensors, Actuators



HMs





* <https://icsmap.shodan.io/>



Stuxnet

Sandworm



The Economics of Ransomware: How SCADA/ICS Changes the Equation



Researchers Create PoC Ransomware That Targets ICS/SCADA Systems

Take Down: Hackers Looking to Shut Down Factories for Pay



PLC

Firmware

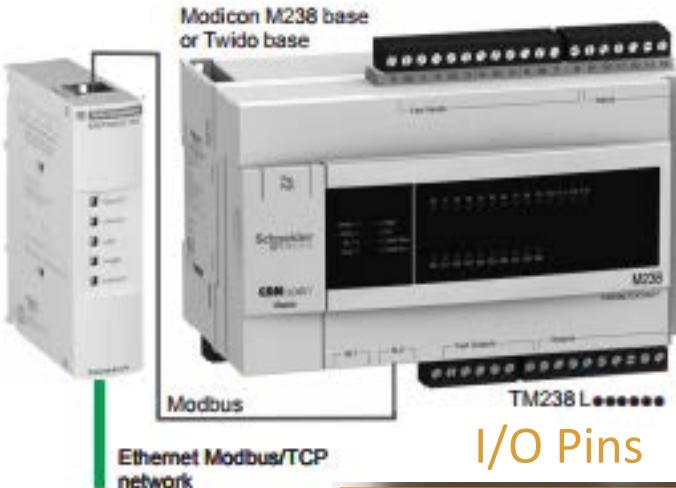
Applications
(eg. Web, FTP, Telnet,..)

Operating System
(usually small RTOS)

Programmable Logic
(eg. IEC 61131-3)

MCU / SoC

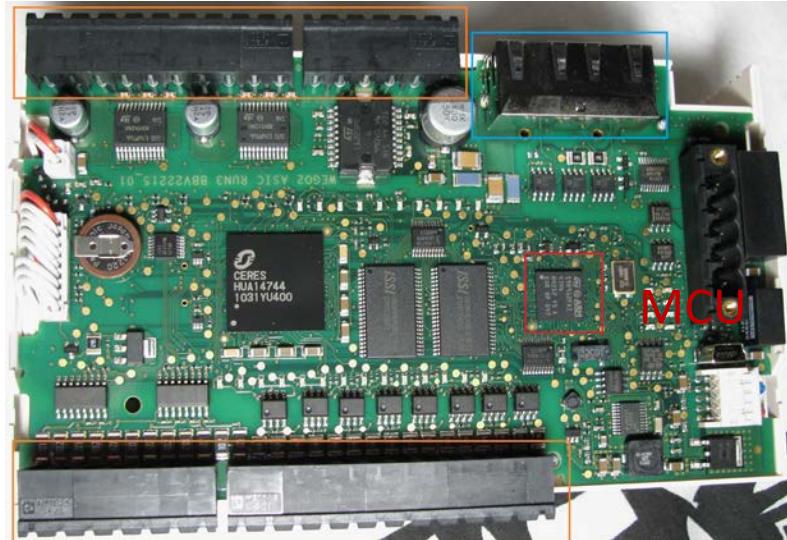
Logic Handler
(MCU/(C)PLD/
FPGA/ASIC)



* <https://www.eevblog.com>, 2014

I/O Pins

Serial Link





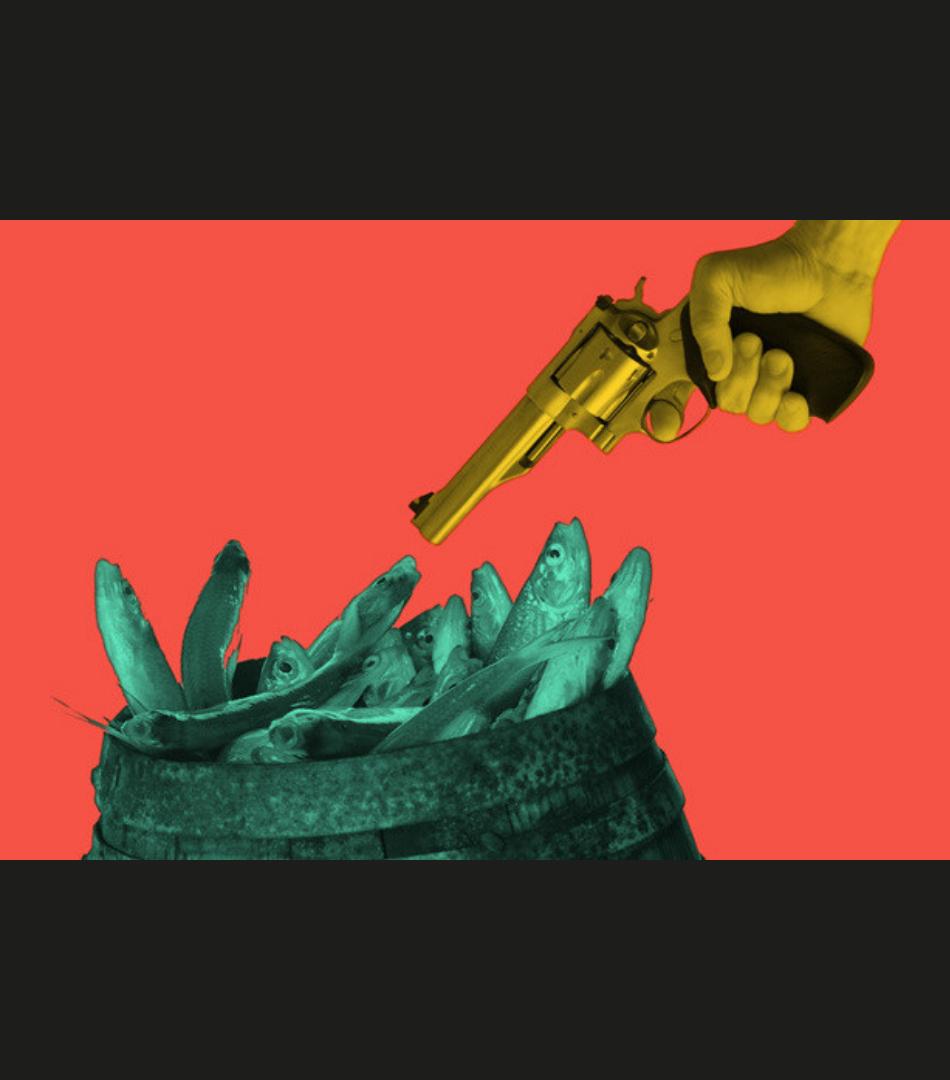
Typical ICS Security #1: Opto 22 OPTEMU-SNR-DR2*

- Energy Monitoring & Control Device
- Managed over Ethernet
FTP, SNMP, OptoMMP
(unauthenticated), PAC Control
(unauthenticated)
- Use OptoMMP to
disable IP filtering, enable FTP, get
FTP credentials
- Upload firmware & reflash over FTP
(no firmware signing)

Typical ICS Security #2: Modicon Quantum PLC*



- Large PLC for process applications
- FTP with hardcoded backdoor
Read/Write Access to configuration, firmware, passwords, etc.
- Telnet with hardcoded backdoor
Is actually a C interpreter...
- Unauthenticated Modbus Extension
Start/Stop PLC
Overwrite programmable logic
Etc.

A photograph of a hand gripping the handle of a revolver, pointing it downwards. The barrel of the gun is resting on top of a dark wooden barrel that is overflowing with many small, silvery fish. The background is a solid red color.

Open Secret: ICS Security Sucks

- Unauthenticated Plaintext Protocols
- Unauthenticated firmware & logic uploads
- Default Backdoor Passwords
- Absent or Infrequent Patching
- Etc.



(Some) Reasons Why

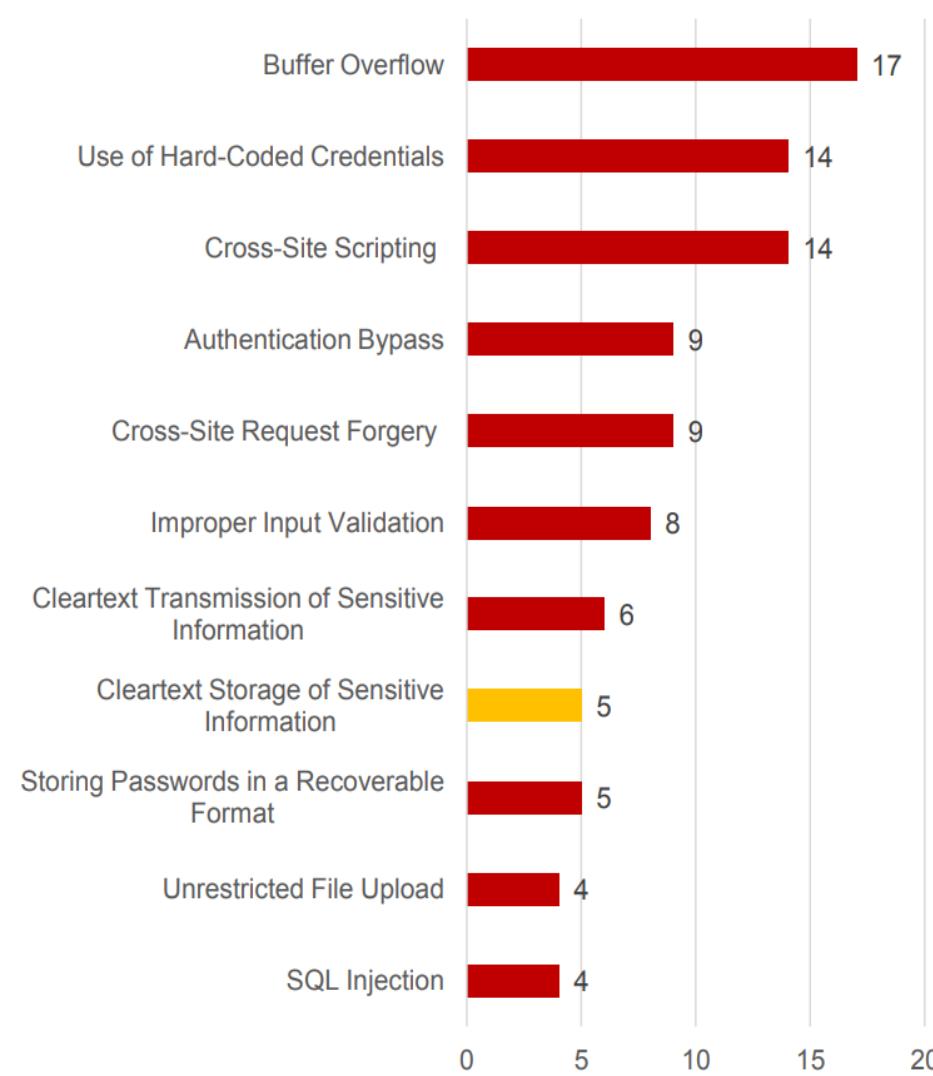
- **Insecure by Design**
Not designed for 'open' networks
Security not considered
- **Device Lifespan**
10+ years

Age-old designs

Ceased vendor support
- **Legacy / Backwards Compatibility**
Adhere to old, insecure standards

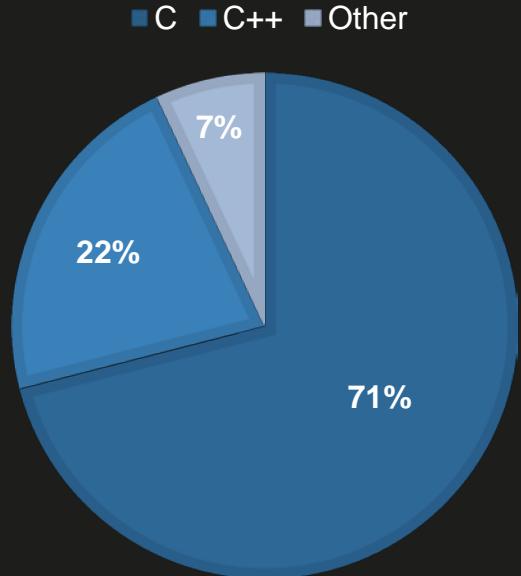
A composite image. The background is a photograph of an industrial facility with tall, silver cylindrical storage tanks and complex piping against a blue sky with wispy clouds. In the foreground, two industrial workers wearing white hard hats, safety glasses, and dark blue uniforms are looking down at a clipboard or document. One worker is holding a yellow mobile phone. They appear to be examining something on the ground.

Let's say we fix all this...
What's next?



Memory
Corruption is a
Big Deal™ in
Embedded

PRIMARY EMBEDDED PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE



Unsafe Languages Are Here To Stay

- Ideally use safe languages
Java, Go, Erlang, Rust
- But unsafe continues to
dominate
C, C++

The background image shows a detailed architectural drawing of a medieval castle. It features a large central tower with a conical roof, surrounded by a thick wall with numerous rectangular windows and a crenelated top. Several other towers of varying heights are integrated into the wall system, some with their own small roofs. The castle is set against a light, textured background.

Exploit Mitigations

General Purpose Exploitation Has Been Getting Harder

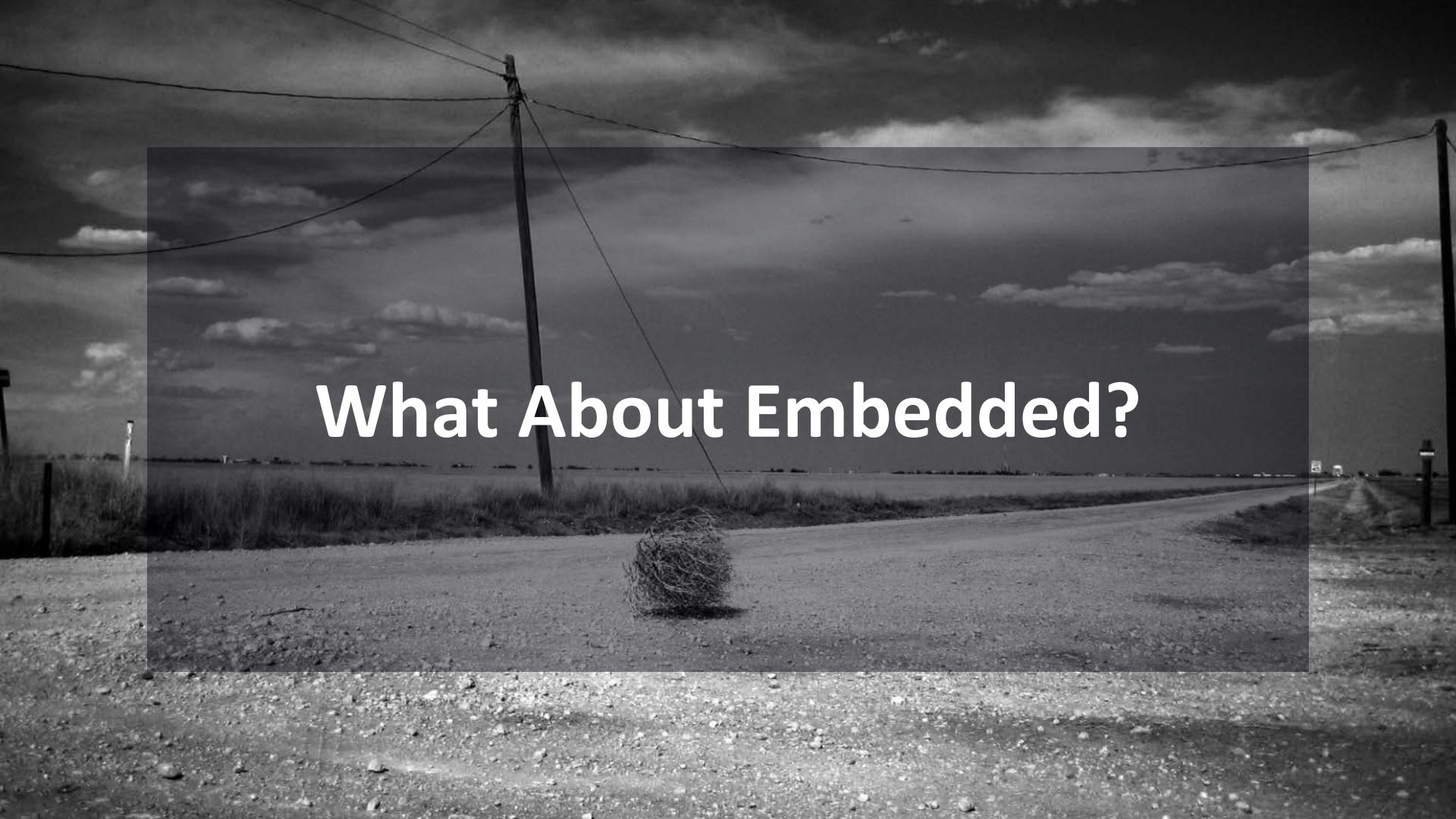


VS



2010

2016

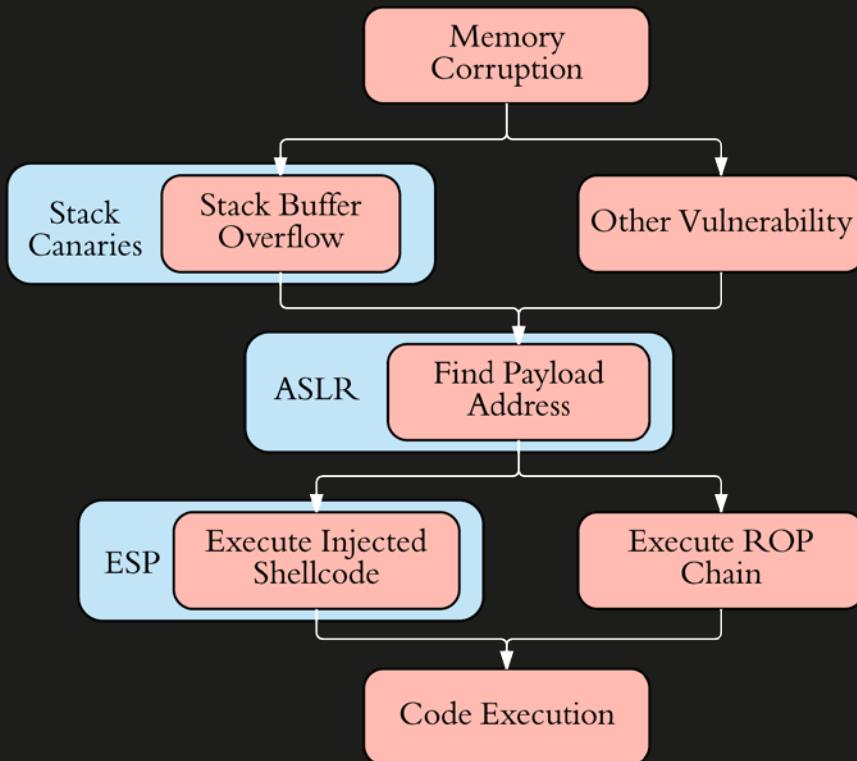


What About Embedded?

Quantitative Analysis



Minimum Mitigation Baseline



- **ESP / DEP / NX / W^X**
Non-exec. data memory
- **ASLR**
Address Space Layout Randomization
- **Stack Canaries / SSP**
Stack buffer overflow protection



Operating System Selection

- Selected 45 Popular Embedded Oses
- High-end, Low-end, Linux/Windows/BSD-based, proprietary, etc.
- Evaluated Support For Mitigation Baseline

Optimistic Assesment

Mitigation Support

— ESP — ASLR — Stack Canaries



All Oses

Non-Mobile

Non-Win/Lin/BSD

Deeply Embedded

What's Going On Here?



Usual Embedded Suspects



Resource
Constraints



Hardware
Limitations

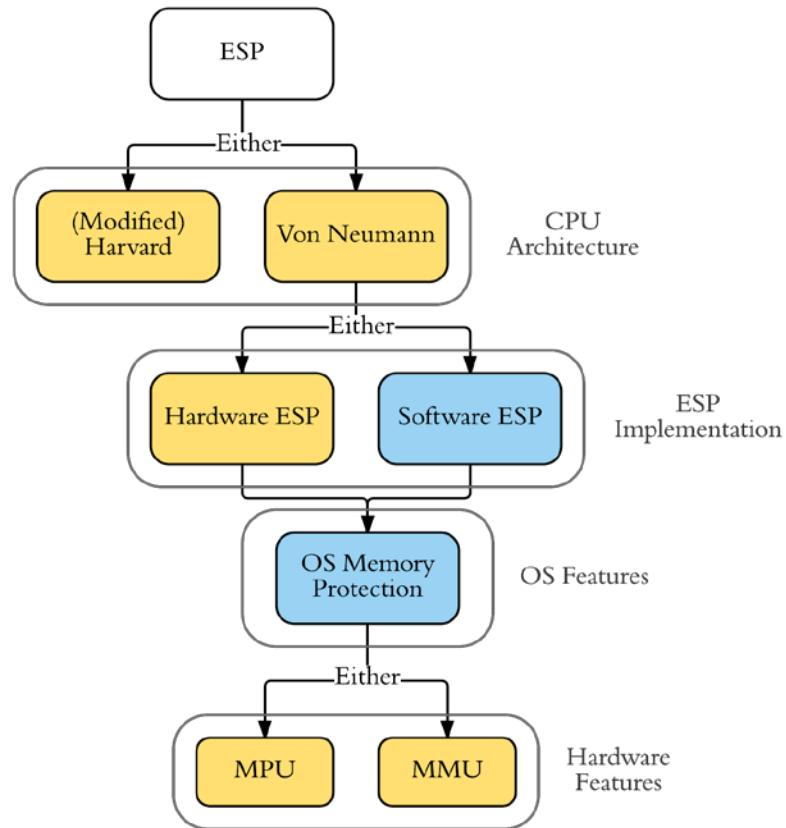


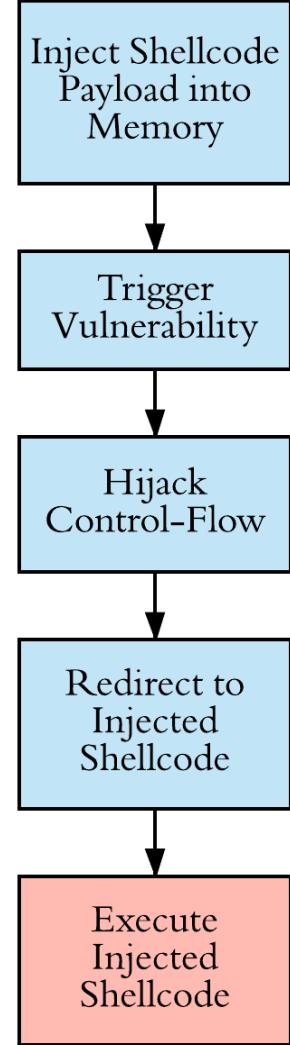
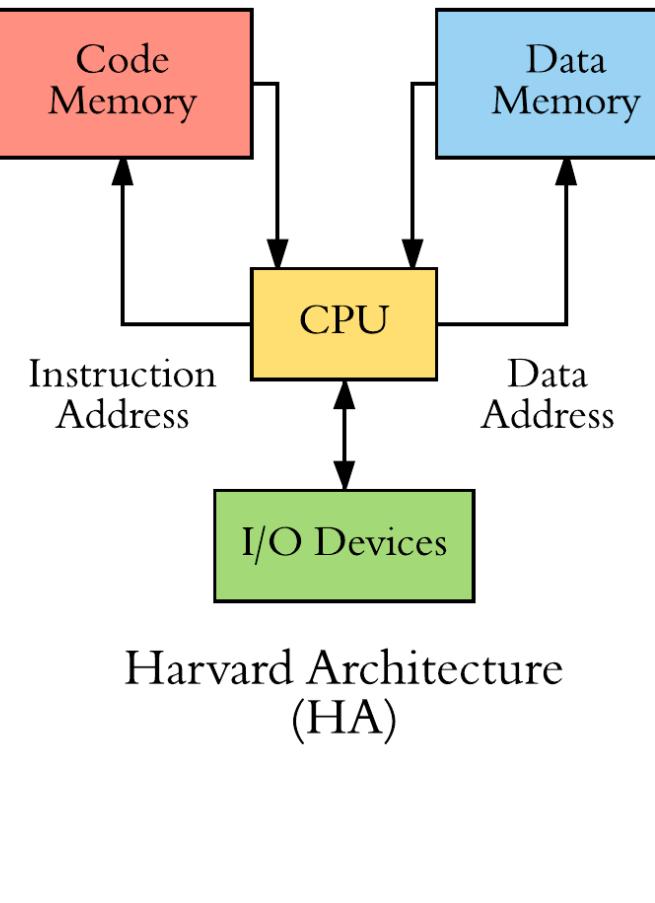
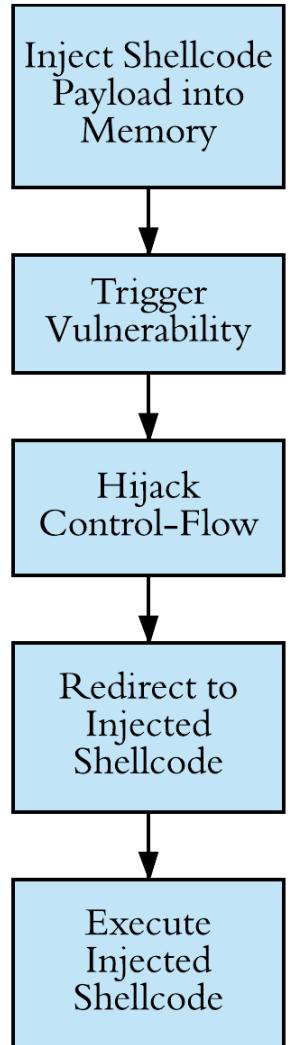
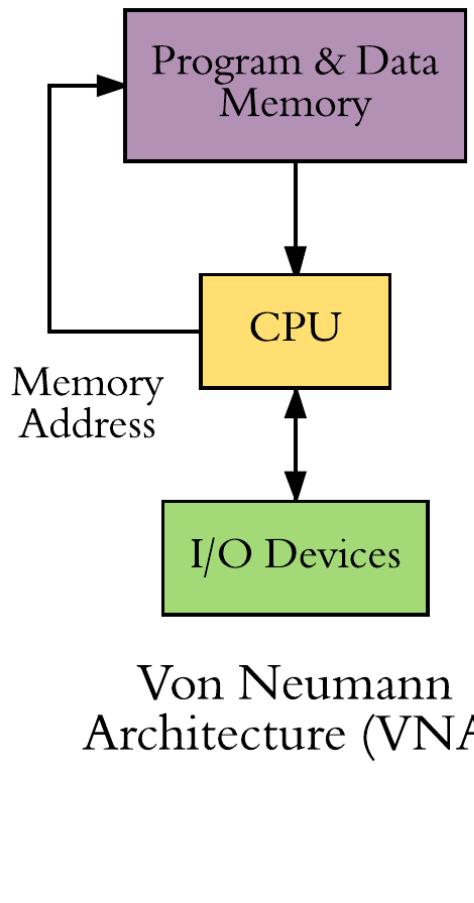
Cost
Sensitivity



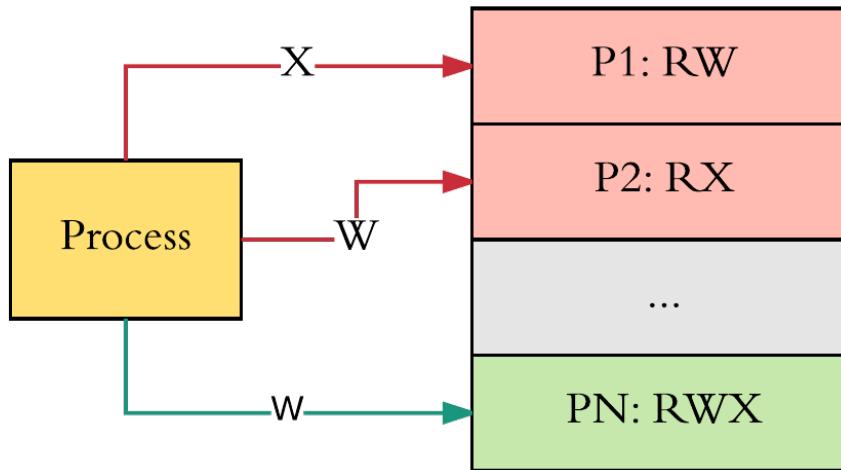
Random Number
Generator Issues*

Hardware & Software Dependencies



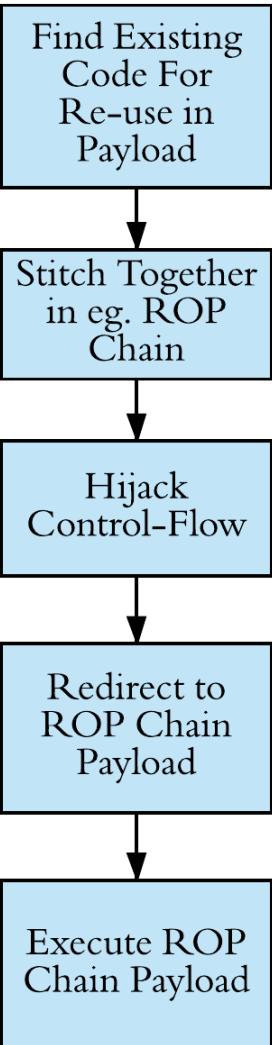


MPUs/MMUs & Hardware ESP Support

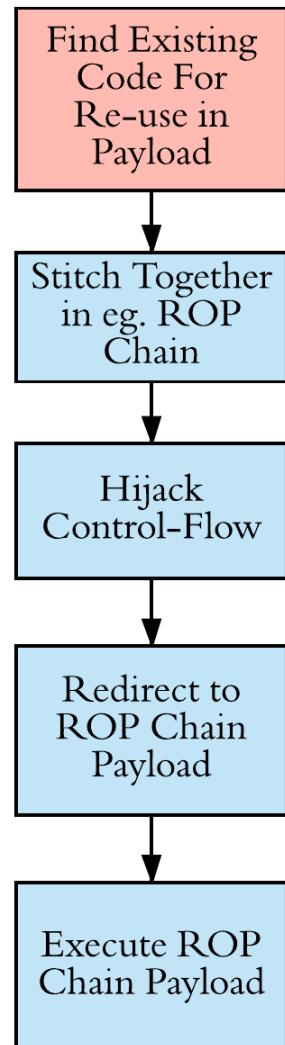
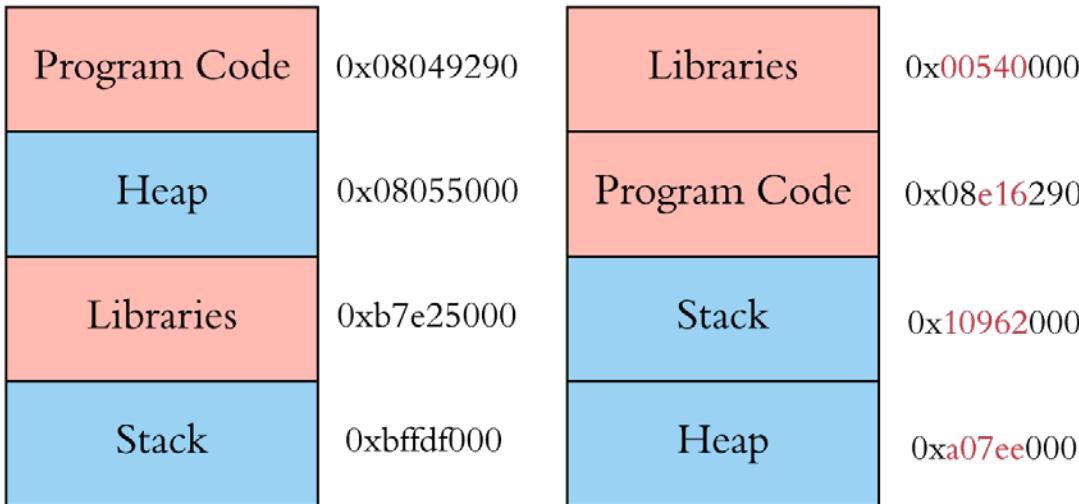


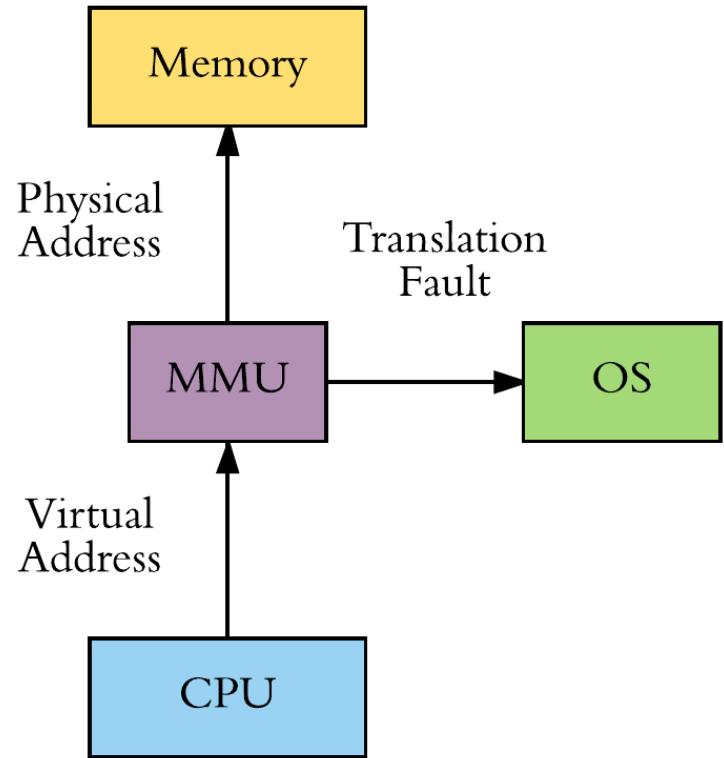
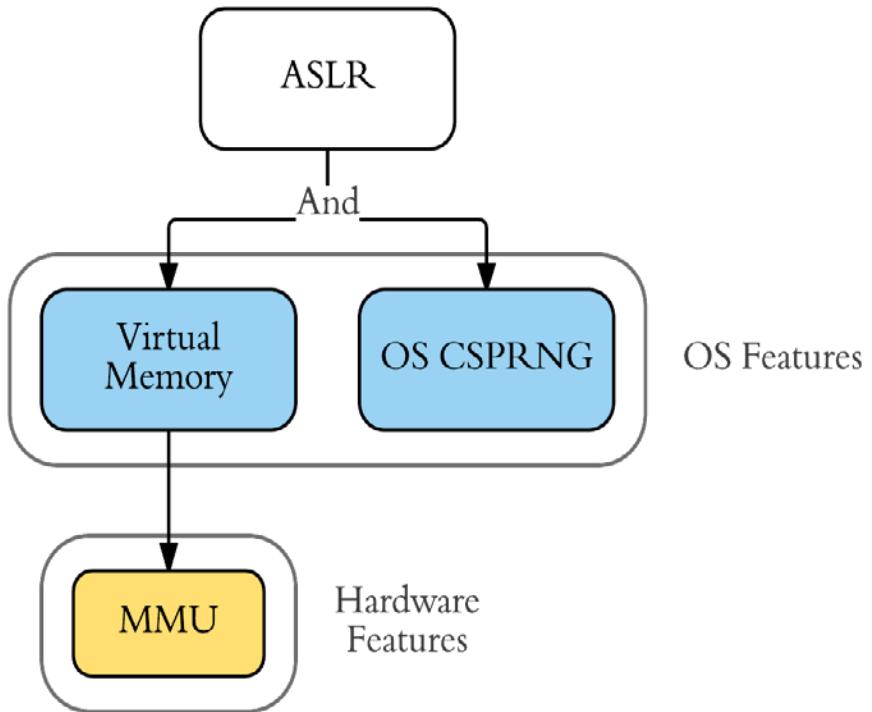
63	51	36	12	0
NX	Avail	Reserved	Page Base Address	Misc.

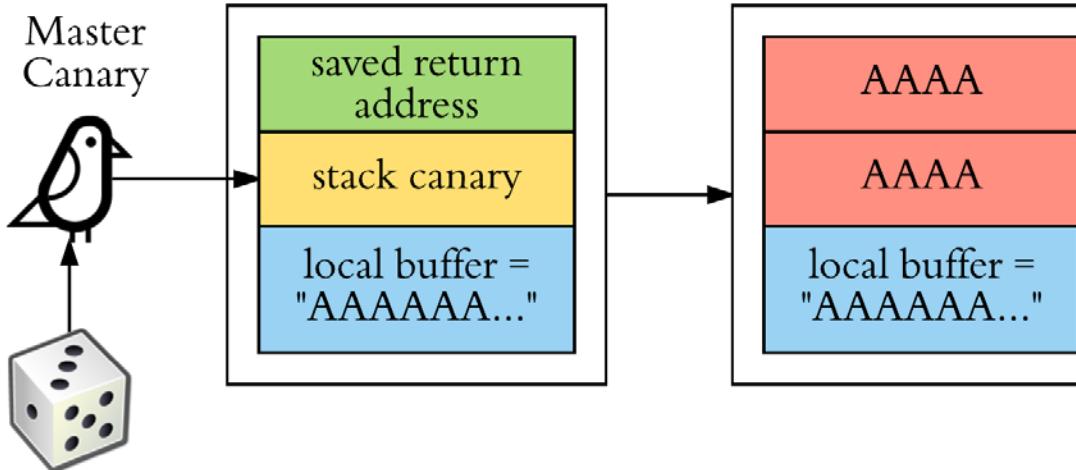
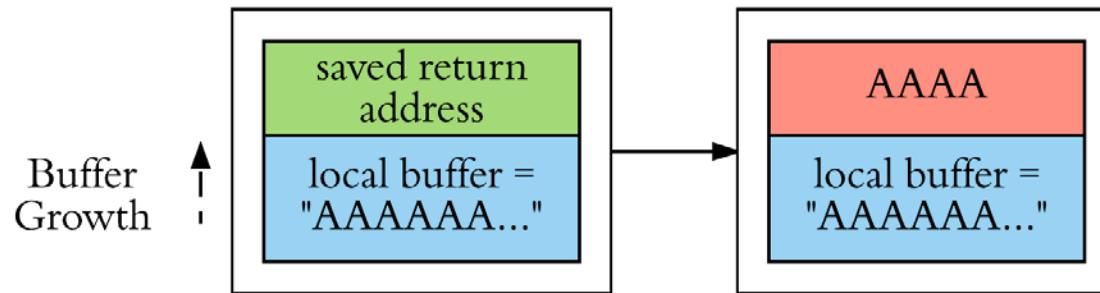
64-bit PTE (PAE mode)



reTuRN orienteD PROgramming







Random Number
Generator

Software Dependency Support

Memory Protection Virtual Memory OS CSPRNG



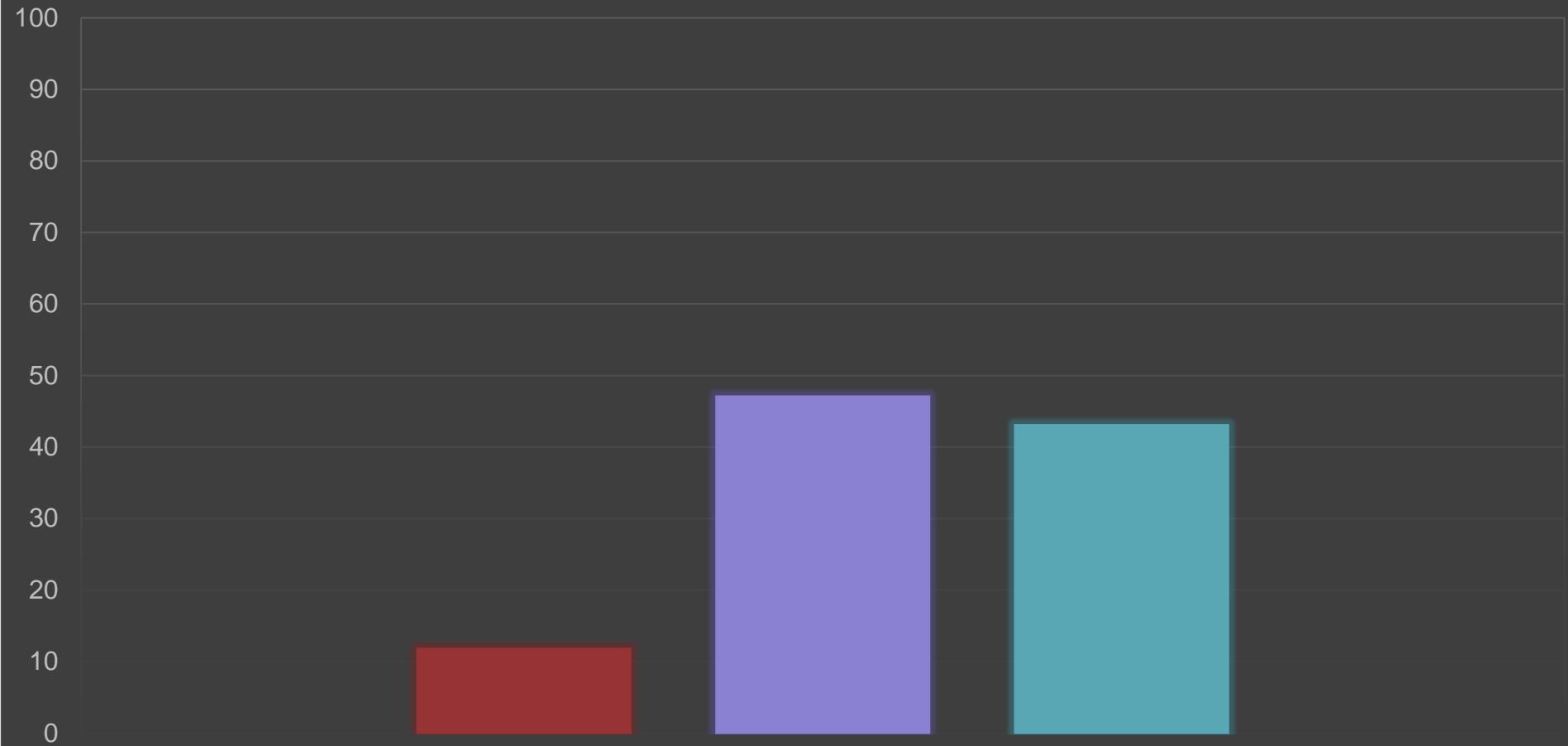


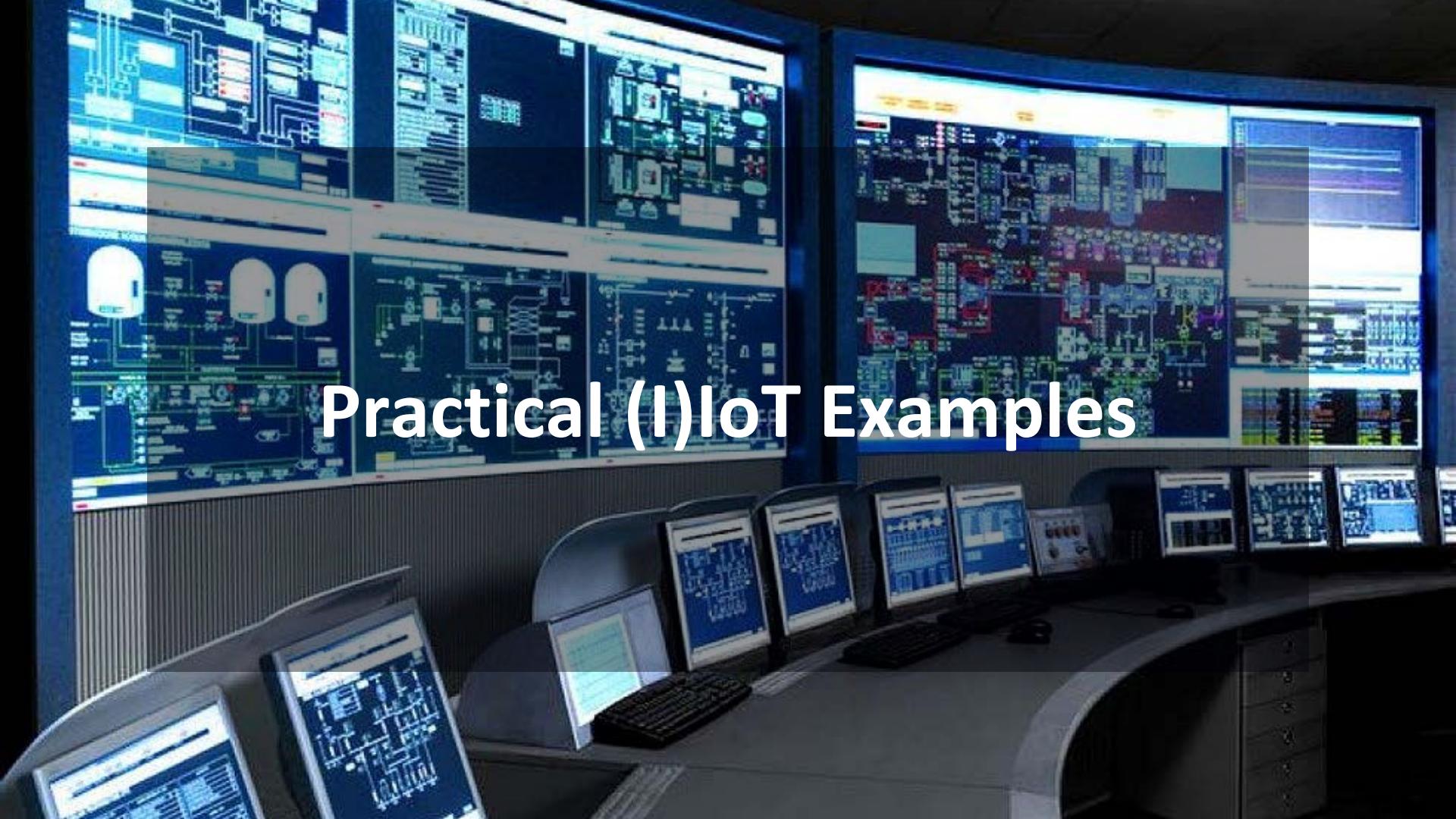
Hardware Selection

- Selected 78 Popular Embedded 'Core Families'
- Evaluated for Hardware Dependency Support

Hardware Dependency Support (VNA)

■ MPU ■ MMU ■ Hardware ESP





Practical (I)IoT Examples



Typical (Entry-Level) PLC: Modicon Momentum Unity

- ST SPEAr 320s (ARM926EJ-S)
 - Von Neumann
 - MMU (No XN Bit)
 - No TRNG
- VxWorks RTOS
 - No Mitigations
 - Memory Protection
 - Virtual Memory
 - No OS CSPRNG



MSP430
Inside

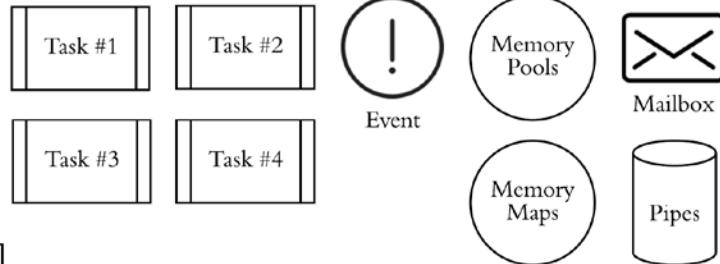


 TEXAS
INSTRUMENTS

Typical Wireless Sensor Node: Advantech WISE-1021

- MSP430F5419A
 - Von Neumann
 - No MPU / MMU
 - No TRNG
- TI-RTOS
 - No Mitigations
 - Memory Protection
 - No Virtual Memory
 - No OS CSPRNG

Microkernel



Nanokernel



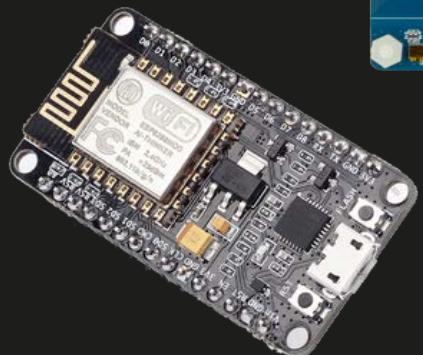
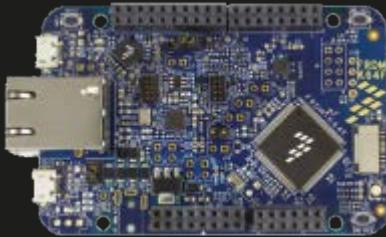
- **Library based RTOS**
Based on Wind River Rocket
- **OS Linux Foundation Project**
Aimed at resource-constrained IoT
- **Young (2016) but promising**
Input from major chipmakers

Explicit focus on security

Zephyr Stack Canaries

```
349 FUNC_NORETURN void _Cstart(void)
350 {
351 #ifdef CONFIG_ARCH_HAS_CUSTOM_SWAP_TO_MAIN
352     struct k_thread *dummy_thread = NULL;
353 #else
354     struct k_thread dummy_thread_memory;
355     struct k_thread *dummy_thread = &dummy_thread_memory;
356 #endif
357
358 /*
359 * Initialize kernel data structures. This step includes
360 * initializing the interrupt subsystem, which must be performed
361 * before the hardware initialization phase.
362 */
363
364 prepare_multithreading(dummy_thread);
365
366 /* perform basic hardware initialization */
367 _sys_device_do_config_level(_SYS_INIT_LEVEL_PRE_KERNEL_1);
368 _sys_device_do_config_level(_SYS_INIT_LEVEL_PRE_KERNEL_2);
369
370 /* initialize stack canaries */
371 #ifdef CONFIG_STACK_CANARIES
372     __stack_chk_guard = (void *)sys_rand32_get();
373 #endif
374
375 /* display boot banner */
376
377 switch_to_main_thread();
378
379 /*
380 * Compiler can't tell that the above routines won't return and issues
381 * a warning unless we explicitly tell it that control never gets this
382 * far.
383 */
384
385 CODE_UNREACHABLE;
386 }
```

- Based on Clang/GCC SSP
- One master canary for entire address space
Generated once at system boot
- Generated using RNG API
Implementation depends on chosen *random* driver



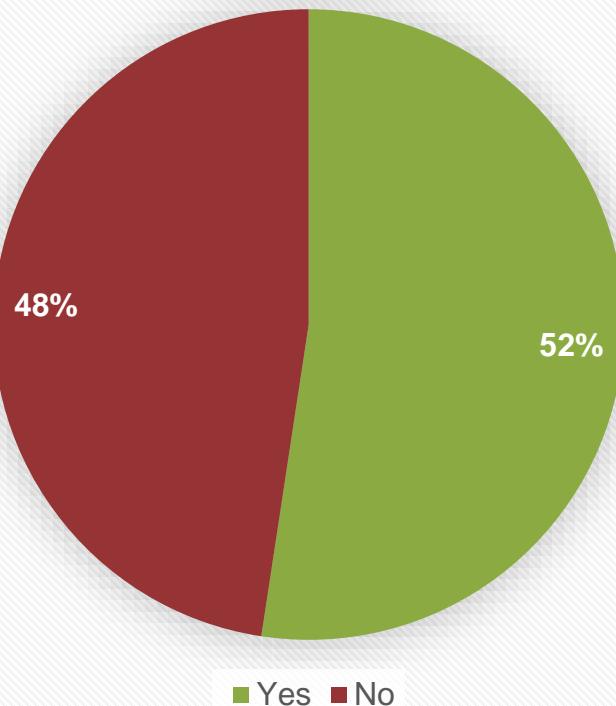
Zephyr Random API

RANDOM_HAS_DRIVER (TRNG)

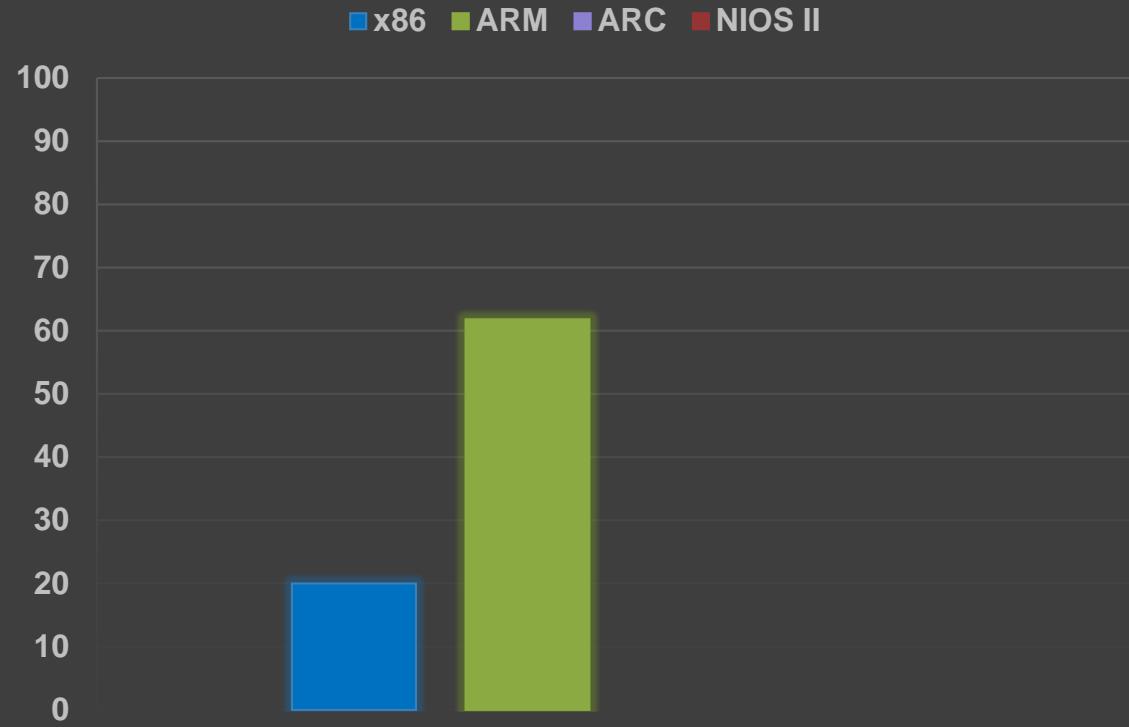
- **RANDOM_MCUX_RNGA**
NXP Kinetis K64F
- **RANDOM_MCUX_TRNG**
NXP Kinetis KW40Z & KW41Z
- **RANDOM_STM32_RNG**
STM32 Boards
- **RANDOM_ESP32_RNG**
ESP32 Boards
(requires Wi-Fi & Bluetooth enabled)

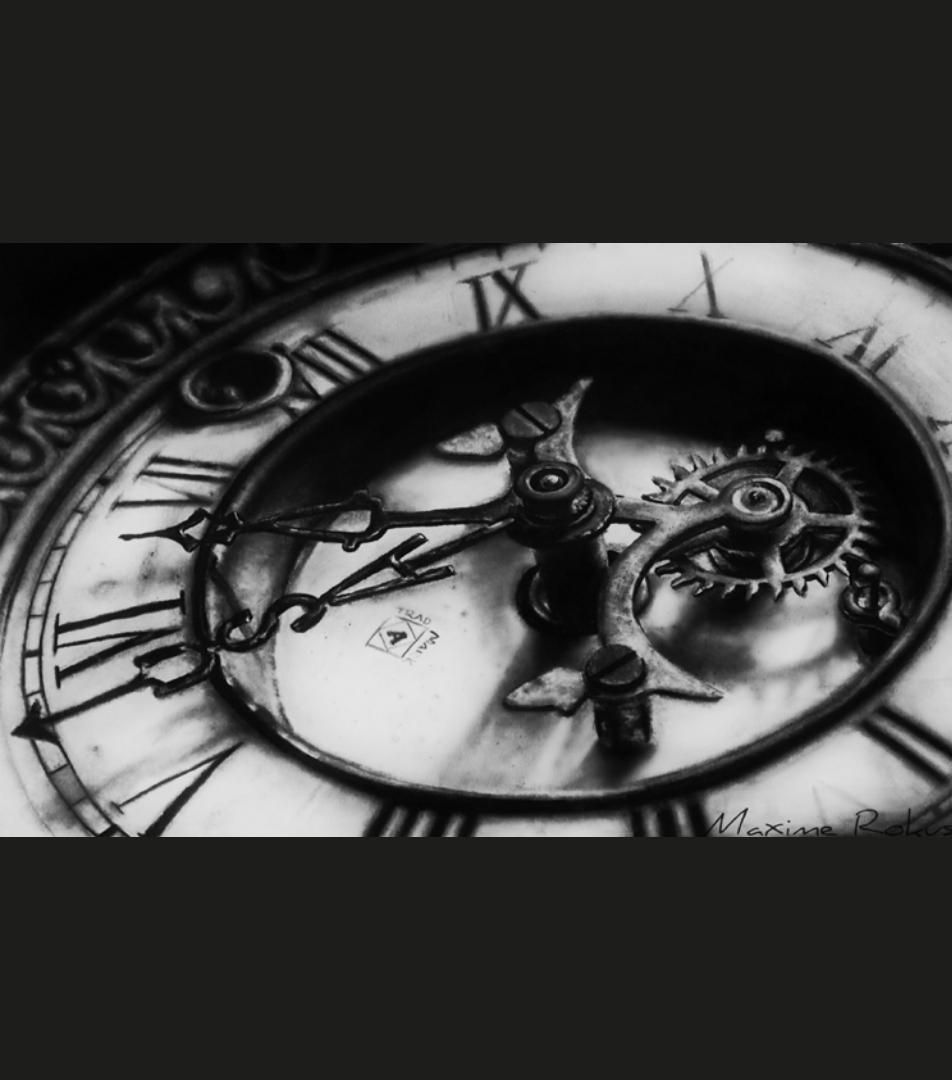
TRNGs Among Zephyr 1.8 Supported Boards

TRNG Support



TRNG Support Per Architecture





Zephyr Random API

TEST_RANDOM_DRIVER (PRNG)

- X86_TSC_RANDOM_GENERATOR /
TIMER_RANDOM_GENERATOR
Uses timestamp (eg. x86 RDTSC)

Directly, not pulled through PRNG

Canary 1st value drawn from API ->
little difference between bootruns

Infoleaks everywhere

- Had contact with Zephyr team,
plans to integrate OS CSPRNG



Defense

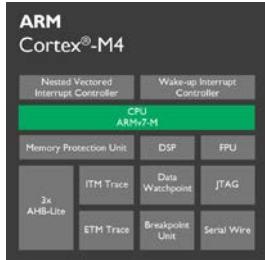
(Some) IoT Binary Security Tips



Harvard CPU



MCU with TRNG



VNA CPU
with MPU/MMU
& XN

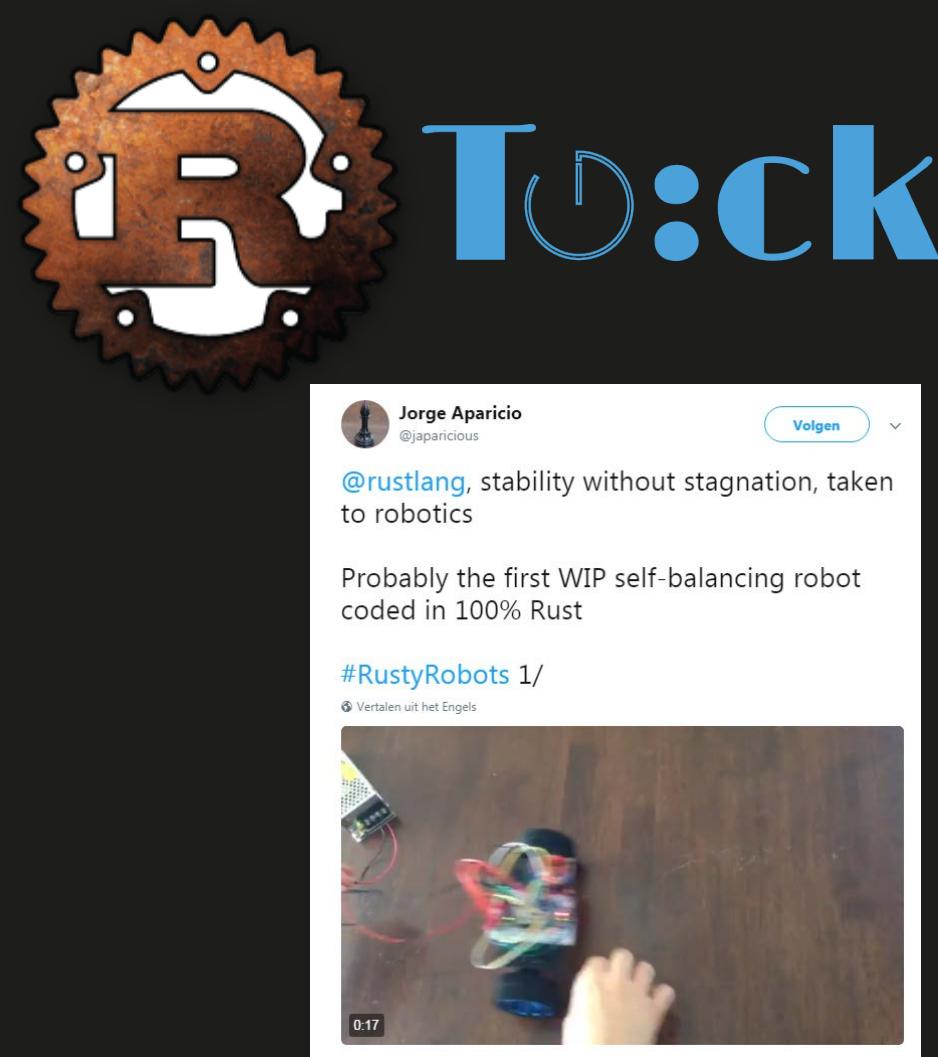


Security-Oriented (RT)OS
(Warning: Still early days)



But: Reality Strikes (& Sucks)

- Lifespan & Legacy
What we buy *today* was designed years ago
- What we design *today* might still be used in *10+ years*
- Mitigations are a stop-gap
Need to start work on long-term now



Safe Languages

- Can't emphasize this enough
- Move to safe embedded development as soon as possible

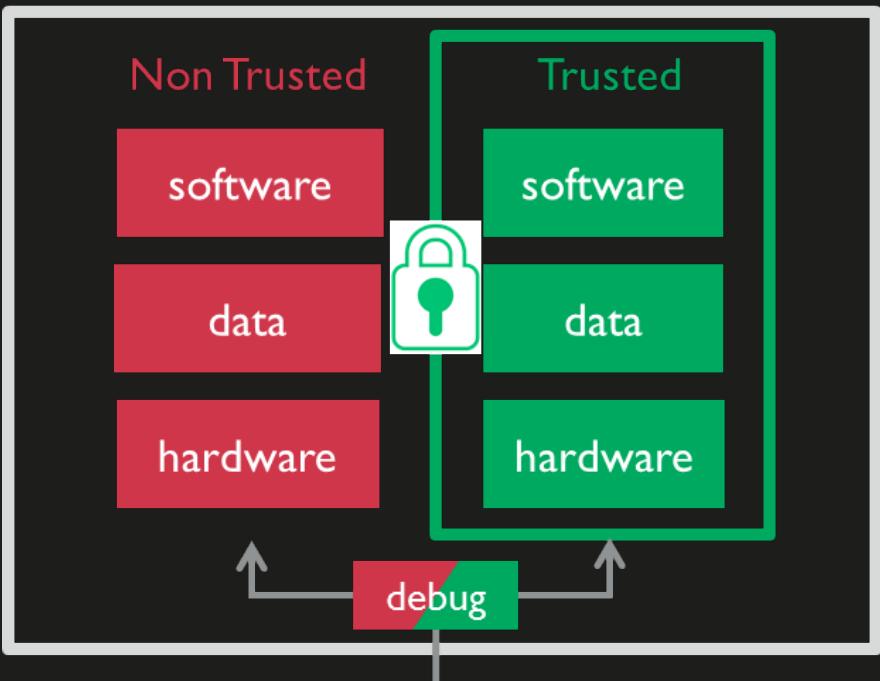




Renewable Security & Defense in Depth*

- Make your device *patchable*, ensure an *update infrastructure* is in place
- Layer your defenses, avoid single points of failure

* 'The Seven Properties of Highly Secure Devices' -
Galen Hunt, Microsoft, 2017



Compartmentalization & Small TCB*

- Use hardware to enforce barriers between software components (MMU, TrustZone)
- Principle of Least Privilege
Keep your TCB Small



Failure Reporting*

- If possible, ensure failures (eg. segfaults) are reported to cloud-based backend for later analysis
- Windows Error Reporting
The Inside Story Behind
MS08-067, John Lambert, 2015

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a light-colored shirt, working at a control room console. They are facing several large computer monitors displaying complex industrial control software with various graphs, charts, and data tables. The environment is dimly lit, with the screens being the primary light source.

Questions?



@s4mvardaka

✉ j.wetzels@midnightbluelabs.com