

# Overview of Security in IoT

Gabe Parmer



# Perspective on Liability

Who is to blame if it goes wrong?

- Computer Science
  - Users = Lusers
  - They use our service  
...and should be **thankful**



# Perspective on Liability

Who is to blame if it goes wrong?

- Computer Science
  - Users = Lusers
- Mechanical/civil:
  - You build it, you can be sued



# Perspective on Liability

Who is to blame if it goes wrong?

- Computer Science
  - Autonomous Vehicles
  - Pervasive surveillance
  - City-level control



Now who's to blame?

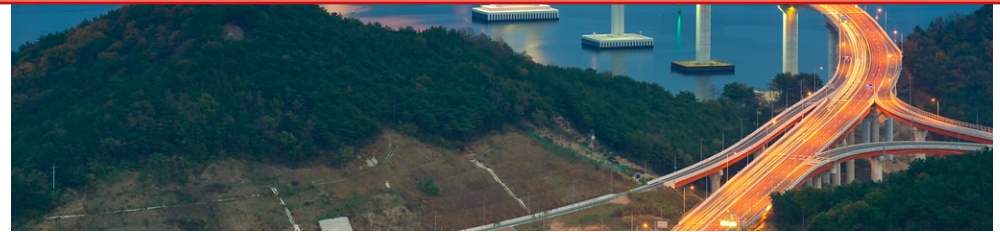
# Perspective on Liability

Who is to blame  
if something goes wrong?

- Computer Science
  - Autonomous
  - Pervasive surveillance
  - City-level control

**Goal:** Can we *understand* the risk  
of the system, to explicitly  
*analyze* it?

Now who's to blame?



# Perspective on Liability

Who is to blame  
goes wrong?

**Goal:** Can we *understand* the risk  
city

- Comp
- Aut
- Per
- City

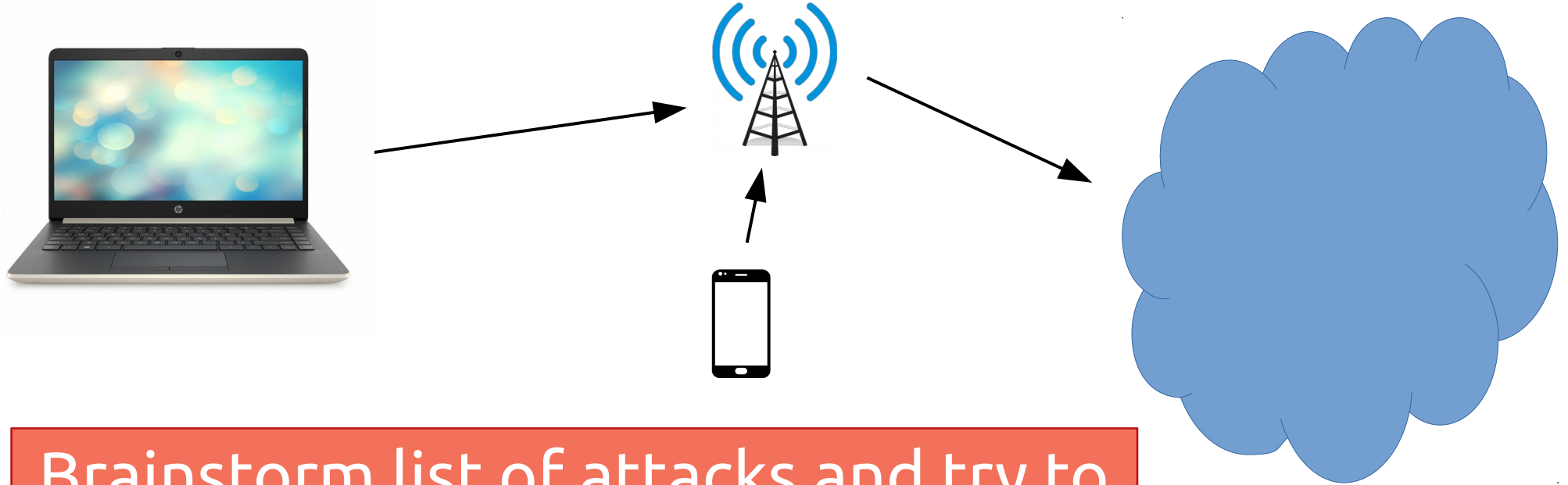
**Really hard:** Can we differentiate  
between a *security breach*, and a  
*programming error*?

Now who's to blame?





# Vectors for Traditional Attacks?



Brainstorm list of attacks and try to make a taxonomy (abstract them)

# Vectors for Traditional Attacks?



- *Man in the middle* – spoofing, eavesdropping, connection hijacking
- *Privilege escalation* –
  - Client: malware, ransomware
  - Server: infiltration, exfiltration
- *Service unavailability* – DoS, DDoS attacks
- ...



# Security: traditional view

- **Confidentiality**
  - Only appropriate principles can access information
- **Integrity**
  - Data and computation cannot be interfered with
- **Availability**
  - Requests can be processed within expected span

# Security: traditional view

- Confidentiality
  - Only appropriate principles can access information
  - *Mitigation: Controlling the flow of information*
- Tools
  - *Limit access to information* – encryption
    - Have key? Can access information
  - *Limit access to data* – Access Control, limit comm.
    - Limit and manage data-flow, and access (POLP)

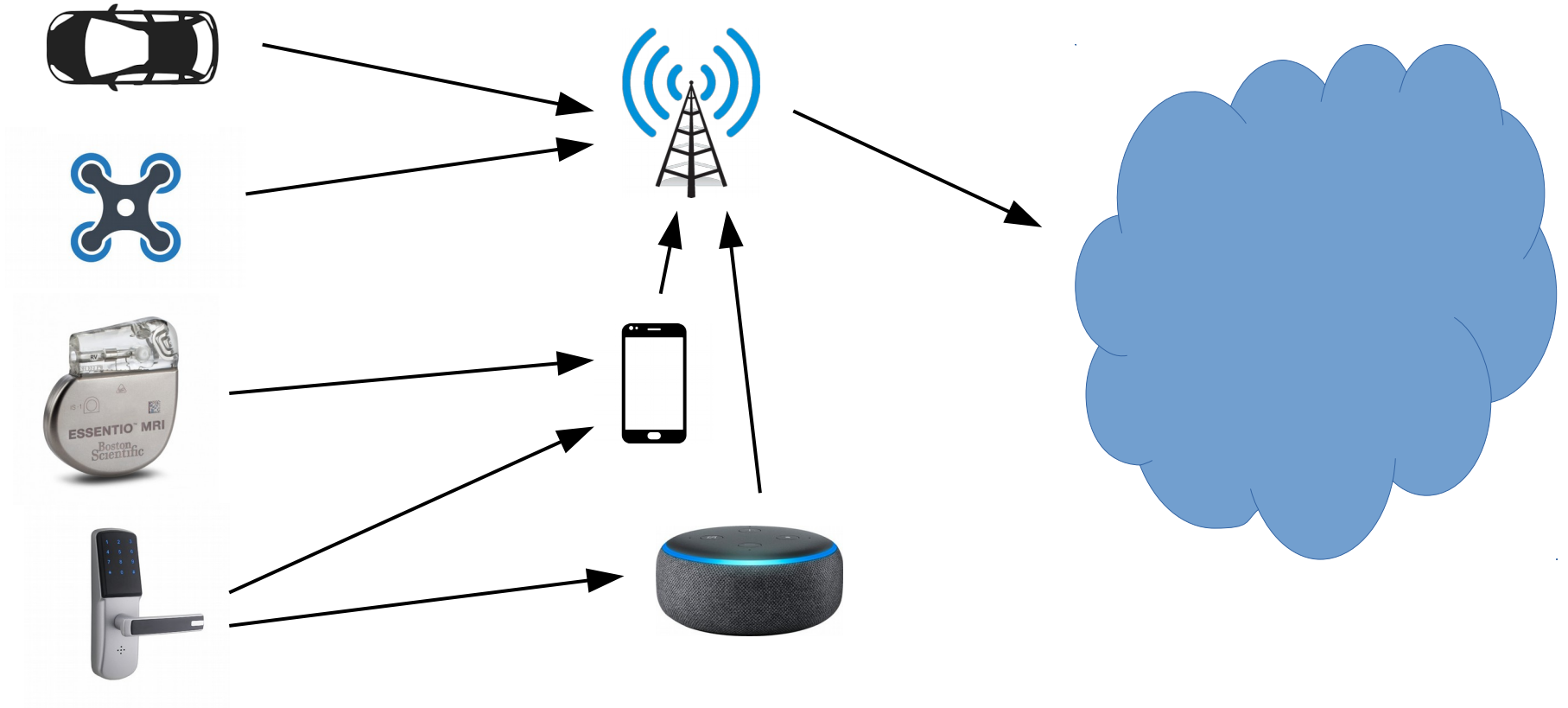
# Security: traditional view

- Integrity
  - Data and computation cannot be interfered with
  - *Mitigation*: Isolation and “many walls”
- Tools
  - *Detect corruption* – HW for tagging, Hashchains
  - *Prevent corruption* – Constrain mods via isolation

# Security: traditional view

- **Availability**
  - Requests can be processed w/i an expected span
  - *Mitigation*: Distribution, scale, and rate-limiting
- **Tools**
  - *Constrain request rate* – rate-limiting
  - *Moar resources* – parallelism and scaling

# Vectors for IoT/CPS Attacks?



# Vectors for IoT/CPS Attacks?



# Vectors for Attack



## Limited resources

*Typical solutions to security no longer work*

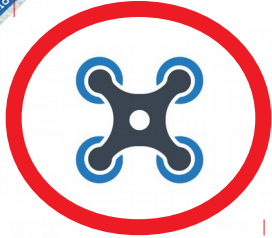
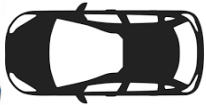
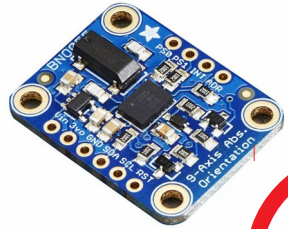
- Protection domains
  - no isolation between system/tasks nor tasks/tasks
- Address-Space Layout Randomization (ASLR)
  - probabilistic defense against control-flow hijacking attacks (ROP attacks)
  - IoT scale + physical addresses
- Crypto-based communication
  - crypto vs. power, crypto vs. time



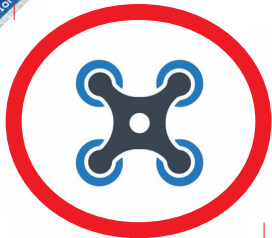
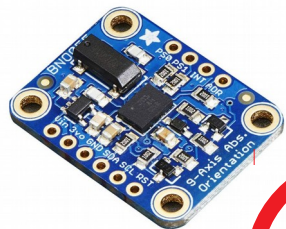
# Vectors for Attack

## GPS

How is GPS implemented?

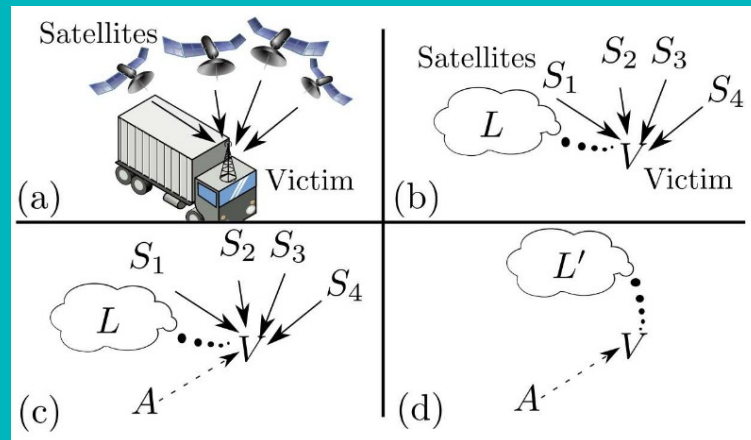


# Vectors for Attack



- Civilian GPS signals are *not* authenticated
- Can be jammed, or spoofed

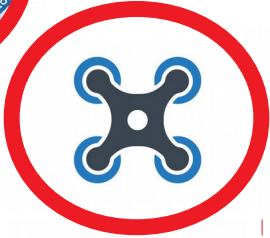
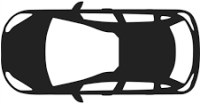
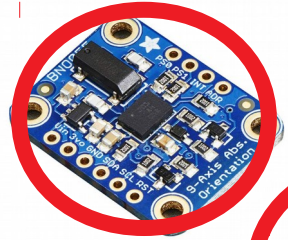
## GPS



"On the Requirements for Successful GPS Spoofing Attacks" by Tippenhauer et al.

"A Simple Demonstration that the Global Positioning System (GPS) is Vulnerable to Spoofing" by Warner et al.

# Vectors for Attack



## Inertial Measurement Unit

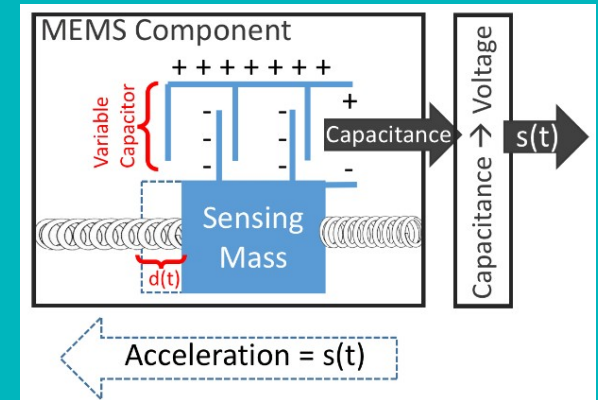
- *Accelerometer* – Measures change in velocity
- *Gyroscope* – Measures angular rotation
- *Magnetometer* – Orientation WRT earth's magnetic field

*How are these implemented?*

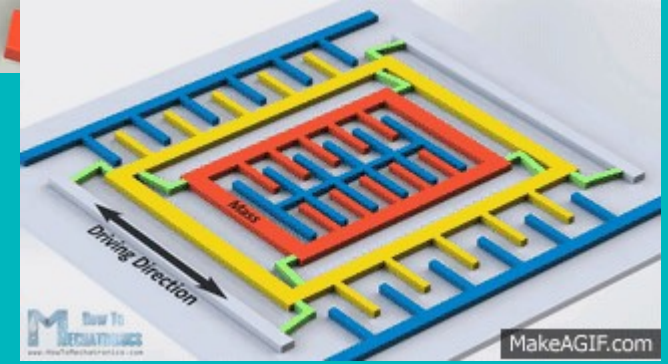
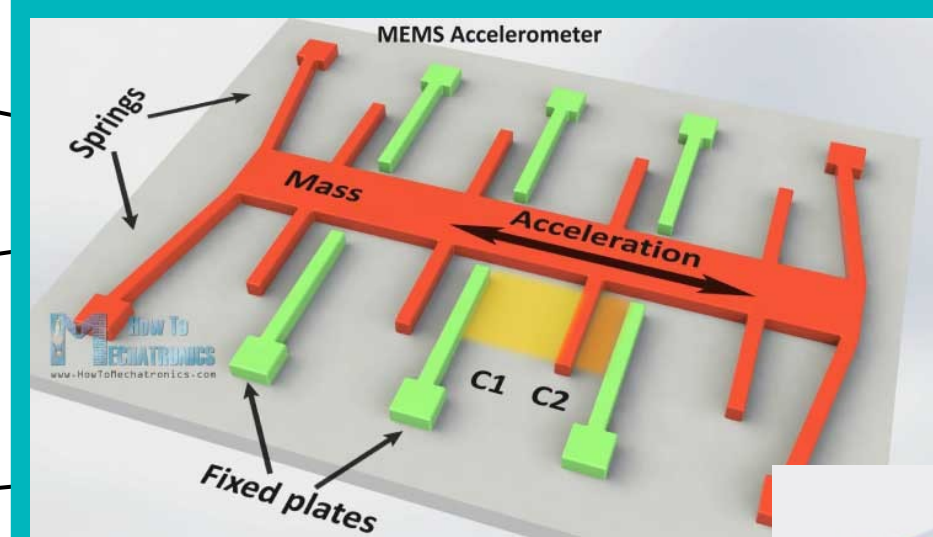
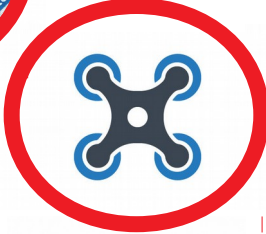
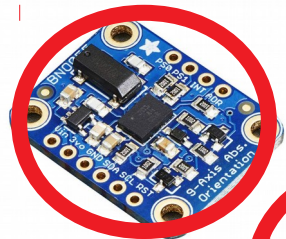
# Vectors for Attack

## Inertial Measurement Unit

- *Accelerometer & Gyroscope – Micro-Electro-Mechanical System (MEMS)*
- *Magnetometer – Hall effect → measure voltage disparity across a plate*



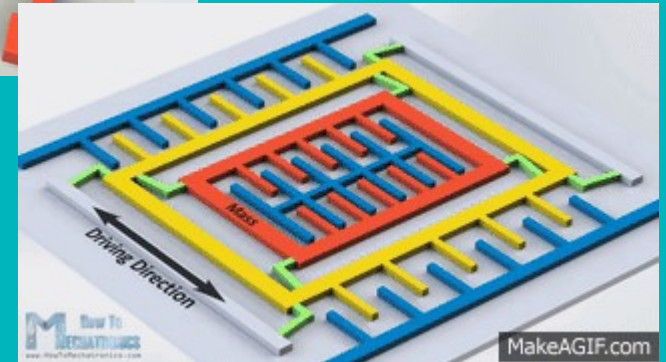
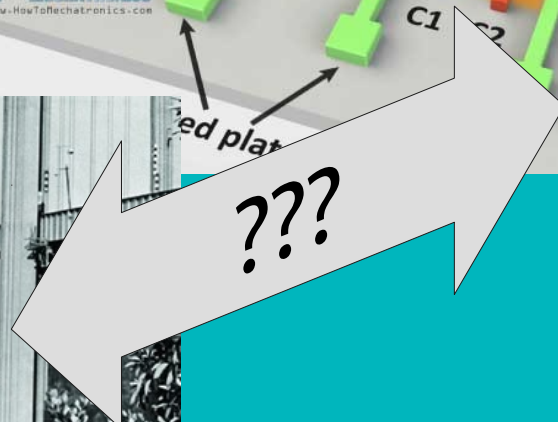
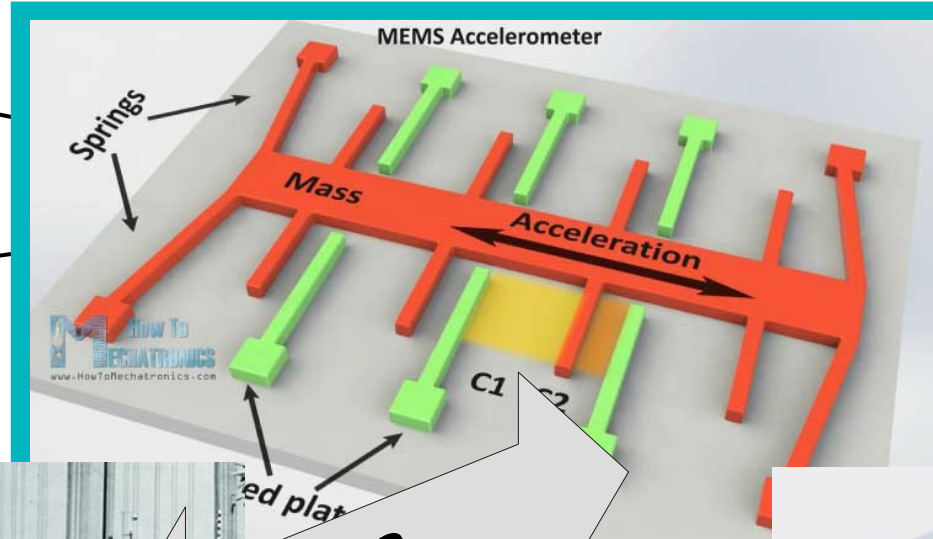
# Vectors for Attack







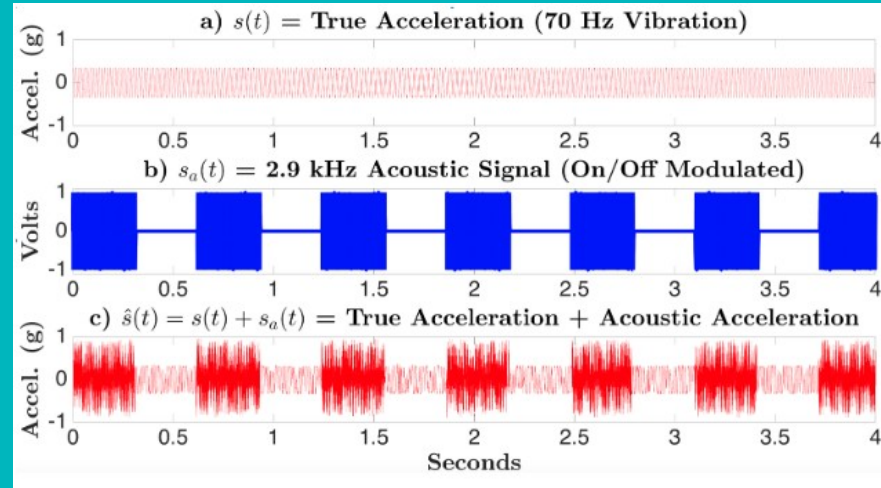
# Vectors for Attack



# Vectors for Attack

## Inertial Measurement Unit

- MEMS are physical structures
- Use sound waves at resonant frequency to disrupt



“Rocking Drones with Intentional Sound Noise on Gyroscopic Sensors” by Son et al.

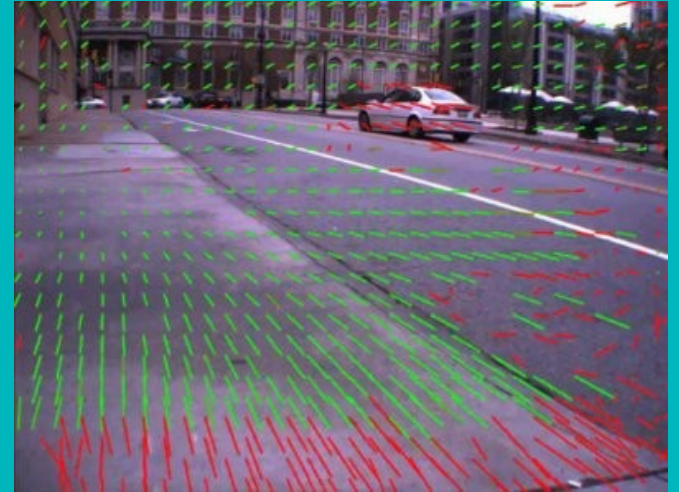
“WALNUT: Waging Doubt on the Integrity of MEMS Accelerometers with Acoustic Injection Attacks” by Trippel et al.



# Vectors for Attack

## Video Cameras

- Common, important sensor
  - Detect features (corners) and track px motion
  - Use cameras to build 3d-maps
    - Stereo cameras
    - Mobile cameras
- **Optical flow**



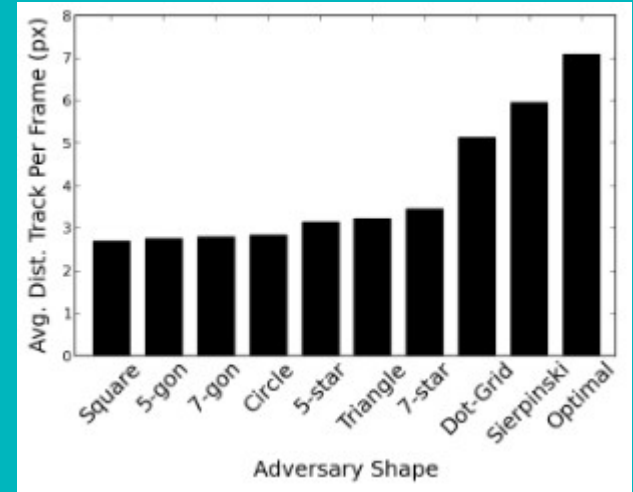
*How can we attack this sensor?*



# Vectors for Attack

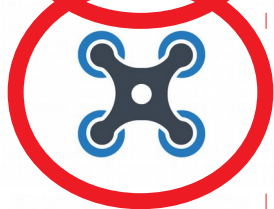
## Video Cameras

- Use a projector to 1. cast a feature rich image on the ground, and 2. move that image.
- Use a laser to do the same with a sharp pattern



"Controlling UAVs with Sensor Input Spoofing Attacks"  
by Davidson et al.

# Vectors for Attack



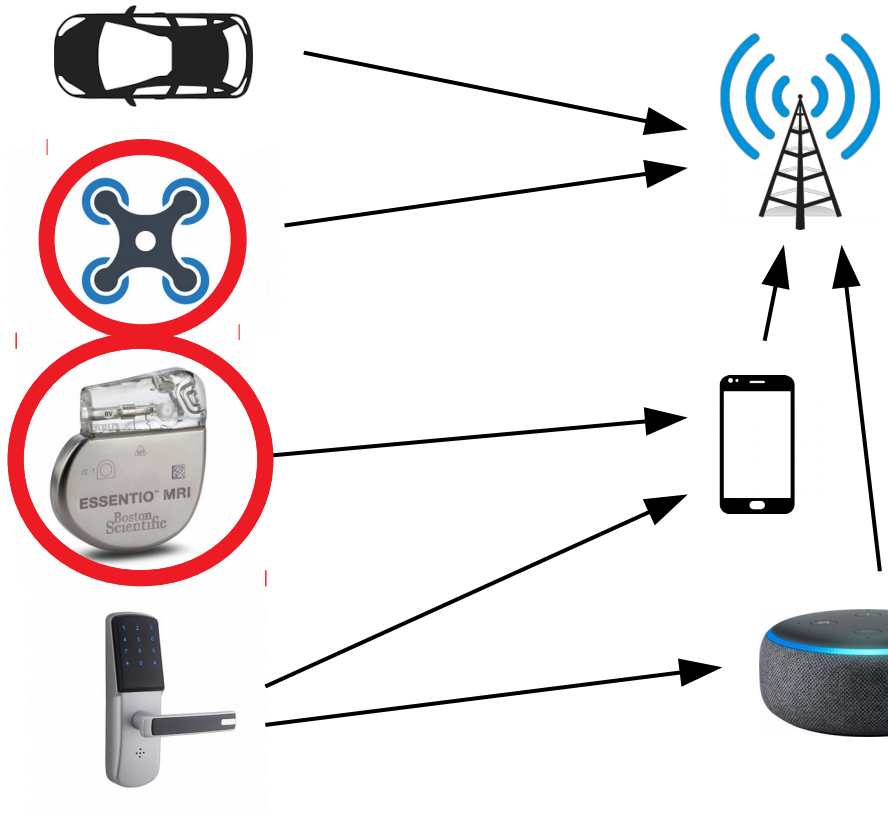
## Perspective on Sensor Attacks

- AV's sensor processing stack is complex:

```
s = kalman_filter(read_sensors([audio, GPS, IMU, ...]))  
write_actuators(pid(s, plan))
```

- How do we design systems to be resilient to attacks?
  - Better sensors
  - Redundant sensors
  - ...

# Vectors for Attack

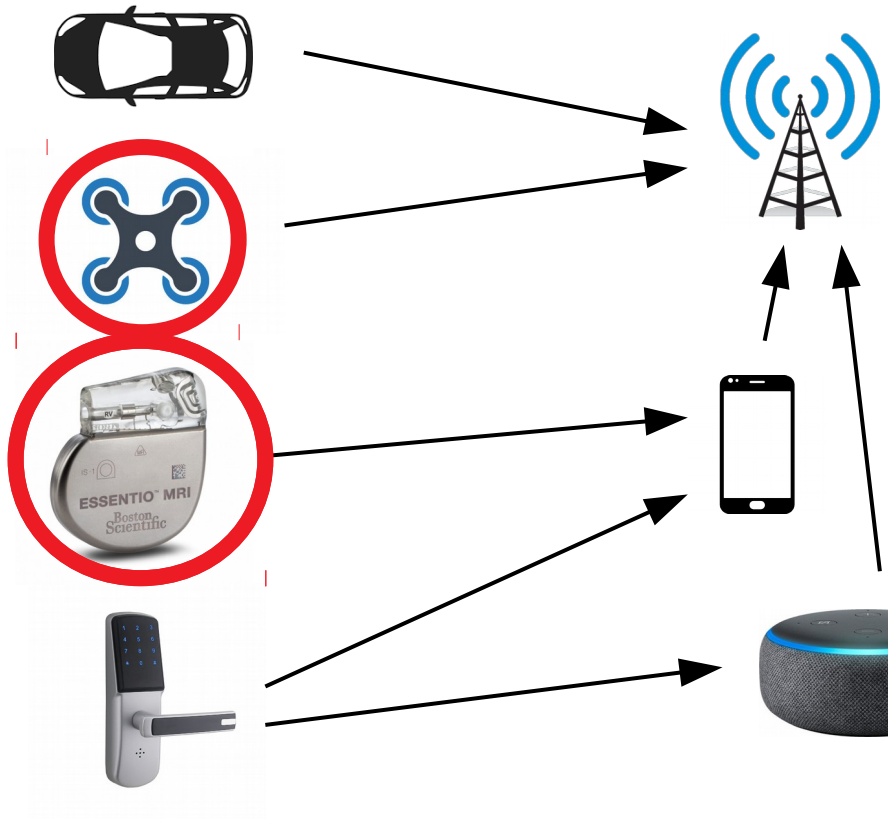


## Actuator Attacks

- StuxNet:
  - gain control of PLCs
  - send erratic commands to centrifuges
  - mask disruption
- Pacemaker: change timing of electrical signals
- Quadcopter: cause instability

*How can we try and prevent these types of attacks?*

# Vectors for Attack



## Actuator Attacks

- Rely on system model:
  - Mathematical description of system dynamics
  - Updated with new sensor information
- Predictive: used for planning/control
- Detecting: are system dynamics deviating from expected?
  - *Challenges?*

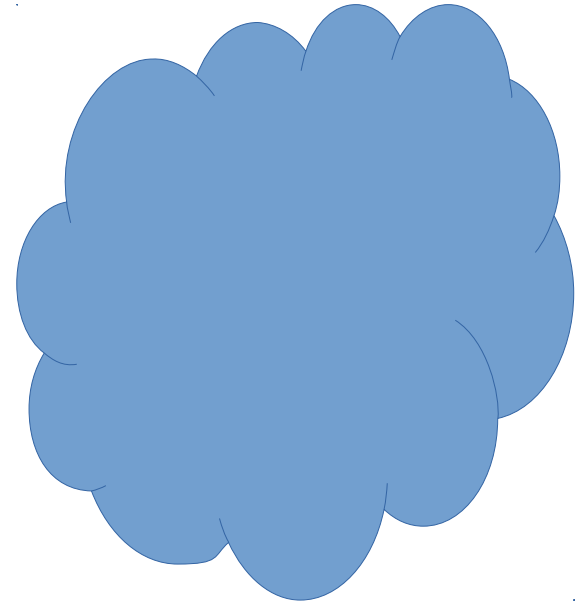
# Vectors for Attack

Impact of Trillions of devices on network infra.

- Identity? (Authentication)
- Bandwidth apocalypse?
- Encrypted comms (overhead)?
- Attestation (detect compromised devices)?



x 10 trillion



# [Sec] IIoT: Naming & Identification

<https://composite.seas.gwu.edu>

DNS

128.164.144.169

✓ Business

✓ Server

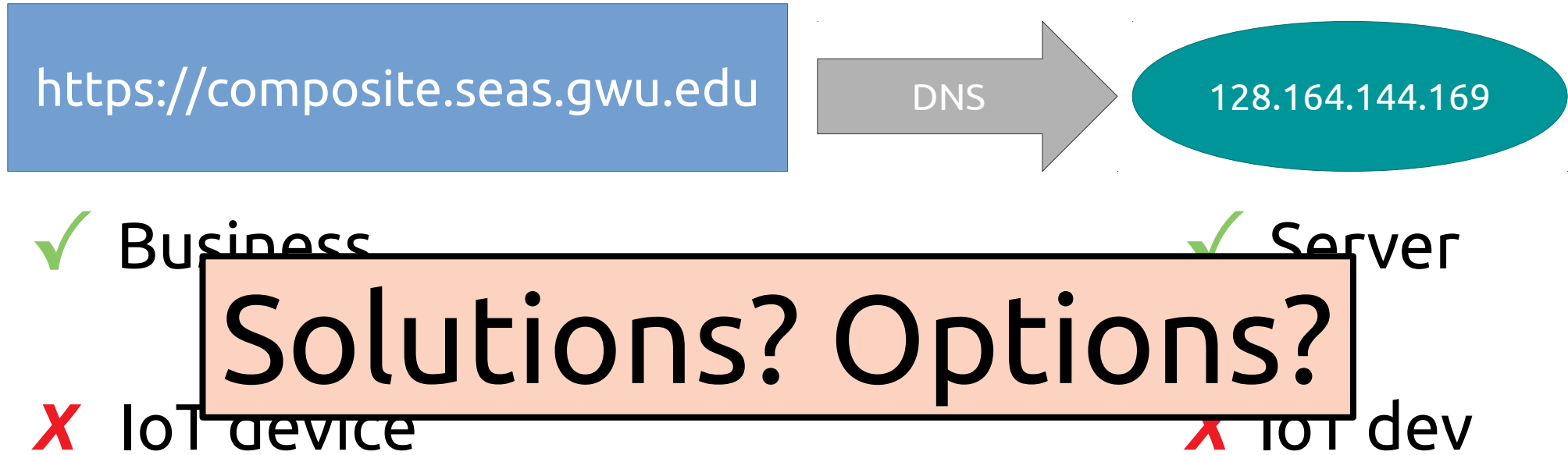
✗ IoT device

✗ IoT dev

- Billions of devs, humans → device & dev → dev



# Authentication Challenges

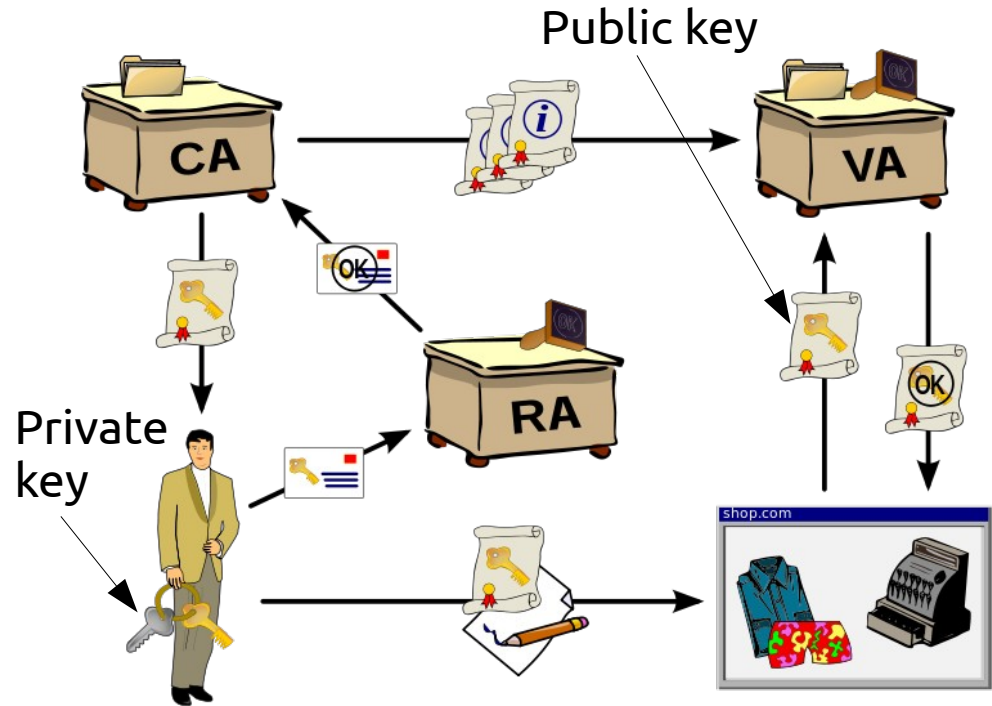


- Billions of devs, humans → device & dev → dev

# Authentication Challenges II

# Solving: Am I talking to X?

- X = business/org
- SSL/TLS  
(used in **https://...**)



CA/RA/VA =  
Certificate/Registration/Validation Authority

Image: Thanks Wikipedia!

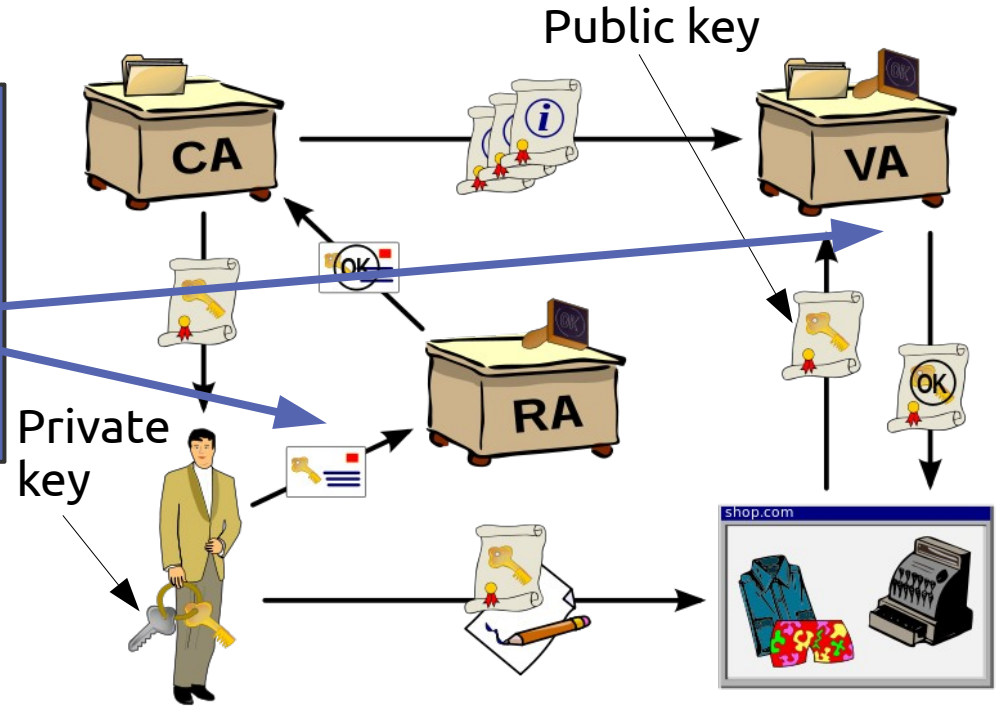
# Authentication Challenges III

## Solving:

# IoT: Trillions of devices

# Will this scale to billions of devices?

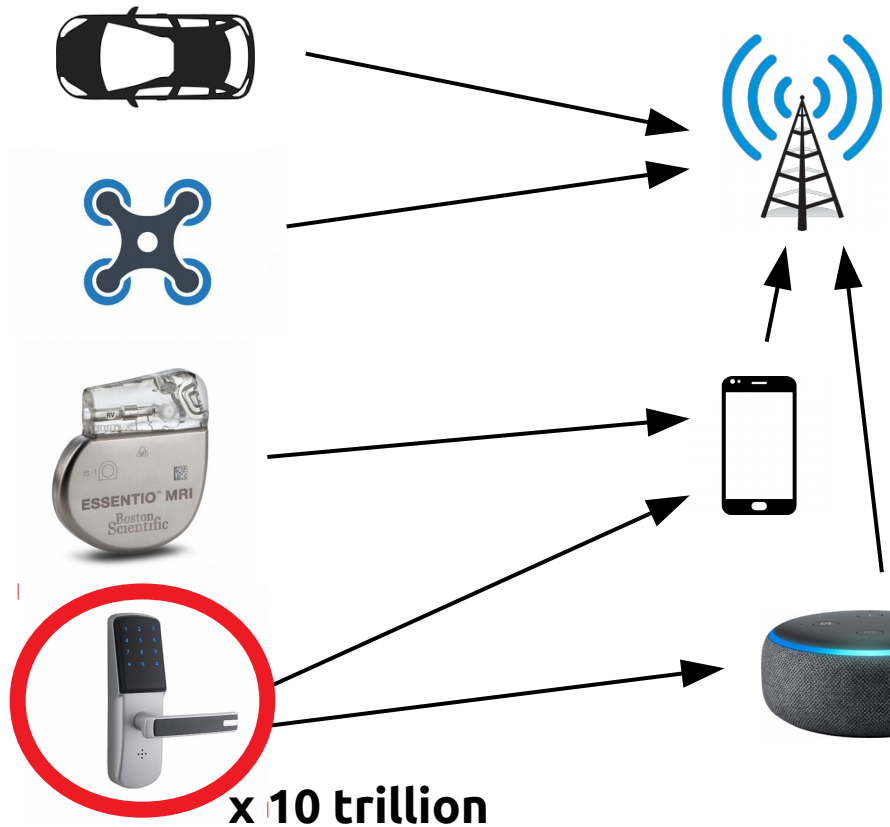
**https://...)**



CA/RA/VA =  
Certificate/Registration/Validation Authority

Image: Thanks Wikipedia!

# Vectors for Attack



## Impact of Trillions of devices

- Software update
  - Without physical access
  - With low power/intermittent net.
- Secret dissemination
  - RSA keys, passwords in plaintext in binaries
- Attestation
  - Know we're talking to a trusted program? TPM/root of trust
- "Get things done" mentality
  - Telnet accessible
  - Backdoors

# Conclusions

- CS is going in the direction of Civil/Mechanical
  - Physical safety determined by software
  - The future of liability for errors is unclear
- IoT poses new security challenges, requires new techniques
  - Scale, lack of physical access, sensors/actuators