

CS7NS5/CSU44032

Security & privacy

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(still in the spare room;-)

Course materials:

<https://down.dsg.cs.tcd.ie/cs7053/>

<https://github.com/sftcd/cs7053>

Slideware + some papers

Course Outline

- Introduction
- Security and privacy concepts
- (Enough) cryptography (AES, RSA, ...)
- (To grok) core security standards (DNS, TLS,...)
 - ...and where those are headed
- Stuff that's interesting for the last few weeks (liable to change)
 - Centralisation
 - Maybe COVID tracking apps?

Computer and Network Security is...

- ...a good thing to study (“one born every minute”, and some of those are programmers!)
- ...something with more and more impact (scaling factor is about the same as the Internet)
- ...a part of risk management

Privacy is...

- ...nowhere near as well understood
- ...an issue for people and not companies
- ...not clearly a part of risk management, but related
- I'm unsure if risk analysis is a good approach to address privacy
- I'm pretty sure "consent" is an awful model that pretends to address privacy
 - Good presentation on the problem, with IMO less good (but worth exploring) ideas on HOWTO fix
<https://datatracker.ietf.org/meeting/105/materials/slides-105-ietf-sesse-privacy-modern-concerns-steven-m-bellovin-00.pdf>

Risk Management

- Risks (bad things)
 - Disclosure of trade secrets
 - Sabotage (information or hardware)
 - Denial of service
 - Accidents (fire, flooding, earth quakes, ...)
- Solutions (not always good things)
 - Security policies and mechanisms
 - Physical security (locks, guards, CCTV, ...)
 - Formal specification/verification of software
 - Halon, UPS, off-site backups

Vulnerabilities

- Many risks arise due to the existence of vulnerabilities in computer systems
- All systems have vulnerabilities, our goal is not to remove absolutely all of them, but to control their impact
 - Reducing numbers is good
 - Can also isolate parts of the system (e.g. Firewalling)

Vulnerabilities

- Most common:
 - Scripting user agents
 - Buffer overruns
 - XSS & Injection (e.g. SQL injection)
 - <https://owasp.org/www-community/attacks/xss/>
 - Insecure default settings
- Uncommon, but interesting:
 - Acoustic side-channel key extraction,
 - Genkin, Shamir & Tromer
 - <https://eprint.iacr.org/2013/857.pdf>



Figure 6: Parabolic microphone (same as in Figure 5), attached to the portable measurement setup (in a padded briefcase), attacking a target laptop from a distance of 4 meters. Full key extraction is possible in this configuration and distance (see Section 5.4).

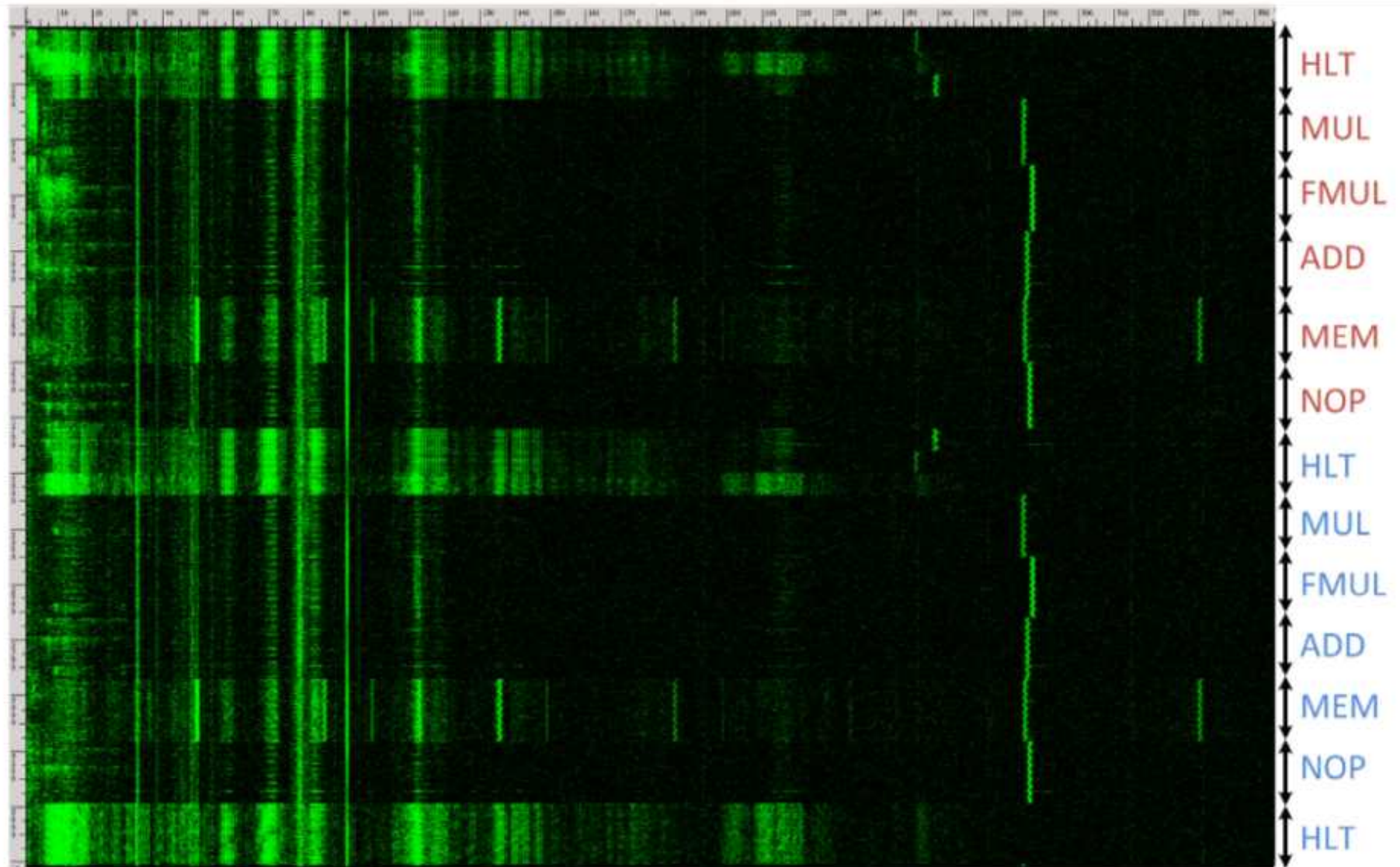


Figure 7: Acoustic measurement frequency spectrogram of a recording of different CPU operations using the Brüel&Kjær 4939 microphone capsule. The horizontal axis is frequency (0–310kHz), the vertical axis is time (3.7sec), and intensity is proportional to the instantaneous energy in that frequency band.

Good/Bad Actors

- Systems have users
 - Normal, administrative, “root”
- Networks have nodes
 - “Inside”, “outside”, trusted...
- Attackers
 - Can be one of the above, or not...
 - Hijacked ISP router, compromised SIM card factory, bot etc.

Possible Bad Actors

- Disgruntled employees (*plenty*)
- Crackers (*hackers*)
- Script-Kiddies (*cracker wannabes*)
- Spies (*industrial and military*)
- Criminals (*thieves, organized crime*)
- Terrorists
- Governments
- Bait'n'switchers

Possible Exploits

- Force legitimate user to reveal passwords
- Social engineering
- Recruit legitimate user
- Sabotage (*fire, electricity, ...*)
- Sifting through garbage
- Attacking the network (*network threats*)
- Install malware

Active/Passive Attacks

- Active attacks
 - Fabrication, modification, deletion, replay of messages
- Passive attacks
 - eavesdropping/traffic analysis
 - can be off-line (e.g. if weak encryption)
- Different protocol mechanisms are used to counter these

Risk Analysis Process

Many variations exist, mostly they resemble:

- Identify assets
- Identify risks and vulnerabilities
- Consider probabilities
- Consider consequent costs/losses
- Rank risks
- Develop mitigation(s) for highest ranked risk(s)
- Iterate, until effort exhausted or time up
 - All the time recording what you've done

Summing up risk

- Risk is a function of the cost of threats and their probability of occurrence
 - Which function can be debated
 - High/Medium/Low
 - For both costs and probabilities
- Threats occur when a vulnerability is exploited

A cyber-warning

- With few exceptions people who say cyber-blah have little or no clue
 - Or feel forced to succumb to “the market”
- Cyber-foo is a marketing term for almost all foo
 - Avoid using it
 - When you hear it, be suspicious

Privacy

- Less well understood than security
- Who cares? About what?
 - Governments, marketers and large corporates do “care deeply” about your (lack of) privacy
- How can system devs protect that?
 - Encrypt things in transit and storage
 - Short-lived dynamic identifiers are better than long-lived static identifiers
 - Just don't (require) identification

How can you help yourself?

- Don't create more accounts?
- Your idea here?