



The Aerospace Corporation
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Protecting Space Systems from Cyber Attack

<https://aerospacecorp.medium.com/protecting-space-systems-from-cyber-attack-3db773aff368>

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Hacking Spacecraft using Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis

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Papers:

- [Defending Spacecraft in the Cyber Domain](#)
- [Establishing Space Cybersecurity Policy, Standards, & Risk Management Practices](#)
- [Cybersecurity Protections for Spacecraft: A Threat Based Approach](#)
- [Protecting Space Systems from Cyber Attack](#)

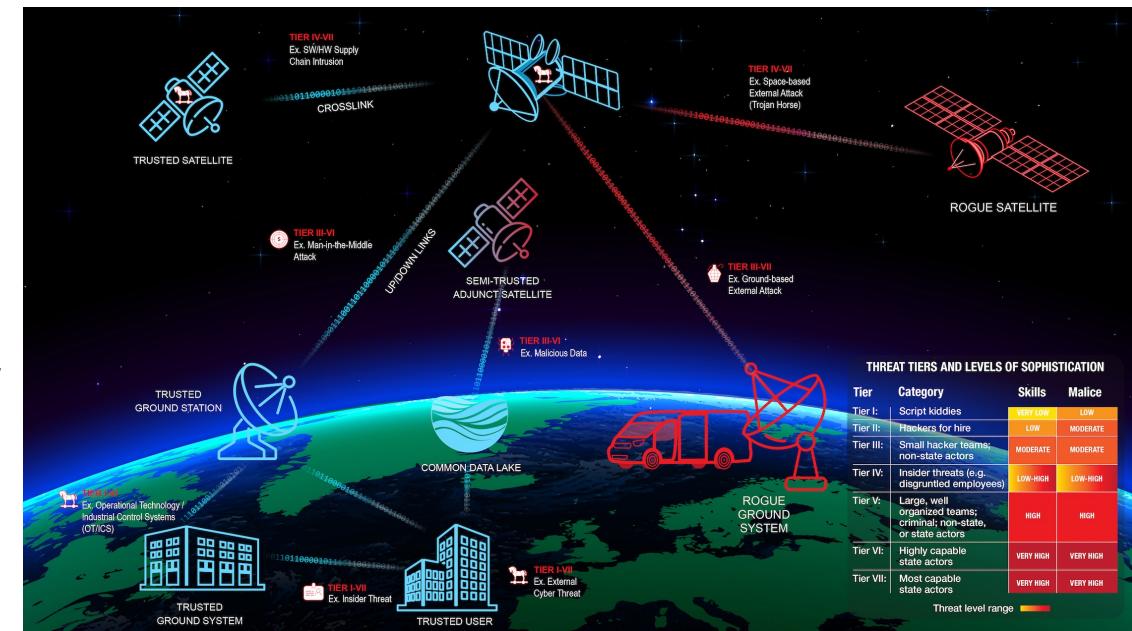
Presentations:

- [DEF CON 2020: Exploiting Spacecraft](#)
- [DEF CON 2021: Unboxing the Spacecraft Software BlackBox Hunting for Vulnerabilities](#)
- [DEF CON 2022: Hunting for Spacecraft Zero Days using Digital Twins](#)

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The Cybersecurity in Space Problem

- Traditional spacecraft/payload architectures, sub-systems, and supply chains were developed before current cyber threats were envisioned
- Traditionally, cybersecurity for DoD, civilian and commercial space systems has concentrated on the ground segment with minimal, if any, cyber protections onboard the SV/payload
 - *Encryption/Authentication, TRANSEC, COMSEC, and TEMPEST are typically the only controls (if any)*
- Aerospace is helping lead advancement in cybersecurity for the spacecraft and ground systems
 - *Many articles/publications identify problems, but few are solutions oriented*
 - Aerospace has had concerted effort on publishing information publicly to inform commercial & gov space sector
 - *One area is helping customers define the “right” requirements*
 - Defining the requirements using threats / tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) vice compliance requirements (ISO/RMF baselines generated for traditional IT)
 - [TOR 2021-01333 REV A](#) and now [SPARTA](#) provide resources to managers/developers/etc. to implement countermeasures to reduce cyber risk for space systems



*blue lines indicate normal expected communications/access
red lines indicate communications from adversary's infrastructure directly*

By defining the right cyber requirements/countermeasures, customers will be able reduce cyber risk for the space system



Example Cyber Incidents Against Space Systems

1. [SPACE: Cybersecurity's Final Frontier, London Cybersecurity Report, June 2015.](#)
2. [Black Hat 2020: Satellite Comms Globally Open to \\$300 Eavesdropping Hack, Threatpost, Aug. 2020](#)
3. [Turla APT Group Abusing Satellite Internet Links, Threatpost, Sep. 2015](#)
4. [Network Security Breaches Plague NASA, Bloomberg, Nov 2008](#)
5. [Hackers Seized Control of Computers in NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, WIRED, Mar. 2012](#)
6. [UT Austin Radio Radionavigation Laboratory](#)
7. [2019 NASA OIG Report](#)
8. [Cyber security in New Space](#)



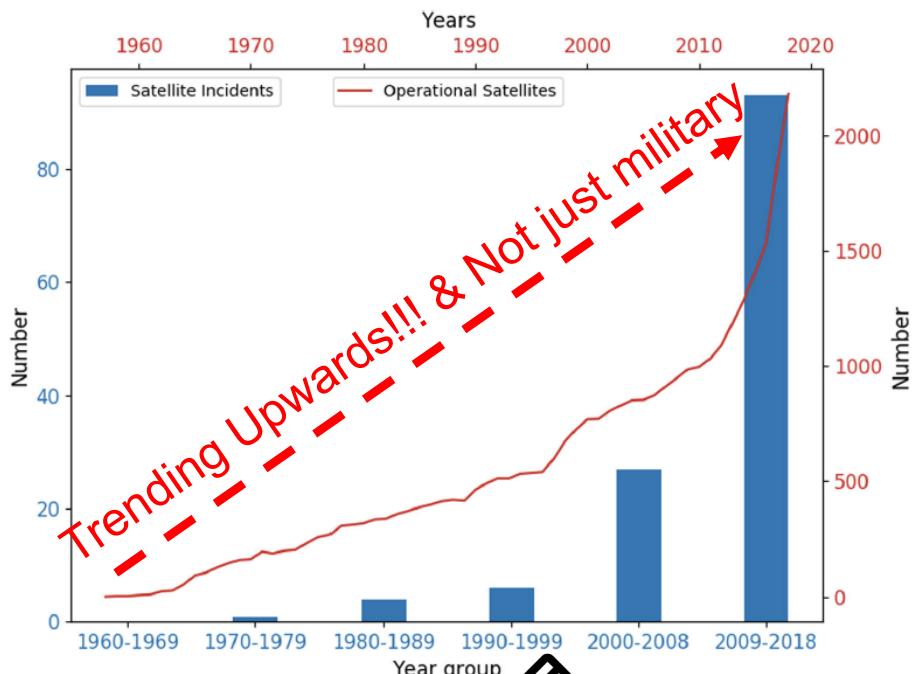
April 2005⁴: A rogue program penetrated NASA KSC networks, surreptitiously gathered data from computers in the Vehicle Assembly Building and removed that data through covert channels.

2011⁵: Cybercriminals managed to compromise the accounts of about 150 most privileged JPL users.

2018⁷: Weaknesses in JPL's system of security controls exploited; attacker moved undetected within multiple internal networks for about 10 months

Cyber security in New Space

Fig. 6 Number of satellites attacks per year group is plotted on the bottom and left axes, and the number of operational satellites between 1958 and 2018 is plotted on the top and right axes



Since 2007³ several elite APT groups have been using — and abusing — satellite links to manage their operations — most often, their C&C infrastructure, for example, Turla.

Black Hat 2020²: Eavesdropping on Sat ISPs. Basically, ISP not protecting their links and it can be picked up easily.



June/July 2008¹: Terra EOS AM-1/Landsat-7, attempted satellite hijacking, hackers achieved all steps for remote command of satellite.

2013-2014⁶: UT Austin Radio-Navigation Lab conducts GPS spoofing for UAV control and navigation interruption.

Attacks/TTPs

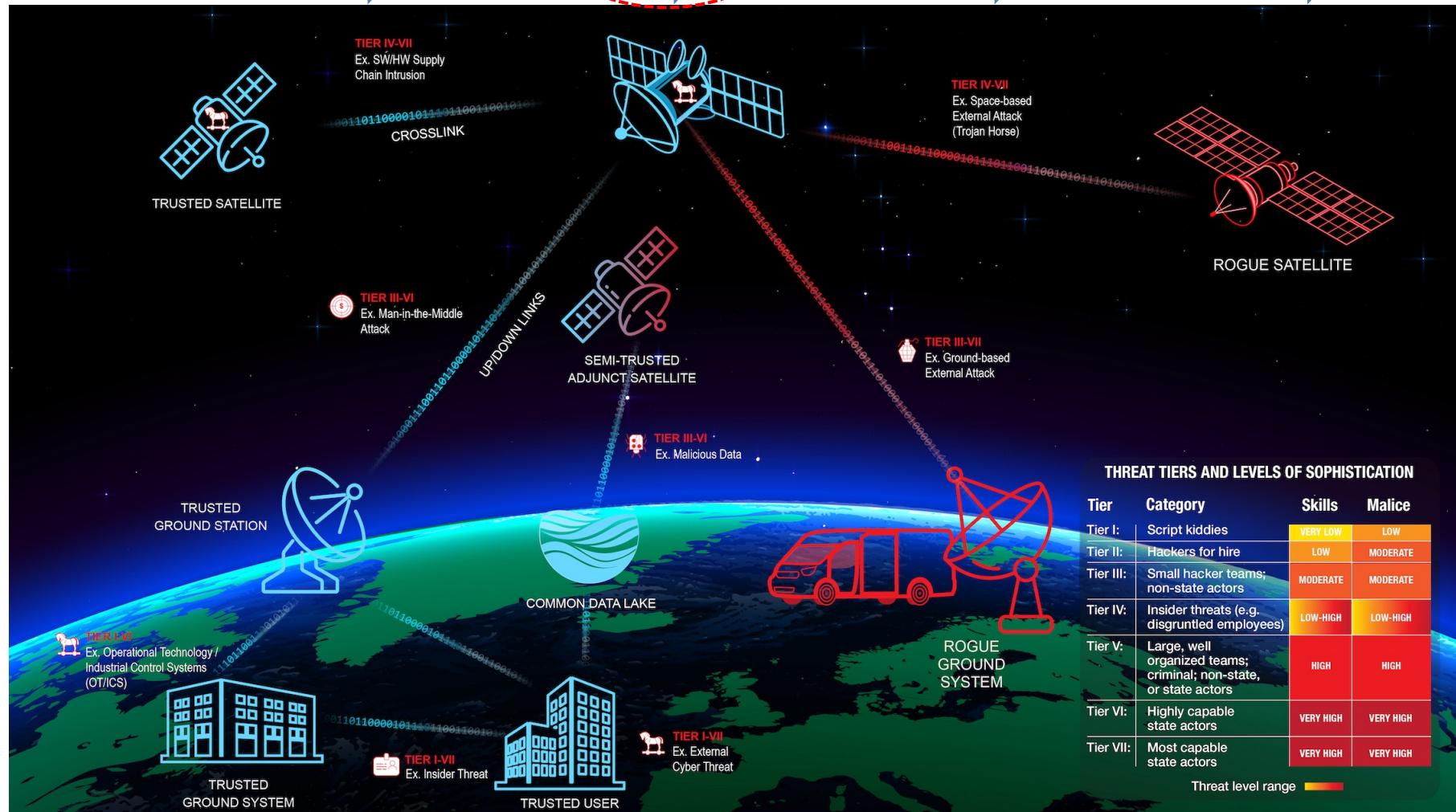
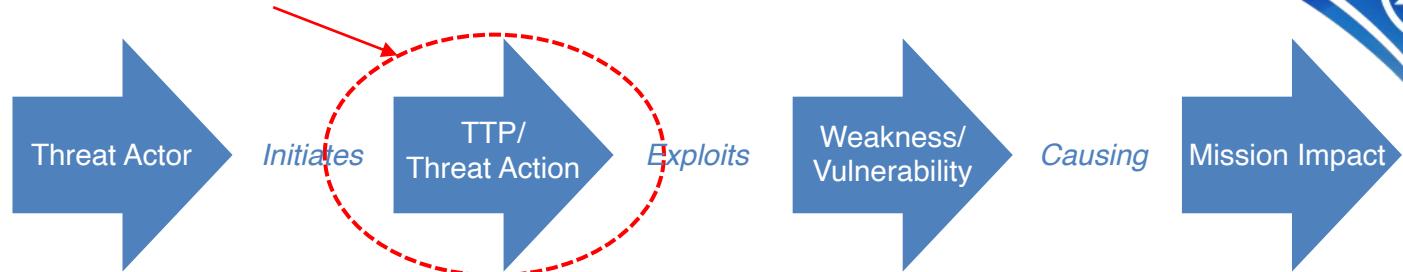
Problem Statement: Where are these documented for space and how do you mitigate?

SPD-5¹ defines “Space System” as “a combination of systems, to include ground systems, sensor networks, and one or more space vehicles, that provides a space-based service.”

SPD-5¹ states *Protection against unauthorized access to critical space vehicle functions*. This should include safeguarding command, control, and telemetry links using effective and validated authentication or encryption measures designed to remain secure against existing and anticipated threats during the entire mission lifetime

Attacks / TTPs can occur across all segments within a space system {i.e., ground, link, and space} to achieve the desired impact for the threat actor

TTP= Tactics, Techniques, & Procedures





Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis (SPARTA) – Launched Oct 2022

Filling the TTP Gap for Space

- Cybersecurity matrices are industry-standard tools and approaches for commercial and government users to navigate rapidly evolving cyber threats and vulnerabilities and outpace cyber threats
 - *They provide a critical knowledge base of adversary behaviors*
 - *Framework for adversarial actions across the attack lifecycle with applicable countermeasures*
- Current cybersecurity matrices (including [MITRE ATT&CK](#)) are limited to ground systems which lead to a gap!
- Aerospace's SPARTA is the first-of-its-kind body of knowledge on cybersecurity protections for spacecraft and space systems, filling a critical vulnerability gap exists for the U.S. space enterprise

Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis (SPARTA)									
Reconnaissance		Resource Development		Initial Access		Execution		Persistence	
9 techniques		4 techniques		12 techniques		15 techniques		4 techniques	
Gather Spacecraft Design Information (9)		Acquire Infrastructure (3)		Compromise Supply Chain (3)		Replay (2)		Memory Compromise (0)	
Gather Spacecraft Descriptors (3)		Compromise Infrastructure (3)		Compromise Software Defined Radio (0)		Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Geofencing (0)		Disable Fault Management (0)	
Gather Spacecraft Communications Information (2)		Obtain Capabilities (2)		Crosslink via Compromised Neighbor (0)		Backdoor (2)		Prevent Downlink (3)	
Gather Launch Information (1)		Stage Capabilities (2)		Secondary/Backup Communication Channel (2)		Ground System Presence (0)		Modify On-Board Values (12)	
Eavesdropping (3)				Rendezvous & Proximity Operations (3)		Replace Cryptographic Keys (0)		Masquerading (0)	
				Exploit Hardware/Firmware Corruption (2)		Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe Mode (0)		Visiting Vehicle Interface(s) (0)	
				Compromise Hosted Payload (m)		Disable/Bypass Encryption (0)		Out-of-Band Communications Link (0)	
Impact									
6 techniques									
Deception (or Misdirection) (0)									
Disruption (0)									
Denial (0)									
Degradation (0)									

SPARTA provides unclassified information to space professionals about how spacecraft may be compromised

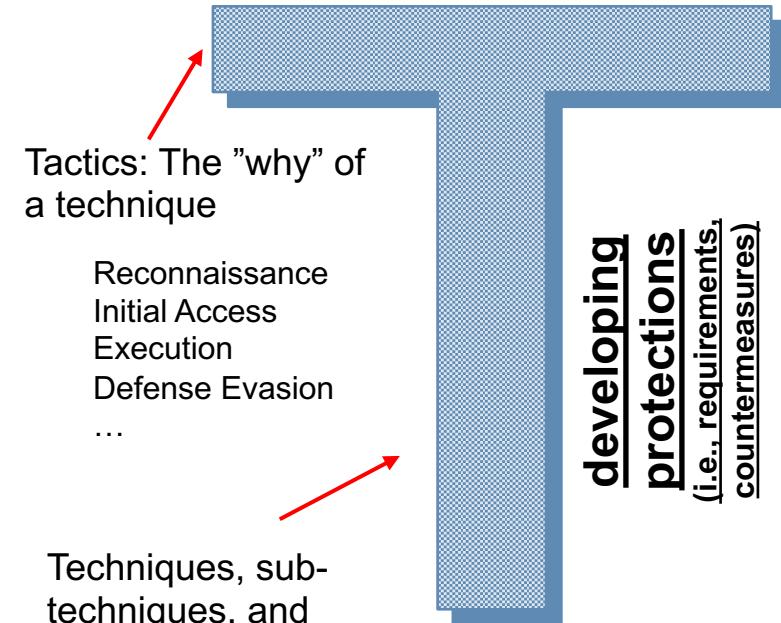


Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis (SPARTA)

An evolution of Aerospace's technical insight in cybersecurity

- SPARTA has resulted from consistent technical insight from Aerospace's Cybersecurity and Advanced Platforms Subdivision (CAPS) across the space enterprise
 - 2019: [Defending Spacecraft in the Cyber Domain](#) (CSPS Paper)
 - 2020: [Establishing Space Cybersecurity Policy, Standards, & Risk Management Practices](#) (published in response to SPD-5)
 - 2020 | 2021 | 2022: DefCon Talks at [Aerospace Village](#)
 - 2021: [Cybersecurity Protections for Spacecraft: A Threat based Approach](#) (release TOR 2021-01333 REV A)
 - 2022: [Protecting Space Systems from Cyber Attack](#) (Medium/1MSF)
- SPARTA leverages cybersecurity industry-standard approaches to communicate 3+ years of Aerospace's work to our customers on one of their hardest problems (cyber)

understanding the threat



Enabling space enterprise resiliency through a wealth of cyber knowledge via a publicly releasable tool



Building Spacecraft Attack Chains



Blast from the Past

- Replay Attack from DefCon 2020
- Memory Injection Attack DefCon 2022

New Attacks

- Supply Chain Attack – Time bomb that executes command sequence 30 secs after boot
- Reaction Wheel Attack – Sending commands from rogue ground station due to no auth/encryption

Theoretical Attack Chain in Backup

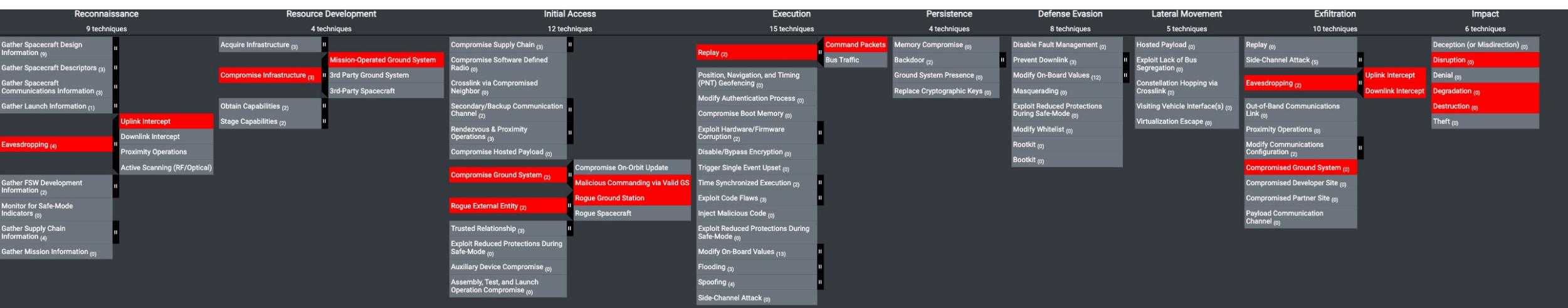
- PCspooF

Example Attack Chains from the Past

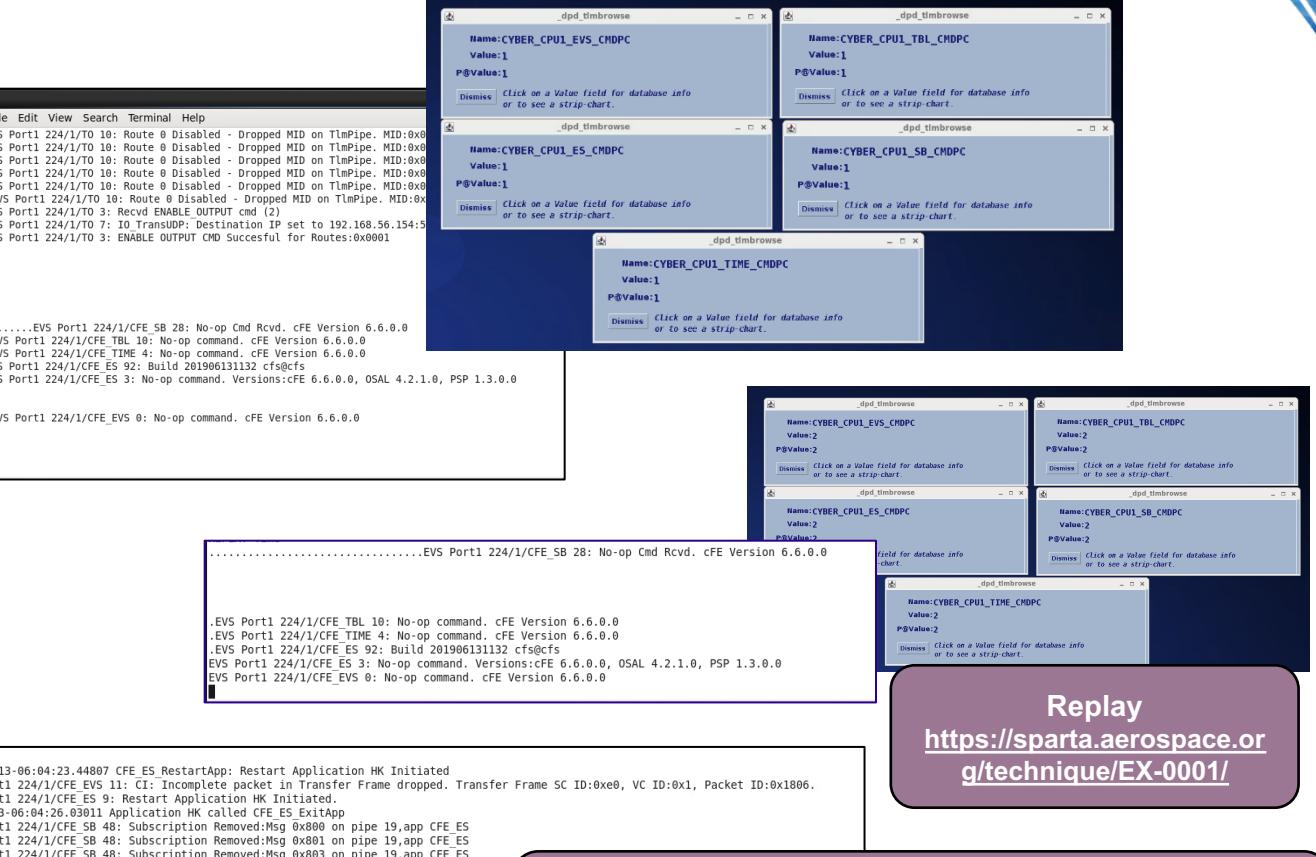
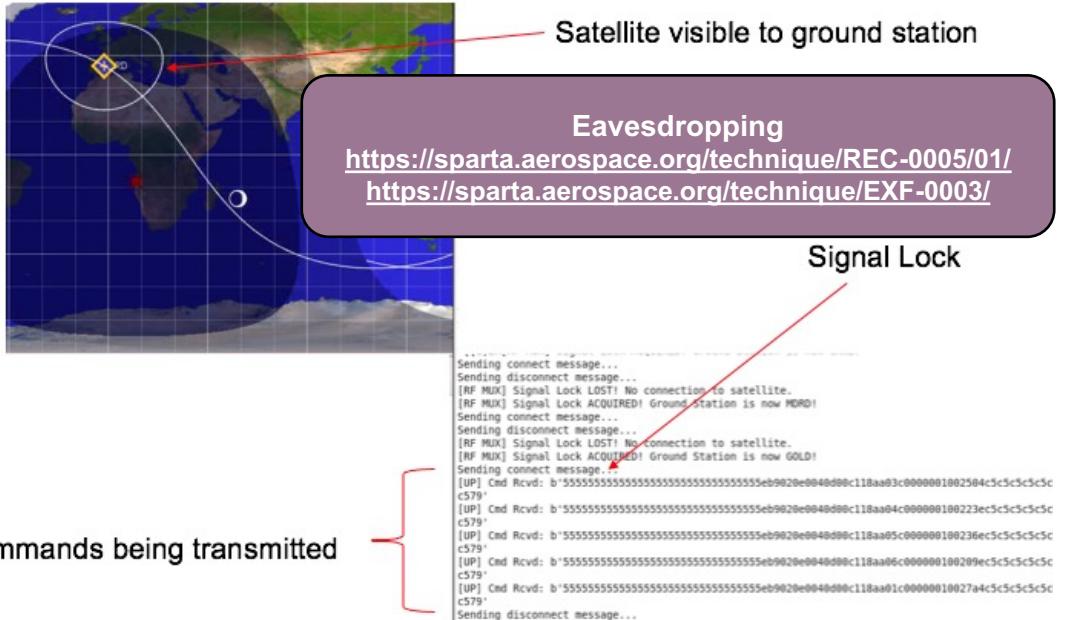
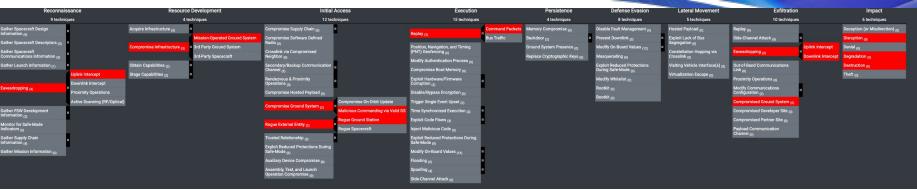


DefCon 2020 – Exploiting Spacecraft Example (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8QWNiqTx1c>)

Attacker performs a man-in-the-middle attack at the ground station where they record command packets in the UDP traffic [REC-0005, RD-0005.01] for replaying to the spacecraft [EX-0001.01]. In this example UDP mimics the radio frequency link. This same attack could be applied through RF signal sniffing [REC-0005.01, IA-0008.01] vice UDP captures. From the spacecraft perspective, the flight software processes the traffic whether or not the traffic is coded to radio frequency signals and then decoded on the spacecraft. Upon receiving commands, the spacecraft flight software responds by downlinking command counter data to the ground indicating that commands were received [EXF-0003.02]. In this scenario, the attacker collected the commands at the ground station [EXF-0003.01, EXF-0007] and then promptly replay the traffic to the spacecraft [EX-0001.01] thereby causing the flight software to reprocess the commands again [EX-0001]. This would be visible in the downlinked command counters [REC-0005.02, EXF-0003.02] and unless the ground operators are monitoring specific telemetry points, this attack would likely go unnoticed. If the replayed commands were considered critical commands like firing thrusters, then more critical impact on the spacecraft could be encountered [IMP-0002, IMP-0004, IMP-0005].



Replay Attack & Command Link Intrusion



Replay
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0001/>

Example SPARTA Countermeasures

Countermeasures		
ID	Name	Description
CM0002	COMSEC	A component of cybersecurity to deny unauthorized persons information derived from telecommunications and to ensure the authenticity of such telecommunications. COMSEC includes cryptographic security, transmission security, emissions security, and physical security of COMSEC material. It is imperative to utilize secure communication protocols with strong cryptographic mechanisms to prevent unauthorized disclosure of, and detect changes to, information during transmission. Systems should also maintain the confidentiality and integrity of information during preparation for transmission and during reception. Spacecraft should not employ a mode of operations where cryptography on the TT&C link can be disabled (i.e., crypto-bypass mode). The cryptographic mechanisms should identify and reject wireless transmissions that are deliberate attempts to achieve imitative or manipulative communications deception based on signal parameters.
CM0031	Authentication	Authenticate all communication sessions (crosslink and ground stations) for all commands before establishing remote connections using bidirectional authentication that is cryptographically based. Adding authentication on the spacecraft bus and communications on-board the spacecraft is also recommended.
CM0033	Relay Protection	Implement relay and replay-resistant authentication mechanisms for establishing a remote connection or connections on the spacecraft bus.

1970-013-06:04:23.44007 CFE_ES RestartApp: Restart Application HK Initiated
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_ES 11: CI: Incomplete packet in Transfer Frame dropped. Transfer Frame SC ID:0xe0, VC ID:0x1, Packet ID:0x1806.
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_ES 9: Restart Application HK Initiated
970-013-06:04:26.43034 Application HK called CFE_ES ExitApp
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 48: Subscription Removed:Msg 0x800 on pipe 19, app CFE_ES
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 48: Subscription Removed:Msg 0x801 on pipe 19, app CFE_ES
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 48: Subscription Removed:Msg 0x803 on pipe 19, app CFE_ES
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 48: Subscription Removed:Msg 0x805 on pipe 19, app CFE_ES
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 48: Subscription Removed:Msg 0x819a on pipe 19, app CFE_ES
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 48: Subscription Removed:Msg 0x819b on pipe 19, app CFE_ES
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 48: Pipe Deleted:id 19, owner H.S_IDLE_TASK
970-013-06:04:26.43034 ES Startup: HK loaded and created.
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_ES 10: Restart Application HK Completed.
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 5: Pipe Created:name HK_CMD_PIPE,id 19,app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x189c on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x1899 on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x189a on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x189b on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_TBL 35: Successfully loaded 'HK_CopyTable' from '/cf/hk_cpy_tbl.tbl'
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x801 on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x805 on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x803 on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x800 on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/CFE_SB 10: Subscription Rcvd:MsgId 0x804 on HK_CMD_PIPE(19),app HK
VS Port1 224/1/HK 1: HK Initialized. Version 2.4.0.0

Command Link Intrusion from Ground
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IA-0007/>
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IA-0008/01/>

Disrupt/Degradation

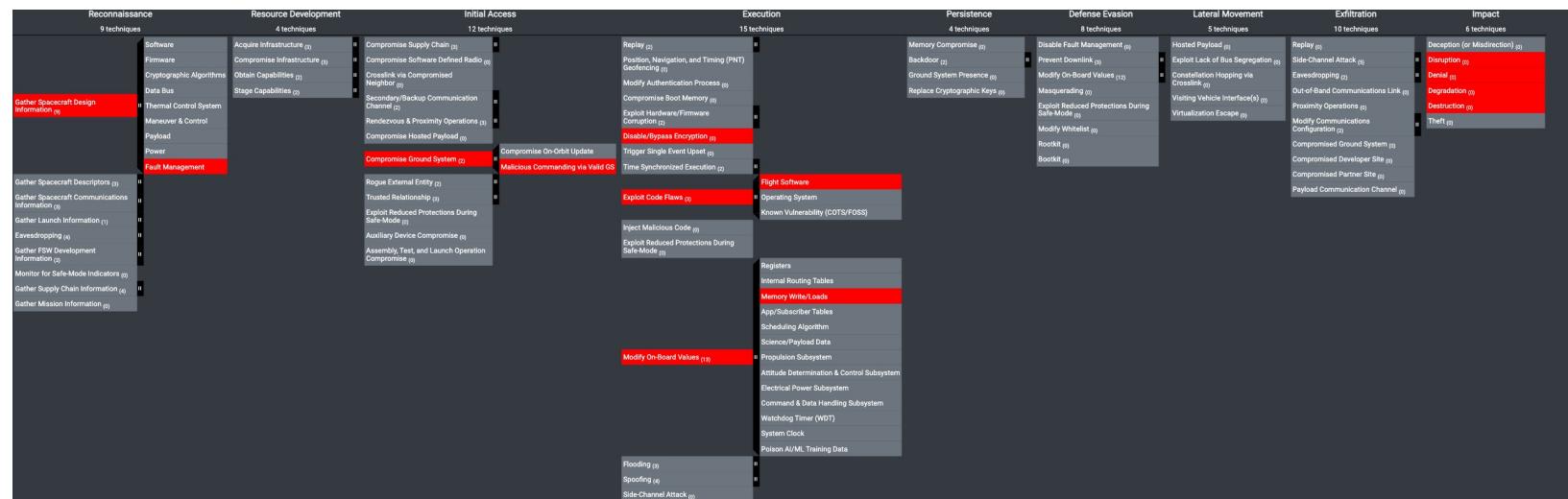
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0002/>
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0004/>

DefCon 2022 - Memory Manipulation Attack (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_efCpd2PbM)

This example requires significant effort in the reconnaissance phase [REC-0001, REC-0003] to understand the specific attack vectors. However, after understanding the memory maps/locations and how the VxWorks and PowerPC interrelates, the attack can be performed to disrupt [IMP-0002] and deny [IMP-0003] the spacecraft's ability to process information. Upon performing all the necessary research, a single command packet is all that is required to affect the spacecraft. Understanding the precise memory location and overwriting it with desired values, exploits the inherit trust between the ground and the spacecraft [IA-0009].

In this exploit example, the attacker leverages the authenticated/encrypted command pathway to send two commands to the spacecraft [IA-0007.02, EX-0006]. A simple NO-OP for demonstration purposes followed by a “magic packet” or “kill-pill” that corrupts the running state of the PowerPC processor thereby disabling the spacecraft’s ability to process information. The below figure shows redacted information to remove the actual corrupting content, but the “vxworks!” is essentially the kernel throwing a panic and crashing. This is where having direct memory access [EX-0012.03] via the spacecraft flight software can be dangerous and must be protected [EX-0009.01]. There are many instances where the ground can issue legitimate commands to degrade/deny/destroy

[IMP-0004, IMP-0003, IMP-0005] the spacecraft which puts pressure on fault management to account for this truth [REC-0001.09].





Fuzzing Memory Addresses

Lots of Trial and Error

- Hardware design documentation reveals “features” of hardware design
 - Can these features be leveraged for nefarious purposes?*
 - Creating faults, abusing functions, etc. from design docs are common TTPs when performing aggression on spacecraft technology
- Lots of debugging and reverse engineering later
 - Setting breakpoints, working with registers, memory regions, etc.*
 - Digital twins come in extremely handy during this research
 - See: Hunting for Spacecraft Zero Days using Digital Twins*
 - Triggering exceptions and understanding what they mean*

```
Sending garbage to 0x:
Exception occurred!
    PowerPC Exception 6: Alignment Exception
        Error Code: 262144
Exception occurred!
    PowerPC Exception 7: Program Exception
        Error Code: 0
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x:
Exception occurred!
    PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
        Error Code: 0
Exception occurred!
    PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
        Error Code: 0
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x:
Exception occurred!
    PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
        Error Code: 0
Exception occurred!
    PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
        Error Code: 0
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x:
```

Exception Type	Vector Offset (hex)	Causing Conditions
Reserved	00000	—
System reset	00100	The causes of system reset exceptions are implementation-dependent. If the conditions that cause the exception also cause the processor state to be corrupted such that the contents of SRR0 and SRR1 are no longer valid or such that other processor resources are so corrupted that the processor cannot reliably resume execution, the copy of the R1 bit copied from the MSR to SRR1 is cleared.
Machine check	00200	The causes for machine check exceptions are implementation-dependent, but typically these causes are related to conditions such as bus parity errors or attempting to access an invalid physical address. Typically, these exceptions are triggered by an input signal to the processor. Note that not all processors provide the same level of error checking. The machine check exception is disabled when MSR(ME) = 0. If a machine check exception condition exists and the ME bit is cleared, the processor goes into the checkpoint state. If the conditions that cause the exception also cause the processor state to be corrupted such that the contents of SRR0 and SRR1 are no longer valid or such that other processor resources are so corrupted that the processor cannot reliably resume execution, the copy of the R1 bit written from the MSR to SRR1 is cleared. (Note that physical address is referred to as real address in the architecture specification.)
DSI	00300	A DSI exception occurs when a data memory access cannot be performed for any of the reasons described in Section 6.4.3, “DSI Exception (0x0300).” Such accesses can be generated by load/store instructions, certain memory control instructions, and certain cache control instructions.
ISI	00400	An ISI exception occurs when an instruction fetch cannot be performed for a variety of reasons described in Section 6.4.4, “ISI Exception (0x0400).”
External interrupt	00500	An external interrupt is generated only when an external interrupt is pending (typically signalled by a signal defined by the implementation) and the interrupt is enabled (MSR(EE) = 1).
Alignment	00600	An alignment exception may occur when the processor cannot perform a memory access for reasons described in Section 6.4.6, “Alignment Exception (0x0600).” Note that an implementation is allowed to perform the operation correctly and not cause an alignment exception.

https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/MPCFPE_AD_R1.pdf

```
Sending garbage to 0x3
KI2LoadVMBookmark() result: True
b'FED123$\xa4'
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x3 ...
KI2LoadVMBookmark() result: True
b'FED123$|'
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x3|
KI2LoadVMBookmark() result: True
b'FED123$`'
Exception occurred!
    Exception type: 1
Exception occurred!
    Exception type: 1
Timeout occurred!
```

```
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Exception occurred!
    Exception type: 1
Timeout occurred!
```

```
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
```

Manually Invoking Crash – Post Fuzzing

Confirming Input Results Provides Desired Reaction

File View VM Debug Tools Help

ppc750

EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19bd, sender SCH LAB
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19b5, sender SCH LAB
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19b6, sender SCH LAB
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19bc, sender SCH LAB
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19bd, sender SCH LAB
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19b5, sender SCH LAB
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19b6, sender SCH LAB
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19bc, sender SCH LAB
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19bd, sender SCH LAB

Processes

Name	ID	User
tJobTask	3349920	0
tLogTask	3366480	0
tNbioLog	3381392	0
tErfTask	3396960	0
tNetTask	3484496	0
tFtp6d	4862480	0

Console

```
39199102 instructions per second
r0=0 r1=0 r2=0 r3=0 r4=0 r5=0
r6=0 r7=ff r8=0 r9=0 r10=0 r11=0
r12=0 r13=0 r14=0 r15=0 r16=0 r17=0
r18=0 r19=0 r20=0 r21=0 r22=0 r23=0
r24=0 r25=0 r26=0 r27=0 r28=0 r29=0
r30=0 r31=0 lr=0 ctr=0 cr=2 xer=20
nip=00000000 instrctr=00000000 bb
Current PID=78 TID=7 (tNetTask)
vxworks!i...
00000000 ff ff ff ???
** Program nip=00000000 (ctr=00000000) **
1 instructions per second
r0=0 r1=0 r2=0 r3=0 r4=0 r5=0
r6=0 r7=0 r8=0 r9=0 r10=0 r11=0
r12=0 r13=0 r14=0 r15=0 r16=0 r17=0
r18=0 r19=0 r20=0 r21=0 r22=0 r23=0
```

enter debugger commands here

Enter Clear Output Toggle Color Scroll Unlink

Initiating the Crash from the Ground

Mapping the TTPs

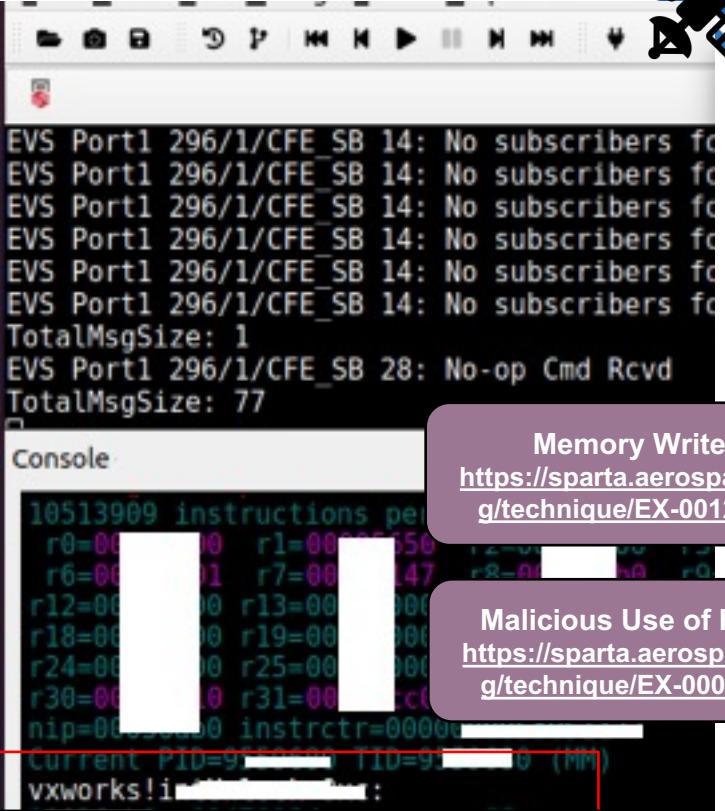
- Sending No-Op followed by Magic Packet to crash the spacecraft processor
 - *This is where having direct memory access via the spacecraft FSW can be dangerous and must be protected*
 - The inherit trust between ground systems and spacecraft MUST be accounted for and better protections on-board the spacecraft are necessary moving forward
 - *Too many instances where the ground can issue legitimate commands to degrade/deny/destroy the spacecraft*
 - Must extend fault management to account for this truth

```
aerospace@dejavm:~$ python3 sendpacket.py
Sending b'1803c00000010025'
Sending b'1888c00000
0000000000000000.....00
aerospace@dejavm:~$
```



Ground System SW

Command from Ground
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IA-0007/02/>



EVS Port1 296/1/CFE SB 14: No subscribers fo
TotalMsgSize: 1
EVS Port1 296/1/CFE_SB 28: No-op Cmd Rcvd
TotalMsgSize: 77

Console

10513909 instructions per cycle
r0=00000000 r1=00000056
r6=00000001 r7=00000047
r12=00000000 r13=00000000
r18=00000000 r19=00000000
r24=00000000 r25=00000000
r30=00000000 r31=00000000
nip=00000000 instrctr=00000000
Current PID=9[REDACTED] TID=9[REDACTED] 0 (TM)
vxworks!i[REDACTED]:

Memory Write
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0012/03/>

Malicious Use of FSW
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0009/01/>

Disrupt/Denial
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0002/>
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0003/>

Example SPARTA Countermeasures

ID	Name	Description	NIST Rev5
CM0069	Process Whitelisting	Simple process ID whitelisting on the firmware level could impede attackers from instigating unnecessary processes which could impact the spacecraft	CM-7(5) SI-10(5)
CM0032	On-board Intrusion Detection & Prevention	Utilize on-board intrusion detection/prevention system that monitors the mission critical components or systems and audit/logs actions. The IDS/IPS should have the capability to respond to threats (initial access, exfiltration, persistence, evasion, exfiltration, etc.) and it should address signature-based attacks along with dynamic never-before-seen attacks using machine learning/adaptive technologies. The IDS/IPS must integrate with traditional fault management to provide a holistic approach to faults on-board the spacecraft. Spacecraft should select and execute safe countermeasures against cyber-attacks. These countermeasures are a ready supply of options to triage against the specific types of attack and mission priorities. Additionally, these should be continuously updated to defend against new threats as they emerge. Identifying and responding to these threats is key to success, and trace and track the attacker – with or without ground support. This would support successful attribution and evolving countermeasures to mitigate the threat in the future. "Safe countermeasures" are those that are compatible with the system's fault management system to avoid unintended effects or friecide on the system.	AU-14 AU-2 AU-3 AU-3(1) AU-4 AU-4(1) AU-5 AU-5(2) AU-5(3) AU-5(4) AU-6(4) AU-8 AU-9 AU-9(2) AU-9(3) CA-7(6) CM-11(3) CP-10 CP-10(4) IR-4 IR-4(11) IR-4(12) IR-4(14) IR-4(5) IR-5 IR-5(1) RA-10 RA-3(2) SA-8(22) SA-8(23) SC-16(2) SC-32(1) SC-5 SC-5(3) SC-7(10) SC-7(9) SI-10(6) SI-16 SI-17 SI-3 SI-3(8) SI-4 SI-4(1) SI-10(1) SI-4(11) SI-4(13) SI-4(16) SI-4(17) SI-4(2) SI-4(23) SI-4(24) SI-4(25) SI-4(4) SI-4(5) SI-6 SI-7(17) SI-7(8)
CM0042	Robust Fault Management	Ensure fault management system cannot be used against the spacecraft. Examples include: safe mode with crypto bypass, orbit correction maneuvers, affecting integrity of telemetry to cause action from ground, or some sort of proximity operation to cause spacecraft to go into safe mode. Understanding the safe procedures and ensuring they do not put the spacecraft in a more vulnerable state is key to building a resilient spacecraft.	CP-4(5) SA-8(24) SC-16(2) SC-24 SC-5 SI-13 SI-17
CM0044	Cyber-safe Mode	Provide the capability to enter the spacecraft into a configuration-controlled and integrity-protected state representing a known, operational cyber-safe state (e.g., cyber-safe mode). Spacecraft should enter a cyber-safe mode when conditions that threaten the platform are detected. Cyber-safe mode is an operating mode of a spacecraft during which all nonessential systems are shut down and the spacecraft is placed in a known good state using validated software and configuration settings. Within cyber-safe mode, authentication and encryption should still be enabled. The spacecraft should be capable of reconstituting firmware and software functions to pre-attack levels to allow for the recovery of functional capabilities. This can be achieved through periodic self-validation and redundancy.	CP-10 CP-10(4) CP-12 CP-2(5) IR-4 IR-4(12) IR-4(3) SA-8(21) SA-8(23) SA-8(24) SC-16(2) SC-24 SC-5 SI-11 SI-17 SI-7(17)



RTS001 loads after boot

Supply Chain Injection – Boot Sequence (RTS)

2.2.7 RTS Tables

RTS tables are a sequence of Relative Time Sequence commands. The purpose of Relative Time Sequence commands is to be able to specify commands to be executed at a specific time *after* ("relative to") an ATS.

For Relative Time Command Sequence commands there is a field that represents the time in seconds that the command will *delay* before executing. This delay is relative to the time when the previous Relative Time Tagged Command (RTC) was executed. In the case of the first command of the sequence, this time is relative to when the sequence was started.

More details of timing and format for RTS tables are shown in Chapter 3.

```

39
40 /* 
41 ** RTS Table Data
42 */
43 uint16 RTS_Table001[SC_RTS_BUFF_SIZE] =
44 {
45 /* cmd time, <----- cmd pkt primary header -----> <----- cmd pkt 2nd header -----> <-- opt data -->
46 1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(DS_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(5), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(DS_SET_APP_STATE_CC),
47 1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(TO_LAB_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(21), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(TO_DEBUG_ENABLE_CC),
48 1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(SAMPLE_APP_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(1), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(SAMPLE_APP_NOOP_CC),
49 5, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(LC_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(5), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(LC_SET_LC_STATE_CC),
50 };
51 };
52 
```

RTS001

3.4.5 Naming Conventions for RTSs

Because RTSs can be loaded at startup, the files for those RTSs must be in a predetermined location (CFS SC Configuration Parameter SC_RTS_FILE_NAME).

This location must be in non-volatile memory. Otherwise, the files would not exist upon a Power-On reset.

Also, the RTS table file must be named according to a specific convention (CFS SC Configuration Parameter SC_RTS_TABLE_NAME). The file name must start with the value of the (CFS SC Configuration Parameter SC_RTS_TABLE_NAME) platform configuration parameter.

Next, must be a three digit number indicating which RTS this table file is, and the last must be ".tbl". An example of this for RTS No.1, with SC_RTS_TABLE_NAME set to "RTS_TBL" would be: 'RTS_TBL001.tbl'.

In addition to the file naming convention, the name of the table contained within the table file should be the same as the file name, without the path or extension.

Remember to also have the application name prefixed to the name of the table. For the file 'RTS_TBL001.tbl', its table name should be 'SC.RTS_TBL001', if the name of the application is "SC".

Reboot command but could be “anything” – like reaction wheels?

```

EVS Port1 42/1/SC 73: RTS Number 001 Started
EVS Port1 42/1/SC 21: Major Frame Sync too noisy (Slot 1). Disabling synchronization.
EVS Port1 42/1/TO_LAB 3: T0 telemetry output enabled for IP 1
EVS Port1 42/1/SAMPLE 11: SAMPLE: NOOP command received
EVS PORT1 42/1/LC 28: Set LC state command, new state = 1
EVS Port1 42/1/SC 52: No-op command. Version 2.5.0.0
EVS Port1 42/1/SC 89: Rts 001 Execution completed
2000-001-00:00:24.26000 POWERON RESET called from CFE_ES_ResetCFE (Commanded).
CFE_PSP: Exiting cFE with POWERON Reset status.
CFE_FSR: Critical Data Store Shared memory segment removed
Reset Area Shared memory segment removed
User Reserved Area Shared memory segment removed

```

Compromise Supply Chain: Software Supply Chain

<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IA-0001/02/>

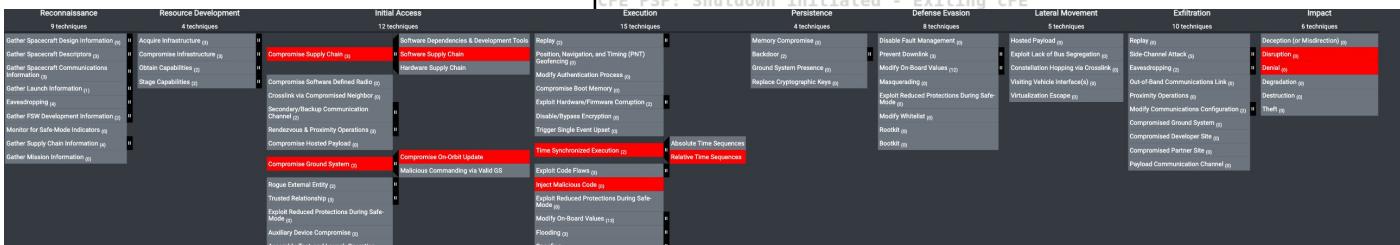
```

** RTS Table Data
*/
uint16 RTS_Table001[SC_RTS_BUFF_SIZE] =
{
/* cmd time, <----- cmd pkt primary header -----> <----- cmd pkt 2nd header -----> <-- opt data --> */
1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(DS_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(5), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(DS_SET_APP_STATE_CC),
1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(TO_LAB_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(21), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(TO_DEBUG_ENABLE_CC),
1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(SAMPLE_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(1), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(SAMPLE_APP_NOOP_CC),
5, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(LC_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(5), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(LC_SET_LC_STATE_CC),
6, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x1B49), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x0000), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x0000), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x0000), // SC NOOP - Test Command
7, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x1B66), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(3), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x0200), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x0000), // Enable LC

```

Inject Malicious Code & Time Synchronized Execution: Relative Time Sequences

<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0010/>
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0008/02/>



Disrupt/Denial

<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0002/>
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0003/>

Rogue Ground Station – Attacking Reaction Wheel

Spinning a CubeSat Uncontrollably

- Many CubeSats do not implement strong, sometimes any, authentication / encryption – therefore, can could be vulnerable to command link intrusion from Rogue Ground Station
- Requires reconnaissance on spacecraft

Gather Spacecraft Design Information: Software
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/REC-0001/01/>

Gather Spacecraft Communications Information: Commanding Details
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/REC-0003/02/>

Rogue Ground System SW

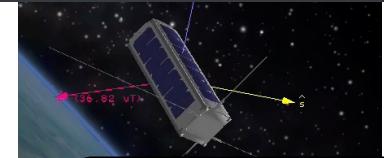
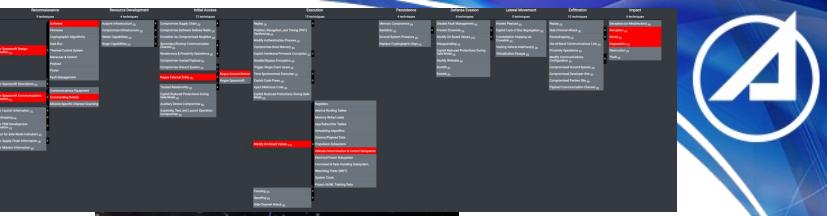
Command Link Intrusion from Rogue Ground
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IA-0008/01/>

- This attack creates a CCSDS frame to send to spacecraft from a rogue ground station

```
00000000 0d0a 0a0d 0060 0000 3c4d 1a2b 0001 0000
00000010 ffff ffff ffff 0004 003a 6445 7469
00000020 6163 2070 5728 7269 7365 6168 6b72 2029
00000030 2e33 2e32 2033 4728 7469 7620 2e33 2e32
00000040 2033 6170 6b63 6761 6465 6120 2073 2e33
00000050 2e32 2d33 2931 0000 0000 0000 0060 0000
00000060 0001 0000 0014 0000 0001 0000 0000 0004
00000070 0014 0000 0006 0000 0054 0000 0000 0000
00000080 f7a5 0005 23d7 faa0 0032 0000 0032 0000
00000090 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0008 0045
000000a0 2400 58a6 0040 1140 6e96 007f 0100 007f
000000b0 0100 acbc 9413 1000 23fe 9219 00c0 0300
000000c0 0003 0014 0054 0000
000000c8 -
```

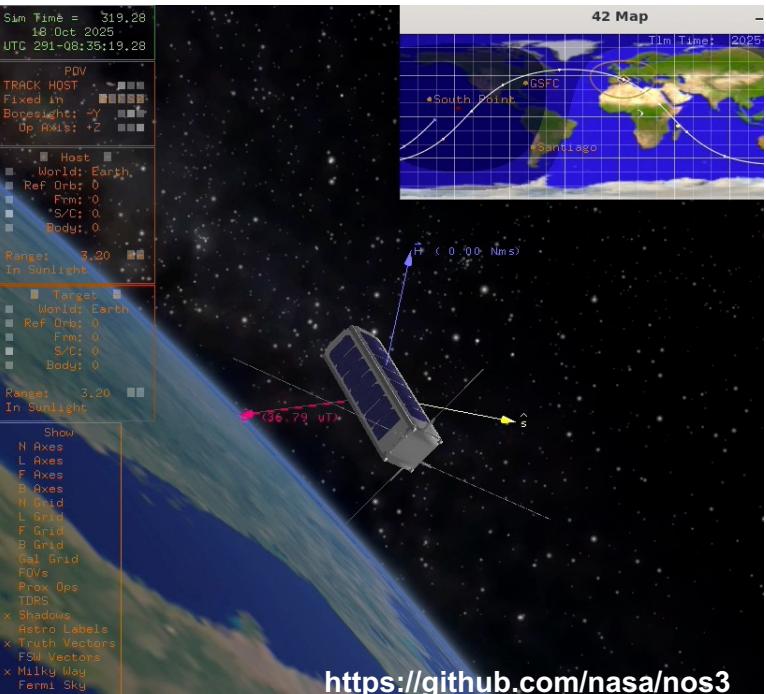
Example SPARTA Countermeasures

Countermeasures		
ID	Name	Description
CM0002	COMSEC	A component of cybersecurity to deny unauthorized persons information derived from telecommunications and to ensure the authenticity of such telecommunications. COMSEC includes cryptographic security, transmission security, emissions security, and physical security of COMSEC material. It is imperative to utilize secure communication protocols with strong cryptographic mechanisms to prevent unauthorized disclosure of, and detect changes to, information during transmission. Systems should also maintain the confidentiality and integrity of information during preparation for transmission and during reception. Spacecraft should not employ a mode of operations where cryptography on the T&E link can be disabled (i.e., crypto-bypass mode). The cryptographic mechanisms should identify and reject wireless transmissions that are deliberate attempts to achieve imitative or manipulative communications deception based on signal parameters.
CM0031	Authentication	Authenticate all communication sessions (crosslink and ground stations) for all commands before establishing remote connections using bidirectional authentication that is cryptographically based. Adding authentication on the spacecraft bus and communications on-board the spacecraft is also recommended.
CM0033	Relay Protection	Implement relay and replay-resistant authentication mechanisms for establishing a remote connection or connections on the spacecraft bus.



Modify On-Board Values: Attitude Determination & Control
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0012/08/>

1992c000000303001400



Disrupt/Denial/Degrade

<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0002/>
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0003/>
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0004/>

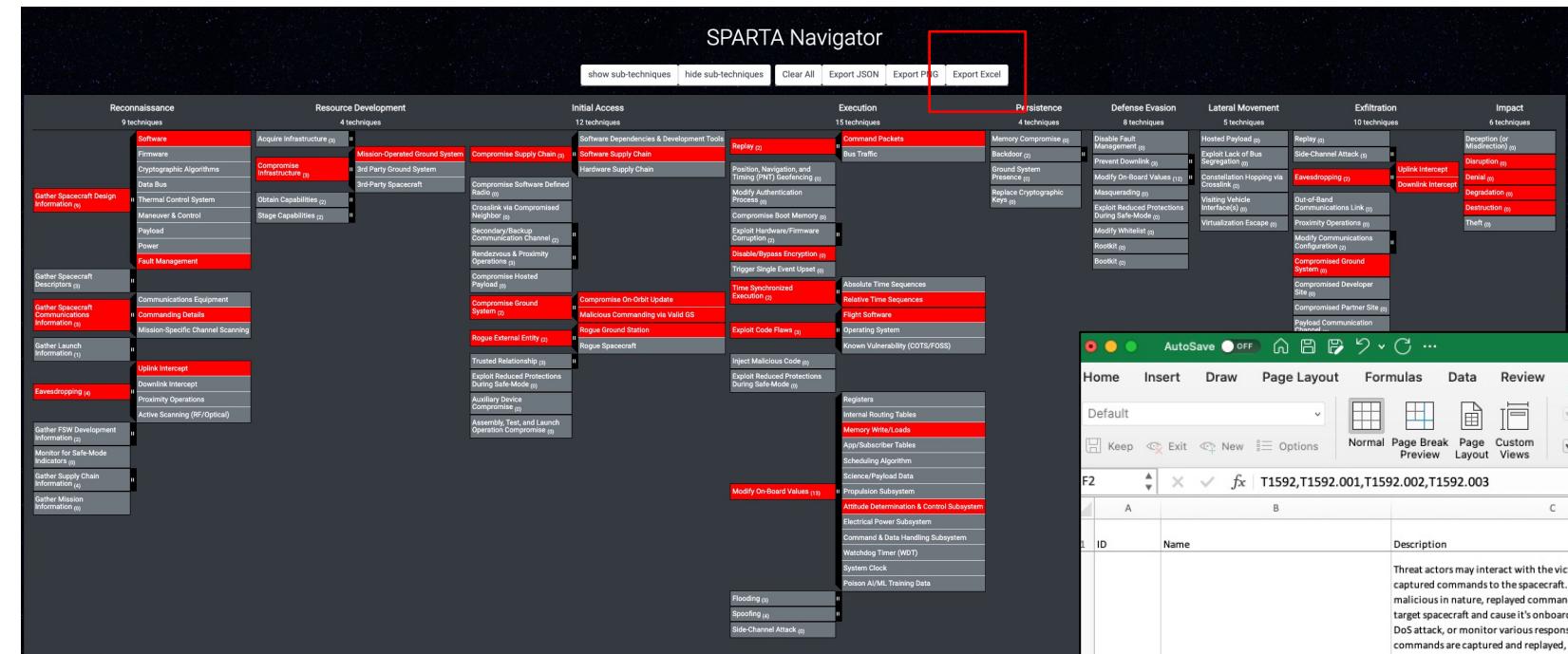
<https://github.com/nasa/nos3>

UG] - GenericRWHardwareModel::uart_read_callback: REQUEST C
UG] - GenericRWHardwareModel::uart_read_callback: REPLY C



Combining the 4 Attack Chains

SPARTA Navigator – Extracting Countermeasures / NIST Controls



<https://sparta.aerospace.org/navigator>

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet titled "CYSAT-CM-Export" with data corresponding to the selected "Command Packets" technique from the SPARTA Navigator. The columns include:

- ID: EX-0001.01
- Name: Command Packets
- Description: Threat actors may interact with the victim spacecraft by replaying captured commands to the spacecraft. While not necessarily malicious in nature, replayed commands can be used to overload the target spacecraft and cause its onboard systems to crash, perform a DoS attack, or monitor various responses by the spacecraft. If critical commands are captured and replayed, thruster fires, then the impact could impact the spacecraft's attitude control/orbit.
- References: SV-AC-1, SV-AC-2
- Aerospace Related Threats: T0831
- Related MITRE ATT&CK: T1592, T1592.001, T1592.002, T1592.003
- Countermeasures: NIST Rev5 Controls (a large list of specific countermeasures)

Below this row, another row is shown for "Disable/Bypass Encryption" with similar fields filled in.

A table listing various CM numbers and their descriptions:

CM0001	CM0015	CM0028	CM0043
CM0002	CM0016	CM0029	CM0044
CM0003	CM0017	CM0030	CM0046
CM0004	CM0018	CM0031	CM0047
CM0005	CM0019	CM0032	CM0052
CM0007	CM0020	CM0033	CM0053
CM0008	CM0021	CM0034	CM0054
CM0009	CM0022	CM0035	CM0055
CM0010	CM0023	CM0036	CM0066
CM0011	CM0024	CM0038	CM0069
CM0012	CM0025	CM0039	CM0070
CM0013	CM0026	CM0040	CM0072
CM0014	CM0027	CM0042	CM0073



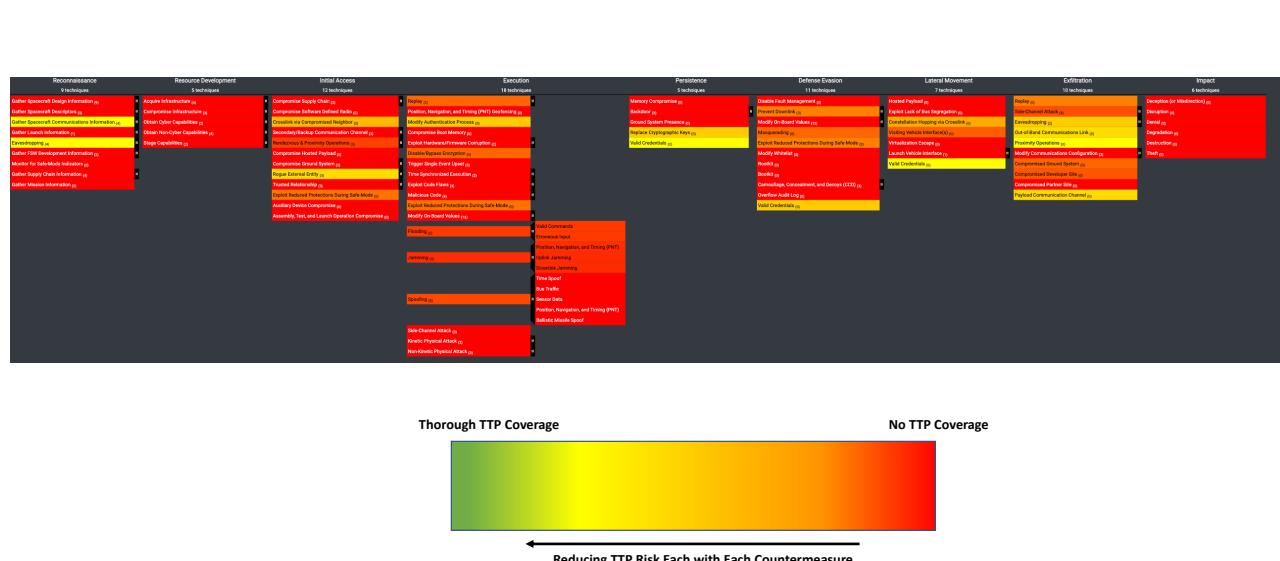
New SPARTA Countermeasure Mapper / Defensive Gap Analyzer

<https://sparta.aerospace.org/countermeasures/mapper>

- Attack chains built in SPARTA's navigator can help identify countermeasures against the TTPs used in the attack
 - Many users do not know TTPs, they only know the countermeasures they have implemented (or plan to)...
- The SPARTA Gap Analyzer enables a graphical mechanism to select and deselect countermeasures from SPARTA's defense-in-depth view, as the starting point, to drive TTP mitigation & security planning
 - It can export the data into Excel which provides tabs for coverage and gaps from a TTP perspective, including NIST controls
- Below depicts the TTPs that have some mitigation when only applying COMSEC/TRANSEC/TEMPEST
 - Green/Yellow/Orange indicates some level of coverage where Red indicates no coverage of the TTP

Data	Spacecraft Software	Single Board Computer	IDS/IPS	Cryptography	Comms Link	Ground	Prevention
TEMPEST							
Shared Resource Leakage	Secure boot	On-board Intrusion Detection & Prevention	Cloaking Safe-mode	COMSEC	TRANSEC	Ground-based Countermeasures	Protect Sensitive Information
Machine Learning Data Integrity	Development Environment Security	Disable Physical Ports	Segmentation	Crypto Key Management	Authentications	Security Testing Results	Security Testing Program
On-board Message Encryption	Software Version Numbers	Update Software	Backdoor Commands	Robust Fault Management	Physical Security Controls	Monitor Critical Telemetry Points	Threat Intelligence Program
Vulnerability Scanning	Software Bill of Materials	Error Detection and Correcting Memory	Cyber-safe Mode	Traffic Flow Protection	Data Backup	Protect Authenticators	Threat modeling
Dependency Confusion	Dependency Confusion	Resilient Position, Navigation, and Timing	Model-based System Verification	Traffic Flow Analysis Defense	Alternate Communications Paths	Physical Security Controls	Criticality Analysis
Software Source Control	Temper Resistant Body	Power Randomization	Smart Contracts			Anti-counterfeit Hardware	Anti-counterfeiting
CWE List	Coding Standard	Power Consumption Obfuscation	Reinforcement Learning			Supplier Review	Supplier Selection
Coding Standard	Dynamic Analysis	Secret Shares				Original Component Manufacturer	Component Traceability
Dynamic Analysis	Static Analysis	Power Masking				ASIC/FPGA Manufacturing	Supply Chain Monitoring
Static Analysis	Software Digital Signature	Increase Clock Cycles/Timing				Tamper Protection	User Training
Software Digital Signature	Configuration Management	Dual Layer Protection				Insider Threat Protection	Insider Threat Monitoring
Configuration Management	Session Termination	OSAM Dual Authorization				Two-Person Rule	Two-Person Rule
Session Termination	Least Privilege	Communication Physical Medium				Distributed Constellations	Distributed Constellations
Least Privilege	Long Duration Testing	Protocol Update / Refactoring				Proliferated Constellations	Proliferated Constellations
Long Duration Testing	Operating System Security					Diversified Architectures	Diversified Architectures
Operating System Security	Secure Command Model(s)					Space Domain Awareness	Space Domain Awareness
Secure Command Model(s)	Durability Process - Antipattern Node					Space-Based Radio Frequency Mapping	Space-Based Radio Frequency Mapping
Durability Process - Antipattern Node						Maneuverability	Maneuverability

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
ID	Name	Descriptor	References	Aerospace I	Related MI	Countermeasures	NIST Rev5	Controls					
REC-0003	Gather Space Threat acto	https://cro	SV-CF-3	T1592,T15	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1							
REC-0003.C	Communic Threat acto	https://cro	SV-CF-3,SV-T1592,T15	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1								
REC-0003.C	Commandi Threat acto	https://cro	SV-CF-3,SV-T1592,T15	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1								
REC-0003.C	Mission-Spi Threat acto	Derived fr	SV-CF-3,SV-T1592	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1								
REC-0003.C	Valid Crede Threat acto	https://att	SV-AC-3,SV-T1586,T15	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1								
REC-0005	Eavesdropp Threat acto	Sec and sch	SV-AC-7,SV-T1040,T08	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(2),AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),IA-4(9),I								
REC-0005.C	Uplink Inte Threat actors may capt		SV-AC-7,SV-T1040,T08	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(2),AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I								
REC-0005.C	Downlink I Threat acto Kaspersky:		SV-AC-7,SV-T1040,T08	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I								
REC-0005.C	Proximity C Threat acto	https://spa	SV-AC-5,SV-T1040,T08	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I								
REC-0005.C	Active Scan Threat acto Derived fr	SV-AC-7,SV-T1595	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18(1),AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I									
IA-0003	Crosslink vi Threat actors may com	SV AC 1, SV AV 1, SV IT	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18,AC-18(1),AC 2(11),AC 3(10),CA 3,IA 4(9),I									



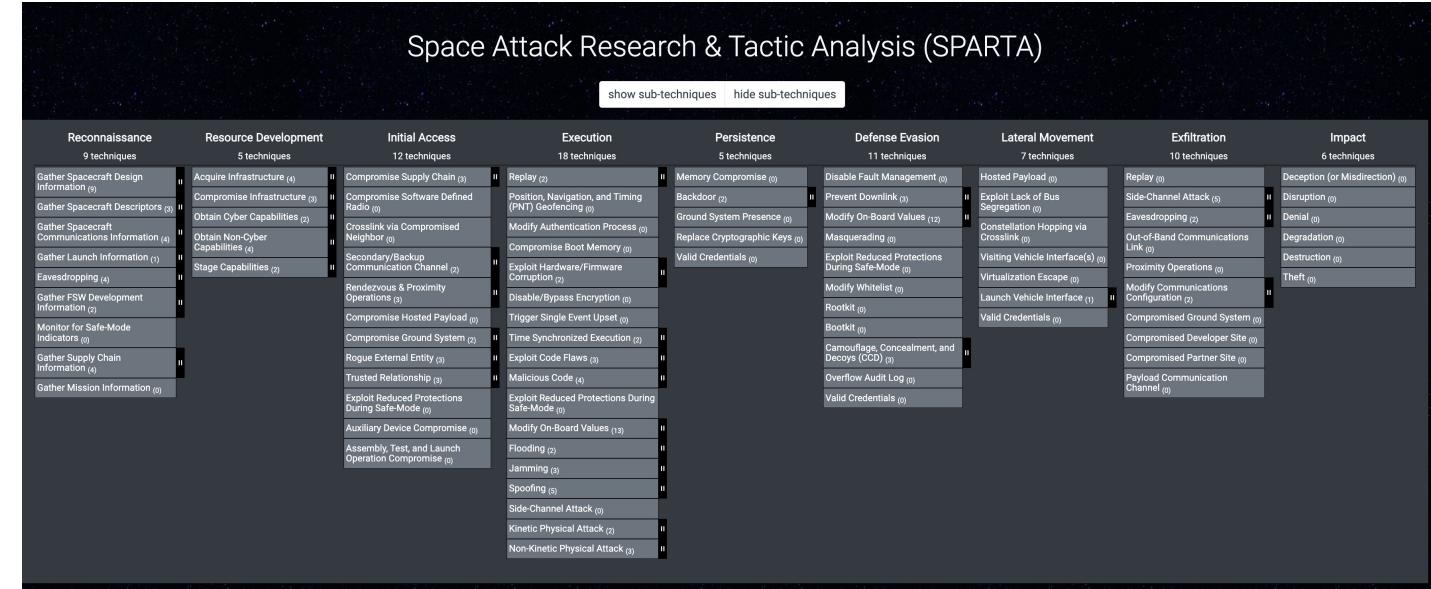
Excel Output



<https://sparta.aerospace.org>

Sample Media Links:

- <https://cyberscoop.com/space-satellite-cybersecurity-sparta/>
- <https://www.darkreading.com/ics-ot/space-race-defenses-satellite-cyberattacks>
- <https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/daily-podcast/1715/notes> &
<https://thecyberwire.com/newsletters/signals-and-space/6/21>





Other Aerospace Papers and Resources

- DefCON Presentations:
 - [DEF CON 2020: Exploiting Spacecraft](#)
 - [DEF CON 2021: Unboxing the Spacecraft Software BlackBox Hunting for Vulnerabilities](#)
 - [DEF CON 2022: Hunting for Spacecraft Zero Days using Digital Twins](#)
- Papers/Articles:
 - 2019: [Defending Spacecraft in the Cyber Domain](#)
 - 2020: [Establishing Space Cybersecurity Policy, Standards, & Risk Management Practices](#)
 - 2021: [Cybersecurity Protections for Spacecraft: A Threat Based Approach](#)
 - 2021: [The Value of Space](#)
 - 2022: [Protecting Space Systems from Cyber Attack](#)
- July 2022 Congressional Testimony:
 - Video: <https://science.house.gov/hearings?ID=996438A6-A93E-4469-8618-C1B59BC5A964>
 - Written Testimony: https://republicans-science.house.gov/_cache/files/2/9/29fff6d3-0176-48bd-9c04-00390b826aed/A8F54300A11D55BEA5AF2CE305C015BA.2022-07-28-bailey-testimony.pdf



Theoretical Attack Chain - PCspooF



Example Attack Chains from the Past

2022 TTE Vulnerability - PCspooF

- Research paper by Andrew Loveless, Linh Thi Xuan Phan, Ronald Dreslinski and Baris Kasikci describing an attack dubbed PCspooF. The academic paper expertly articulates a vulnerability in and exploit of Time-Triggered Ethernet (TTE), which is used as a bus service for a variety of spacecraft including NASA's Orion capsule, NASA's Lunar Gateway space station, and ESA's Ariane 6 launcher — among others.

PCSPOOF: Compromising the Safety of Time-Triggered Ethernet

Andrew Loveless^{*†} Linh Thi Xuan Phan[†] Ronald Dreslinski^{*} Baris Kasikci^{*}
^{*}University of Michigan [†]University of Pennsylvania [‡]NASA Johnson Space Center
^{*}{loveless, rdreslin, barisk} @umich.edu [†]linhphan@seas.upenn.edu

Abstract—Designers are increasingly using mixed-criticality networks in embedded systems to reduce size, weight, power, and cost. Perhaps the most successful of these technologies is Time-Triggered Ethernet (TTE), which lets critical time-triggered (TT) traffic and non-critical best-effort (BE) traffic share the same switches and cabling. A key aspect of TTE is that the TT part of the system is *isolated* from the BE part, and thus BE devices have no way to disrupt the operation of the TTE devices. This isolation allows designers to: (1) use untrusted, but low cost, BE hardware, (2) lower BE security requirements, and (3) ignore BE devices during safety reviews and certification procedures.

We present PCSPOOF, the first attack to break TTE's isolation guarantees. PCSPOOF is based on two key observations. First, it is possible for a BE device to infer private information about the TT part of the network that can be used to craft malicious synchronization messages. Second, by injecting electrical noise into a TTE switch over an Ethernet cable, a BE device can trick the switch into sending these malicious synchronization messages to other TTE devices. Our evaluation shows that successful attacks are possible in seconds, and that each successful attack can cause TTE devices to lose synchronization for up to a second and drop tens of TT messages — both of which can result in the failure of critical systems like aircraft or automobiles. We also show that, in a simulated spaceflight mission, PCSPOOF causes uncontrolled maneuvers that threaten safety and mission success. We disclosed PCSPOOF to aerospace companies using TTE, and several are implementing mitigations from this paper.

Index Terms—Time-Triggered Ethernet, packet-in-packet attacks, electromagnetic interference, embedded systems

I. INTRODUCTION

Increasingly, embedded systems are using *mixed-criticality* network technologies that allow traffic with different timing and fault tolerance requirements to coexist in the same physical network [1]–[4]. These technologies let designers reduce size, weight, power, and cost by sharing the same network between critical and non-critical parts of the system. For example, aircraft can share one network between vehicle control systems and passenger Wi-Fi and entertainment systems [5], [6]; spacecraft can share one network between life support systems and onboard experiments [7], [8]; and manufacturing plants can share one network between robot control systems and data collection systems [9].

One of the most successful mixed-criticality network technologies is *Time-Triggered Ethernet (TTE)* [2]. Today, TTE serves as the network backbone for several spacecraft, including NASA's Orion capsule [10], NASA's Lunar Gateway space station [7], and ESA's Ariane 6 launcher [11]. TTE is also widely used in aircraft [12]–[14], energy generation

systems [15], and industrial control systems [16], [17], and is a leading contender to replace CAN bus and FlexRay as the standard network technology in future automobiles [18], [19].

TTE has several properties that make it attractive for safety and mission-critical applications. Most notably, TTE follows a *time-triggered (TT)* paradigm, in which devices are tightly synchronized, and they send messages and execute software according to a predetermined schedule. This TT approach reduces message latencies to hundreds of microseconds and jitter to near-zero [20], [21], making TTE appropriate for even the tightest control loops. TTE also provides fault tolerance by replicating the whole network to form multiple *planes*, and by forwarding messages over all planes simultaneously [22].

In addition, TTE enables mixed-criticality architectures by being 100% compatible with standard Ethernet [23]. This means that *non-critical* systems, which typically use standard Ethernet hardware to lower costs [24], can send messages over the same cabling as the critical TTE devices. Unlike TT traffic, standard Ethernet traffic is forwarded on a *best-effort (BE)* basis, filling in space *around* the TT traffic [23]. Also, standard Ethernet traffic typically only travels over a single network plane, so does not have any fault tolerance guarantees [7].

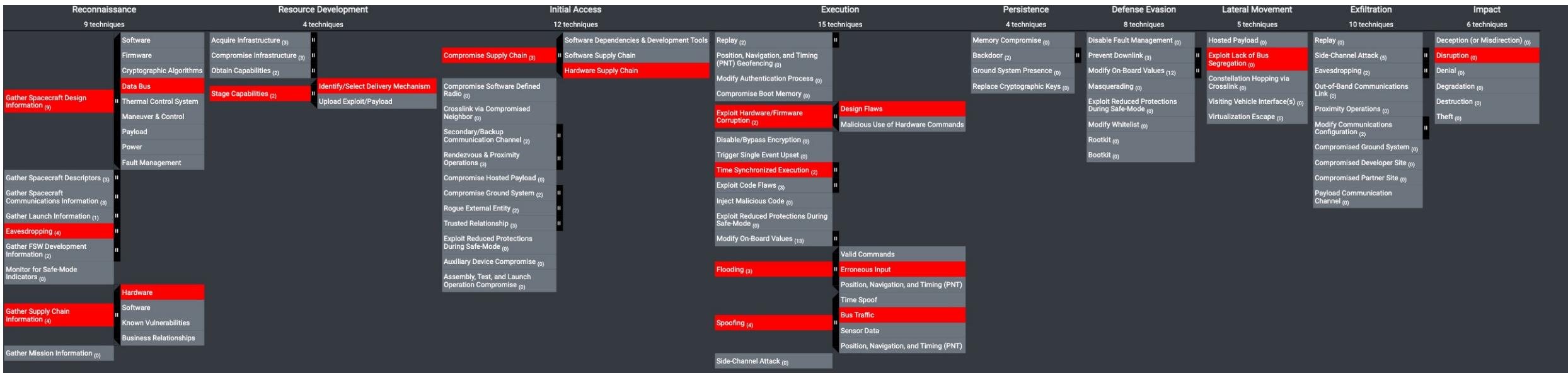
A key aspect of TTE's mixed-criticality design is that the TT part of the system is *isolated* from the BE part. In other words, no matter how the BE devices behave, they should not be able to disrupt synchronization between TTE devices, or the timely or successful delivery of TT traffic [25]. This isolation is commonly used as justification for several cost-cutting measures, including: (1) procuring BE devices from relatively untrusted (but low cost) suppliers [26], [27]; (2) relaxing security requirements for BE devices [28]; and (3) reducing the scope of analysis and certification of a system to focus solely on the TTE devices [29]. For example, on NASA spacecraft, onboard experiments are often provided by university research groups, are operated by the university students with minimal NASA involvement, and are not considered in safety reviews or the certification process of the overall vehicle [30], [31].

In this paper, we present PCSPOOF, a new attack that breaks TTE's isolation guarantees for the first time — allowing a single malicious BE device on a single plane to disrupt synchronization and communication between TTE devices on all planes. PCSPOOF is based on two key observations:

First, it is possible for a malicious BE device to *infer* private information about the TTE network that is needed to construct valid TTE synchronization messages, called *protocol control*

Example Attack Chains from the Past

PCspooF Potential Attack Chain



Introducing SPARTA using PCspooF: Cyber Security for Space Missions - <https://medium.com/the-aerospace-corporation/sparta-cyber-security-for-space-missions-4876f789e41c>
 A Look into SPARTA Countermeasures - <https://medium.com/the-aerospace-corporation/a-look-into-sparta-countermeasures-358e2fc43ed>



PCspooF Countermeasure Samples

Quick Way to Identify Potential Mitigations

Original Component Manufacturer

Components that cannot be procured from the original component manufacturer or their authorized franchised distribution network should be approved by the supply chain manufacturer. Components must be able to prevent and detect counterfeit and fraudulent parts and materials.

Best Segment for Countermeasure Deployment

- Development Environment

Informational References

- AC-20(5) - Use of External Systems | Portable Storage Devices – Prohibited
- PM-30 - Supply Chain Risk Management Strategy
- PM-30(1) - Supply Chain Risk Management Strategy | Suppliers of Critical Essential Items
- RA-3(1) - Risk Assessment | Supply Chain Risk Assessment
- SR-1 - Policy and Procedures
- SR-11 - Component Authenticity
- SR-2 - Supply Chain Dynamic Analysis
- SR-2(1) - Supply Chain | Employ dynamic analysis (e.g., using simulation, penetration testing, and/or static analysis) to identify potential vulnerabilities and risks. Testing should occur throughout the lifecycle of the system, including (1) initial requirements gathering and design, (2) development and integration, and (3) deployment and operations.
- SR-3 - Supply Chain | Commercial, or third-party developed code). Testing should occur throughout the lifecycle of the system, including (1) initial requirements gathering and design, (2) development and integration, and (3) deployment and operations.
- SR-3(1) - Supply Chain | commercial, or third-party developed code). Testing should occur throughout the lifecycle of the system, including (1) initial requirements gathering and design, (2) development and integration, and (3) deployment and operations.

Techniques Addressed by Countermeasure

ID	Name
IA-0001	Compromised Supply Chain
.03	Hardware Supply Chain
	Software Supply Chain
IA-0002	Compromised On-Orbit

Techniques Addressed by Countermeasure

ID	Name	Description
IA-0001	Compromised Supply Chain	Threat actors may manipulate the supply chain to gain access to the target SV.
	Software Supply Chain	Threat actors may manipulate the software supply chain to gain access to the target SV.
	Hardware Supply Chain	Threat actors may manipulate the hardware supply chain to gain access to the target SV.
IA-0007	Compromised Ground Station	Threat actors may initially compromise the ground station in order to access the target SV. Once compromised, the threat actor can perform a man-in-the-middle or initial access techniques, including replay, compromise encryption keys, and compromising authentication schemes.
	Compromised On-Orbit	Threat actors may manipulate and modify on-orbit updates before they are sent to the target SV. This attack can be done in a number of ways, including manipulation of source code, manipulation of environment variables, or direct manipulation of the on-board software.

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A Look into SPARTA Countermeasures - <https://medium.com/the-aerospace-corporation/a-look-into-sparta-countermeasures-358e2fd43ed>

Segmentation

Identify the key system components or capabilities that require isolation through physical or logical means. Information should not be allowed to flow between partitioned applications unless explicitly permitted by security policy. Isolate mission critical functionality from non-mission critical functionality by means of an isolation boundary (implemented via partitions) that controls access to and protects the integrity of, the hardware, software, and firmware that provides that functionality. Enforce approved authorizations for controlling the flow of information within the spacecraft and between interconnected systems based on the defined security policy that information does not leave the spacecraft boundary unless it is encrypted. Implement boundary protections to separate bus, communications, and payload components supporting their respective functions.

ID: CM0038
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Sources

- <https://attack.mitre.org/mitigations/M1030/>

On-board Intrusion Detection & Prevention

Utilize on-board intrusion detection/prevention system that monitors the mission critical components or systems and audit/logs actions. The IDS/IPS should have the capability to respond to threats and it should address signature-based attacks along with dynamic never-before seen attacks using machine learning/adaptive technologies. The IDS/IPS must integrate with traditional fault management to provide a holistic approach to faults on-board the spacecraft. Spacecraft should select and execute safe countermeasures against cyber-attacks. These countermeasures are a ready supply of options to triage against the specific types of attack and mission priorities. Minimally, the response should ensure vehicle safety and continued operations. Ideally, the goal is to trap the threat, convince the threat that it is successful, and trace and track the attacker – with or without ground support. This would support successful attribution and evolving countermeasures to mitigate the threat in the future. "Safe countermeasures" are those that are compatible with the system's fault management system to avoid unintended effects or fraticide on the system.

Sources

- <https://attack.mitre.org/mitigations/M1031/>

Best Segment for Countermeasure Deployment

- Space Segment

Informational References

- AU-14 - Session Audit
- AU-2 - Event Logging
- AU-3 - Content of Audit Records
- AU-3(1) - Content of Audit Records | Additional Audit Information
- AU-4 - Audit Log Storage Capacity
- AU-4(1) - Audit Log Storage Capacity | Transfer to Alternate Storage
- AU-5 - Response to Audit Logging Process Failures
- AU-5(2) - Response to Audit Logging Process Failures | Real-time Alerts
- AU-5(5) - Response to Audit Logging Process Failures | Alternate Audit Logging Capability
- AU-6(1) - Audit Record Review, Analysis, and Reporting | Automated Process Integration
- AU-6(4) - Audit Record Review, Analysis, and Reporting | Central Review and Analysis
- AU-8 - Time Stamps
- AU-9 - Protection of Audit Information
- AU-9(2) - Protection of Audit Information | Store on Separate Physical Systems or Components
- AU-9(3) - Protection of Audit Information | Cryptographic Protection
- CA-7(6) - Continuous Monitoring | Automation Support for Monitoring
- CM-11(3) - User-installed Software | Automated Enforcement and Monitoring
- CP-10 - System Recovery and Reconstitution
- CP-10(4) - System Recovery and Reconstitution | Restore Within Time Period
- IR-4 - Incident Handling
- IR-4(11) - Incident Handling | Integrated Incident Response Team
- IR-4(12) - Incident Handling | Malicious Code and Forensic Analysis
- IR-4(14) - Incident Handling | Security Operations Center
- IR-5 - Incident Monitoring

Techniques Addressed by Countermeasure

ID: CM0032

Created: 2022/10/19

Last Modified: 2-16(3) - Transmission of Security and Privacy Attributes | Cryptographic Binding

-2(2) - Separation of System and User Functionality | Disassociability

-3 - Security Function Isolation

-32(1) - System Partitioning | Separate Physical Domains for Privileged Functions

-39 - Process Isolation

-4 - Information in Shared System Resources

-49 - Hardware-enforced Separation and Policy Enforcement

-50 - Software-enforced Separation and Policy Enforcement

-6 - Resource Availability

-7(21) - Boundary Protection | Isolation of System Components

-7(29) - Boundary Protection | Separate Subnets to Isolate Functions

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Authentication

Authenticate all communication sessions (crosslink and ground stations) for all commands before establishing remote connections using bidirectional authentication that is cryptographically based. Adding authentication on the spacecraft bus and communications on-board the spacecraft is also recommended.

Best Segment for Countermeasure Deployment

- Space Segment

Informational References

- AC-17(10) - Remote Access | Authenticate Remote Commands
- AC-17(2) - Remote Access | Protection of Confidentiality and Integrity Using Encryption
- AC-18(1) - Wireless Access | Authentication and Encryption
- IA-4(1) - Device Identification and Authentication | Cryptographic Bidirectional Authentication
- IA-4(4) - Identifier Management
- IA-4(9) - Identifier Management | Attribute Maintenance and Protection
- SA-8(15) - Security and Privacy Engineering Principles | Predicate Permission
- SA-8(9) - Security and Privacy Engineering Principles | Trusted Components
- SC-16(2) - Transmission of Security and Privacy Attributes | Anti-spoofing Mechanisms
- SC-32(1) - System Partitioning | Separate Physical Domains for Privileged Functions
- SC-7(11) - Boundary Protection | Restrict Incoming Communications Traffic
- SI-14(3) - Non-persistence | Non-persistent Connectivity
- SI-7 - Cryptographic Module Authentication

Techniques Addressed by Countermeasure

ID	Name	Description
IA-0003	Crosslink via Compromised Neighbor	Threat actors may compromise a victim SV via the crosslink communications of a neighboring SV that has been compromised. SVs in close proximity are able to send commands back and forth. Threat actors may use this to compromise other SVs once they have access to another that is nearby.
EX-0001	Replay	Replay attacks involve threat actors recording previously data streams and then resending them at a later time. This attack can be used to fingerprint systems, gain elevated privileges, or even cause a denial of service.
EX-0006	Disable/Bypass	Threat actors may perform specific techniques in order to bypass or disable the encryption mechanism onboard the victim SV. By bypassing or disabling this particular mechanism, further tactics can be performed.