



# Uncovering Vulnerabilities in Bluetooth Devices with Automated Binary Analysis

Zhiqiang Lin

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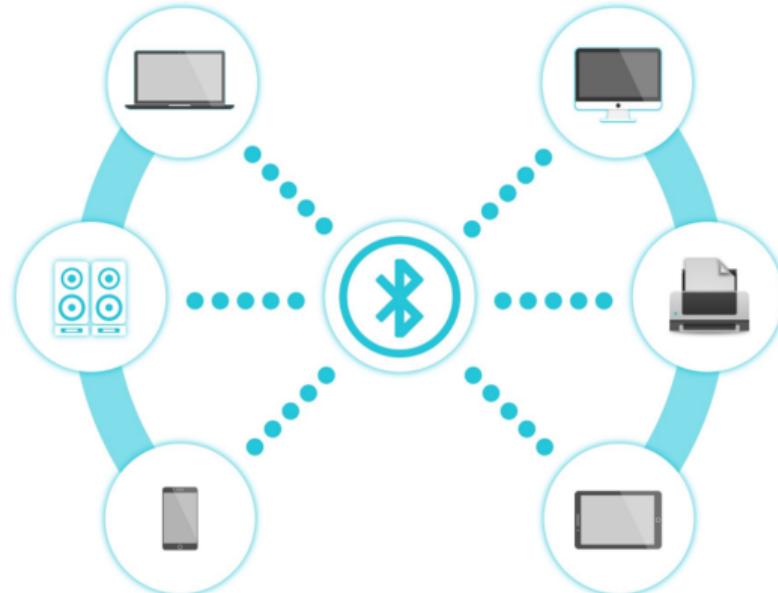
03/26/2021



# What is Bluetooth

## Bluetooth wireless technology

- ▶ Low-cost, low-power
- ▶ Short-range radio
- ▶ For ad-hoc wireless communication
- ▶ For voice and data transmission



## What is Bluetooth



**Apple AirTag**



The logo consists of the word "Contact tracing" in a black sans-serif font, positioned below the "G" of the Google logo.

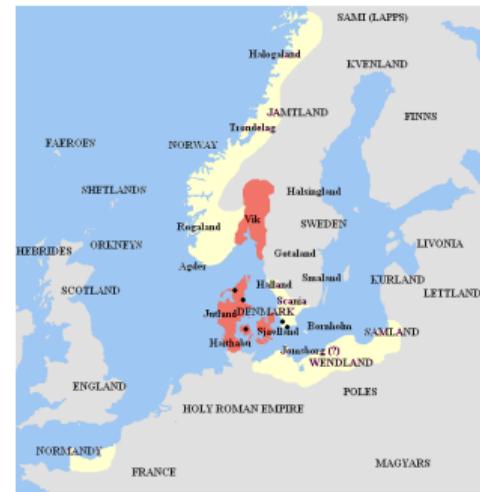


## Why Named Bluetooth

## Harald “Bluetooth” Gormsson

- ▶ King of Denmark 940-981.
  - ▶ He was also known for his bad **tooth**, which had a very dark blue-grey shade.
  - ▶ He united the Tribes of Denmark.

The Bluetooth wireless specification design was named after the king in 1997, based on an analogy **that the technology would unite devices the way Harald Bluetooth united the tribes of Denmark into a single kingdom.**

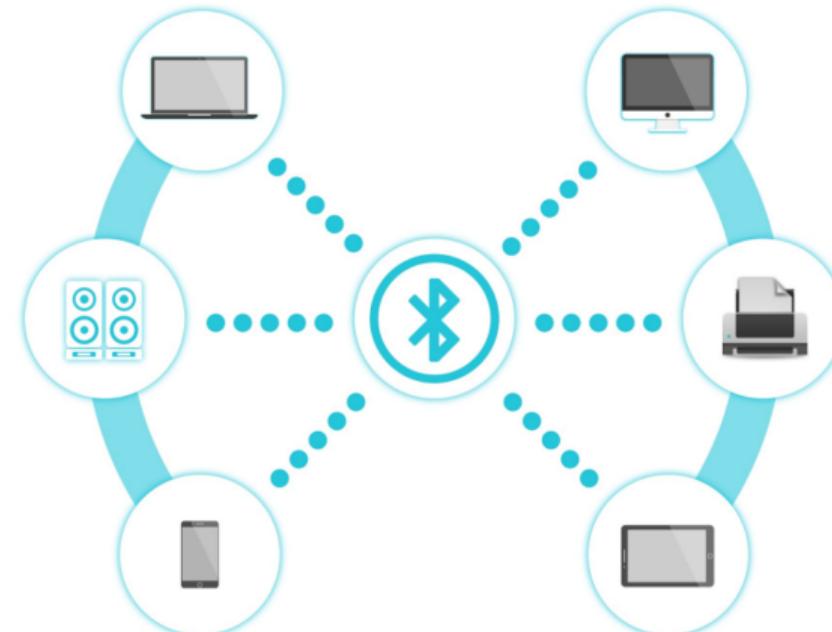


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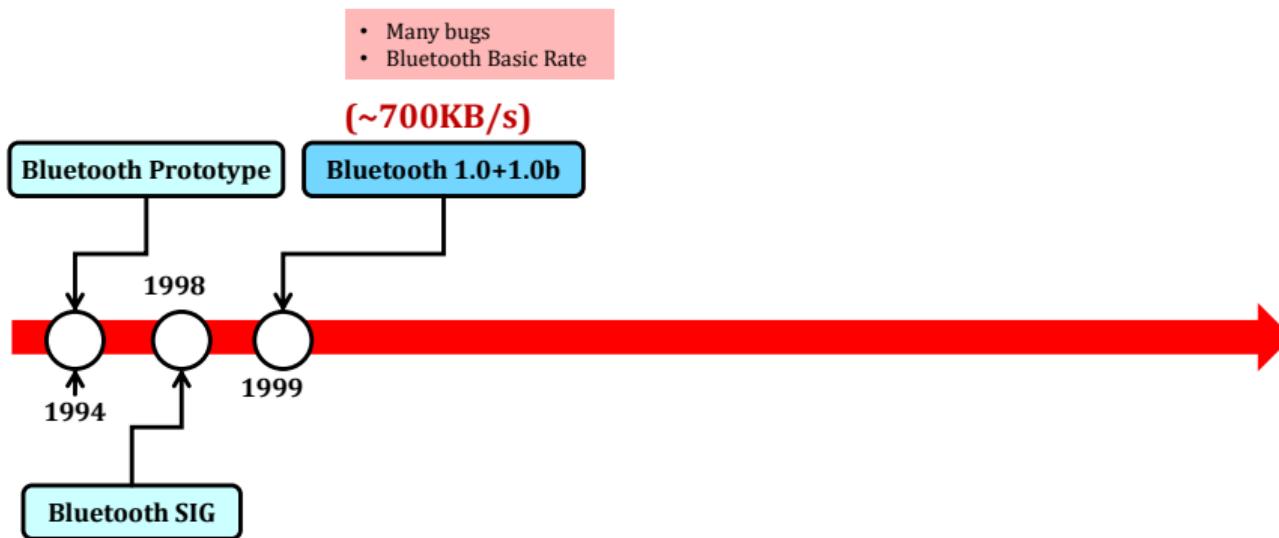
Dr. Jaap Haartsen started a project named Bluetooth.



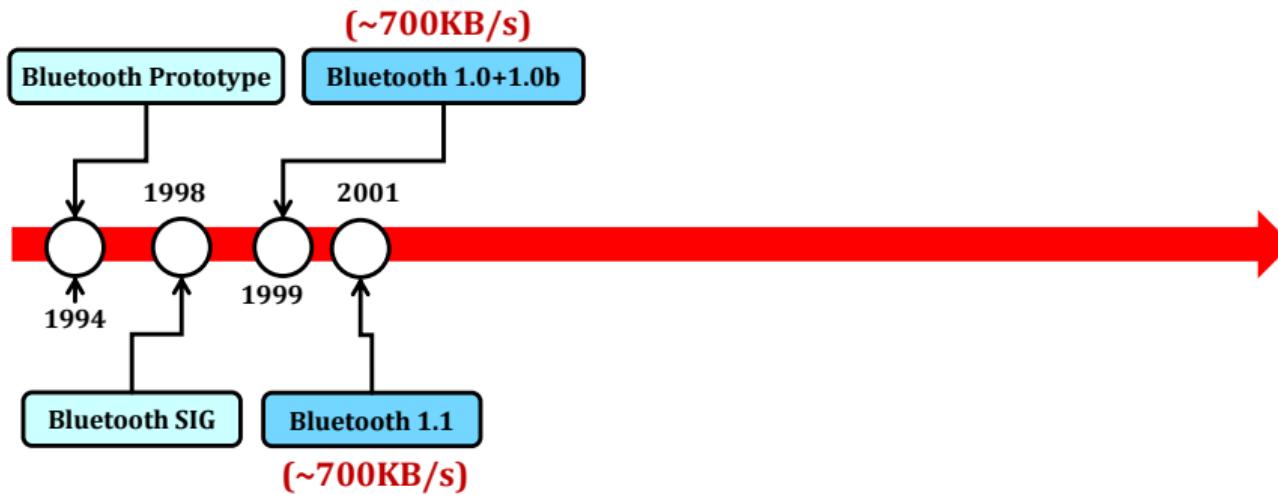
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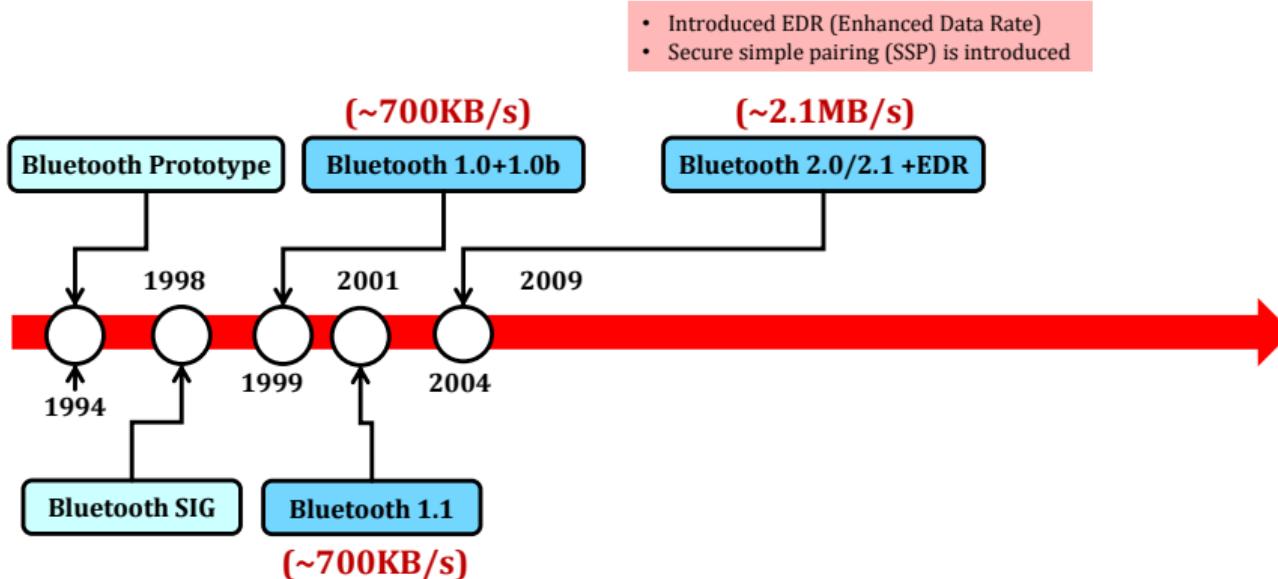


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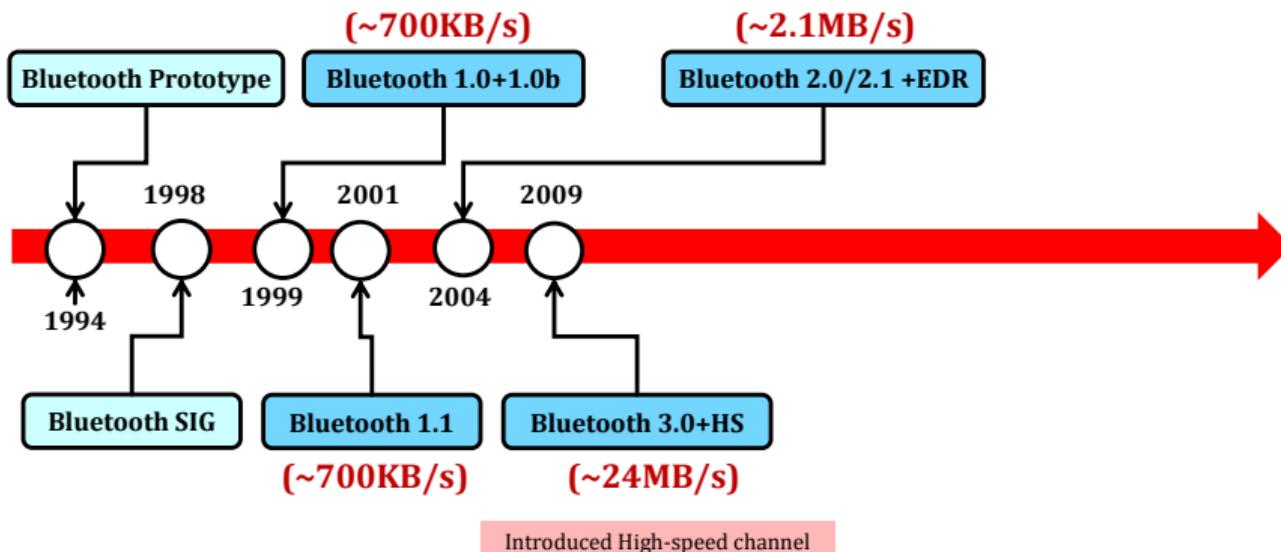


- Fixed security issues.
- First marketable product version.

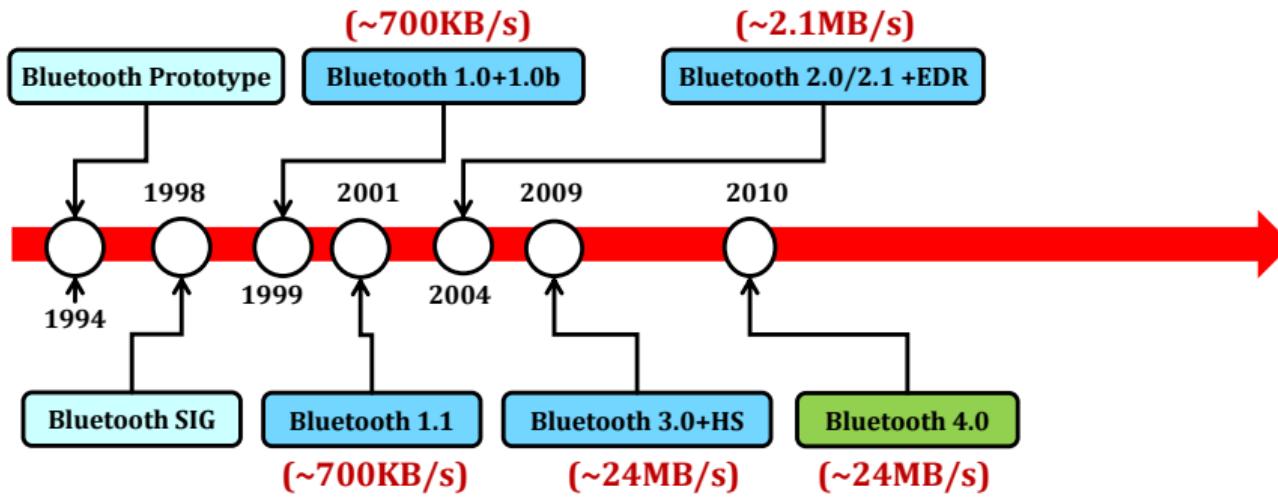
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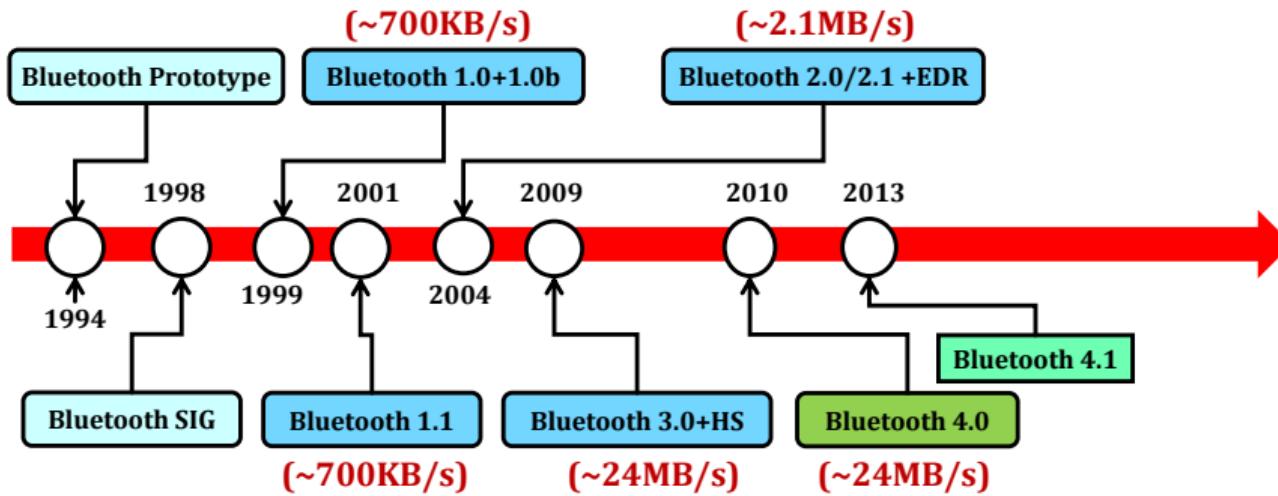


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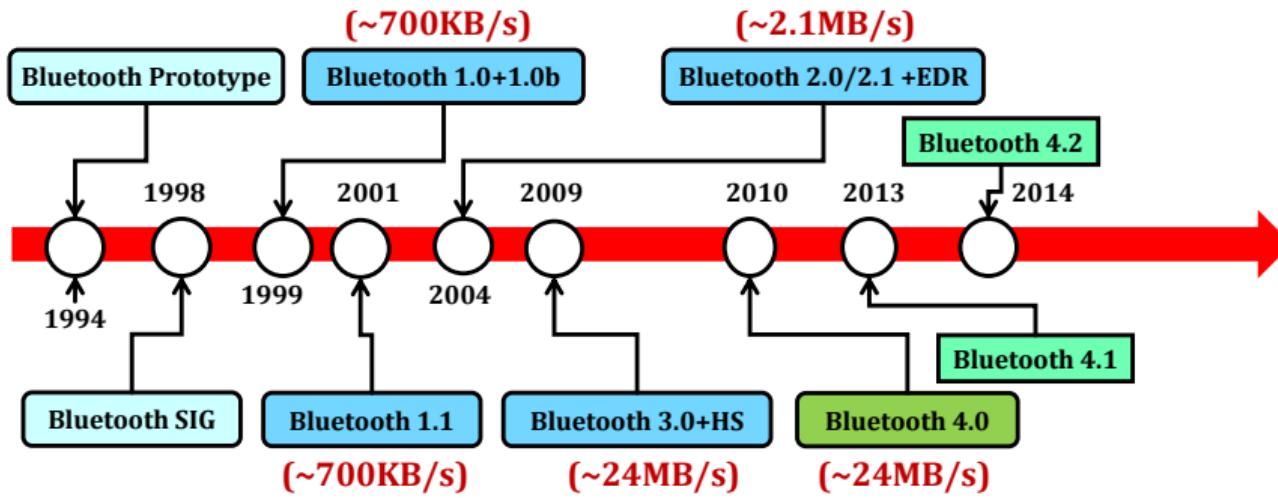
- Low energy (LE) protocol for IoT;
- 128-bit encryption/LE Privacy and Whitelisting

# History of Bluetooth



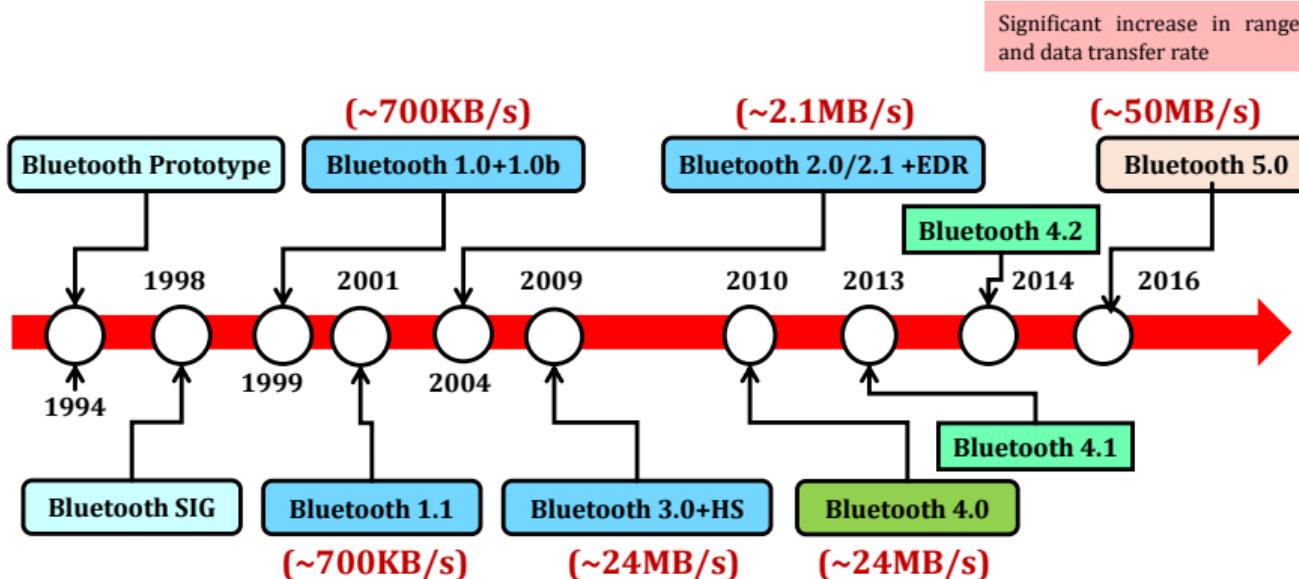
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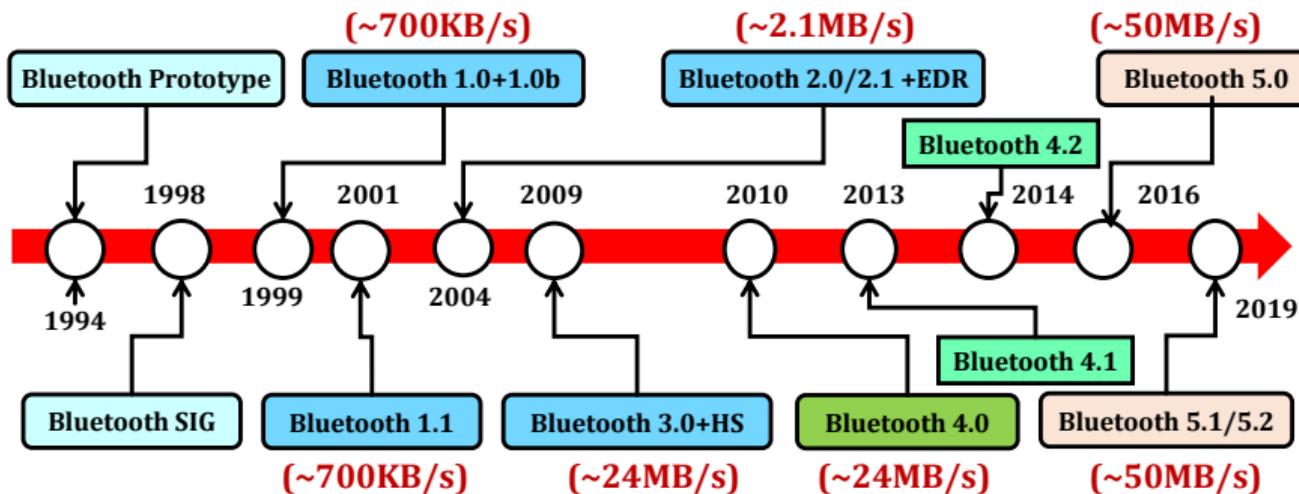


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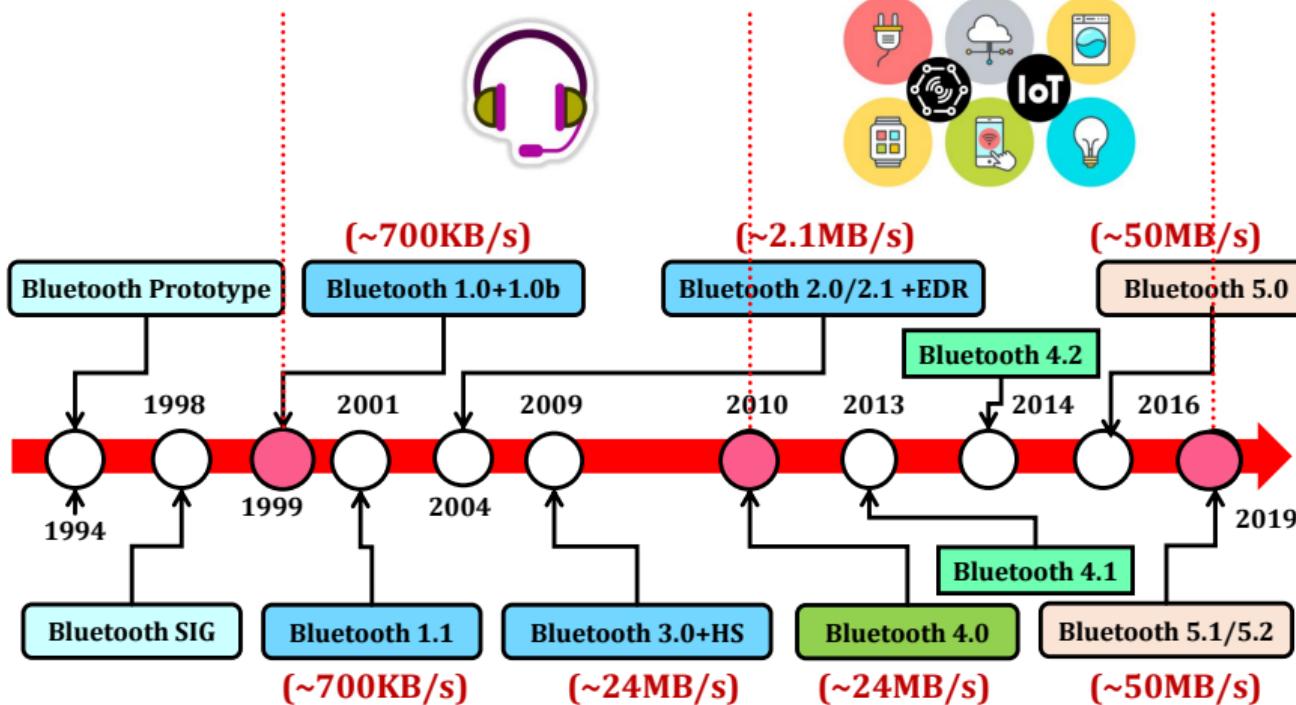
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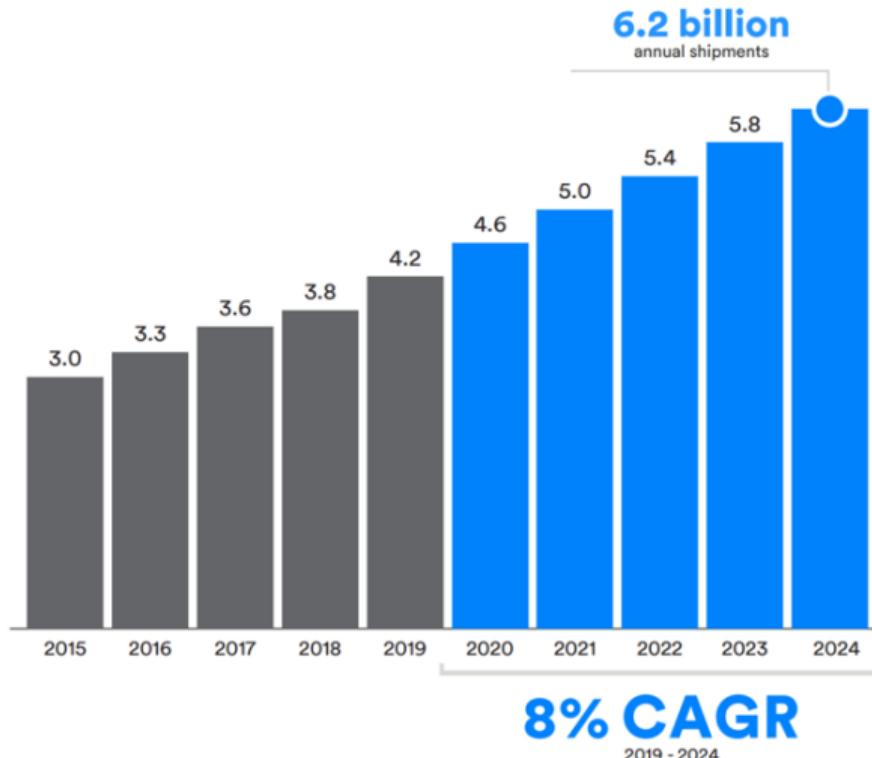
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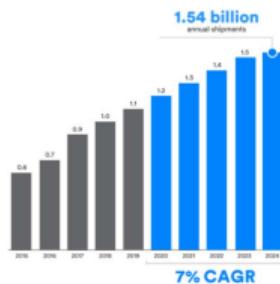
# Total Annual Bluetooth Device Shipments [SIG20]



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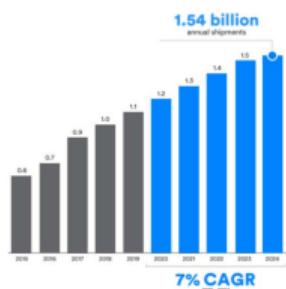
**Annual Bluetooth Audio Streaming Device Shipments**



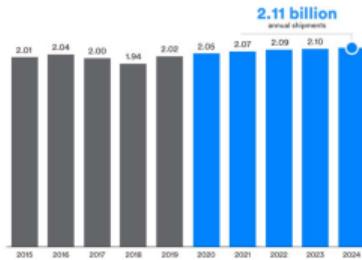
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Annual Bluetooth Audio Streaming Device Shipments



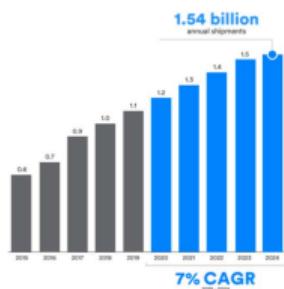
Annual Bluetooth Phone, Tablet & PC Shipments



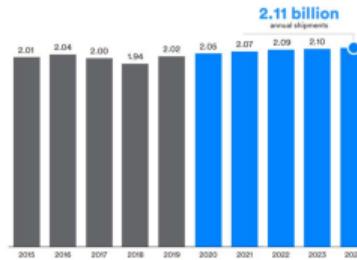
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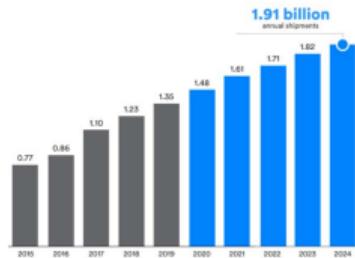
Annual Bluetooth Audio Streaming Device Shipments



Annual Bluetooth Phone, Tablet & PC Shipments



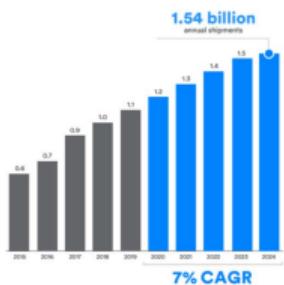
Annual Bluetooth Entertainments Shipments



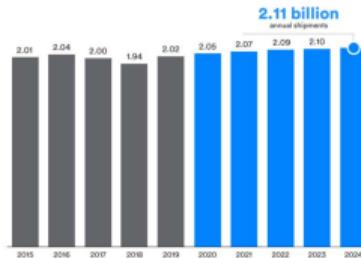
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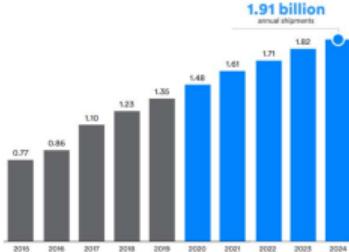
**Annual Bluetooth Audio Streaming Device Shipments**



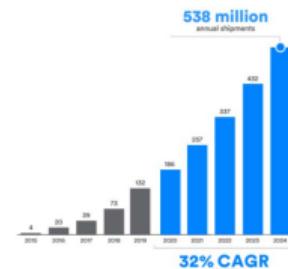
**Annual Bluetooth Phone, Tablet & PC Shipments**



**Annual Bluetooth Entertainments Shipments**



**Annual Bluetooth Location Service Device Shipments**



# Bluetooth IoT Devices and Companion Apps

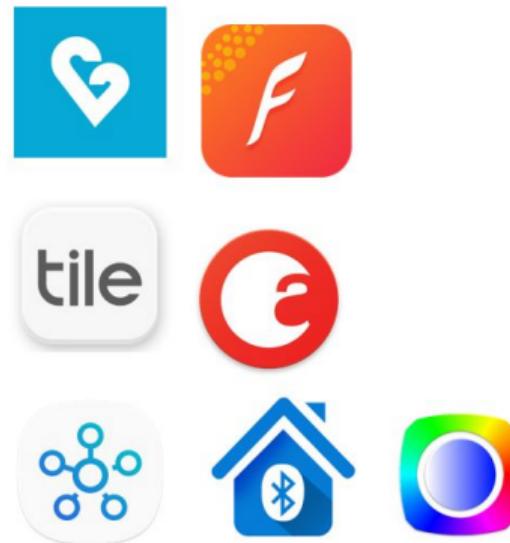


BLE IoT Devices

# Bluetooth IoT Devices and Companion Apps

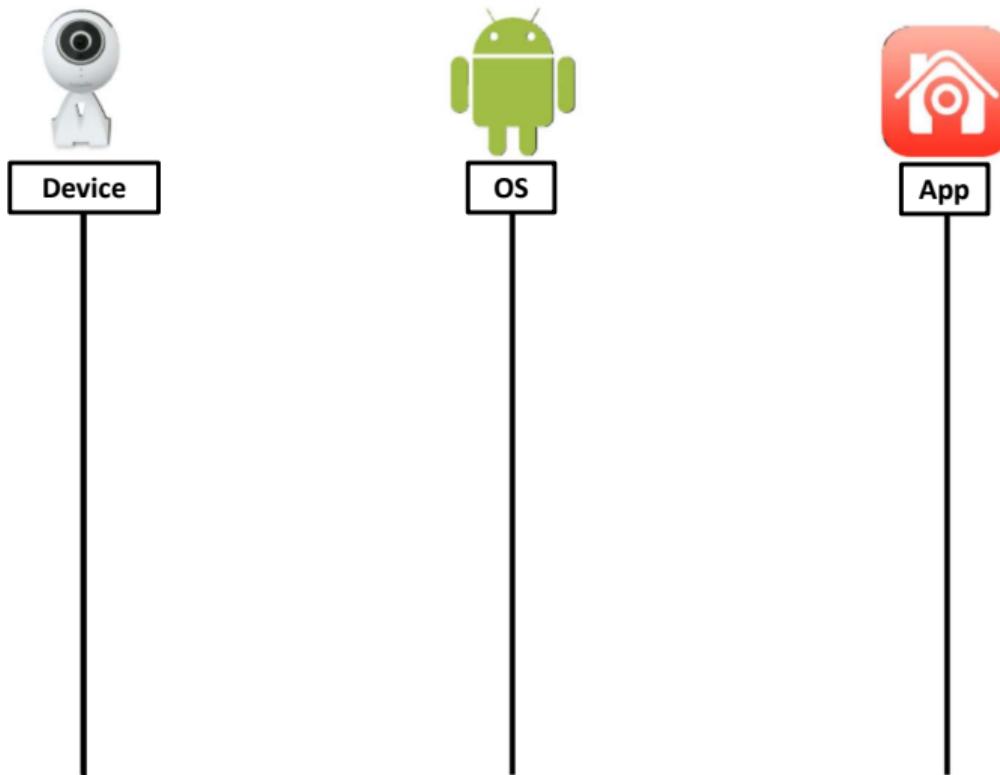


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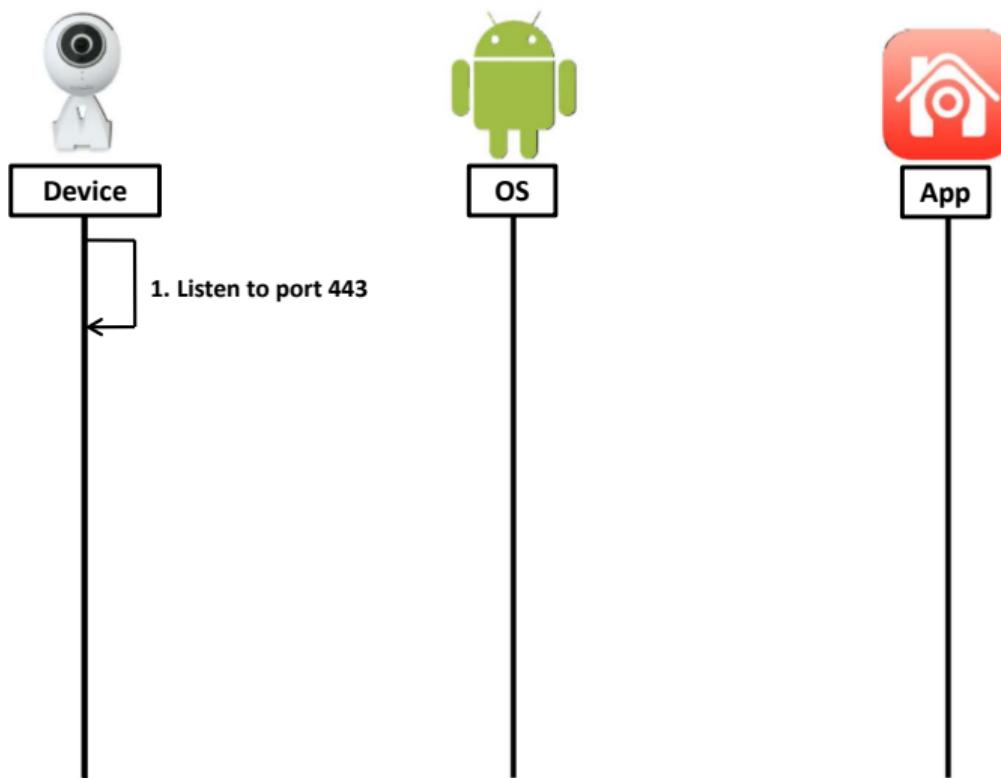


Companion Mobile Apps

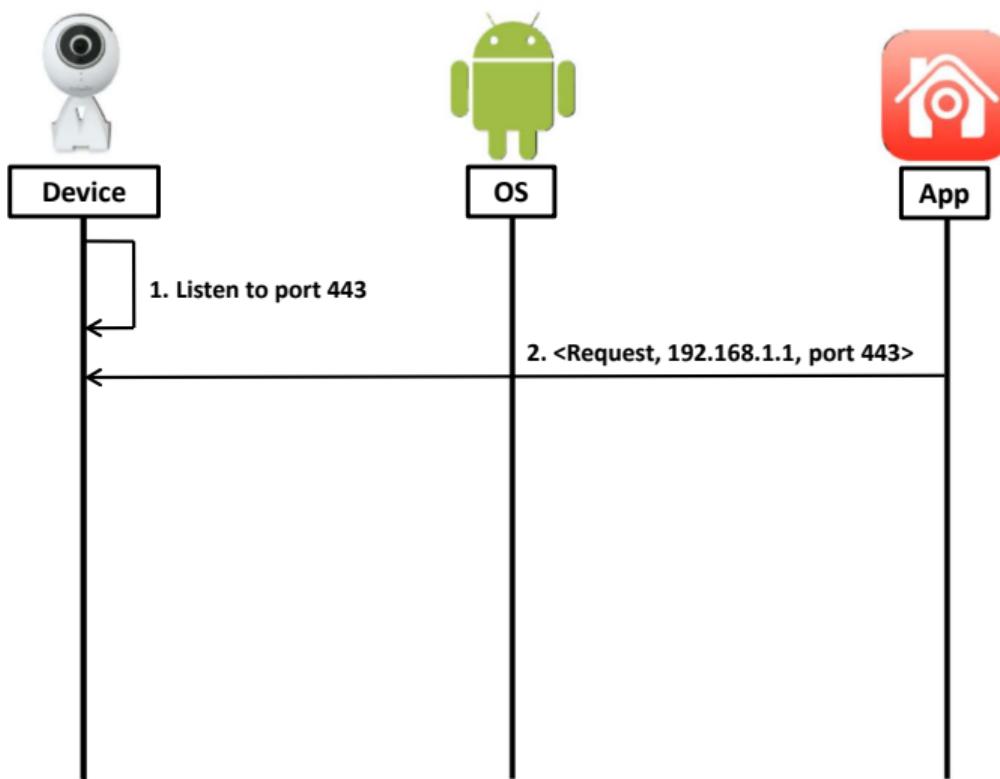
# The General Workflow of Device Communication in TCP/IP Setting



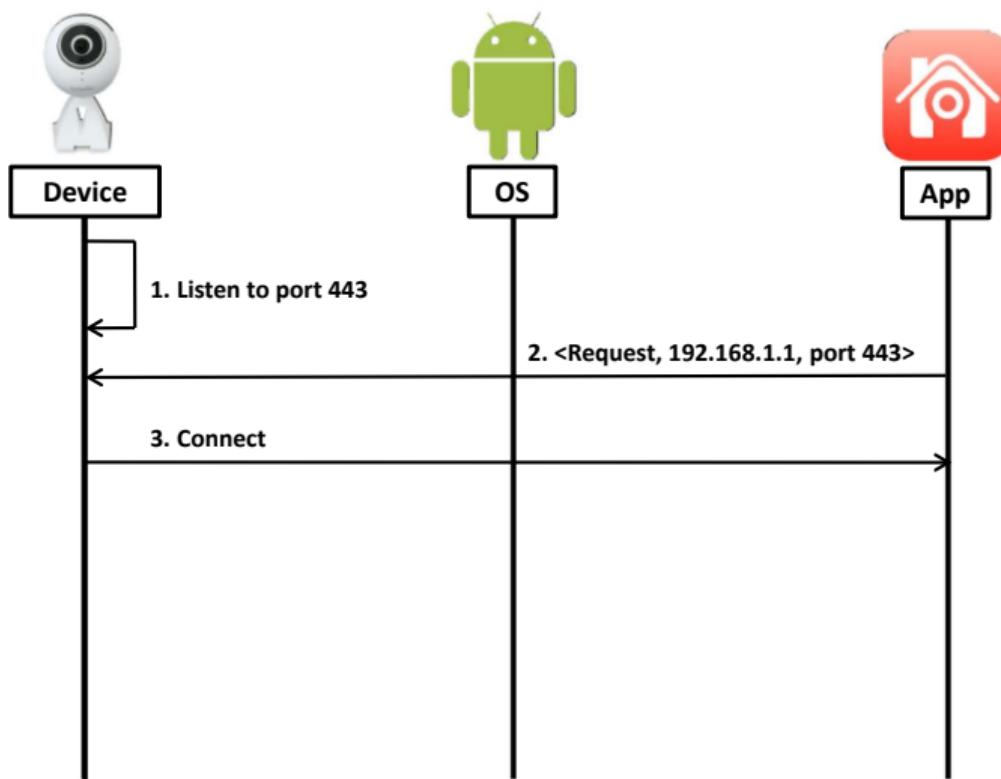
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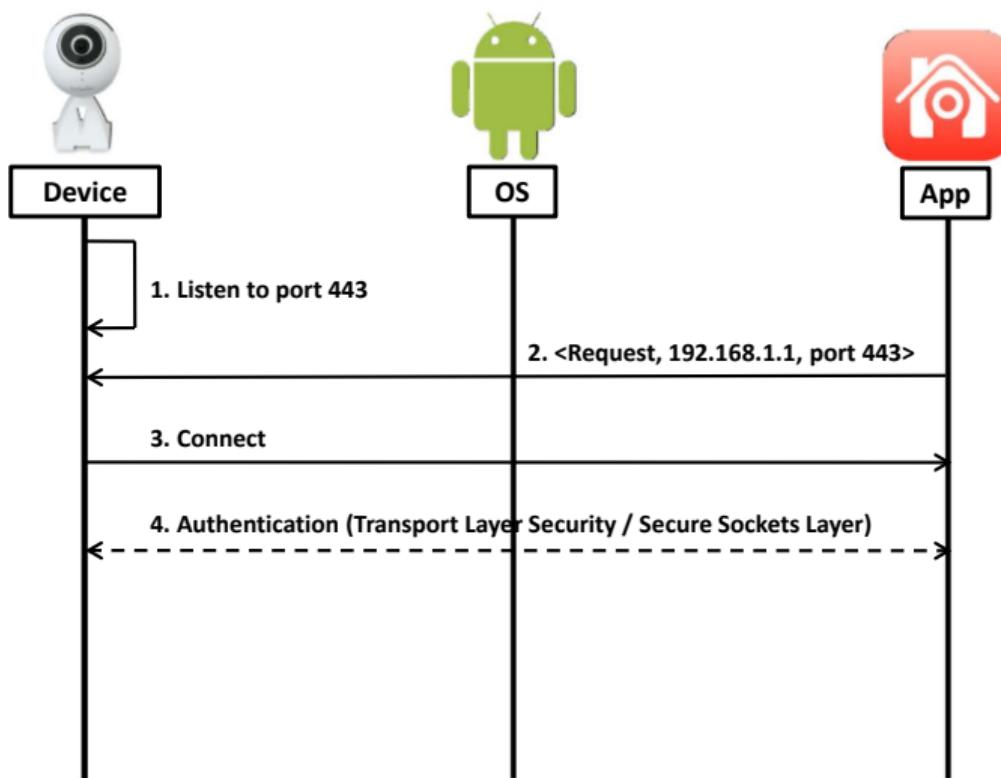
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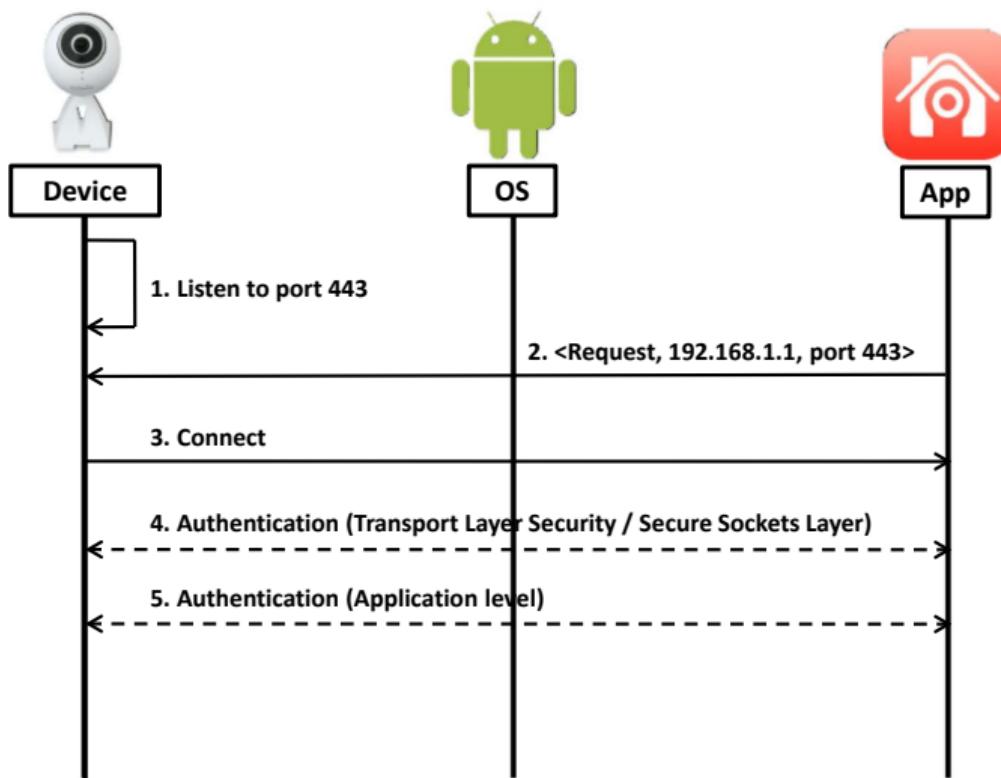
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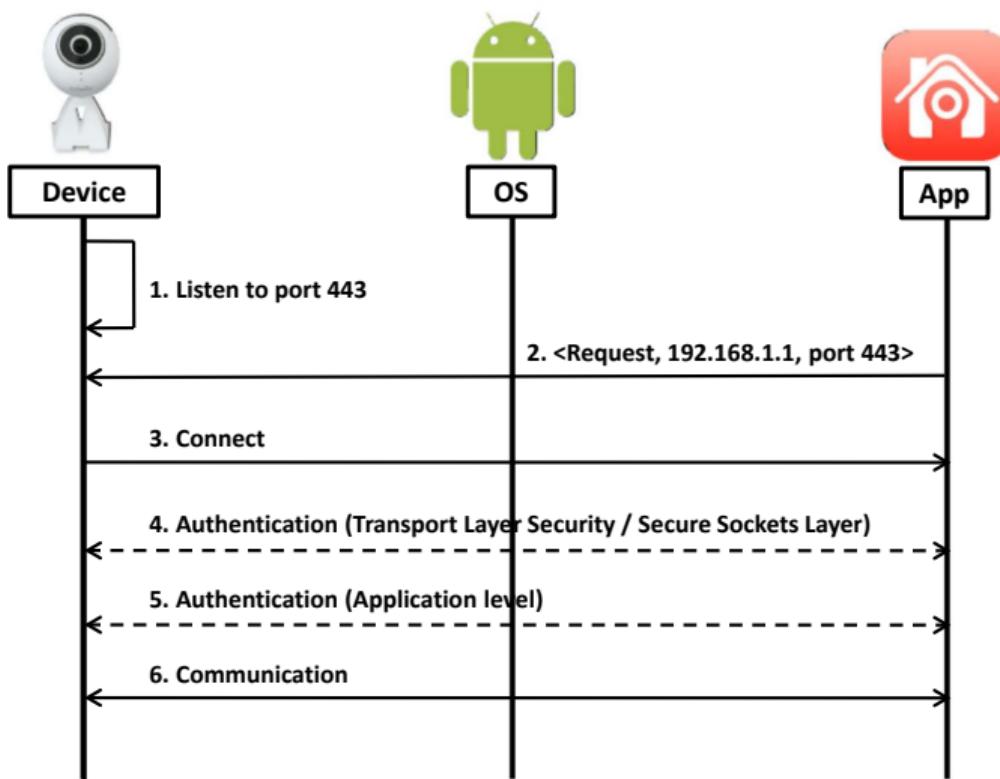
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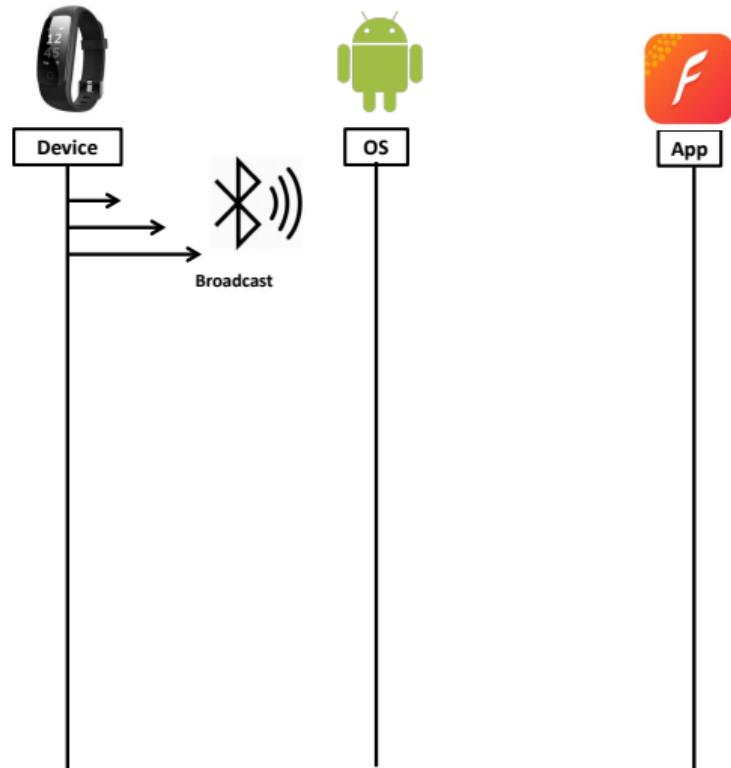
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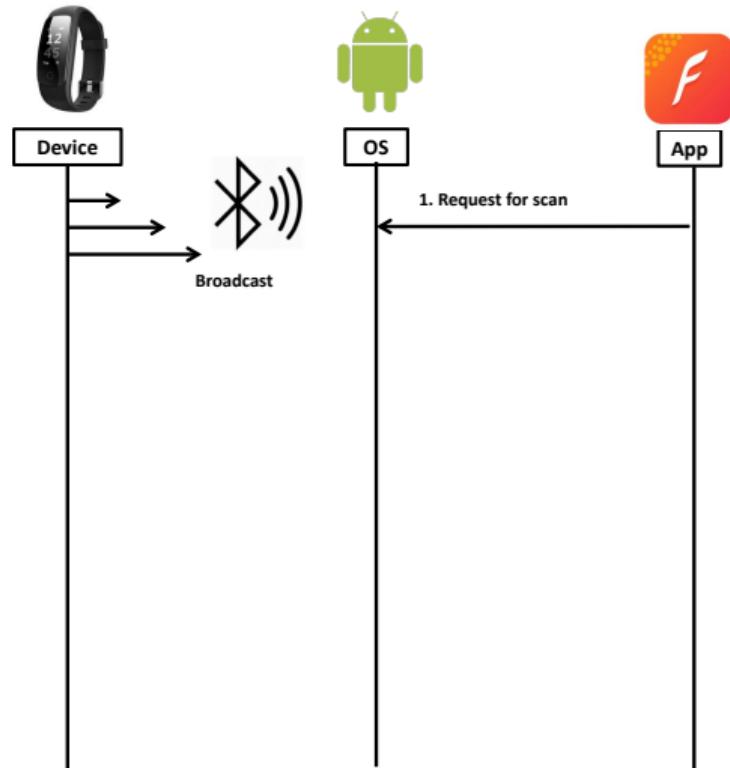
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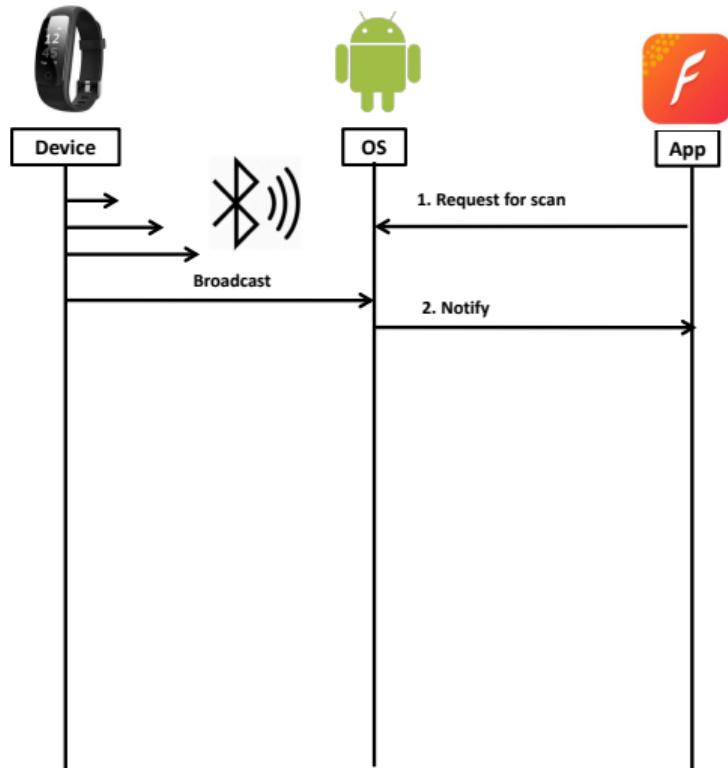
# The General Workflow of BLE IoT Devices and Companion Apps



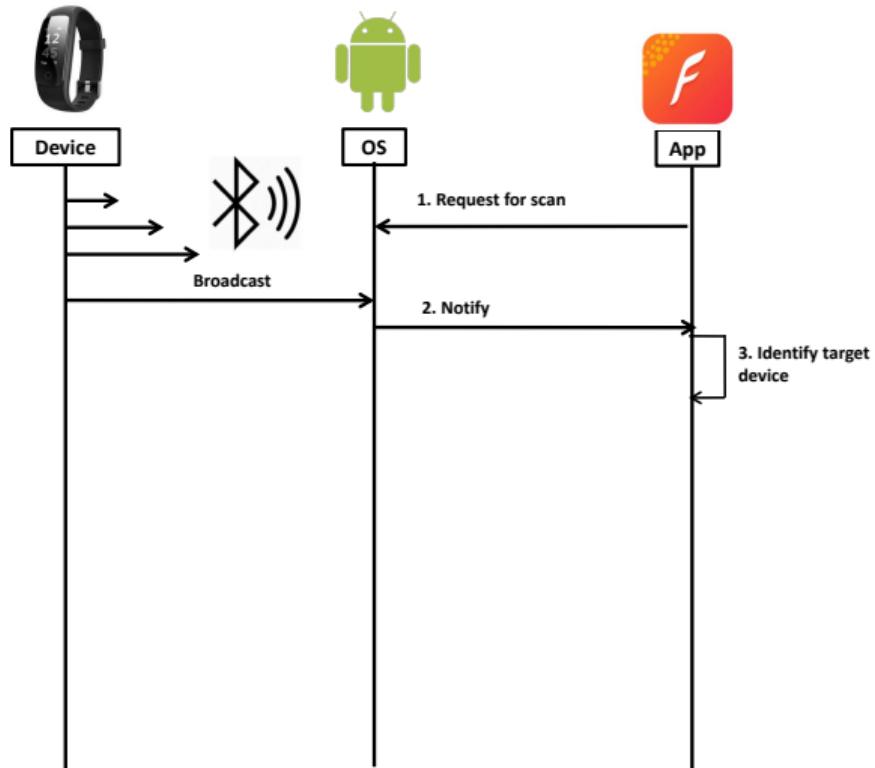
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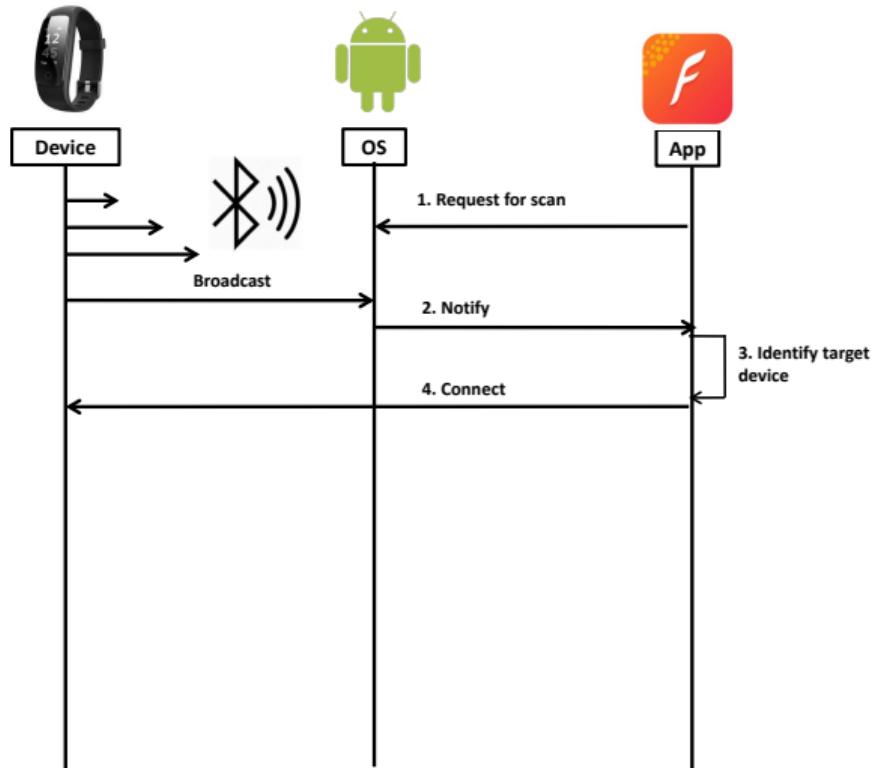
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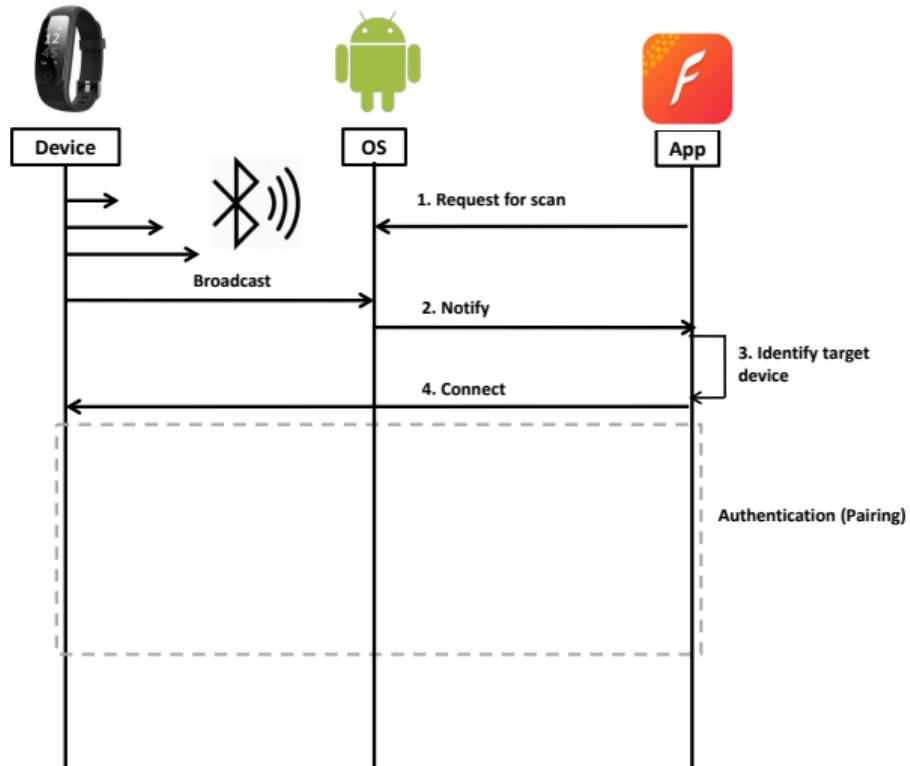
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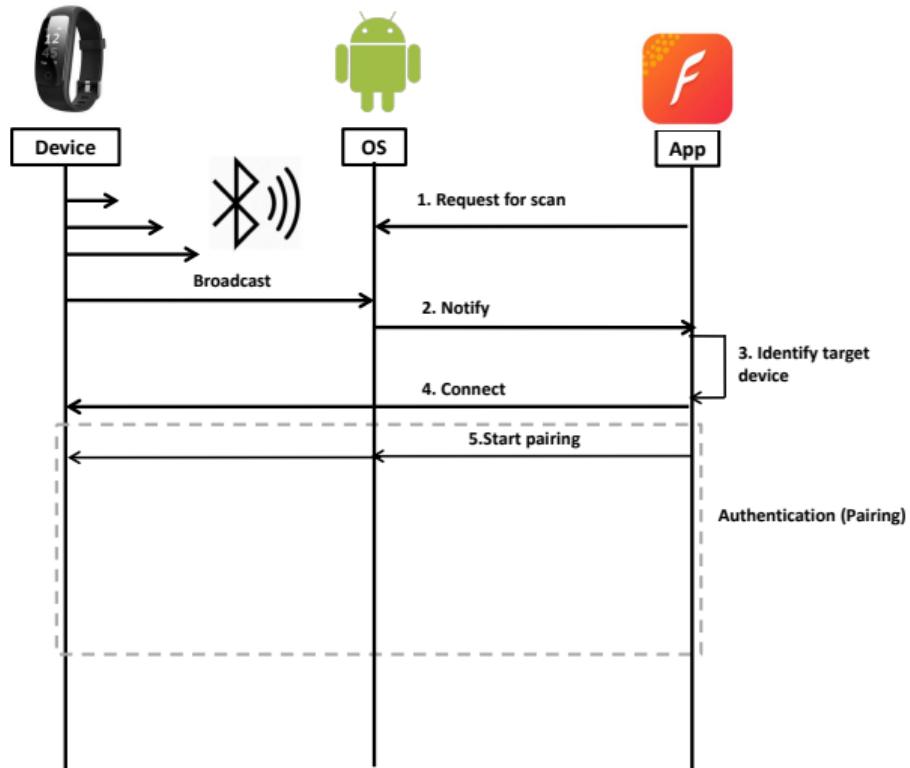
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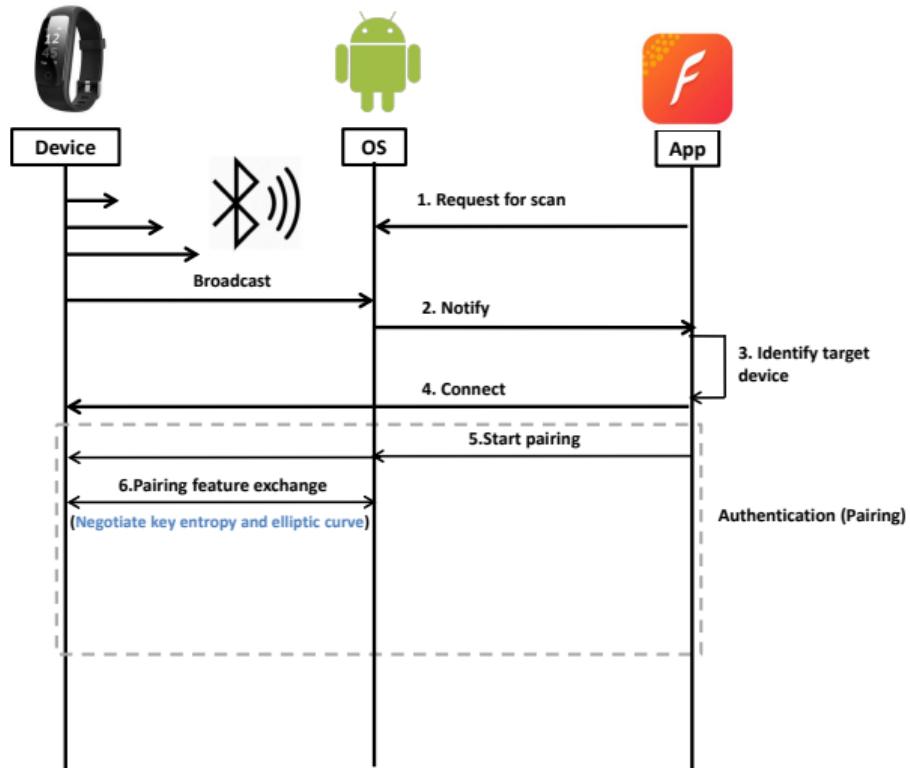
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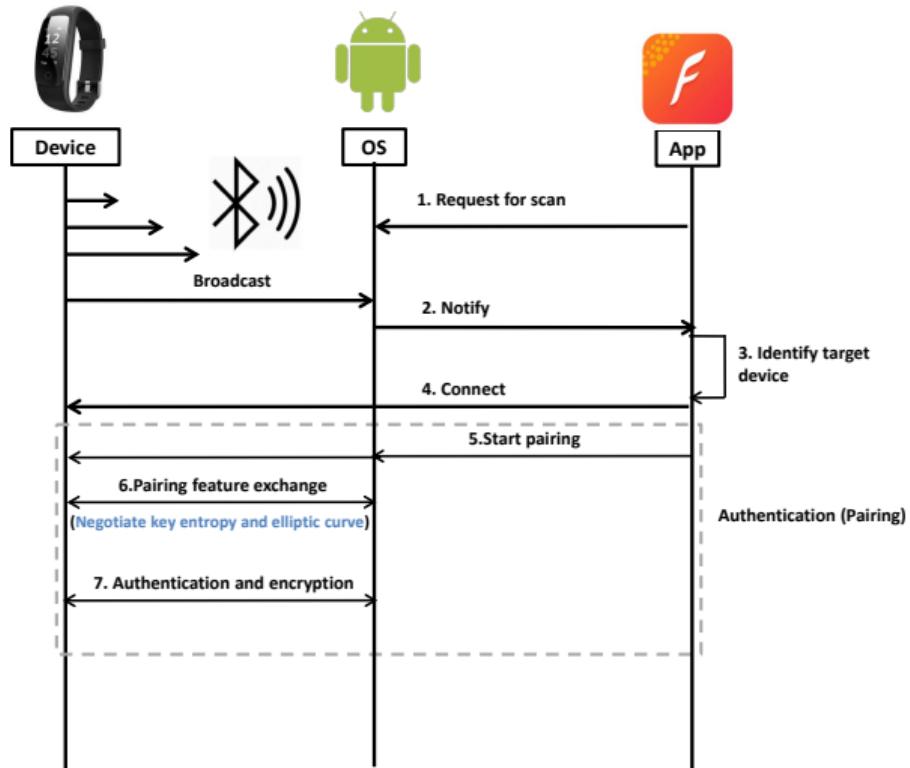
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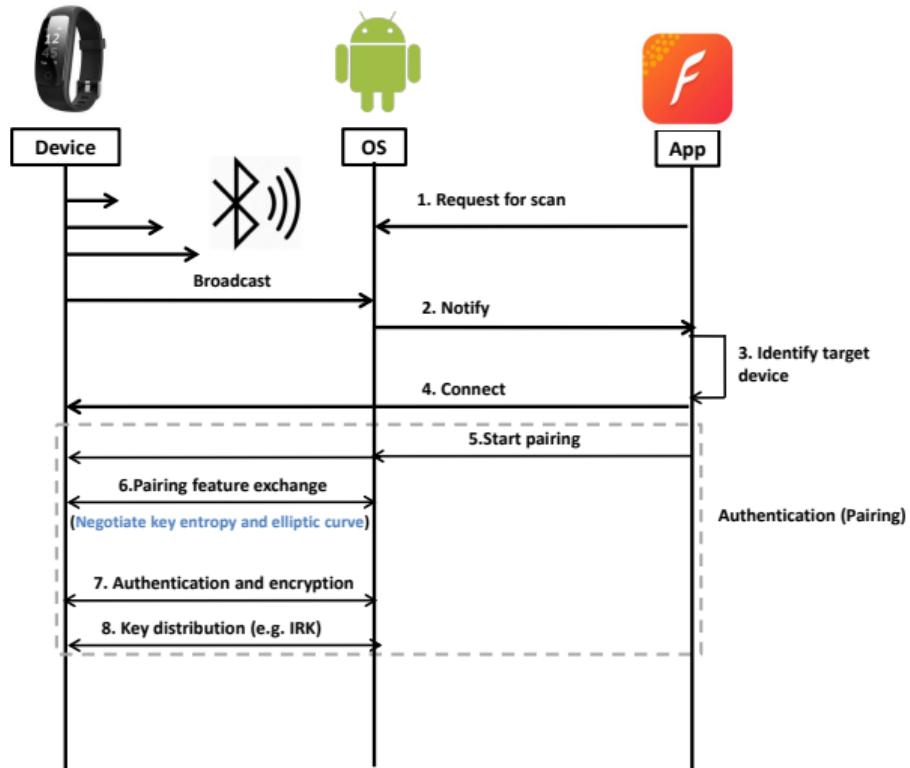
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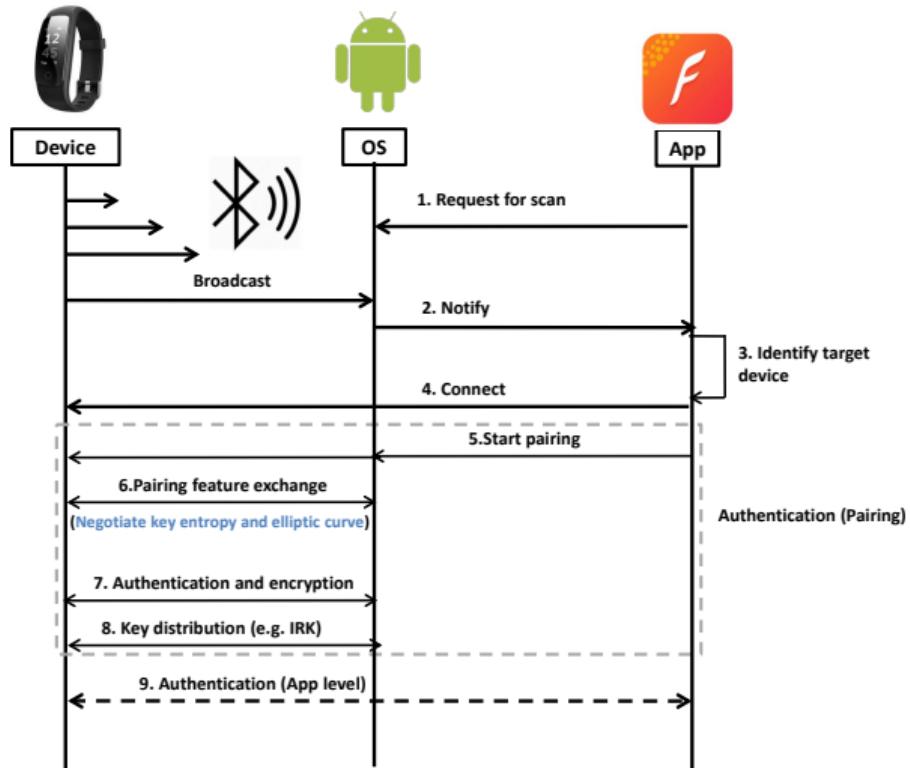
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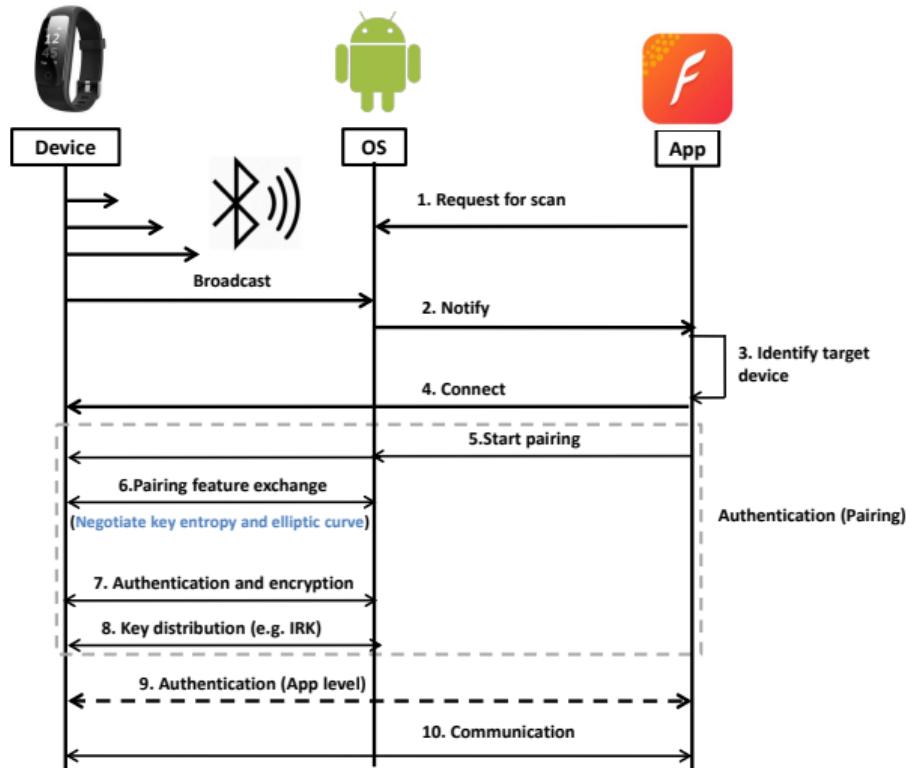
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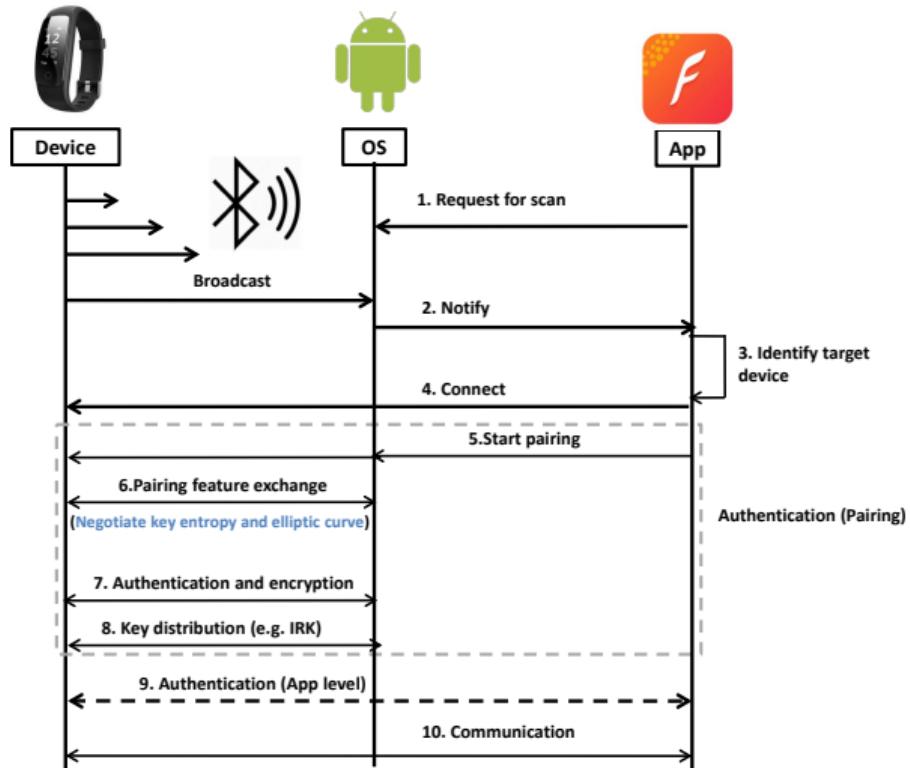
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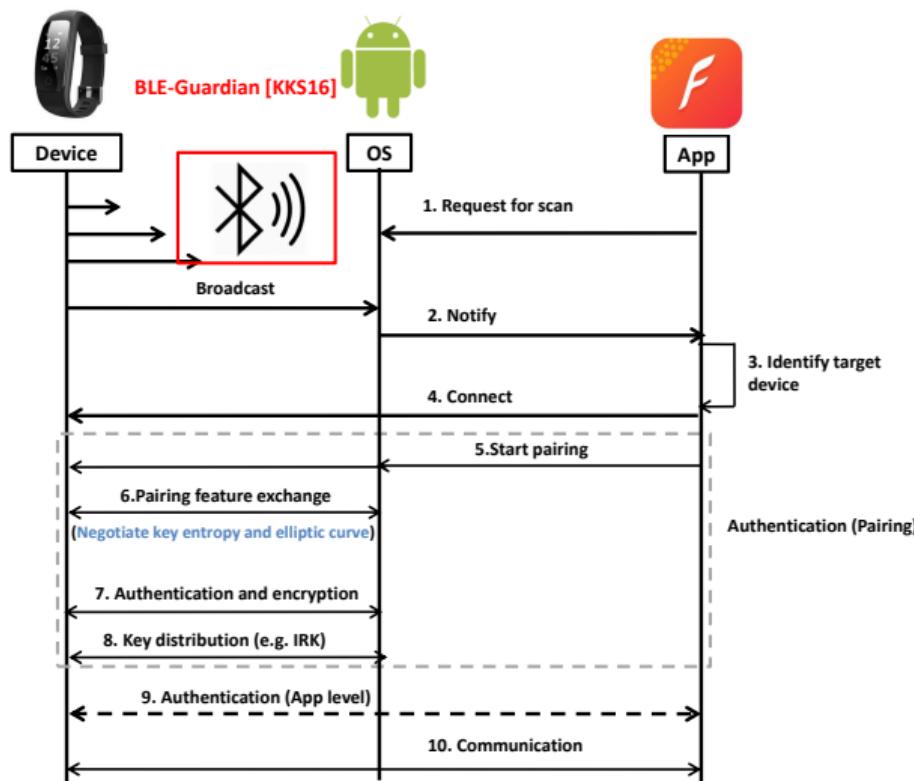
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# State-of-the-Art

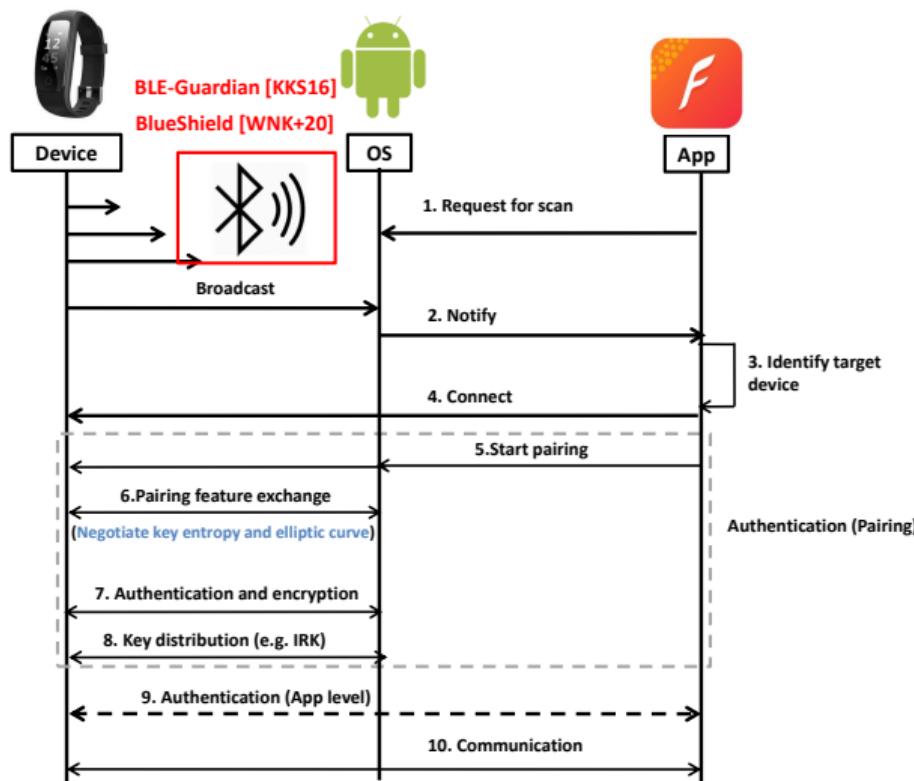


## BLE-Guardian [KKS16]

Protecting Privacy of BLE Device Users. In USENIX Security 2016.

- Defending against sensitive information leakage during broadcasting

# State-of-the-Art

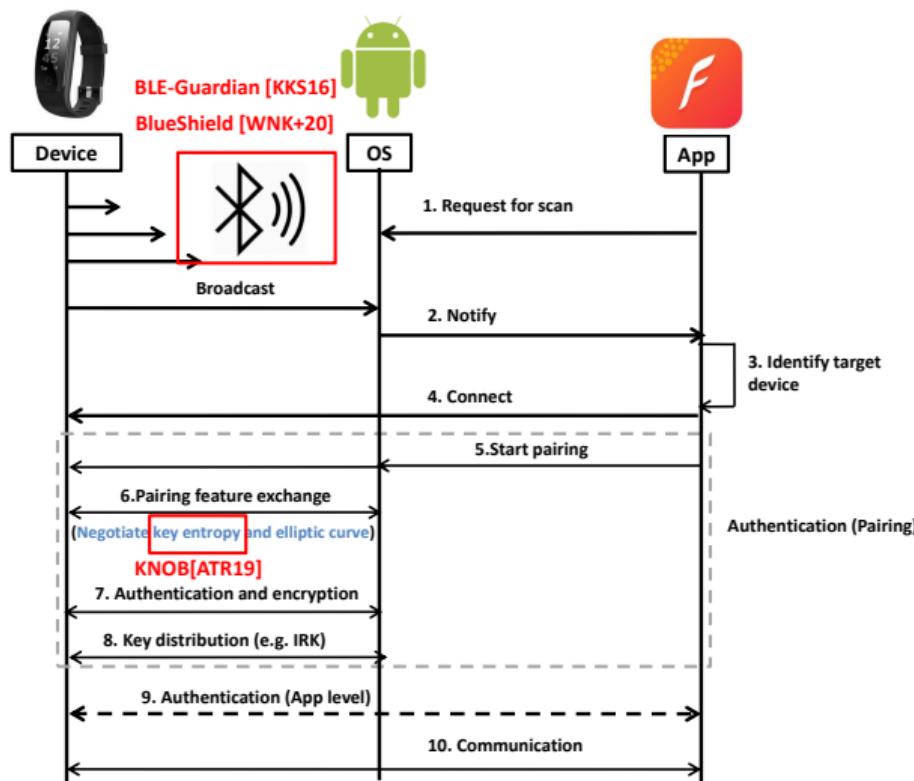


## BlueShield [WNK<sup>+</sup>20a]

**BlueShield: Detecting Spoofing Attacks in Bluetooth Low Energy Networks.** In **RAID 2020**.

- ▶ Detecting spoofing BLE devices during broadcasting.

# State-of-the-Art

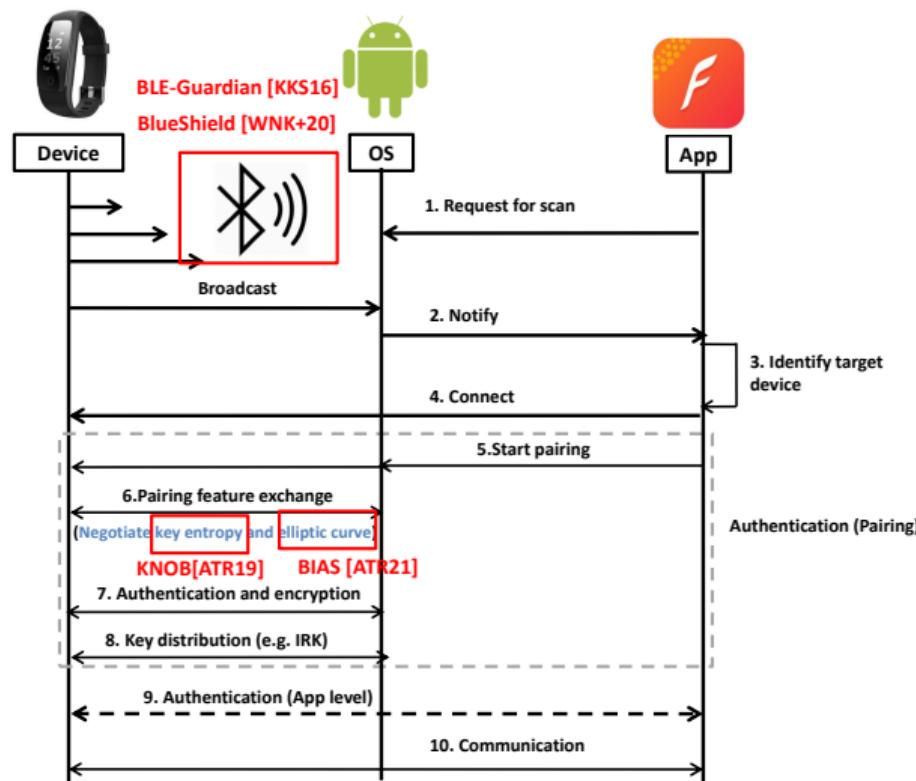


## KNOB [ATR19]

**The KNOB is Broken: Exploiting Low Entropy in the Encryption Key Negotiation Of Bluetooth BR/EDR.** In USENIX Security 2019.

- ▶ An attacker forces victims to agree on an encryption key with only one byte of entropy.
- ▶ Windows/iOS have fixed it

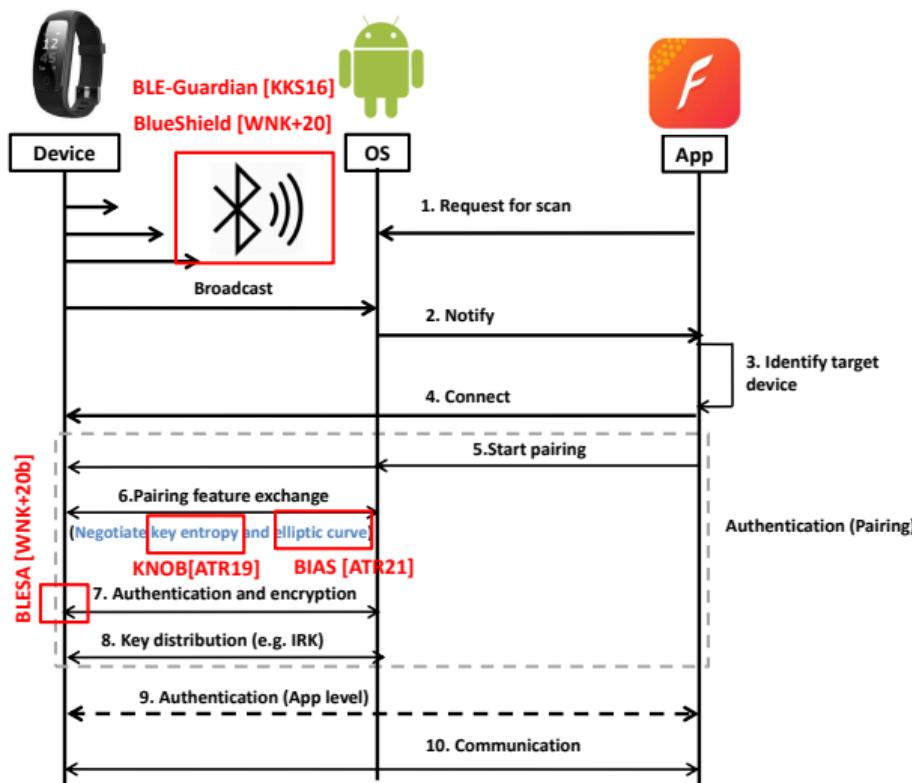
# State-of-the-Art



**BIAS [ATR20]**  
**BIAS: Bluetooth Impersonation AttackS.** In **Oakland** 2020.

- An attacker forces victims to use P-192 curve instead of using P-256 curve.

# State-of-the-Art

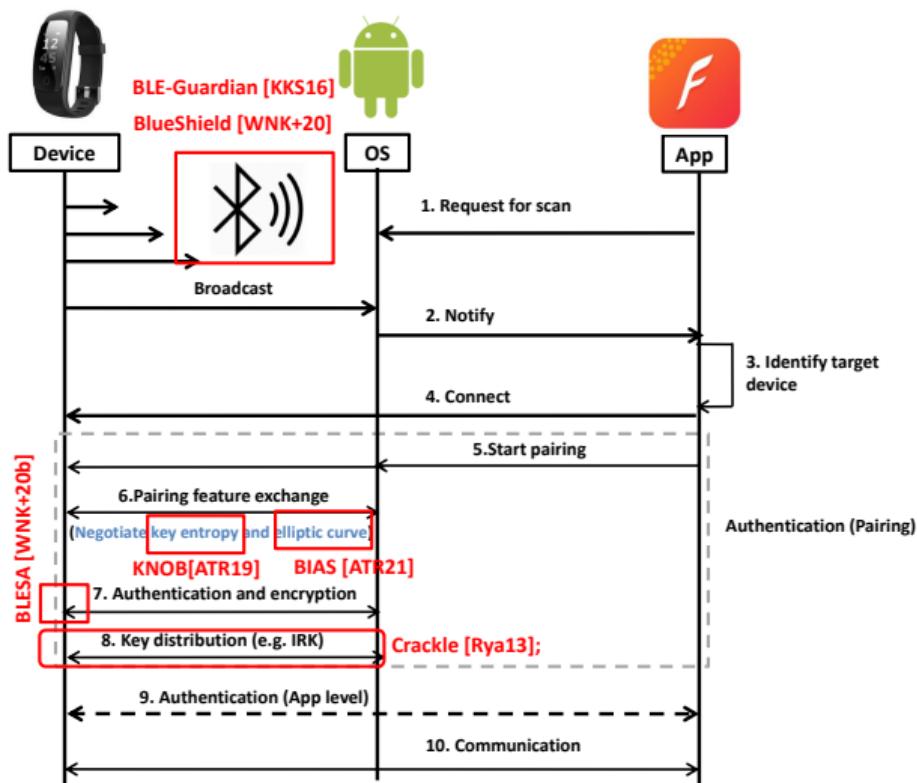


## BLESA [WNK<sup>+20b</sup>]

**BIESA: Spoofing Attacks against Reconnections in Bluetooth Low Energy.** In **WOOT 2020**.

- ▶ Fake BLE device attacks against mobiles.
- ▶ Android and iOS have fixed it

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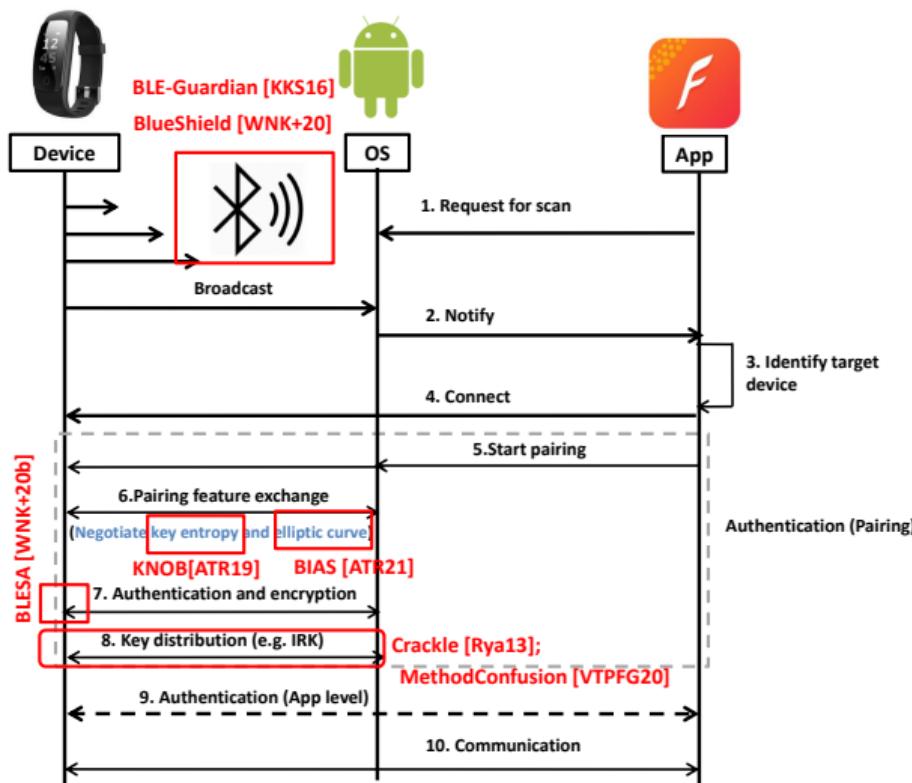


## Crackle [Rya13]

With Low Energy Comes Low Security. In **WOOT** 2013.

- ▶ Brute force attacks against long term keys.
- ▶ Bluetooth after 4.1 is no longer vulnerable

# State-of-the-Art

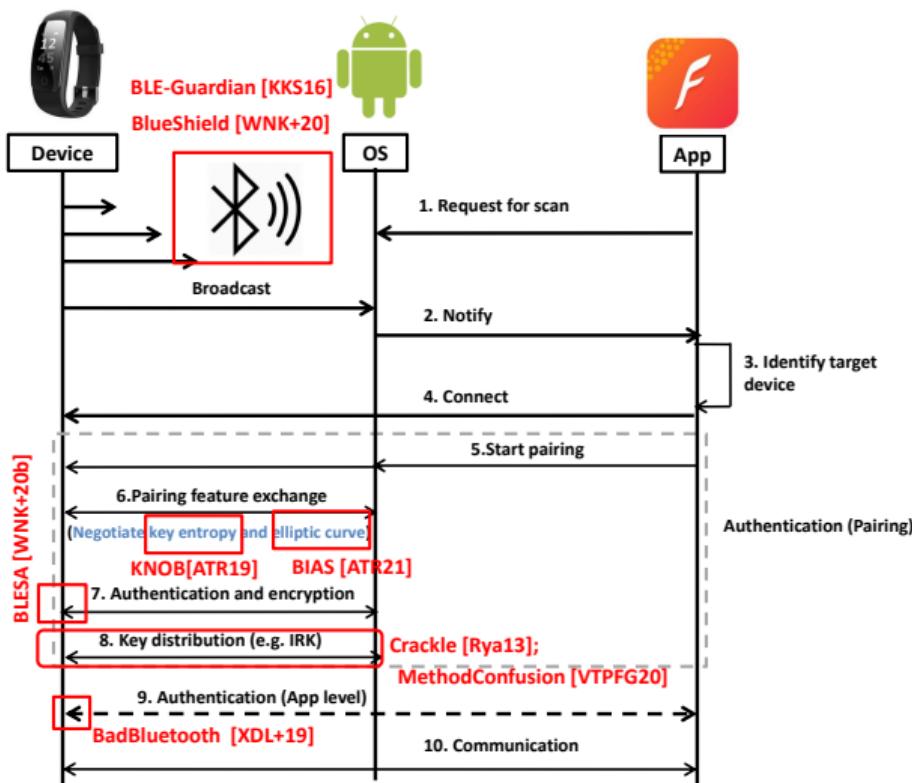


## Bluetooth Method Confusion [VTPFG21]

Method Confusion Attack on Bluetooth Pairing. In Oakland 2021

- Man in the middle attack (similar to the active attacks against DH)
- Attackers manipulates the pairing methods and target the ECDH key exchange process.

# State-of-the-Art

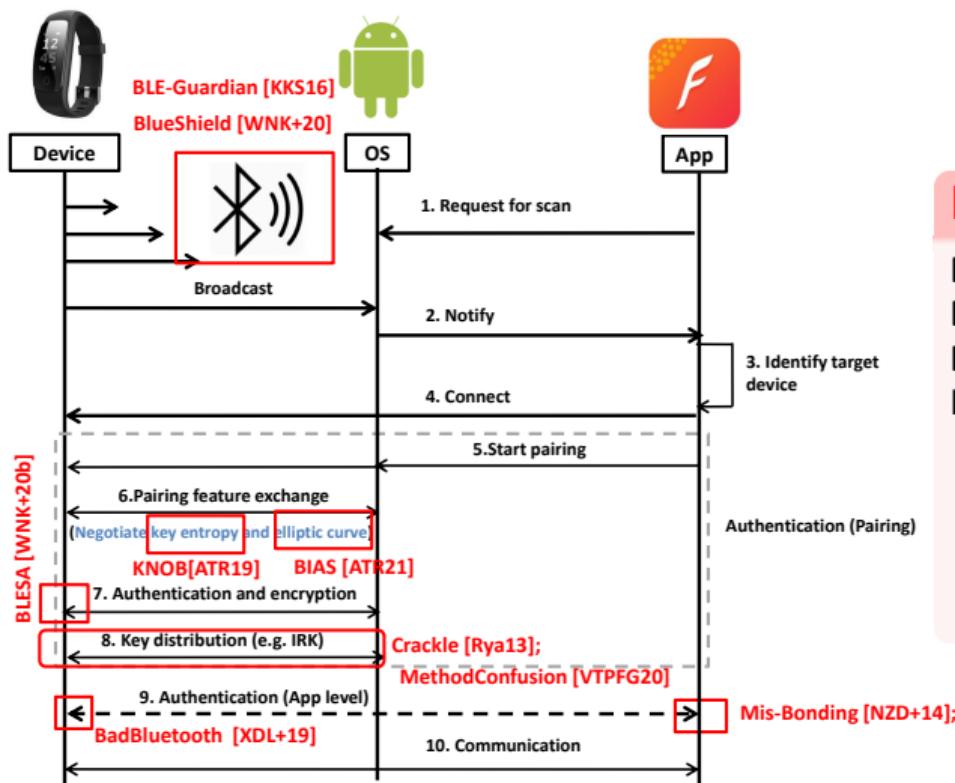


## BadBluetooth [XDL+19]

**Breaking Android Security Mechanisms via Malicious Bluetooth Peripherals.** In NDSS 2019.

- ▶ Fake devices manipulate BLE communication due to the lack of app-level authentication.
- ▶ Defense is up to the apps

# State-of-the-Art

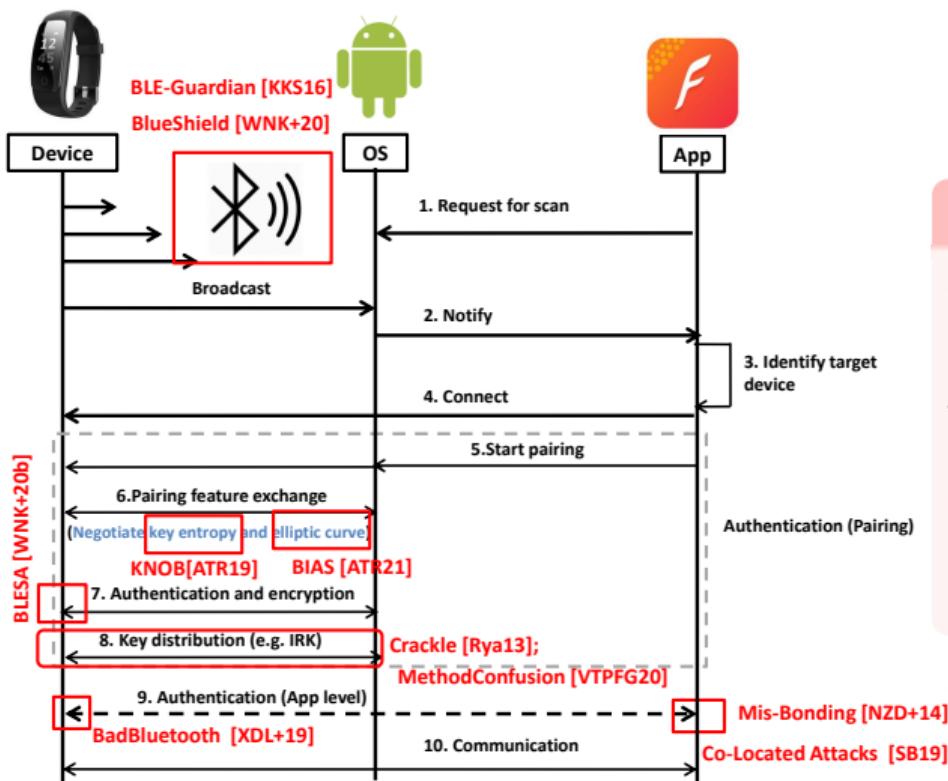


## Mis-Bonding [NZD<sup>+14</sup>]

**Inside Job: Understanding and Mitigating the Threat of External Device Mis-Bonding on Android..**  
In NDSS 2014.

- ▶ Malicious apps manipulate BLE communication due to lack of app-level authentication.
- ▶ Defense is up to the devices

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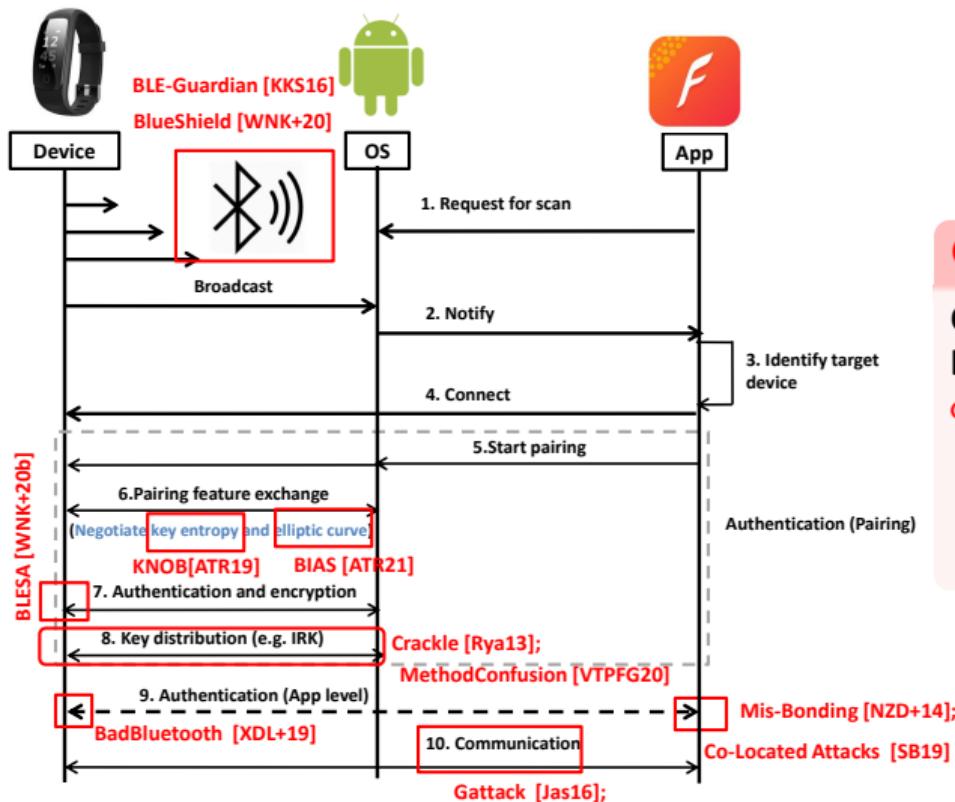


## Co-Located Attacks [SB19]

A Study of the Feasibility of Co-located App Attacks against BLE and a Large-Scale Analysis of the Current Application-Layer Security Landscape. In USENIX Security 2019.

- ▶ Large-scale analysis of mis-bonding issues.

# State-of-the-Art

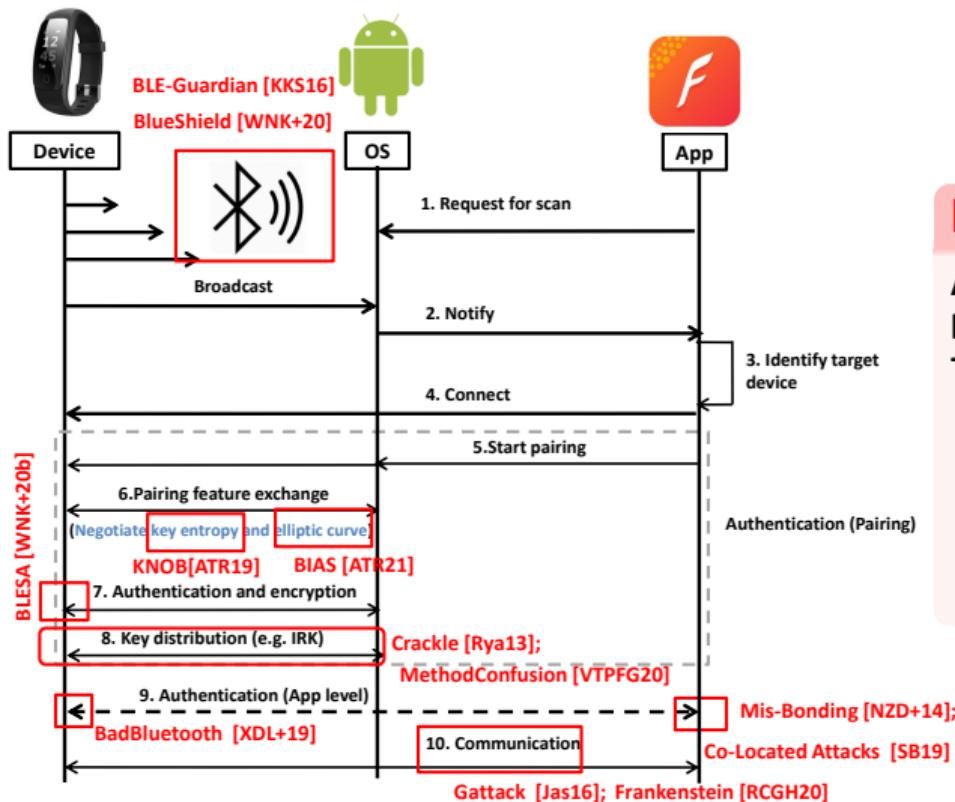


## Gattacking [Jas16]

**Gattacking Bluetooth Smart Devices.** In **Black hat USA conference 2016.**

- Poorly designed communication protocols are subject to various attacks (e.g., replay attacks).

# State-of-the-Art

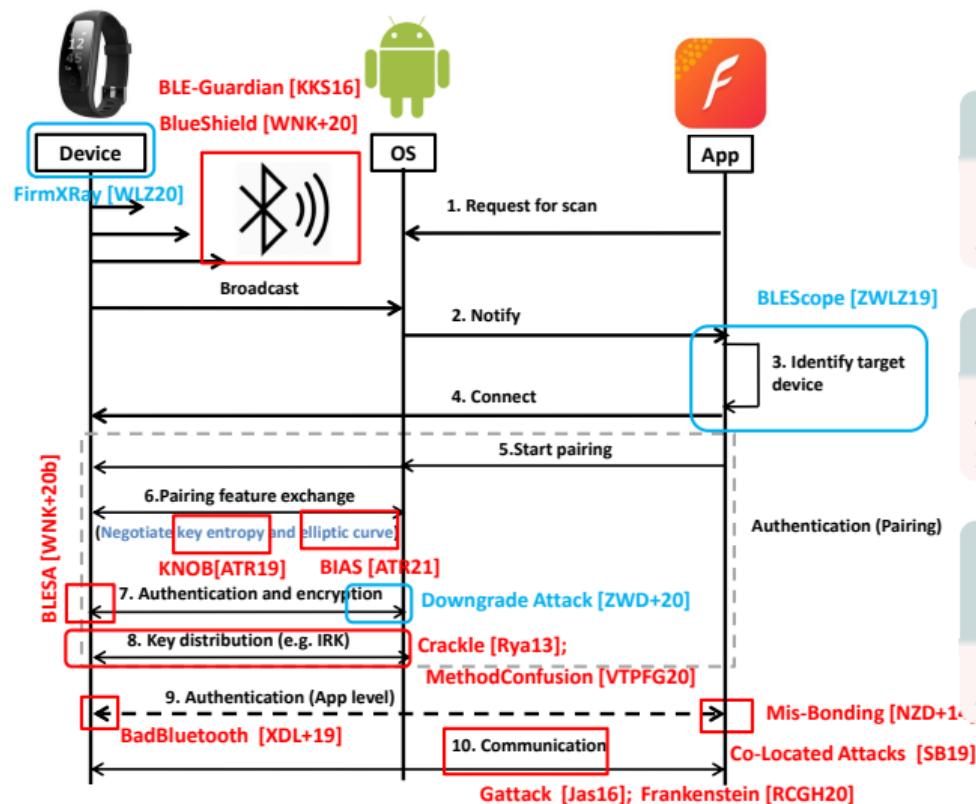


## Frankenstein [RCGH20]

Advanced Wireless Fuzzing to Exploit New Bluetooth Escalation Targets. In USENIX Security 2020.

- BLE Fuzzing tool injects HCI traffic or Bluetooth frames into Bluetooth communication in order to uncover Remote Code Execution bugs.

# Our Contributions



## BLEScope [ZWLZ19]

BLEScope: Automatic Fingerprinting of Vulnerable BLE IoT Devices with Static UUIDs from Mobile Apps. In [CCS 2019](#).

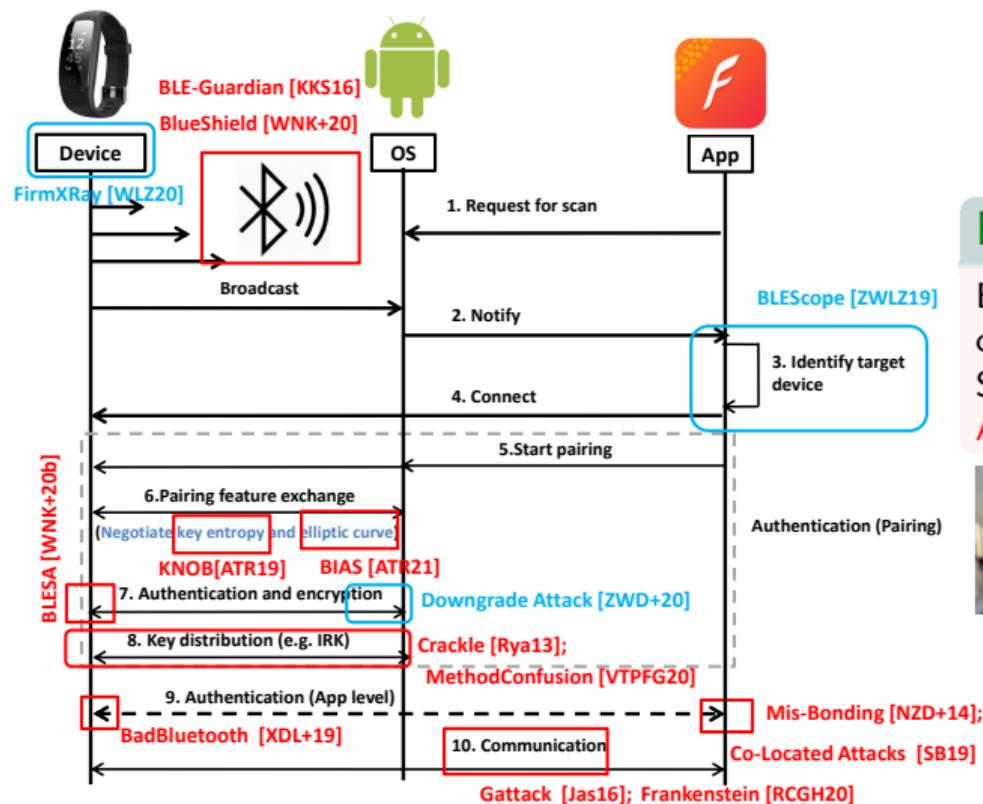
## FirmXRay [WLZ20]

FirmXRay: Detecting Bluetooth Link Layer Vulnerabilities From Bare-Metal Firmware. In [CCS 2020](#).

## Downgrade Attacks [ZWD+20]

Breaking Secure Pairing of BLE Using Downgrade Attacks. In [USENIX Security 2020](#).

# Our BLESCOPE [ZWLZ19] Work



## BLEScope [ZWLZ19]

BLEScope: Automatic Fingerprinting of Vulnerable BLE IoT Devices with Static UUIDs from Mobile Apps. In ACM CCS 2019.



# The Key Finding in BLESCOPE [ZWLZ19]

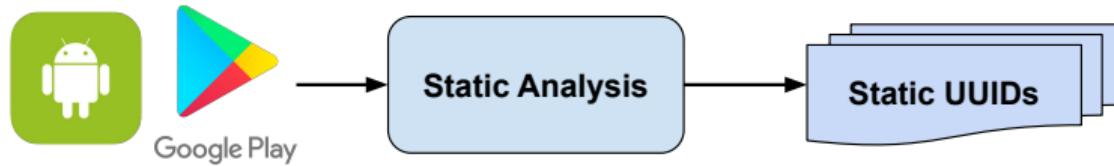
```
public class TemperatureService {
    public static final UUID EVENT_CHAR_UUID;
    public static final UUID PAIR_STATUS_CHAR_UUID;
    public static final UUID REQUEST_CHAR_UUID;
    public static final UUID RESPONSE_CHAR_UUID;
    public static final ParcelUuid SERVICE_PARCEL_UUID;
    public static final UUID SERVICE_UUID;

    static {
        TemperatureService.SERVICE_UUID = UUID.fromString("2893B28B-C868-423A-9DC2-E9C2FCB4EBB5"); UUID
        TemperatureService.SERVICE_PARCEL_UUID = new ParcelUuid(TemperatureService.SERVICE_UUID);
        TemperatureService.REQUEST_CHAR_UUID = UUID.fromString("28930000-C868-423A-9DC2-E9C2FCB4EBB5");
        TemperatureService.RESPONSE_CHAR_UUID = UUID.fromString("28930001-C868-423A-9DC2-E9C2FCB4EBB5");
        TemperatureService.EVENT_CHAR_UUID = UUID.fromString("28930002-C868-423A-9DC2-E9C2FCB4EBB5");
        TemperatureService.PAIR_STATUS_CHAR_UUID = UUID.fromString("28930003-C868-423A-9DC2-E9C2FCB4EBB5");
    }
}
```

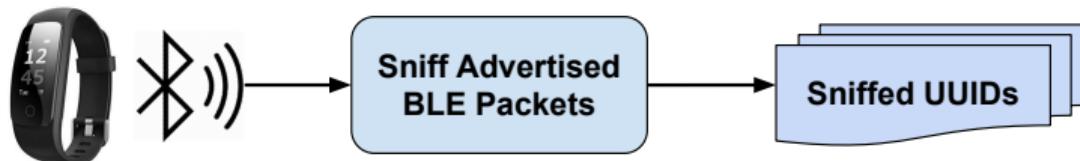
## Key Observation

- ① UUIDs are broadcasted by BLE IoT devices to nearby phones.
- ② UUIDs are static.
- ③ Mobile apps contain UUIDs.
- ④ Mobile apps identify target BLE IoT devices based on their broadcasted UUIDs.

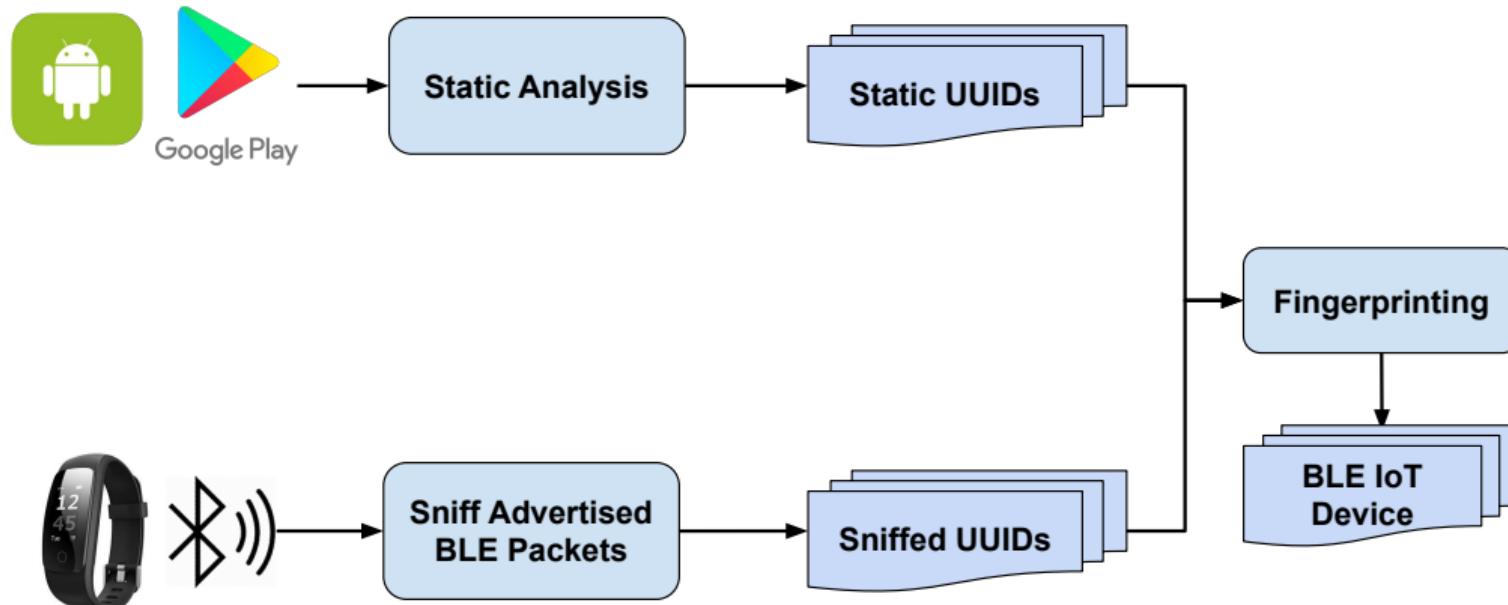
# Attack: How to Fingerprint a BLE IoT Device with Static UUIDs



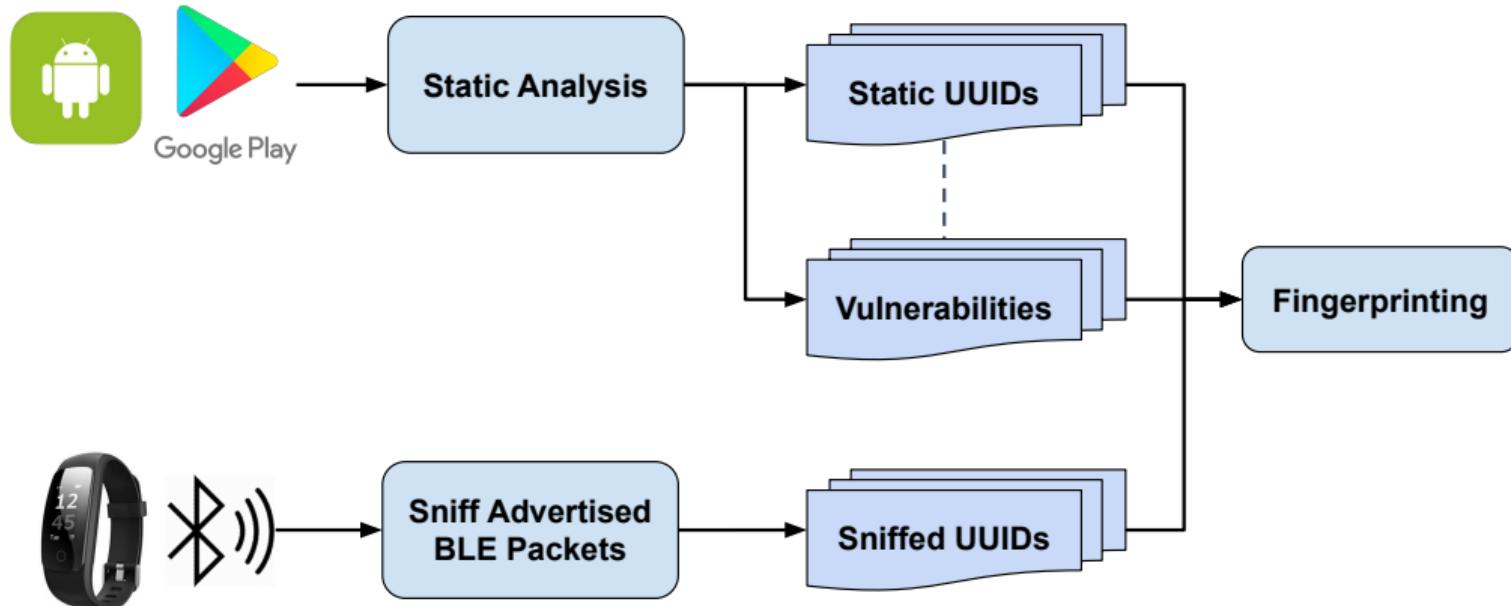
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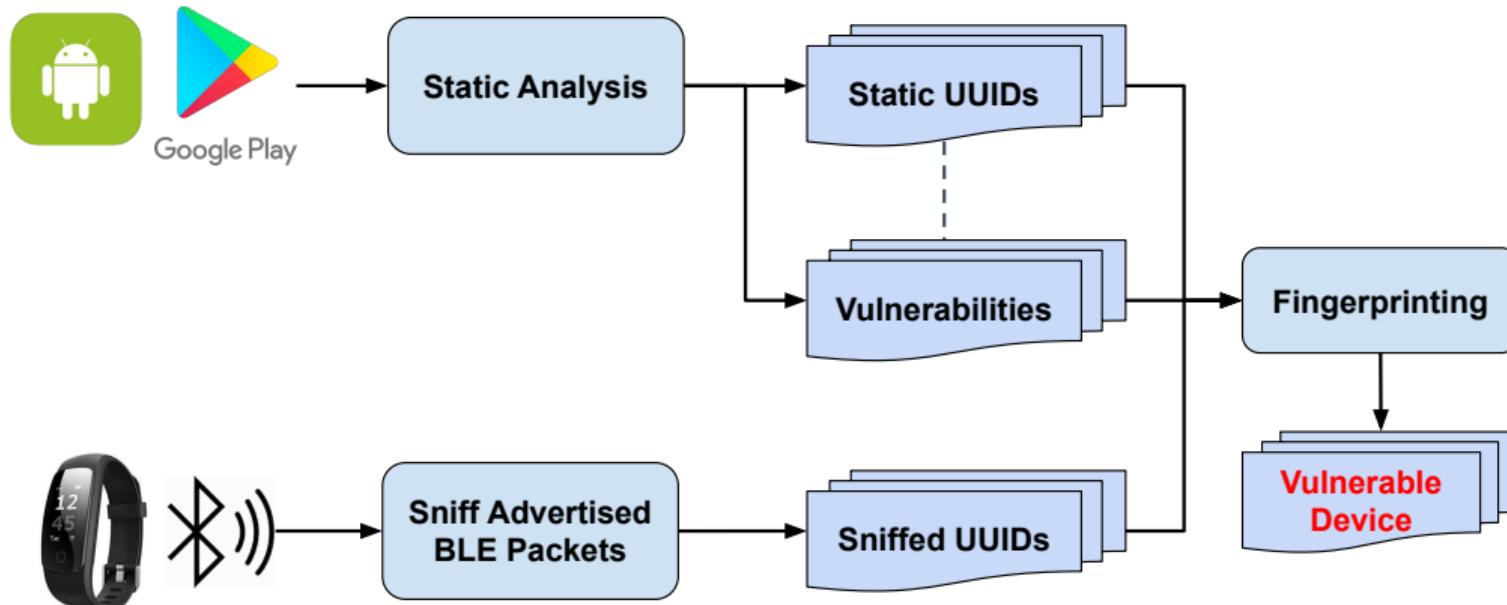
# Attack: How to Fingerprint a BLE IoT Device with Static UUIDs



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# Introducing BLEScope

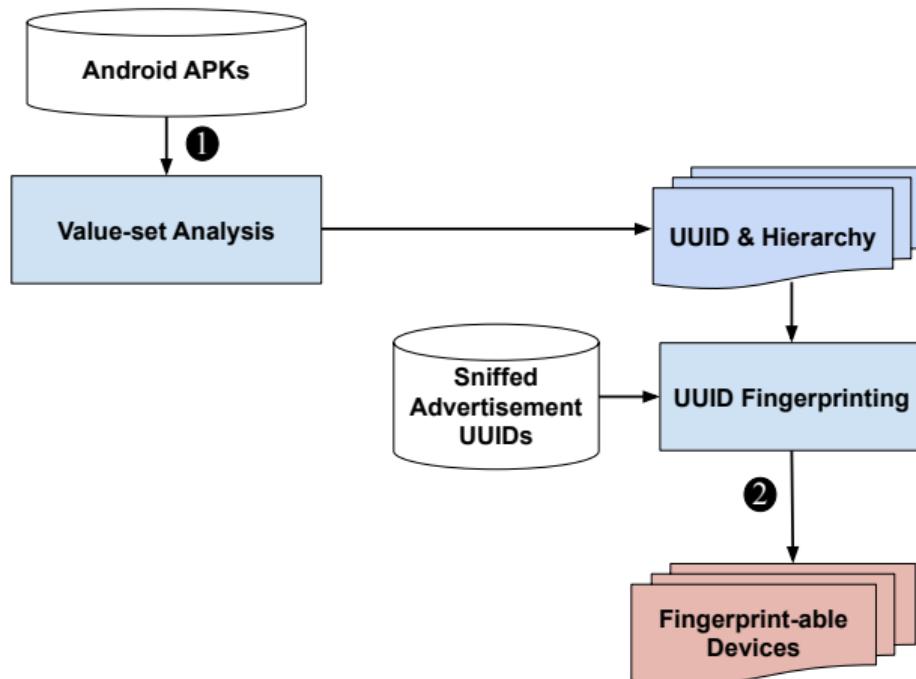
**“Automatic Fingerprinting of Vulnerable BLE IoT Devices with Static UUIDs from Mobile Apps”.** Chaoshun Zuo, Haohuang Wen, Zhiqiang Lin, and Yinqian Zhang. In *Proceedings of the 26th ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS’19)*, London, UK. November 2019

- ① **Novel Discovery.** We are the *first* to discover BLE IoT devices can be fingerprinted with static UUIDs.
- ② **Effective Techniques.** We have implemented an automatic tool BLESCOPE to harvest UUIDs and detect vulnerabilities from mobile apps.
- ③ **Evaluation.** We have tested our tool with 18,166 BLE mobile apps from Google Play store, and found 168,093 UUIDs and 1,757 vulnerable BLE IoT apps.
- ④ **Countermeasures.** We present channel-level protection, app-level protection, and protocol-level protection (with dynamic UUID generation).

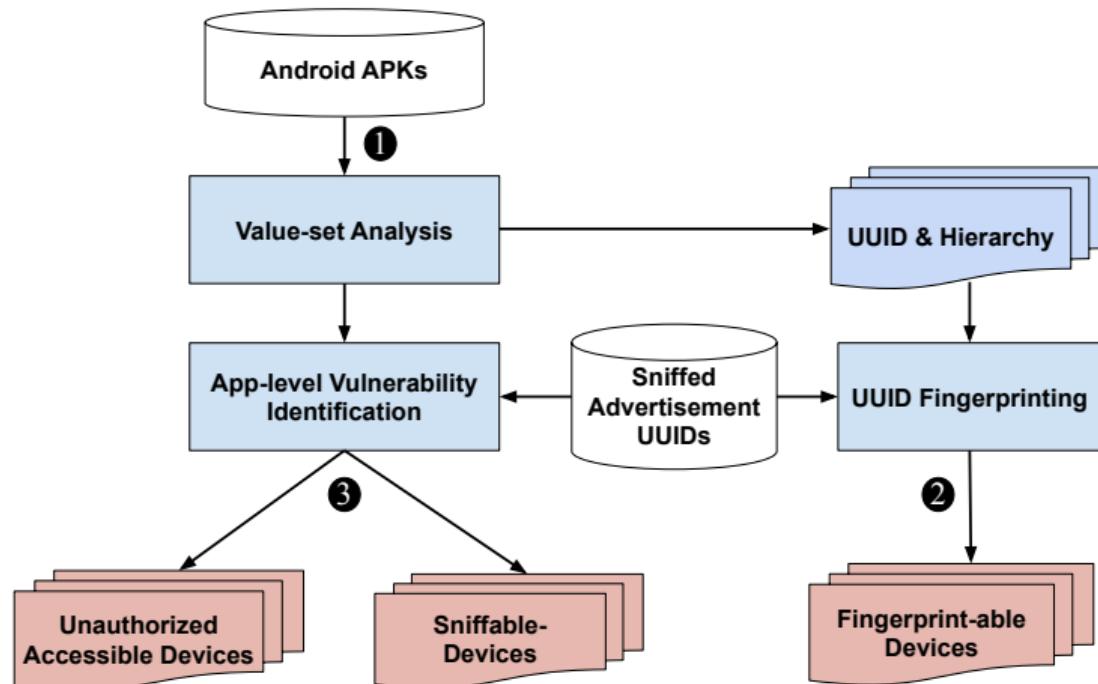
# Overview of BLEScope



# Overview of BLEScope



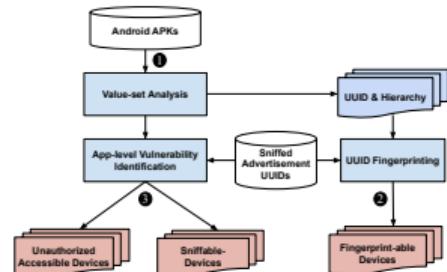
# Overview of BLEScope



# Overview of BLEScope

## Challenges

- ① How to extract UUIDs from mobile apps
- ② How to reconstruct UUID hierarchy
- ③ How to identify flawed vulnerable authentication apps



## Solutions: Using **Automated Program Analysis**

- ① Resolving UUIDs using context and **value-set analysis**
- ② Reconstructing UUID hierarchy with **control dependence**
- ③ Identifying flawed authentication with **data dependence**

# Results from Google Play Store

## IoT Mobile App Collection

- ① We downloaded 2 million mobile apps from Google Play as of April 2019.
- ② We identified BLE IoT apps by searching for after-connection BLE APIs.
- ③ 18,166 BLE IoT apps are found for our analysis

# Results from Google Play Store

## IoT Mobile App Collection

- ① We downloaded 2 million mobile apps from Google Play as of April 2019.
- ② We identified BLE IoT apps by searching for after-connection BLE APIs.
- ③ 18,166 BLE IoT apps are found for our analysis

Item	Value	%
# Apps Support BLE	18,166	100.0
# "Just Works" Pairing	11,141	61.3
# Vulnerable Apps	1,757	15.8
# Absent Cryptographic Usage	1,510	13.6
# Flawed Authentication	1,434	12.9

Table: Insecure app identification result.

# Results from Google Play Store

## IoT Mobile App Collection

- ① We downloaded 2 million mobile apps from Google Play as of April 2019.
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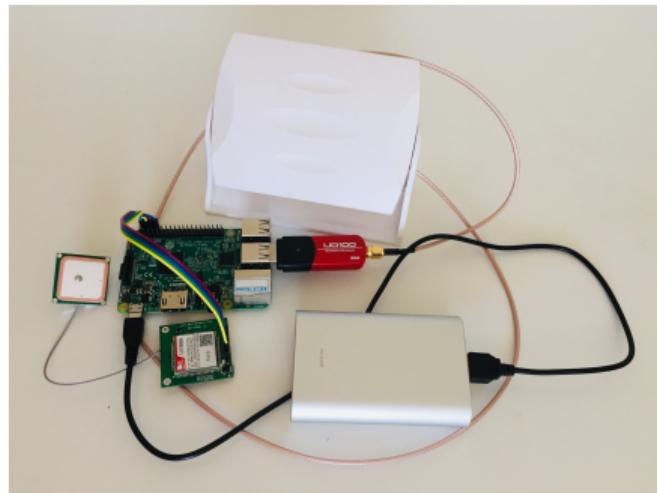
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# "Just Works" Pairing	11,141	61.3
# Vulnerable Apps	1,757	15.8
# Absent Cryptographic Usage	1,510	13.6
# Flawed Authentication	1,434	12.9

Table: Insecure app identification result.

Category	# App	"Just Works"	Absent Crypto	Flawed Auth.
Health & Fitness	3,849	2,639	221	207
Tools	2,833	1,895	385	362
Lifestyle	2,173	1,081	147	141
Business	1,660	972	90	85
Travel & Local	967	582	90	87

Table: Top 5 category of the IoT apps.

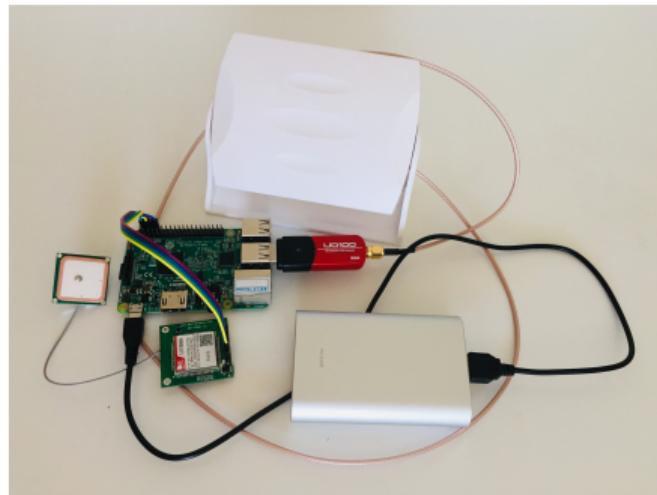
# Results from Our Field Test



## BLE Sniffer

- ▶ Raspberry-Pi
- ▶ Parani-UD100 (Bluetooth adapter)
- ▶ Antenna RP-SMA-R/A (**1km** range)
- ▶ SIM7000A GPS module (GPS sensor)

# Results from Our Field Test



# Results from Our Field Test



Item	Value	%
# Unique BLE Device	30,862	
# Unique BLE Device w. UUID	5,822	18.9
# Fingerprintable	5,509	94.6
# Vulnerable	431	7.4
# Sniffable	369	6.7
# Unauthorized Accessible	342	6.2

Table: Experimental result of our field test.

# Results from Our Field Test



Company Name	# Devices
Google	2,436
Tile, Inc.	441
-	243
-	208
Logitech International SA	131
Nest Labs Inc.	114
Google	92
Hewlett-Packard Company	74
-	46
-	44
-	44

Table: Top 10 devices in the field test.

# Results from Our Field Test



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Table: Top 10 devices in the field test.

# Results from Our Field Test



Device Description	# Device
Digital Thermometer	7
Car Dongle	6
Key Finder A	6
Smart Lamp	5
Key Finder B	5
Smart Toy A	4
Smart VFD	4
Air Condition Sensor	4
Smart Toy B	4
Accessibility Device	4

Table: Top 10 **vulnerable** devices.

# Results from Our Field Test



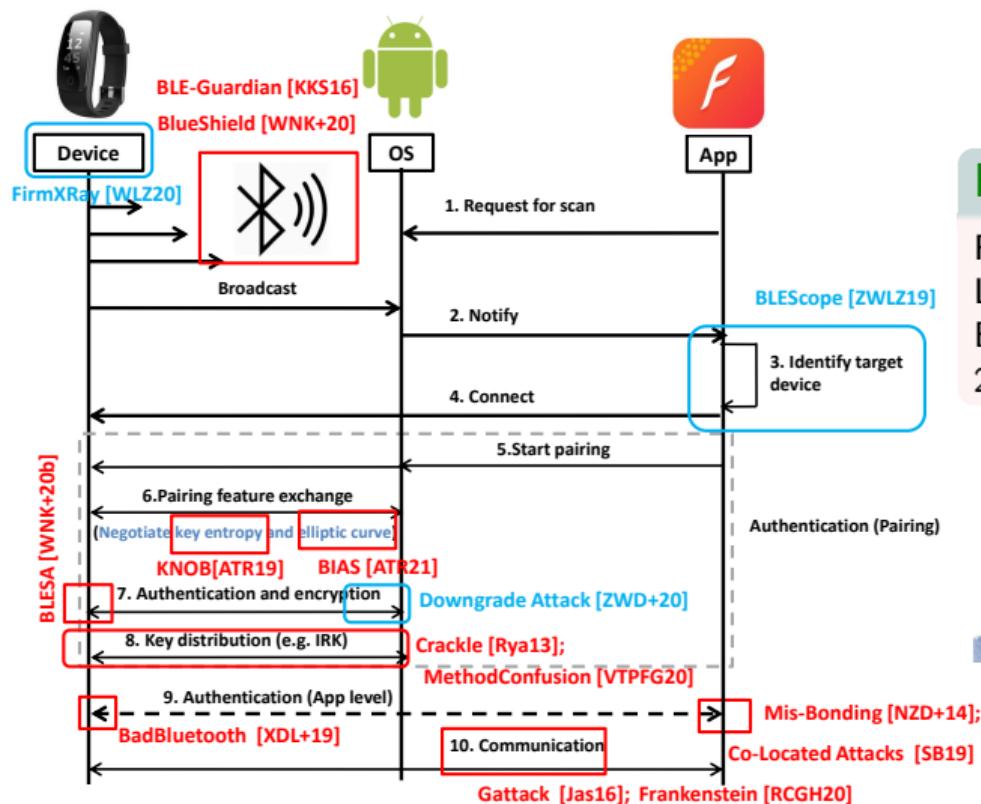
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Table: Top 10 **vulnerable** devices.

# Results from Our Field Test



# Our FirmXRay [WLZ20] Work

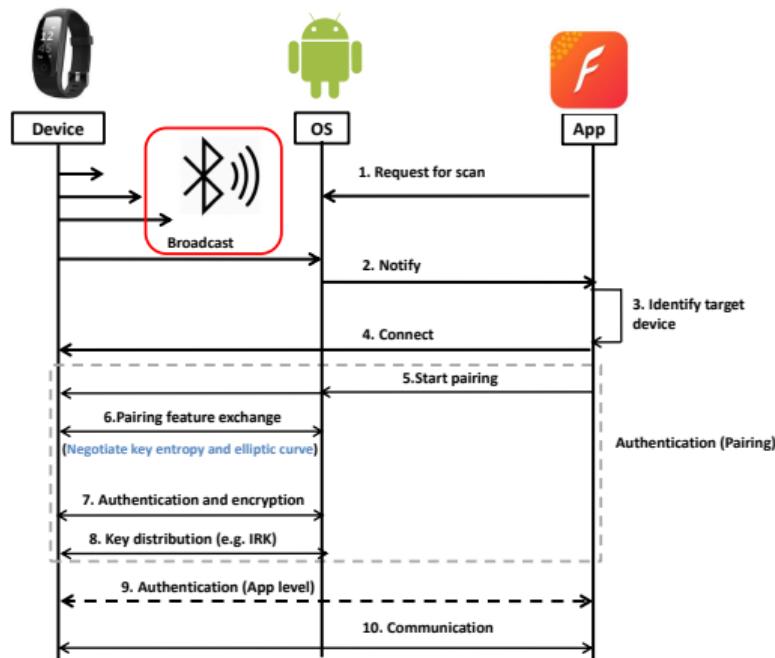


## FirmXRay [WLZ20]

FirmXRay: Detecting Bluetooth Link Layer Vulnerabilities From Bare-Metal Firmware. In **ACM CCS 2020**.



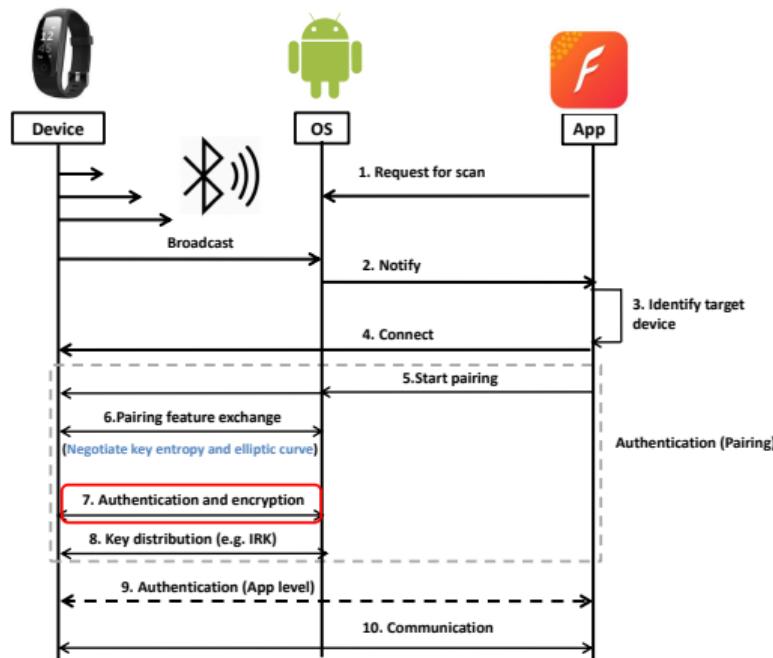
# BLE Link Layer Vulnerabilities



## Vulnerabilities

- 1 **Identity Tracking.** Configure static MAC address during broadcast [DPCM16].

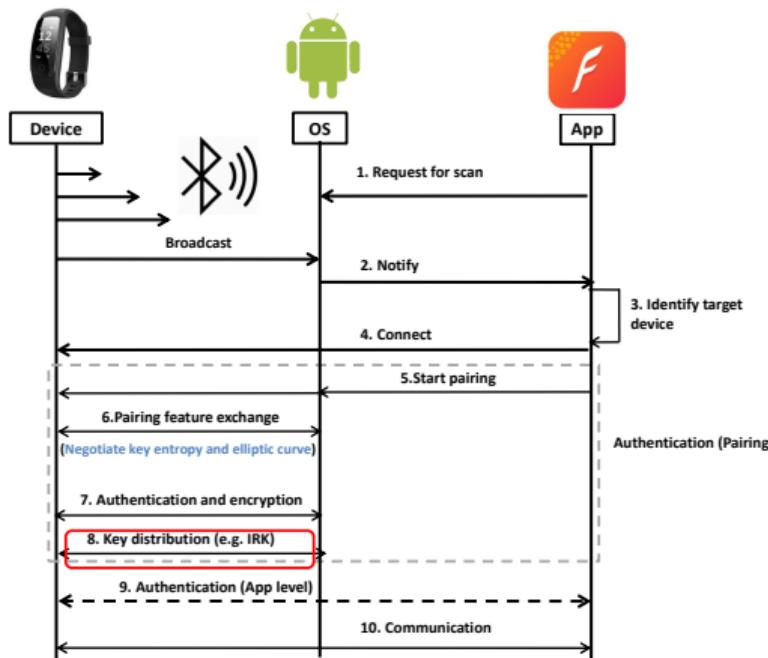
# BLE Link Layer Vulnerabilities



## Vulnerabilities

- 1 **Identity Tracking.** Configure static MAC address during broadcast [DPCM16].
- 2 **Active MITM.** Just Works is adopted as the pairing method.

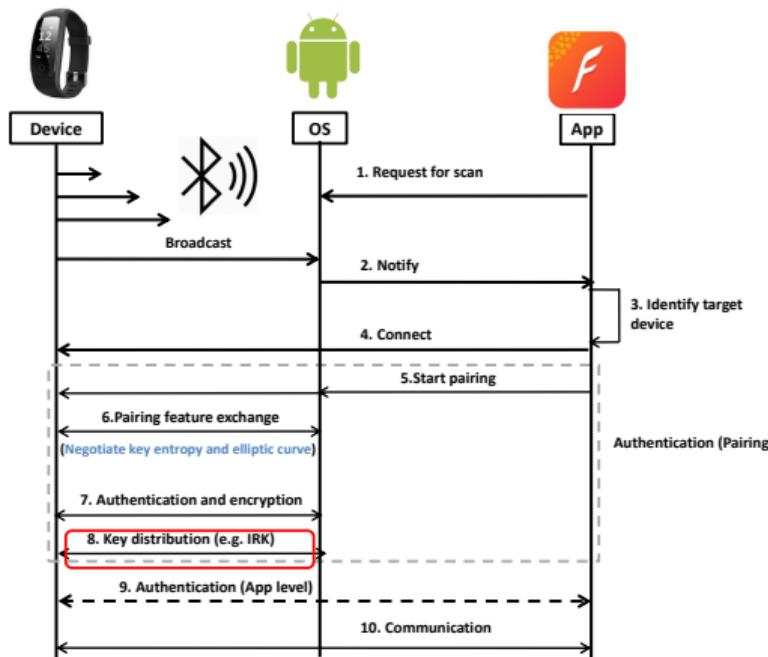
# BLE Link Layer Vulnerabilities



## Vulnerabilities

- ❶ **Identity Tracking.** Configure static MAC address during broadcast [DPCM16].
- ❷ **Active MITM.** Just Works is adopted as the pairing method.
- ❸ **Passive MITM.** Legacy pairing is used during key exchange [ble14].

# BLE Link Layer Vulnerabilities



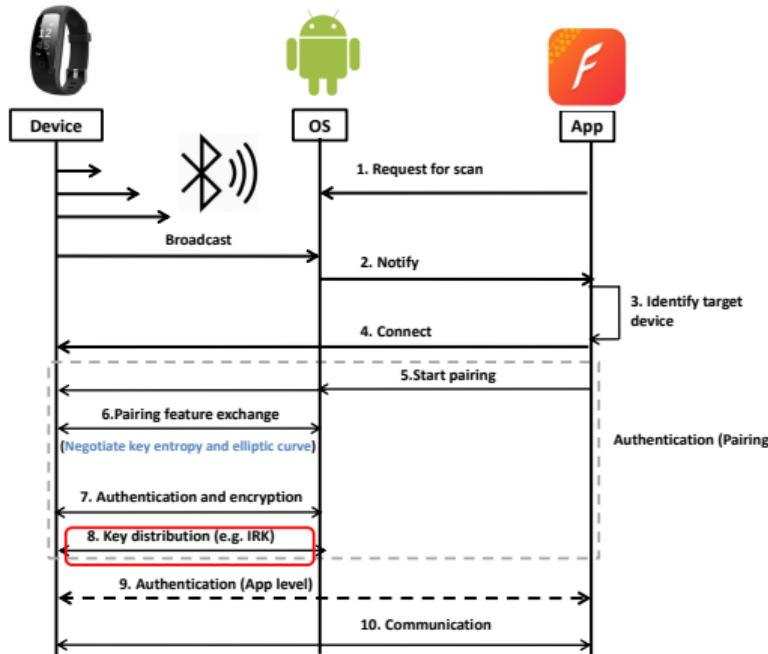
## Vulnerabilities

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## Identification

- ❶ Traffic analysis
- ❷ Mobile app analysis

# BLE Link Layer Vulnerabilities



## Vulnerabilities

- ❶ **Identity Tracking.** Configure static MAC address during broadcast [DPCM16].
- ❷ **Active MITM.** Just Works is adopted as the pairing method.
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## Identification

- ❶ Traffic analysis
- ❷ Mobile app analysis
- ❸ Firmware analysis

# An Example of a Just Works Pairing Vulnerability

## Read Only Memory

```
1 243a8  mov   r2, #0x0
2 243aa  orr   r2, #0x1
3 243ac  and  r2, #0xe1
4 243ae  add  r2, #0xc
5 243b0  and  r2, #0xdf
6 243b2  ldr   r1, [0x260c8]
7 243b4  str   r2, [r1,#0x0]
...
8 25f44  ldr   r2, [0x260c8]
9 25f46  mov   r1, #0x0
10 25f48  svc   0x7f
// SD_BLE_GAP_SEC_PARAMS_REPLY
...
11 260c8  0x20003268
           // ble_gap_sec_parms_t*
```

## Register Values

r1 = 0x0  
r2 = 0x0

# An Example of a Just Works Pairing Vulnerability

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```
1 243a8    mov    r2, #0x0
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// SD_BLE_GAP_SEC_PARAMS_REPLY
...
11 260c8   0x20003268
           // ble_gap_sec_parms_t*
```

## Register Values

r1 = 0x0  
r2 = 0xD



# An Example of a Just Works Pairing Vulnerability

## Read Only Memory

```
1 243a8  mov    r2, #0x0
2 243aa  orr    r2, #0x1
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## Random Access Memory

```
Struct ble_gap_sec_params_t
20003268  uint8 pairing_feature
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```

## Register Values

r1 = 0x20003268  
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r1 = 0x20003268  
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## Random Access Memory

```
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20003268  uint8 pairing_feature = 0xD
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            // BOND = 1, MITM = 0
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# An Example of a Just Works Pairing Vulnerability

Correct Firmware Disassembling



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Recognize data structures



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Correct Firmware Disassembling



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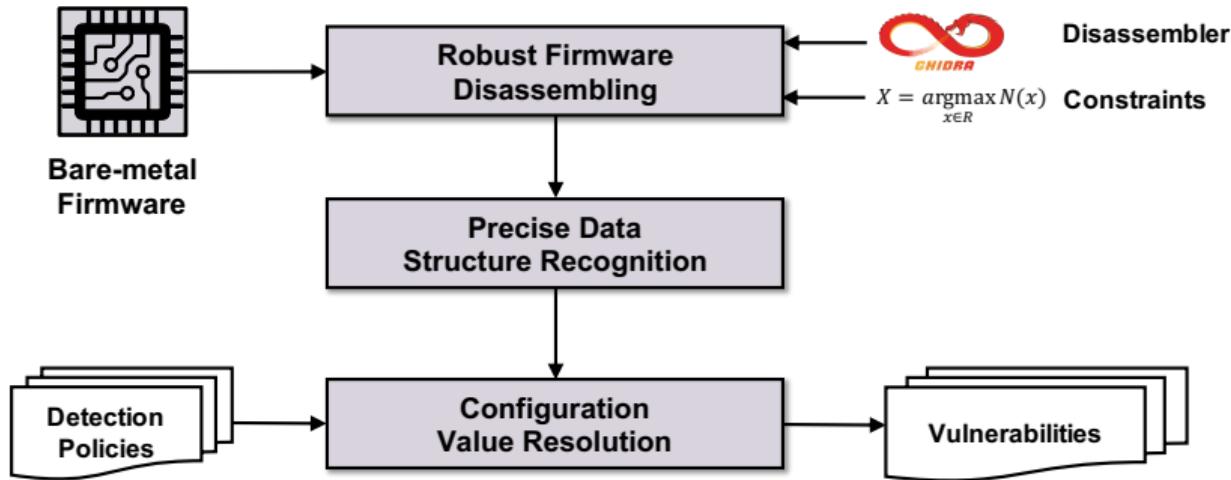
Value computation



Register Values

r1 = 0x0  
r2 = 0x20003268

# FirmXRay Overview



# Robust Firmware Disassembling

Correct Base  
0x1B000

```
20452 ldr    r0, [pc+0x72]
20454 blx    r0=>0x22A90
...
204c4 0x22A90
...
Function Foo()
push {r3, r4, r5, lr}
```

(1) Absolute Function Pointer

```
1fe52 ldr    r0, [pc+0x146]
1fe54 ldmia  r0, {r4, r5, r6}
...
1ff98 0x23058
...
23058 "KinsaHealth"
```

(2) Absolute String Pointer

# Robust Firmware Disassembling

**Incorrect Base 0x0**

```
05452 ldr r0, [pc+0x72]
05454 blx r0=>0x22A90
...
054c4 0x22A90
...
Function Foo()
push {r3, r4, r5, lr}
```

```
04e52 ldr r0, [pc+0x146]
04e54 ldmia r0=>0x23058, {r4, r5, r6}
...
04f98 0x23058
...
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```

**Correct Base 0x1B000**

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(1) Absolute Function Pointer

(2) Absolute String Pointer

# Robust Firmware Disassembling

Base  
0x0

```
05452 ldr r0, pc+0x72
05454 blx r0=>0x22A90
...
054c4 0x22A90 ←
...
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07a90
```

```
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# Robust Firmware Disassembling

Base  
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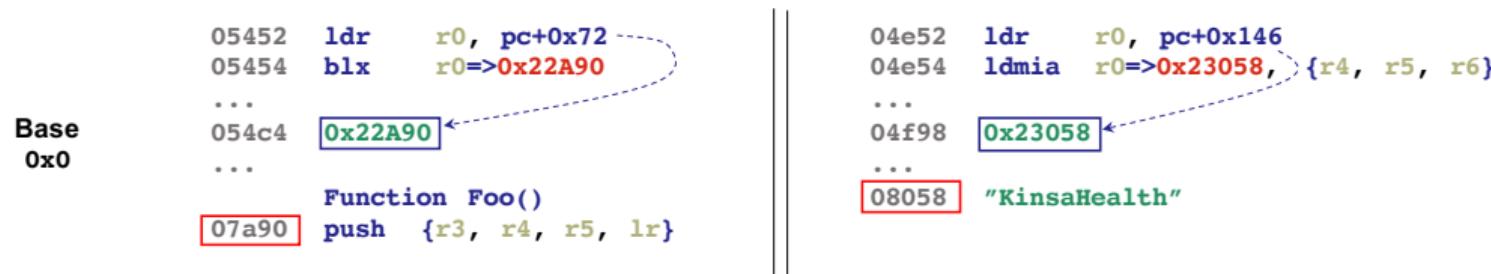
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05452 ldr r0, pc+0x72
05454 blx r0=>0x22A90
...
054c4 0x22A90 ←
...
Function Foo()
07a90 push {r3, r4, r5, lr}
```

```
04e52 ldr r0, pc+0x146
04e54 ldmia r0=>0x23058, {r4, r5, r6}
...
04f98 0x23058 ←
...
08058 "KinsaHealth"
```

 **Absolute Pointers:** 0x22A90, 0x23058

 **Gadgets:** 0x07A90, 0x08058

# Robust Firmware Disassembling



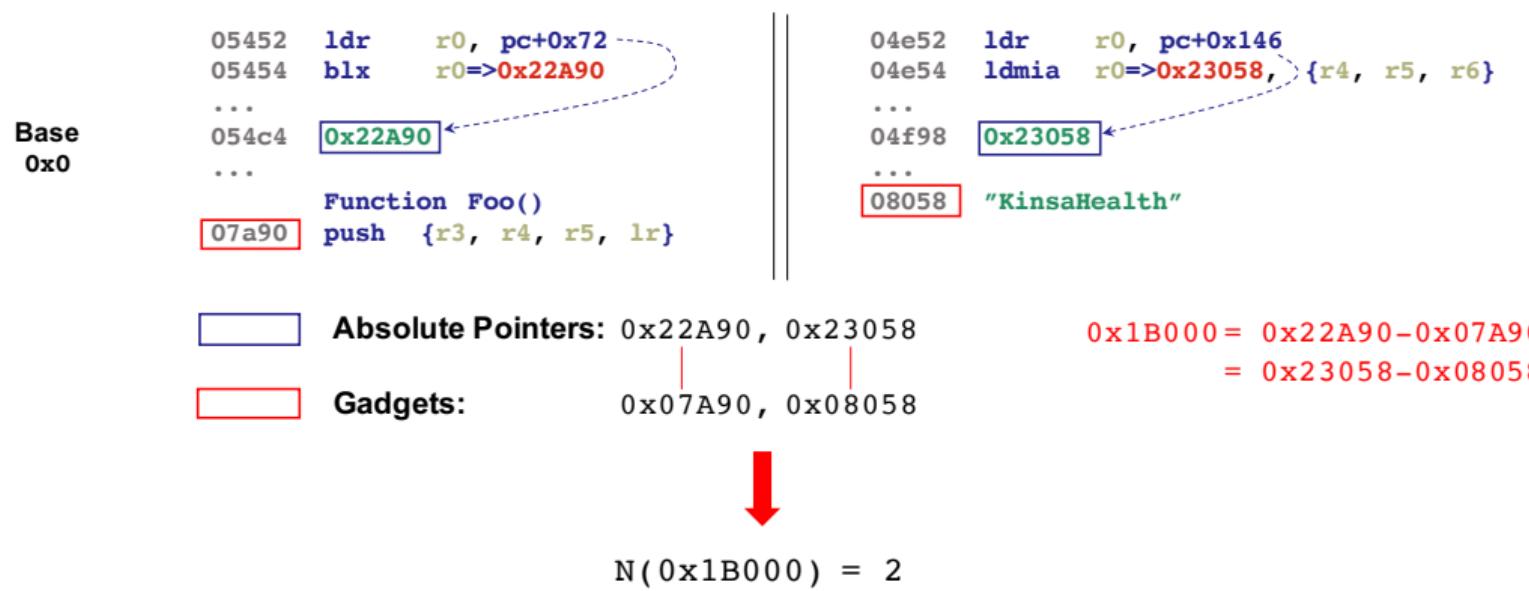
**Absolute Pointers:** 0x22A90, 0x23058

**Gadgets:** 0x07A90, 0x08058

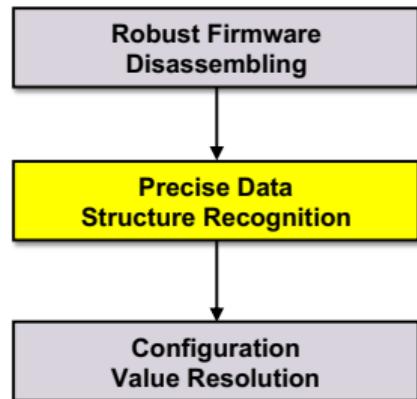


$$N(0x1B000) = 2$$

# Robust Firmware Disassembling



# Precise Data Structure Recognition

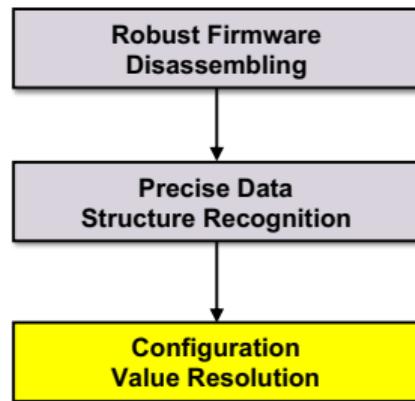


## Read Only Memory

```
1 243a8    mov    r2, #0x0
2 243aa    orr    r2, #0x1
3 243ac    and    r2, #0xe1
4 243ae    add    r2, #0xc
5 243b0    and    r2, #0xdf
6 243b2    ldr    r1, [0x260c8]
7 243b4    str    r2, [r1,#0x0]
...
8 25f44    ldr    r2, [0x260c8]
9 25f46    mov    r1, #0x0
10 25f48   svc    0x7f
// SD_BLE_GAP_SEC_PARAMS_REPLY(r0, r1, r2)
...
11 260c8   0x20003268
// ble_gap_sec_parms_t*
```



# Configuration Value Resolution



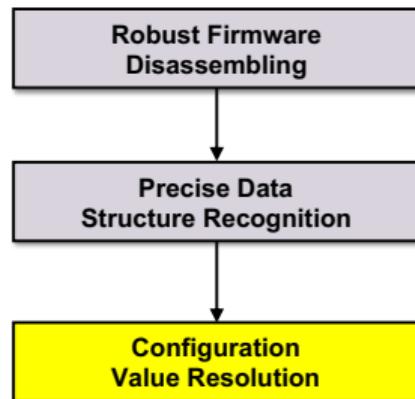
## Read Only Memory

```
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5 243b0  and   r2, #0xdf
6 243b2  ldr   r1, [0x260c8]
7 243b4  str   r2, [r1,#0x0]
...
8 25f44  ldr   r2, [0x260c8]
9 25f46  mov   r1, #0x0
10 25f48  svc   0x7f
// SD_BLE_GAP_SEC_PARAMS_REPLY
...
11 260c8  0x20003268
// ble_gap_sec_parms_t*
```

## Program Path



# Configuration Value Resolution



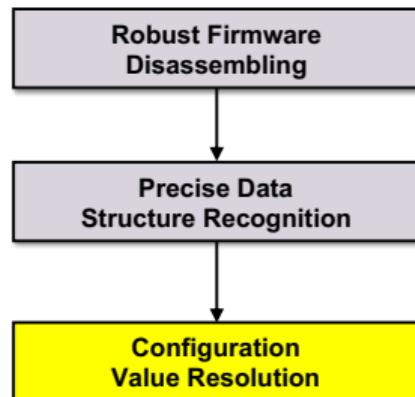
**Read Only Memory**

```
1 243a8  mov   r2, #0x0
2 243aa  orr   r2, #0x1
3 243ac  and   r2, #0xe1
4 243ae  add   r2, #0xc
5 243b0  and   r2, #0xdf
6 243b2  ldr   r1, [0x260c8]
7 243b4  str   r2, [r1, #0x0]
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```

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```
ldr r2, [0x260c8]
str r2, [r1, #0x0]
```

# Configuration Value Resolution



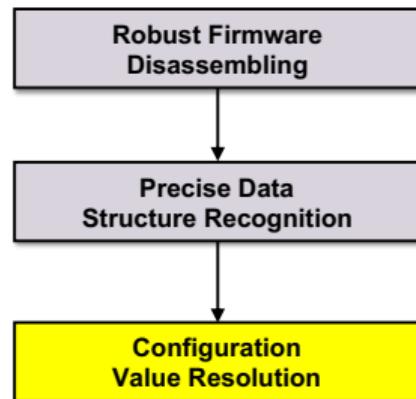
## Read Only Memory

```
1 243a8  mov   r2, #0x0
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## Program Path

```
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str r2, [r1, #0x0]
ldr r1, [0x260c8]
and r2, #0xdf
add r2, #0xc
and r2, #0xe1
orr r2, #0x1
mov r2, #0x0
```

# Configuration Value Resolution



## Read Only Memory

```
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// SD_BLE_GAP_SEC_PARAMS_REPLY
...
11 260c8   0x20003268
// ble_gap_sec_params_t*
```

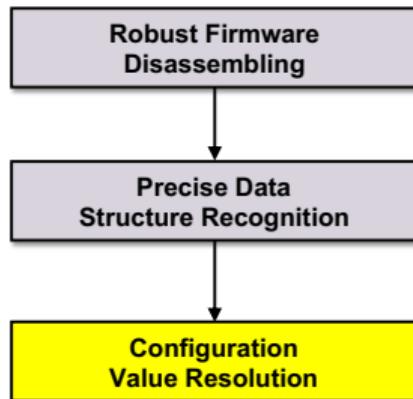
## Program Path

```
ldr r2, [0x260c8]
str r2, [r1, #0x0]
ldr r1, [0x260c8]
and r2, #0xdf
add r2, #0xc
and r2, #0xe1
orr r2, #0x1
mov r2, #0x0
```



r2 = 0x20003268

# Configuration Value Resolution

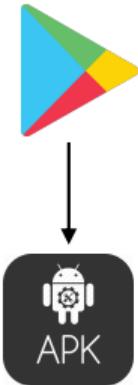


Policy	SDK Function Name	Reg. Index	Description
(i)	SD_BLE_GAP_ADDR_SET	0	Configure the MAC address
	SD_BLE_GAP_APPEARANCE_SET	0	Set device description
	SD_BLE_GATTS_SERVICE_ADD	0, 1	Add a BLE GATT service
	SD_BLE_GATTS_CHARACTERISTIC_ADD	2	Add a BLE GATT characteristic
	SD_BLE_UUID_VS_ADD	0	Specify the UUID base
	GAP_ConfigDeviceAddr*	0	Setup the address type
	GATTservApp_RegisterService*	0	Register BLE GATT service
(ii)	SD_BLE_GAP_SEC_PARAMS_REPLY	2	Reply peripheral pairing features
	SD_BLE_GAP_AUTH	1	Reply central pairing features
	SD_BLE_GAP_AUTH_KEY_REPLY	1, 2	Reply with an authentication key
	SD_BLE_GATTS_CHARACTERISTIC_ADD	2	Add a BLE GATT characteristic
	GAPBondMgr_SetParameter*	2	Setup pairing parameters
	GATTservApp_RegisterService*	0	Register BLE GATT service
(iii)	SD_BLE_GAP_LESC_DHKEY_REPLY	0	Reply with a DH key
	GAPBondMgr_SetParameter*	2	Setup pairing parameters

# Firmware Collection

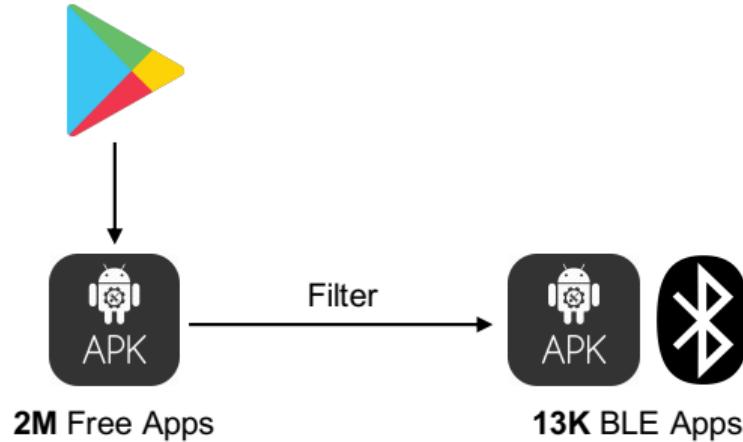


# Firmware Collection

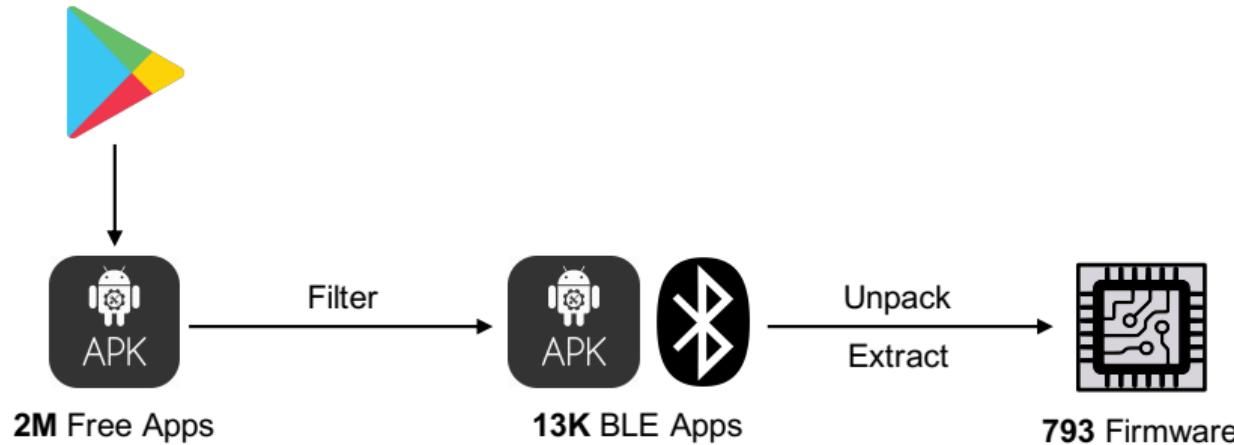


**2M** Free Apps

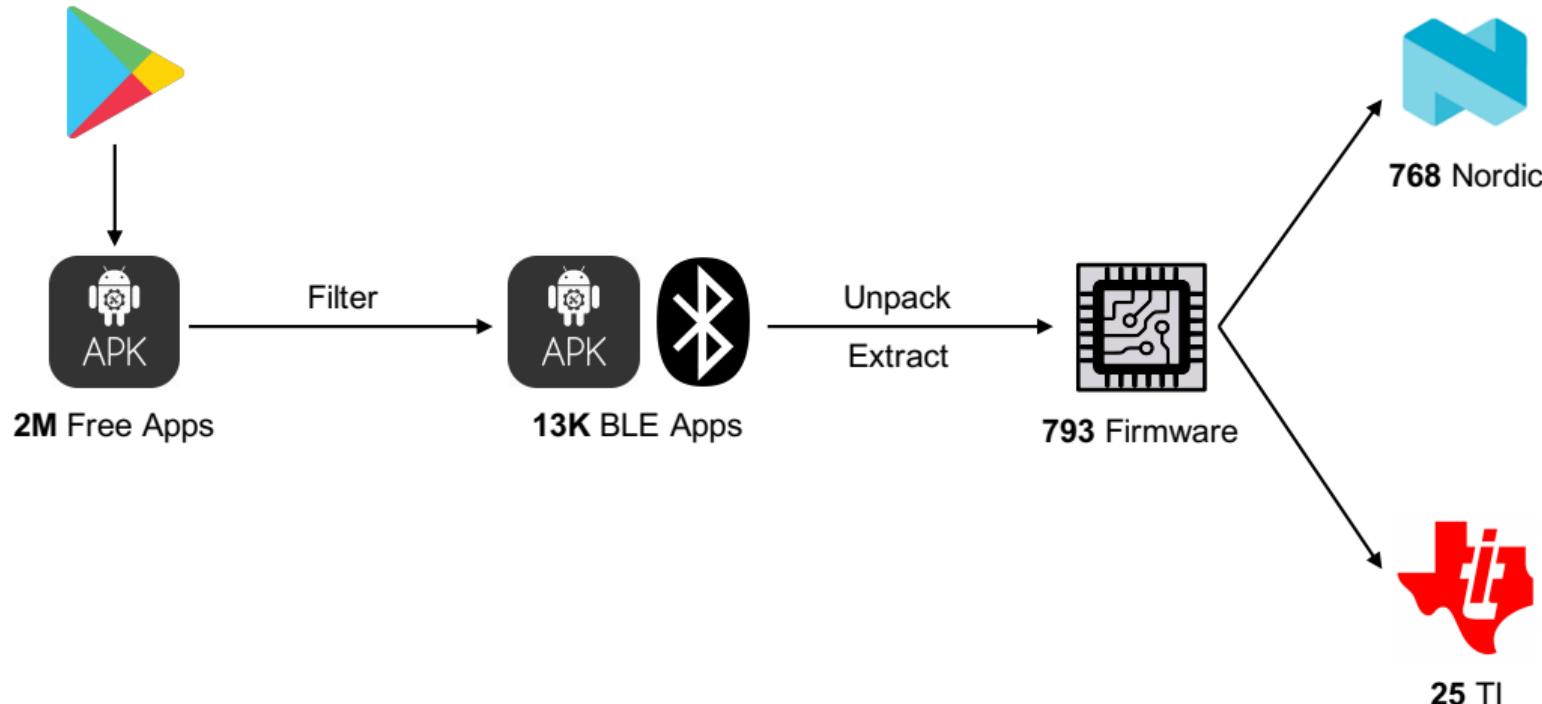
# Firmware Collection



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# Firmware Collection



# Firmware Categorization

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Category	# Firmware	# Device	Avg. Size (KB)
<b>Nordic-based Firmware</b>			
Wearable	204	138	98.2
Others	76	22	223.5
Sensor	67	51	80.9
Tag (Tracker)	58	41	84.2
Robot	41	21	117.7
Medical Devices	41	21	138.6
<b>TI-based Firmware</b>			
Sensor	19	19	132.9
Smart Lock	2	2	46.3
Smart Toy	2	2	47.8
Medical Devices	1	1	70.2
Others	1	1	76.7
Total	793	538	102.7

Table: Top categories of firmware.

# Firmware Categorization

- ▶ Firmware categorization
  - ▶ Descriptive APIs (e.g., SD\_BLE\_GAP\_APPEARANCE\_SET)
  - ▶ Mobile app descriptions
- ▶ Firmware aggregation
  - ▶ Aggregate different versions of firmware of the same device
  - ▶ The 793 firmware represent 538 real devices

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## Identity Tracking Vulnerability Identification

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Firmware Name	Mobile App	Category	# Device
cogobeacon	com.aegismobility.guardian	Car Accessory	4
sd_bl	fr.solem.solemwf	Agricultural Equip.	2
LRFL_nRF52	fr.solem.solemwf	Agricultural Equip.	2
orb	one.shade.app	Smart Light	1
sd_bl	com.rainbird	Agricultural Equip.	1

Table: Firmware using private MAC address.

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Item	N	T	Total	%
<b># Total Device</b>	513	25	538	100
<b># Device w/ active MITM vulnerability</b>	384	1	385	71.5
# Device w/ Just Works pairing only	317	1	318	59.1
# Device w/ flawed Passkey implementation	37	0	37	6.9
# Device w/ flawed OOB implementation	30	0	30	5.6
<b># Device w/ secure pairing</b>	6	24	30	3.8
# Device w/ correct Passkey implementation	3	24	27	3.4
# Device w/ correct OOB implementation	3	0	3	0.4

Table: Pairing configurations of devices (N:Nordic, T:TI).

# Experiment Results

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98.5% of the devices fail to enforce LESC pairing, and thus they can be vulnerable to passive MITM attacks if there is no application-layer encryption.

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Firmware Name	Mobile App	Category	# Version
DogBodyBoard	com.wowwee.chip	Robot	16
BW_Pro	com.ecomm.smart_panel	Tag	1
Smart_Handle	com.exitec.smartlock	Smart Lock	1
Sma05	com.smalife.watch	Wearable	1
CPRmeter	com.laerdal.cprmeter2	Medical Device	4
WiJumpLE	com.wesssrl.wijumple	Sensor	1
nRF Beacon	no.nordicsemi.android.nrfbeacon	Beacon	1
Hoot Bank	com.qvivr.hoot	Debit Card	1

Table: Firmware that enforce LESC pairing.

# Attack Case Studies



nRF52840 DK



Vulnerable BLE Devices

# Attack Case Studies

Device Name	Category	Attacks		
		A1	A2	A3
Nuband Activ+	Wearable	✓	✓	
Kinsa Smart	Thermometer			✓
Chipolo ONE	Tag	✓		
SwitchBot Button Pusher	Smart Home		✓	
XOSS Cycling Computer	Sensor	✓		✓

A1: User Tracking



# Attack Case Studies

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Kinsa Smart	Thermometer		✓	
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SwitchBot Button Pusher	Smart Home	✓		
XOSS Cycling Computer	Sensor	✓	✓	

A2: Unauthorized Control



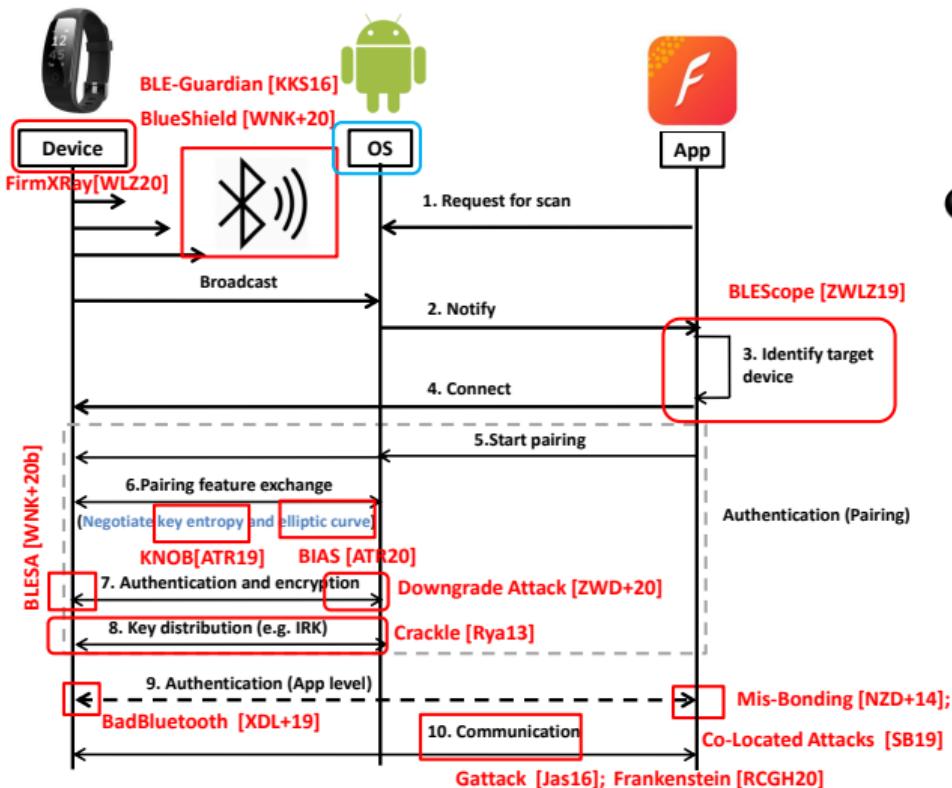
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Nuband Activ+	Wearable	✓	✓	
Kinsa Smart	Thermometer			✓
Chipolo ONE	Tag	✓		
SwitchBot Button Pusher	Smart Home		✓	
XOSS Cycling Computer	Sensor	✓		✓

A3: Sensitive Data Eavesdropping

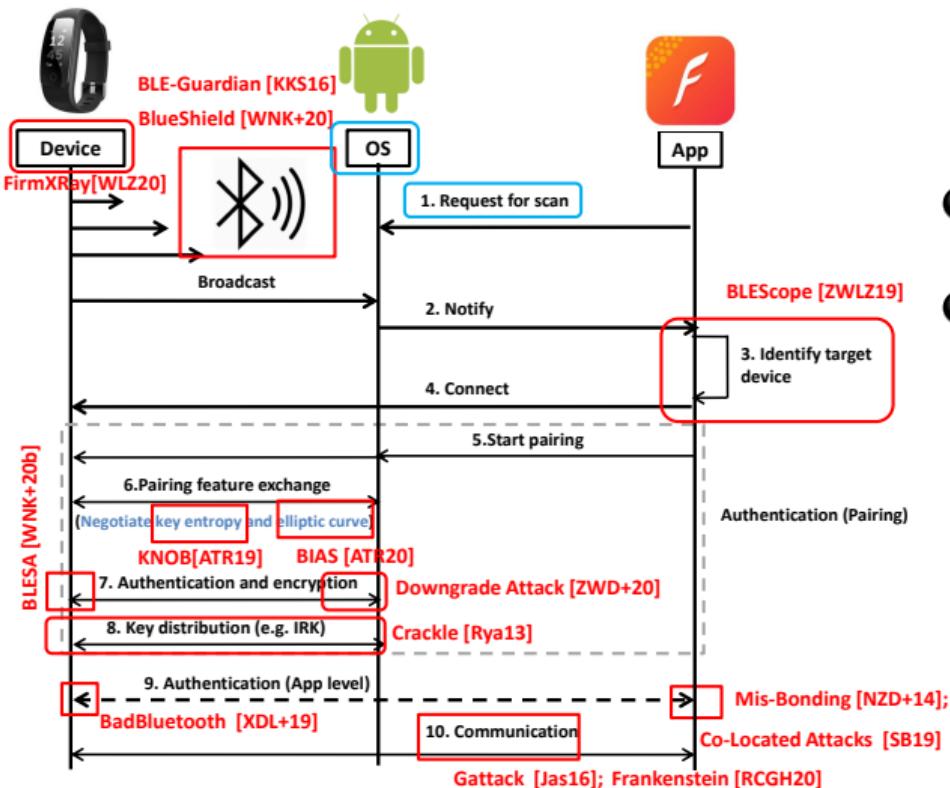


# Near Term



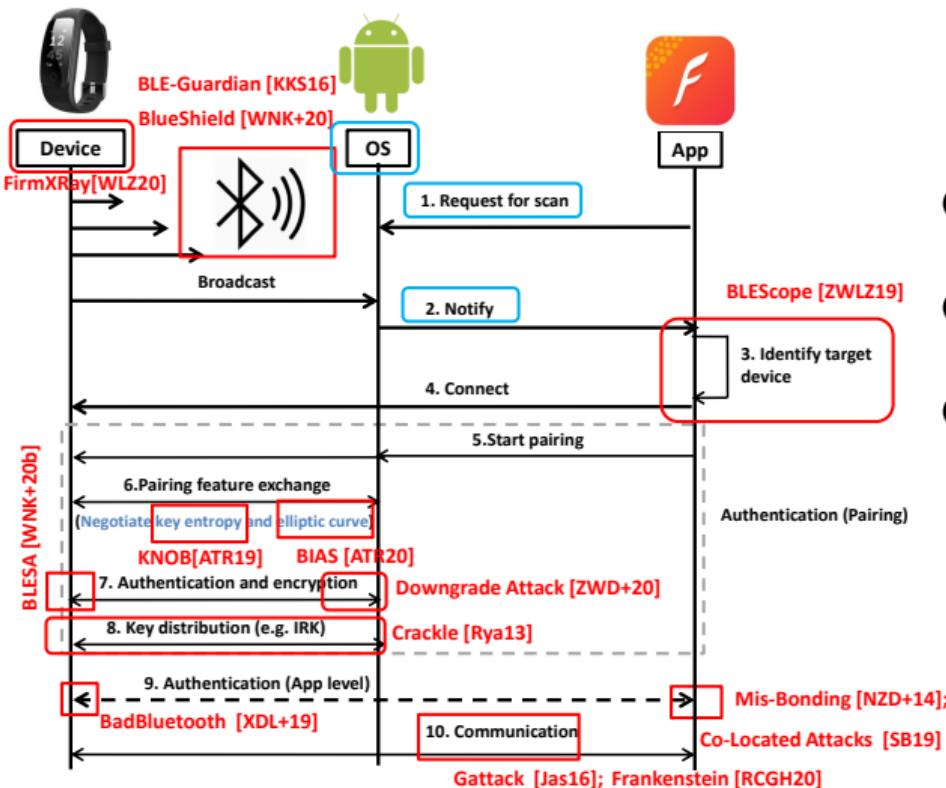
① **OS Defense:** OS-level defense to patch multiple security issues.

# Near Term

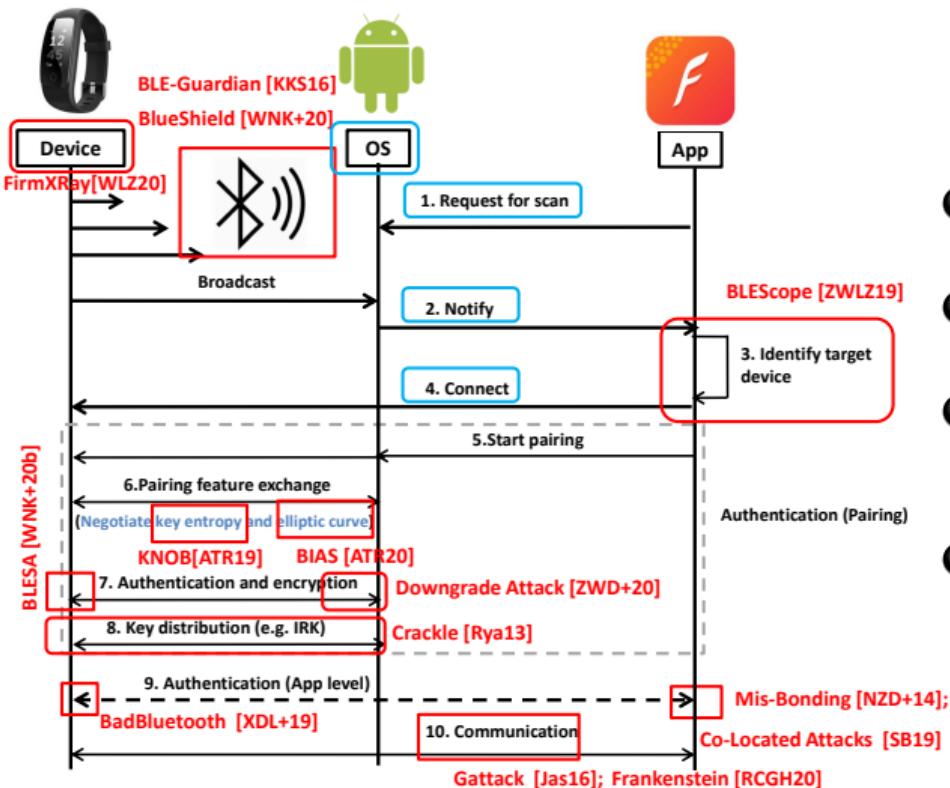


- ➊ **OS Defense:** OS-level defense to patch multiple security issues.
- ➋ **Scanning Defense:** Defending against malicious scanning.

# Near Term



# Near Term



- ❶ **OS Defense:** OS-level defense to patch multiple security issues.
- ❷ **Scanning Defense:** Defending against malicious scanning.
- ❸ **Notification Fingerprinting:** Exploring notification fingerprinting against BLE devices.
- ❹ **Connection Security:** Exploring a defense for jamming attacks.

# Other Directions

- ① **Other New Security Features.** New security features (e.g., Cross-Transport Key Derivation) are keeping introducing, bringing new security attack surfaces.
- ② **Privacy-preserving Protocols.** BLE Privacy-preserving protocols such as identity resolution protocol may be vulnerable, and further understanding is needed.

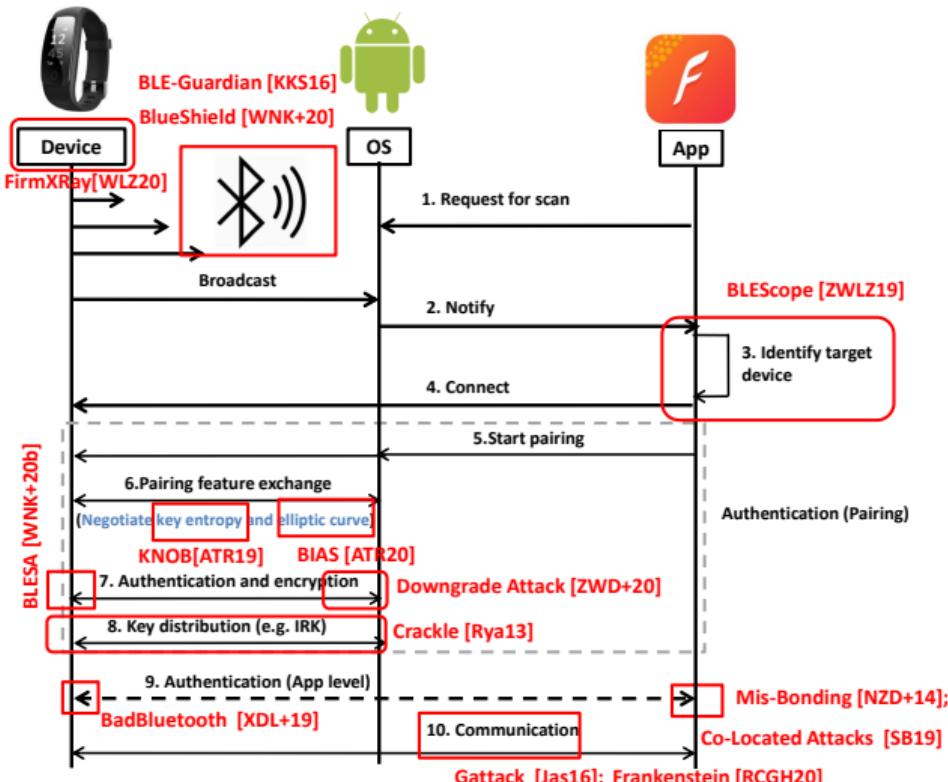
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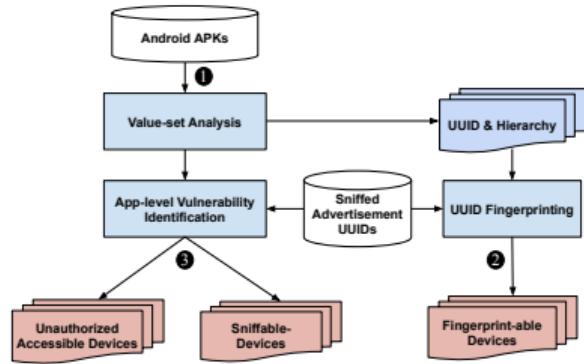
## Recent Papers of Bluetooth Research with COVID-19

- ① Qingchuan Zhao, Haohuang Wen, Zhiqiang Lin, Dong Xuan, and Ness Shroff. **On the Accuracy of Measured Distances of Bluetooth-based Contact Tracing** (short paper). In SECURECOMM'20, October 2020.
- ② Haohuang Wen, Qingchuan Zhao, Zhiqiang Lin, Dong Xuan, and Ness Shroff. **A Study of the Privacy of COVID-19 Contact Tracing Apps.** In SECURECOMM'20, October 2020.

# The Landscape of Bluetooth Security and Privacy



# BLESCOPE [CCS 2019]



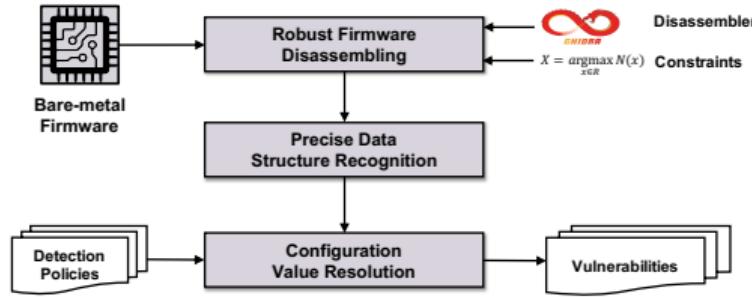
## BLESCOPE

- ▶ Automatic UUID extraction and hierarchy reconstruction from mobile apps
- ▶ Identify app-level vulnerabilities by directly analyzing mobile apps

## App Analysis and Field Test Result

- ▶ We analyzed 18,166 apps and discovered 168,093 UUIDs and 1,757 vulnerable apps
- ▶ 5,822 BLE devices were discovered in the field test, and 94.6% can be fingerprinted

# FIRMXRAY [CCS 2020]

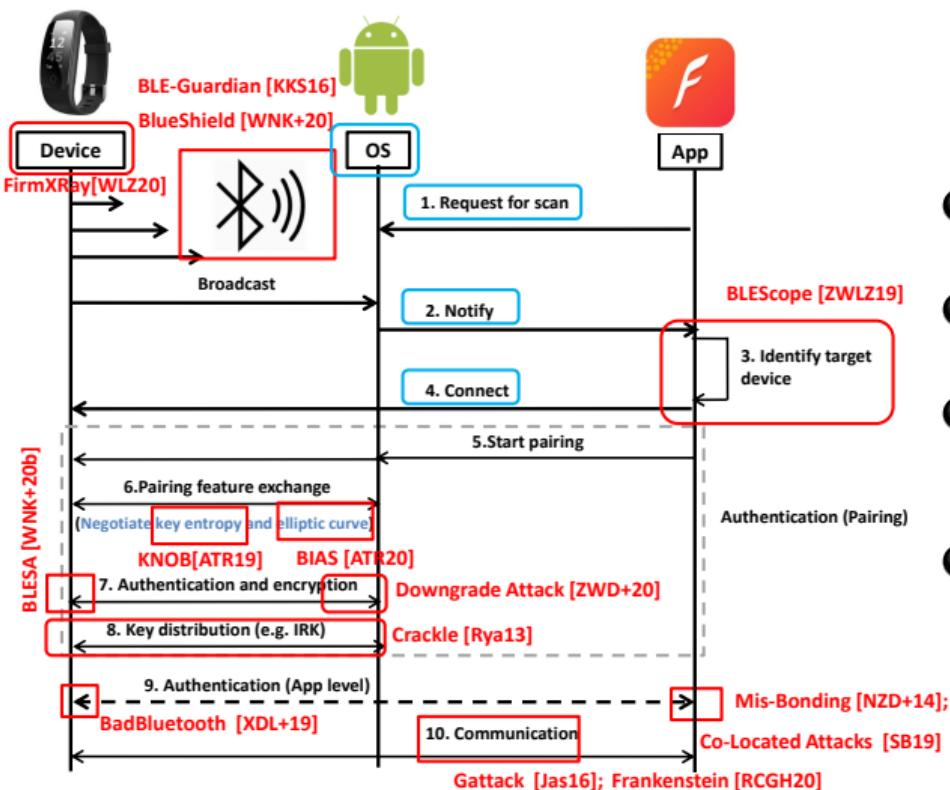


## BLESCOPE

- ▶ A static analysis tool based on Ghidra for detecting BLE link layer vulnerabilities from bare-metal firmware.
- ▶ A scalable approach to efficiently collect bare-metal firmware images from only mobile apps.
- ▶ Vulnerability discovery and attack case studies.

The source code is available at <https://github.com/OSUSecLab/FirmXRay>.

# Future Directions



- ① **OS Defense:** OS-level defense to may patch multiple security issues.
- ② **Scanning Defense:** Defending against malicious scanning.
- ③ **Notification Fingerprinting:** Exploring notification fingerprinting against BLE devices.
- ④ **Connection Security:** Exploring a defense for jamming attacks.

Thank You

# Uncovering Vulnerabilities in Bluetooth Devices with Automated Binary Analysis

Zhiqiang Lin

[zlin@cse.ohio-state.edu](mailto:zlin@cse.ohio-state.edu)

03/26/2021

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