

PA193 - Secure coding principles and practices



Protecting integrity of modules and external components

Petr Švenda svenda@fi.muni.cz



Overview

- Lecture:
 - dynamic libraries, forging, protection
 - code signing
 - temporary files
 - Bonus: protections in whitebox attacker model
- Labs
 - security for temporary files

PROBLEM

Application repository
(web, store...)

Application binary

Local I/O

Server application

Remote I/O

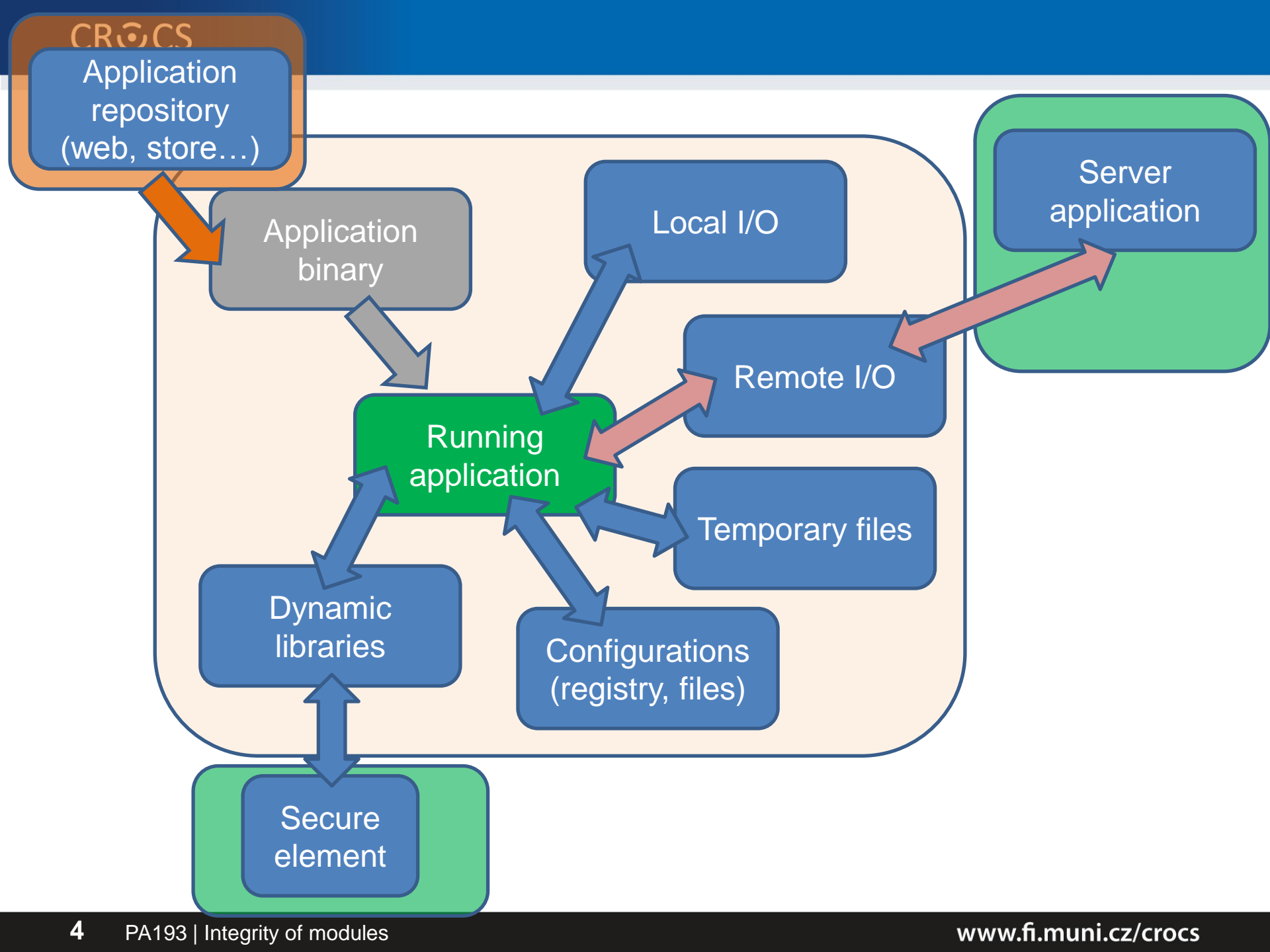
Running application

Temporary files

Dynamic libraries

Configurations
(registry, files)

Secure element



DYNAMIC LIBRARIES

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(web, store...)

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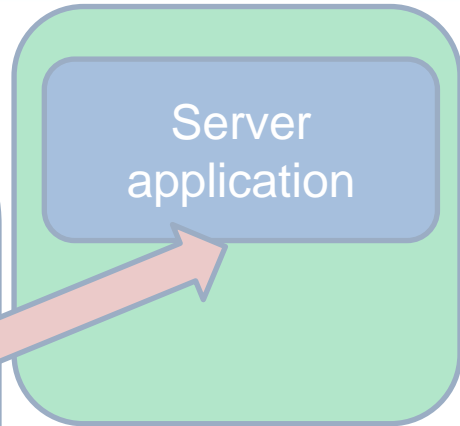
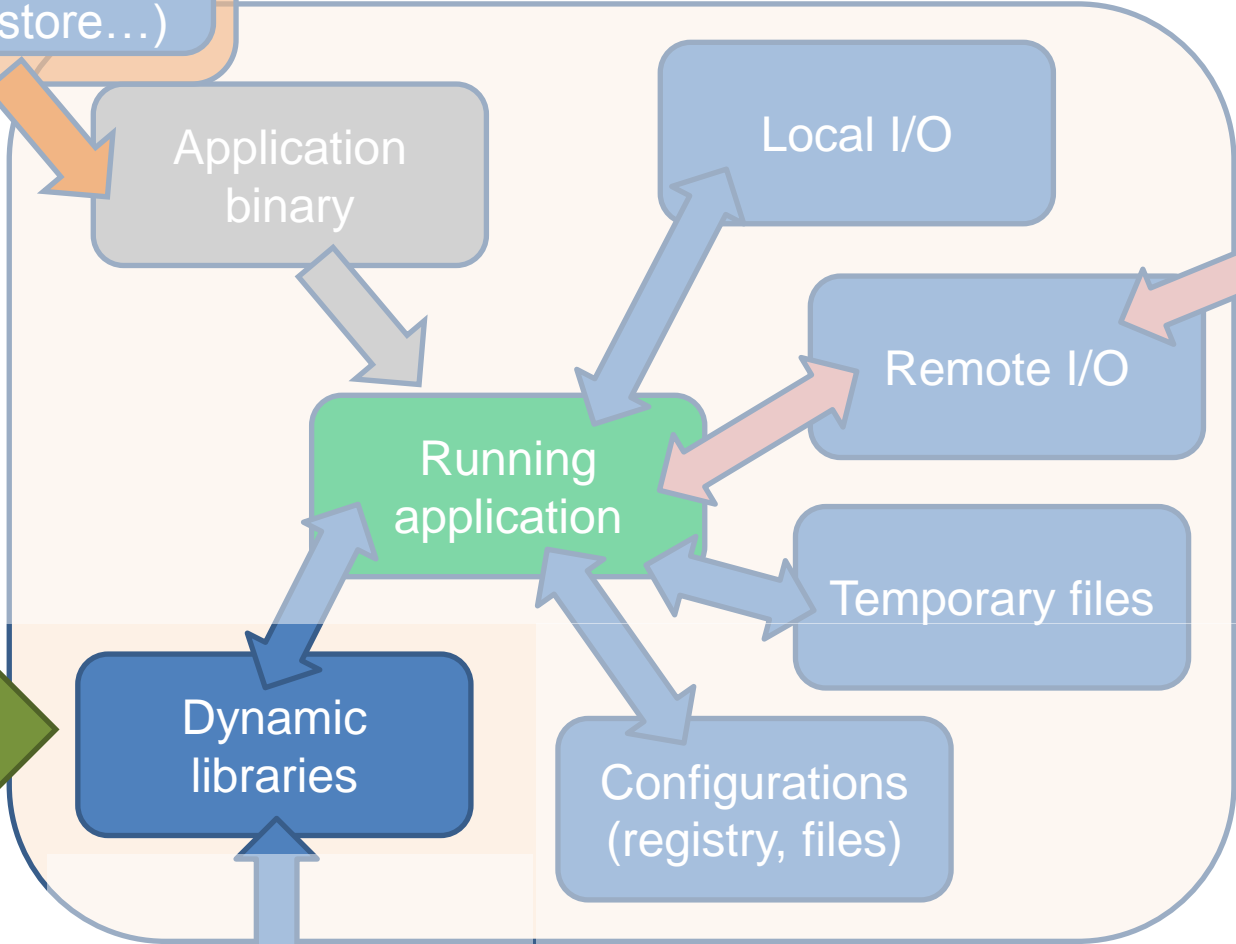
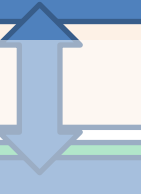
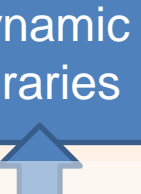
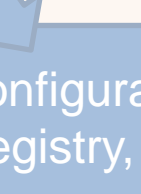
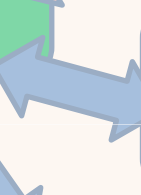
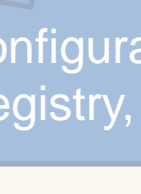
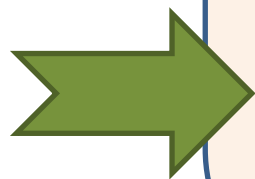
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Dynamic library usage

- Static linking
 - *library.lib* added to dependencies
- Run-time dynamic linking
 - controllable run-time search for dynamic library
 - developer can control and respond on (un)available lib
 - `LoadLibrary(path)` & `FreeLibrary(hLib)`
 - `dlopen(path)` & `dlclose(hLib)`
- Run-time search for specific function
 - `GetProcAddress(hLib, "function_name")`
 - `dlsym(hLib, "function_name")`
 - cast to target function prototype (later)

Default order of directory search for DLL

1. The directory from which the application loaded
 - “application directory”
 2. The system directory
 3. The 16-bit system directory
 4. The Windows directory
 5. The current directory
 6. The directories that are listed in the PATH environment variable
- Safe DLL search mode place current directory to 5 (from Windows XP SP2)

DLL preloading attack

- Called DLL preloading or binary planting attack
 1. Attacker obtains write access to one directory in search list
 2. Attacker places malicious DLL here
 3. If application will not find DLL in directories searched before, attacker's DLL gets loaded
 4. Malicious code is executed with application privileges

How to execute man-in-the-middle for dll

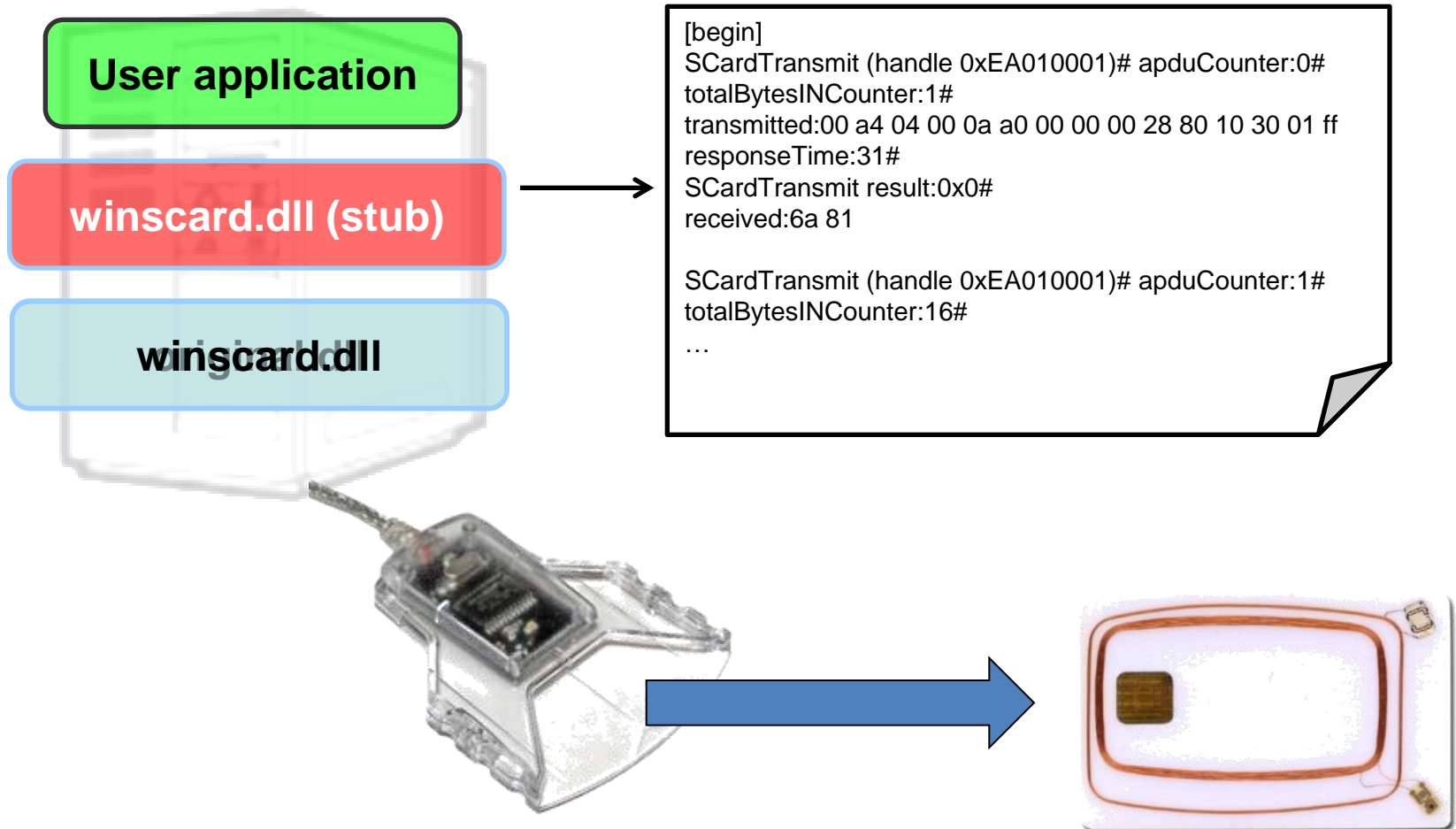
- Application likes to load dynamic library
 - according to specified name, e.g., winscard.dll
 - e.g. via LoadLibrary(“winscard.dll”) call
- Create dynamic library (“stub”) with the same name and the same set of exported functions
- Move stub DLL into directory where application looks first for requested DLL
 - stub is loaded instead of original
 - application will call stub function instead
- When given function from stub is called, pass input arguments to the original DLL and return response
 - or modify, log, delay, block...

Example: APDUPlay

- Dynamic library for interception and manipulation of communication with smart cards
 - winscard.dll, APDU-based communication
 - <http://www.fi.muni.cz/~xsvenda/apduinspect.html>
- What you can achieve:
 - log input/output APDU commands (including keys, PINs...)
 - manipulate APDUs content according to predefined rules
 - e.g., return OK even when verification fails
 - e.g., simulate presence of reader / smart card
 - reverse engineer protocol used based on communication
 - redirect communication to other computer via socket

Let's write own **winscard.dll** (PC/SC)

based on ApduView utility (by Fernandes)



How to load proper library?

1. Use fully qualified path to load library (LoadLibrary)
2. **Dynamic-Link Library Redirection**
 - <https://tinyurl.com/chy5wum>
 - No changes to application binary are required (legacy)
 - redirection file is created in application directory
 - *App_name.local* (e.g., explorer.exe → explorer.exe.local)
 - (content of file is ignored)
 - application directory is searched first for target DLL
 - good practice to install application DLLs in its directory
 - will not overwrite other versions of same DLL
 - (is overridden if application has manifest)

How to load proper library? (2)

3. Application manifest

- XML file with various application configurations
- including versions and hash (SHA-1) of required DLLs
- when required DLL is loaded, hash is checked
- <https://tinyurl.com/b2dz8u9>

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<assembly xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v1" manifestVersion="1.0">
...
  <file name="bar.dll" hash="ac72753e5bb20446d88a48c8f0aaae769a962338" hashalg="SHA1"/>
  <file name="foo.dll" hash="a7312a1f6cfb46433001e0540458de60adcd5ec5" hashalg="SHA1">
...

```

Security implications of dynamic libraries

- Library can be forged and exchanged
- Library-in-the-middle attack easy
 - data flow logging
 - input/output manipulation
- Library outputs can be less checked than user inputs
 - feeling that library is my “internal” stuff and should play by „my“ rules
- Library function call can be “behind” logical access controls (assumption about already verified inputs)

References

- Dynamic-Link Library Security
 - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ff919712%28v=vs.85%29.aspx>
- Assembly manifests
 - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa374219%28v=vs.85%29.aspx>
- Assembly signing example
 - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa374228%28v=vs.85%29.aspx>

CODE SIGNING

Application repository (web, store...)

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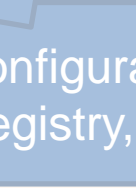
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Configurations (registry, files)

Secure element



Code authenticity

- Why to authenticate binary/source codes?
 - random transmission errors solved by transport layer (CRC)
 - intentional modification on remote code repository
 - intentional modification during transport (MITM)
 - intentional modification locally (malware in user space)
 - NSA Bullrun program, GCHQ Edgehill program ...
- Strong authentication often required implicitly
 - relatively restricted platforms like iOS / Android...
 - kernel drivers (no unsigned kernel driver from Vista 64bit)
 - official software repositories

Possibilities for code signature

1. Non-keyed hash function $\text{sign} = H(\text{your_package})$
 - everyone can compute $H(\text{modified_package})$
 - where to get “correct” hash value? (usually same webpage ☹)
 - often MD5 algorithm (known collisions, insecure)
 - often need for manual verification (lazy users)
2. Authentication based on symmetric cryptography
 - keyed MAC, $\text{sign} = \text{HMAC}(\text{key}, \text{your_package})$
 - not suitable for one to many distribution (shared key)
3. Authentication based on asymmetric cryptography
 - signatures of package $\text{sign} = \text{RSA}(\text{private_key}, \text{your_package})$
 - everybody can $\text{Verify}(\text{public_key}, \text{sign})$
 - usually most suitable, but may require PKI

Code signing (GPG/PGP)

- PGP/GPG can be used for code signing
 - same process as message signature
 - signature is usually detached into separate file (*.sig)

```
gpg --output app.sig --detach-sig app
```

```
gpg --verify app.sig app
```

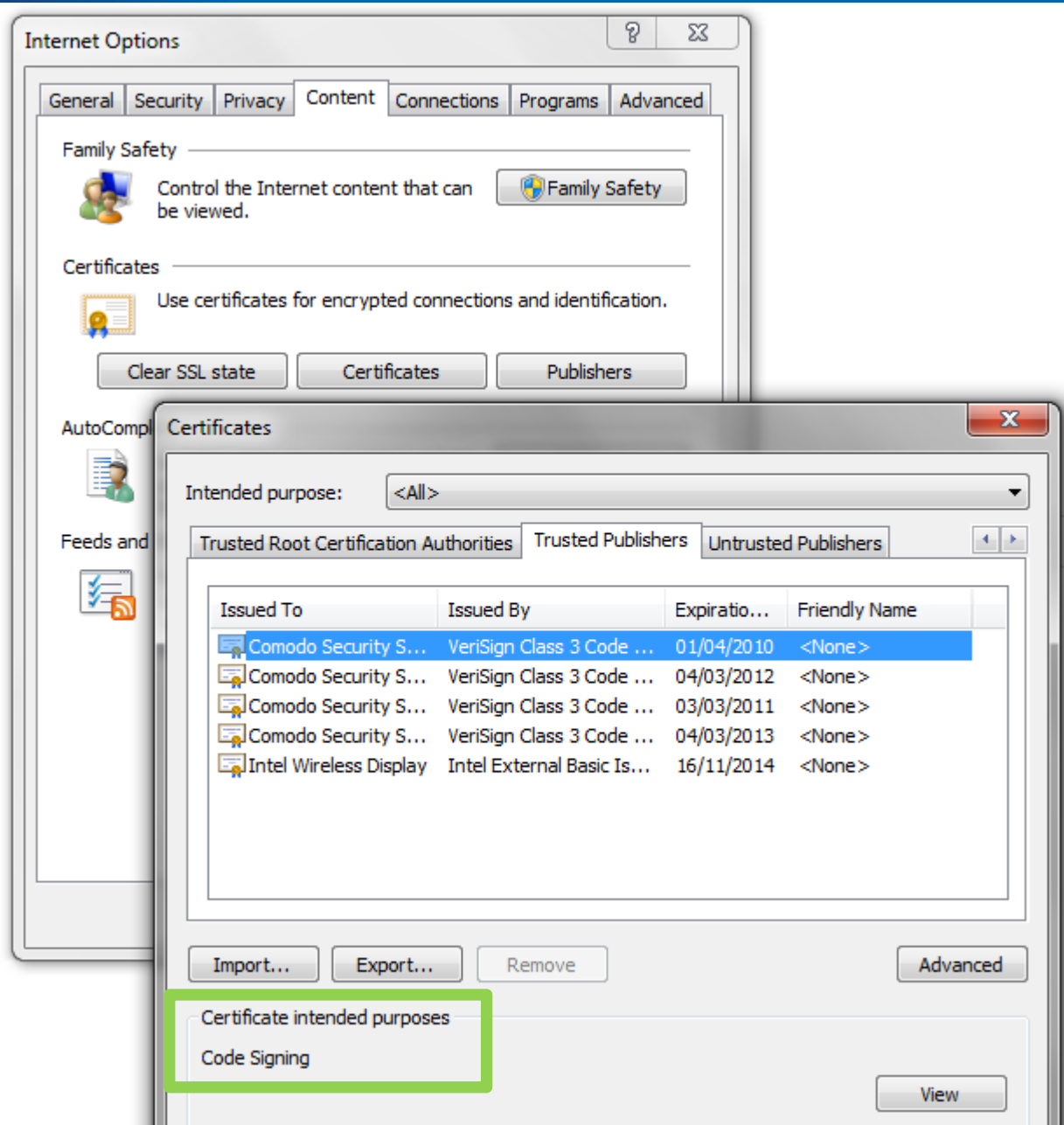
- Trust to signing key is needed
 - public key should be obtained from trusted source
 - but usually only publisher website ☹
- Can be used to sign packages (e.g., Debian RPM)
 - <http://fedoraneews.org/tchung/gpg/>

Various code signing managers

- Java certificates (also Android)
 - java-based applications and applets (.jar)
- Microsoft Authenticode
 - Active-X controls, plug-ins, execs (.cab, .cat, .ctl, .ocx, .exe, .dll)
- Adobe Air certificate
 - Adobe Ajax and flex files (.air and .airi)
- Microsoft Office and VBA certificate
 - Microsoft Office macros and Visual Basic applications
- Apple developer program
 - applications for iOS platform
- ...

Code signing (Microsoft's Authenticode)

- Publisher obtains Code Signing Digital ID
 - X.509 certificate with public key signed by trusted authority
 - authority's certificate imported in Trusted Publishers
- Publisher creates code (application)
- Publisher signs code with its private key
- Application is distributed along with signature(s)
- Application signature is verified, user is notified
 - invalid signature of application → confirmation from user
 - invalid signature of driver → no installation
- (RSA 2048bit with SHA-1)



Microsoft WHQL

- Windows Hardware Quality Labs (WHQL)
- Intended for kernel-mode binaries (drivers, dll)
- WHQL-certified binaries can be distributed through the Windows Update program
- Signature stored in catalog file (*.cat)
- Practical Windows Code and Driver Signing
 - <http://www.davidegrayson.com/signing/>

Microsoft Authenticode – selfsign (testing)

- You may try it by yourself
- Process of creating Authenticode selfsign certificate
 - used for testing purposes
 - your certificate imported as Trusted Publisher
 - signing of exe, dll, scripts
- Reference
 - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/office/aa140234%28v=office.10%29.aspx>

Signed code == secure code?

- Developer can sign anything
 - additional layer of validation of application needed
 - Microsoft WHQL, Google Play, Apple App Store...
 - but his/her key (and apps) can be revoked
- Trusted authority can be compromised
 - Comodo, DigiNotar...
- Signature must be verified correctly
 - Android Master key vulnerability
 - <https://tinyurl.com/kj63ae8>, <https://tinyurl.com/p5fu3j3>
- Signed application can execute unsigned code
 - Apple's Nitro JavaScript engine, <https://tinyurl.com/6tpvzpq>

TEMPORARY FILES

Application repository
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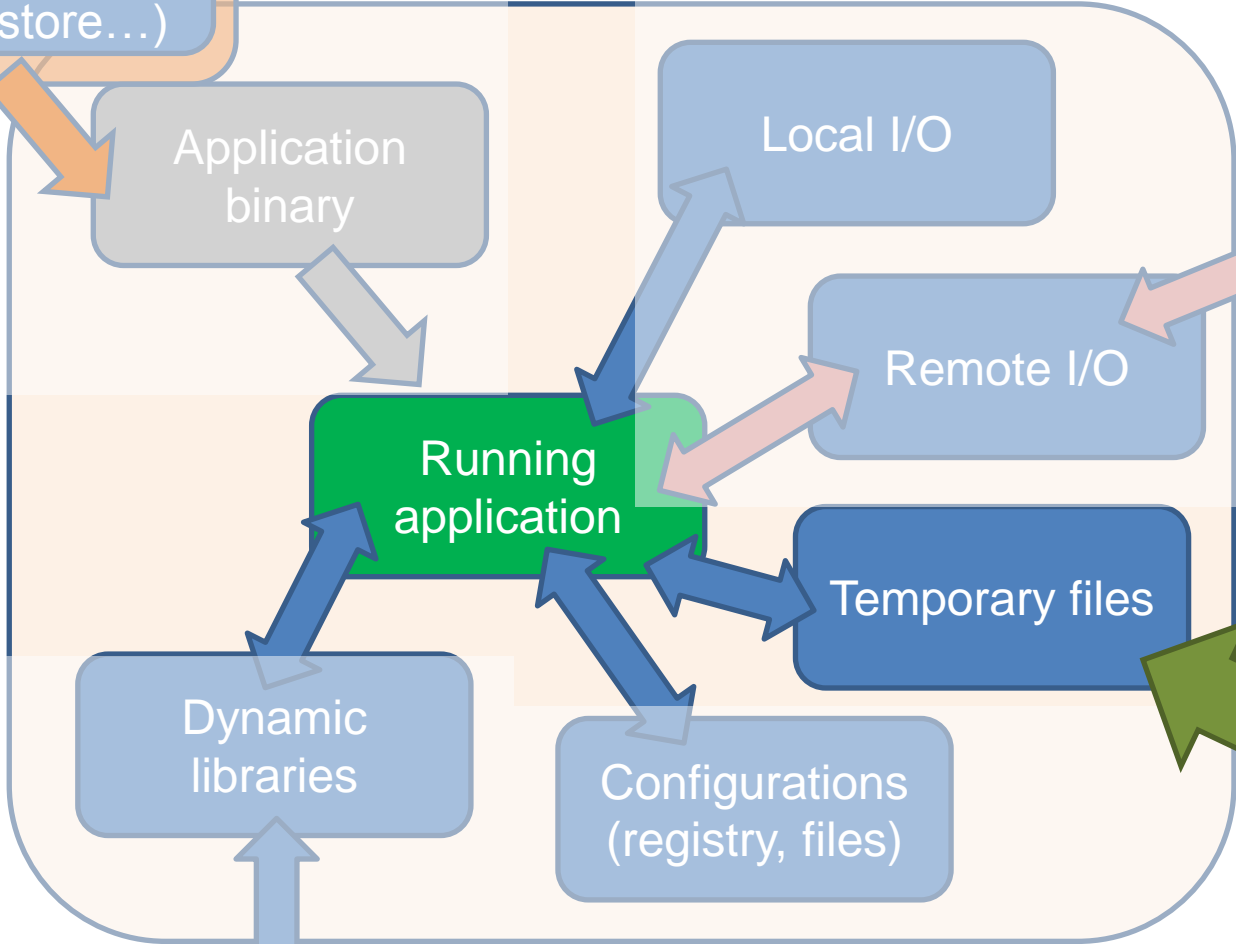
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Secure element



Why we use temporary files?

- Temporary files are used only during the program run
 - no persistence between runs is typically assumed
- Used to offload (large) data from memory to disk
 - too large to fit into memory of the application
- Communication with other process
 - transferring data through the file system

Creating temporary files in C/C++

- `FILE*` `tmpfile` (**void**);
 - creates new temporary binary file with unique file name and opens it for update (“wb”)
 - file is created in TMP directory according to environment settings
 - file is automatically closed at program end
- **char*** `tmpnam` (**char** * str);
 - return unique file name not used yet (but is not opening file!)
 - additional call to `fopen()` is required
 - if not specified, file is created in current directory
 - Warning: file is not opened in the same time, attacker can open it and manipulate in between
 - `tmpnam` generates a different string each time you call it, up to `TMP_MAX` times (defined in `stdio.h` as 65,535)

Creating temporary files in C/C++ (2)

- Alternatives from Secure C library exist
 - secure from the perspective of buffer manipulation
 - not necessarily against various attacks described later
- `errno_t tmpnam_s(char *s, rsize_t maxsize);`
 - returns unique file name (same format as `tmpnam`)
- `errno_t tmpfile_s(FILE** streamptr)`
 - creates new temporary binary file with unique file name and opens it for update (“wb”)
 - NOTE: if program crashes, tmp file might NOT be removed (difference to `tmpfile`)

Removing temporary files in C/C++

- `_rmtmp()`
 - removes all temporary files created by `tmpfile` / `tmpfile_s`
 - NOTE: will leave invalid `FILE*` handle(s)
- Files created by `tmpfile` / `tmpfile_s`
 - `fclose()` will remove the file
 - normal program termination will remove the file
 - abnormal program termination might not remove files
- Temporary files opened by `tmpnam()` & `fopen()`
 - not perceived by system as temporary files
 - developer is responsible for removal

Problem with temporary files - TOCTOU

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    const size_t BUFFER_SIZE = 1000;
    char filename[BUFFER_SIZE];
    // Get unique file name
    tmpnam_s(filename, BUFFER_SIZE);
    // Test if no such file exists
    FILE *fp = fopen(filename, "r");
    if( !fp ) { // file does not exist
        fp = fopen(filename, "w");
        // use tmp file...
        fclose(fp);
    } else {
        // file exists, go for other name
        fclose(fp);
    }
    return 0;
}
```

Time Of Check

**attacker can open filename
during this period (TOCTOU)**

Time Of Use

Problem with temp. files - predictability

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <windows.h>

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    const size_t BUFFER_SIZE = 1000;
    const size_t NUM_FILES = 15;
    char buffer[BUFFER_SIZE];
    // Obtain directory for temporary files
    GetTempPath(BUFFER_SIZE, buffer);
    printf("Temporary directory: %s\n", buffer);

    FILE * pFile1[NUM_FILES];
    // Obtain unique file name
    for (size_t i = 0; i < NUM_FILES; i++) {
        tmpnam_s(buffer, BUFFER_SIZE);
        printf("Unique file name: %s\n", buffer);
        fopen_s(&pFile1[i], buffer + 1, "wb");
    }

    return 0;
}
```

Temporary directory:

C:\Users\petr\AppData\Local\Temp\

Unique file name: \s4sg.

Unique file name: \s4sg.1

Unique file name: \s4sg.2

Unique file name: \s4sg.3

Unique file name: \s4sg.4

Unique file name: \s4sg.5

Unique file name: \s4sg.6

Unique file name: \s4sg.7

Unique file name: \s4sg.8

Unique file name: \s4sg.9

Unique file name: \s4sg.a

Unique file name: \s4sg.b

Unique file name: \s4sg.c

Unique file name: \s4sg.d

Unique file name: \s4sg.e

Problem with temp. files – predictability (2)

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    const size_t NUM_FILES = 15;

    FILE * pFile2[NUM_FILES];
    // Open temporary files
    for (size_t i = 0; i < NUM_FILES; i++) {
        tmpfile_s(&pFile2[i]);
    }
    // Wait - tmp files can be spotted in tmp directory
    getchar();
    // Remove tmp files (only these opened by tmpfile / tmpf
    // Handles FILE* inside pFile2 now have invalid value
    _rmtmp();

    return 0;
}
```

```
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.1
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.2
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.3
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.4
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.5
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.6
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.7
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.8
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.9
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.a
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.b
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.c
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.d
06/11/2013 15:28 0 t3oc.e
```

Problems with creating tmp files (MSVC)

- `tmpnam()` / `tmpnam_s()`
 - format as `sxxx.#`
 - TOCTOU
- `tmpfile()` / `tmpfile_s()`
 - unique file name is generated as `txxx.#` where `xxx` is digit or character and `#` is sequential number or character
 - predictability
- Attacker can:
 - predict file name, create own file (TOCTOU)
 - then capture sensitive & forge malformed data

Attack: overwrite protected system files

1. **Privileged program** will use tmp file in public directory
2. Attacker guess the tmp file name 't3oc.7'
3. Attacker creates symbolic link between 't3oc.7' and protected system file (mklink t3oc.7 **explorer.exe**)
4. Privileged program tries to create tmp file but uses link to system file instead
5. Privileged program has enough privilege to write into system file **explorer.exe**
6. System file is corrupted

Attack: overwrite user own files

1. **Unprivileged program** will use tmp file in public directory
2. Attacker guess the tmp file name 't3oc.7'
3. Attacker creates symbolic link between 't3oc.7' and other user file 'user.txt'
4. Unprivileged program tries to create tmp file but uses link to user file instead
5. User file 'user.txt' is corrupted

Comparison of temporary file functions

	tmpnam	tmpnam_s	tmpfile	tmpfile_s	mktemp	mkstemp
Unique name	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Atomic	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Exclusive Access	Possible	Possible	No	If supported by OS	Possible	Yes
Appropriate permissions	Possible	Possible	No	If supported by OS	Possible	Not portably
File Removed	No	No	Yes *	Yes *	No	No
Un-predictable name	Not portably	Yes	Not portably	Yes	Not portably	Not portably

* If the program terminates abnormally this behavior is implementation-defined.

Temporary Files Secure Programming (Robert C. Seacord)

<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/confluence/download/attachments/3524/07.5+Temporary+Files+v2.pdf>

TEMPORARY FILES – SECURITY CHECKLIST

Temporary files security checklist

1. Avoid temporary files if possible 😊
2. Don't use standard C function for temporary files
 - `mktemp()`, `tmpnam()`, `tempname()`, `tmpfile()`...
 - predictable names, race conditions
3. Don't use shared directories if possible
4. Don't store sensitive information in temp files
 - temp files are common attack vector, prevent it
5. Research where are temporary files stored
 - no standard function for that in C/C++
 - Windows: `GetTempPath()`

Temporary files security checklist (2)

6. Ensure strong uniqueness and non-predictability for name of temporary file
 - don't use `tmpnam` or `tmpfile` functions (predictable)
 - generate long random name internally, open it, check
 - use strong random generating function like CAPI's `CryptGenRandom()`, OpenSSL's `RAND_bytes()`...

Temporary files security checklist (2)

7. Ensure proper permissions for temporary file
 - avoid publically writable directories if possible
 - if publically writable directory is used, create subdirectory and set ACL's (read and write) only for your application
8. Encrypt log file content with random key
 - generate random secret key every time you run your application
 - encrypt data before writing into log file (and decrypt when reading)
 - when program is abnormally terminated, (encrypted) temporary file will stay but random key will is lost
 - attacker cannot supply older temporary version (different key)

Temporary files security checklist (3)

9. Perform secure cleanup

- overwrite content of temporary file with random data before close
 - even when performing log file encryption (key may leak in memory dump, pagefile etc.)
- leave no temporary files behind
 - close temporary files as soon as possible
 - call `_rmtmp()` if standard C functions were use for open
- still possible to leave temporary files during abnormal termination
 - utilize own signal handlers
 - wrap main into big exception handler and cleanup

Temporary files security checklist (4)

10. Rely on absolute, not on relative paths

- relative paths will change when application current directory change
- if user provides directory path for temporary files, sanitize it
- use file handles (e.g., FILE*) instead of file path (TOCTOU)

11. Open files exclusively and non-existing only

- C99: `fopen("filename", "wb")` opens new as well as existing file ☹
- C11: new exclusive create-and-open mode ("`...x`") for `fopen`
- POSIX: `open()` with `O_CREAT|O_EXCL`
- WIN32 API: `CreateFile()` with `CREATE_NEW`

Example: not yet 😊 (LABs)

- obtain temporary directory
- create subdirectory, set proper ACL
- generate long random file name
- open file exclusively with absolute path
- generate random key
- encrypt data before write
- shred content (overwrite) before close
- close after use
- handle abnormal termination (signal, exception)



References

- Temporary Files Secure Programming (Robert C. Seacord)
 - <https://www.securecoding.cert.org/confluence/download/attachments/3524/07.5+Temporary+Files+v2.pdf>
- Security Tips for Temporary File Usage in Applications
 - <http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/15956/Security-Tips-for-Temporary-File-Usage-in-Applicat>
- FIO43-C. Do not create temporary files in shared directories
 - <https://www.securecoding.cert.org/confluence/display/seccode/FIO43-C.+Do+not+create+temporary+files+in+shared+directories>
- MITRE CWE-377: Insecure temporary files
 - <http://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/377.html>

SUMMARY

Summary

Questions ?



- Dynamic libraries can be forged
 - make DLL preloading harder (manifest)
 - check input from library as untrusted
- Don't use standard C functions for temporary files
 - not use temporary files at all or follow security guidelines
- Try to protect secrets inside binary
 - don't hardcode any secrets
 - offload sensitive computation to secure environment (server, smart card, HSM)
 - use whitebox-attacker protection techniques (bonus)

BONUS: PROTECTING SOFTWARE MODULES

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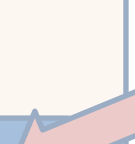
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Temporary files

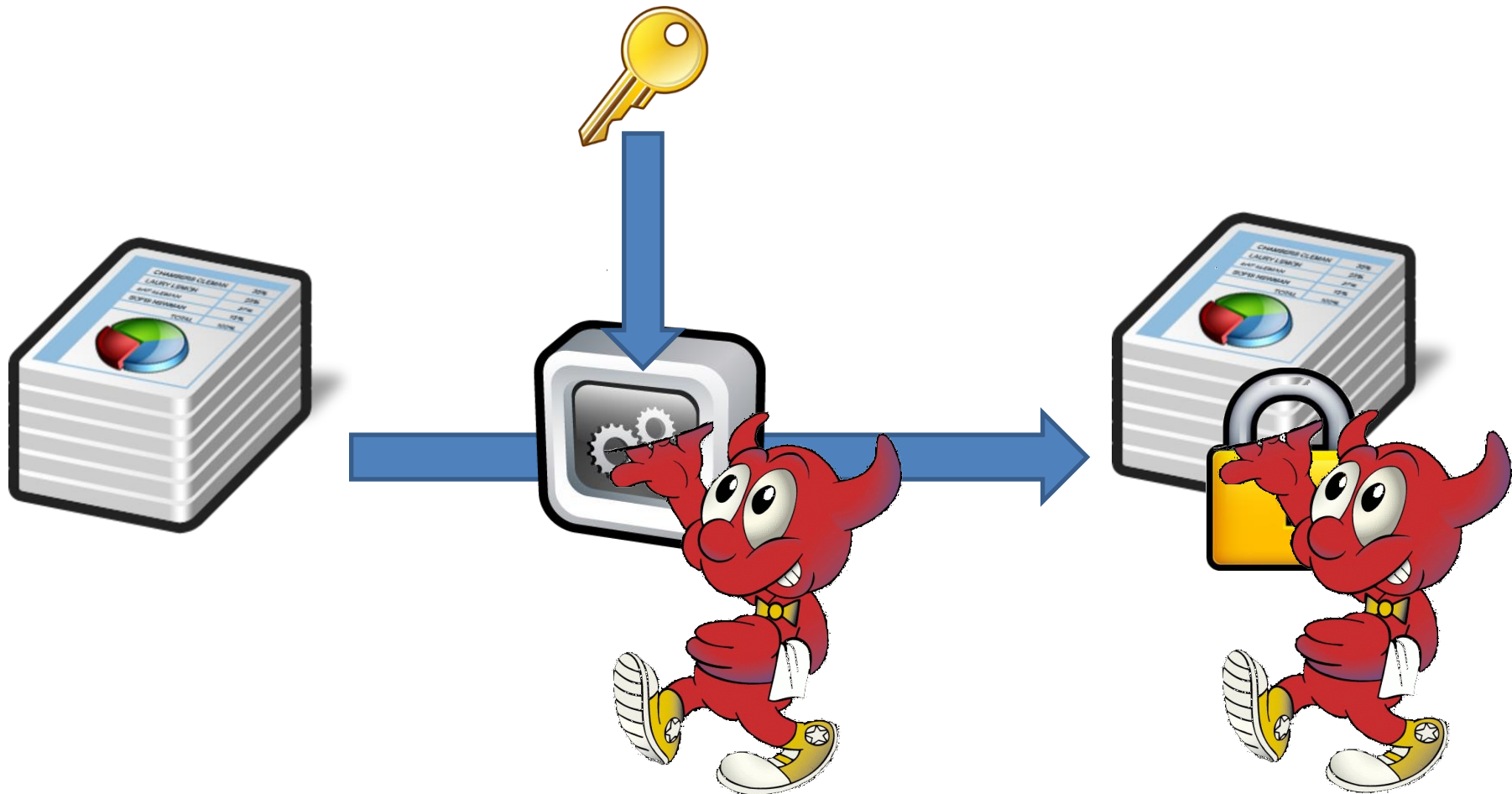
Dynamic libraries

Configurations
(registry, files)

Secure element



Standard vs. whitebox attacker model



Standard AES API (PolarSSL)

```

/**
 * \brief          AES key schedule (encryption)
 *
 * \param ctx      AES context to be initialized
 * \param key      encryption key
 * \param keysize  must be 128, 192 or 256
 *
 * \return         0 if successful, or POLARSSL_ERR_AES_INVALID_KEY_LENGTH
 */
int aes_setkey_enc(aes_context *ctx, const unsigned char *key, unsigned int keysize);

/**
 * \brief          AES-ECB block encryption/decryption
 *
 * \param ctx      AES context
 * \param mode     AES_ENCRYPT or AES_DECRYPT
 * \param input    16-byte input block
 * \param output   16-byte output block
 *
 * \return         0 if successful
 */
int aes_crypt_ecb( aes_context *ctx,
                  int mode,
                  const unsigned char input[16],
                  unsigned char output[16] );

```

Standard AES - usage

```
void simpleAES() {
    unsigned char key[32];
    unsigned char buf[16];
    aes_context ctx;

    memset( buf, 1, sizeof(buf));
    memset( &ctx, 0, sizeof(ctx));

    // Set the key
    sprintf((char*)key, "%s", "SecurePassword:nbu123");
    aes_setkey_enc( &ctx, key, 128);

    printf("Input: ");
    for (int i = 0; i < AES_BLOCK_SIZE; i++) printf("%2x", buf[i]);
    printf("\n");

    // Encrypt one block
    aes_crypt_ecb( &ctx, AES_ENCRYPT, buf, buf );
    printf("Output: ");
    for (int i = 0; i < AES_BLOCK_SIZE; i++) printf("%x", buf[i]);
}
```

OllyDbg – key value is static string

The screenshot shows the OllyDbg interface with the CPU window displaying assembly code for the main thread in the AES_Pola module. A text strings window is open, showing a list of strings referenced in the module's text. The string "SecurePassword:nbu123" is highlighted in the text strings window, and its address (011D1000) is visible in the assembly window. The assembly code shows a call to printf with a format string "%s" and the address 011D1000, which corresponds to the highlighted string.

Assembly Code (CPU window):

```

011D2F13 68 10411D01 PUSH AES_Pola.011D4110
011D2F18 68 28411D01 PUSH AES_Pola.011D4128
011D2F1D 8D55 D8 LEA EDI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-28]
011D2F20 52 PUSH EDI
011D2F21 FF15 90401D01 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&MSUCR110.sprintf]
011D2F27 83C4 0C ADD ESP,0C
011D2F2A 68 80000000 PUSH 80
011D2F2F 8D45 D8 LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-28]
011D2F32 50 PUSH EAX
011D2F33 8D8D 90FEFFFF LEA ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-180]
011D2F39 51 PUSH ECX
011D2F3A E8 C1E0FFFF CALL AES_Pola.aes_setkey_enc
011D2F3F 83C4 0C ADD ESP,0C
011D2F42 68 2C411D01 PUSH AES_Pola.011D412C
011D2F47 FF15 90401D01 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&MSUCR110.printf]
011D2F4D 83C4 04 ADD ESP,4
011D2F50 745 FC 000000 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],0
011D2F57 7E 09 JMP SHORT AES_Pola.011D2F62
011D2F59 > 8B55 FC MOV EDI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
011D2F5C > 83C2 01 ADD EDI,1
011D2F5F > 8955 FC MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],EDI
011D2F62 > 837D FC 10 CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],10
011D2F66 > 7D 19 JGE SHORT AES_Pola.011D2F81
011D2F68 8B45 FC MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
011D2F6B 0FB64C05 98 MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP+EAX-68]
011D2F70 51 PUSH ECX
011D2F71 68 34411D01 PUSH AES_Pola.011D4134
011D2F76 FF15 90401D01 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&MSUCR110.printf]
011D2F7C 83C4 08 ADD ESP,8
011D2F7F ^E8 D8 JMP SHORT AES_Pola.011D2F59
011D2F81 > 68 38411D01 PUSH OFFSET AES_Pola._load_config_used
011D2F86 FF15 90401D01 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&MSUCR110.printf]
011D2F8C 83C4 04 ADD ESP,4
011D2F8F 8D55 98 LEA EDI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-68]
011D2F92 52 PUSH EDI
011D2F93 8D45 98 LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-68]
011D2F96 50 PUSH EAX
    
```

Text strings window (R):

Address	Disassembly	Text string
011D1000	PUSH EBP	(Initial CPU selection)
011D2F13	PUSH AES_Pola.011D4110	ASCII "SecurePassword:nbu123"
011D2F18	PUSH AES_Pola.011D4128	ASCII "%s"
011D2F42	PUSH AES_Pola.011D412C	ASCII "Input: "
011D2F71	PUSH AES_Pola.011D4134	ASCII "%2x"
011D2FA8	PUSH AES_Pola.011D413C	ASCII "Output: "
011D2FD7	PUSH AES_Pola.011D4148	ASCII "%x"

Assembly window comments:

- Format = "SecurePassword:nbu123"
- Format = "%s"
- sprintf
- Format = "Input: "
- printf
- Format = "%2x"
- printf
- Format = "%x"
- printf

Address list:

```

011D4110=AES_Pola.011D4110 (ASCII "SecurePassword:nbu123")
aes_polarssl.cpp:862: sprintf((char*)key, "%s", "SecurePassword:nbu123");
Address Hex dump ASCII
011D5000 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0.....
    
```


OllyDbg – key is visible in memory

The screenshot shows the OllyDbg interface for the process 'AES_PolarSSL.exe'. The CPU window displays assembly instructions for the main thread. A memory dump window titled 'Dump - 0020B000..0020FFFF' is open, showing a sequence of bytes that form the password 'nbu123.#0Xr#0\r#0*42#00...iB0'. The password is visible in the dump, demonstrating that it is stored in memory in plaintext.

```

011D1000 $ 55 PUSH EBP
011D1001 . 8BEC MOV EBP,ESP
011D1003 . 83EC 10 SUB ESP,10
011D1006 . 56 PUSH ESI
011D1007 . 833D 20501D01 CMP DWORD PTR DS:[aes_init_done],0
011D100E > 75 0F JNZ SHORT AES_Pola.011D101F
011D1010 . E8 1B1A0000 CALL AES_Pola.aes_gen_tables
011D1015 . C705 20501D01 MOV DWORD PTR DS:[aes_init_done],1
011D101F > 8B45 10 MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+10]
011D1022 . 8945 F4 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C],EAX
011D1025 . 817D F4 000000 CMP WORD PTR SS:[EBP-C],0
011D102C > 74 14 JE SHORT AES_Pola.011D1042
011D102E . 817D F4 C00000 CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C],0C0
011D1035 > 74 16 JE SHORT AES_Pola.011D104D
011D1037 . 817D F4 000100 CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C],100
011D103E > 74 18 JE SHORT AES_Pola.011D1058
011D1040 > EB 21 JMP SHORT AES_Pola.011D1063
011D1042 > 8B4D 08 MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
011D1045 . C701 0A000000 MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ECX],0A
011D1048 > EB 20 JMP SHORT AES_Pola.011D106D
011D104D > 8B55 08 MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
011D1050 . C702 0C000000 MOV DWORD PTR DS:[EDX],0C
011D1056 > EB 15 JMP SHORT AES_Pola.011D106D
011D1058 > 8B45 08 MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
011D105B > C700 0E000000 MOV DWORD PTR DS:[EAX],0E
011D1061 > EB 0A JMP SHORT AES_Pola.011D106D
011D1063 > B8 00F8FFFF MOV EAX,-800
011D1068 > E9 0B060000 JMP AES_Pola.011D1678
011D106D > 8B4D 08 MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
011D1070 . 83C1 08 ADD ECX,8
011D1073 . 894D FC MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],ECX
011D1076 . 8B55 08 MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
011D1079 . 8B45 FC MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
011D107C . 8942 04 MOV DWORD PTR DS:[EDX+4],EAX
011D107F . C745 F8 000000 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8],0
011D1086 > EB 09 JMP SHORT AES_Pola.011D1091
011D1088 > 8B4D F8 MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8]
011D108B . 83C1 01 ADD ECX,1
011D108E . 894D F8 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8],ECX
011D1091 > 8B55 10 MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+10]
011D1094 . C1FA 05 SAR EDX,5
011D1097 . 3955 F8 CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8],EDX
    
```

```

0020FA97 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0020FA98 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0020FA99 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0020FA9A 00 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 .....
0020FA9B 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 .....
0020FA9C 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 .....
0020FA9D 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 .....
0020FA9E 01 53 65 63 75 72 65 50 61 73 73 77 6F 72 64 3A .....
0020FA9F 6E 62 75 31 32 33 00 1D 01 58 72 1D 01 5C 72 1D .....
0020FAA0 01 60 72 1D 01 00 00 00 20 FA 20 00 F8 2F 1D 0* .....
0020FAA1 01 60 FA 20 00 95 32 1D 01 01 00 00 00 08 E1 4F .....
0020FAA2 00 F8 7C 4F 00 7C 75 74 DB 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0020FAA3 00 00 E0 FD 7E 00 00 00 00 34 FA 20 00 58 01 00 .....
0020FAA4 00 9C FA 20 00 89 36 1D 01 34 CD 49 DA 00 00 00 .....
0020FAA5 00 6C FA 20 00 AA 33 68 76 00 E0 FD 7E AC FA 20 .....
0020FAA6 00 F2 9E EE 76 00 E0 FD 7E 77 18 E1 52 00 00 00 .....
0020FAA7 00 00 00 00 00 00 E0 FD 7E 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
0020FAA8 00 00 00 00 00 78 FA 20 00 00 00 00 00 FF FF FF .....
0020FAA9 FF D5 71 F2 76 EB 27 2C 24 00 00 00 00 C4 FA 20 .....
0020FAAF 00 C5 9E EE 76 ED 32 1D 01 00 E0 FD 7E 00 00 00 .....
    
```

What if AES usage is somehow hidden?

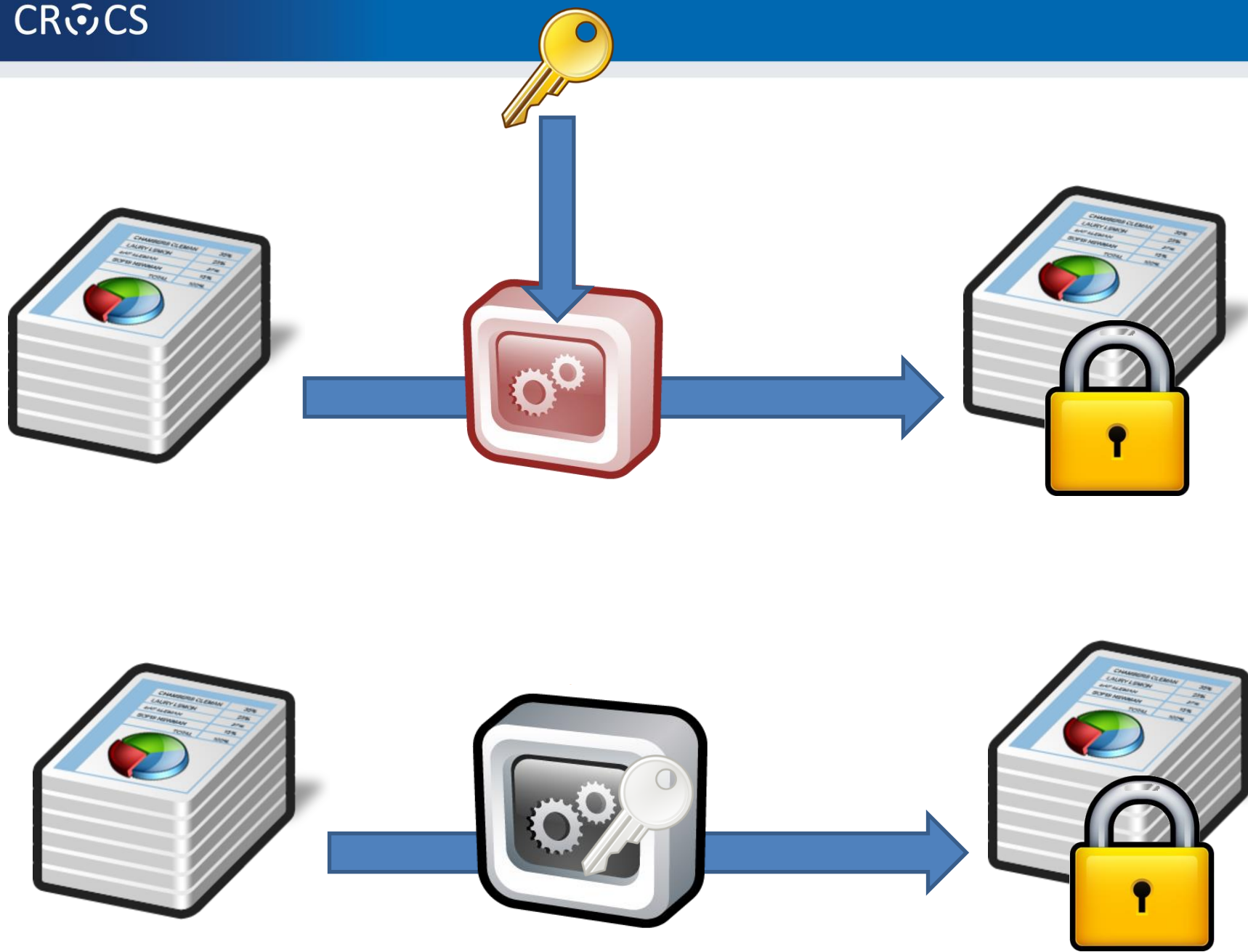


Whitebox attacker model

- The attacker is able to:
 - inspect and disassemble binary (static strings, code...)
 - observe/modify all executed instructions (OllyDbg...)
 - observe/modify used memory (OllyDbg, memory dump...)
- How to still protect value of cryptographic key?
- Who might be whitebox attacker?
 - Mathematician (for fun)
 - Security researcher / Malware analyst (for work)
 - DRM cracker (for fun&profit)
 - ...

White-box attack resistant cryptography

- Problem limited from every cipher to symmetric cryptography cipher only
 - protects used cryptographic key (and data)
- Special implementation fully compatible with standard AES/DES... 2002 (Chow et al.)
 - series of lookups into pre-computed tables
- Implementation of AES which takes only data
 - key is already embedded inside
 - hard for an attacker to extract embedded key



Impractical solution

Input block

00...00...00
 00...00...01
 ...
 00...01...11
 ...
 01...11...11
 11...11...11

2^{128}

Output block = AES(input, key_x)

10...01...11
 10...11...01
 ...
 01...11...11
 ...
 01...10...00
 10...00...10

used as index into table

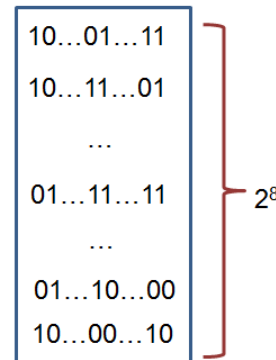
2^{128}

Precomputed table

- Secure, but $2^{128} \times 16\text{B}$ memory storage

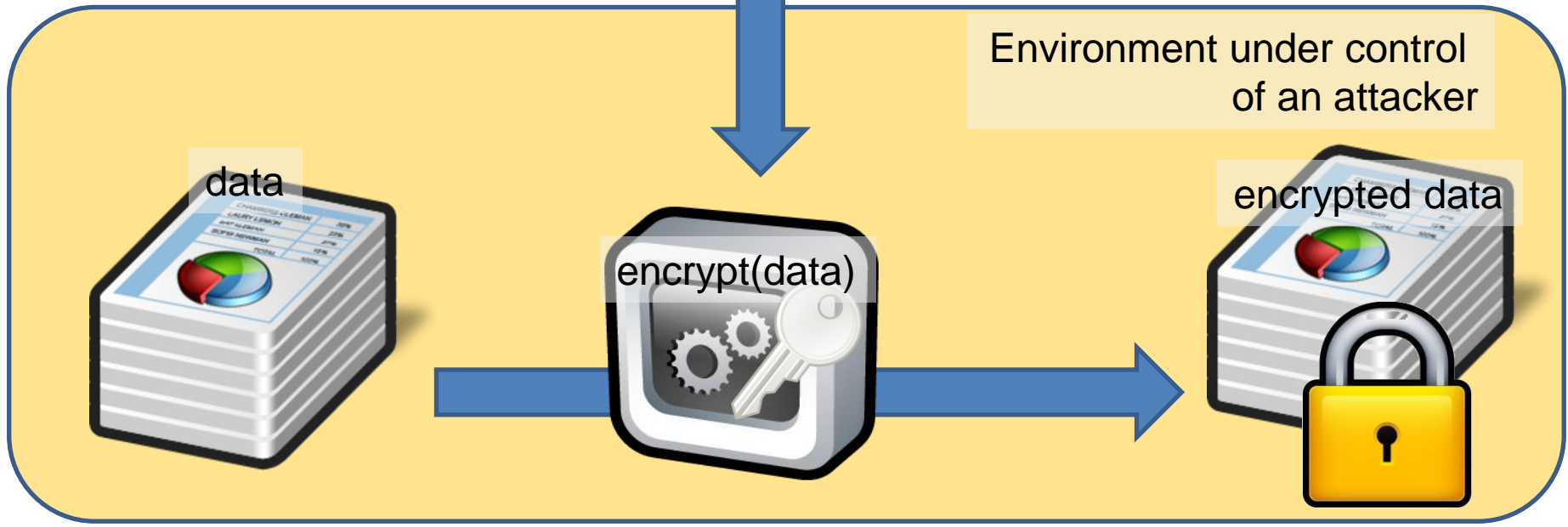
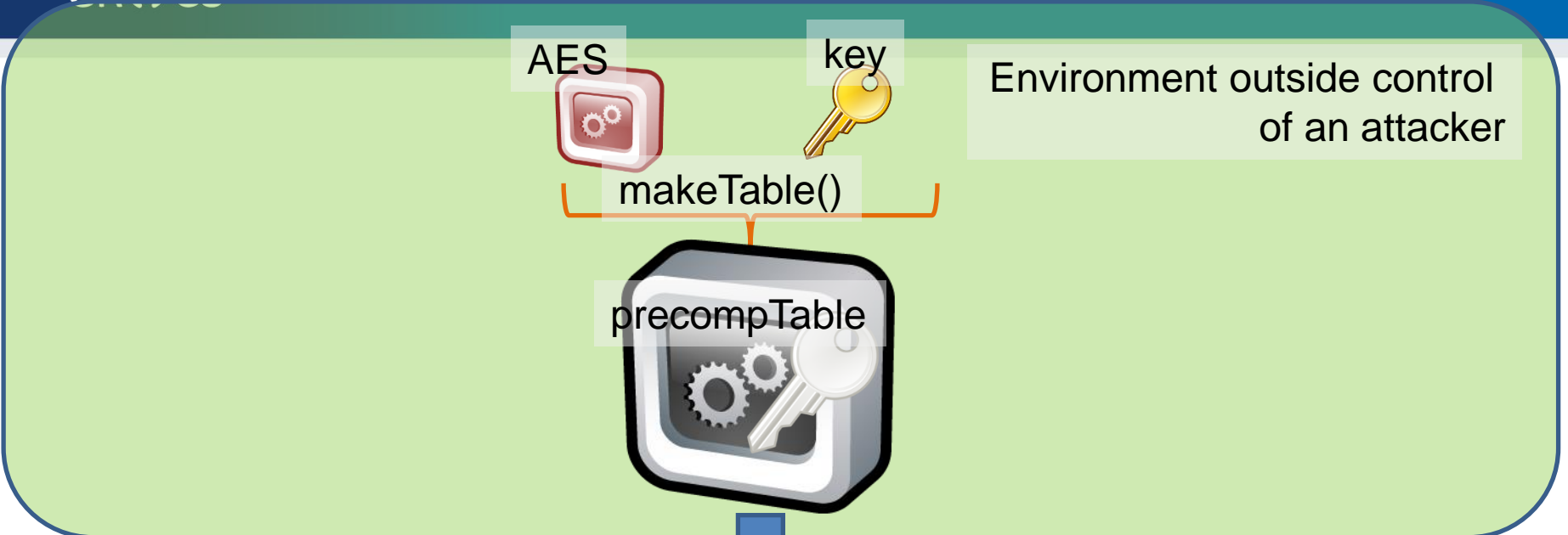
WBACR AES – some techniques

- Pre-compute table for all possible inputs
 - practical for one 16bits or two 8bits arguments table with up to 2^{16} rows (~64KB)
 - **AddRoundKey: data \oplus key**
 - 8bit argument data, key fixed
- Pack several operations together
 - **AddRoundKey+SubBytes: $T[i] = S[i \oplus \text{key}]$;**
- Protect intermediate values by random bijections
 - removed automatically by next lookup
 - $X = F^{-1}(F(X))$
 - $T[i] = S[F^{-1}(i) \oplus \text{key}]$;



Whitebox cryptography lifecycle

- [Secure environment]
 1. Generate required key (random, database...)
 2. Generate WAES tables (in secure environment)
- [Potential insecure environment]
 3. Compile WAES tables into target application
- [Insecure environment (User PC)]
 4. Run application and use WAES as usual (with fixed key)



Resulting implementation

- More difficult to detect that crypto was used
 - no fixed constants in the code
 - precomputed tables change with every generation
 - even two tables for same key are different
 - (but can still be found)
- Resistant even when precomputed tables are found
 - when debugged, only table lookups are seen
 - key value is never manipulated in plaintext
 - transformation techniques should provide protection to key embedded inside tables

WBACR AES - pros

- Practically usable
 - implementation size ~800KB (tables)
 - speed ~MBs/sec (~6.5MB/s vs. 220MB/s)
- Hard to extract embedded key
 - Complexity semi-formally guaranteed
 - (if the scheme is secure)
- One can simulate asymmetric cryptography!
 - implementation contains only encryption part of AES
 - until attacker extracts key, decryption is not possible

WBACR AES - cons

- Implementation can be used as oracle (black box)
 - attacker can supply inputs and obtain outputs
 - even if she cannot extract the key
 - (can be partially solved by I/O encodings)
- Problem of secure input/output
 - protected is only AES, not code around
- Key is fixed and cannot be easily changed
- Successful cryptanalysis for several schemes
 - several former schemes broken
 - new techniques proposed

List of proposals and attacks

- (2002) First WB AES implementation by Chow et. al. [Chow02]
 - IO bijections, linear mixing bijections, external coding
 - broken by BGE cryptanalysis [Bill04]
 - algebraic attack, recovering symmetric key by modelling round function by system of algebraic equations
- (2006) White Box Cryptography: A New Attempt [Bri06]
 - attempt to randomize whitebox primitives, perturbation & random equations added, S-boxes are enc. keys. 4 AES ciphers, major voting for result
 - broken by Mulder et. al. [Mul10]
 - removes perturbations and random equations, attacking on final round removing perturbations, structural decomposition. 2^{17} steps
- (2009) A Secure Implementation of White-box AES [Xia09]
 - broken by Mulder et. al. [Mul12]
 - linear equivalence algorithm used (backward AES-128 compatibility => linear protection has to be inverted in next round), 2^{32} steps
- (2011) Protecting white-box AES with dual ciphers [Kar11]
 - broken by our work [Kli13]
 - protection shown to be ineffective

More resources

- Overviews, links
 - <http://whiteboxcrypto.com/research.php>
 - <https://minotaur.fi.muni.cz:8443/~xsvenda/docuwiki/doku.php?id=public:mobilecrypto>
- Crackme challenges
 - <http://www.phrack.org/issues.html?issue=68&id=8>
- Whitebox crypto in DRM
 - http://whiteboxcrypto.com/files/2012_MISC_DRM.pdf

Whitebox transform IS used in the wild

- Proprietary DRM systems
 - details are usually not published
 - AES-based functions, keyed hash functions, RSA, ECC...
 - interconnection with surrounding code
- Chow et al. (2002) proposal made at Cloakware
 - firmware protection solution
- Apple's FairPlay & Brahms attack
 - http://whiteboxcrypto.com/files/2012_MISC_DRM.pdf
- ...