

There Will Be Glitches:

Extracting and Analyzing Automotive Firmware Efficiently

Alyssa Milburn & Niek Timmers

@noopwafel @tieknimmers

Santiago Cordoba,
Nils Wiersma,
Ramiro Pareja



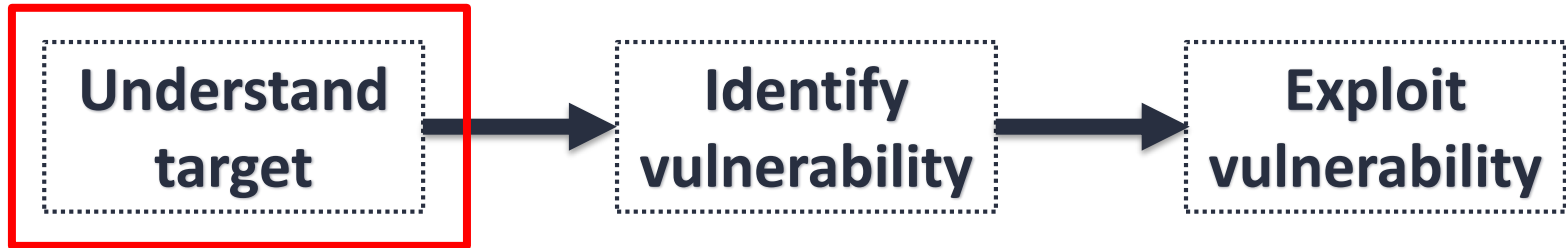
Today we are talking about



Standard approach for breaking embedded systems



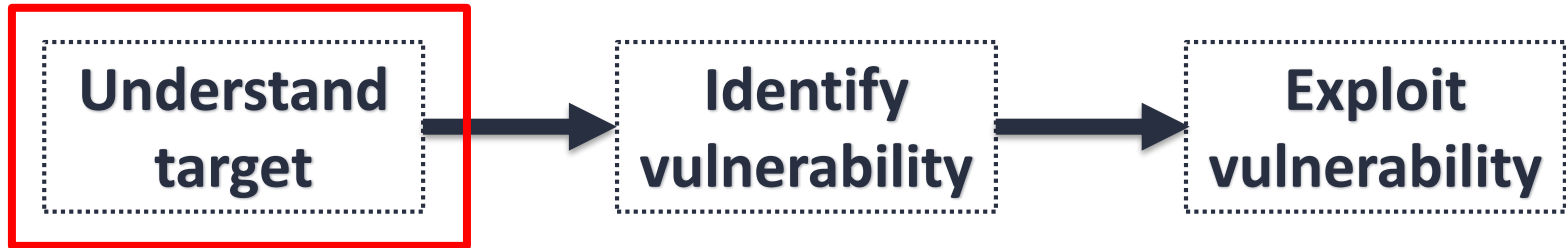
Standard approach for breaking embedded systems



But to understand, we need the **firmware**!

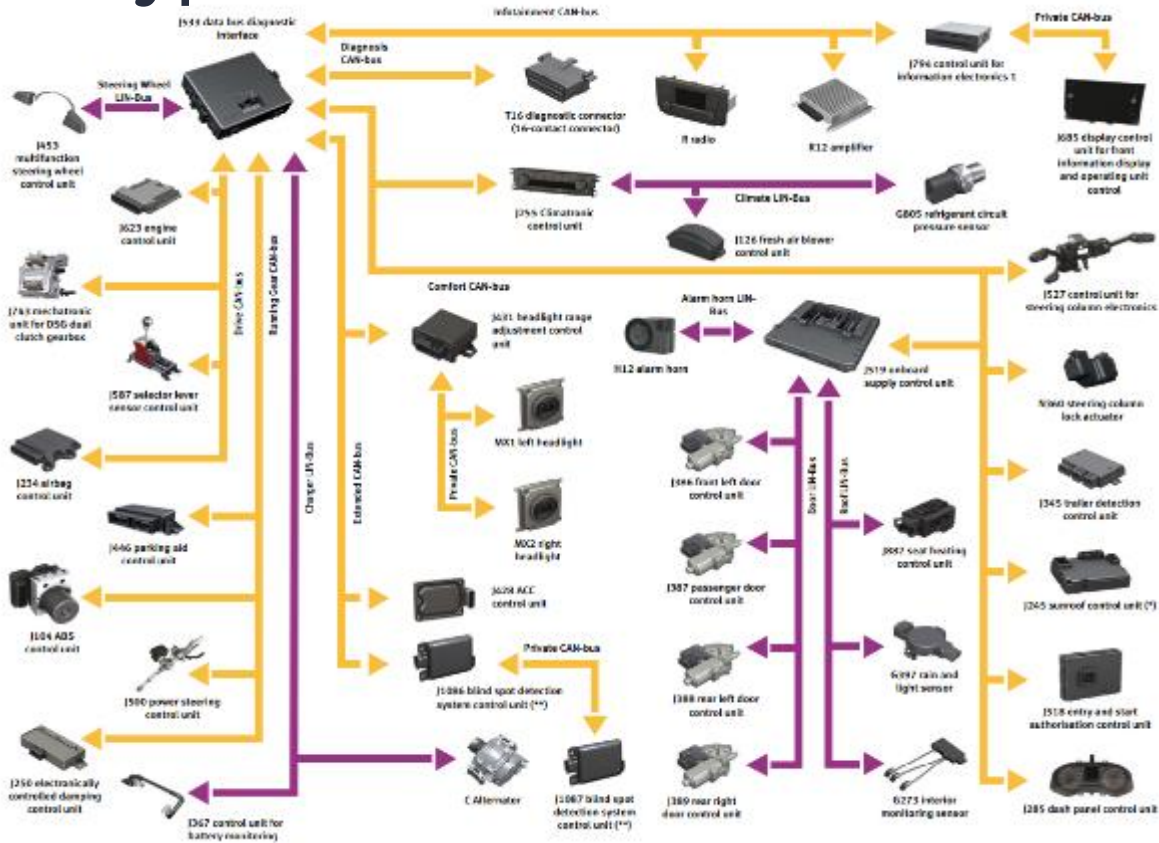
Standard approach for breaking
~~embedded systems~~

ECUs found in cars!



But to understand, we need the **firmware!**

Typical ECUs found in a car...



Typical ECUs found in a car...

Gateway



Gateway Infotainment



Gateway Infotainment

Engine control



[illegible]

[illegible]

Gateway Infotainment



*Just like embedded systems,
these ECUs come in all **forms, shapes and sizes!***

Lots of them are stuck in cars worldwide...



... and you can buy them cheaply!





Today we target an Instrument Cluster



Today we target an Instrument Cluster



Why?

*It has
blinky lights!*



*We want to **understand** our target...*

*So we need to its **firmware**!*

Let's get our target's firmware!

Let's get our target's firmware!

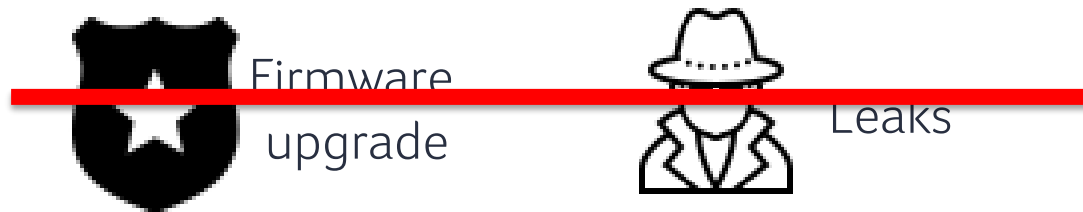


Firmware
upgrade



Leaks

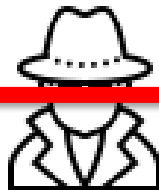
Let's get our target's firmware!



Let's get our target's firmware!



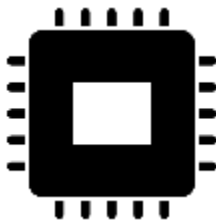
Firmware
upgrade



Leaks



Interfaces

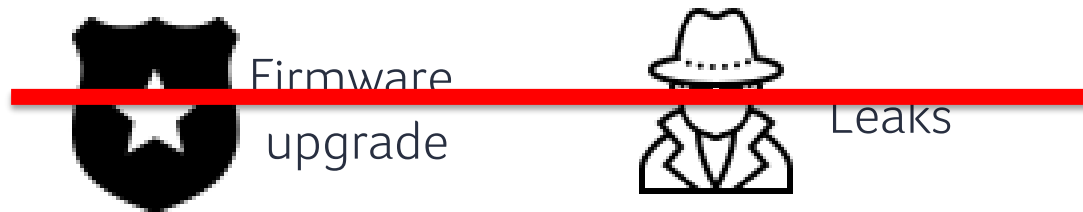


Chips

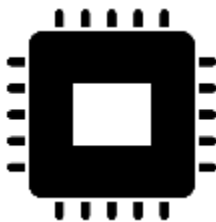


Software

Let's get our target's firmware!



Interfaces

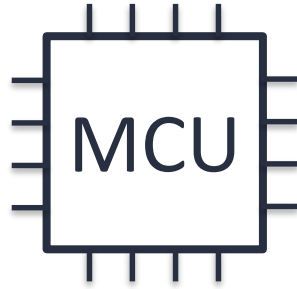


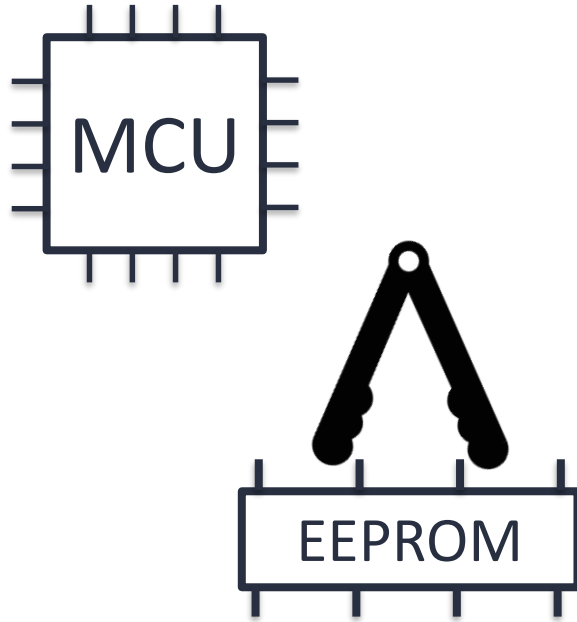
Chips

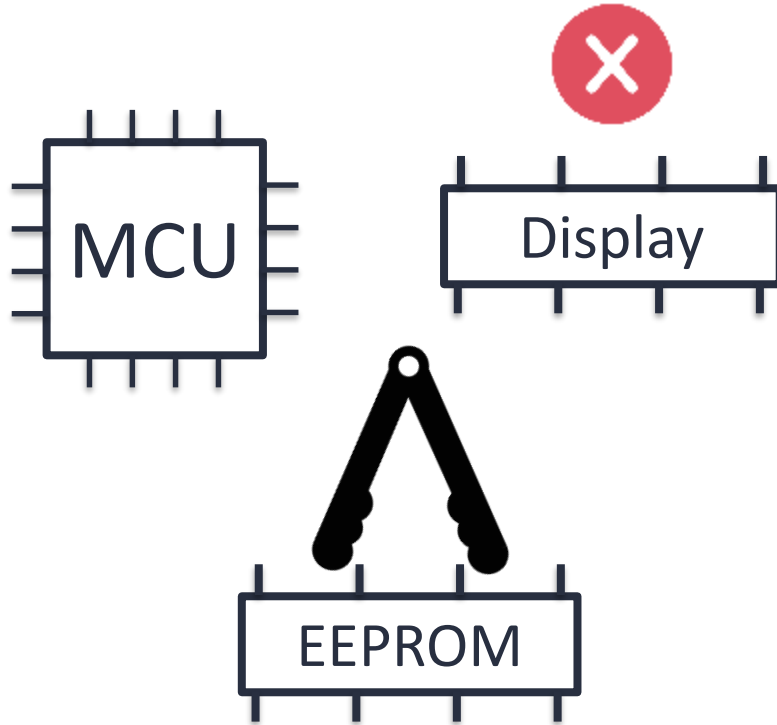


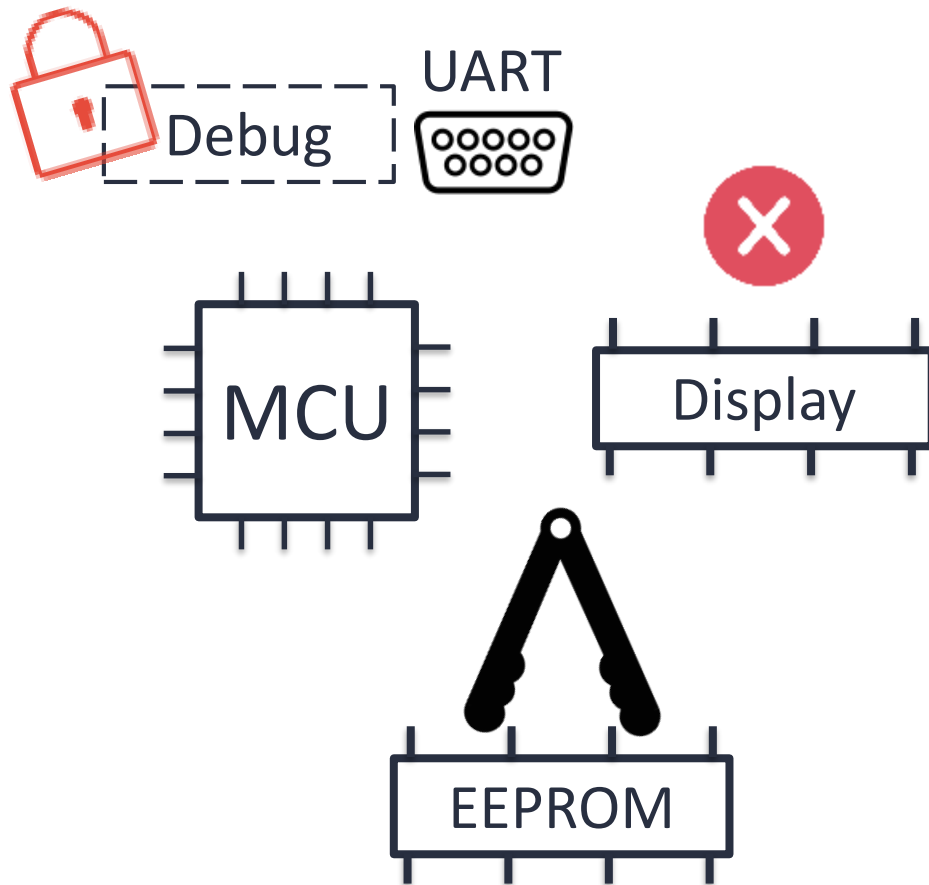
Software

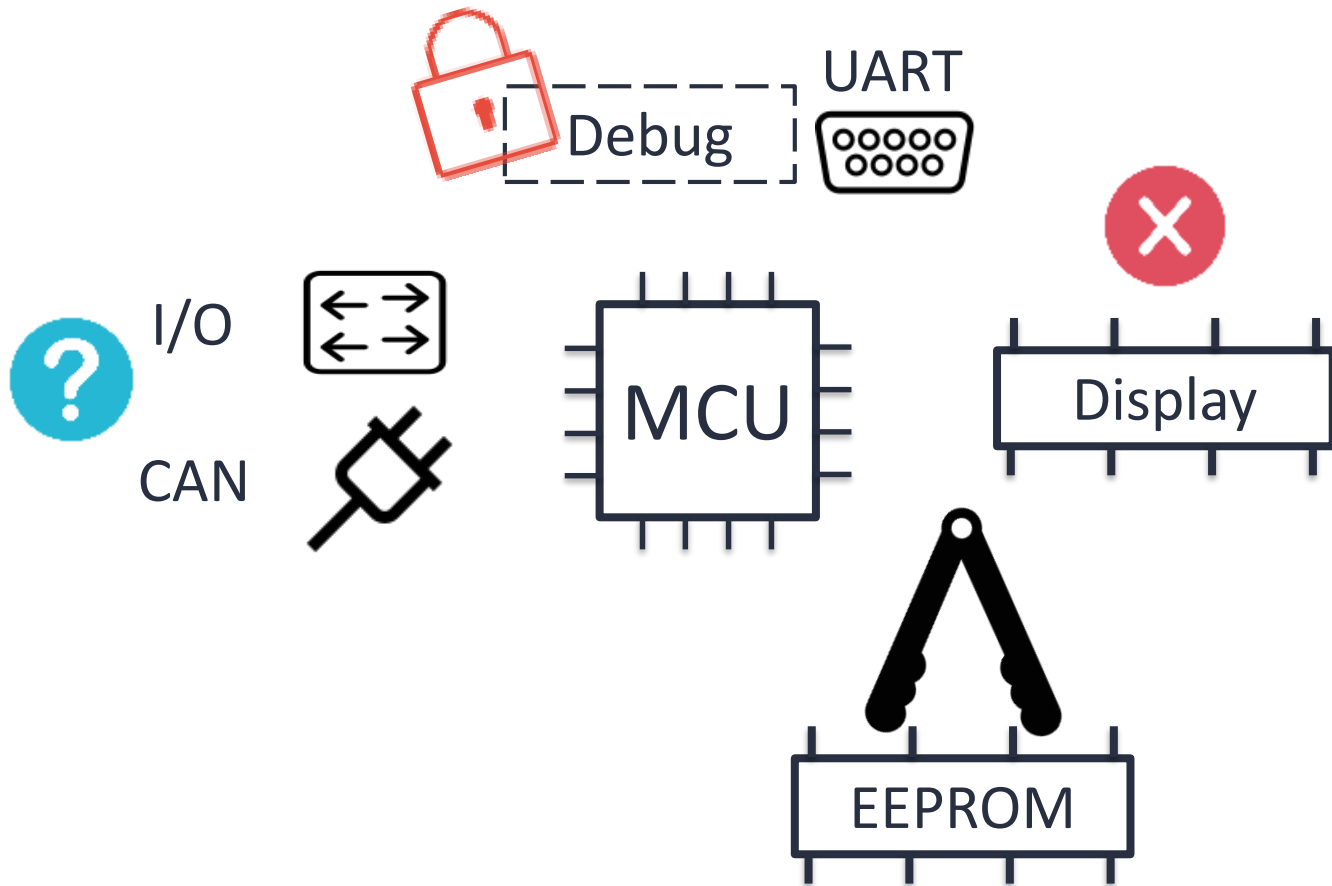
Let's open up our Instrument Cluster!











Most ECUs speak UDS over CAN!

Most ECUs speak UDS over CAN!

Yay, UDS! *Wait... what?*

Unified Diagnostic Services (UDS)



- Diagnostics
- Data Transmission
 - Read and write memory
- Security Access check
- And loads of more stuff...

Quick analysis of our dashboard

Quick analysis of our dashboard

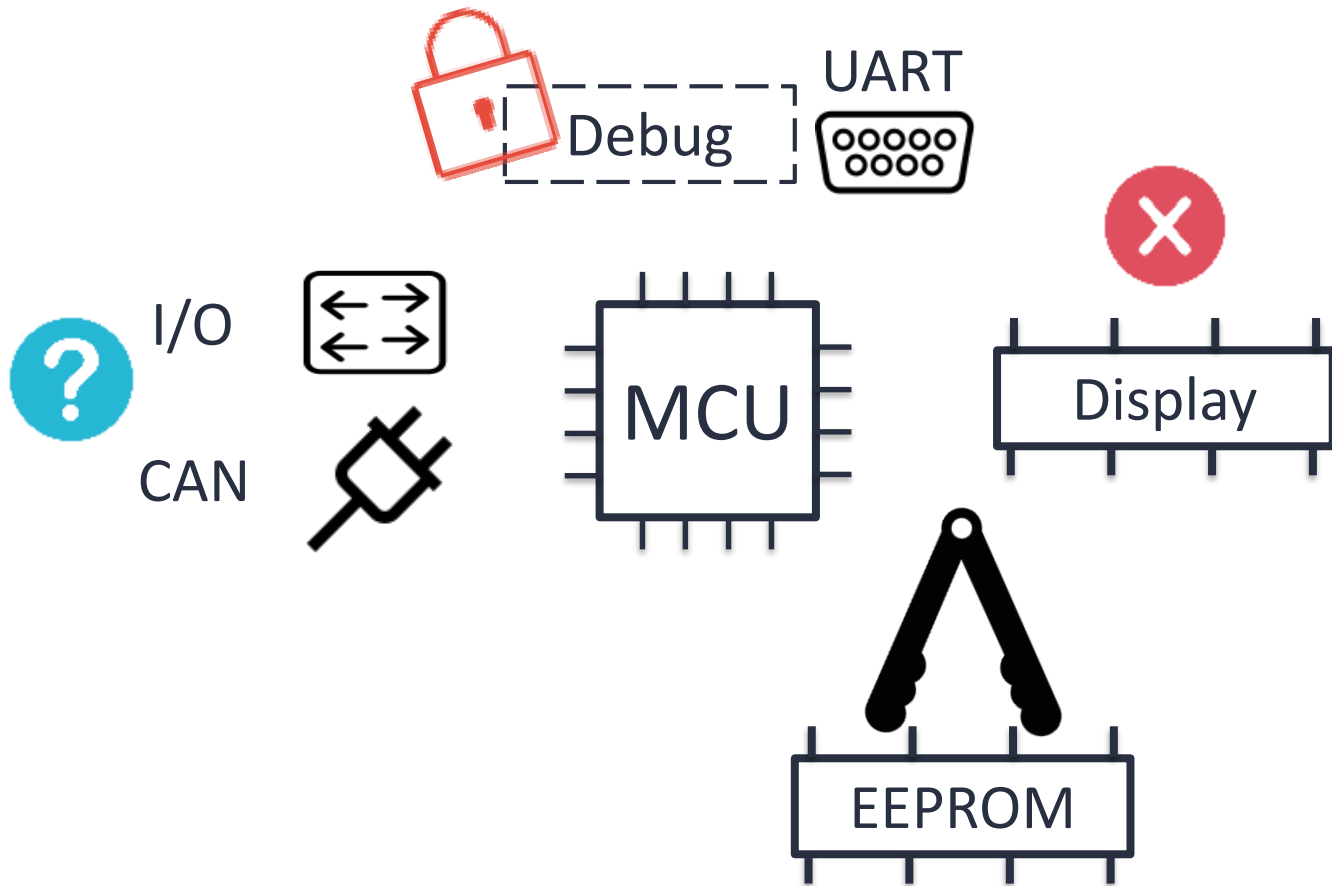
- Read/write memory functions
 - Protected

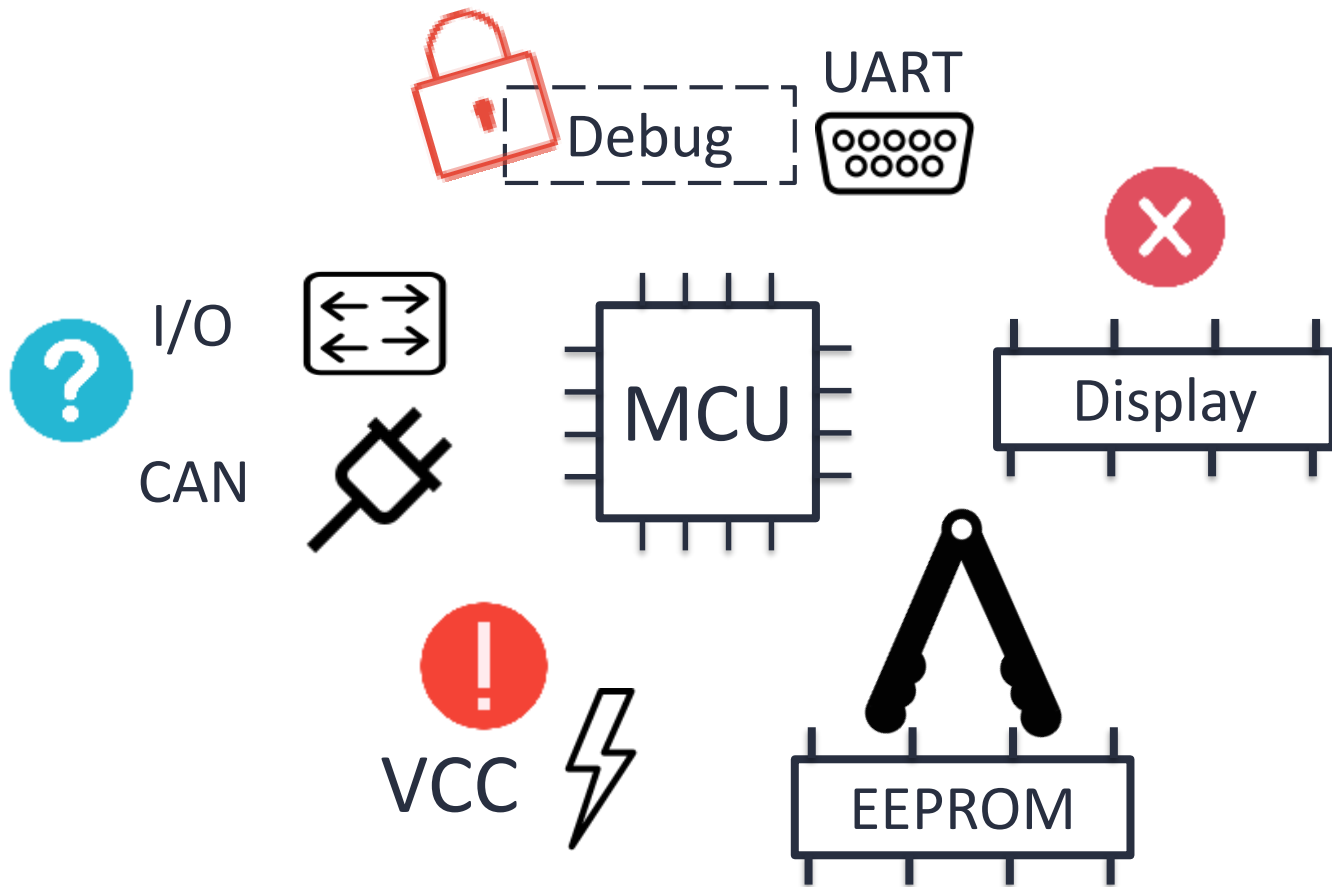
Quick analysis of our dashboard

- Read/write memory functions
 - Protected
- Black-box vulnerability discovery
 - Possible; but too difficult

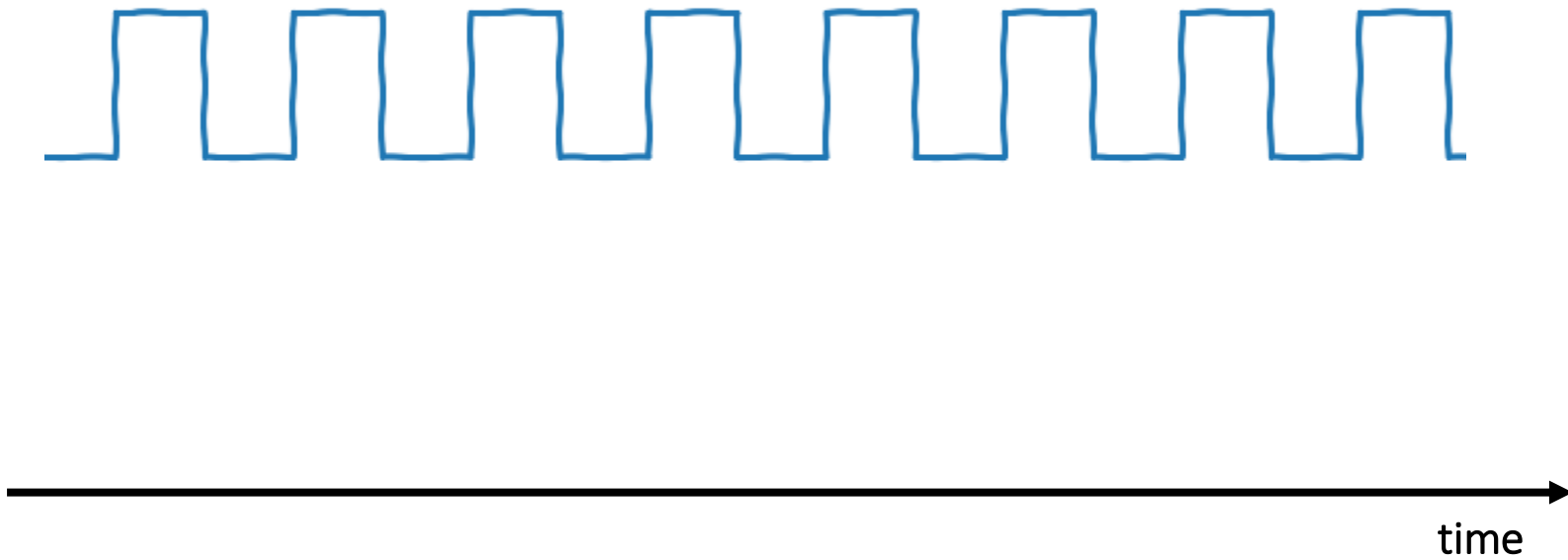
Quick analysis of our dashboard

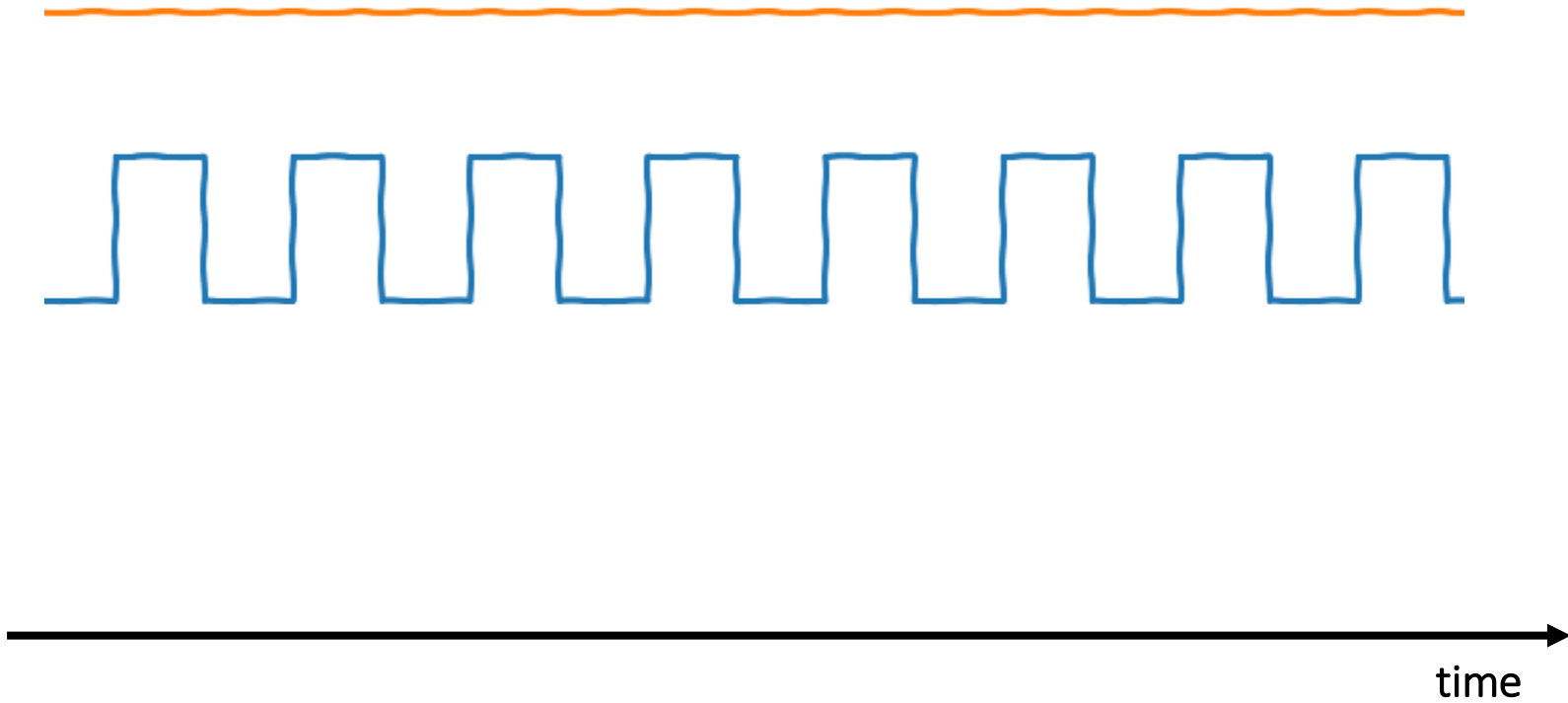
- Read/write memory functions
 - **Protected**
- Black-box vulnerability discovery
 - **Possible; but too difficult**
- We want something easy...





Voltage Fault Injection !!!





5.5V



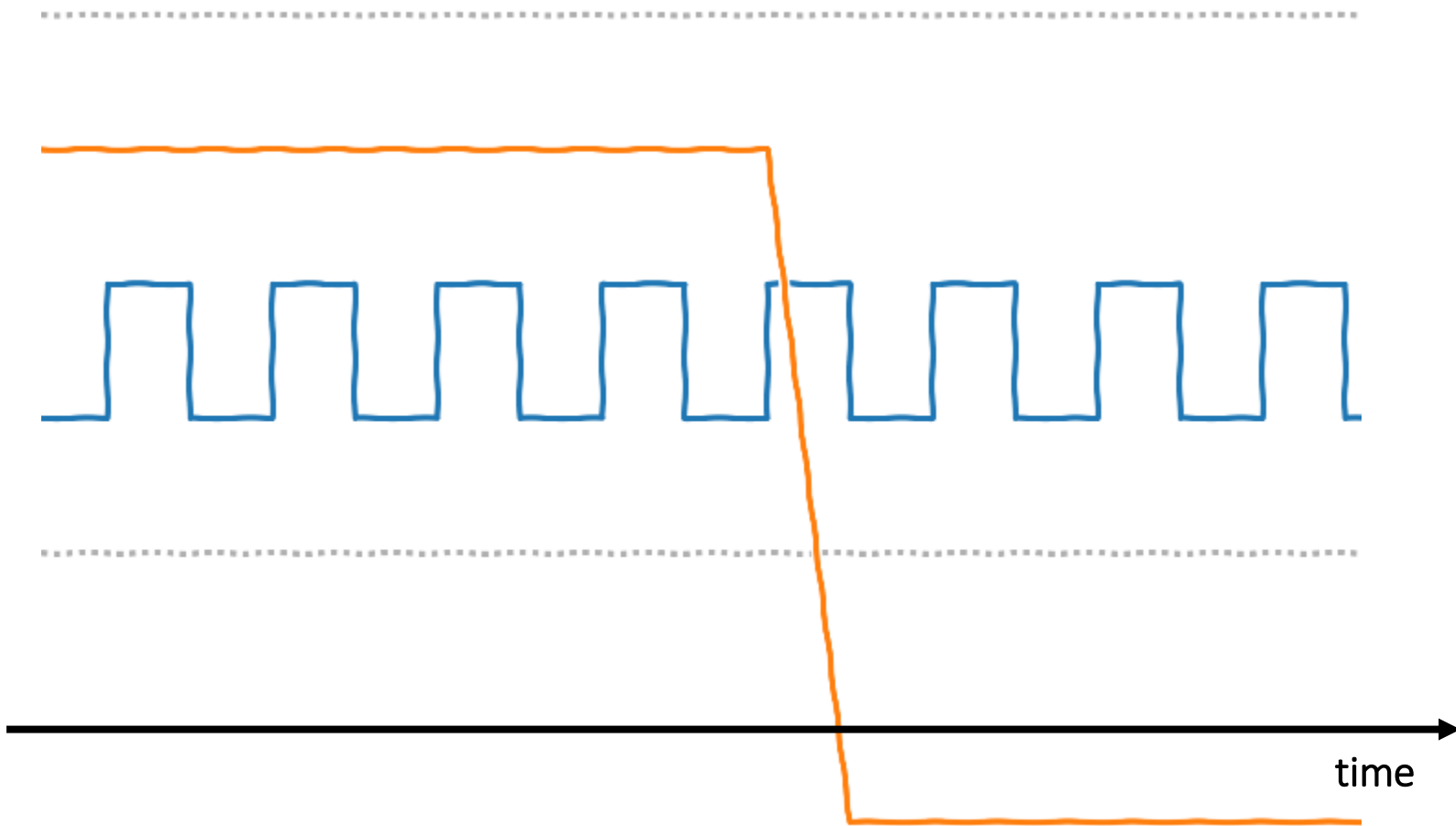
1.8V



time

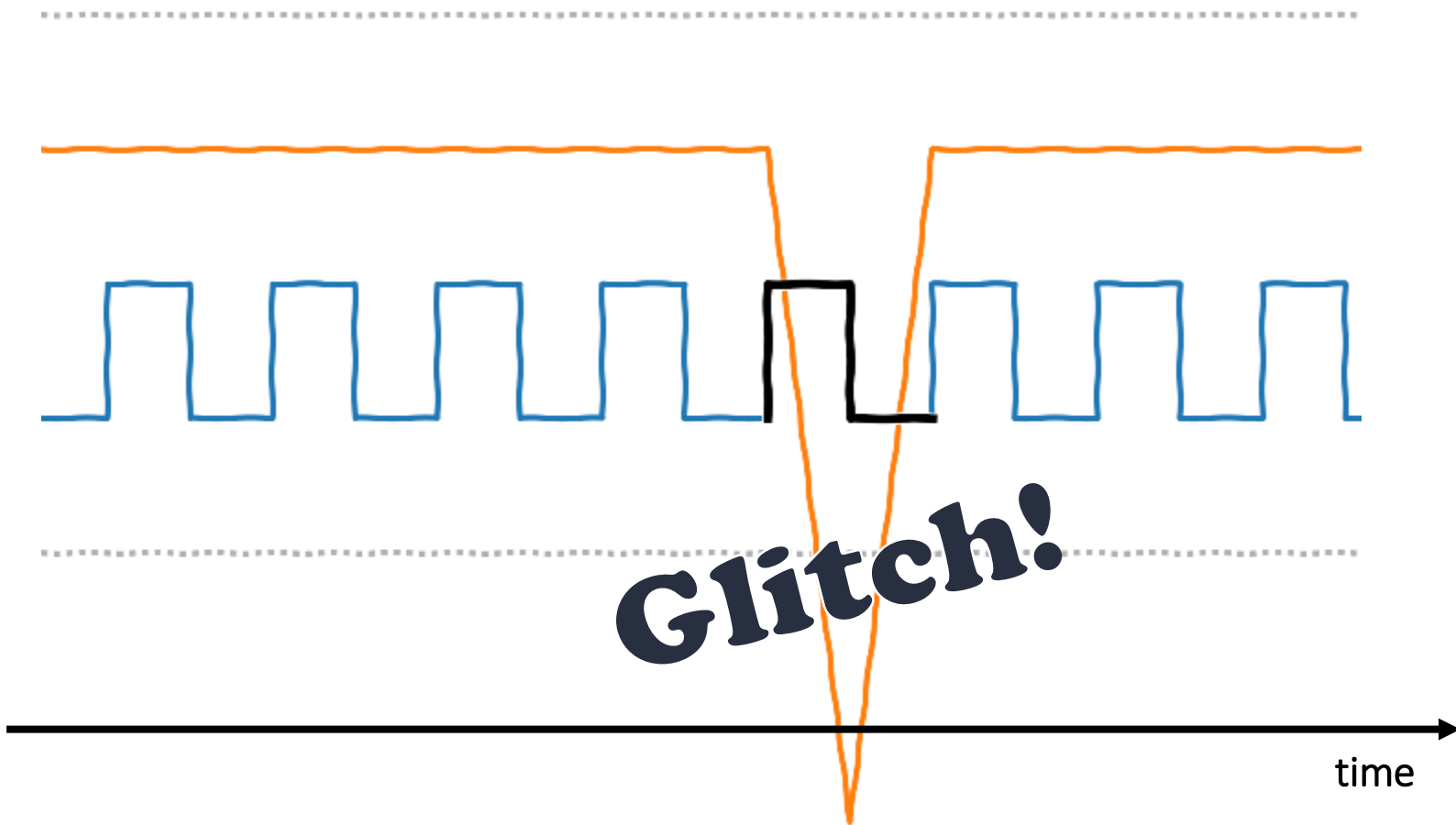
5.5V

1.8V



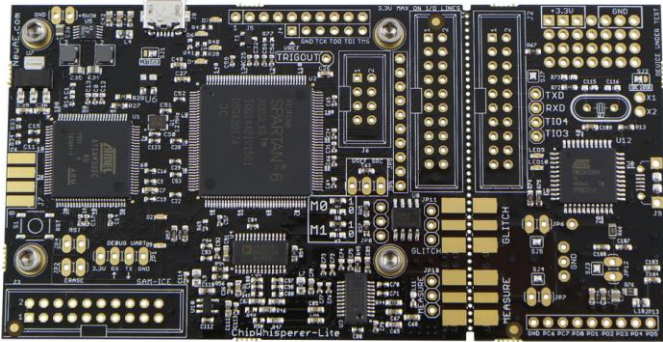
5.5V

1.8V



Fault Injection – Tooling

Open source



[ChipWhisperer®](#)

Commercial



[Inspector FI](#)

Fault Injection tooling is available to the masses!

What happens when we glitch?



Things go wrong!



Fault Injection breaks things!

- Memory contents
- Register contents
- Executed instructions

You cannot trust anything anymore...

We can modify instructions and data!

We can modify instructions and data!

Yes, this also means we can skip instructions!

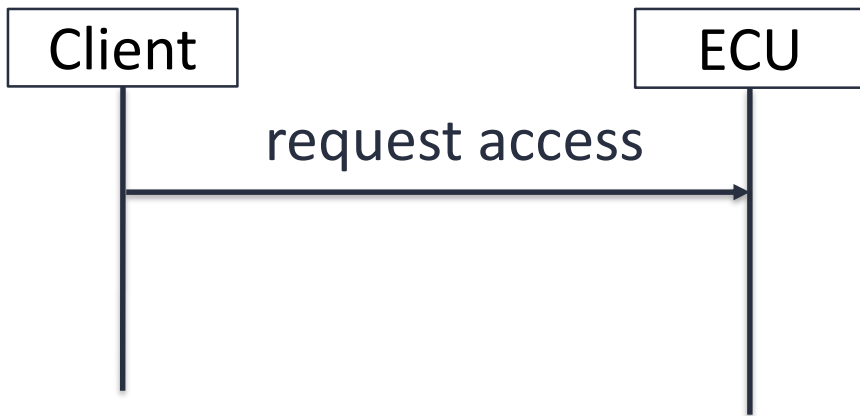
We can modify instructions and data!

Yes, this also means we can skip instructions!

*This works on all standard architectures:
ARM, MIPS, PowerPC, SH4, V850, Intel, etc.*

Let's glitch something...

Glitching the Security Access Check



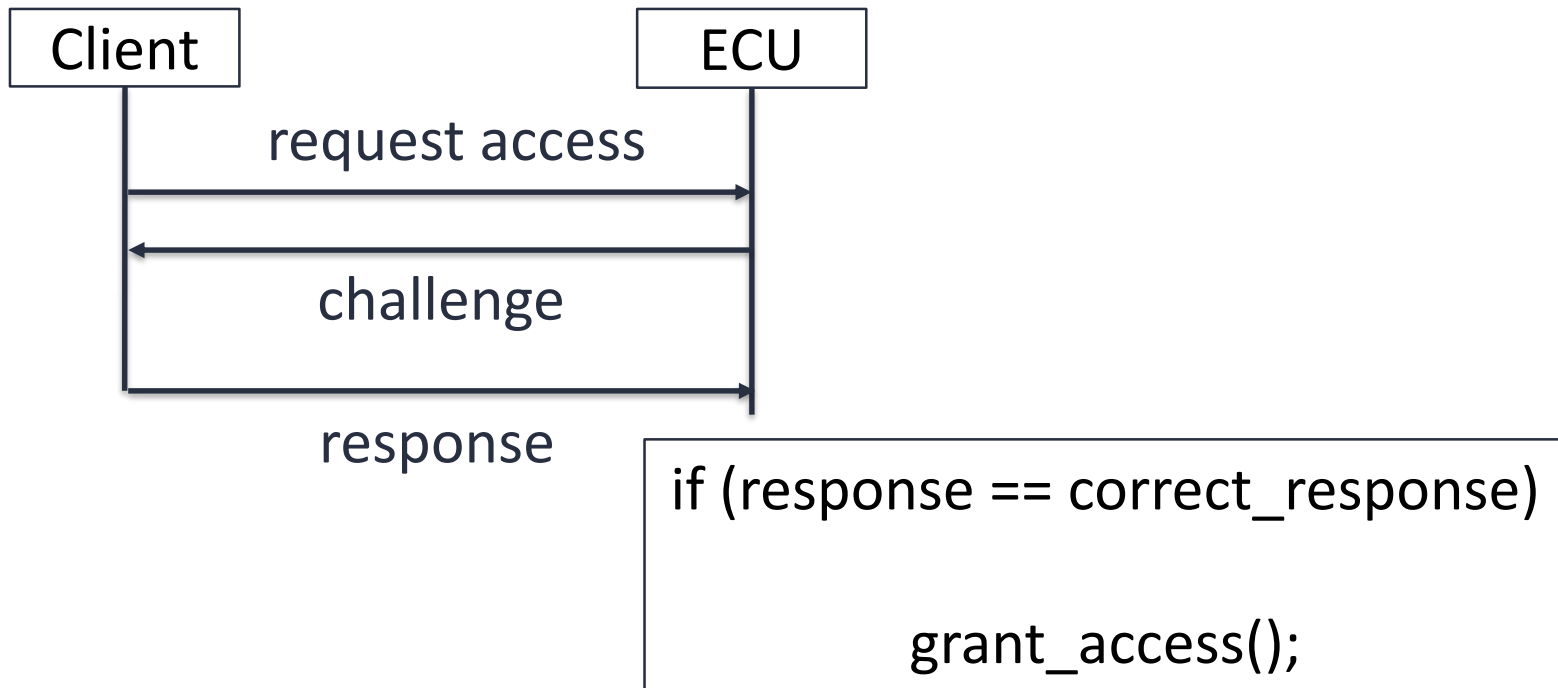
Glitching the Security Access Check



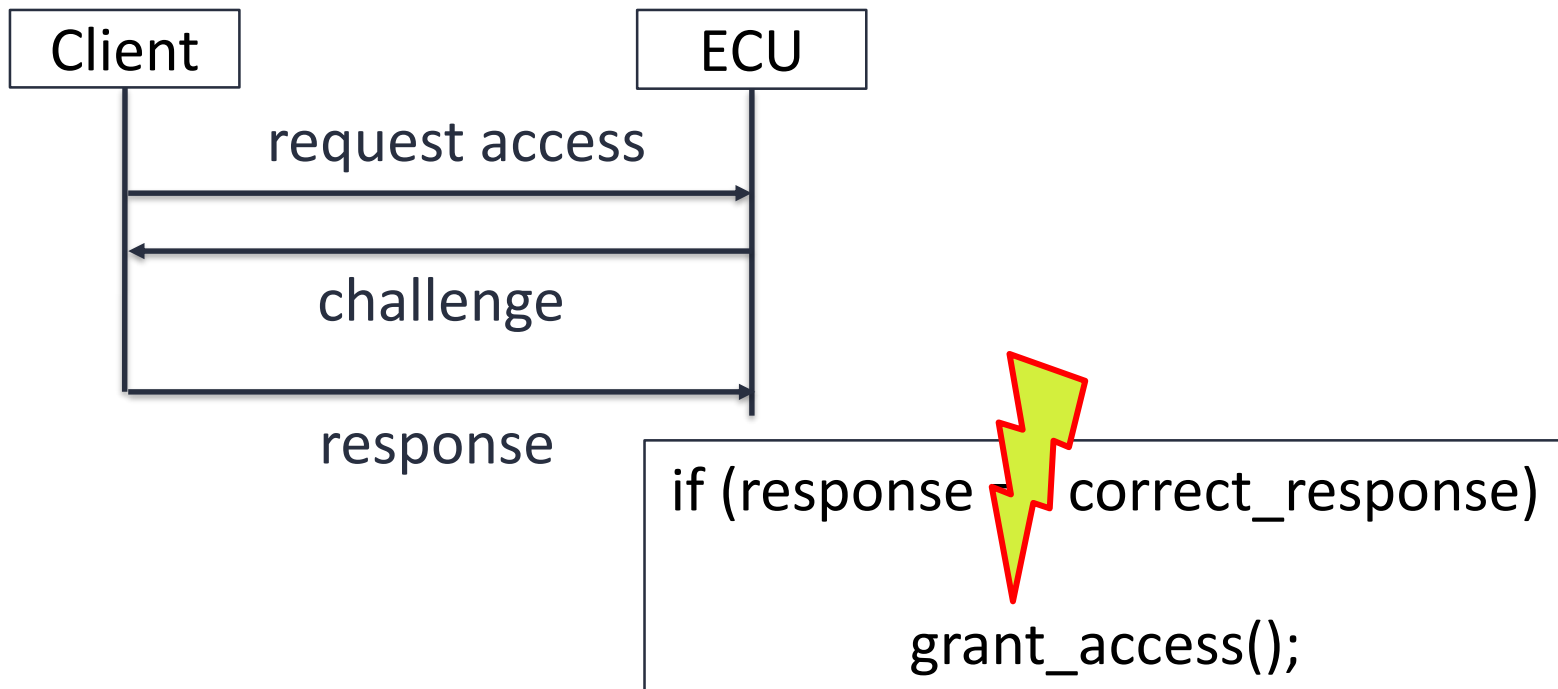
Glitching the Security Access Check



Glitching the Security Access Check



Glitching the Security Access Check



Glitching the Security Access Check Results

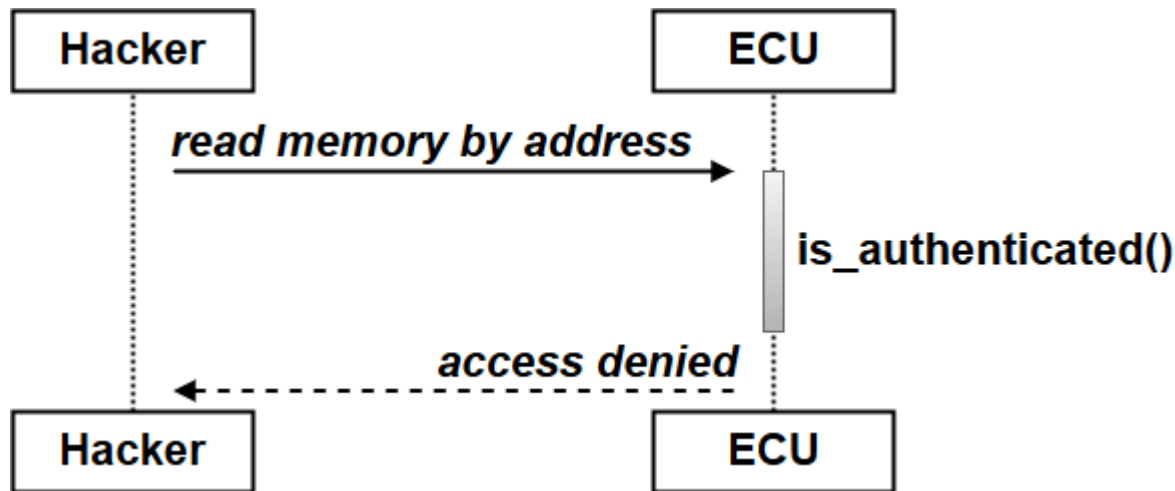
- Not successful :’(
- There’s a 10 minute timeout after 3 failed attempts
- Simply not practical for us (or an attacker)

Glitching the Security Access Check Results

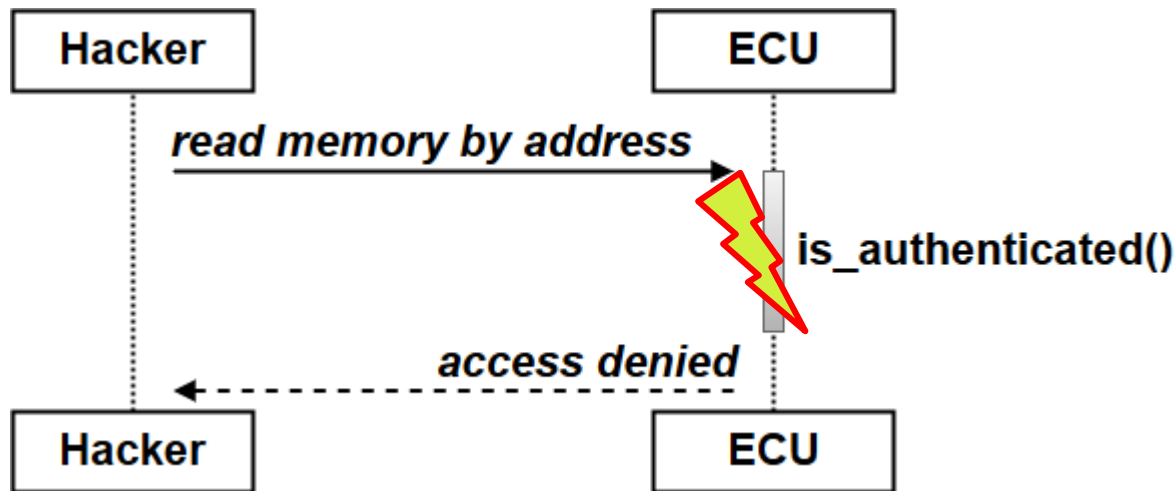
- Not successful :’(
- There’s a 10 minute timeout after 3 failed attempts
- Simply not practical for us (or an attacker)

You win some, you lose some!

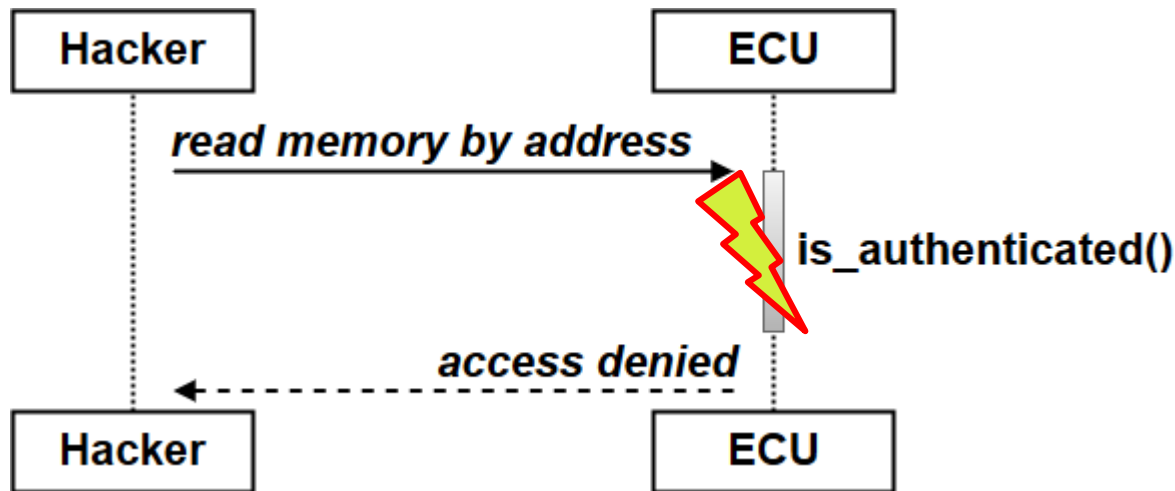
Glitching ReadMemoryByAddress



Glitching ReadMemoryByAddress



Glitching ReadMemoryByAddress



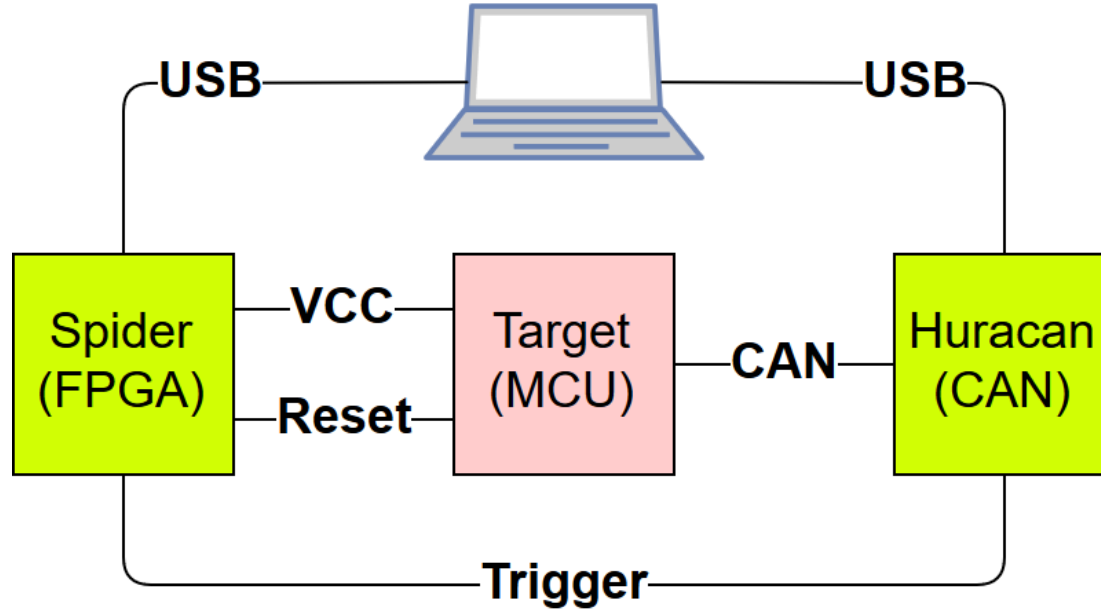
No restrictions on failed attempts!

Glitching ReadMemoryByAddress Results

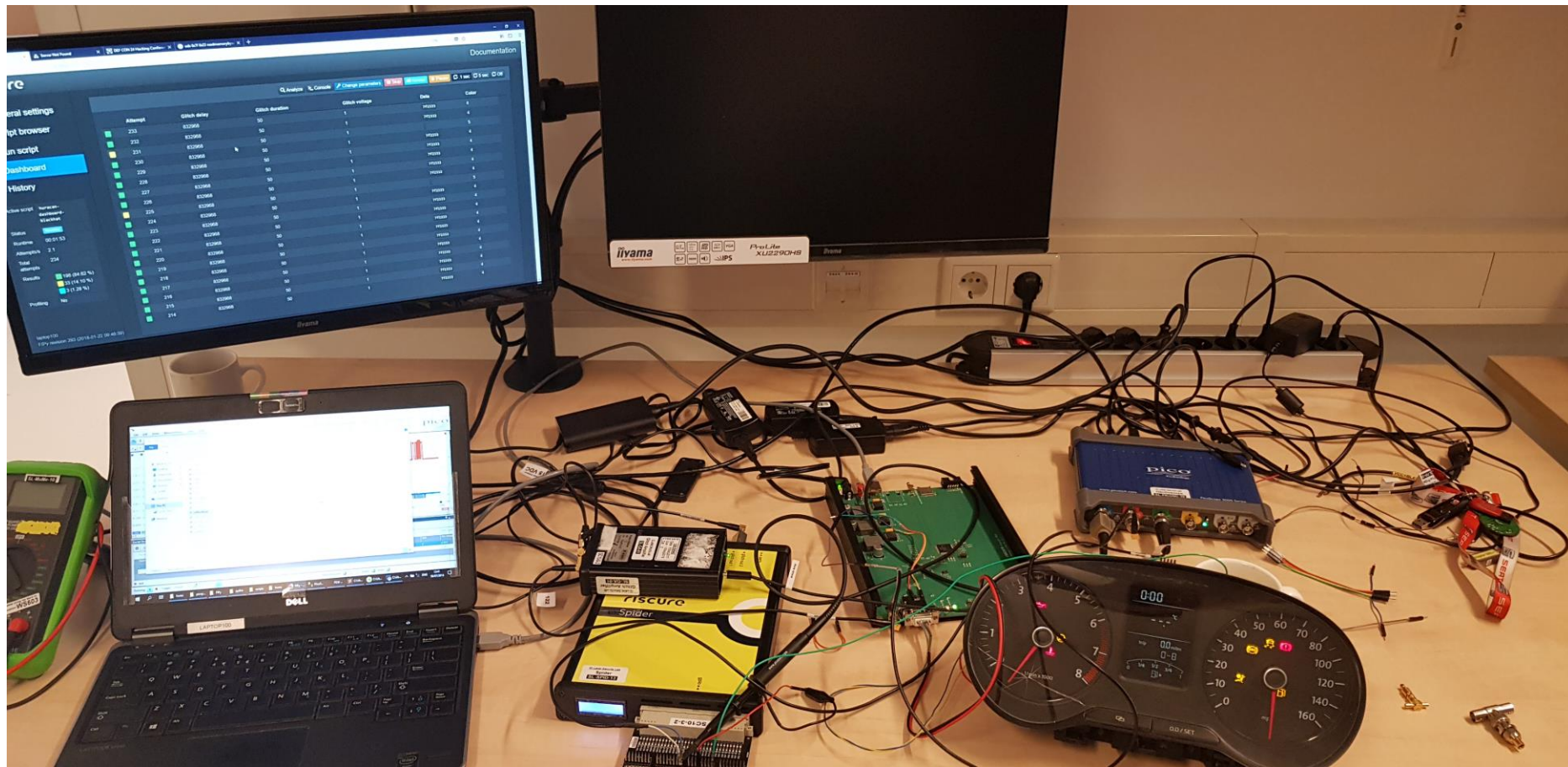
- Successful on several different ECUs
 - Which are designed around different MCUs
- Depending on the target...
 - Allows reading out **N** bytes from an **arbitrary** address
- Complete firmware extracted in the order of days
 - Depended on the size of the internal memory

DEMO TIME !!!

Fault Injection demo setup



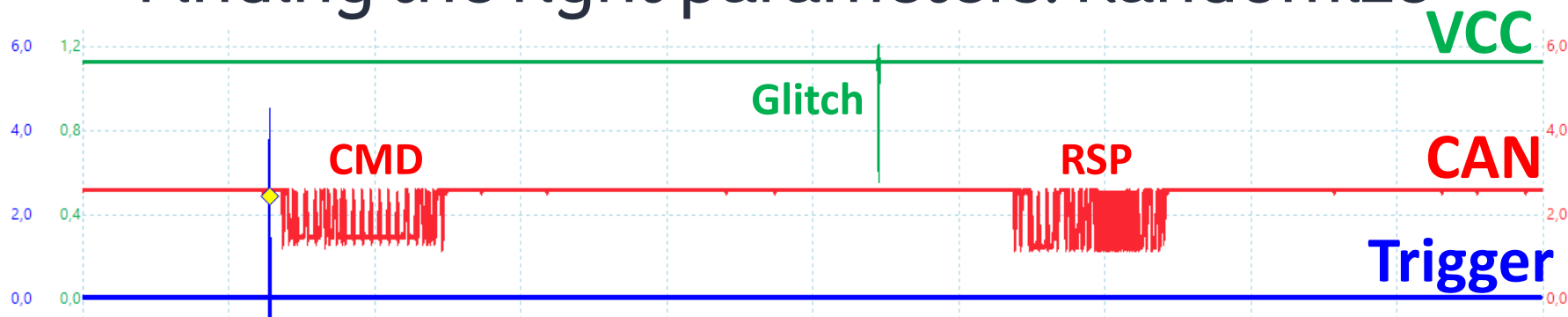
CAN UDS CMD: ReadMemoryByAddress(0x00000000, 0x40)





There Will Be Glitches: Extracting and Analyzing Automotive Firmware Efficiently

Finding the right parameters: Randomize

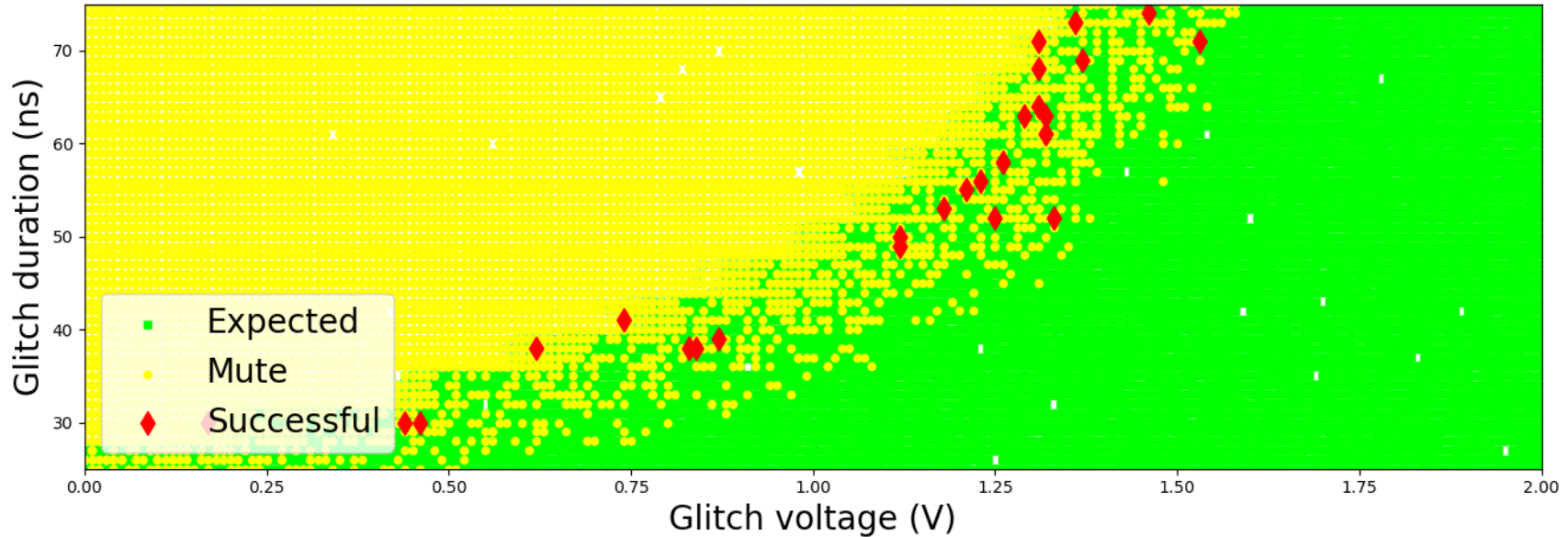


Glitch Parameters

- Glitch Delay
- Glitch Duration
- Glitch Voltage



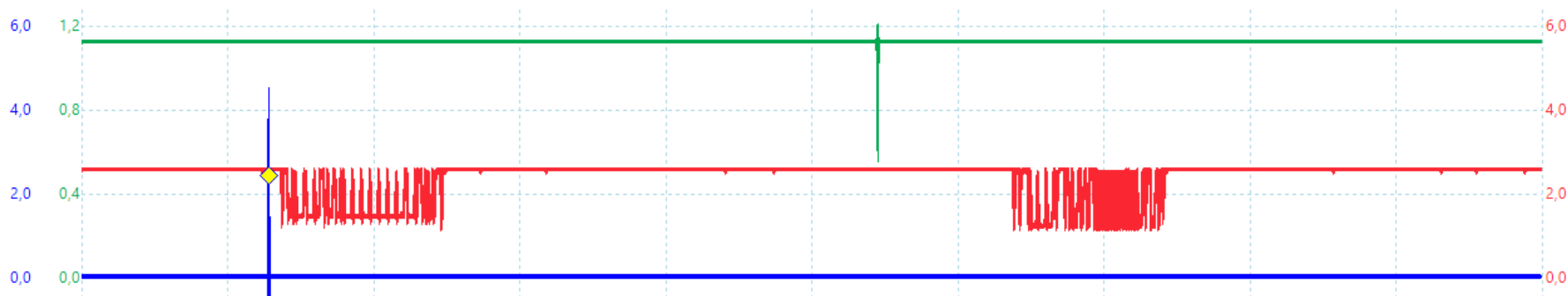
There is a relationship!



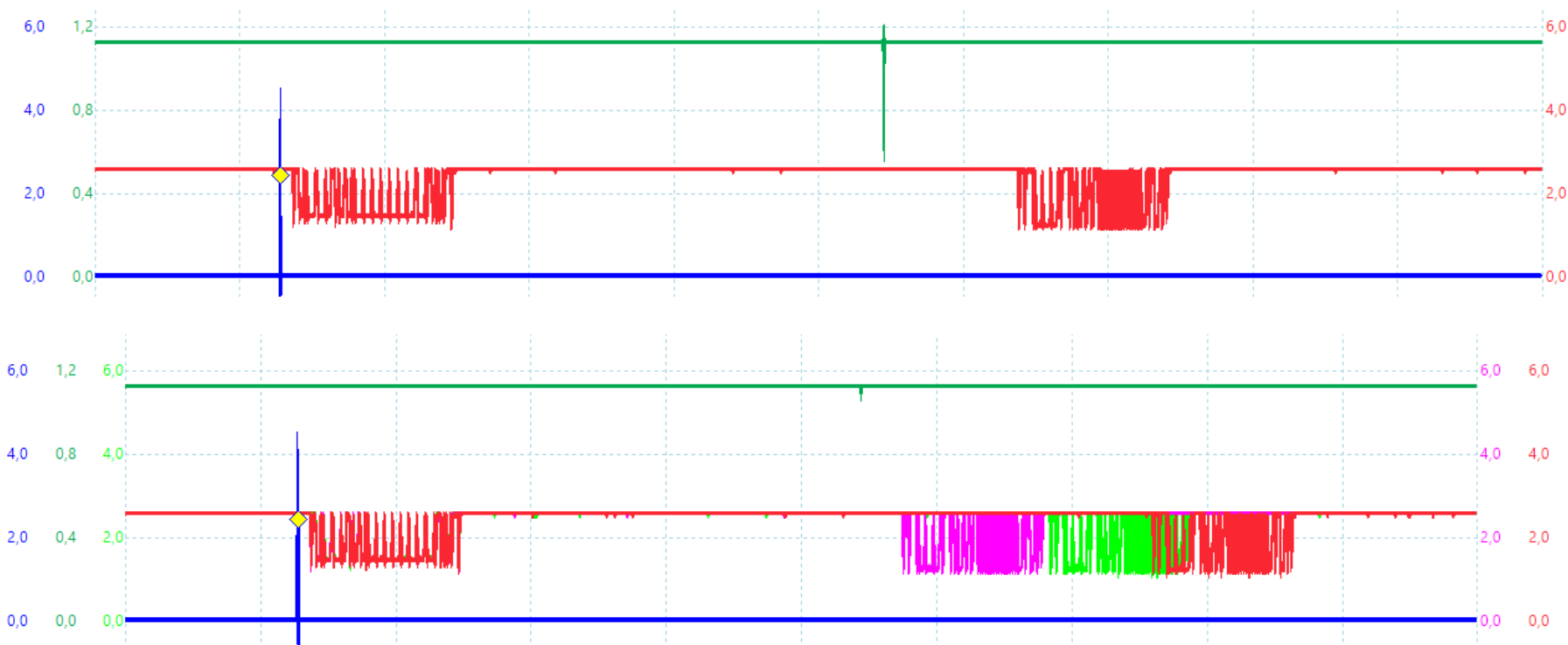
This relationship allows minimizing the parameter search space!

Let's switch to the other laptop...

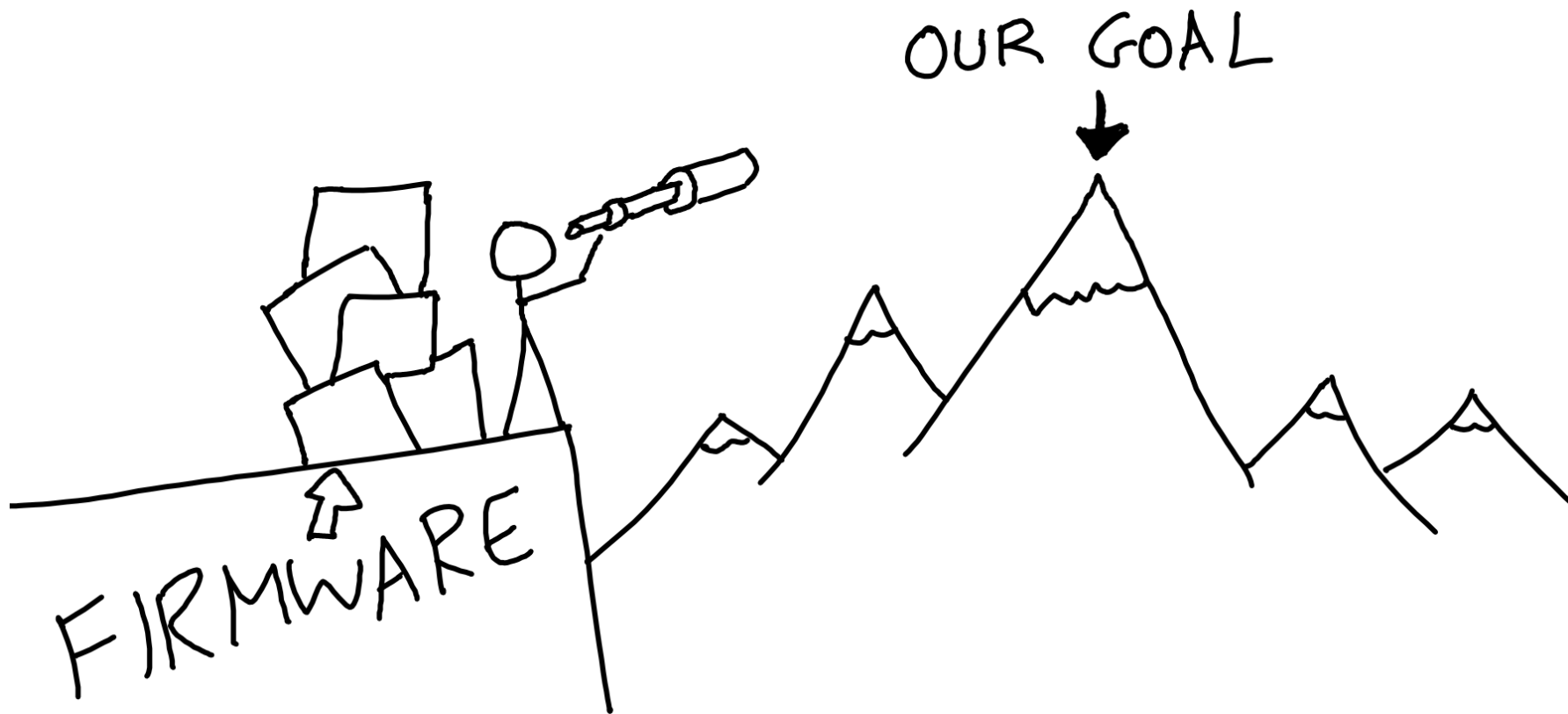
Why not a 100% success rate? :(



Why not a 100% success rate? :(



We have the firmware... now what?



The Plan



Getting
Firmware

The Plan



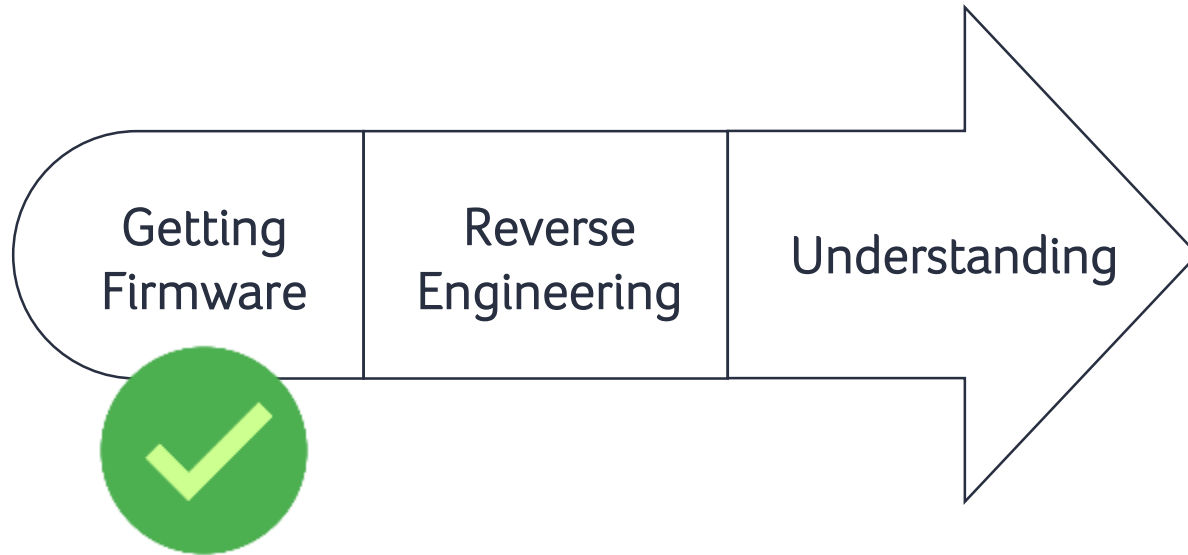
Getting
Firmware



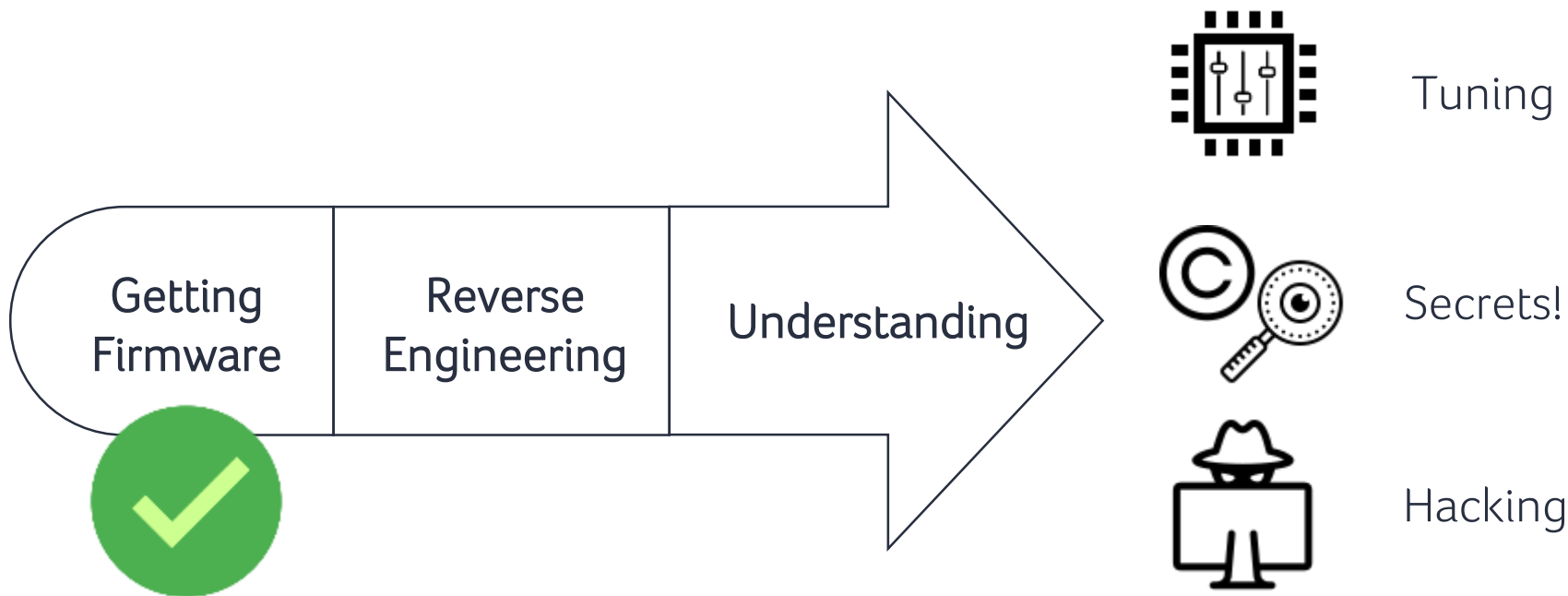
The Plan



The Plan



The Plan



Static analysis?



Firmware

Static analysis?

Custom
code

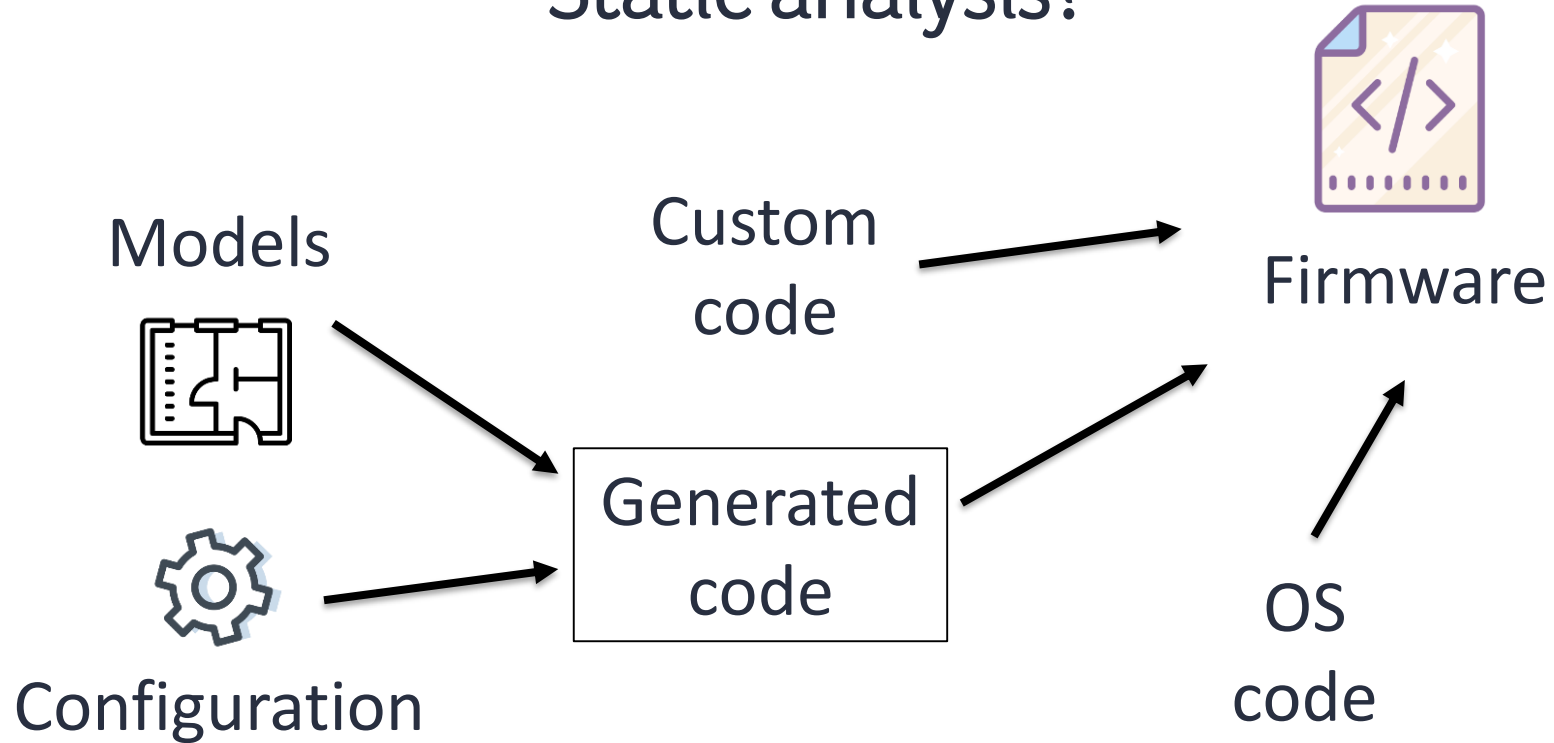


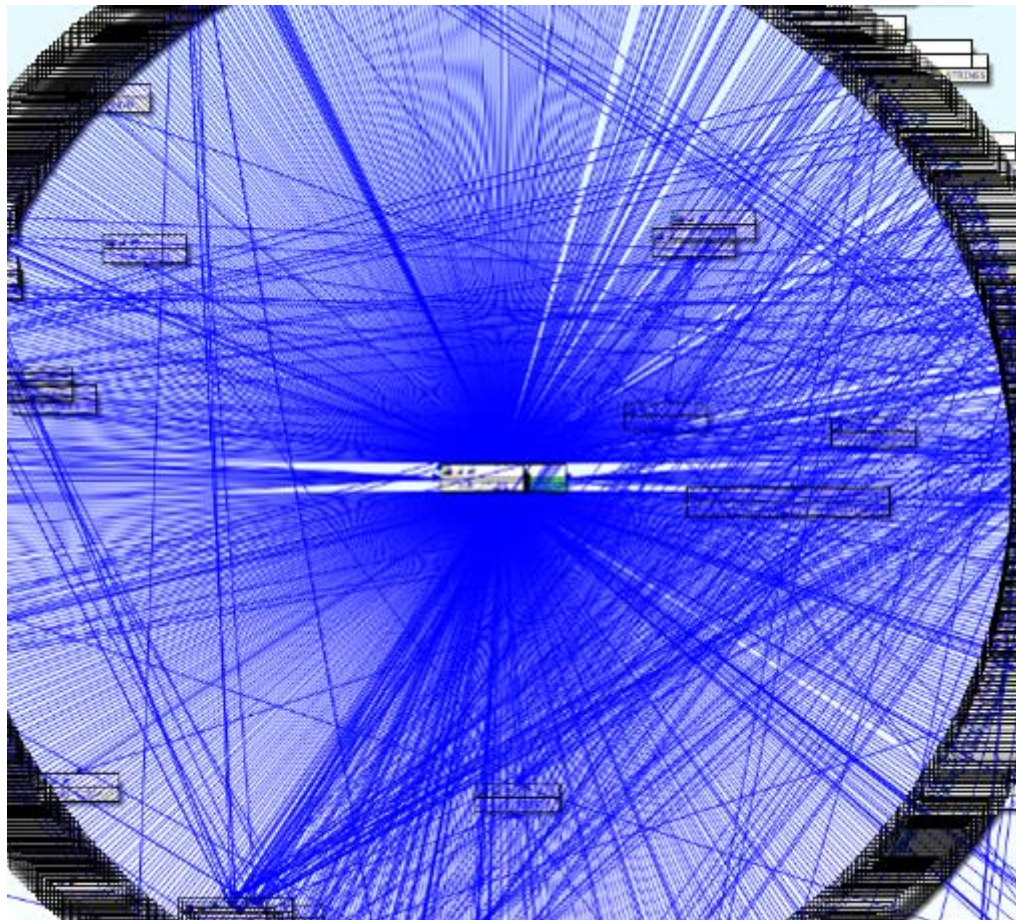
Firmware



OS
code

Static analysis?





There Will Be Glitches: Extracting and Analyzing Automotive Firmware Efficiently

Tools?

\$ARCH is supported by IDA Pro **and** radare2

Tools?

Badly 😞
^

\$ARCH is supported by IDA Pro **and** radare2

Tools?

Badly 😞
^

\$ARCH is supported by IDA Pro **and** radare2

\$ARCH is **not** supported by qemu

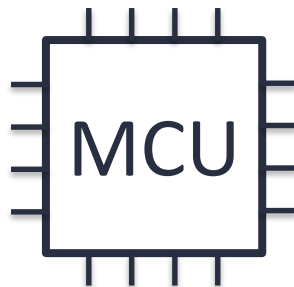
No tools? Let's make some tools!

What do we need?

CAN port



I/O
ports

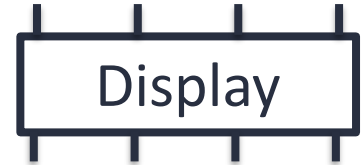
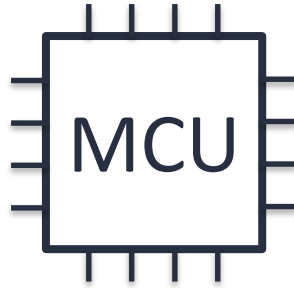


What do we need?

CAN port

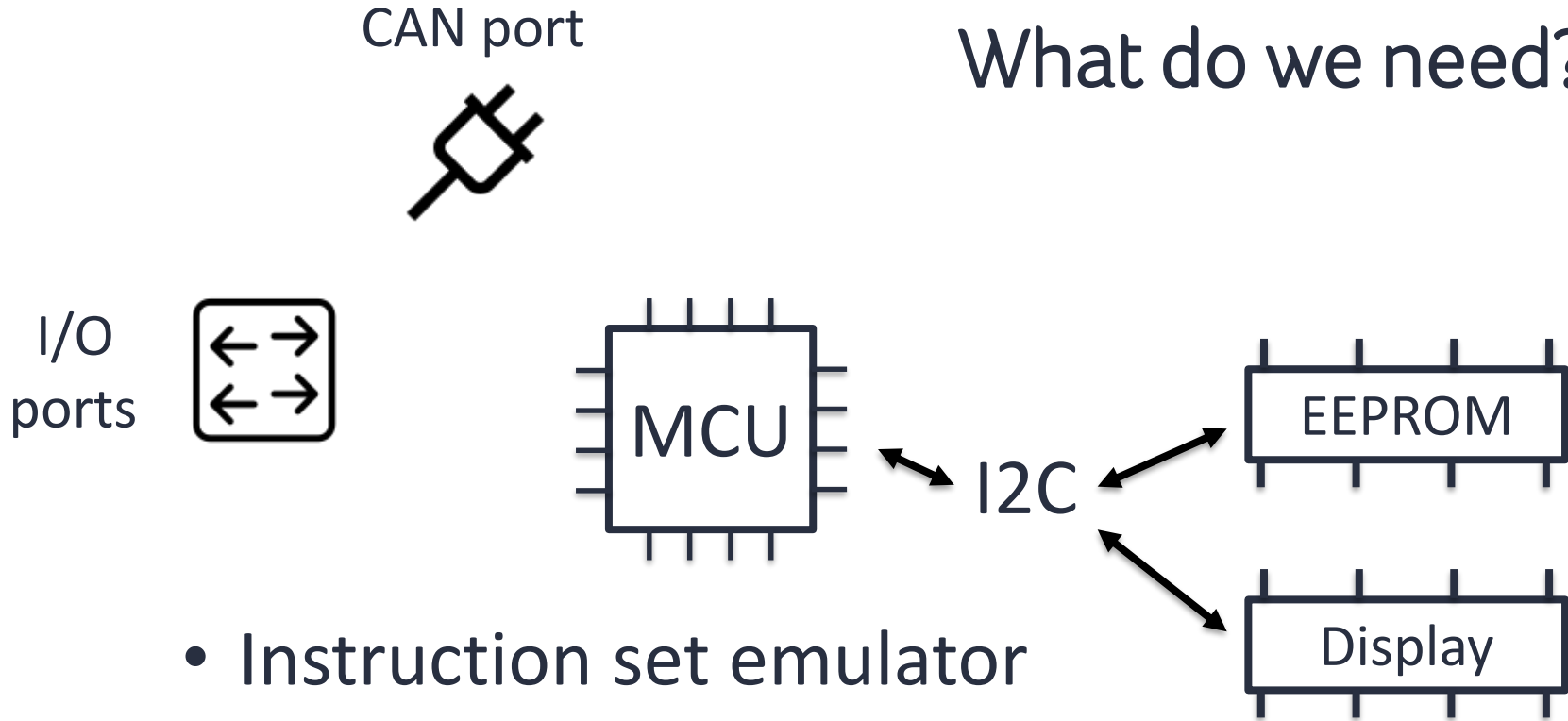


I/O
ports



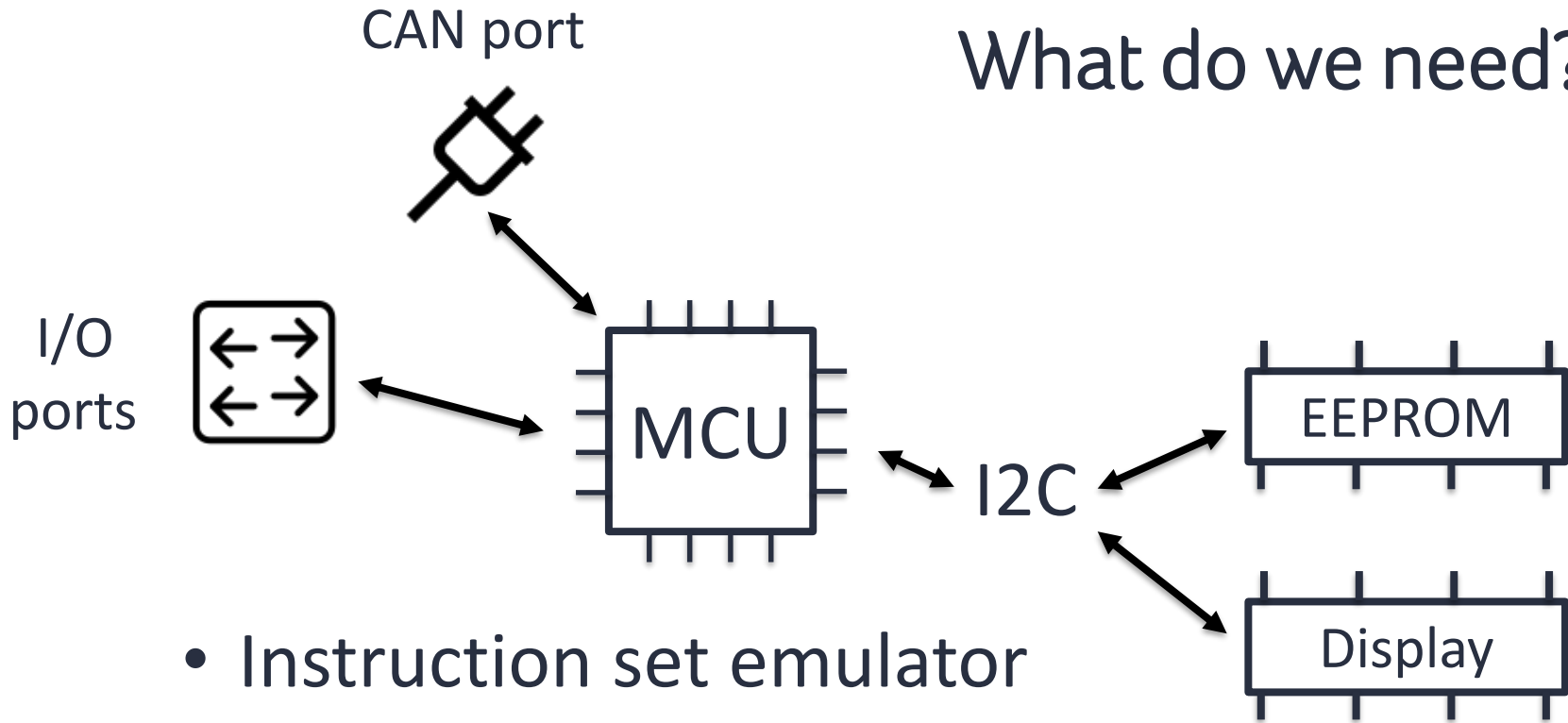
- Instruction set emulator
- Timers, interrupts, ...

What do we need?




- Instruction set emulator
- Timers, interrupts, ...

What do we need?



- Instruction set emulator
- Timers, interrupts, ...

Emulating the CPU architecture

```
case :  
    INSTX(or, "r%d, r%d", low, high);  
    assert(high != 0);  
    if (high != 0) {  
        m_registers[high] |= m_registers[low];  
        TAINT_REG_OR(high, low);  
        ZERO_FLAG(m_registers[high]);  
        NEG_FLAG(m_registers[high]);  
        updatePSW(false, PSW_OV);  
    }  
    pc += 2;  
    break;
```

“Implementing” peripherals

“Implementing” peripherals


```
case 0x[REDACTED]:  
    // [REDACTED]  
    // not implemented yet  
    break;  
case 0x[REDACTED]:  
    // [REDACTED]  
    break;  
case 0x[REDACTED]:  
    // [REDACTED]  
    // for now, we just pretend the clock initializes instantly  
    printf("** clock init **\n");  
    *(uint8_t *)&m_memory[addr] = 0;  
    break;
```

Hacks!


Hacks!

How difficult was it?

How difficult was it?

~ **1 (sleepless) week** of work 
(for a hacker experienced in writing emulators)

How difficult was it?

- ~ **1 (sleepless) week** of work 
(for a hacker experienced in writing emulators)
- ~ **3000 lines** of (terrible) code
(excluding support tooling)

Why write an emulator?

- Debugging (e.g. GDB stub)
- SocketCAN
- Execution tracing
- Taint tracking

Execution tracing

```
call    getChecksumChunkSize, lp
mov     r10, r7
mov     r27, r6
call    calculateChecksum, lp -- r6 is pointer (note: skips first 2 bytes)
                                -- r7 is size to check (in bytes)
                                -- returns        checksum in r10

cmp     r10, r29
bz      ret
xor     0xAAAA, r29, r0
bz      ret
mov     0xFFFF, r0, r1
set     3, (g_globalIntegrityState - 0x3FF0000)[r1]
mov     1, r28                -- checksum was invalid (manipulation)

ret:                                         -- CODE XREF: performChecksumVerification+1C↑j
                                           -- performChecksumVerification+22↑j

mov     r28, r10
z       r10
call    pop_r26tor29_lp
-- End of function performChecksumVerification
```

Execution tracing

0x02920

0x02922 (jump)

0x02926

0x02928

0x0292c

0x02930

Execution tracing

0x02920

0x02922 (jump)

0x02926

0x02928

0x0292c

0x02930

Execution tracing

```
call    getChecksumChunkSize, lp
mov     r10, r7
mov     r27, r6
call    calculateChecksum, lp -- r6 is pointer (note: skips first 2 bytes)
                                -- r7 is size to check (in bytes)
                                -- returns      checksum in r10

cmp     r10, r29
bz      ret
xor     0xAAAA, r29, r0
bz      ret
mov     0xFFFF, r0, r1
set     3, (g_globalIntegrityState - 0x3FF0000)[r1]
mov     1, r28                -- checksum was invalid (manipulation)

ret:                                         -- CODE XREF: performChecksumVerification+1C↑j
                                           -- performChecksumVerification+22↑j

mov     r28, r10
z       r10
call    pop_r26tor29_lp
-- End of function performChecksumVerification
```


Execution tracing

```
call    getChecksumChunkSize, lp
mov     r10, r7
mov     r27, r6
call    calculateChecksum, lp -- r6 is pointer (note: skips first 2 bytes)
                                -- r7 is size to check (in bytes)
                                -- returns        checksum in r10

cmp     r10, r29
bz      ret

xor     0xAAAA, r29, r0
bz      ret
mov     0xFFFF, r0, r1
set     3, (g_globalIntegrityState - 0x3FF0000)[r1]
mov     1, r28                -- checksum was invalid (manipulation)

ret:                                         -- CODE XREF: performChecksumVerification+1C↑j
                                           -- performChecksumVerification+22↑j

mov     r28, r10
z       r10
call    pop_r26tor29_lp
-- End of function performChecksumVerification
```

Taint tracking

1	??
2	??
3	??
4	??
5	??
6	??
7	??
8	??

Taint tracking

1	??
2	??
3	??
4	??
5	??
6	??
7	??
8	??

CAN message

Taint tracking

1	??
2	??
3	??
4	??
5	??
6	??
7	??
8	??

```
Data[2] =  
CAN.read()
```



CAN message

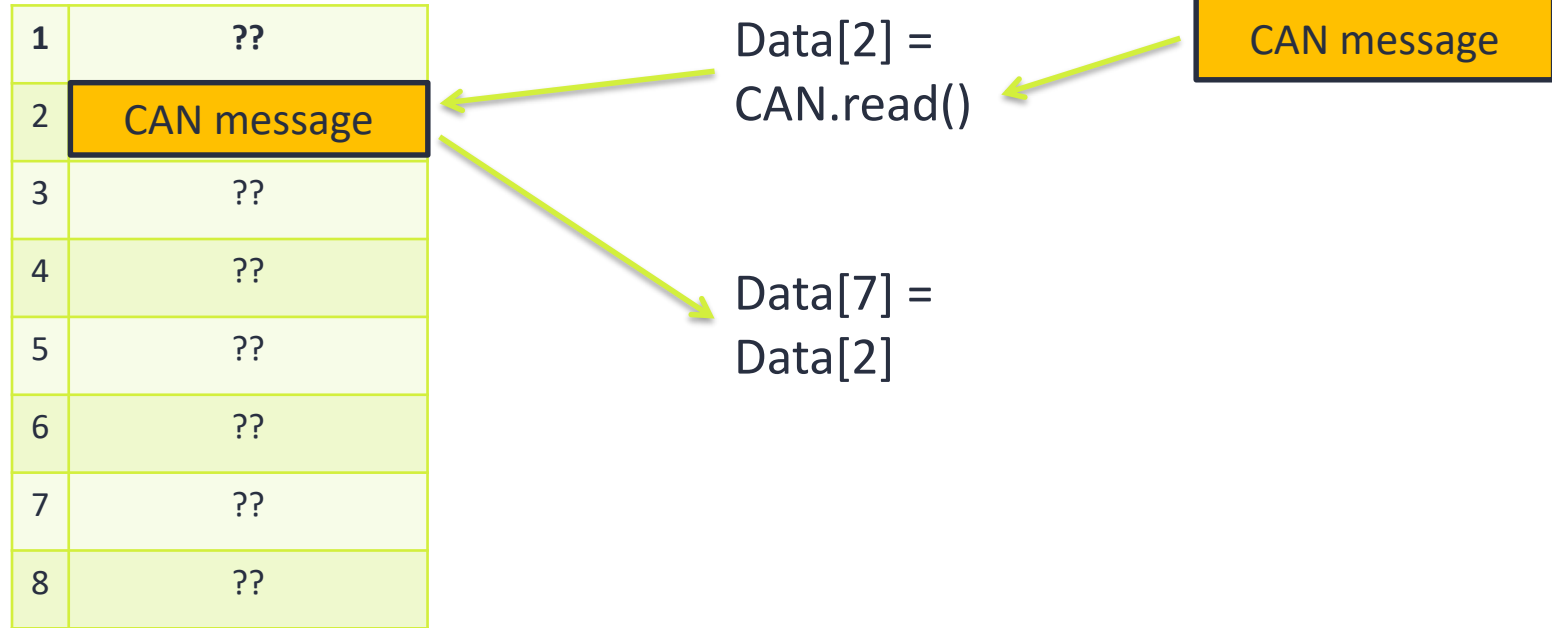
Taint tracking

1	??
2	CAN message
3	??
4	??
5	??
6	??
7	??
8	??

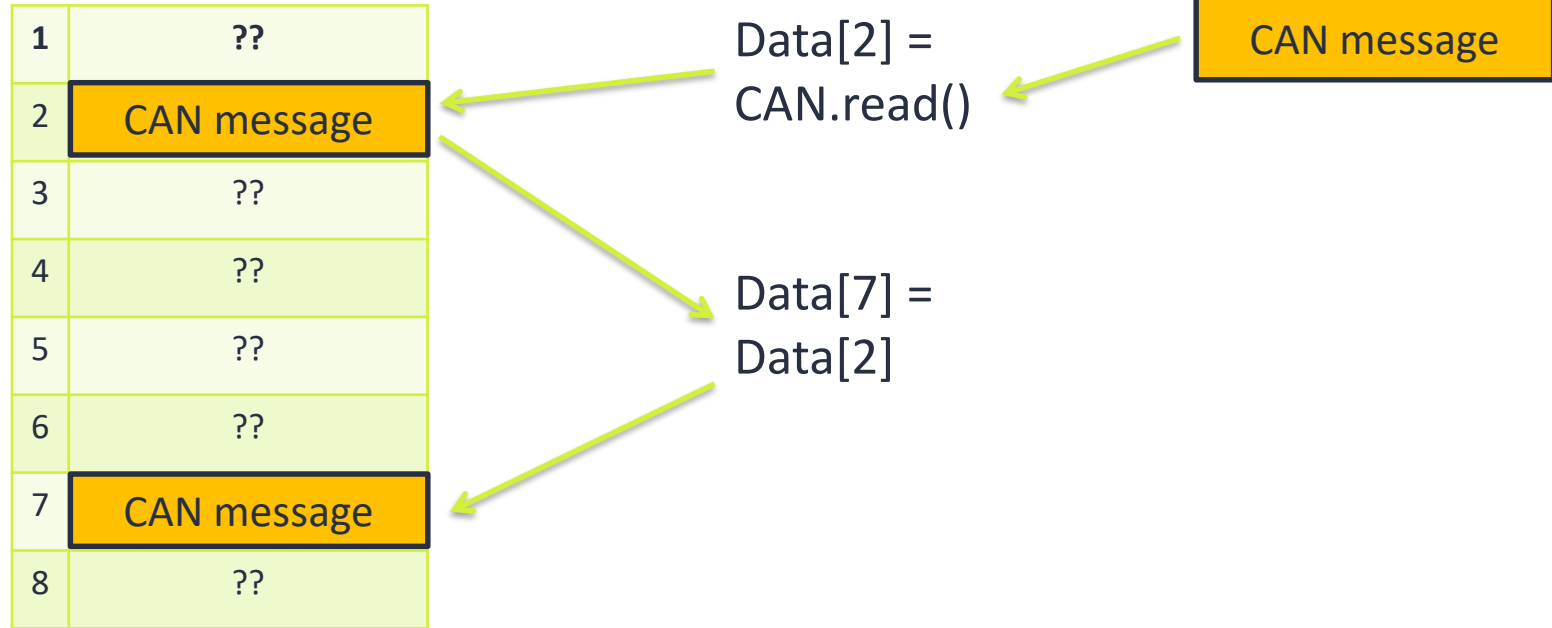
Data[2] =
CAN.read()

CAN message

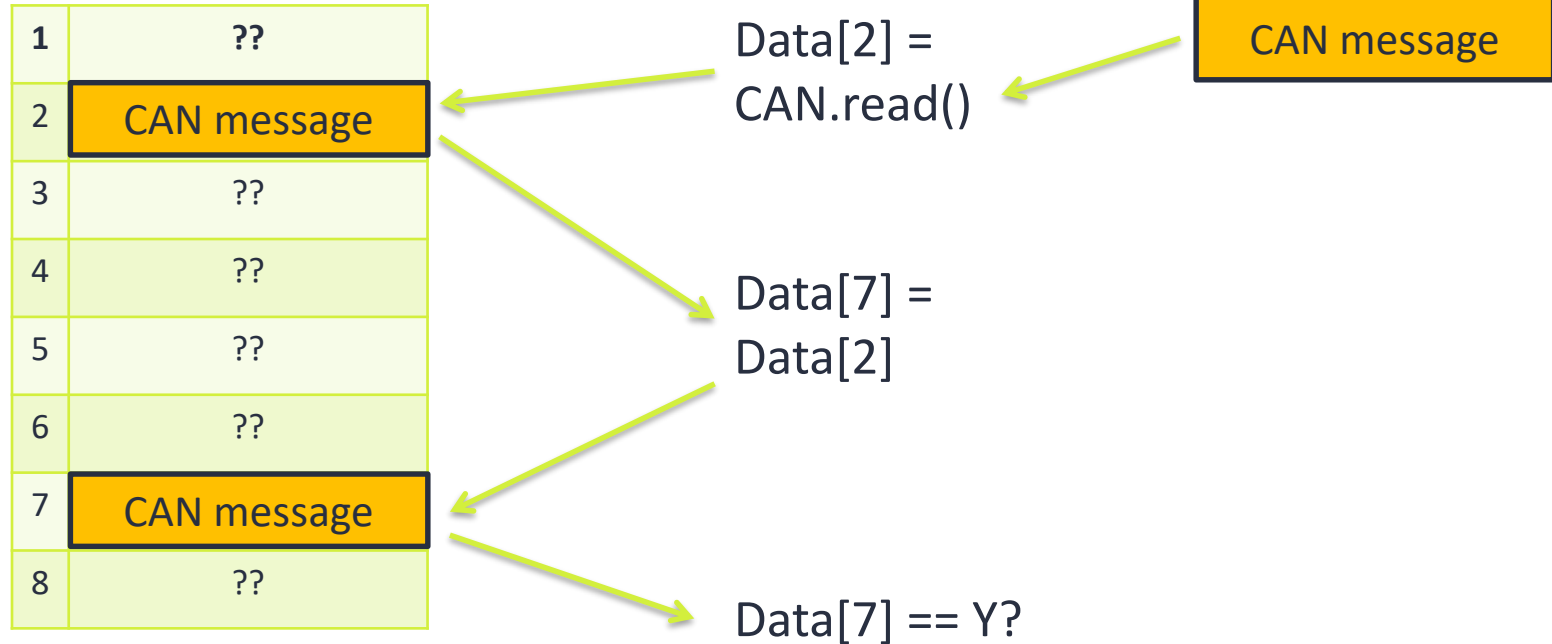
Taint tracking



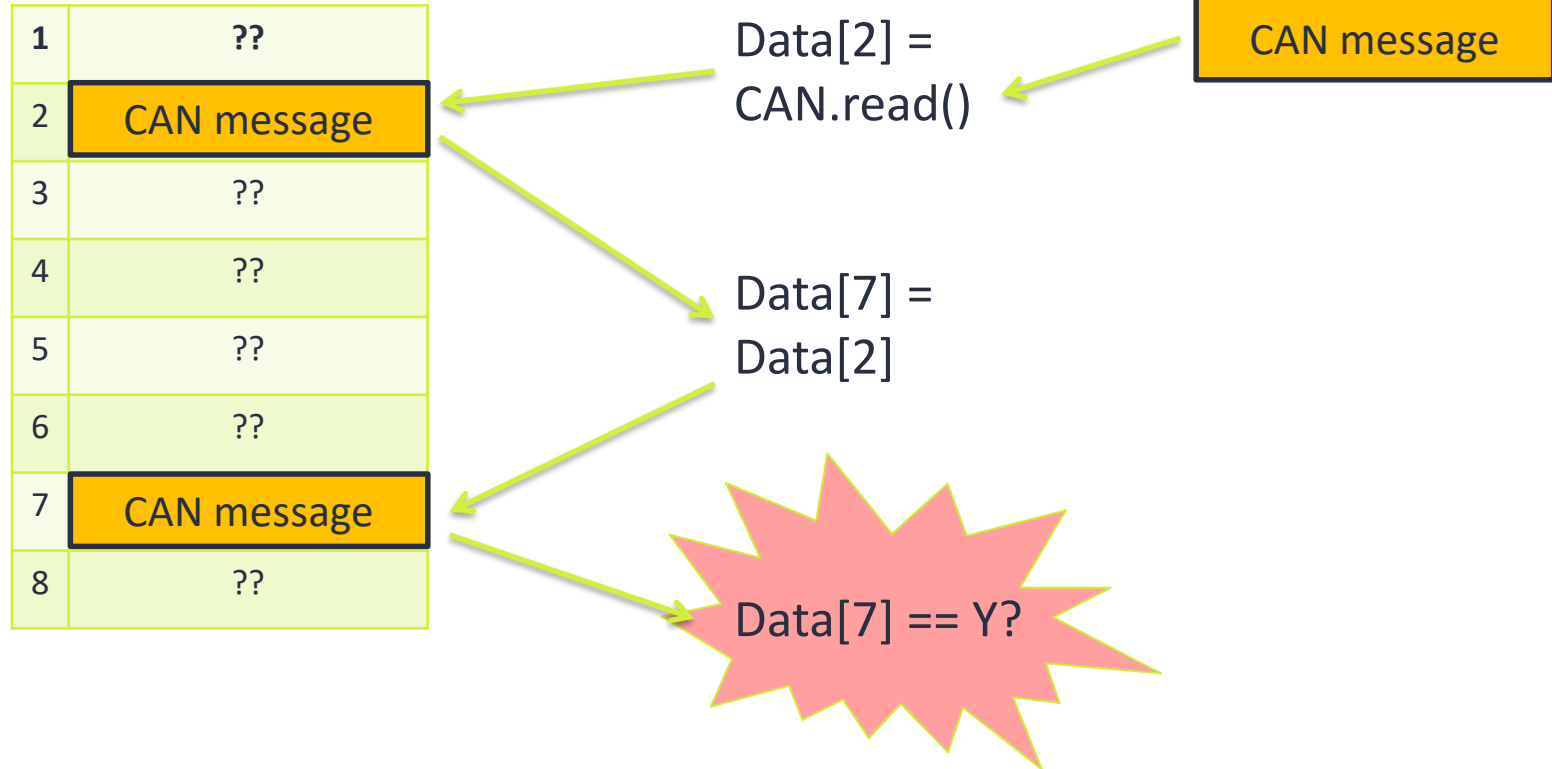
Taint tracking



Taint tracking



Taint tracking



Taint tracking UDS Security Access

1	??
2	??
3	??
4	??
5	??
6	??
7	??
8	??

Taint tracking UDS Security Access

1	??
2	??
3	??
4	??
5	??
6	??
7	??
8	??

Response

Taint tracking UDS Security Access

1	??
2	??
3	??
4	??
5	??
6	??
7	??
8	??

Data[2] =
CAN.read()

Response



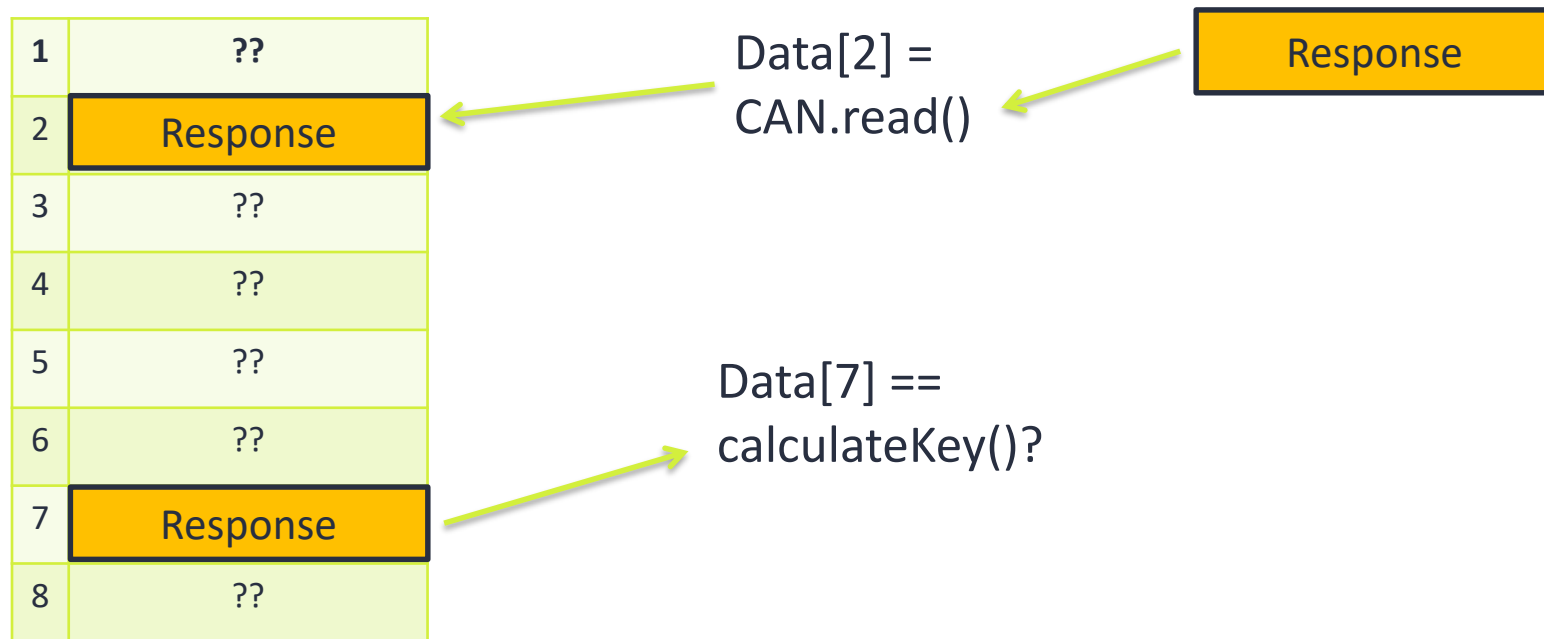
Taint tracking UDS Security Access

1	??
2	Response
3	??
4	??
5	??
6	??
7	??
8	??

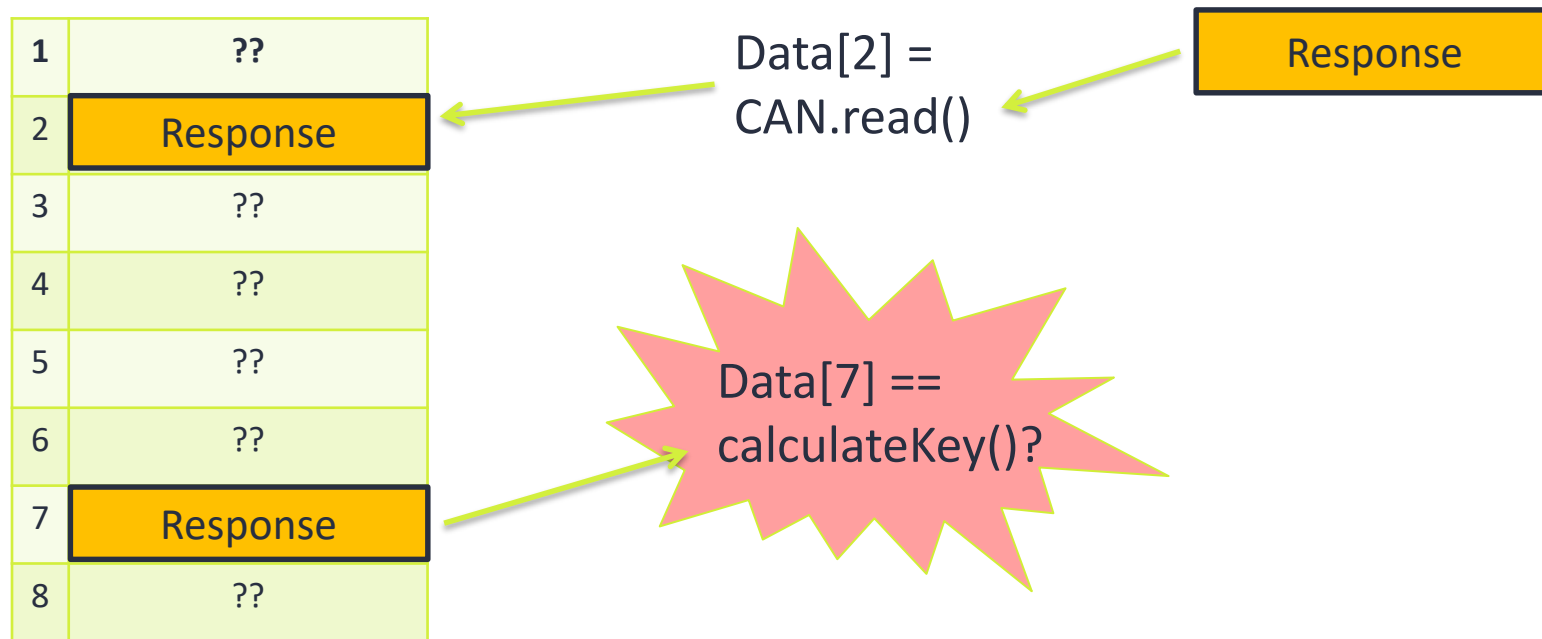
Data[2] =
CAN.read()

Response

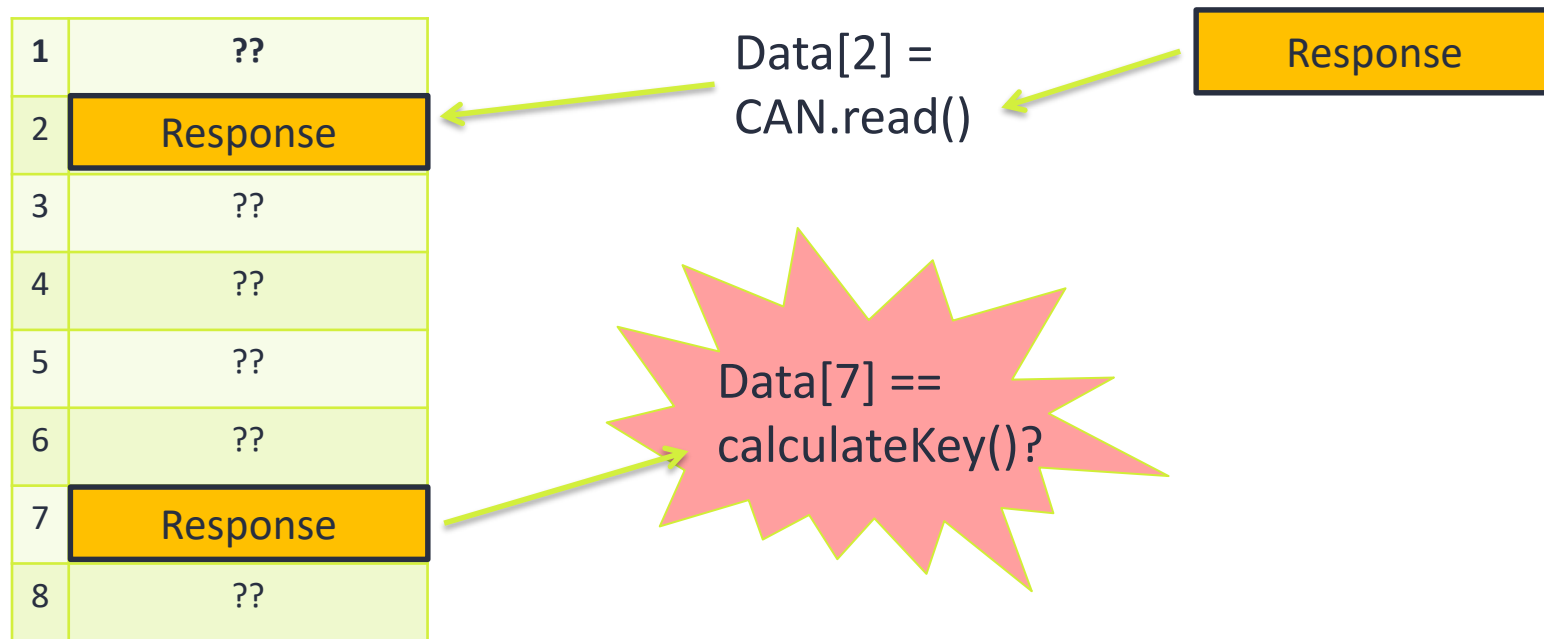
Taint tracking UDS Security Access



Taint tracking UDS Security Access

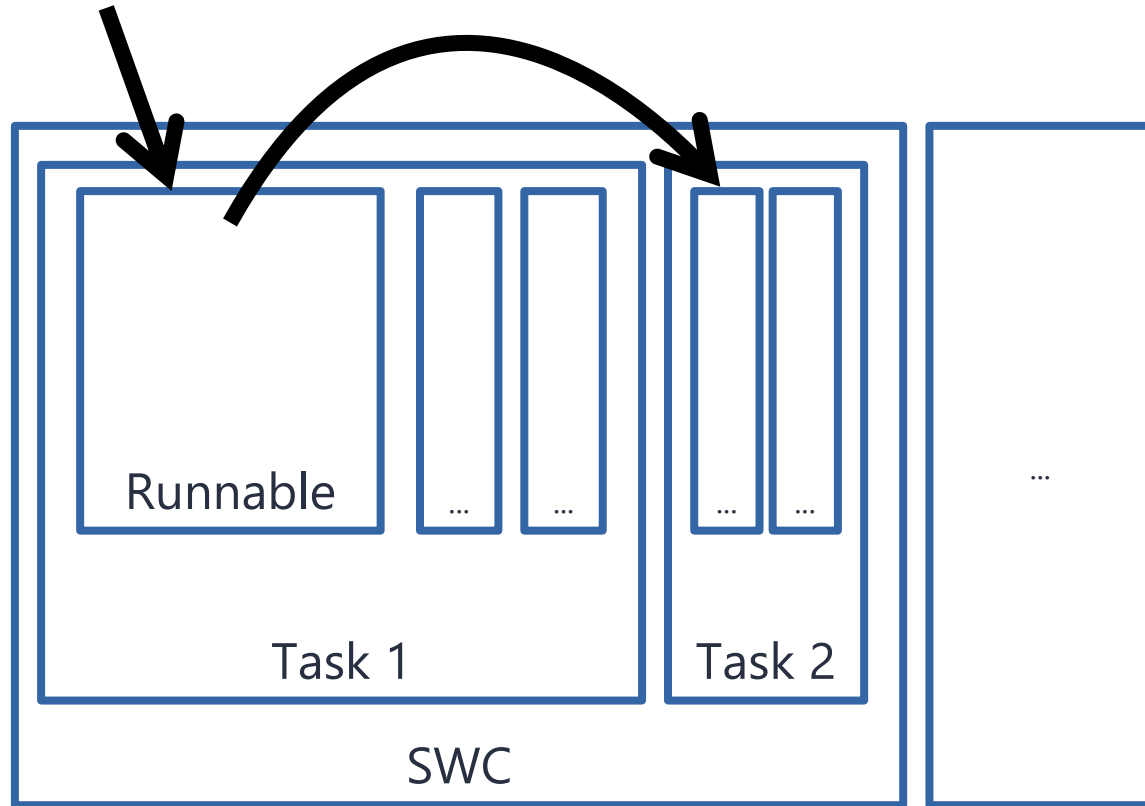


Taint tracking UDS Security Access



We found the *calculateKey* function!

Demo Time!!!

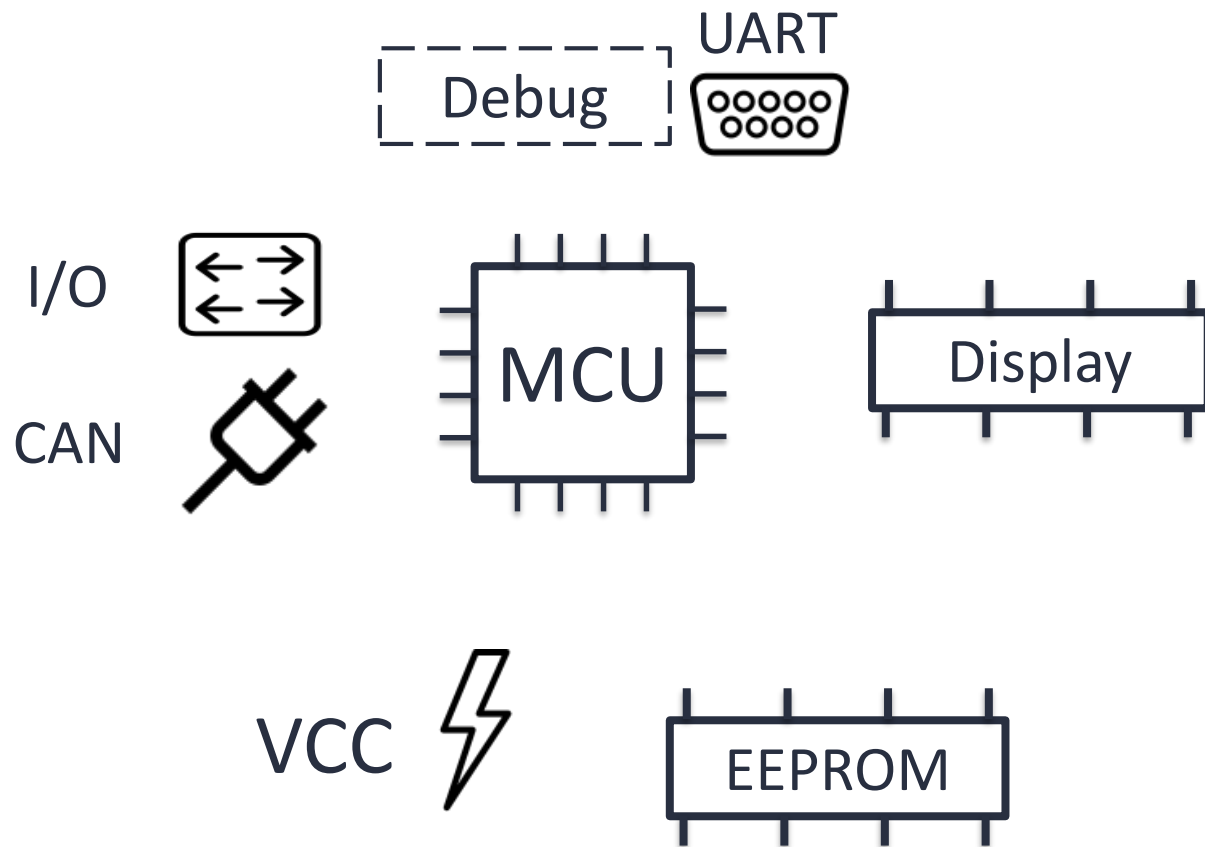


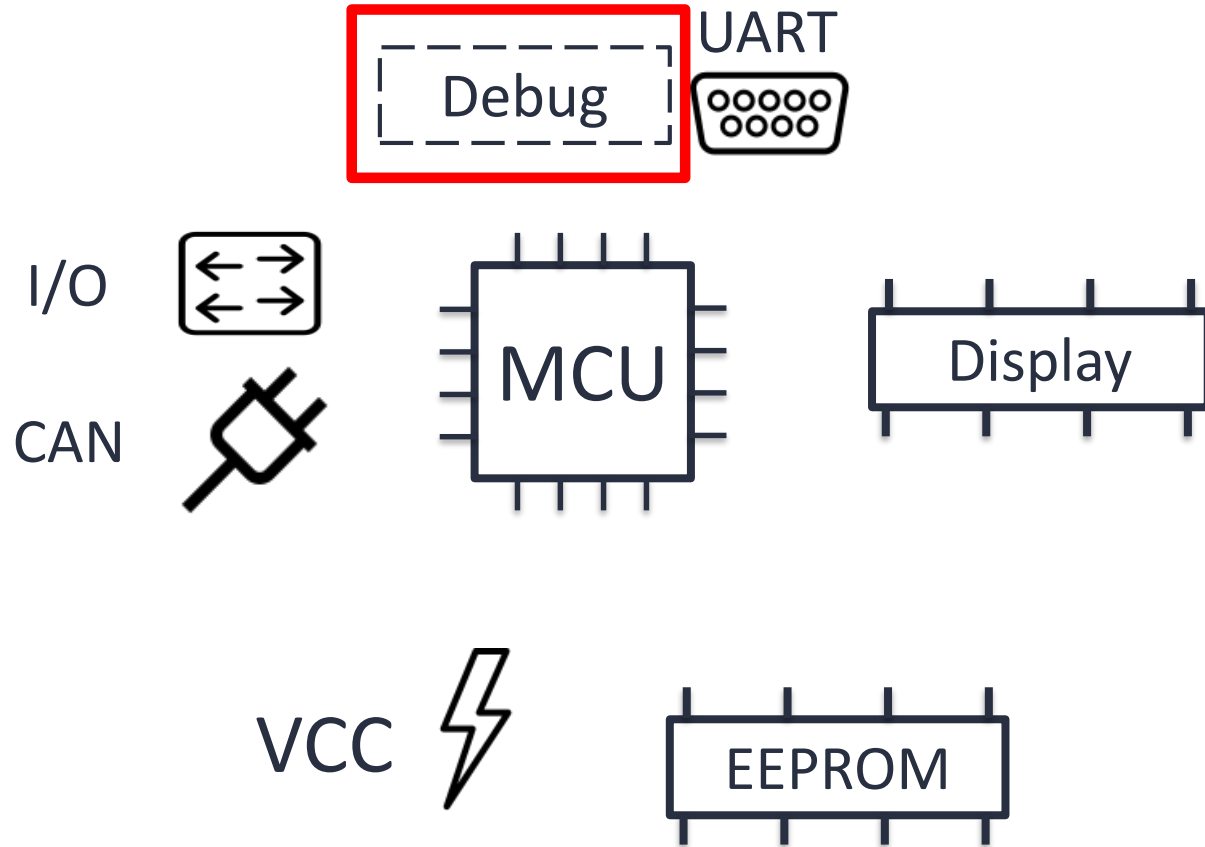
Wrap up!

- Hardware will betray you!
- Emulating a dashboard is not too tricky?
- Fault injection attacks on UDS are *cool*.

This Fault Injection attack
on UDS is **not efficient!**

We can do better...





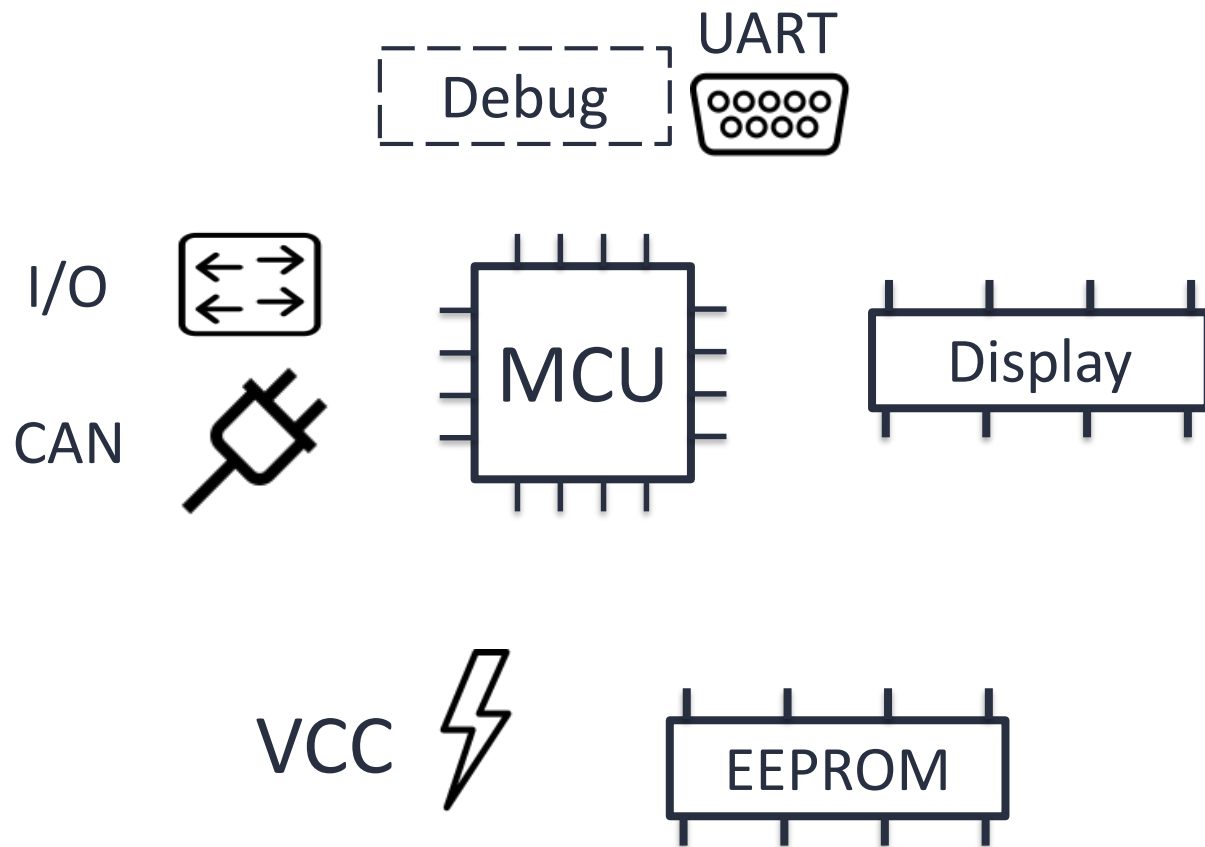
Debug interfaces

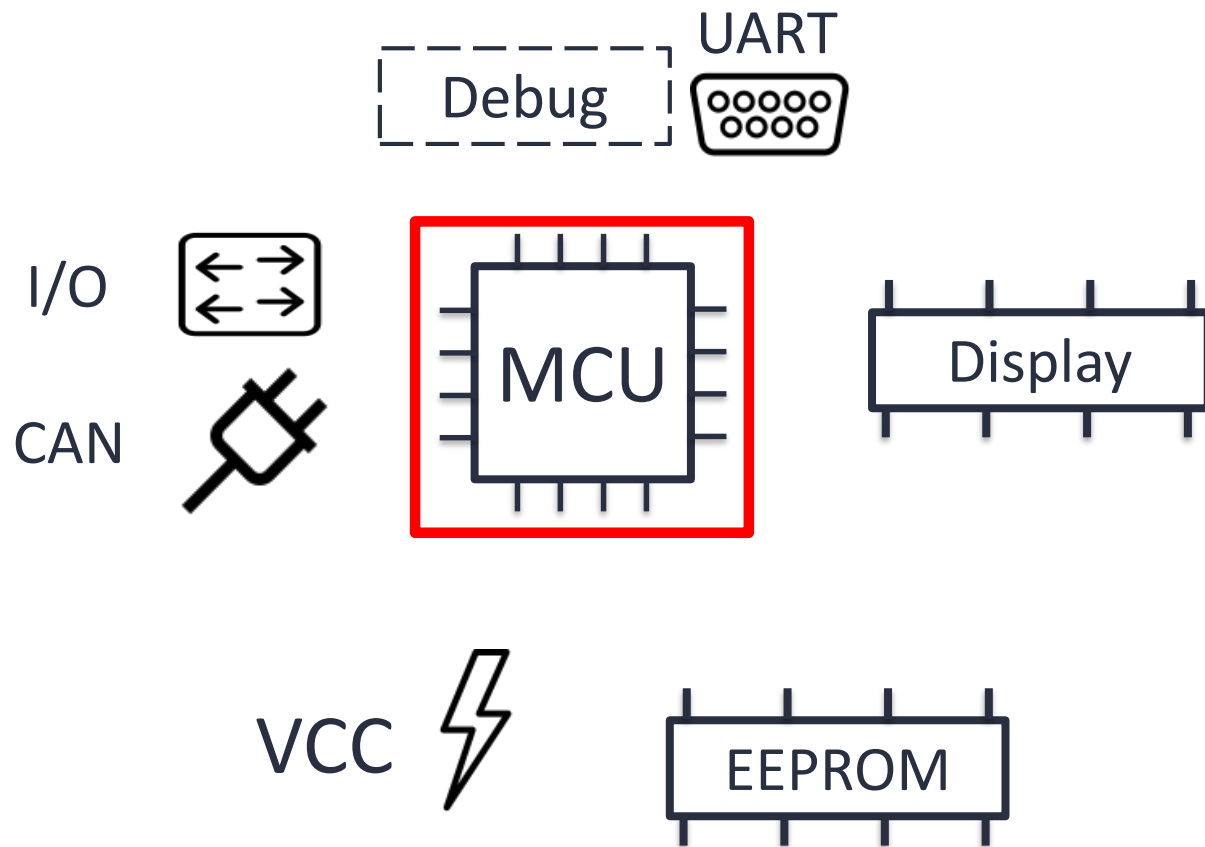
```
if (allow_debug())  
  
{  
    open_JTAG();  
}
```

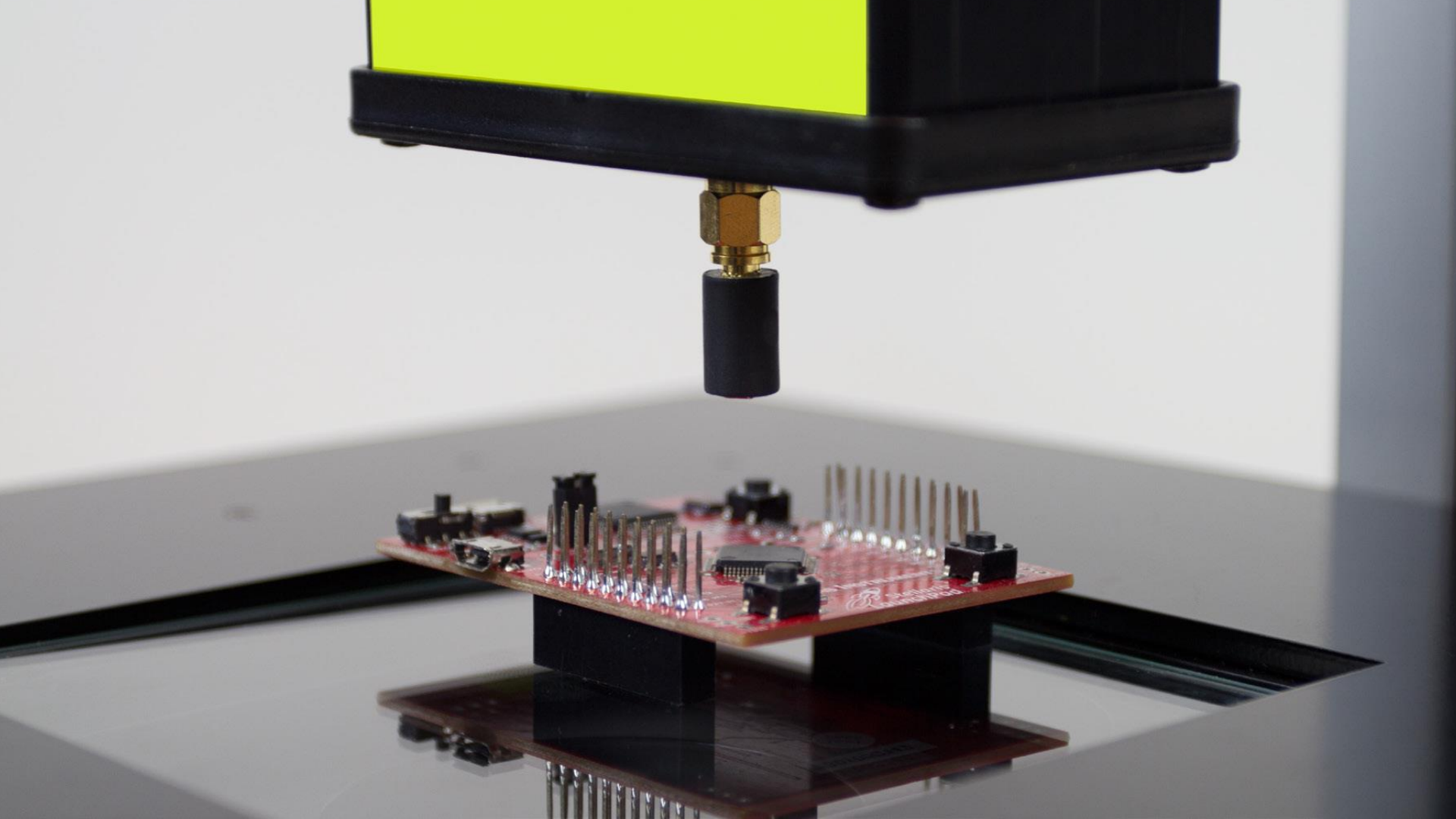
Debug interfaces

```
if (all debug())  
{  
    open_JTAG();  
}
```









Electromagnetic Fault Injection



[ChipSHOUTER®](#)



[Inspector FI](#)

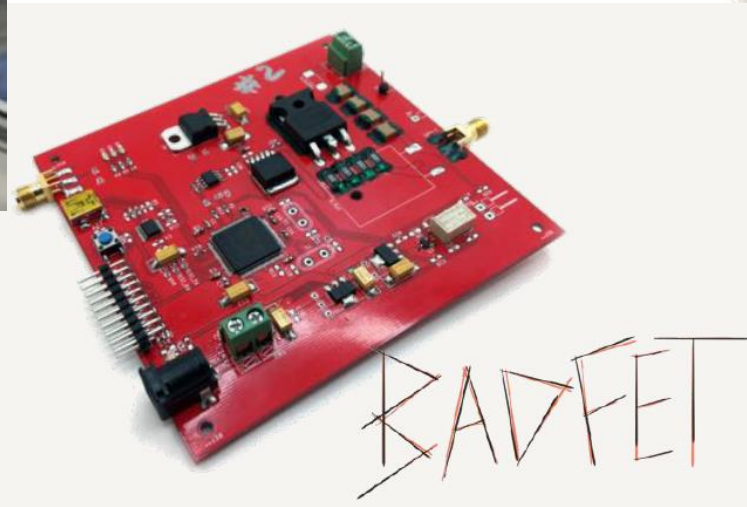
Electromagnetic Fault Injection

Cheap and awesome:

BADFET



ChipSHOUTER®



Inspector FI

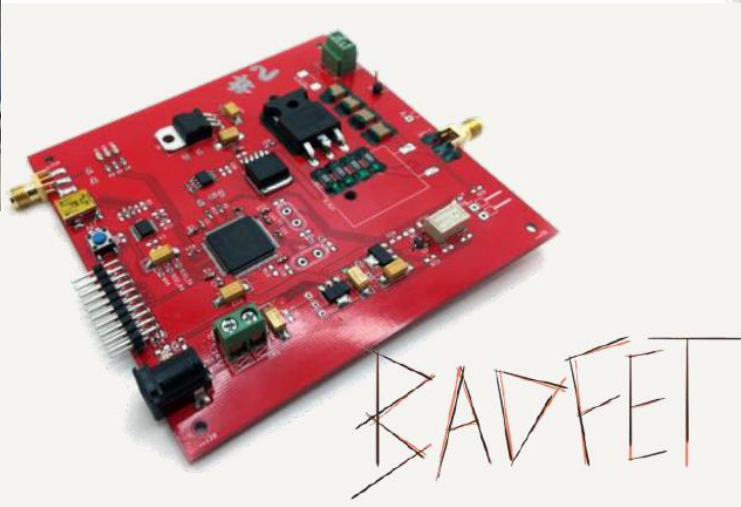
Electromagnetic Fault Injection

Cheap and awesome:

BADFET



ChipSHOUTER®



Inspector FI

Electromagnetic fault injection available to the masses!

Fault Injection is universal

all devices

all CPUs/MCUs

all software

Can we harden ECUs against fault injection?

Hardening ECU hardware

Hardening ECU hardware

- Memory integrity (e.g. ECC)

Hardening ECU hardware

- Memory integrity (e.g. ECC)
- Processing integrity (e.g. lockstep)

Hardening ECU hardware

- Memory integrity (e.g. ECC)
- Processing integrity (e.g. lockstep)
- However, please: *Safety ≠ Security*

Hardening ECU hardware

- Memory integrity (e.g. ECC)
- Processing integrity (e.g. lockstep)
 - However, please: *Safety ≠ Security*
- Don't forget: **debug interfaces**

Hardening ECU software

Hardening ECU software

- Add redundancy:
 - Duplicate code/checks
 - SW-lockstep

Hardening ECU software

- Add redundancy:
 - Duplicate code/checks
 - SW-lockstep
- Be paranoid:
 - Control flow integrity
 - Random delays

Hardening ECU design

Hardening ECU design

- Don't expose keys to software:
use HW crypto engines (HSMs)

Hardening ECU design

- Don't expose keys to software:
 use HW crypto engines (HSMs)
- Avoid having anything to hide:
 use asymmetric cryptography

As always, defense in depth is key!

Key takeaways

- No software vulnerabilities \neq security
- Understanding firmware is easy
(with the right tooling)
- Your firmware **will** be extracted

Thanks to...

Eloi Sanfeliu



Santiago Cordoba



Ramiro Pareja



Nils Wiersma



Our papers are available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)!

There were glitches... hopefully! ;)

riscure



Thank you! Any questions?

Niek Timmers
Security Analyst at Riscure
[@tieknimmers](#) / niek@riscure.com

Alyssa Milburn
PhD Troublemaker at VUsec
[@noopwafel](#) / a.a.milburn@vu.nl