



**riscure**

**When Hardware Attacks**

**scale**

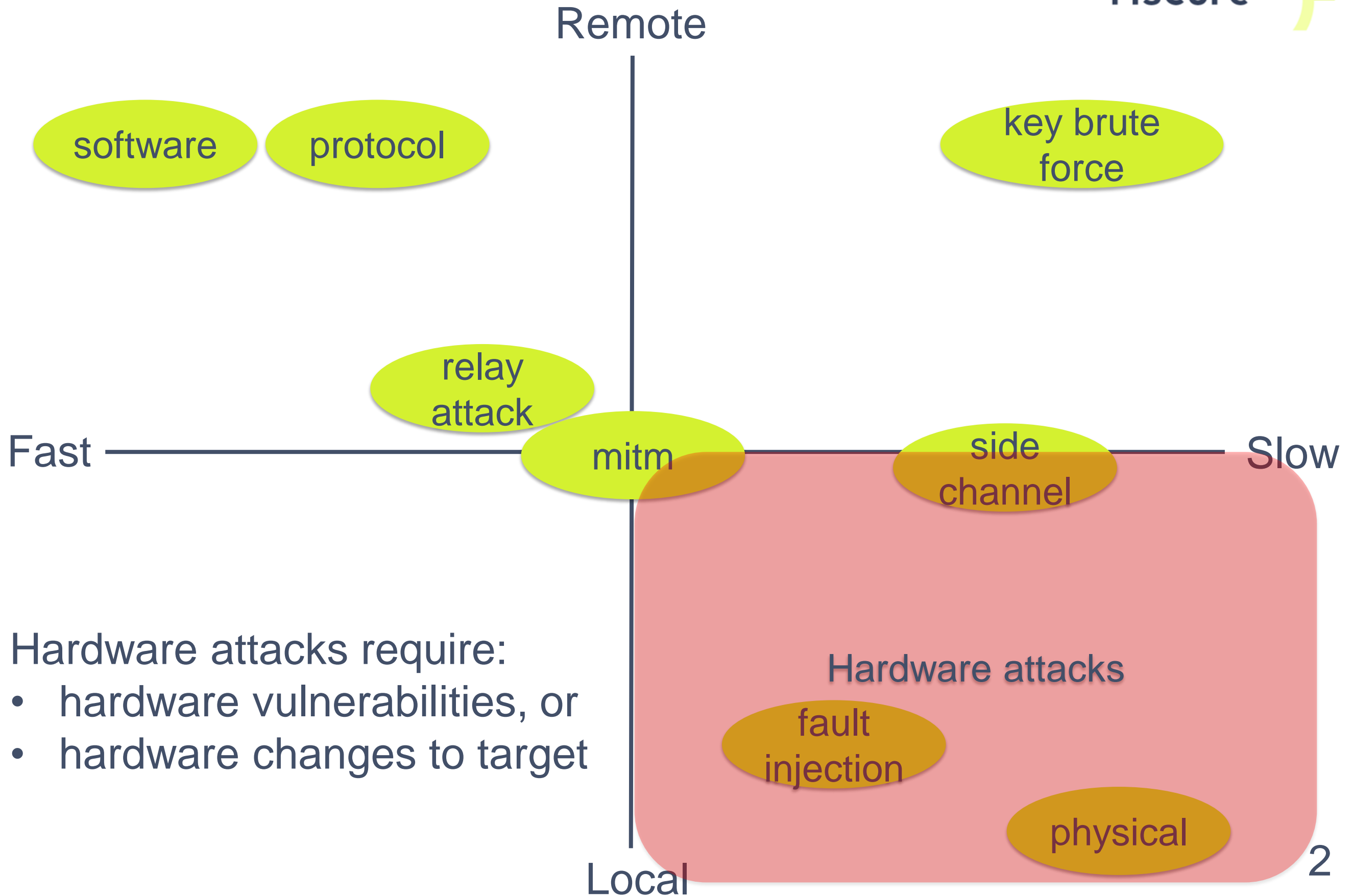
Marc Witteman

Croatian Summer school 2017



# Attack exploitation space: time vs distance

riscure





# Attacker business case

$$p = n * (v - c_v) - c_f$$

p = profit

v = value

n = replications

$c_v$  = variable costs

$c_f$  = fixed costs





# Let's analyze some known attacks



## 1. EMV Man-in-the-Middle

Hardware attack to bypass PIN verification of stolen payment cards

## 2. Retail hack

Network penetration attack to retrieve cardholder credentials

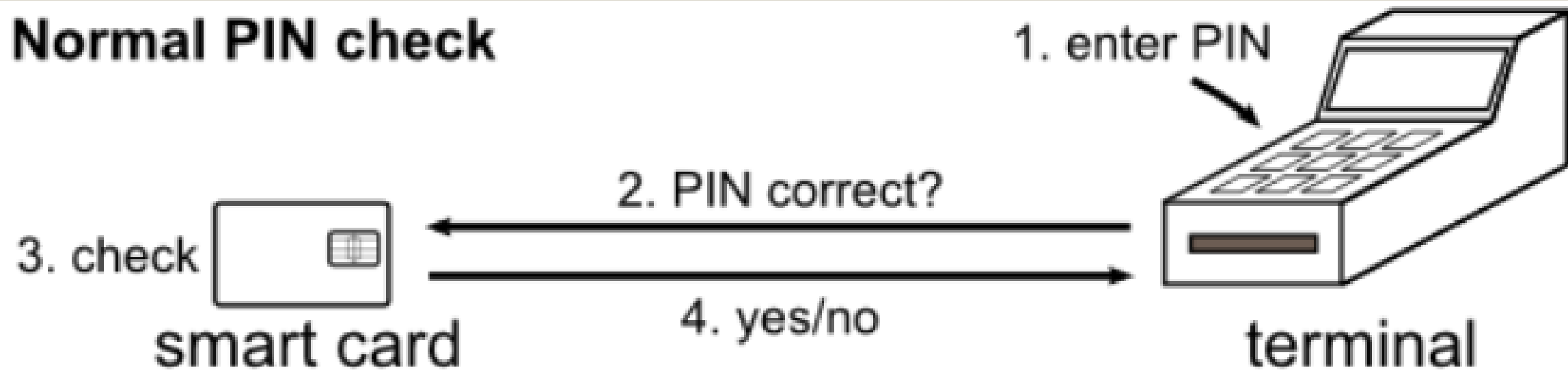
## 3. Card sharing

Relay attack to avoid paying TV subscription fees

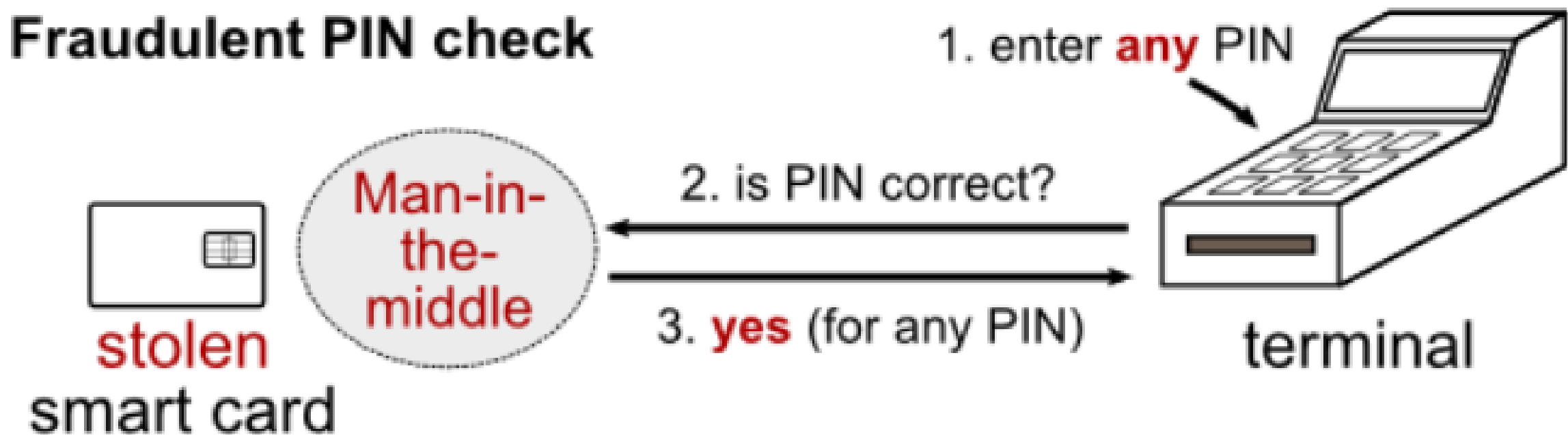


# EMV Man-in-the-Middle (1)

## Normal PIN check



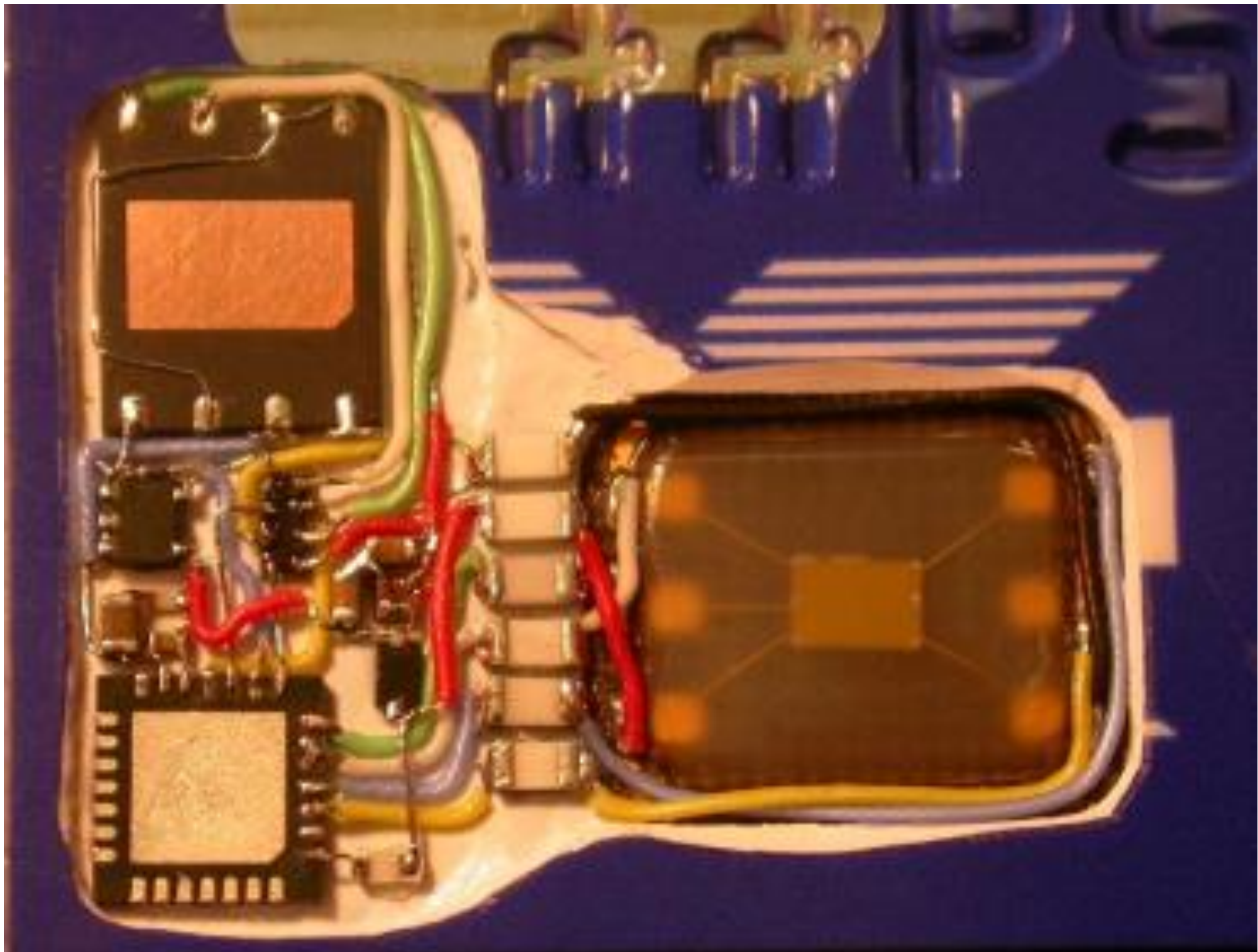
## Fraudulent PIN check





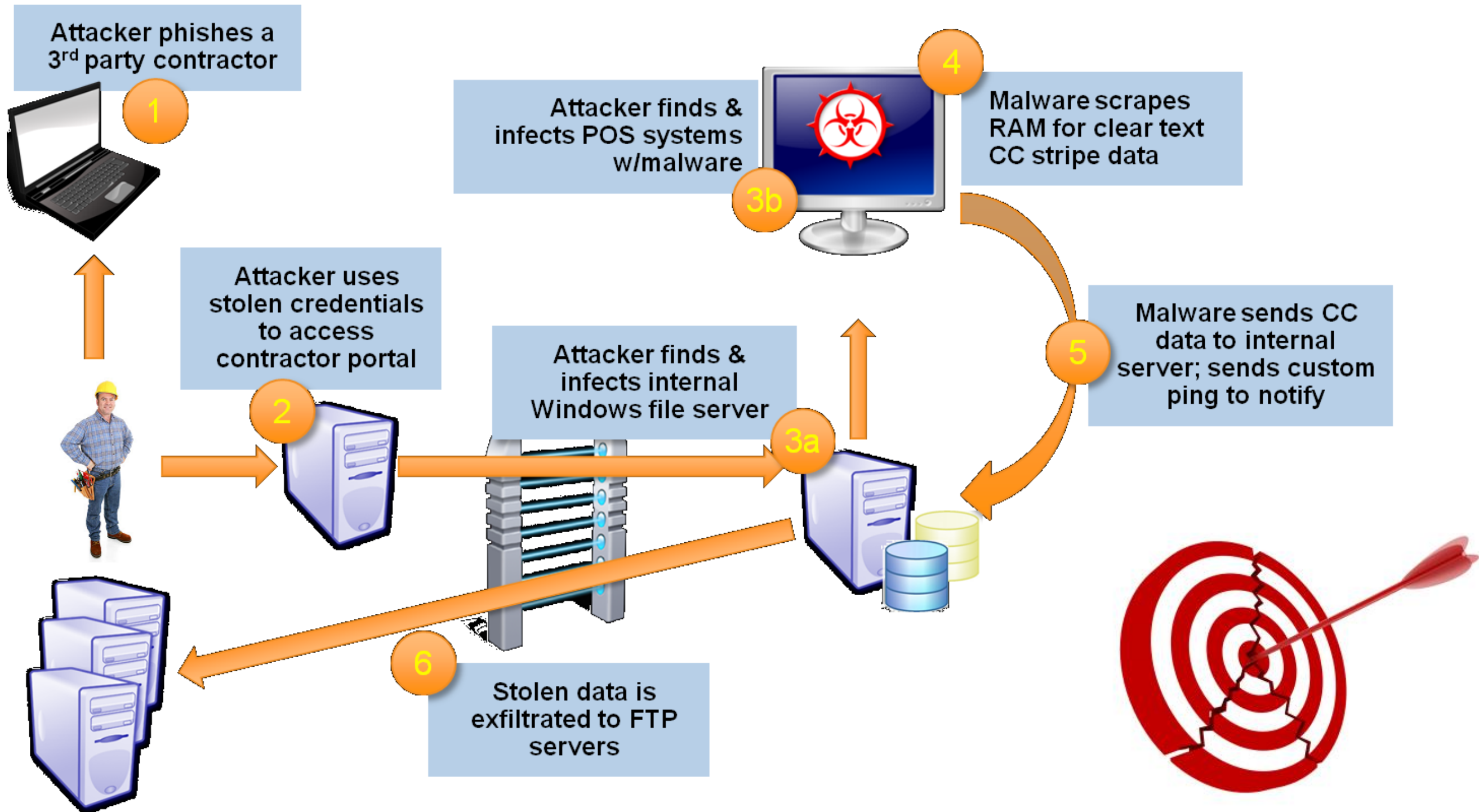
# EMV Man-in-the-Middle (2)

riscure





# Retail hack





# Card sharing (1)

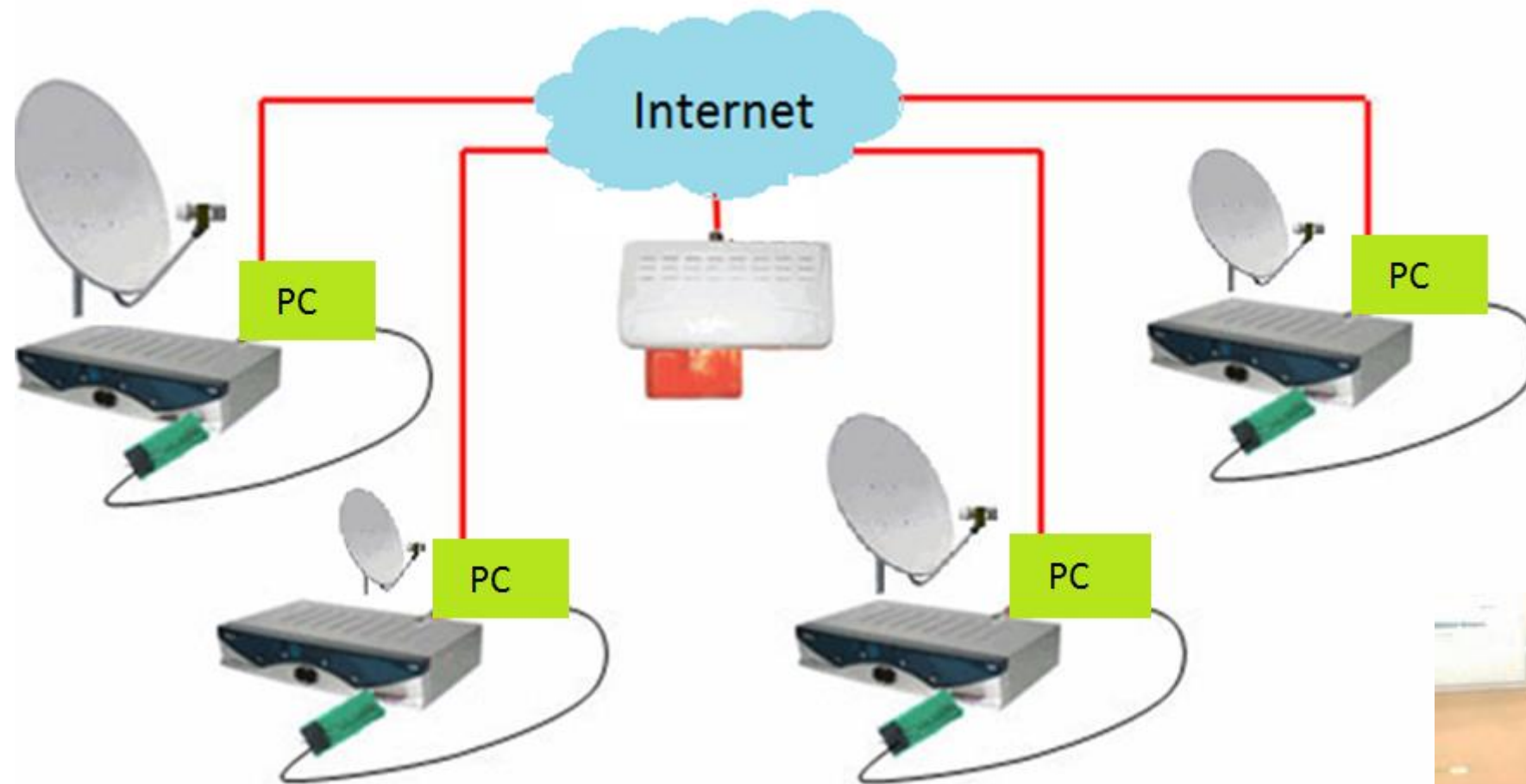


- Pay-TV decoders use smart cards to control video access
- Subscription is in smart card





# Card sharing (2)



- Pay-TV decoders use smart cards to control video access
- Subscription is in smart card
- Distribution of session keys avoids need for individual subscriptions





# Example attack business cases

Attack	Fixed Cost	Variable Cost	Value	Replications	Profit
EMV MitM	€ 30K	€ 100	€ 500	100	€ 10 K
Retail hack	€ 20K	€ 1	€ 25	10K	€ 220 K
Card sharing	€ 10K	€ 10	€ 100	1M	€ 90 M

Replications are key, but how is that bounded?

- Application size (e.g. #potential victims)
- Replication effort
- Detection & mitigation

Hardware attacks require substantial replication effort  
Can they be scalable?



# Attack phases

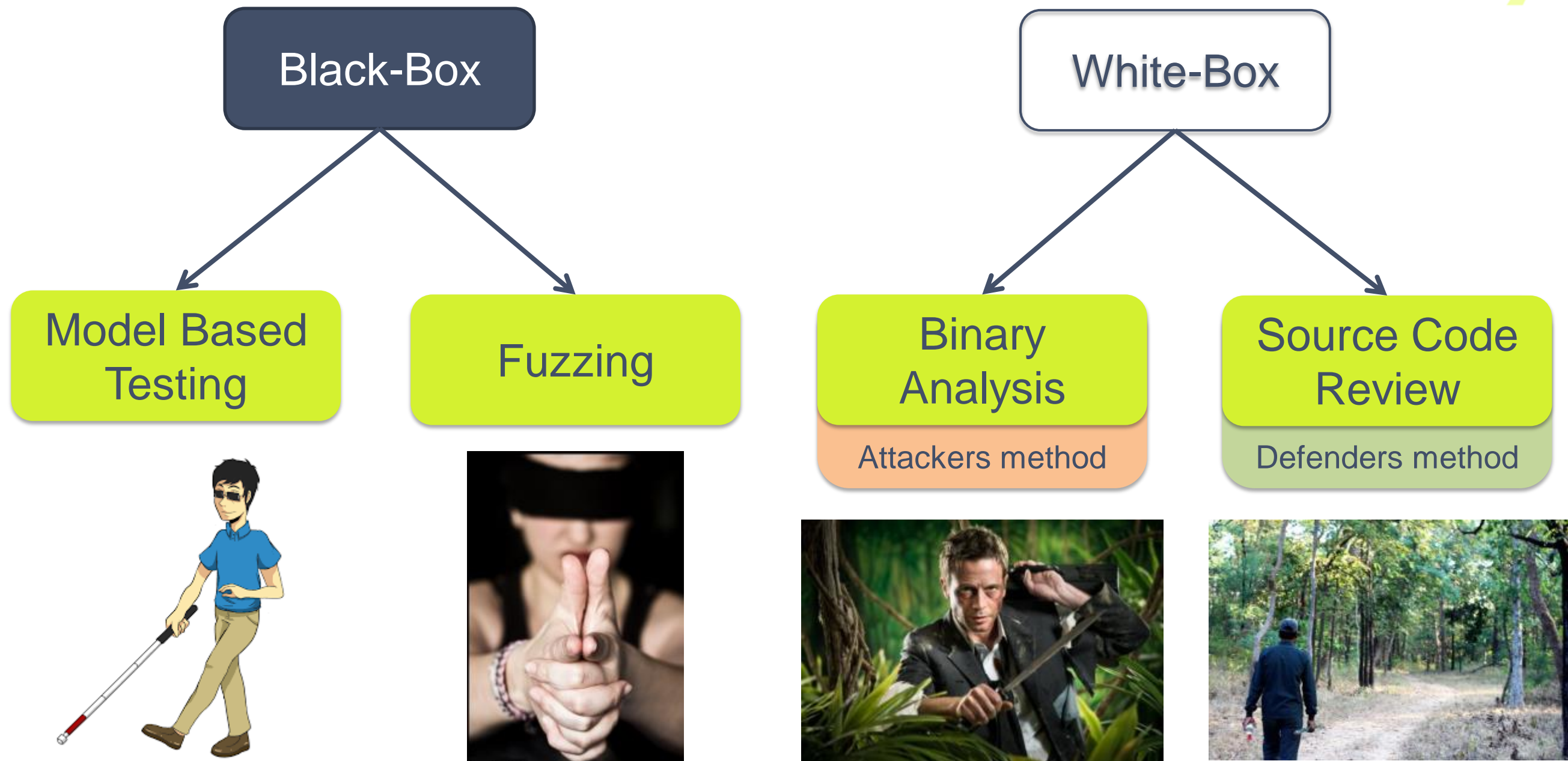
	Identification	Exploitation
What it is	finding a vulnerability	run on target
Frequency	once	repeated
Speed	slow	fast
Skill	expert	script-kiddy
Equipment	expensive	cheap
Location	local	remote

Scalable attacks need software exploitation!

Scalable attack



# How to find software vulnerabilities?



Effectiveness

Most vulnerabilities are found white-box style!



# Finding vulnerabilities in source code



Software packages typically

vary between 10 and 10,000 KLoC

have 0.1 up to 10 vulnerabilities per KLoC

→ **All products have software vulnerabilities**

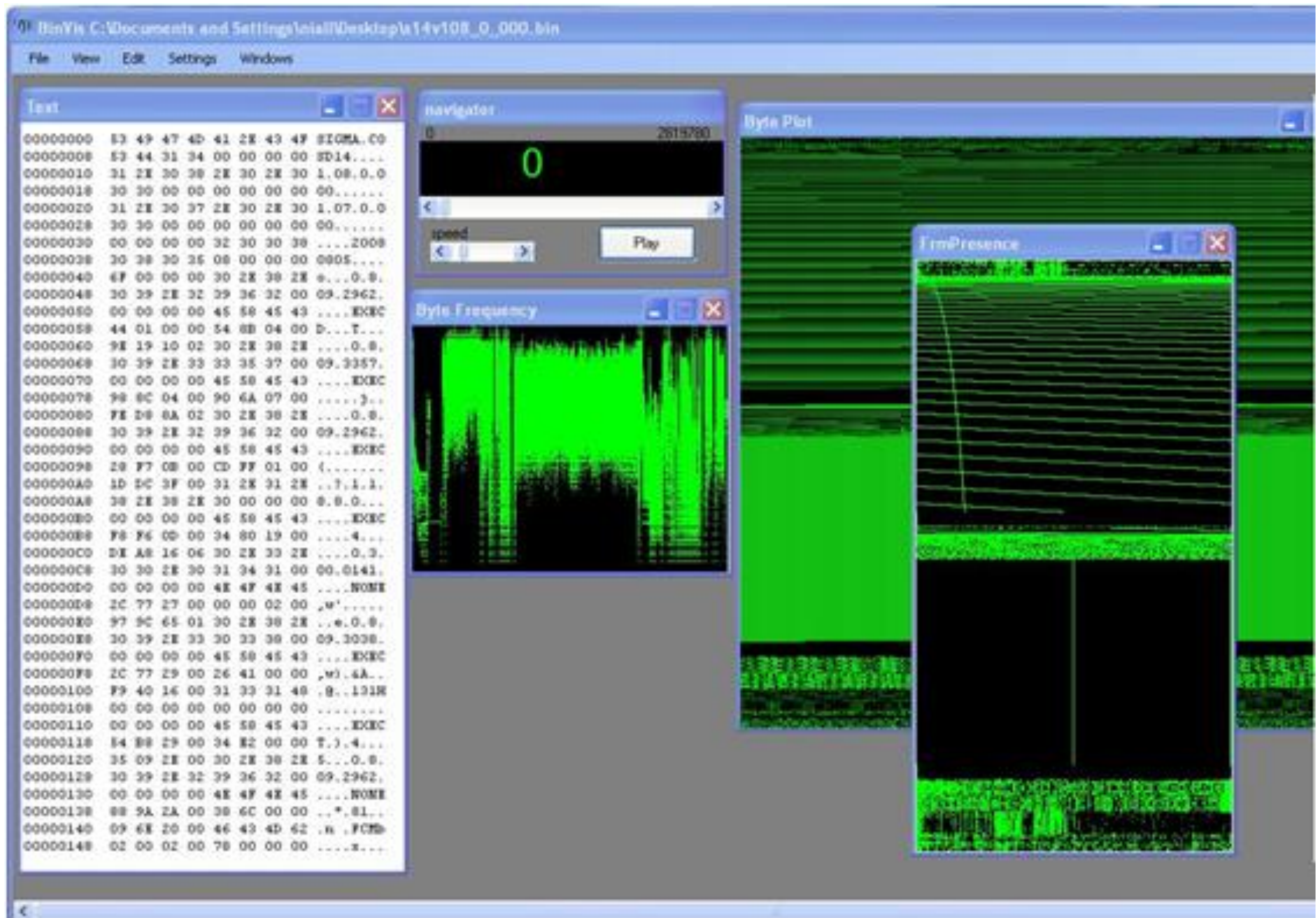
Manual source code review performs at 100 LoC/hr

→ **Finding a vulnerability in source code may take just one day**



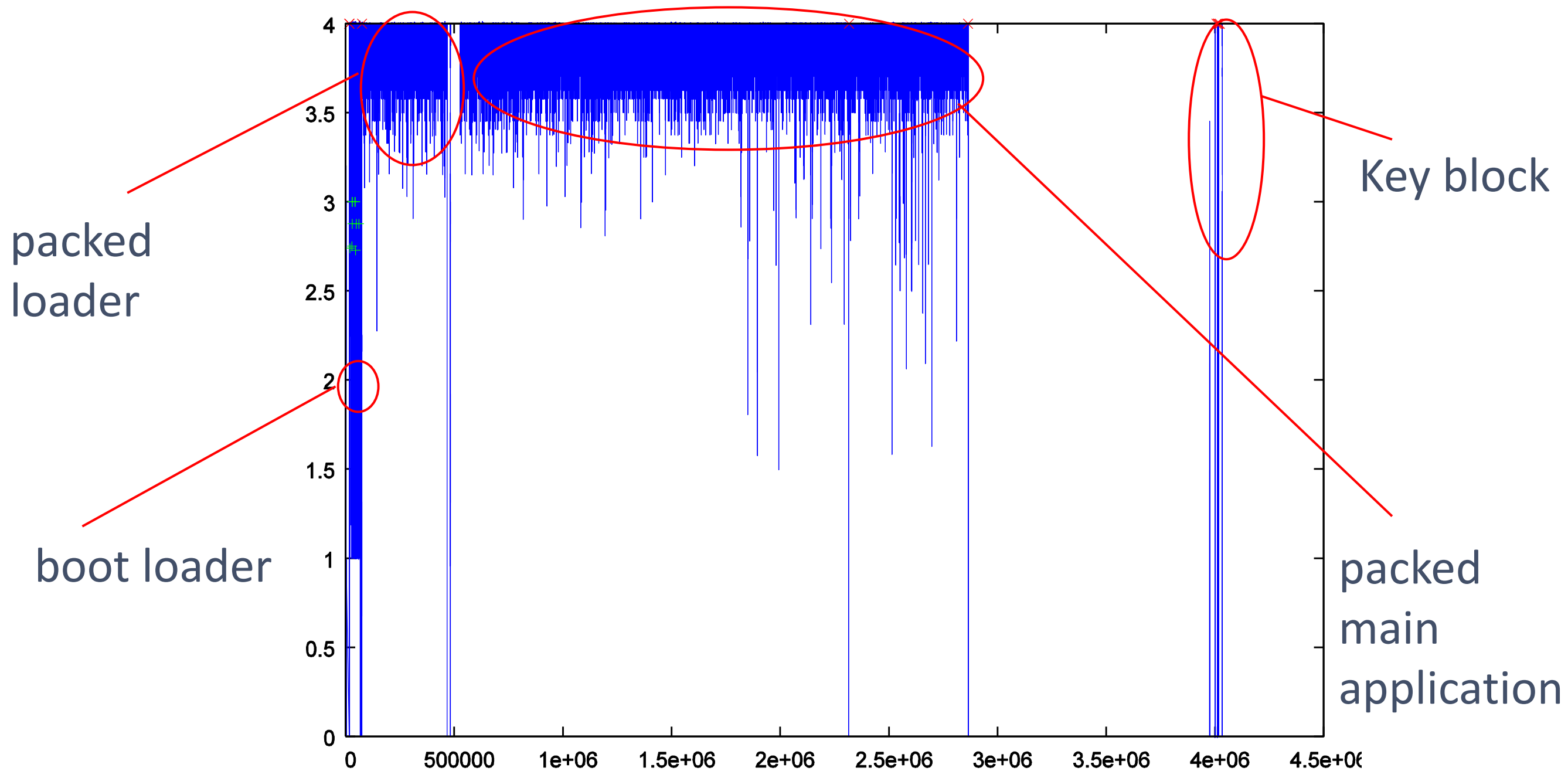
# Binary analysis

riscure





# Firmware structure analysis





# Disassemble

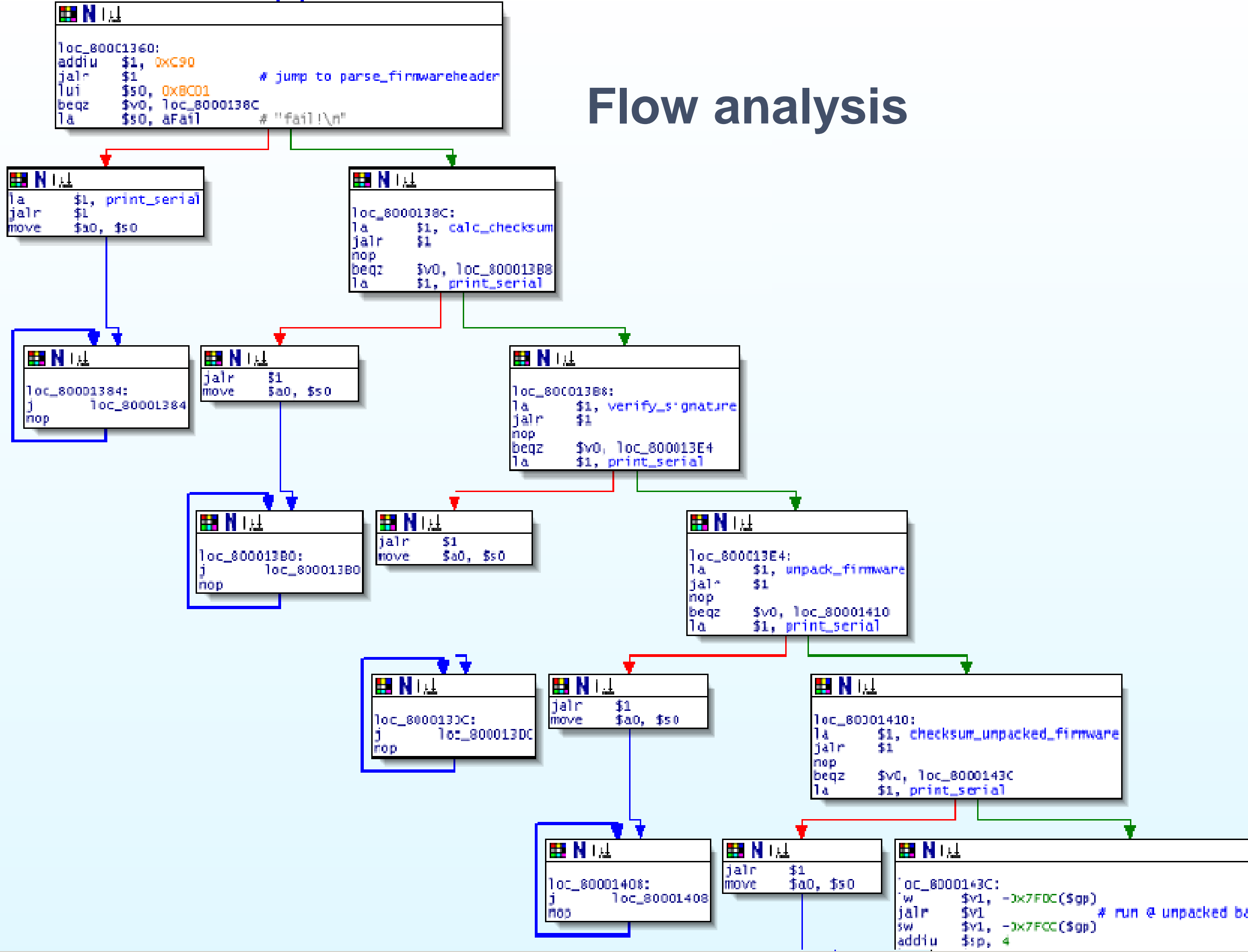
riscure



```
CODE:00404DFF 0F 85 C4 00 00 00    jnz loc_404EC9
CODE:00404E05 68 D4 4E 40 00      push offset LibFileName ; "DbdDevAPI.dll"
CODE:00404E0A E8 C9 EB FF FF      call LoadLibraryA
CODE:00404E0F A3 20 B1 40 00      mov ds:hModule, eax
CODE:00404E14 83 3D 20 B1 40 00+   cmp ds:hModule, 0
CODE:00404E1B 0F 84 A8 00 00 00    jz loc_404EC9
CODE:00404E21 68 E4 4E 40 00      push offset aDbddevopen_0 ; "DbdDevOpen"
CODE:00404E26 A1 20 B1 40 00      mov eax, ds:hModule
CODE:00404E2B 50                  push eax ; hModule
CODE:00404E2C E8 77 EB FF FF      call GetProcAddress
CODE:00404E31 A3 04 D3 40 00      mov ds:DbdDevOpen, eax
CODE:00404E36 68 F0 4E 40 00      push offset aDbddevclose_0 ; "DbdDevClose"
CODE:00404E3B A1 20 B1 40 00      mov eax, ds:hModule
CODE:00404E40 50                  push eax ; hModule
CODE:00404E41 E8 62 EB FF FF      call GetProcAddress
CODE:00404E46 A3 08 D3 40 00      mov ds:DbdDevClose, eax
CODE:00404E4B 68 FC 4E 40 00      push offset aDbddevgetinfo ; "DbdDevGetInfo"
CODE:00404E50 A1 20 B1 40 00      mov eax, ds:hModule
CODE:00404E55 50                  push eax ; hModule
CODE:00404E56 E8 4D EB FF FF      call GetProcAddress
CODE:00404E5B A3 0C D3 40 00      mov ds:DbdDevGetInfo, eax
CODE:00404E60 68 0C 4F 40 00      push offset aDbddevregistercallback_0 ; "DbdDevRegisterCallback"
CODE:00404E65 A1 20 B1 40 00      mov eax, ds:hModule
```

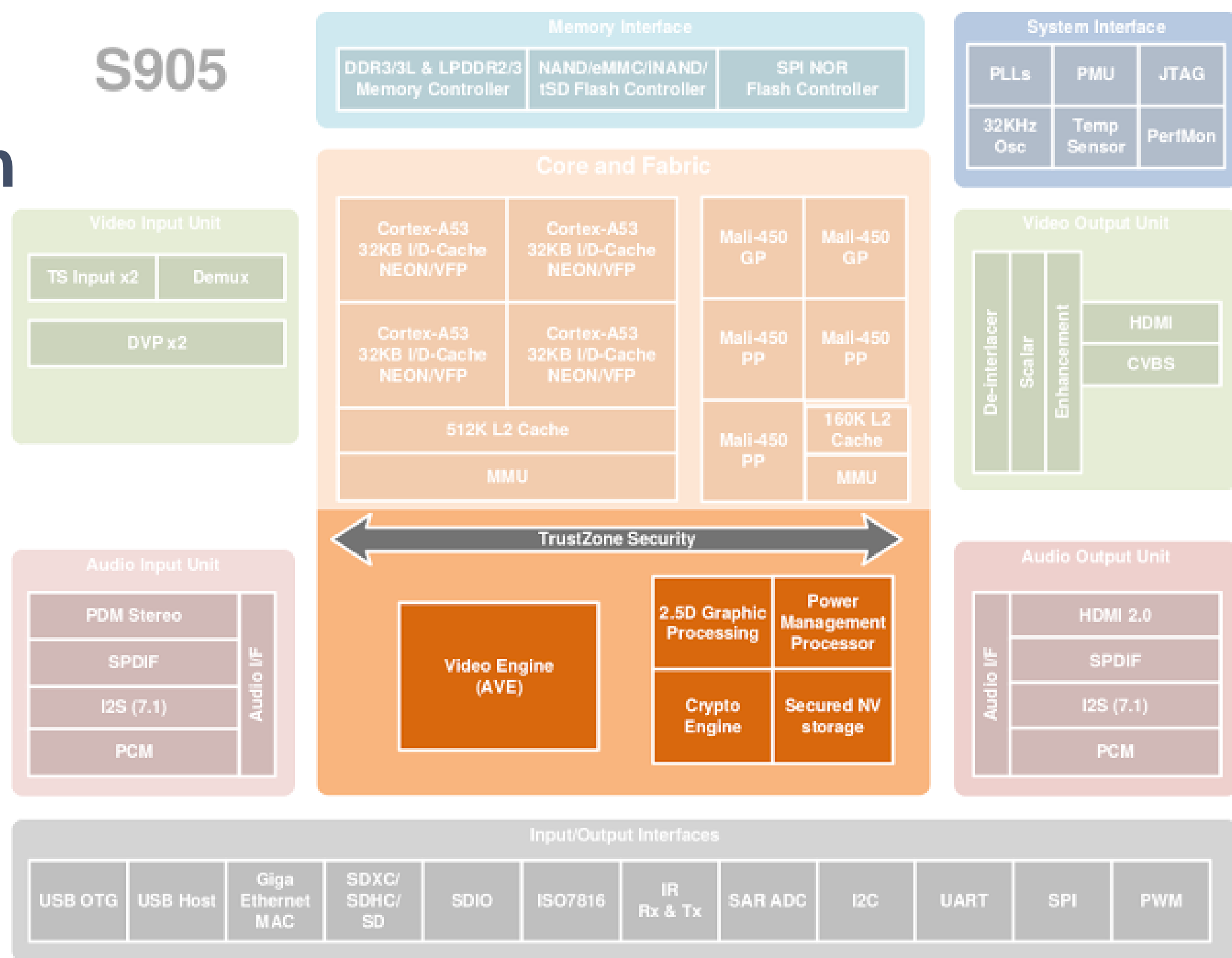


# Flow analysis





# Design flaw in Pay-TV SoC



## Security

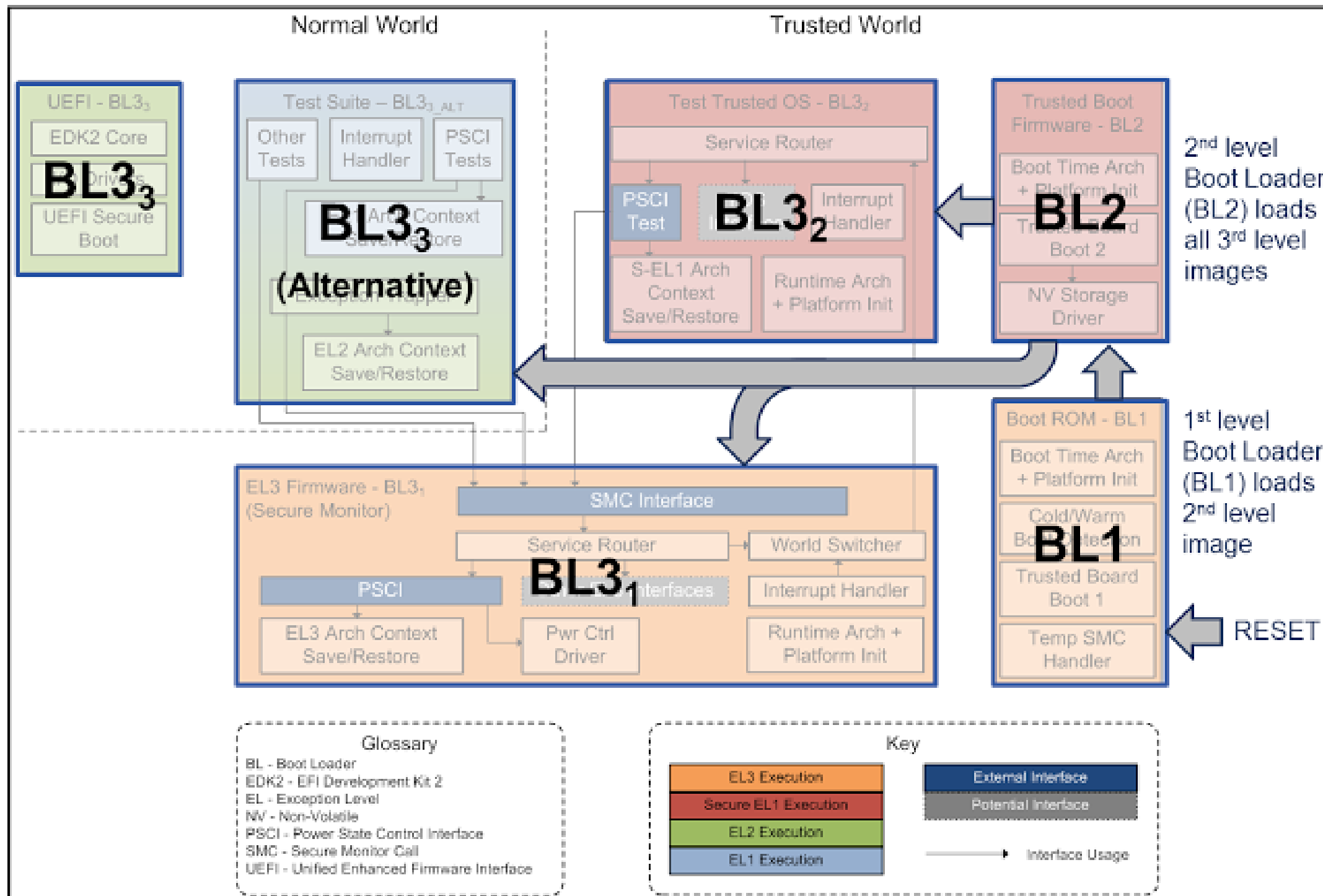
- Trustzone based Trusted Execution Environment (TEE)
- Secured boot, encrypted OTP, internal control buses and storage
- Protected memory regions and electric fence data partition
- Hardware based Trusted Video Path (TVP) and secured contents (needs SecureOS software)

Source: <http://www.fredericb.info/2016/10/amlogic-s905-soc-bypassing-not-so.html>



# Secure boot chain broken by backdoor

Attacker used  
Public sources  
Boot Loader  
image

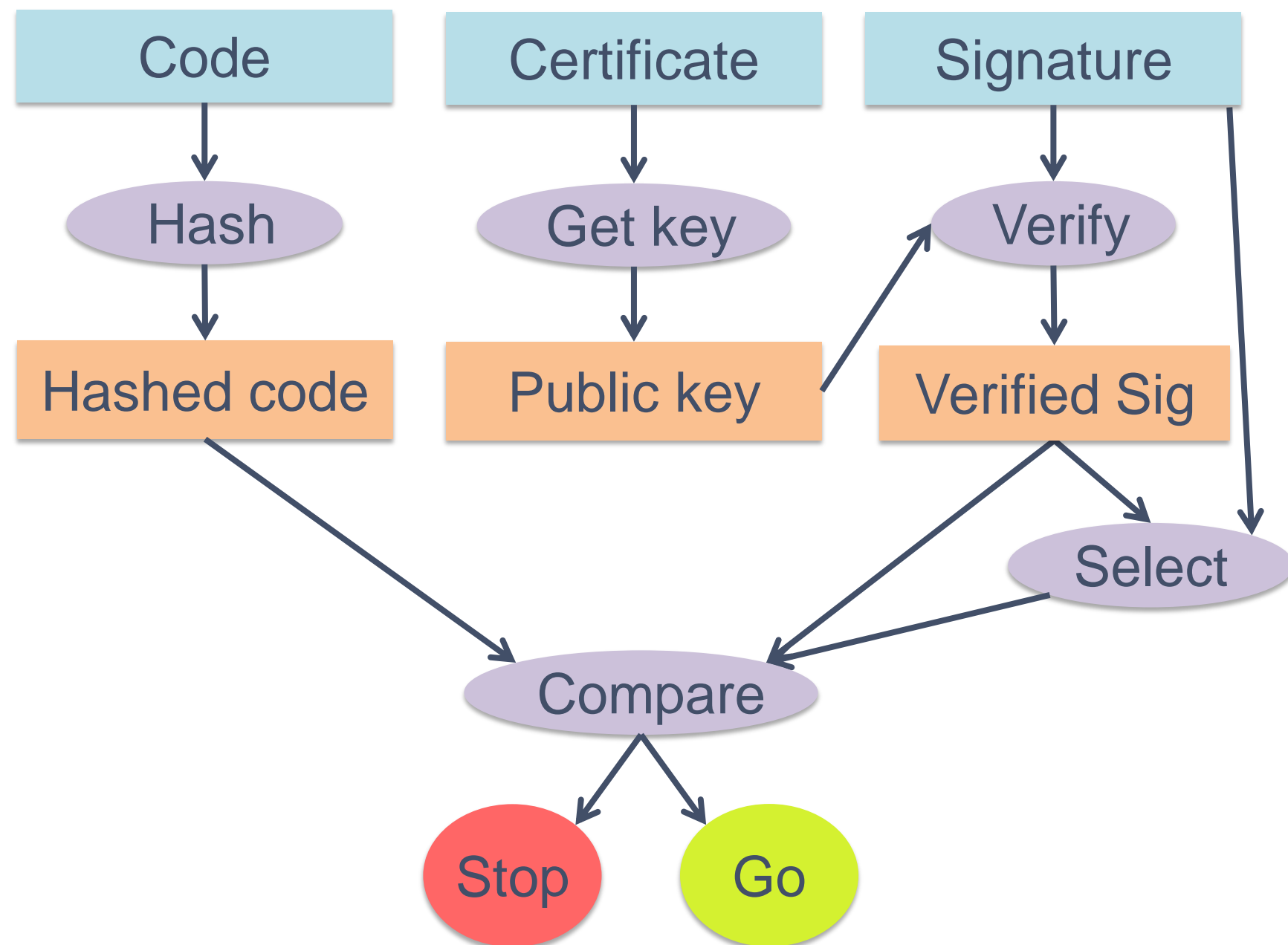




# Boot Loader header analysis

```
struct aml_img_header { // 64 bytes
    unsigned char magic[4]; // "@AML"
    uint32_t total_len;
    uint8_t header_len;
    uint8_t unk_x9;
    uint8_t unk_xA;
    uint8_t unk_xB;
    uint32_t unk_xC;
    uint32_t sig_type;
    uint32_t sig_offset;
    uint32_t sig_size;
    uint32_t data_offset;
    uint32_t unk_x20;
    uint32_t cert_offset;
    uint32_t cert_size;
    uint32_t data_len;
    uint32_t unk_x30;
    uint32_t code_offset;
    uint32_t code_len;
    uint32_t unk_x3C;
} aml_img_header_t;
```

Analysis & experimenting showed that **sig\_type** selects different key lengths, or none!





# Recent hack on WI-FI chip



## Project Zero

News and updates from the Project Zero team at Google

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Over The Air: Exploiting Broadcom's Wi-Fi Stack



# Stack buffer overflow in WI-FI SoC enables remote code execution within WI-FI range

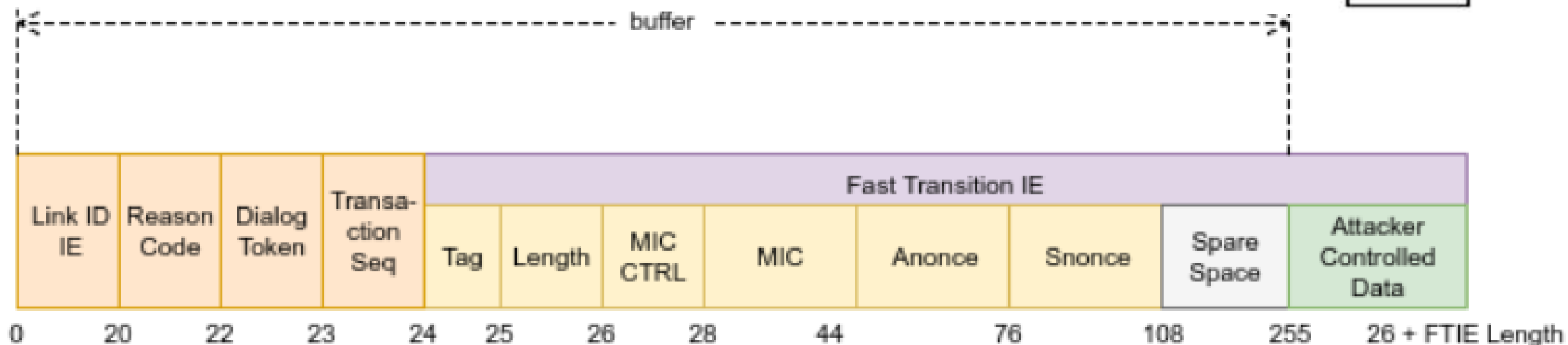
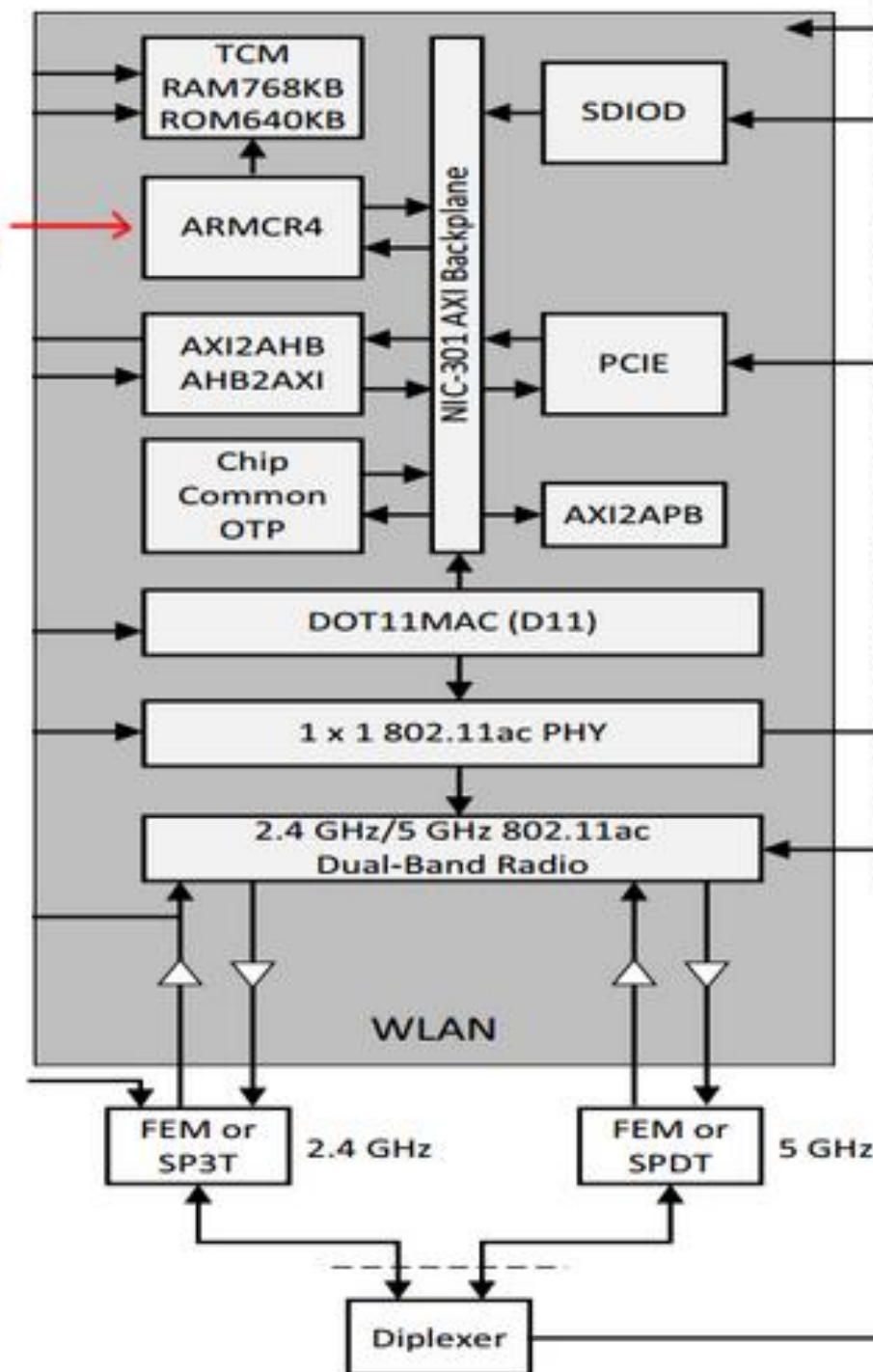
*ARM Cortex R4  
Running Firmware Logic*

Complex multi-step attack

Used public utility to do memory dump!

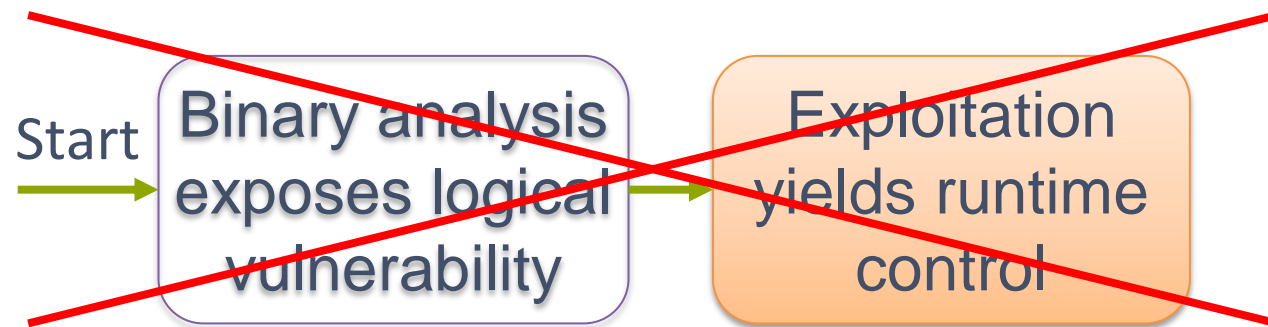
Leveraged information from other chips

Affects both iOS and Android devices

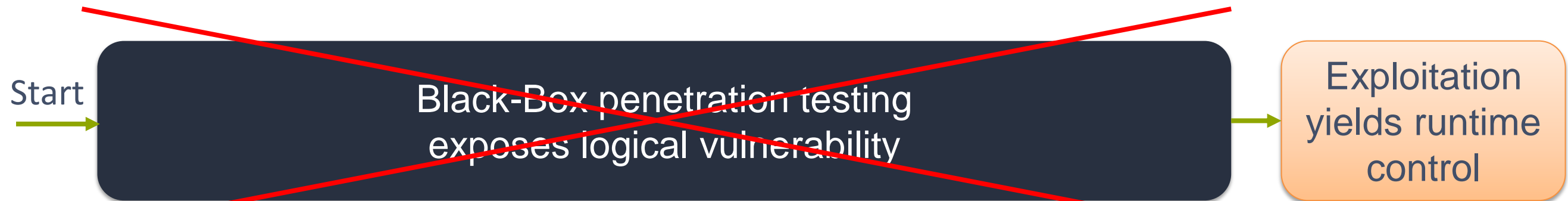




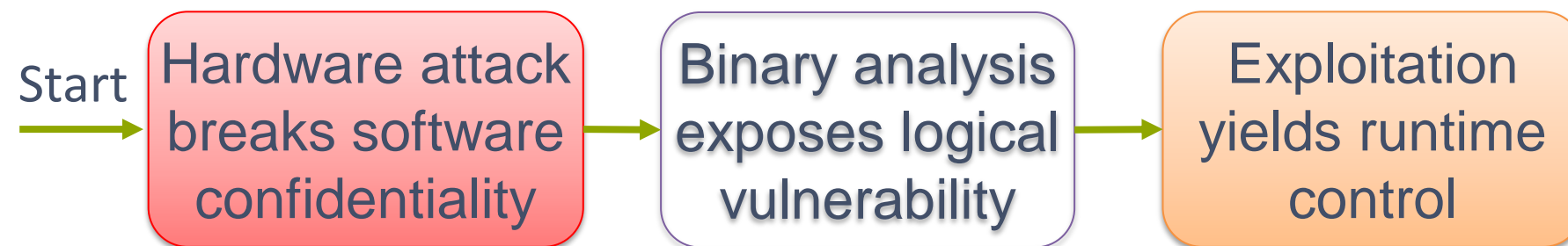
# Reducing risk with encrypted software



Encrypted software hides binary code



Black-Box penetration testing very inefficient



Hardware attack offers two-step alternative:

1. Break software confidentiality
2. White-box binary analysis exposes logical vulnerability



# Conclusions

## Scalable attacks need software exploitation

- Hardware attacks are laborious
- Software vulnerabilities are ubiquitous
- Software exploits are easy to reproduce

## Software encryption is inevitable for security

- Binary analysis very successful in identifying vulnerabilities
- Increasing number of products use encrypted software

## Hardware attacks are scalable when

- Software is encrypted
- Shallow bugs (detectable black-box style) are absent
- Used in the identification step to extract software
- Deep software vulnerabilities are present



# riscure

# Challenge your security

Contact: Marc Witteman  
witteman@riscure.com

Riscure is hiring, visit <https://www.riscure.com/careers/>

**Riscure B.V.**

Frontier Building, Delftechpark 49  
2628 XJ Delft  
The Netherlands  
Phone: +31 15 251 40 90

[www.riscure.com](http://www.riscure.com)

**Riscure North America**

550 Kearny St.  
Suite 330  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
+1 (650) 646 9979

[inforequest@riscure.com](mailto:inforequest@riscure.com)