Differential Computation Analysis

Hiding your White-Box Designs is Not Enough

Joppe W. Bos

Microsoft Research Visit, August 24, 2016
Redmond, WA, USA

SECURE CONNECTIONS FOR A SMARTER WORLD

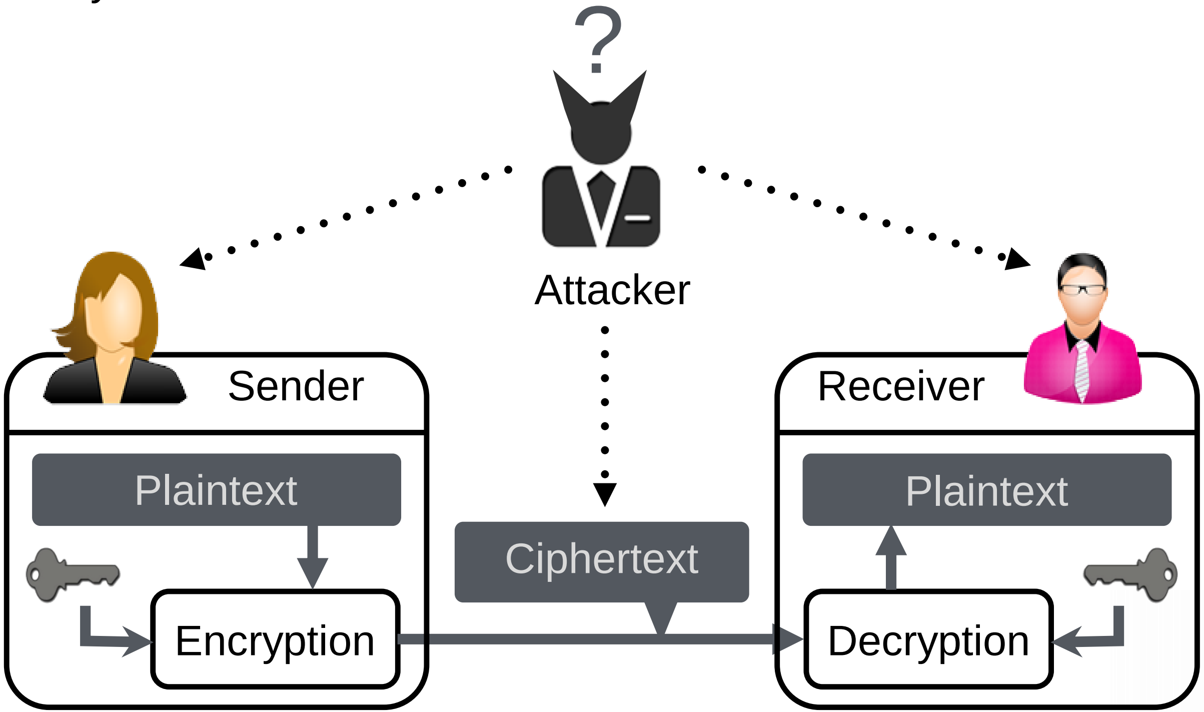
NXP Semiconductors

Operations in > 35 countries, more than 130 facilities
$\approx 45{,}000$ employees

Research & Development
$\approx 11{,}200$ engineers in 23 countries

The presence of an attacker

- Where should we assume the attacker to be? What is most realistic?
  - Is the attacker only eavesdropping on the communication channel?
  - Or did one of the (trusted/authorized) end-users become the attacker?
  - Or are there any malware/viruses installed on a trusted end-user’s device?

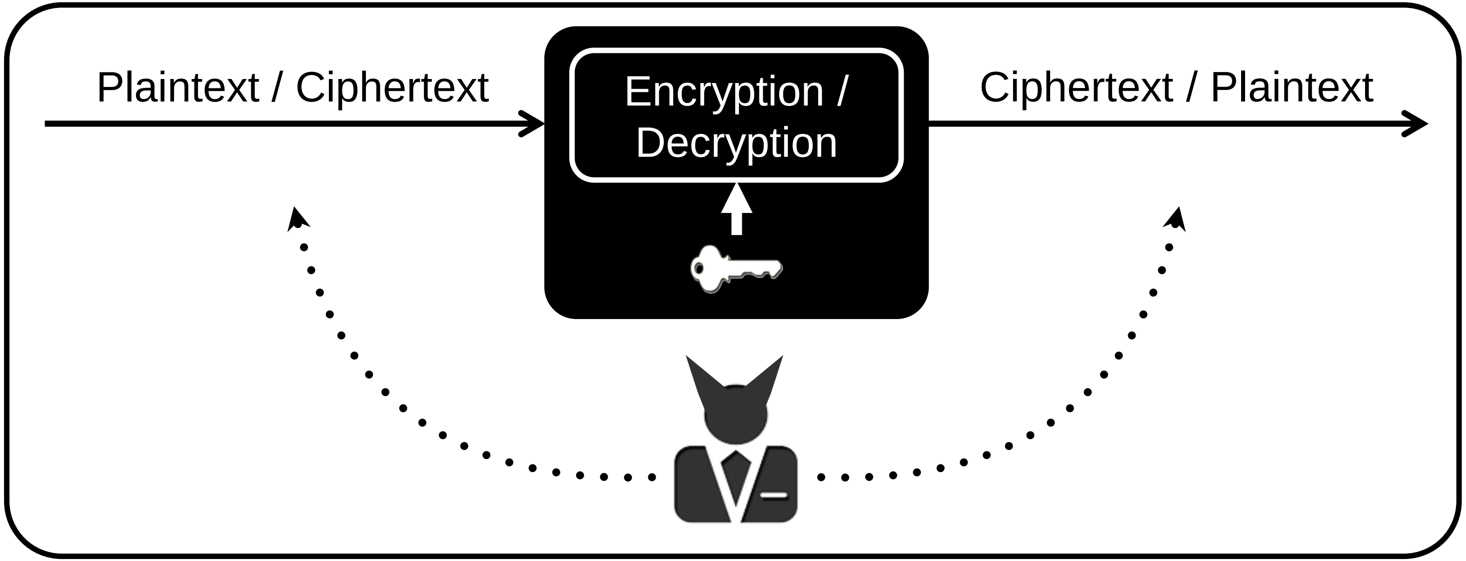


Cryptography & Security Notions

- In order to properly assess the security of (the implementation of) a cryptographic algorithm, one needs a clear definition of a *security notion*.

- **Security Notion = attacker's goal + attacker model.**
  - *Attacker's goal*: what does the attacker want to achieve?
    - This is not always key-extraction, the attacker is often satisfied with much less…
  - *Attacker model*: what are the capabilities of the attacker in order for him to achieve his goal?
    - Such a model tries to capture the capabilities of an attacker **as realistically as possible**, i.e., modeling the hostile environment in which the implementation of a cryptographic primitive is deployed.

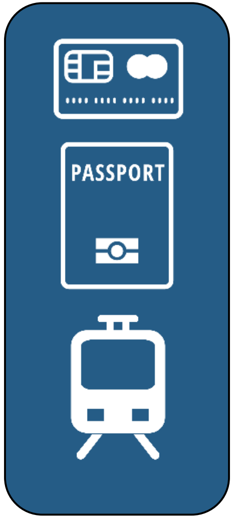
Black box model



Initial cryptographic security model from the 1980s

- Endpoints are trusted parties
- Attacker “observes” data being transferred

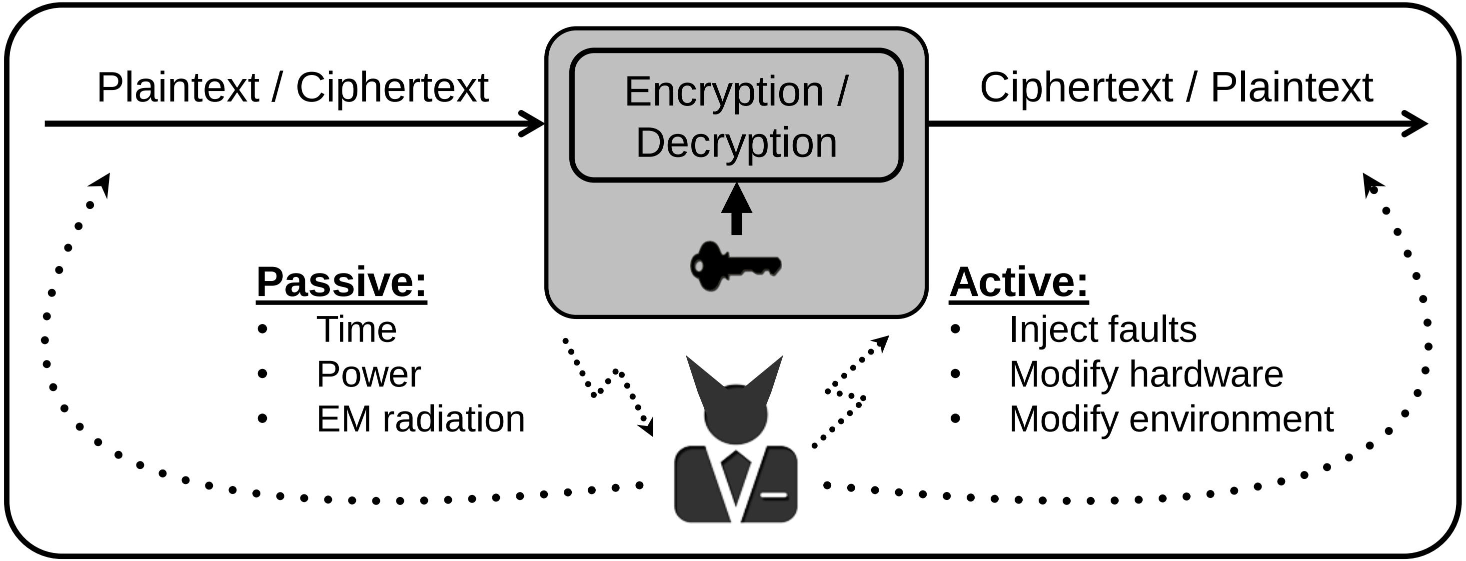
Black box model → grey box model



- When technology changed this model did not reflect reality any longer
- Cryptographic algorithms implemented in hardware were originally thought to form a secure environment
- In 1999 it was publicly shown that hardware implementations tend to leak key-correlated information

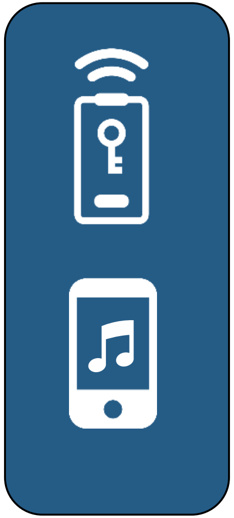
Kocher, Jaffe, Jun. Differential power analysis. In CRYPTO 1999

Grey box model



The research area of side-channel attacks and resistance has grown significantly: *fault injections, simple power analysis, differential power analysis, correlation power analysis, template attacks, higher-order correlation attacks, mutual information analysis, linear regression analysis, horizontal analysis, vertical analysis etc. etc.*

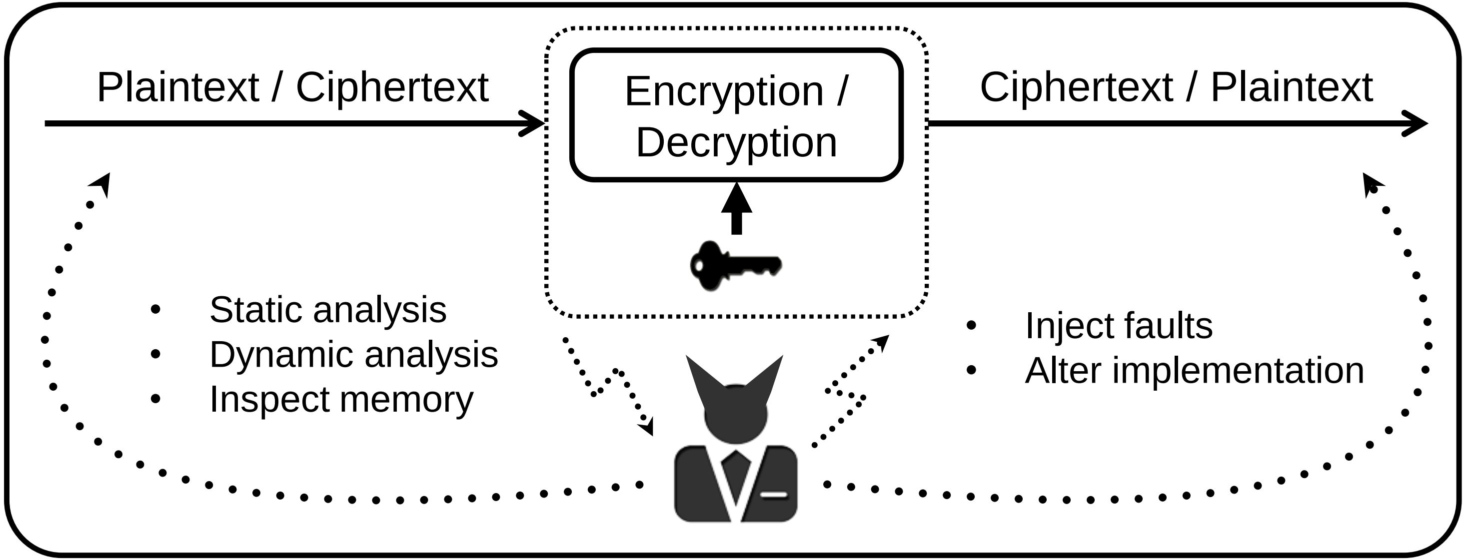
Grey box model → white box model



- When technology changed this model did not reflect reality any longer
- Increase in mobile devices without dedicated hardware support → need to rely on software solutions
- In 2002 the white-box model was introduced
  Initial focus on DRM applications.

Chow, Eisen, Johnson, van Oorschot. White-box cryptography and an AES implementation. In SAC 2002.
Chow, Eisen, Johnson, van Oorschot. A white-box DES implementation for DRM applications. In Security and Privacy in Digital Rights Management, 2003.

White box model



Adversary owns the device running the software. Powerful capabilities

- ✓ has full access to the source code
- ✓ inspect and alter the memory used
- ✓ perform static analysis
- ✓ alter intermediate results

Where is this used in practice?

Original use-case for white-box crypto is
digital right management.

For example: streaming content, protecting DVD’s etc

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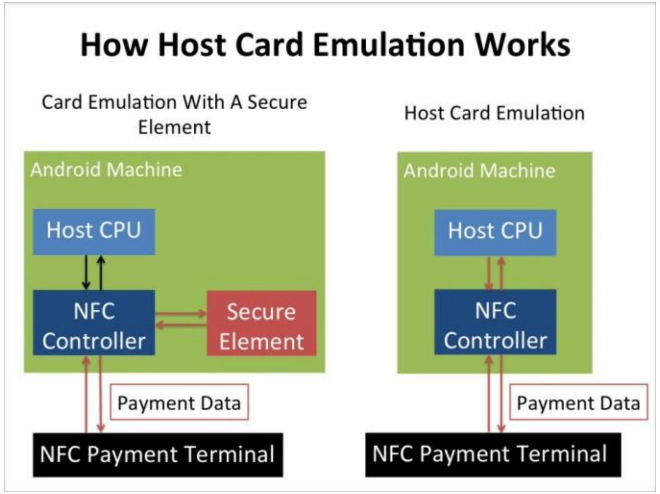


Source: Business Insider

Recent trend

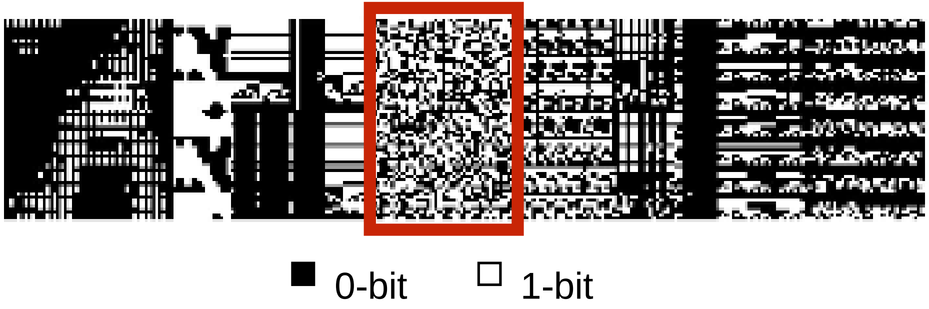
Use *Host Card Emulation* (HCE) to communicate using *Near Field Communication* (NFC)
→ Replace the secure element with software.

Protection of the cryptographic key? How?
White-box implementation!

Huge demand for practical + secure white-box

- 2014: VISA + Mastercard support HCE
- [Berg Insight]: **86%** of the Point of Sale devices in North America and **78%** in Europe will support NFC by 2017.
- [IHS research]: By 2018, 2/3 of all shipped phones will support NFC.
- → the protocols used need to use (and store!) AES / DES keys
  → need for secure **white-box cryptography**.

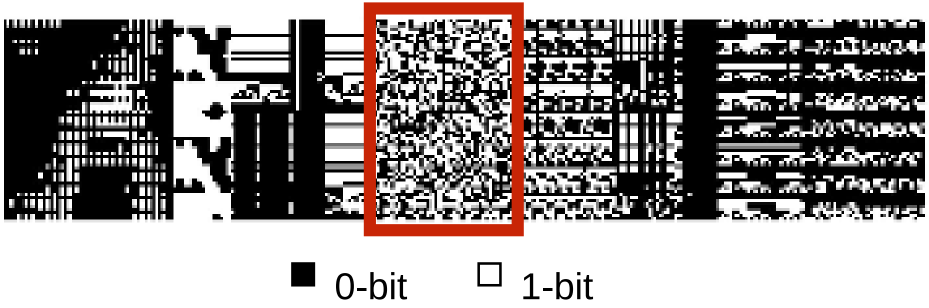
White-Box basic idea – Why?



- **Entropy attack**
  - Locate the unusual high entropy of the cryptographic key in a memory dump using sliding windows for example.

Shamir, van Someren: *Playing "Hide and Seek" with Stored Keys*. Financial Cryptography 1999

White-Box basic idea – Why?



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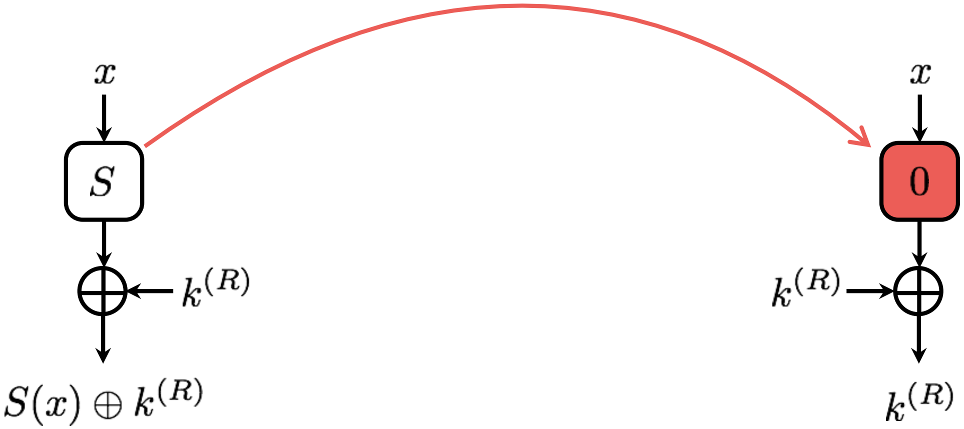

- **S-box blanking attack**
  - Locate the publicly defined S-boxes in the binary and overwrite it with all zeros such that $S(x)=0$ for any x.

Kerins, Kursawe: *A cautionary note on weak implementations of block ciphers*. *WISSec*, 2006

Security of WB solutions - Theory

White box can be seen as a form of code obfuscation

- It is known that obfuscation of **<u>any</u>** program is impossible

Barak, Goldreich, Impagliazzo, Rudich, Sahai, Vadhan, Yang. On the (im)possibility of obfuscating programs. In CRYPTO 2001

- Unknown if a (sub)family of white-box functions can be obfuscated
- If secure WB solution exists then this is protected (by definition!) to **all** *current* and *future* side-channel and fault attacks!

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Practice

- Only results known for symmetric crypto (all academic designs broken)
- Convert algorithms to sequence of LUTs
- Embed the secret key in the LUTs
- Obfuscate the LUTs by using encodings

WB Impossible?

No! “Ideal” WB AES implementation
One big lookup table → 2^{92} TB storage required

<u>Practical WB AES?</u>
Network of smaller tables: ≈ 700 kB
Encoding on intermediate values using ideas by Chow

Chow, P. A. Eisen, H. Johnson, and P. C. van Oorschot. White-box cryptography and an AES implementation, in SAC 2002.

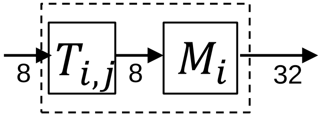
<u>Generic idea.</u>
Transform a cipher into a network of randomized key-instantiated look-up tables

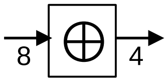
AES with look-up tables: example, Chow

- The key addition and S-box operations are merged into a single operation (8 bit $\rightarrow$ 8 bit table $\rightarrow$ 256 byte) $b_{i,j} = Sbox(a_{i,j} \oplus k_{i,j}) = T_{i,j}(a_{i,j})$
- To simplify: we omit ShiftRow operation
  - Corresponds to renumbering of indices
- The MixColumn operation can be split into four byte-to-32-bit (8 bit $\rightarrow$ 32 bit table $\rightarrow$ 1024 byte) operations:

$$c_j = M_0 T_{0,j}(a_{0,j}) \oplus M_1 T_{1,j}(a_{1,j}) \oplus M_2 T_{2,j}(a_{2,j}) \oplus M_3 T_{3,j}(a_{3,j})$$

- We can now implement a round by only using the following 2 types of lookup tables:





AES (Chow) with look-up tables + obfuscation

- Since S-boxes and matrix M are known, the key can easily be extracted from the lookup tables.
- **Solution**: obfuscating lookup tables by encoding their input and output.

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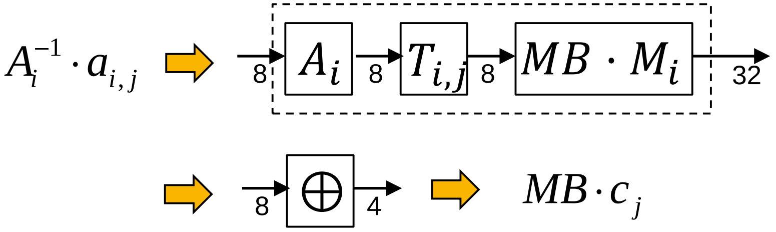
- **Solution**: obfuscating lookup tables by encoding their input and output.

- First, we apply **<u>linear</u>** encodings:
  - A_i: random 8-bit linear mapping
  - MB: random 32-bit linear mapping



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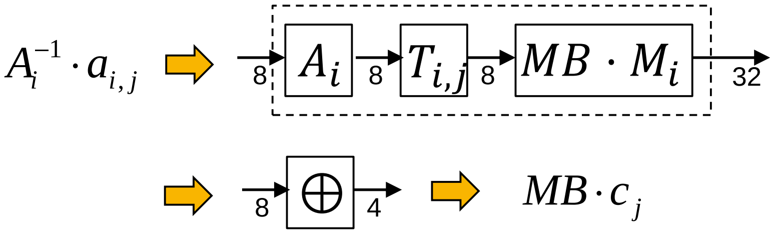


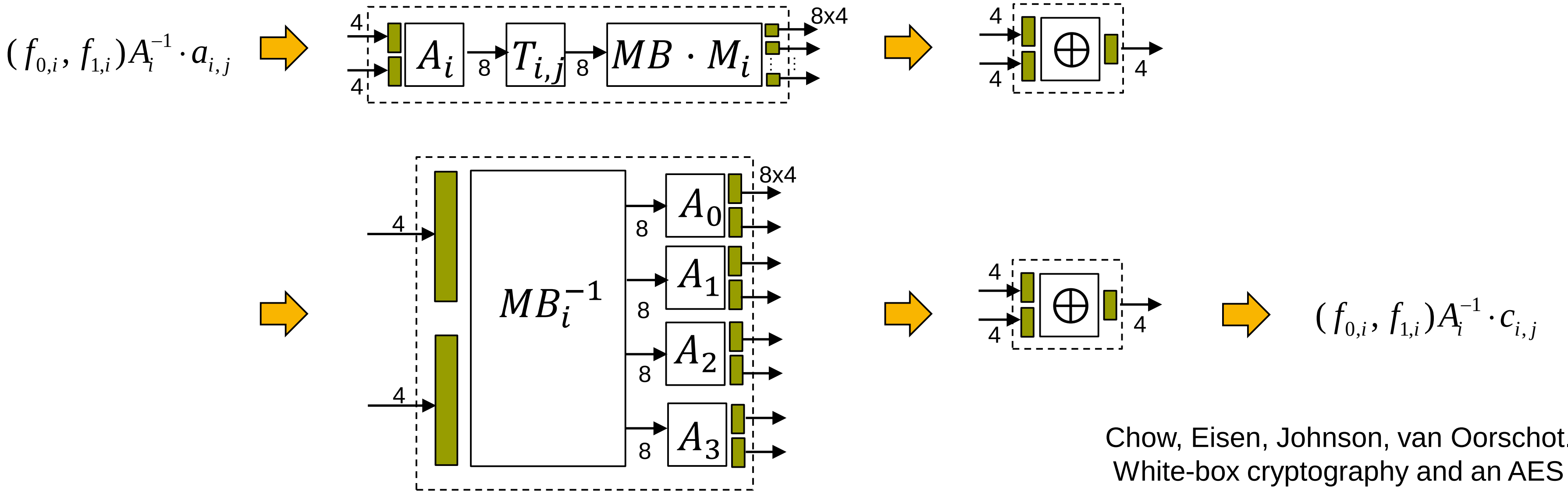
- Matrix MB is removed from the computed output columns. Implemented in the same way as the MixColumn operations

$$MB^{-1}(x) = MB_0^{-1}(x_0) \oplus MB_1^{-1}(x_1) \oplus MB_2^{-1}(x_2) \oplus MB_3^{-1}(x_3)$$

- Merge the MB_i-tables by the linear encodings used in the next round.

Obfuscation, obfuscation, obfuscation

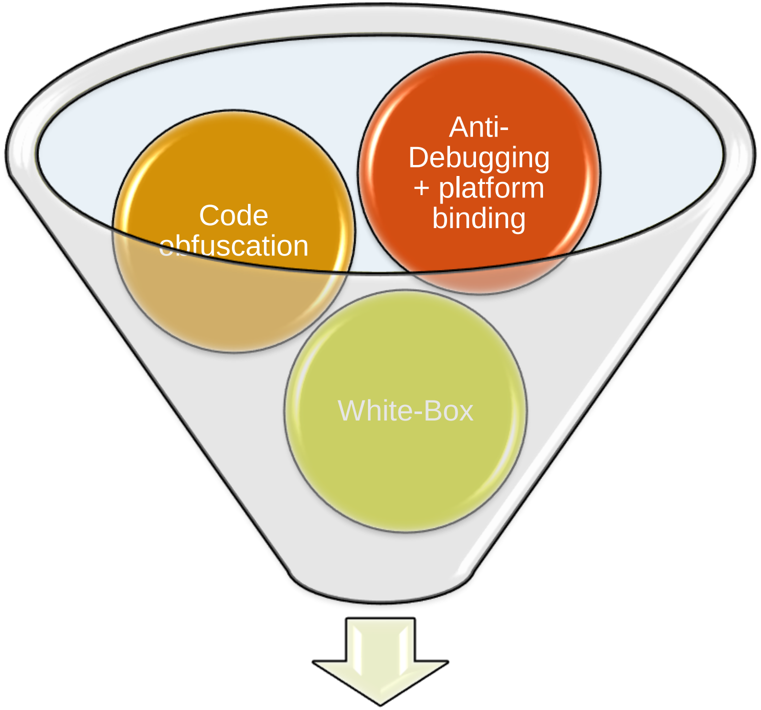
- In addition to the *linear* encodings, also add **non-linear** encodings f.



Chow, Eisen, Johnson, van Oorschot. White-box cryptography and an AES implementation. In SAC 2002.

Size of implementation: $\approx$ 700 kB

White box crypto - practice



White-Boxed implementation

In practice the white box is the most essential but a **small part** of the entire software implementation

- Strong code obfuscation
- Binary is “glued” to the environment
  - Prevent code-lifting
- Support for traitor tracing
- Mechanism for frequent updating

More details see the invited talk at EC 2016 *Engineering Code Obfuscation* by Christian Collberg

Effort and expertise required

Previous effort

Previous WB attacks were WB specific which means knowing

- the *encodings*
- which *cipher operations* are implemented by
- which (network of) *lookup tables*

Attack

1. time-consuming reverse-engineering of the code
2. identify which WB scheme is used + target the correct LUTs
3. apply an algebraic attack

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Attack

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Our approach

Assess the security of a WB implementation

✓ Automatically and very simply (see CHES challenge)

✓ Without knowledge of any implementation choices

→ only the algorithm itself

✓ Ignores all (attempts) at code-obfuscation

SOFTWARE TRACES

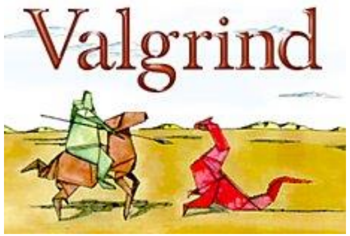
Tracing binaries

- Academic attacks are on open design
- In practice: what you get is a binary blob

Idea: create software traces using *dynamic binary instrumentation* tools

(→ visual representation → use traces to find correlation)

- Record all instructions and memory accesses.



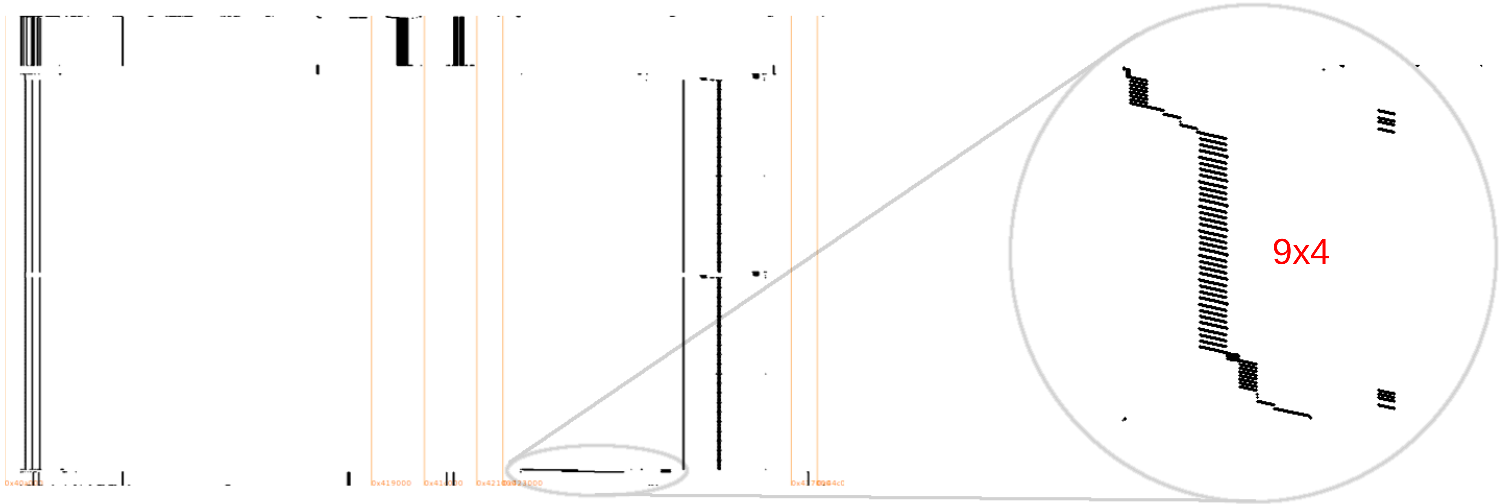
Examples of the tools we extended / modified

  - Intel PIN (x86, x86-64, Linux, Windows, Wine/Linux)
  - Valgrind (idem+ARM, Android)

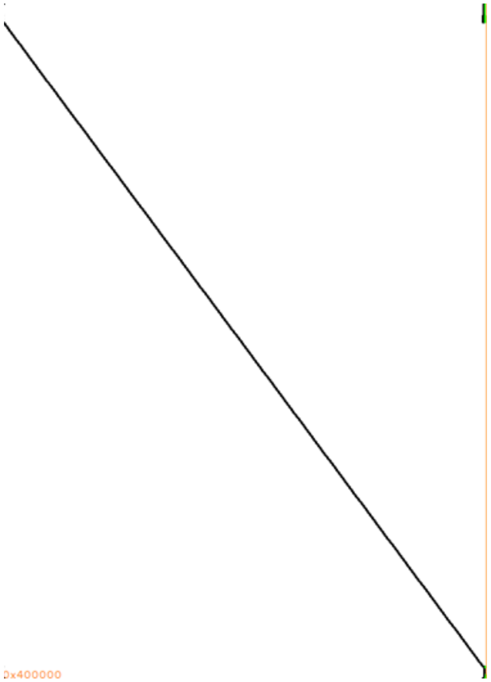
Trace visualization

Based on Ptra, an unreleased Quarkslab tool presented at SSTIC 2014

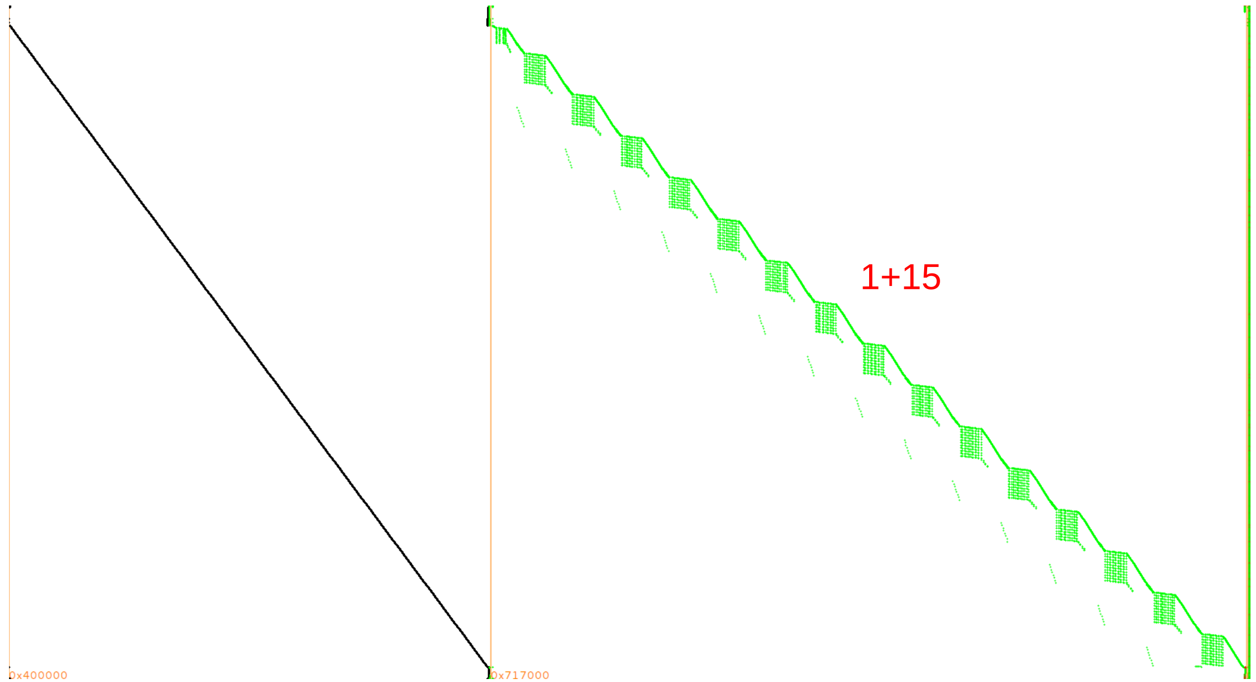
Visual crypto identification: code



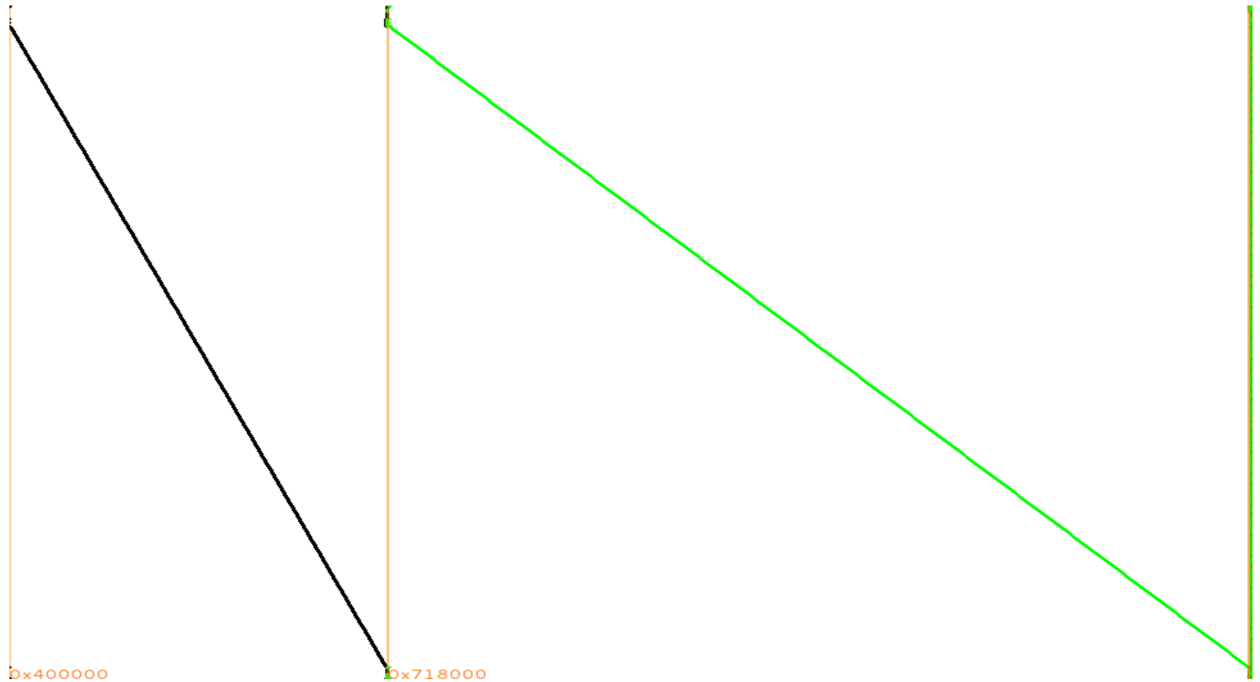
Visual crypto identification: code?



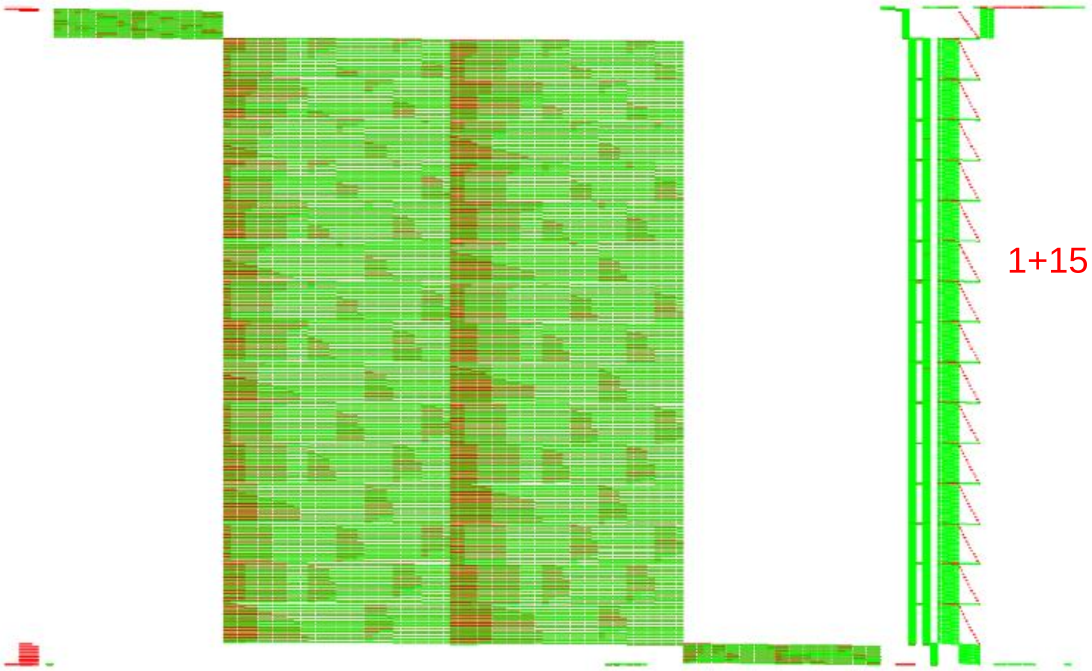
Visual crypto identification: code? data!



Visual crypto identification: code? data?



Visual crypto identification: stack!



Differential Power Analysis and friends

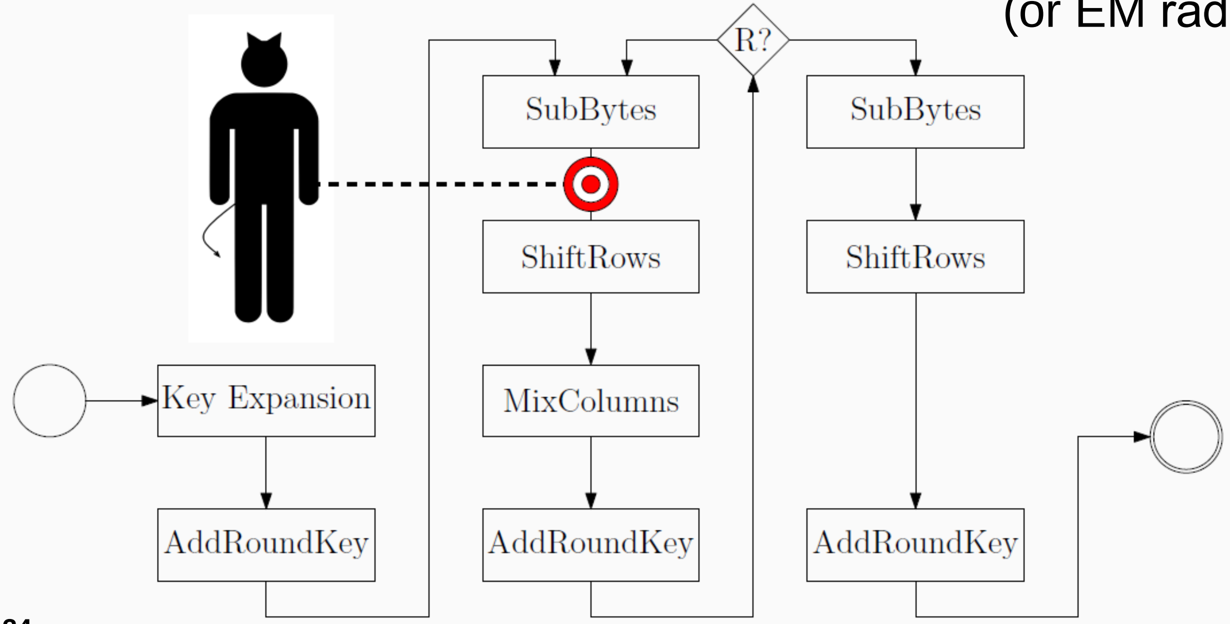
P. C. Kocher, J. Jaffe, and B. Jun: *Differential power analysis*. CRYPTO'99

Very powerful grey box attack!

Requirements

- known input or known output
- ability to trace power consumption (or EM radiations, or …)

For example in AES: $SubBytes(p \oplus \kappa)$



Differential Computation Analysis

Port the white-box to a smartcard and measure power consumption

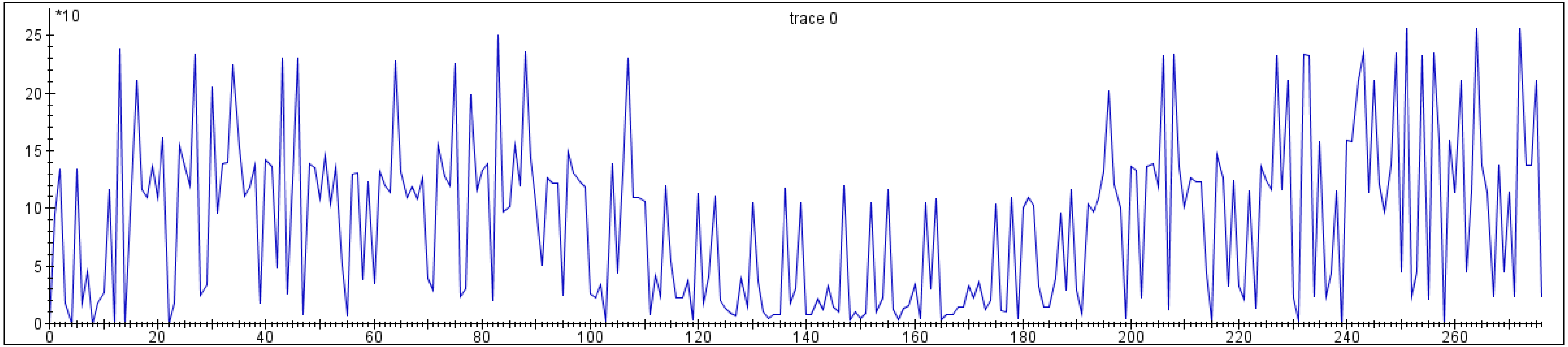
Differential Computation Analysis

~~Port the white-box to a smartcard and measure power consumption~~

Make pseudo power traces from our software execution traces

→ this are lists of memory accesses / data + stack writes / …

E.g. build a trace of all 8-bit data reads:

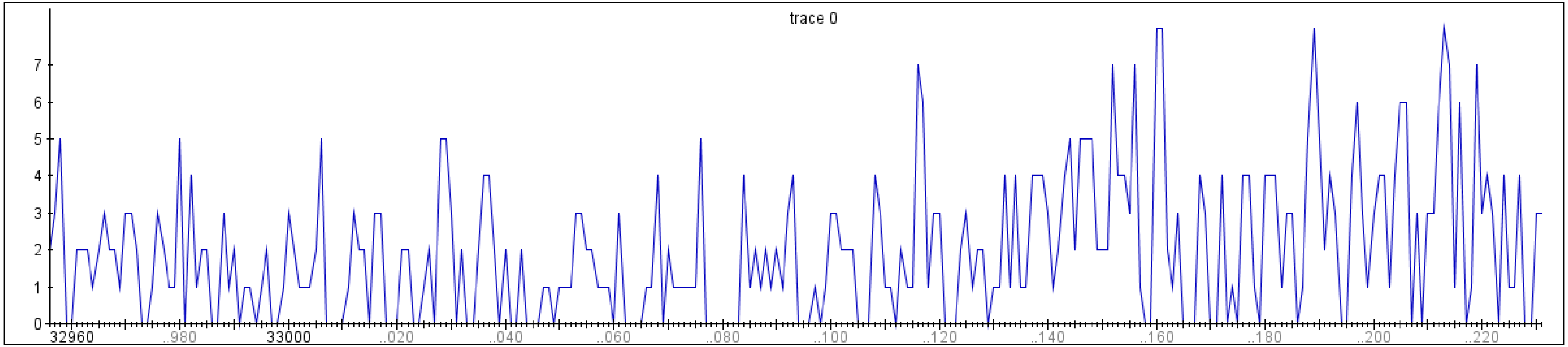


→ 256 possible discrete values

Differential Computation Analysis

256 possible discrete values but bit values dominated by the MSB

→ Build Hamming weight traces?



→ 8 possible discrete values

That works but we can do better…

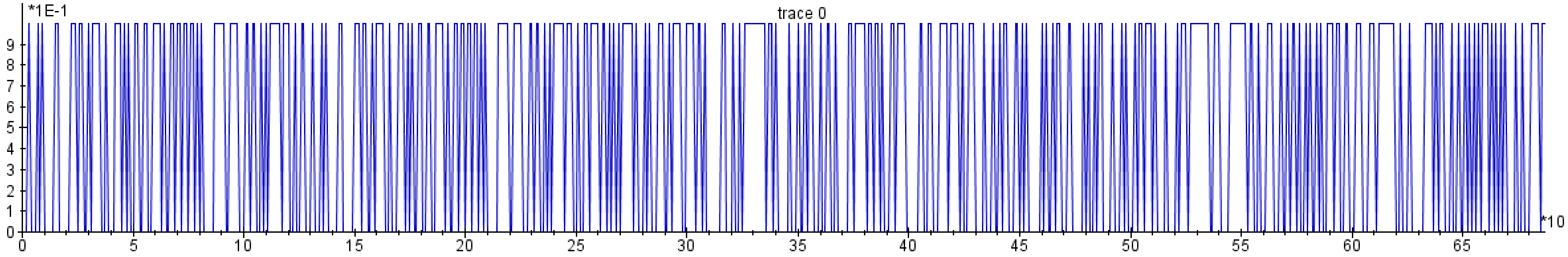
recall: Hamming weight was a **hardware model** for combined bit leaks

Differential Computation Analysis

Each bit of those bytes is equally important

address bits represent a different way to partition the look-up tables

→ Serialize bytes in a succession of bits



→ 2 possible discrete values: 0's and 1's

DCA: DPA on software traces

HW analogue: this is like probing each bus-line individually ***without any error***

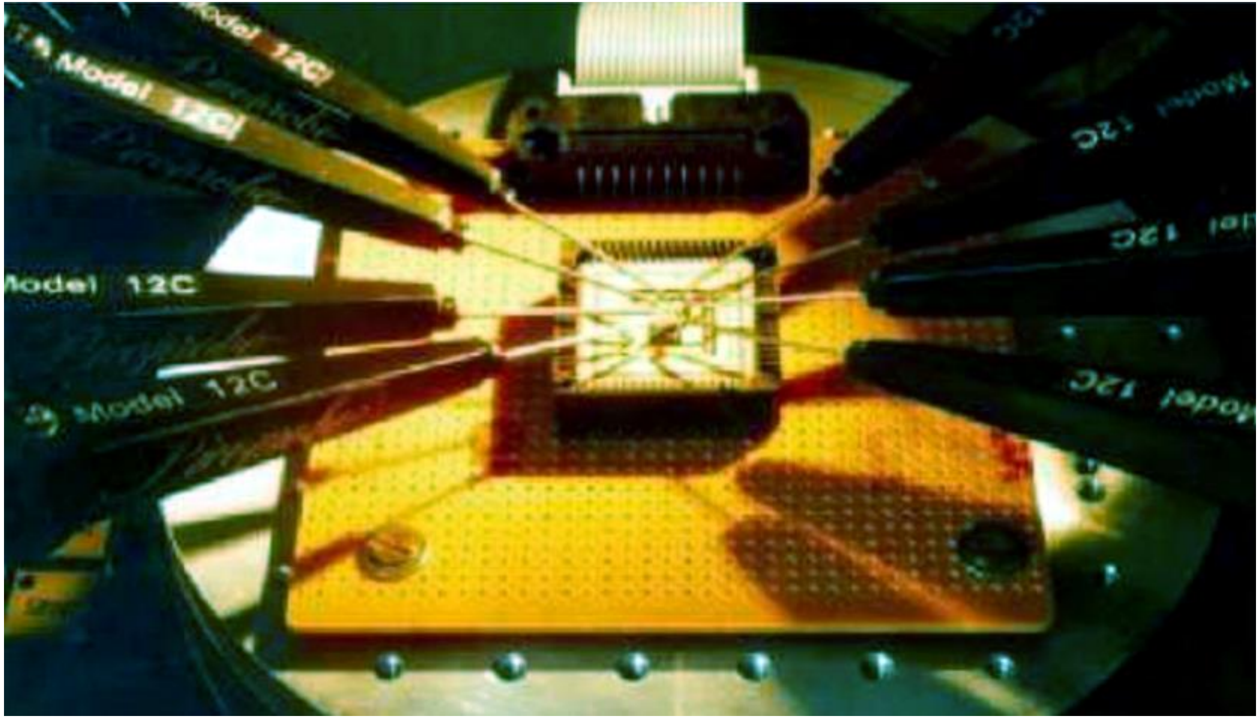


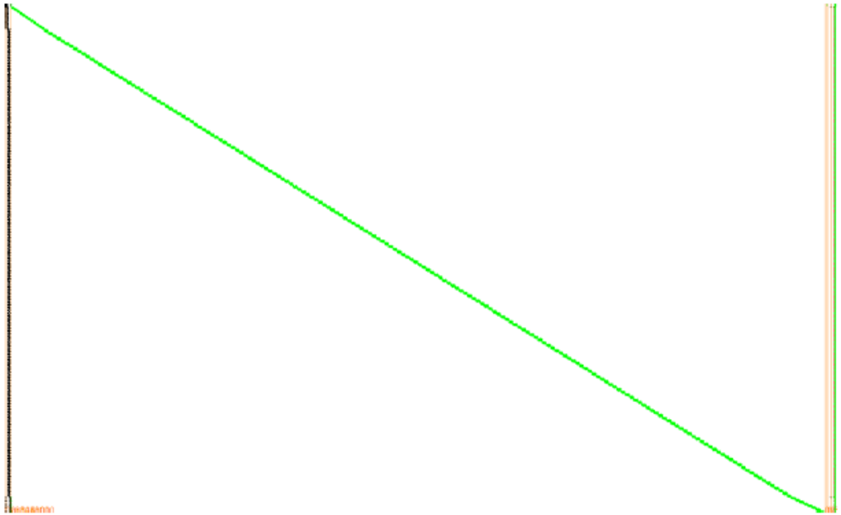
Image source: Brightsight

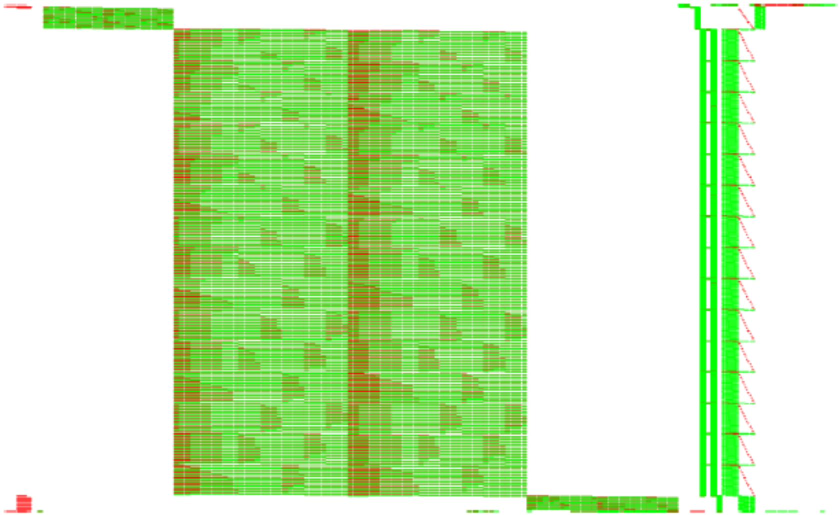
Results

WB implementations should not leak any side-channel information (by definition of the WB attack model): let's check!

WB implementation	Algorithm	#traces
Wyseur challenge, 2007		
Hack.lu challenge, 2009		
SSTIC challenge, 2012		
Klinec implementation, 2013		

Wyseur challenge





Chow+: Chow-based plus personal improvements by Brecht Wyseur

Chow, Eisen, Johnson, van Oorschot. A white-box DES implementation for DRM applications. In Security and Privacy in Digital Rights Management, 2003.
E. Link and W. D. Neumann. Clarifying obfuscation: Improving the security of white-box DES. In International Symposium on Information Technology: Coding and Computing (ITCC 2005)

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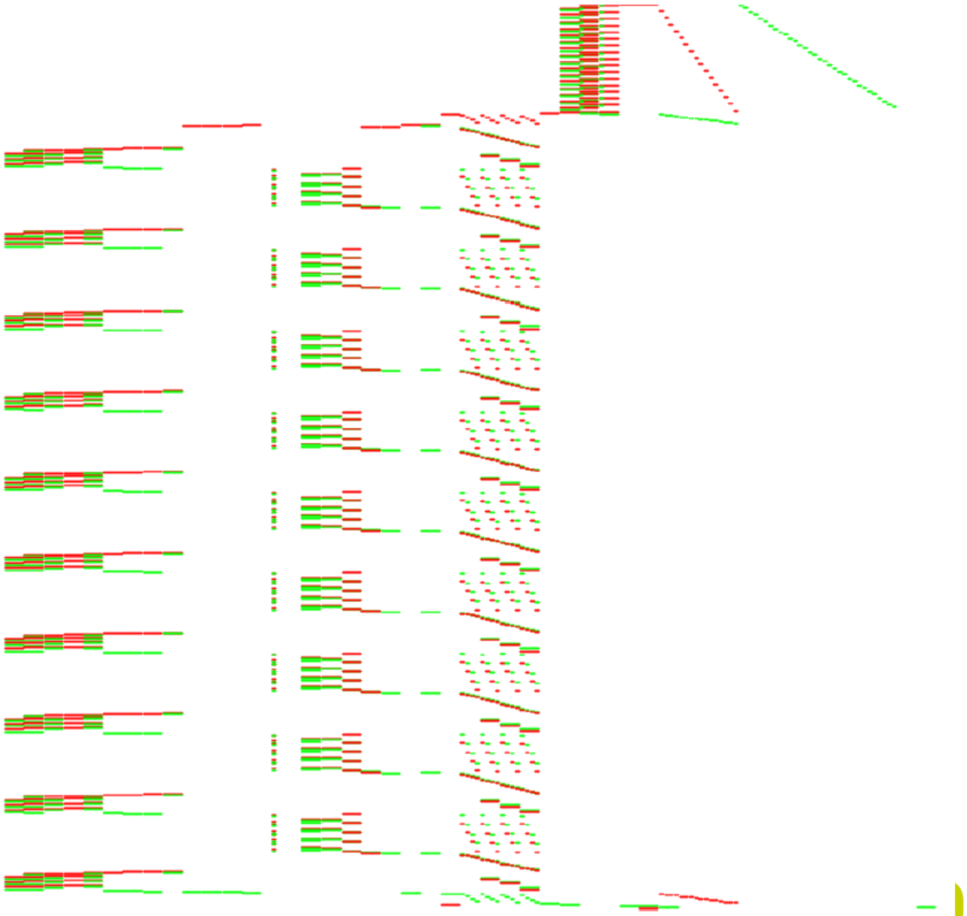
Hack.lu challenge

Zoom on the stack



- ✓ AES-128
- ✓ Very easy to break
  (designed for a one-day challenge)

Results

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Klinec implementation, 2013		

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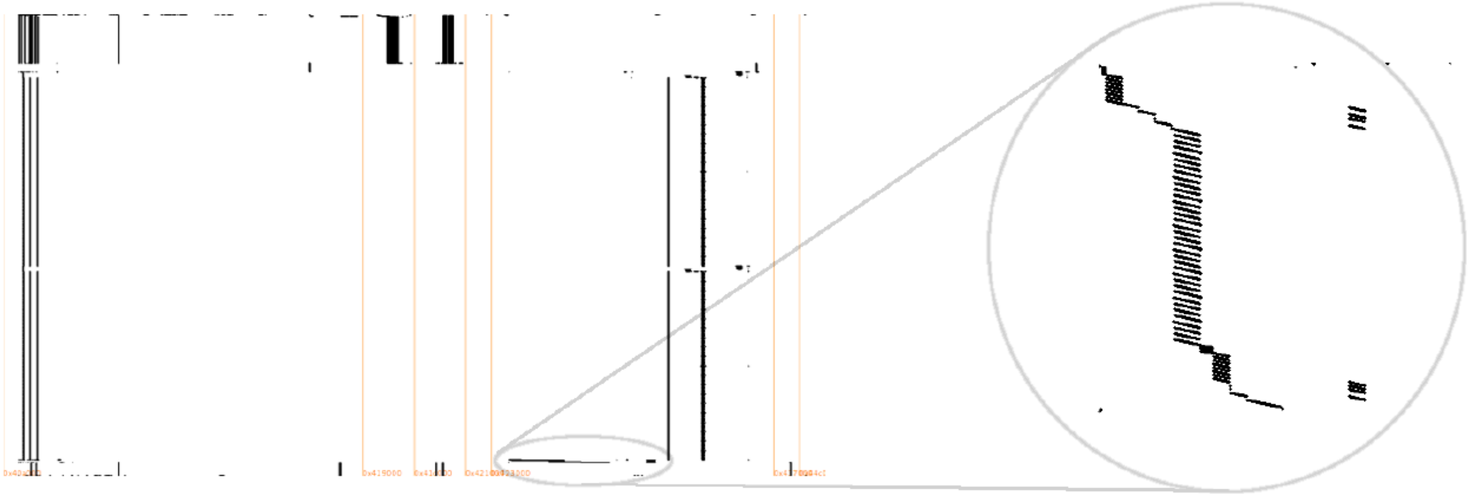
Klinec implementation, 2013		

Klinec



- AES using Karroumi’s approach (using dual ciphers)
- More difficult, not all correct key bytes are #1

M. Karroumi. Protecting white-box AES with dual ciphers. In ICISC 2011

Klinec

- Balanced encodings?
  - It may become the *least* candidate, this is still standing out!

target bit	key byte 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	1	256	255	256	255	256	253	1	256	256	239	256	1	1	1	255
1	1	256	256	256	1	255	256	1	1	5	1	256	1	1	1	1
2	256	1	255	256	1	256	226	256	256	256	1	256	22	1	256	256
3	256	255	251	1	1	1	254	1	1	256	256	253	254	256	255	256
4	256	256	74	256	256	256	255	256	254	256	256	256	1	1	256	1
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	50	256	253	1	251	256	253	1	256	256
6	254	1	1	256	254	256	248	256	252	256	1	14	255	256	250	1
7	1	256	1	1	252	256	253	256	256	255	256	1	251	1	254	1
All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

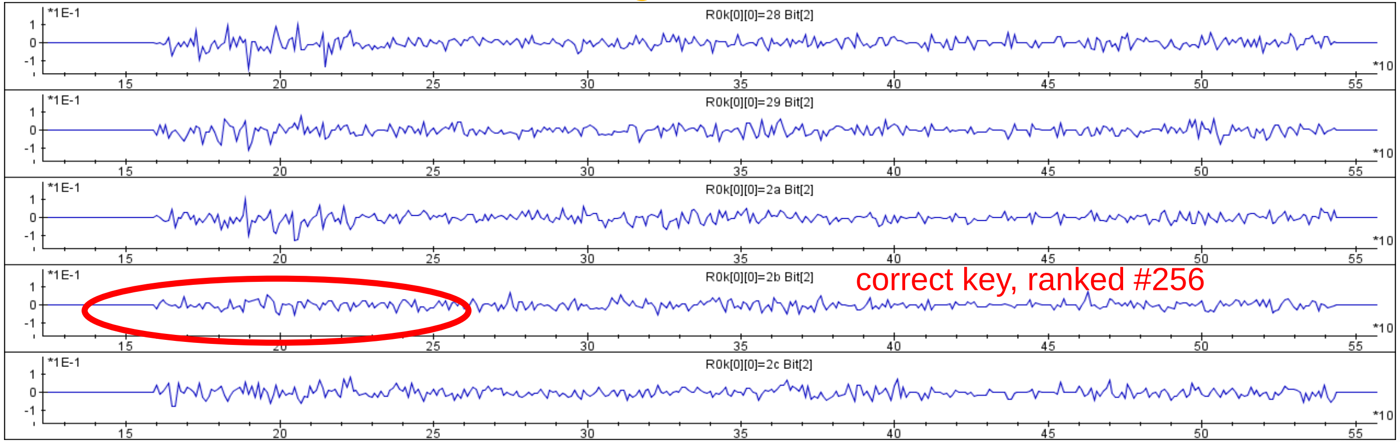


Table 1. DCA ranking for a Karroumi white-box implementation when targeting the output of the *SubBytes* step in the first round based on the least significant address byte on memory reads.

target bit \ key byte	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	1	256	255	256	255	256	253	1	256	256	239	256	1	1	1	255
1	1	256	256	256	1	255	256	1	1	5	1	256	1	1	1	1
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4	256	256	74	256	256	256	255	256	254	256	256	256	1	1	256	1
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6	254	1	1	256	254	256	248	256	252	256	1	14	255	256	250	1
7	1	256	1	1	252	256	253	256	256	255	256	1	251	1	254	1
All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 2. DCA ranking for a Karroumi white-box implementation when targeting the output of the multiplicative inversion inside the *SubBytes* step in the first round based on the least significant address byte on memory reads.

target bit \ key byte	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	256	256	1	1	1	256	256	256	254	1	1	1	255	256	256	1
1	1	1	253	1	1	256	249	256	256	256	226	1	254	256	256	256
2	256	256	1	1	255	256	256	256	251	1	255	256	1	1	254	256
3	254	1	69	1	1	1	1	1	252	256	1	256	1	256	256	256
4	254	1	255	256	256	1	255	256	1	1	256	256	238	256	253	256
5	254	256	250	1	241	256	255	3	1	1	256	256	231	256	208	254
6	256	256	256	256	233	256	1	256	1	1	256	256	1	1	241	1
7	63	256	1	256	1	255	231	256	255	1	255	256	255	1	1	1
All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Results

WB implementations should not leak any side-channel information (by definition of the WB attack model): let's check!

WB implementation	Algorithm	#traces
Wyseur challenge, 2007	DES (Chow+)	65
Hack.lu challenge, 2009	AES (Chow)	16 (no encodings)
SSTIC challenge, 2012	DES	16 (no encodings)
Klinec implementation, 2013	AES (Karroumi, dual ciphers)	2000 → 500

A lot of potential for follow-up work!

Use the extended research results from the grey box world

Countermeasures

- Use random masks / delays → white-box model allows to disable entropy source
- Use static random data within the white-box itself?
- Use ideas from threshold implementation? [TI]
- Better DBI framework detection mechanisms
- DCA might fail when using large encodings → larger LUTs → algebraic attacks still work

[TI] S. Nikova, C. Rechberger, and V. Rijmen. Threshold implementations against side-channel attacks and glitches. In Information and Communications Security, 2006.

Other attacks

Riscure has proven software fault attacks (DFA) work too [RISCURE].

Once there are countermeasures against DCA and DFA, can we use any of the other known advanced SCA in this setting?

[RISCURE] E. S. Gonzalez, C. Mune, Job de Haas: Unboxing the White-Box: Practical Attacks Against Obfuscated Ciphers. Black Hat Europe 2015.

Side-Channel Marvels

SCA-related projects

https://github.com/SideChannelMarvels

Any help to complete our collection of open whitebox challenges and attacks or to improve our tools is highly appreciated!

Deadpool C ★ 25 forks 6

Repository of various public white-box cryptographic implementations and their practical attacks.

Updated 10 days ago

Tracer C++ ★ 25 forks 7

Set of Dynamic Binary Instrumentation and visualization tools for execution traces.

Updated on Apr 24

JeanGrey Python ★ 0 forks 0

A tool to perform differential fault analysis attacks (DFA).

Updated on Apr 18

Orka ★ 4 forks 1

Repository of the official Docker image for SideChannelMarvels.

Updated on Apr 14

Daredevil C++ ★ 10 forks 4

A tool to perform (higher-order) correlation power analysis attacks (CPA).

Updated on Apr 11

Conclusions

- Software-only solutions are becoming more popular
  - white-box crypto
- Traditional (DRM) and new use-cases HCE (payment, transit, …)
- Level of security / maturity of many (all?) WB schemes is questionable
  - Open problem to construct asymmetric WB crypto
  - Industry keeps design secret
- DCA is an automated attack which can be carried out without any expertise
  - Counterpart of the DPA from the crypto HW community
- This hopefully sparks more interest in both cryptographic and cryptanalytic white-box research!

References

- Joppe W. Bos, Charles Hubain, Wil Michiels, and Philippe Teuwen: *Differential Computation Analysis: Hiding your White-Box Designs is Not Enough*. CHES 2016.
- Eloi Sanfelix Gonzalez, Cristofaro Mune, Job de Haas: *Unboxing the White-Box: Practical Attacks Against Obfuscated Ciphers*. Black Hat Europe 2015.

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