Security in Embedded Networks

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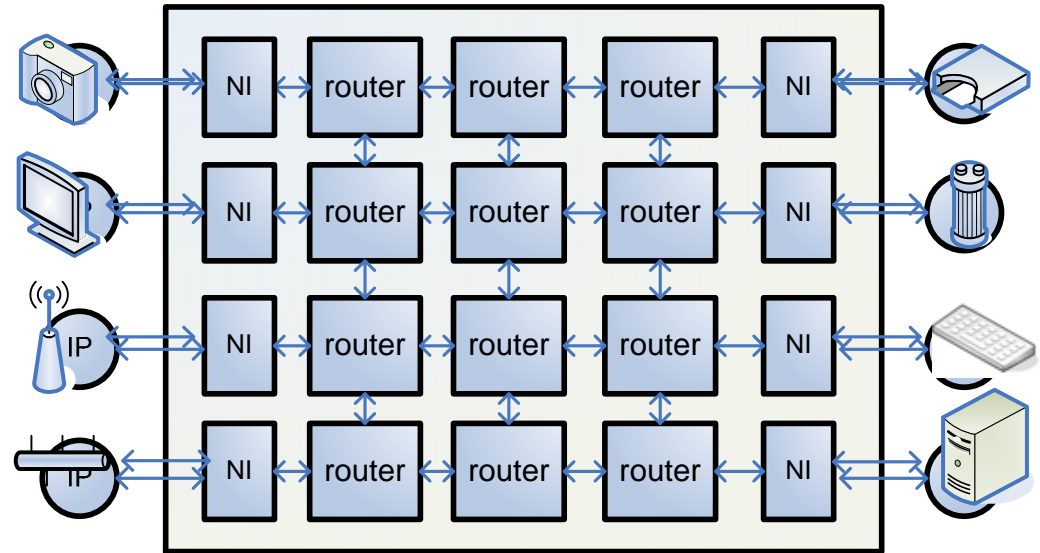
Michel Gillet

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Background: Embedded Networks

- EN interconnects IPs

- IPs are low-level devices provided by different vendors

- Special IP – CCM

  - Initialization

  - Reconfiguration

- Expected EN configuration

  - IPs ~ 20, Routers ~ 8

  - ~ 4 ports per routers

  - Link speed ~ 1-5Gb/s

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Summary of the previous report

- We made a literature study and analysis of current security situation in EN

- We identified the closest network types for EN and made an comparative analysis of their features

- We analyzed attacks and security solutions for these networks

- First thoughts were made about KM and Authentication

- We had an open question: Has EN the same vulnerabilities as considered networks?

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Answering the question

Has Embedded Networks the same vulnerabilities?

- **YES**

- Which vulnerabilities?

- What is need to be done to fix them?

- Cases
    - IP compromised
    - Router compromised
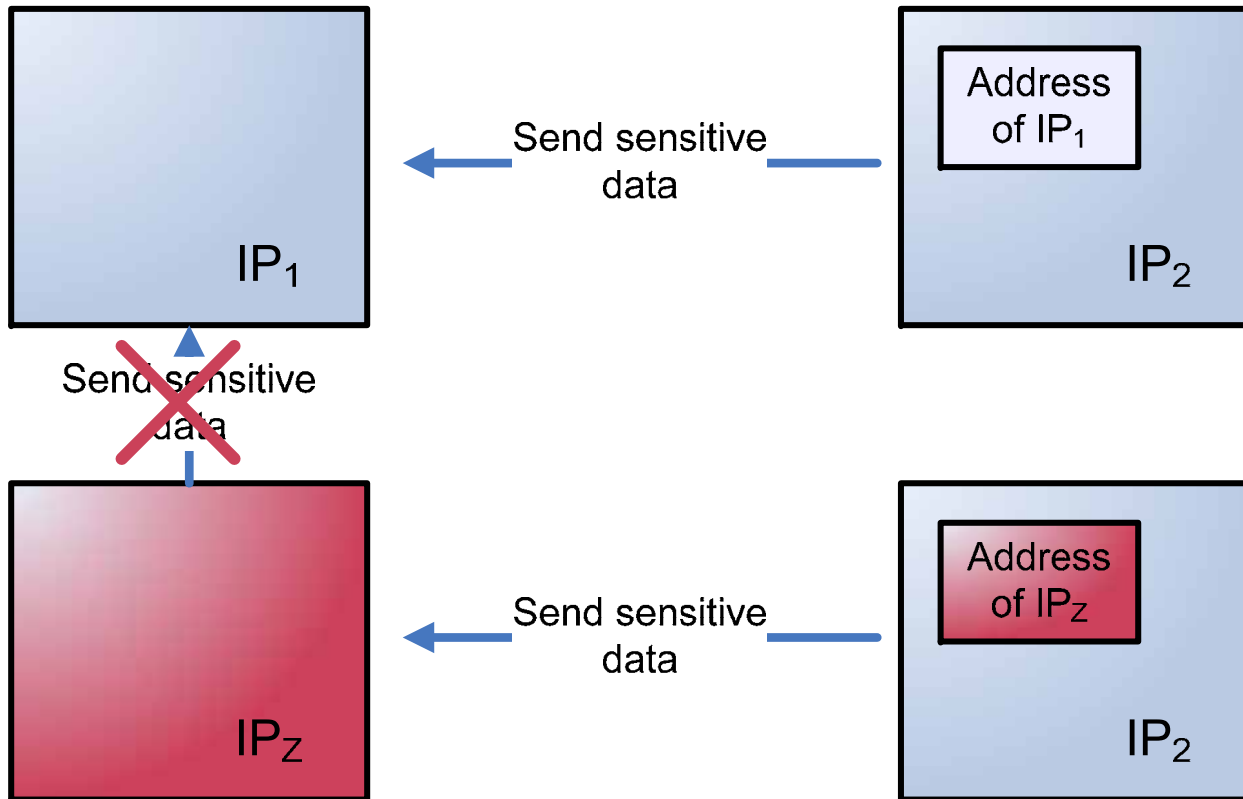
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IP vulnerabilities

- IP contains software
    - uploading or fetching from central memory
    - interaction with other application level software

- IP is purely hardware
    - configuration protocol usage

- In case if IP is compromised
    - Misbehavior
    - M-i-t-M
    - DOS attacks
        - Livelocks, deadlocks, flooding

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Example - flooding

IP₁ → Send sync → IP₂ (T = 10ms)

IP₁ ← Send sync ← IP₂

IP₁ → Send sync → IP₂ (T = 1ns)

IP₁ ← Send sync ← IP₂

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Example – Man in the Middle

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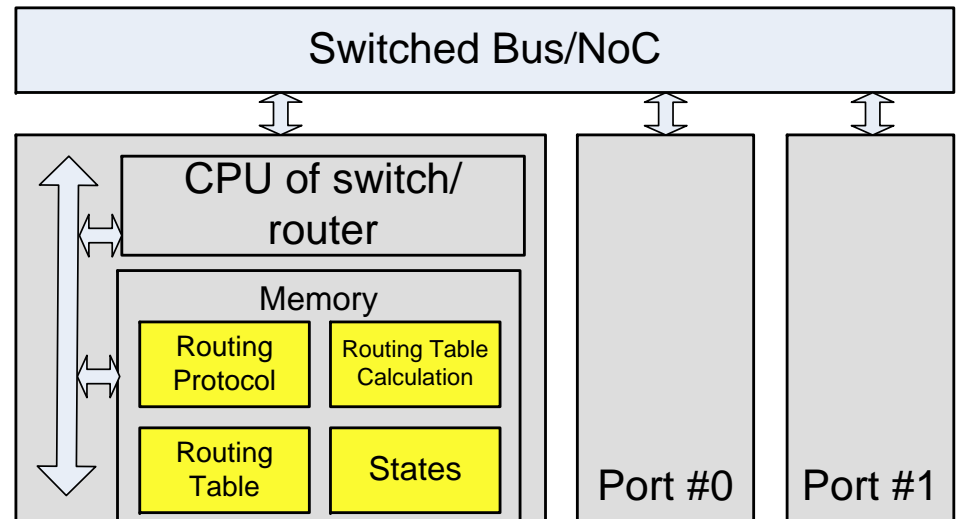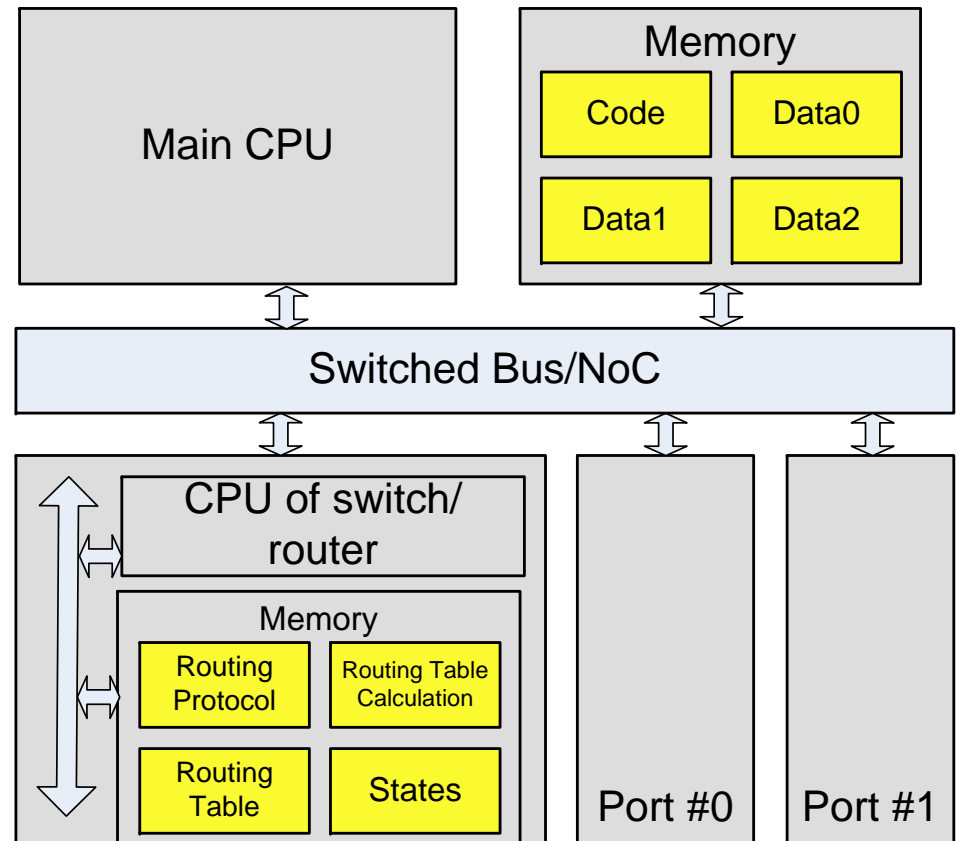
Compromised router

- By external protocols
  - configure protocol to set routing table
  - upload firmware protocol
  - upload some content in its execution memory

Switched Bus/NoC		
CPU of switch/router		
Memory	Port #0	Port #1

Routing Protocol

Routing Table Calculation

Routing Table

States

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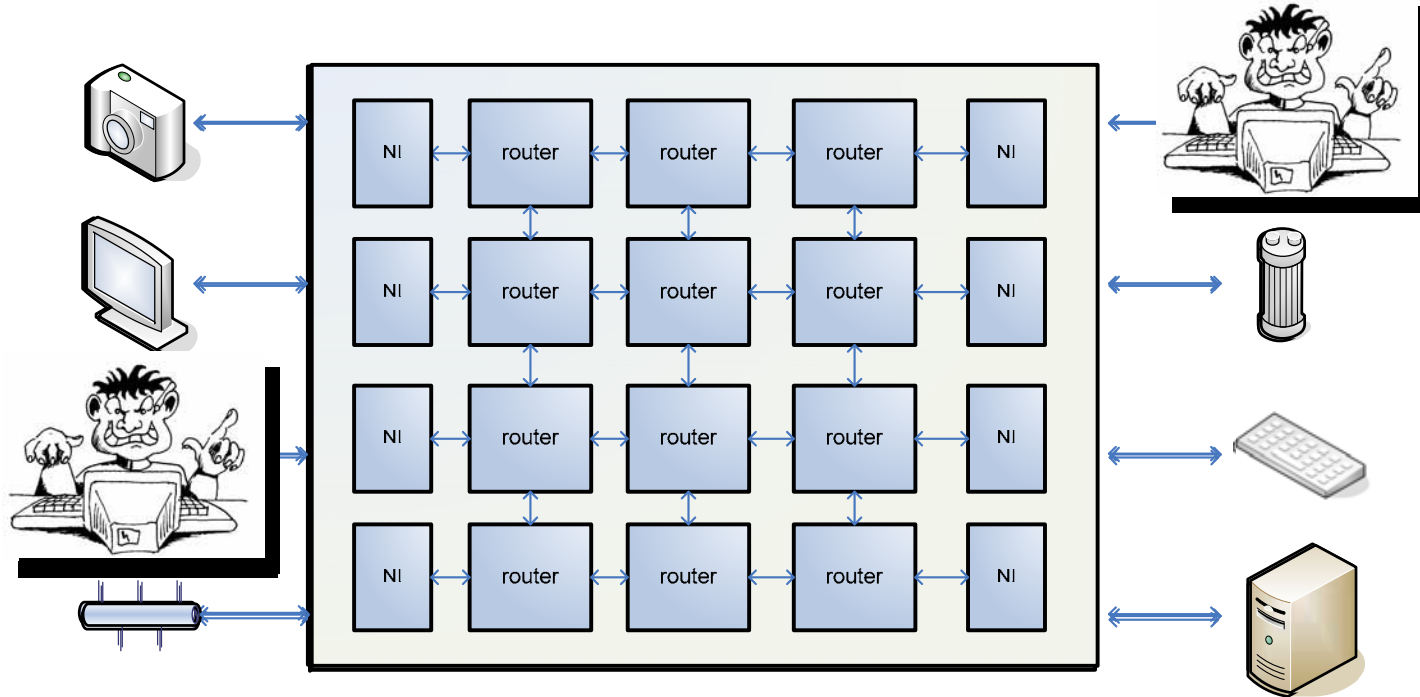
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Compromised router - 2

- By internal software
  - gain access to some operation on the bus
  - change routing table, states
  - code executed by the CPU of the router

Main CPU	Memory
	Code · Data0 · Data1 · Data2

Switched Bus/NoC

CPU of switch/router

Memory
- Routing Protocol
- Routing Table Calculation
- Routing Table
- States

Port #0 · Port #1

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More possibilities for the attacks

- Some embedded networks have a link to the external word
  - USB-like connector going out of the mobile device
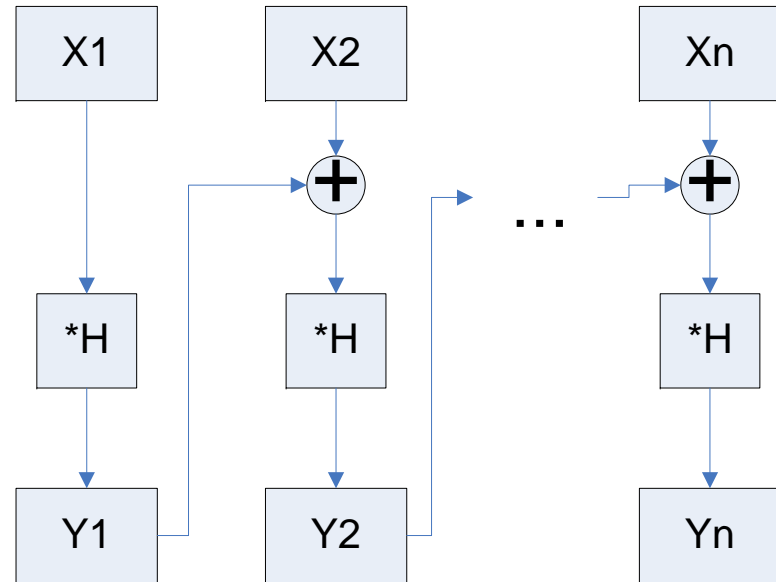 - Wireless extension of the network

Message authentication

Message Authentication

- We need to authenticate about 128 bits

- Speed should be about 2-4Gbits/s

- Complexity of the hardware implementation should be reasonable

  - CBC-based MACs

  - HMACs

  - Carter-Wegman MACs

  - CRC-based MAC

  - Block cipher encryption

    - AES well-known cipher

    - SHA Block size and key size should be minimal

  - UMAC, PMAC

    - They all come to block encryption

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Message Authentication – 3

- GHASH

  by D.McGrew and J. Viega.

  - $X + Y$ – addition over 2^w
  - $X * Y$ – multiplication over 2^w

$$Y1 = X1\ *H \bmod 2^w$$

$$Y1 = X1\ *H \bmod 2^w\ \text{xor}\ K$$

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Conclusions

Conclusions

- Embedded network does have secure vulnerabilities
  - Parts of the network can be compromised
  - Compromised parts can make an successful attacks

- Security should be taken into account during the design phase
  - Proper security solutions should be found for
    - Message authentication
    - Key management
    - Encryption

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Conclusions - 2

- Complex security analysis should be done for the network, but also for the endpoints

"*Using encryption on the Internet is the equivalent of arranging an armored car to deliver credit card information from someone living in a cardboard box to someone living on a park bench.*"

                    - Gene Spafford

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Thank You & Questions

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