



# **Modmob tools and tricks**

## ***Using cheap tools and tricks to attack mobile devices in practice***

By Sébastien Dudek

Troopers - NGI

March 18th 2019  
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# About me



- Sébastien Dudek (@FIUxluS)
- Working at Synacktiv: pentests, red team, audits, vuln researches
- Likes radio and hardware
- And to confront theory vs. practice
- First time at Troopers =)!



# This presentation



- Few reminders:
  - talk about interception techniques in practice
  - existing tools
- Our contribution:
  - feedbacks of our tests (mobile phones, intercoms, cars...)
  - tools we made (Modmobmap and Modmobjam);
  - some cheap tricks;
  - some hardware attacks.

+ meet us tomorrow at Telco Security day → Modmob tools  
internals, updates, and more! ;)

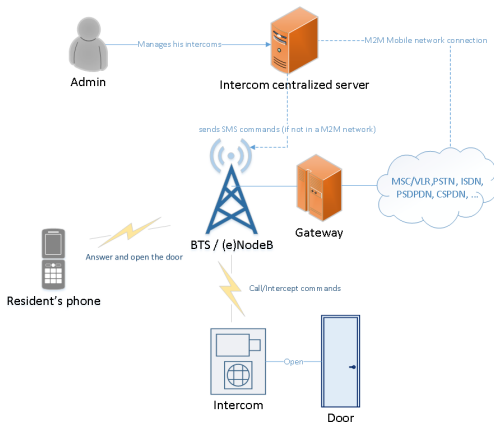
# Introduction



- Mobile network → more than 30 years
  - 1G: analogic, bandwidth depending on the system (30 kHz for AMPS, 25 kHz for TACS, etc.);
  - 2G: FDMA (25 MHz) in combination with TDMA (in Europe);
  - 3G: WCDMA fixed to 5 MHz, 10-20 MHz with carrier aggregation
  - 4G: OFDMA (downlink) and SC-FDMA (uplink), min. 1.4 MHz bandwidth (most common 5 MHz), CA up to 640 MHz (3GPP release 13)
- Evolution of modulation techniques and encoding → better capacity, growth services...
- Current use of the mobile network:
  - intercoms, delivery pick-up stations;
  - electric counters;
  - cameras, cars...



# Use of mobile network with intercoms

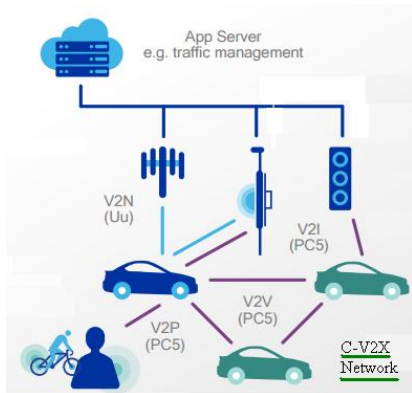


Pretty the same with connected cars!

# 5G is coming...



- LTE-A(dvanced)++ → 10 Gbps - 100 Gbps theoretically, broader spectrum
- Targets IoT ecosystem
- C-V2X (Vehicle-to-Everything):
  - infrastructures (V2I);
  - networks (V2N);
  - vehicle (V2V);
  - pedestrians (V2P);
  - babies (V2B)?...



source: [blog.co-star.co.uk](http://blog.co-star.co.uk)

# Security of communications



- 2G, 3G and 4G technologies are more accessible → OpenBTS/OsmoBTS/YateBTS, OpenBTS-UMTS, srsLTE, Amarisoft LTE, ...
- Publications exist on A5/1 about weaknesses
- GPRS, 3G and 4G use stronger ciphering algorithms:
  - KASUMI (UEA-1 algorithm);
  - Snow-3G (UE-2), second algorithm for UMTS and used for LTE (128-EEA1);
  - AES 128 bits (128-EEA2) in addition to Snow-3G for LTE.

# Security of communications (2)

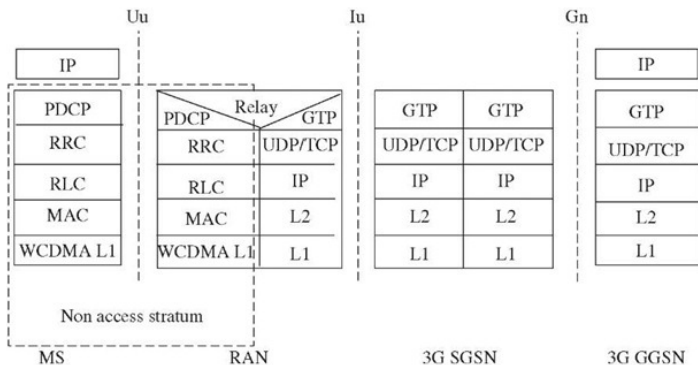


	GSM	3G	4G
Client authentication	YES	YES	YES
Network authentication	NO	Only if USIM is used (not SIM)	YES
Signaling integrity	NO	YES	YES
Encryption	A5/1	KASUMI   SNOW-3G	SNOW-3G   AES   ZUC...

→ Exception exist depending on baseband implementation

# Targets in GPRS, UMTS and LTE exchanged data

IP → handled by Packet Data Convergence Protocol...



source: what-when-how.com



# 1 Requirements

2 Attracting mobile devices

3 Capturing mobile data of a famous intercom in France

4 Hard way

5 Other interesting targets

6 Other interesting targets

7 The futur

8 conclusion

# Software-Defined radio



To interface to devices using the mobile network:

Peripheral	Frequency	Max. Sampling CAN/CNA (rate, width)	Supported software	Frequency stability	TX/RX Channels	Price
USRP B2x0	70 Mhz - 6 GHz	61.44 Msps, 12 bits	- 2G: OpenBTS and OsmoTRX - 3G: OpenBTS-UMTS - 4G: srsLTE - 5G: OpenAirInterface	$\pm 2$ ppm without GPSDO	- B200: 1 Tx + 1 Rx - B210: 2 Tx + 2 Rx	~800€ min.
BladeRF 1.x	300 MHz – 3.8 GHz	40 Msps, 12 bits	- 2G: YateBTS - 4G: srsLTE - 5G: OpenAirInterface	$\pm 1$ ppm	1 Tx + 1 Rx	~400€ min.
LimeSDR	100 kHz- 3.8 GHz	61.44 Msps, 12 bits	- 2G: OpenBTS with OsmoTRX - 4G: srsLTE - 5G: OpenAirInterface	$\pm 2.5$ ppm	2 Tx + 2 Rx	~300€ min.
XTRX	30 MHz - 3.7 GHz	120 Msps SISO / 90 Mss MIMO, 12 bits	- 2G: OpenBTS with OsmoTRX (beta)	$\pm 0.5$ ppm with GPS / $\pm 0.01$ ppm with GPS lock	2 Tx + 2 Rx	~260€ min.

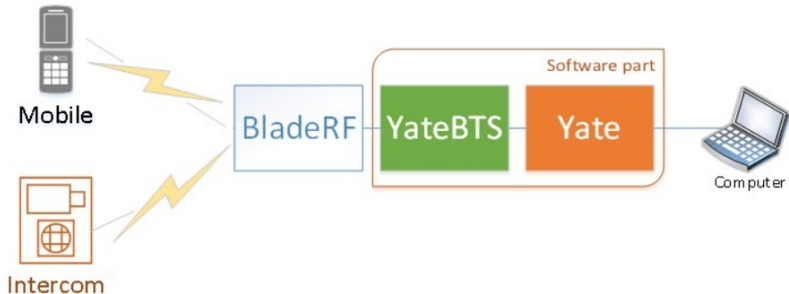
# Alternatives



- sysmoBTS for GSM and GPRS
- sysmoNITB for 3G/LTE → requires a custom/vulnerable femtocell
- LTE LabKit by Yate for LTE;
- Amarisoft LTE → relevant and, as a great core network implementation and includes Cat-NB1/NB2 and others...
- commercial version of srsLTE including Cat-NB1
- specialised equipments like CMU200 → helped some researchers to find vulns in CDMA baseband stacks ;)



# Set-up: architecture example with bladeRF



Alternative: a limeSDR mini + osmoBTS (and other osmo\* components) for almost 100€ min.

# Enabling GPRS on YateBTS



As explained on YateBTS Wiki: edit the *ybts.conf* file

```
...  
[gprs]  
Enable=yes  
...
```

for NGI invitation and information And configure the Gateway GPRS Support Node section to handle exchange: GPRS ↔ Internet

```
...  
[ggsn]  
DNS=8.8.8.8 8.8.4.4 ; its preferable to use your own servers for client side attacks  
IP.MaxPacketSize=1520  
IP.ReuseTimeout=180  
IP.TossDuplicatePackets=no  
Logfile.Name=/tmp/sgsn.log  
MS.IP.Base=192.168.99.1  
MS.IP.MaxCount=254  
TunName=sgsntun  
...
```

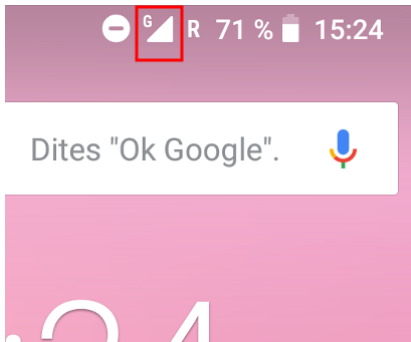
# Testing it



Don't forget to forward traffic from the internal network:

```
# echo 1 > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/ip_forward  
# iptables -A POSTROUTING -t nat -s 192.168.99.0/24 ! -d 192.168.99.0/24 -j MASQUERADE
```

And we are connected in GPRS (using a Nexus 5X phone):





- 1 Requirements
- 2 Attracting mobile devices**
- 3 Capturing mobile data of a famous intercom in France
- 4 Hard way
- 5 Other interesting targets
- 6 Other interesting targets
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# Possible ways



- Mobile devices always look for better signal reception
- Generally there is > 1 mobile stack
- Few tricks to consider:
  - use of custom (U)SIM card;
  - Faraday shield isolation;
  - downgrade attacks;

We'll see how to revisit it with cheap equipments + some style ;)

# Method 1: Custom SIM/USIM cards



- Prepaid SIM/USIM card in some cases
  - Or custom SIM/USIM card from **sysmocom** for example
- Make the fake BTS/(e)NodeB act as a legit BTS



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## Caution

Becaution with PIN auto-typing → use a SIMtrace tool to get the typed PIN

# Program sysmoUSIM cards



- Could be entirely configured → PySIM and sysmo-usim-utils
- Configure secrets:
  - Ki (subscriber key);
  - OP/c (Operator Variant Algorithm Configuration field);
  - and MCC/MNC to avoid roaming forcing on the User Equipment (UE).

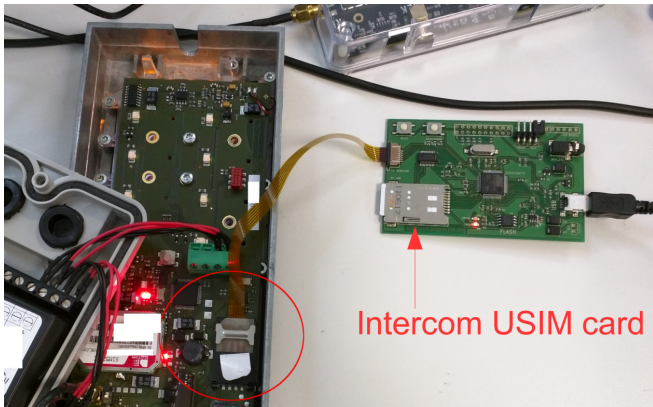
```
$ sudo python pySim-prog.py -p0 -t sysmoUSIM-SJS1 -a 50024782 -x 001 -y 01 -i  
9017000000***** -s 89882110000002***** [...]  
> Ki : 6abb9ae663f9889eddaae298cdcb4ec6  
> OPC : 074a3a73ed3c54e1960e9e5732ff35b1  
> ACC : None
```



# SIMtrace for the rescue



Sniff auto-typed PINs with the Osmocom SIMtrace:



## Method 2: Faraday cage



- Mostly cumbersome and expensive
- But could be improvised considering several elements:
  - Frequency;
  - Wavelength;
  - Power of reception or transmission;
  - Distance between the receiver and the transmitter.
- Cage with meshes → optimised windows against reflection of the electric field
- Shielding boxes attenuate the signal quietly good!

# Practical shielding box for us: 1 Kg M&Ms box

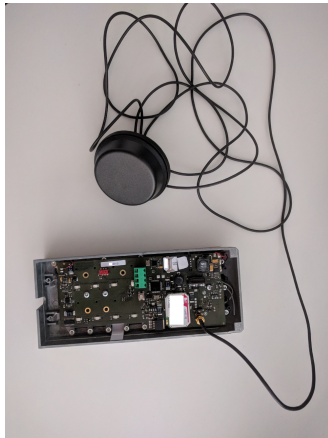


Can feat small devices as well as a bladeRF, or limeSDR

# Space optimisation



We can use antenna extenders to avoid to put entire devices...



# Final set-up



And fill holes with an aluminum foil tape...



## Method 3: Downgrade attacks



- Use a cheap 2G/3G/4G jammer and rework it
- Or perform smart-jamming:
  - 1 monitor and collect cells data
  - 2 jam precise frequencies from collected cells → choose few target operators



## Recorded mobile towers

- OpenCellid: Open Database of Cell Towers
- Gsmmap.org
- and so on.

## Live scanning tools



## Recorded mobile towers

- OpenCellid: Open Database of Cell Towers
- Gsmmap.org
- and so on.

## Problem!

But these solutions don't map in live and do not give precise information about cell towers.

## Live scanning tools





## Recorded mobile towers

## Live scanning tools

- for 2G cells:
  - Gammu/Wammu, DCT3-GSMTAP, and others
  - OsmocomBB via *cell\_log* application
- for 3G, 4G and more:
  - only tricks: use of exposed DIAG interface →decoding  
→GSMTAP pseudo-header format
  - SnoopSnitch: not reflexible, but could be reworked for our purposes ;)

# Methods to capture cells information



Possible methods are:

- Software-Defined Radio
- Exposed diagnostic interfaces
- Use of Android RIL

# Software-Defined Radio



Existing tools:

- Airprobe or GR-GSM
- OpenLTE: *LTE\_fdd\_dl\_scan*
- srsLTE with srsUE

# Software-Defined Radio



Existing tools:

- Airprobe or GR-GSM
- OpenLTE: *LTE\_fdd\_dl\_scan*
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## No 3G

No 3G tools to capture cell information.

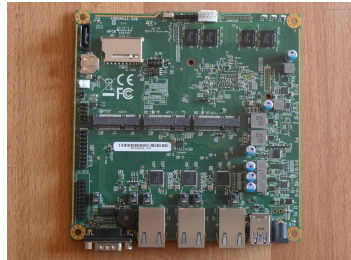
# Exposed DIAG interfaces



- Good alternative
- Could work with almost all bands we want
- A little expensive: almost 300€
- requirements:



U/EC20 3G/LTE modem



PC Engines APU2

# Cheaper way

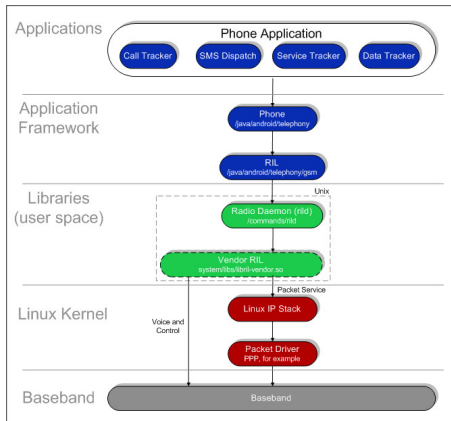


- U/EC20 3G/LTE modem
- And an adaptater with (U)SIM slot

# RIL on Android



- Daemon forwards commands/messages: application  $\leftrightarrow$  Vendor RIL
- vendor library is proprietary and vendor specific
- vendor library knows how to talk to modem:
  - classic AT
  - QMI for Qualcomm
  - Samsung IPC Protocol
  - and so on.



# ServiceMode on Android



- Usually activated by typing a secret code
- Gives interesting details of current cell:
  - implicit network type
  - used band
  - reception (RX/DL) or/and transmission (TX/UP) (E/U)ARFCN (Absolute Radio Frequency Channel Number)
  - PLMN (Public Land Mobile Network) number
  - and so on.

ServiceMode	:
RRC:IDLE, Band:1	
PLMN:208-11	
RX:10762 RI:-84 CID:a21c5	
TX:9812 Eclo:-2 RSCP:-86	
L1:PCH_Sleep PSC:507 DRX:128	
SERVICE : LIMITED	
Speech VER : FR FR FR	
therm: 111 LNA: 0	
SIB19 None	
PA STATE : 0 (APT), HDET : 0	
NETWORK : UNBLOCK	
IMEI Certi: PASS, 1	
Unknown	

ServiceMode in Samsung



# Samsung ServiceMode in brief



- 1 `*#0011#` secret code handled by *ServiceModeApp\_RIL* *ServiceModeApp* activity
- 2 *ServiceModeApp* → IPC connection  
→ *SecFactoryPhoneTest* *SecPhoneService*
- 3 *ServiceModeApp* starts the service mode  
→ *invokeOemRilRequestRaw()* through *SecPhoneService*  
(send RIL command *RIL\_REQUEST\_OEM\_HOOK\_RAW*)
- 4 *ServiceModeApp* process in higher level ServiceMode messages coming from RIL.

## Best place to listen ServiceMode

Two good places exist: RIL library independent of Vendor RIL library implementation, or use *invokeOemRilRequestRaw()*

# Few constraints to resolve



- 1 How to support other operators than your own SIM card?
- 2 How to enumerate cells a MS (Mobile Station) is supposed to see?

# The camping concept in brief



Let's remember 3GPP TS 43.022, ETSI TS 125 304...

- When selecting a PLMN →MS looks for cells satisfying few conditions (cell of the selected PLMN, not barred, pathloss between MS and BTS below a threshold, and so on.)
- Cells are checked in a descending order of the signal strength
- If a suitable is found →MS camps on it and tries to register

# The camping concept in brief



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## Verified through DIAG and ServiceMode

If registration fails →MS camps to another cell until it can register →verified via DIAG and ServiceMode

# Automate cell changes with AT commands



Android phones often expose a modem interface (e.g. `/dev/smd0`), *but could also be exposed in the host with few configurations*

```
127|shell@k1te:/ $ getprop rilD.libargs  
-d /dev/smd0
```

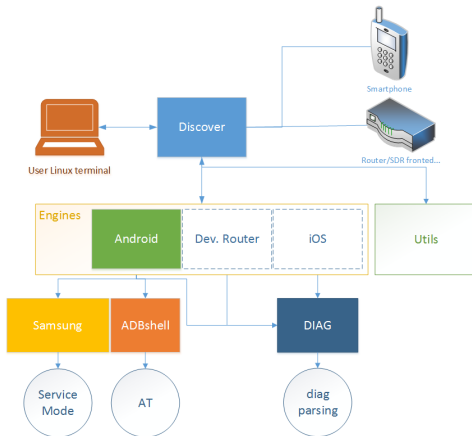
It is possible to:

- set network type: `AT^SYSCONFIG`
- list PLMN and select a PLMN: `AT+COPS`

→requires root privileges if it is performed in the phone

# Modmobmap: the monster we have created

We implemented interesting techniques in a tool we called "Modmobmap" (reminds some tasty korean dish)



# Monitoring 2G/3G/4G cells



## ■ Using Modmobmap:

```
$ sudo python modmobmap.py -m servicemode -s <Android SDK path>
=> Requesting a list of MCC/MNC. Please wait, it may take a while...
[+] New cell detected [CellID/PCI-DL_freq (XXXXXXXXXX)]
  Network type=2G
  PLMN=208-20
  ARFCN=1014
  Found 3 operator(s)
{u'20810': u'F SFR', u'20820': u'F-Bouygues Telecom', u'20801': u'Orange F'}
[+] Unregistered from current PLMN
=> Changing MCC/MNC for: 20810
[+] New cell detected [CellID/PCI-DL_freq (XXXXXXXXXX)]
  Network type=2G
  PLMN=208-20
  ARFCN=76
  [...]
[+] New cell detected [CellID/PCI-DL_freq (XXXXXXXXXX)]
  Network type=3G
  PLMN=208-1
  Band=8
  Downlink UARFCN=3011
  Uplink UARFCN=2786
  [...]
[+] Cells save as cells_1536076848.json # with an CTRL+C interrupt
```

# Results of Modmobmap



The script produces a JSON file you can use with your own tools:

```
{
  "4b***-76": {
    "PLMN": "208-10",
    "arfcn": 76,
    "cid": "4b**",
    "type": "2G"
  },
  "60****-2950": {
    "PLMN": "208-20",
    "RX": 2950,
    "TX": 2725,
    "cid": "60***",
    "band": 8,
    "type": "3G"
  },
  [...]
}
```

→ but we'll see how it could be used for Jamming purposes!



# Jamming in general



## With a portable/chinese device

- cheap
- jam the whole 2G/3G/(4G?) bands but requires some modifications
- poor signal



## Desktop jammers



## With a portable/chinese device

### Desktop jammers

- heavy, cumbersome but powerfull
- also needs a disabling to conserve rogue cells' band



# ”Smart” jamming



- Jam only targeted cells
- Stealth against monitors
- In 3 steps:
  - 1 scan cells with Modmobmap;
  - 2 target an operator;
  - 3 and jam only targeted channels;

We have also made a tool for that! → Modmobjam → use Software-Defined radio

# ”Smart” jamming



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## Forbidden

Do it at your own risks and adjust settings to the targeted parameter only. The same should also be done with you fake BTS.





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# Analyzing GPRS data



Once we have trapped a device, its IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identity) is listed:

```
nipc list registered
IMSI             MSISDN
-----
20801XXXXXXXXXX 69691320681
```

Status displayed in SGSN Mobile list:

```
mbts gsn list
GMM Context: imsi=20801XXXXXXXXXX ptmsi=0xd3001 tlli=0xc00d3001 state=
GmmRegisteredNormal age=5 idle=1 MS#1,TLLI=c00d3001,8d402e2e IPs=192.168.99.1
```

# Spotting used APNs



## Using the GSMTAP interface

No.	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Time	Info
39097	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	GSM RL...	111	418.920355427	GPRS UL
39101	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	GSM RL...	81	418.935371177	GPRS DL:GPRS DL:PACKET_DOWNLINK_DUMMY_CONTROL_B
39107	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	GSM RL...	81	418.935672262	GPRS DL:GPRS DL:PACKET_DOWNLINK_DUMMY_CONTROL_B

▼ Data (50 bytes)  
Data: 01c00d0a4105030e00000000000000000000000000000201...  
[Length: 50]

0000	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 08 00 45 00	.....E
0010	00 61 7e 27 40 00 40 11 be 62 7f 00 00 01 7f 00	a~!@. b
0020	00 01 81 24 12 79 00 4d fe 60 02 04 01 02 40 00	..\$.y.M .@
0030	00 00 00 00 5c 5a 0b 00 00 00 04 0c 01 01 c0 0d	...Z...!
0040	0a 41 00 03 0e 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	A
0050	00 00 00 02 01 21 28 10 06 6f 72	!(
0060	6d 32 01 65 63 27 14 80 80 21 10 01	m2m !

Could be interesting to intrude a virtual mobile network with a provided M2M SIM card



# Capture exchanges



On the tun interface dedicated to SGSN:

Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Time	Info
1 192.168.99.1	8.8.8.8	DNS	64	0.000000000	Standard query 0x11d8 A gsm. .info
2 8.8.8.8	192.168.99.1	DNS	80	0.037753523	Standard query response 0x11d8 A gsm. .info A 91.
3 192.168.99.1	91.121.	TCP	48	0.419114786	80 → 60001 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=16384 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=1
4 91.121.	192.168.99.1	TCP	48	0.425593982	60001 → 80 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=29200 Len=0 MSS=146
5 192.168.99.1	91.121.	TCP	40	0.855774038	80 → 60001 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=16384 Len=0
6 192.168.99.1	91.121.	TCP	117	1.120101836	80 → 60001 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=16384 Len=77
7 91.121.	192.168.99.1	TCP	40	1.126491129	60001 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=78 Win=29312 Len=0
8 91.121.	192.168.99.1	TCP	60	1.129285601	60001 → 80 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=78 Win=29312 Len=20
9 91.121.	192.168.99.1	TCP	40	1.129573587	60001 → 80 [FIN, ACK] Seq=21 Ack=78 Win=29312 Len=0
10 192.168.99.1	91.121.	TCP	40	1.637377595	80 → 60001 [ACK] Seq=78 Ack=21 Win=16364 Len=0
11 192.168.99.1	91.121.	TCP	40	1.698825585	80 → 60001 [ACK] Seq=78 Ack=22 Win=16384 Len=0
12 192.168.99.1	91.121.	TCP	40	1.722705944	80 → 60001 [FIN, ACK] Seq=78 Ack=22 Win=16384 Len=0
13 91.121.	192.168.99.1	TCP	40	1.728877051	60001 → 80 [ACK] Seq=22 Ack=79 Win=29312 Len=0

In that case: two server ports identified → 60001/tcp and 55556/tcp

# Talk with one service



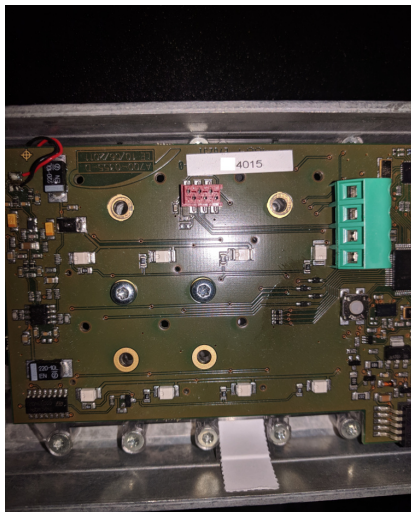
We could talk with a sort of synchronisation service on port 6001/tcp:

```
In [1]: import socket
In [2]: import binascii
In [3]: ip = '91.121.XXX.XXX'
In [4]: port = 60001
In [6]: s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
In [7]: s.connect((ip, port))
In [8]:
s.send(binascii.hexlify("011e4d25636014006600000000000000090000011e1540XX[...]"))
Out[8]: 320
In [9]: data = s.recv(1024)
In [10]: data
Out[11]: '2018/09/07 15:09:01\n'
```

In that case: two server ports identified → 60001/tcp and 55556/tcp

# Identification

And could noticed that messages where only identified:



# Strange messages



When updating the device: some unknown messages are exchanged on port 55556/tcp

```
No.      Source          Destination      Protocol Length  Time      Info
-----
11 91.121.  192.168.99.1   TCP             477    2.574474971 55556 -- 80 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7 Ack=79 Min=65
12 91.121.  192.168.99.1   TCP             477    3.539404410 [TCP Retransmission] 55556 -- 80 [PSH, ACK]
13 91.121.  192.168.99.1   TCP             477    6.450380382 [TCP Retransmission] 55556 -- 80 [PSH, ACK]

#
#> Frame 11: 477 bytes on wire (3816 bits), 477 bytes captured (3816 bits) on interface 0
# Raw packet data
#> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 91.121.1.1, Dst: 192.168.99.1
#> Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 55556, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 7, Ack: 79, Len: 437

0000
0010
0020
0030 88 7a 35 f4 59 fc 06 09 99 01 f1 e2 c5 58 fc 0f 25 Y X
0040 29 00 31 e9 c9 8d 08 9d 3b 77 4d 69 2e 6c bb c9 01 1 ;M1.1
0050 44 09 72 20 2d a3 4e 4e 6d 3f b4 9b b9 a7 e4 76 D r - NW m? v
0060 ed da ee 17 38 72 d4 fc 0f 29 36 08 0f 71 cc 04 6r ; q
0070 70 61 00 22 47 01 c9 87 68 48 3c 09 09 19 1c 92 p r g G Hc
0080 cf e0 91 46 8c e7 02 38 24 11 c9 79 f2 8e 33 f2 F 8 $ y 3
0090 fc 0f 29 07 1d ca 92 25 b4 3c 06 0d 24 83 07 0f ) % < $
00a0 3e 44 00 a0 1b c4 88 11 22 83 78 f1 41 48 93 20 D " x AH
00b0 41 68 89 12 e2 36 6d da 09 fc 0f 29 08 01 cc 89 Ah 6m
00c0 8d ba b3 3f 7f 5d 49 6e ec 4f 74 97 2a 9b fc 93 7 ? In Ok . 7v
00d0 9d e5 9f 6d cd a4 bb fa 27 09 cb e9 d2 fe 37 78 Y ) t p c>
00e0 f2 59 fc 0f 29 95 fe 74 96 09 70 98 c0 63 3e 02 B 0 d| '
00f0 93 38 13 0e 4f 00 64 7c 1c 09 e6 27 99 9f c7 c9 L 12 & ) |
0100 07 f3 4c cc 31 32 01 8e f9 26 b7 fc 0f 29 c8 21 Nk [c U
0110 8e 09 09 4e 78 fe a5 b3 cf 21 3c 11 b6 55 c1 12 s 'v' N = HM
0120 73 da 27 76 5d a1 12 4e 3d b4 23 48 cf e1 c2 d6 w &E )s uBy
0130 77 f6 26 45 fc 0f 29 73 f5 a7 cc 08 ac 75 42 79 t H:Yc
0140 0c 15 ce 9d cf 21 b3 d4 fd 99 a9 48 3a 59 3c 85 +v f R3gp )
0150 a9 e7 2b 56 98 9e ea 66 8a 52 33 67 78 fc 0f 29 r, R5 g a3
0160 72 2e a3 c4 88 52 35 c2 67 ab 11 c8 8d ef 61 38 * X #f j
0170 78 88 9d ac 58 1a 19 bc 05 ce e3 23 46 0d 0e 0a V;wu }3u Y Z
0180 84 f1 56 3b 77 75 fc 0f 29 33 75 12 59 9c 5a 9b m7 mn
0190 95 c3 b2 a7 dd 6d 37 c6 6d 6e 82 ec d7 bf c2 ? b R & cn
01a0 a9 3f c3 62 cc 52 98 8e ca 26 8a e6 a6 63 6e fc [ h*N h dg
01b0 0f 29 ef 0a 0f 28 60 9c 68 2a 4e ca 68 af 64 67 \ k
01c0 f9 a4 05 0f f1 18 f3 5c f9 09 03 60 c6 cf 7f a8 u.
01d0 7e fd fa f5 eb d7 9f 9e fc 9c 05 75 ba
```

# Strange messages (1)



By a naive approach it looked to be encrypted:

```
$ ent payload.hex  
Entropy = 7.371044 bits per byte.  
[...]
```

We have to look at the firmware to try to decode this message

# UMTS interception



- OpenBTS-UMTS could be used
- But doesn't support authentication and ciphering → SIM mode only can be used

Disabling USIM mode with a sysmoUSIM card:

```
$ sudo python sysmo-usim-tool.sjs1.py -a 772***** -c  
[...]  
==> USIM application disabled
```

Other alternatives: CMU2000, vulnerable/custom femtocells...



- Use of srsLTE → free and stable
- Secrets of the SIM should be configured (ex. sysmoUSIM):
  - RAND: generated challenge by the HSS (Home Subscriber Server) in the HLR/AuC → generates next authentication vectors
  - XRES: result of the challenge/response by the UE
  - AUTN: authentication token
  - KASME: derivation key of the cipherring and integrity keys

# srsLTE setup



Secrets could be setup in the *user\_db.csv* DB of LTE EPC network:

```
# vi /root/.srs/user_db.csv
[...]  
ue3,9017000000*****,b5997ac4a912e9c6216e13951029c674,opc,83e5d3f22da411  
072508f675d2e9e9d9,9001,000000000062,7
```

A good configuration should result as follows:

```
[...]  
UE Authentication Accepted.  
[...]  
SPGW Allocated IP 172.16.0.2 to ISMI 9017000000*****
```



# srsLTE setup



Secrets could be setup in the *user\_db.csv* DB of LTE EPC network:

```
# vi /root/.srs/user_db.csv
[...]  
ue3,9017000000*****,b5997ac4a912e9c6216e13951029c674,opc,83e5d3f22da411  
072508f675d2e9e9d9,9001,000000000062,7
```

A good configuration should result as follows:

```
[...]  
UE Authentication Accepted.  
[...]  
SPGW Allocated IP 172.16.0.2 to ISMI 9017000000*****
```

## Problems with IoT modems

IoT modems use Cat M1 and NB-IoT → only implemented in commercial/private version of srsLTE and Amarisoft

# Go further in 5G



- Use of OpenAirInterface5G
- EPC part requires a licence
- NextEPC or *pycrate\_mobile* could be used and readapted for the EPC part

# Issues during tests



Generally, data are trusted and sent in clear-text, but there are some exceptions:

- whitelist of connections to the backend;
- use of client side certificates;

Moreover, USIM card could be embedded → potentially accessible via SPI interface → try a kind of relay attack



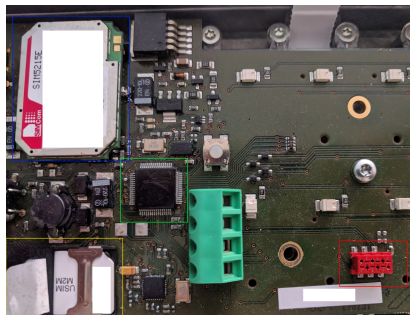
- 1 Requirements
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# Identifying components



## The 3G intercom

- SIM/USIM slot (yellow)
- 3G modem (blue)
- MCU (Microcontroller Unit) (green)
- A strange interface (red)



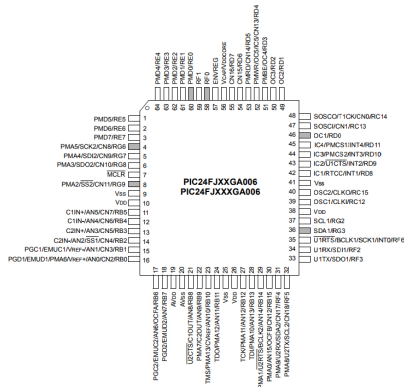
# Microchip - PIC24FJ128 - GA006



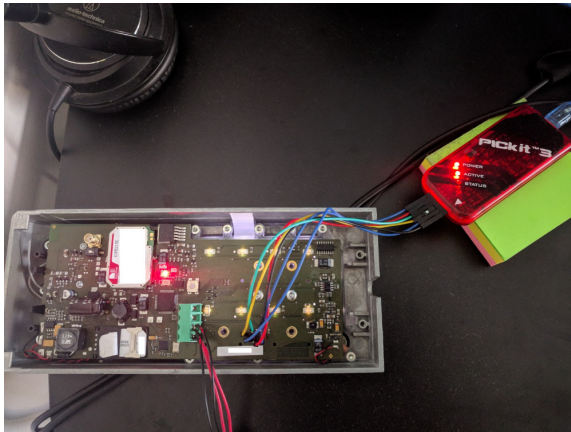
Use schematics to identify PINs via continuity tests:

## Identified PINs

- PGC1 (pin 25);
- PGD1 (pin 16);
- Vdd (pin 38);
- /MCLR (pin 7);
- AVss (pin 19).



# Interfacing and dumping the firmware



Dumping it with MPLAB-X software

# Firmware analysis: strings



Firmware dumped in Intel Hex format and contains AT commands: AT+COPS; AT+CREG

```
0001ab00 02 00 78 00 00 80 fa 00 00 00 06 00 41 54 00 00 |..x.....AT..|
0001ab10 2b 4e 00 00 45 54 00 00 43 4c 00 00 4f 53 00 00 |+N..ET..CL..OS..|
0001ab20 45 0d 00 00 00 2b 00 00 43 4c 00 00 49 50 00 00 |E....+..CL..IP..|
0001ab30 3a 20 00 00 22 1b 00 00 df 22 00 00 2c 1b 00 00 |:.."....."....|
0001ab40 ef 00 00 00 45 52 00 00 52 4f 00 00 52 00 00 00 |....ER..RO..R...|
0001ab50 41 54 00 00 2b 43 00 00 4f 50 00 00 53 3d 00 00 |AT..+C..OP..S=..|
0001ab60 33 2c 00 00 32 0d 00 00 00 41 00 00 54 2b 00 00 |3,..2....A..T+..|
0001ab70 43 4f 00 00 50 53 00 00 3f 0d 00 00 00 2b 00 00 |CO..PS..?....+..|
0001ab80 43 4f 00 00 50 53 00 00 3a 20 00 00 1b ef 00 00 |CO..PS..:.....|
0001ab90 2c 1b 00 00 ef 2c 00 00 22 1b 00 00 df 22 00 00 |,....."....."|
0001aba0 2c 1b 00 00 ef 00 00 00 2b 43 00 00 4f 50 00 00 |,.....+C..OP..|
0001abb0 53 3a 00 00 20 30 00 00 00 41 00 00 54 2b 00 00 |S:... 0...A..T+..|
0001abc0 43 4f 00 00 50 53 00 00 3d 34 00 00 2c 32 00 00 |CO..PS..=4...2..|
0001abd0 2c 1b 00 00 eb 2c 00 00 32 0d 00 00 00 41 00 00 |,.....2....A..|
0001abe0 54 2b 00 00 43 53 00 00 51 0d 00 00 00 2b 00 00 |T+..CS..Q...+..|
0001abf0 43 53 00 00 51 3a 00 00 20 1b 00 00 ef 2c 00 00 |CS..Q:.. ..|
0001ac00 1b ef 00 00 00 41 00 00 54 2b 00 00 43 52 00 00 |...A..T+..CR..|
0001ac10 45 47 00 00 3f 0d 00 00 00 2b 00 00 43 52 00 00 |EG..?....+..CR..|
0001ac20 45 47 00 00 3a 20 00 00 1b ef 00 00 2c 1b 00 00 |EG...: .....,...|
[...]
```



## Firmware analysis: strings (2)



Looking for strings, it was possible to quickly find AT commands used to connect to endpoints:

- AT+TCPCONNECT="gsm.XXXXXXXXXX.info",60001;
- AT+TCPCONNECT="gsm.XXXXXXXXXX.info",5555 (last number "6" is missing);
- AT+TCPCONNECT="91.121.XX.XX",5555 (last number "6" is missing).

But also intercom's number ID XX4015:

```
00017d80 15 40 XX 00 80 4a 78 00 63 00 60 00 66 40 78 00 |.@X..Jx.c.'.f@x.|
```

# Firmware disassembly



- No disassembler available for PIC24 before
- But changed with IDA 7.2 and of course Ghidra!

Output	Inspector	Program Memory *			
	Line	Address	Opcode	Label	DisAssy
	25,856	0C9FE	07FFEC		RCALL 0xC9D8
	25,857	0CA00	A962E6		BCLR PORTG, #3
	25,858	0CA02	07FFEA		RCALL 0xC9D8
	25,859	0CA04	A942E6		BCLR PORTG, #2
	25,860	0CA06	060000		RETURN
	25,861	0CA08	A962E6		BCLR PORTG, #3
	25,862	0CA0A	A942E6		BCLR PORTG, #2
	25,863	0CA0C	07FFE5		RCALL 0xC9D8
	25,864	0CA0E	A842E6		BSET PORTG, #2
	25,865	0CA10	07FFE3		RCALL 0xC9D8
	25,866	0CA12	A862E6		BSET PORTG, #3
	25,867	0CA14	060000		RETURN
	25,868	0CA16	781F88		MOV WB, [W15++]
	25,869	0CA18	784400		MOV.B W0, W8
	25,870	0CA1A	813E23		MOV 0x27C4, W3
	25,871	0CA1C	907033		MOV.B [W3+51], W0
	25,872	0CA1E	60406E		AND.B W0, #0xE, W0
	25,873	0CA20	320006		BRA Z, 0xCA2E
	25,874	0CA22	02C664		CALL 0xC664
	25,875	0CA24	000000		NOF
	25,876	0CA26	813E23		MOV 0x27C4, W3
	25,877	0CA28	907033		MOV.B [W3+51], W0

Memory Program Memory    Format Code

# Hardware audit tip



Like almost every vendor's IDE, MPLAB gives status of memory protections/fuse bits:

Output		Inspector		Configuration Bits ×			
Address	Name	Value	Field	Option	Category	Setting	
157FC	CONFIG2	7ABE	POSCMOD	HS	Primary Oscillator Select	HS Oscillator mode selected	
			OSCIOPNC	OFF	Primary Oscillator Output Function	OSC2/CLKO/RC15 functions as CLK0 (FOSC/2)	
			FCKSM	CSDCMD	Clock Switching and Monitor	Clock switching and Fail-Safe Clock Monitor are disabled	
			FNOSC	PRI	Oscillator Select	Primary Oscillator (XT, HS, EC)	
			IESO	OFF	Internal External Switch Over Mode	IESO mode (Two-Speed Start-up) disabled	
			157FE	CONFIG1	3EF8	WDTPS	PS256
FWPSA	PRL128	WDT Prescaler				Prescaler ratio of 1:128	
WINDIS	ON	Watchdog Timer Window				Standard Watchdog Timer enabled, (Windowed-mode is disabled)	
FWDTEN	ON	Watchdog Timer Enable				Watchdog Timer is enabled	
ICS	PGx1	Comm Channel Select				Emulator/debugger uses EMUC1/EMUD1	
GWRP	OFF	General Code Segment Write Protect				Writes to program memory are allowed	
GCP	OFF	General Code Segment Code Protect				Code protection is disabled	
VJTAGEN	OFF	VJTAG PORT Enable				VJTAG port is disabled	

# Other Interfaces



Various other interfaces could be found in the wild

- UART (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter): to interface to bootloader (ex: uBoot) and device terminal
- JTAG (Joint Test Action Group): to communicate with the different devices of the PCB
- SPI (Serial Peripheral Interface): communication MCU ↔ other peripherals
- I<sup>2</sup>C: link MCU, EEPROMs, and other modules
- others In-chip interfaces, etc.

These interfaces can be found with logic analyzers, probes, but also dedicated tools sometimes...

# Device to interface



Various devices could be used to get accesses to an interface:

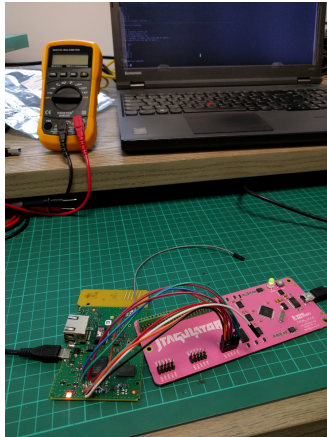
- The famous SEGGER JLink that works like a charm, but expensive depending on options...
- Bus pirate v3 (warning v4 not mature enough)
- BusVoodoo → supports 14 TTL/CMOS protocols
- HydraBUS → another powerful swiss knife (include a funny NFC modules for emulation and could be used to bruteforce JTAG PINS)
- and so on.

Sometimes rare/industrial protocols and MCUs could also be supported by Trace32 tools → it has a costs

# Bruteforcing JTAG and UART PINs



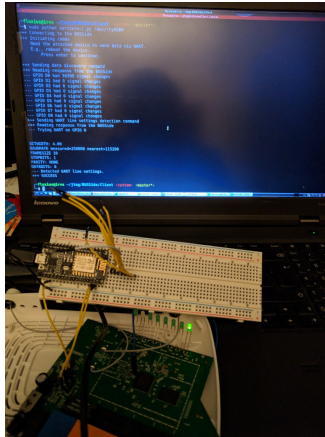
For almost 200€ with JTAGulator



# Bruteforcing JTAG and UART PINs (2)



With BUSSide for almost 8€:



# Chip-off in last resort



Example with a TSOP48 flash:





# Memory protections bypasses



- Block reading by backdooring the entrypoint on PIC18F552 (ex: iCLASS keys extraction)
- Cold-Boot stepping attacks on STM32F0 series
- UV-C attacks
- RDP2 downgrade to RDP1 on STM32F1 and STM32F3 (ex: TREZOR wallet hack → wallet.fail)
- and so on.



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# Other targets



- Like intercoms: use of Mobile network is convenient → no wires no problem
- Overcases:
  - Deposit cases;
  - Alarms;
  - Connected cars...



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# Other targets



- Like intercoms: use of Mobile network is convenient → no wires no problem
- Overcases:
  - Deposit cases;
  - Alarms;
  - Connected cars...

# Garage hacker: the CAN bus



- ODB/ODB2 interface: a lot of interest
- Possible to interact in the CAN bus
- But too many messages are broadcasted in it → needs processing to focus on interesting messages

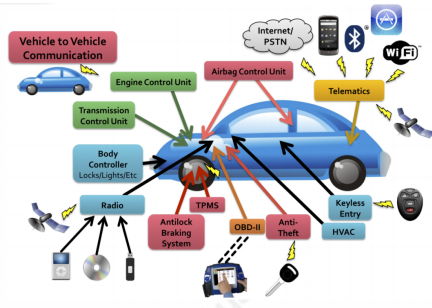


However, the car as many interfaces that interacts with the CAN bus

# Connected cars



- Mobile network is generally used
- Possible to install applications
- GPRS is generally used for middle class cars → really easy to intercept
- But parking cars are also well isolated → Modmobjam not needed



# Our target



- Enable the installation of applications
- Can be update
- Plenty of available applications:
  - Twitter application and Facebook (WTF?)
  - Meteo
  - GPS
  - etc.

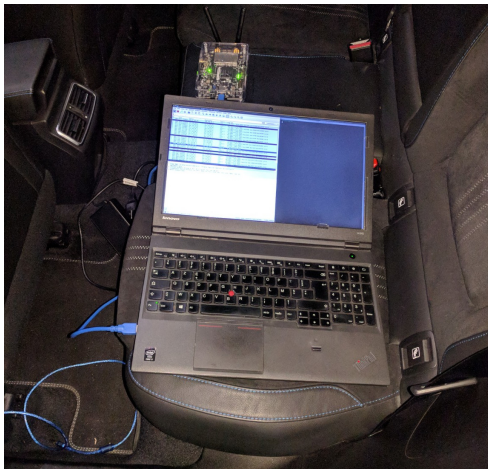
And all of that "in the air"



# Hunting for mobile modules remotely



Using a BladeRF:



# Issues in our context



- The servers could not be contacted with an arbitrary connection :/
- We can still poison/hook all DNS queries and get requests from clients → attack the client with a fake server

# Client-side attack: new captures



Surprise: all requests made by the board computer and apps are in clear HTTP...

10	1.459318826	192.168.99.2	192.168.99.254	HTTP	913	POST /Service/InitSession/	HTTP/1.1 (applicat
19	7.536599505	192.168.99.2	10.91.80.203	HTTP	52	HEAD http://master.coyoterts.com	HTTP/1.1
26	13.660617735	192.168.99.2	10.91.80.203	HTTP	52	HEAD http://master.coyoterts.com	HTTP/1.1
65021	922.704281910	192.168.99.2	10.91.80.203	HTTP	52	HEAD http://master.coyoterts.com	HTTP/1.1
66923	946.703883356	192.168.99.2	10.91.80.203	HTTP	52	HEAD http://master.coyoterts.com	HTTP/1.1
69066	974.461373298	192.168.99.254	192.168.99.2	HTTP	173	HTTP/1.0 404 File not found	
69093	974.818419668	192.168.99.2	192.168.99.254	HTTP	52	HEAD http://master.coyoterts.com	HTTP/1.1
70396	990.503915759	192.168.99.2	192.168.99.254	HTTP	406	POST /api/app/call	HTTP/1.1 (application/x-protobuf)
70401	990.504776592	192.168.99.254	192.168.99.2	HTTP	390	HTTP/1.0 501 Unsupported method ('POST')	(text/html)
+ 70459	991.484062985	192.168.99.2	192.168.99.254	HTTP	406	POST /api/app/call	HTTP/1.1 (application/x-protobuf)
+ 70462	991.484923306	192.168.99.254	192.168.99.2	HTTP	390	HTTP/1.0 501 Unsupported method ('POST')	(text/html)
70530	992.483719425	192.168.99.2	192.168.99.254	HTTP	406	POST /api/app/call	HTTP/1.1 (application/x-protobuf)
70533	992.484544176	192.168.99.254	192.168.99.2	HTTP	390	HTTP/1.0 501 Unsupported method ('POST')	(text/html)
1048...	1590.1445388...	192.168.99.2	192.168.99.254	HTTP	406	POST /api/app/call	HTTP/1.1 (application/x-protobuf)
1048...	1590.1450970...	192.168.99.254	192.168.99.2	HTTP	390	HTTP/1.0 501 Unsupported method ('POST')	(text/html)
1048...	1591.0455681...	192.168.99.2	192.168.99.254	HTTP	406	POST /api/app/call	HTTP/1.1 (application/x-protobuf)
1048...	1591.0462935...	192.168.99.254	192.168.99.2	HTTP	390	HTTP/1.0 501 Unsupported method ('POST')	(text/html)
1049...	1591.8855224...	192.168.99.2	192.168.99.254	HTTP	406	POST /api/app/call	HTTP/1.1 (application/x-protobuf)

# Client-side attack: sweets



- ▼ Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  - ▶ POST /api/app/call HTTP/1.1\r\nContent-Type: application/x-protobuf; charset=utf-8\r\nAccept-Encoding: gzip\r\nUser-Agent: Dalvik/1.6.0 (Linux; U; Android 4.0.4; ARM2-MX6DQ Build/UNKNOWN)\r\nHost: fr- .aw.atos.net\r\nConnection: Keep-Alive\r\nContent-Length: 91\r\n\r\n[Full request URI: <http://fr- .aw.atos.net/api/app/call>]  
[HTTP request 1/1]  
[Response in frame: 70533]  
File Data: 91 bytes
  - ▶ Media Type

# Opportunities



Remember the Android version is 4.0.4:

- Some apps perform web requests → JavaScript Interface RCE
- Other request XML files → XXE attacks
- And all other CVE to replay!

# Spotted API



```
POST /api/app/call HTTP/1.1
Content-Type: application/x-protobuf; charset=utf-8
Accept-Encoding: gzip
User-Agent: Dalvik/1.6.0 (Linux; U; Android 4.0.4; ARM2-MX6DQ Build/UNKNOWN)
Host: fr-...aw.atos.net
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Length: 91
```

0

```
@dd5ee7f410efe36e5ef12d144f2d11fe890f85432c6e37c64d558daf3ccb8bb5....FR".fr_FR....*...2.HTTP/1.0 501 Unsupported method ('POST')
```

```
Server: SimpleHTTP/0.6 Python/2.7.15
```

```
Date: Thu, 30 Aug 2018 11:57:36 GMT
```

```
Connection: close
```

```
Content-Type: text/html
```

```
<head>
```

```
<title>Error response</title>
```

```
</head>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<h1>Error response</h1>
```

```
<p>Error code 501.
```

```
<p>Message: Unsupported method ('POST').
```

```
<p>Error code explanation: 501 = Server does not support this operation.
```

```
</body>
```

Very similar to mobile app API calls! But no “OAuth” token?!

# API: “Mobile app” VS “Cars/others...”



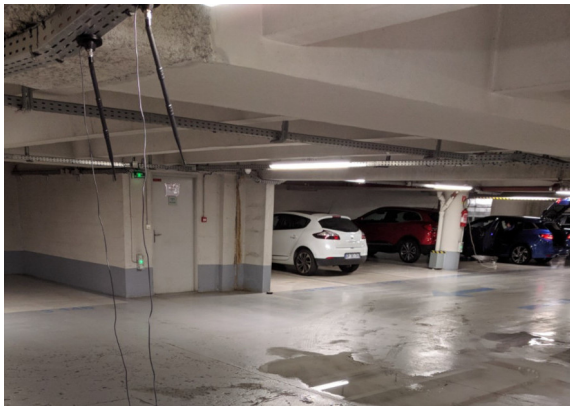
## Mobile APP

- open and close car door
- start/stop the clim
- all of these actions are authenticated → OAuth, etc.
- uses HTTPS → well verified by default on new Android device

## Cars and others

- open and close car door
- start/stop the clim
- talks on HTTP
- sometimes use only SMS messages
- use only identification
- payload are sometimes encrypted with a same shared key
- rare cases: mutual authentication (expecially on external dongles)

# Interception in a parking station



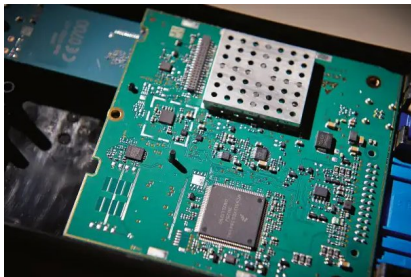
> 10 board computers collected in the fake base station



## Read more about this



- Our blog post: Hunting mobile devices endpoints
- More stuff could be found on other systems...
- Other case: The ComboBox in BMW  
<https://www.heise.de/ct/artikel/Beemer-Open-Thyself-Security-vulnerabilities-in-BMW-s-ConnectedDrive-2540957.html>





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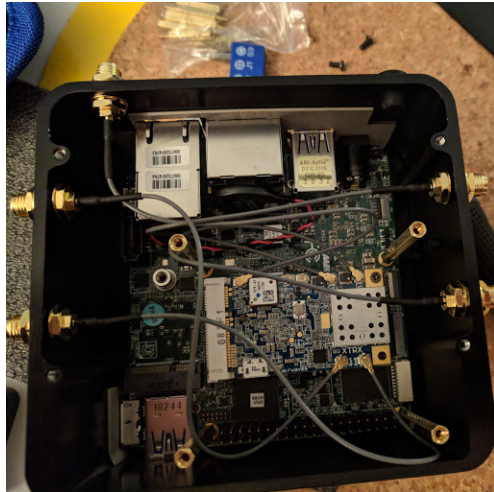
# XTRX



- mPCI-e
- perfect for embedded radio
- osmoTRX is not well supported at the moment, but patience!
- fit perfectly on APU2, UP2 and Orange PI rk3399 boards



# APU2 example





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# Conclusion



- A lot of IoT devices use the mobile network to be managed in remote
- Mobile interception techniques could be applied on IoT device
- Techniques are accessible → equipments, tools and tricks are not so expensive
- Modmobmap and Modmobjam → when physical accesses are not possible on targeted devices
- But some devices only have a 3G or a LTE stack
- Interceptions on UMTS and LTE requires a custom (U)SIM (unless there is a missing auth check in BB)
- Hardware hacking → complementary but also a last resort sometimes

# Downloads



- Modmobmap:
  - <https://github.com/Synacktiv/Modmobmap>
- Modmobjam:
  - <https://github.com/Synacktiv/Modmobjam>

# Thanks =)



- Joffrey Czarny (@\_Sn0rkY)
- Priya Chalakkal (@priyachalakkal)
- Rachelle Boissard (@rachel\_off)
- Troopers staff (@WEareTROOPERS)
- Guillaume Delugré (@lapinhib0u) → spotting few mistakes in slide 3
- And of course → You all ;)





ANY QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION,

