



**BlueBorne**<sup>™</sup>

A New Class Of Airborne Attacks Compromising  
Any Bluetooth Enabled Linux/IoT Device



**BlueBorne**<sup>™</sup>

Ben Seri, Head of Research  
Gregory Vishnepolsky, Researcher

# Agenda

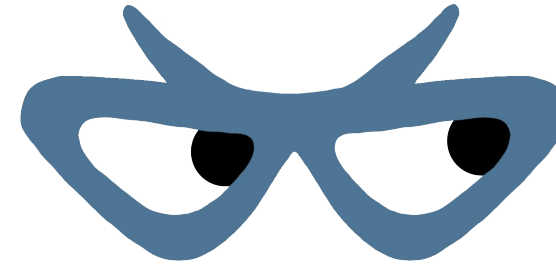


- Airborne Attacks
- Brief Bluetooth background
- The BlueZ stack on Linux
- Remote Exploitation of Linux kernel BlueZ vulns
- DEMO

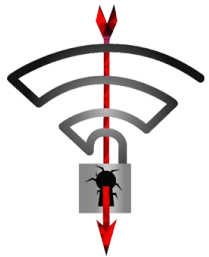
# Modern Airborne Attacks



***BROADPWN***



**BlueBorne™**



**Key Reinstallation  
Attack**

**GOOGLE PROJECT ZERO**

**RCE on Broadcom Wifi FW**

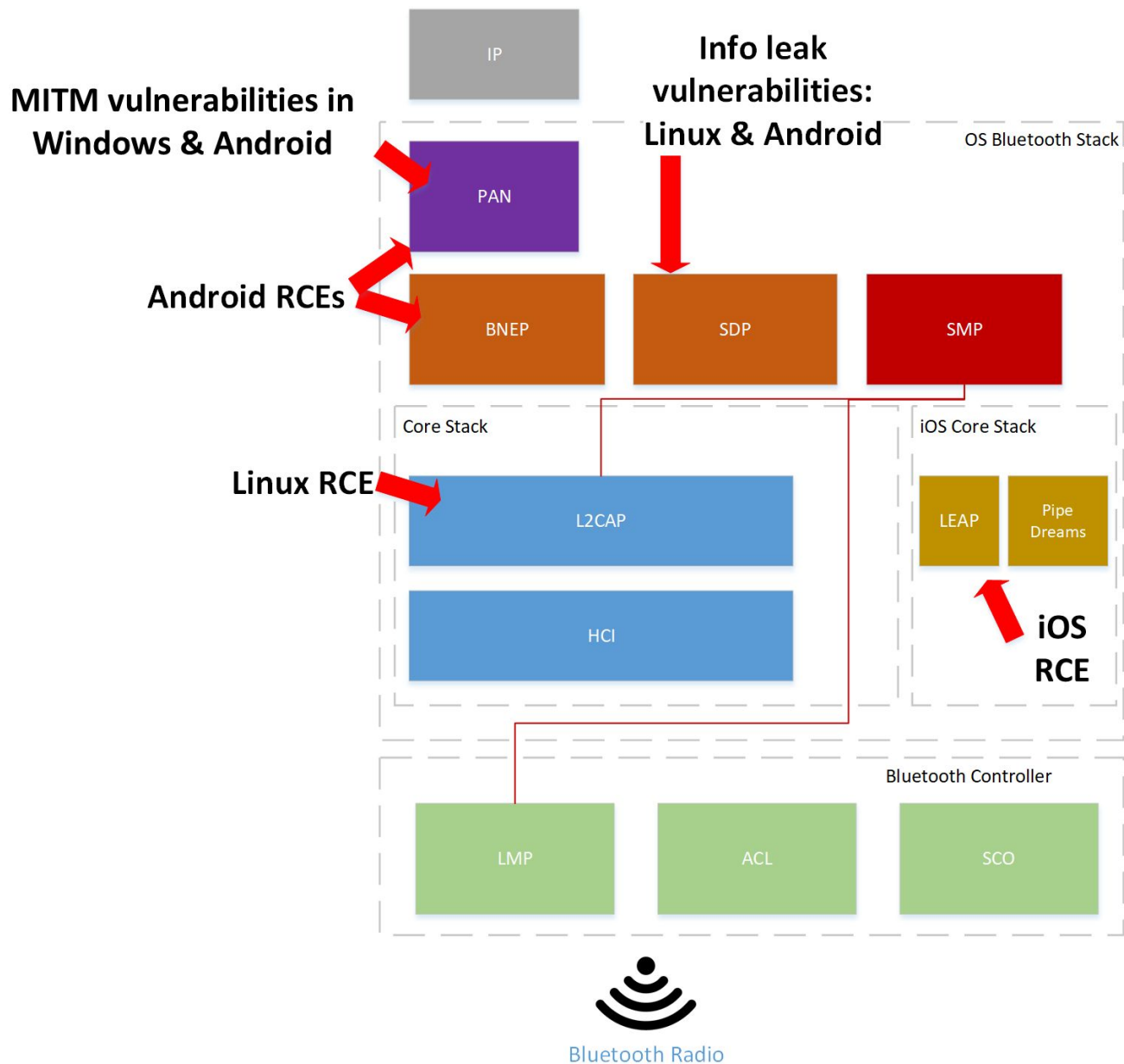
# New Attack Vector Identified

- 5.3B Devices At Risk
- 8 Vulnerabilities (4 critical)
- Android, Windows, Linux, and iOS
- Most serious Bluetooth vulnerabilities to date
- No user interaction or authentication required
- Enables RCE, MiTM and Info leaks



**BlueBorne™**

# 8 New Vulnerabilities

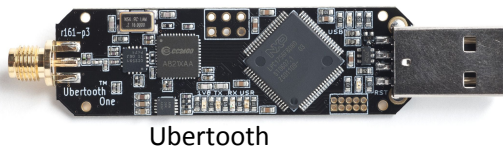


# Demystifying Discoverability



Discoverability is not a prerequisite for establishing a connection

- Bluetooth devices transmit parts of their MAC address over the air (LAP)
- Sniffing a single packet enables brute force of the MAC (only 32 options)
- Open source tools allow attackers to find “undiscoverable” MACs (Ubertooth for example)



\$100 range solution

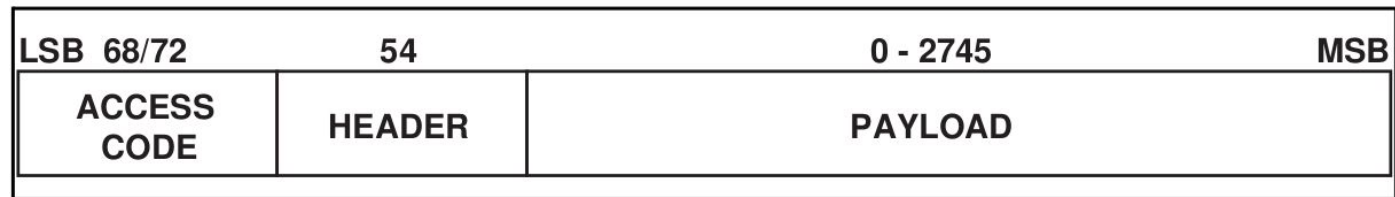
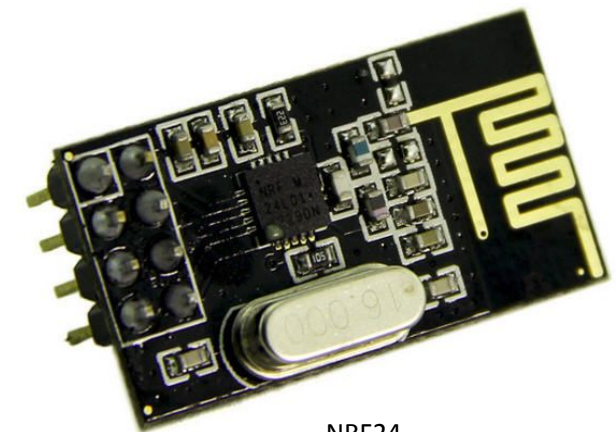


Figure 6.1: General Basic Rate packet format.

# Demystifying Discoverability (continued)



- Sniffing BT packets can be done on standard BT Chips/Adapters with FW modification (not easy, but has been done before)
- Can easily be done using certain 2.4GHz transceiver ICs such as nRF24L01+
  - Needs to support RX on 1MHz wide channels, with GFSK modulation
  - Promisc sniffing “trick” by Travis Goodspeed
- \$0.7 solution. Our code for nRF24 is on github
- <https://github.com/armisecurity>



NRF24



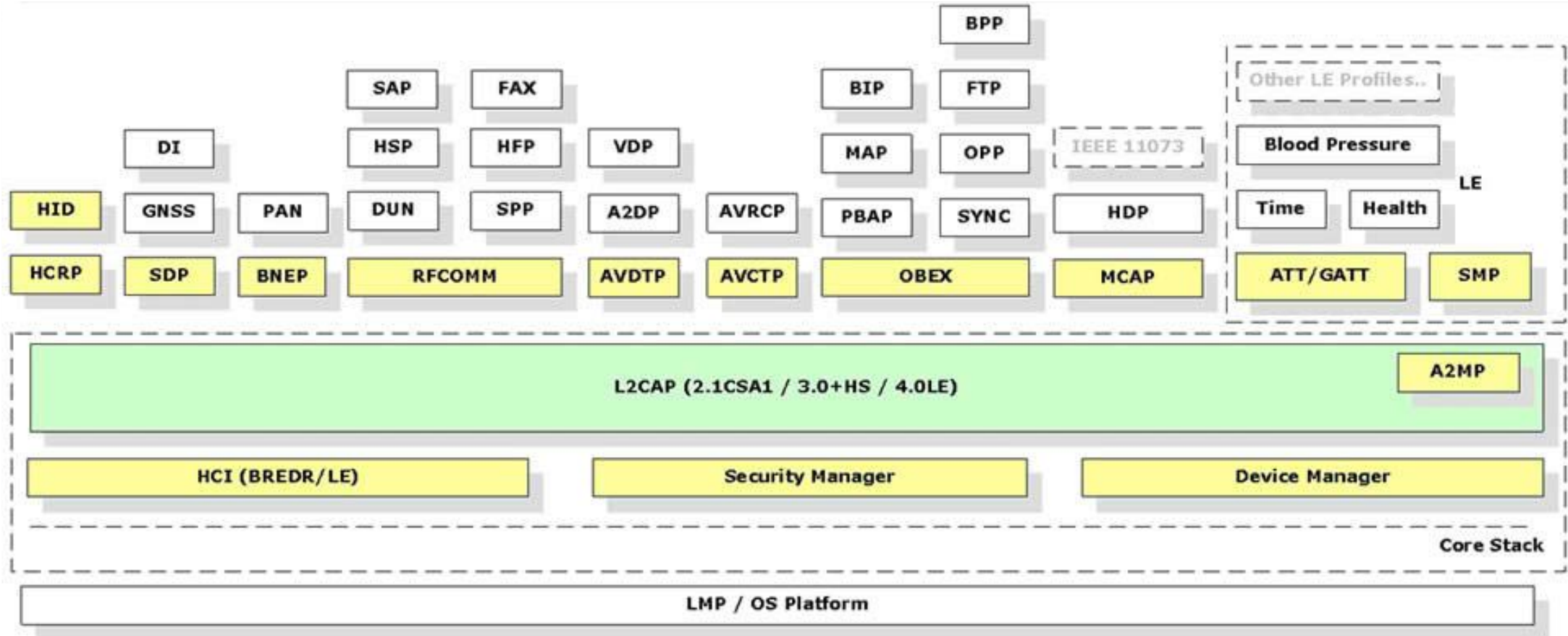
# Demystifying Discoverability (continued)



- A lot of OEMs use adjacent MACs for WiFi/Bluetooth
- Use WiFi monitor mode to find nearby Bluetooth devices
- Attacker positioned on the same network as victim can also use ARP cache



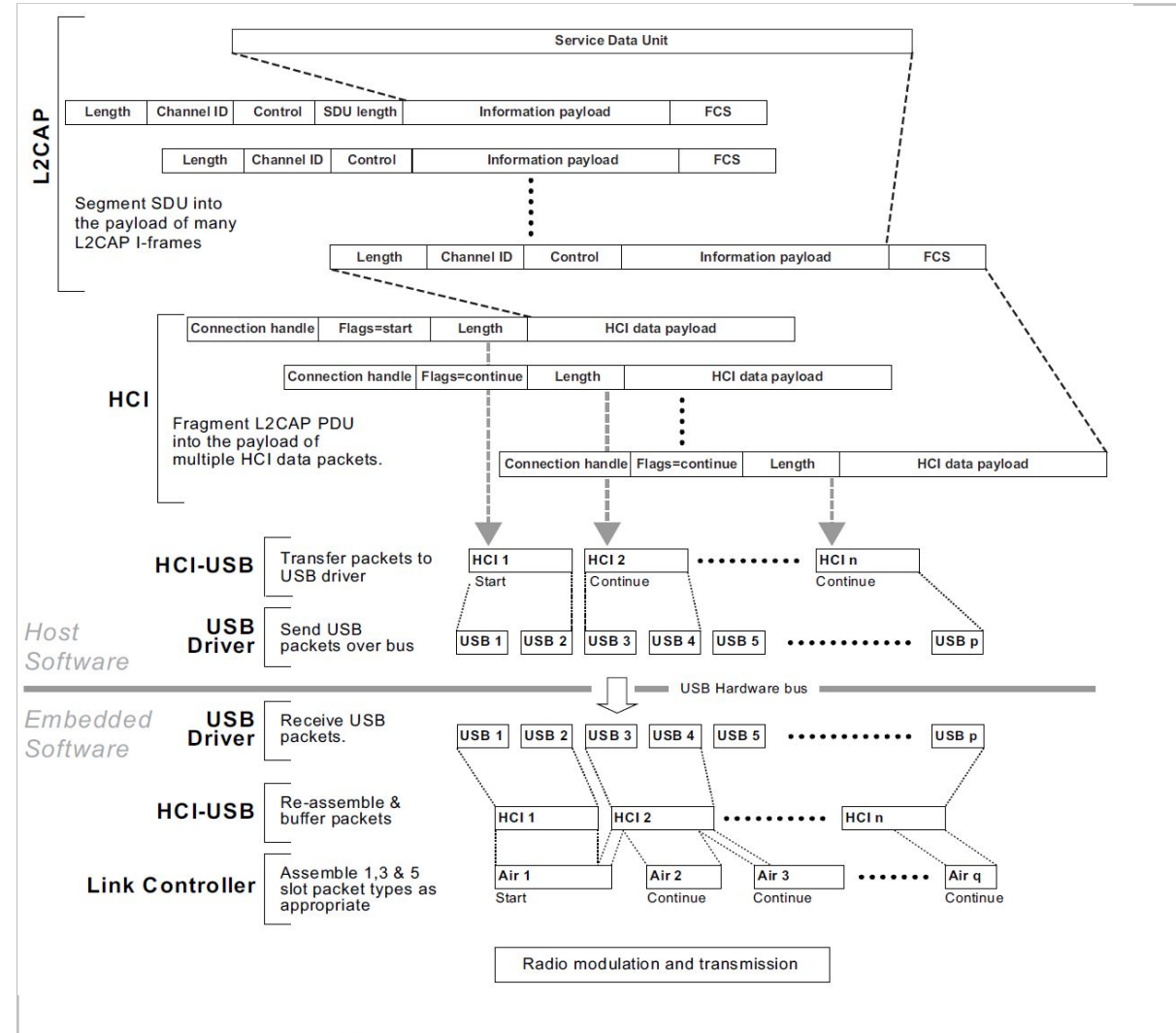
# Untapped, Very Wide Attack Surface



# It's complicated...

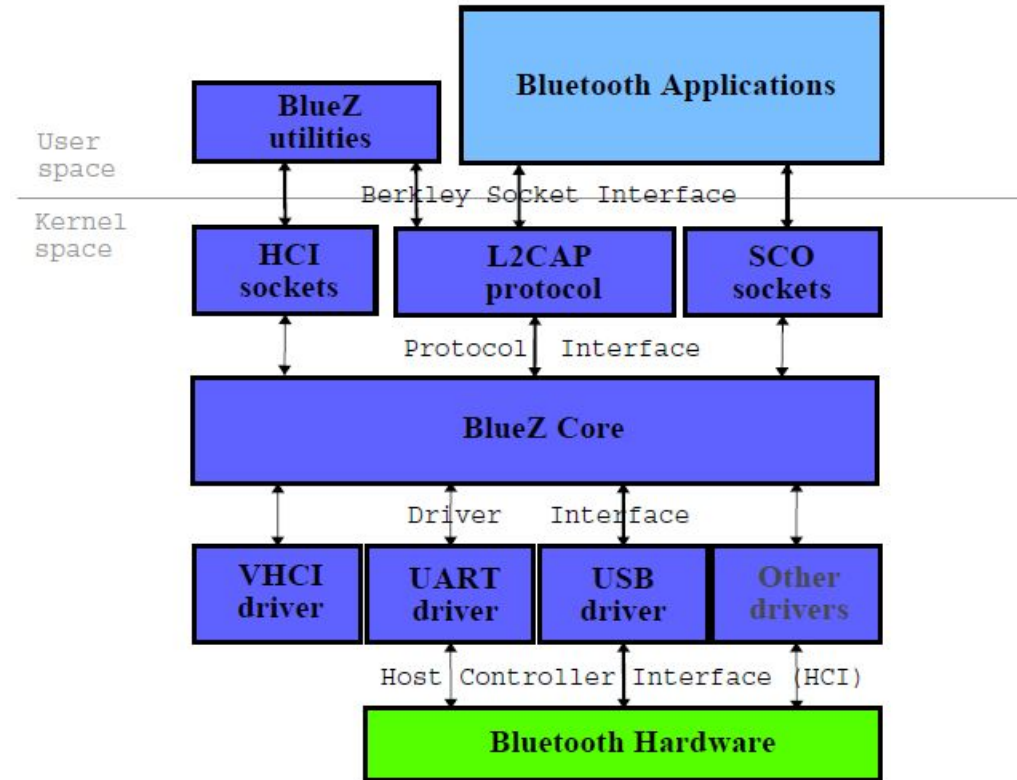


- Bluetooth Spec is 2822 pages long
- Some pages look like this →
- Endless features and facilities (4 layers of fragmentation!)



# BlueZ

- The Linux Bluetooth stack since 2001 (!)
- Talks to Bluetooth Controller HW devices
- Kernel side implementation of
  - H4, HCI event handling
  - ACL, SCO
  - L2CAP
- Userland implementation of higher layers
  - Bluetooth daemon
  - Authentication, Pairing
  - SDP and BT services (HID, Audio, etc)
  - Runs as root



# L2CAP

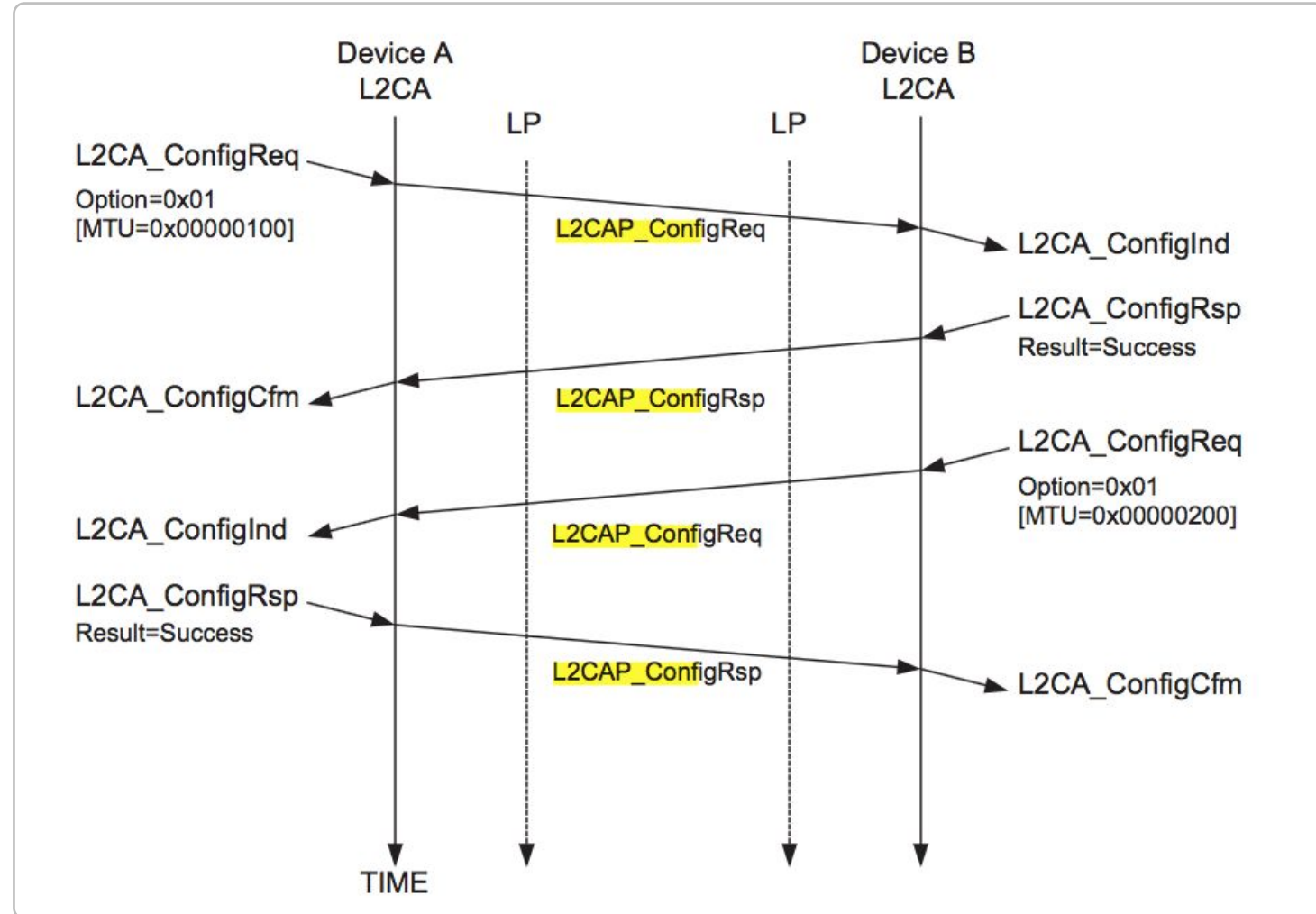


- The Bluetooth equivalent of TCP
  - Reliable connections over ACL packets
  - Listening “servers” on open “ports”
- Connecting to a port does not require authentication
  - Each service may request it later
- Lots of obscure QoS features == lots of code == attack surface
- L2CAP in BlueZ is implemented in Kernel

# Mutual Configuration



- Peers can negotiate parameters during connection establishment phase (e.g. MTU)
- Each side may send multiple ConfigReq and ConfigRsp packets
- The Result in ConfigRsp may also be **Unaccept** or **Pending**
- An Unaccepted ConfigRsp will be answered with a new ConfigReq
- Each new ConfigReq/Rsp will hold a reconstruction of the negotiated parameters



Excerpt from Bluetooth Spec, page 1902

# Mutual Configuration Cont.



**Wireshark · Packet 266 · wireshark\_bluetooth2\_20171113150616\_vWAFs6**

- Frame 266: 32 bytes on wire (256 bits), 32 bytes captured (256 bits)
- Bluetooth
- Bluetooth HCI H4
- Bluetooth HCI ACL Packet
- Bluetooth L2CAP Protocol
  - Length: 23
  - CID: L2CAP Signaling Channel (0x0001)
  - Command: **Configure Request**
    - Command Code: Configure Request (0x04)
    - Command Identifier: 0x04
    - Command Length: 19
    - Destination CID: Dynamically Allocated Channel (0x0040)
    - 0000 0000 0000 000. = Reserved: 0x0000
    - .... .. = Continuation Flag: False
  - Option: Retransmission and Flow Control
  - Option: MTU
    - Type: Maximum Transmission Unit (0x01)
    - Length: 2
    - MTU: 416

0000 02 46 20 1b 00 17 00 01 00 04 04 13 00 40 00 00 .F .....  
0010 00 04 09 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 02 a0 01 .....

**Wireshark · Packet 262 · wireshark\_bluetooth2\_20171113150616\_vWAFs6**

- Frame 262: 25 bytes on wire (200 bits), 25 bytes captured (200 bits)
- Bluetooth
- Bluetooth HCI H4
- Bluetooth HCI ACL Packet
- Bluetooth L2CAP Protocol
  - Length: 16
  - CID: L2CAP Signaling Channel (0x0001)
  - Command: **Configure Response**
    - Command Code: Configure Response (0x05)
    - Command Identifier: 0x03
    - Command Length: 12
    - Source CID: Dynamically Allocated Channel (0x0040)
    - 0000 0000 0000 000. = Reserved: 0x0000
    - .... .. = Continuation Flag: False
    - Result: Failure - unacceptable parameters (0x0001)**
  - Option:
    - Type: Retransmission and Flow Control (0x04)
    - Length: 0
  - Option: MTU
    - Type: Maximum Transmission Unit (0x01)
    - Length: 2
    - MTU: 416

0000 02 46 00 14 00 10 00 01 00 05 03 0c 00 40 00 00 .F.....  
0010 00 01 00 04 00 01 02 a0 01 .....

# RCE in *l2cap\_parse\_conf\_rsp*

(CVE-2017-1000251)



```
static int l2cap_parse_conf_rsp(struct l2cap_chan *chan, void *rsp, int len,
                               void *data, u16 *result)
{
    struct l2cap_conf_req *req = data;
    void *ptr = req->data;
    // ...
    while (len >= L2CAP_CONF_OPT_SIZE) {
        len -= l2cap_get_conf_opt(&rsp, &type, &olen, &val);
        switch (type) {

        case L2CAP_CONF_MTU:
            // Validate MTU ...
            l2cap_add_conf_opt(&ptr, L2CAP_CONF_MTU, 2, chan->imtu);
            break;
            // ... Parsing and adding other various parameters
        }
    }
}
```

len is the size of rsp. data is the output conf\_req buffer, but its size isn't given here...

Each param from rsp is added to the data buffer at ptr (and ptr is advanced). However, the bounds aren't checked...

Excerpt from *l2cap\_parse\_conf\_rsp* (net/bluetooth/l2cap\_core.c)



# RCE in `l2cap_parse_conf_rsp` on Linux v3.3-rc1+

```
switch (result) {
    case L2CAP_CONF_SUCCESS:
        // ...
        break;

    case L2CAP_CONF_PENDING:
        set_bit(CONF_REM_CONF_PEND, &chan->conf_state);
        if (test_bit(CONF_LOC_CONF_PEND, &chan->conf_state)) {
            char buf[64];
            len = l2cap_parse_conf_rsp(chan, rsp->data, len,
                                     buf, &result);

            // ...
            goto done;
        }
}
```

The state of the connection needs to be *Pending*

The output data buffer `buf` is 64 bytes long on the stack :(

Excerpt from `l2cap_config_rsp` (net/bluetooth/l2cap\_core.c)

# Exploit Strategy



- Arrange ability to transmit arbitrary L2CAP\_ConfRsp
- Overflow something significant on the stack (pointers)
  - Buffer must also be a valid L2CAP\_ConfRsp
- Defeat possible mitigations
- Develop a write-what-where primitive
- Overwrite usermode-helper commands (to get root shell)
- Disable LSM (Linux Security Modules) if needed

# Expected Stack Overflow Mitigations



- ASLR
- Stack canary (stack protector)
- FORTIFY\_SOURCE (stack buffers are adjacent to the stack canary)
- NX-bit (DEP - Data is not executable, code is not writable)

# Real World Kernel Configurations



- No KASLR (practically everywhere)
- Stack canaries enabled only in major linux distros
  - Not in default config
  - Almost never used in IoT devices
- Fortify source enabled, stack canary disabled (bad idea)
  - Samsung Tizen Watch
- No NX bit (wat?)
  - Amazon Echo (sad!)

# Case Study #1 - Samsung Gear S3

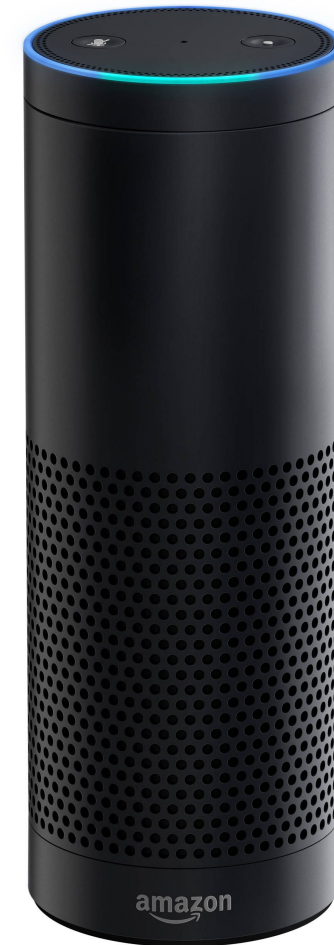


- Kernel 3.18.14, Arm 64bit
- No KASLR
- No Stack canaries
- Fortify source enabled & stack canary disabled (bad combo)
  - First overflown qword is the frame pointer
- SMACK (access control)



# Case Study #2 - Amazon Echo

- Kernel 2.6.37 (!), Arm 32bit
- No KASLR
- No Stack canaries
- No Fortify source
  - First overflown dword is the pointer to the output buffer (response)
- No NX Bit (!)
- No Access Control



# Linux v2.6.32 Limited RCE Flow



```
switch (result) {  
    ...  
    case L2CAP_CONF_UNACCEPT :  
        ...  
        char req[64];  
        if (len > sizeof(req) - sizeof(struct l2cap_conf_req)) {  
            l2cap_send_disconn_req(conn, sk, ECONNRESET);  
            goto done;  
        }  
  
        result = L2CAP_CONF_SUCCESS;  
        len = l2cap_parse_conf_rsp(chan, rsp->data, len,  
            req, &result);  
        ...  
}
```

Input configurations are limited in length (60 bytes)

Output buffer (req) is still 64 bytes on the stack

# Getting Out of Bounds



```
...
while (len >= L2CAP_CONF_OPT_SIZE) {
    len -= l2cap_get_conf_opt(&rsp, &type, &olen, &val);
    switch (type) {
        ...

    case L2CAP_CONF_RFC:
        if (olen == sizeof(rfc))
            memcpy(&rfc, (void *)val, olen);

        l2cap_add_conf_opt(&ptr, L2CAP_CONF_RFC, sizeof(rfc),
                          (unsigned long)&rfc);

        break;
    }
}
```

A zero length config element will result in a element added to the output response with it's default length

Excerpt from `l2cap_parse_conf_rsp` (net/bluetooth/l2cap\_core.c)

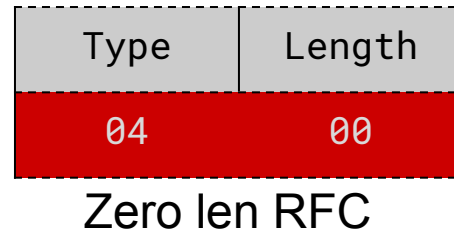


# Getting Out of Bounds [2]



- Our input element:

0x04 ==  
L2CAP\_CONF\_RFC



- Turns into an 11 byte output element
- For example: sending 30 zero-len-RFCs will overwrite data way *out of bounds*:
  - 30 \* zero-len-rfcs = 60 (max)
  - 30 \* output-rfcs = 330

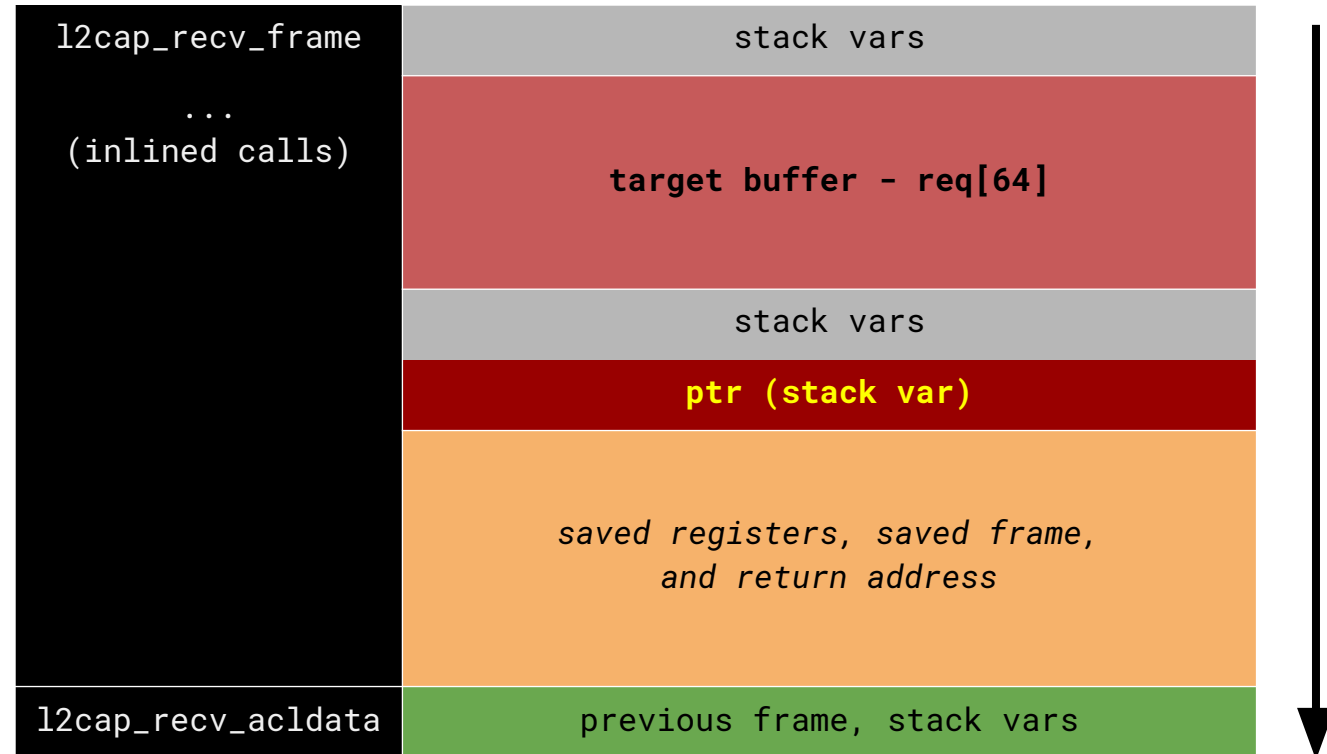
BDD8	req	04	09	XX	XX
BDDC		XX	XX	XX	XX
BDE0		XX	XX	XX	--
BDE4		--	--	--	--
BDE8		--	--	--	--
BDEC		--	--	--	--
BDF0		--	--	--	--
BDF4		--	--	--	--
BDF8		--	--	--	--
BDFC		--	--	--	--
...		...	...	...	...
BED4		<i>Out of bounds data</i>			

Uncontrolled data (9 bytes)

Stackframe from Amazon Echo v591448720

# Analyzing the stack

- **ptr** points to the next element in the output buffer
- Sending 24 zero-len-RFCs will bring us to overwrite **ptr**:
  - $24 * \text{zero-len-rfcs} = 48$
  - $24 * \text{output-rfcs} = 264$
- After overwriting **ptr**, the **next** parsed element can be written **anywhere**



Stackframe from Amazon Echo v591448720

# Creating a Write-What-Where Primitive



- 24 RFCs won't allow us to control **ptr** due to alignment
- We need other elements to align our overflow of the **ptr**
- Using FLUSH or MTU elements can enable proper alignment

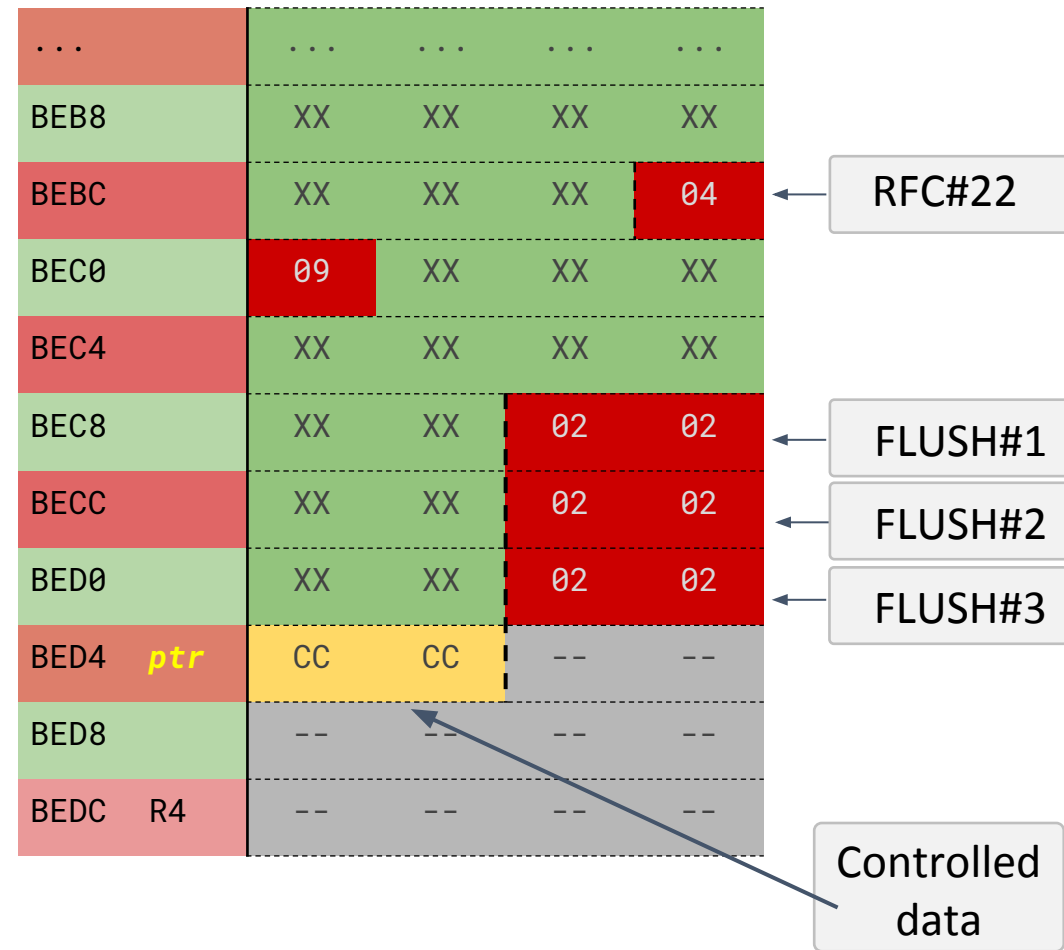
BDD8	req	04	09	XX	XX
BDDC		XX	XX	XX	XX
BDE0		XX	XX	XX	04
BDE4		09	XX	XX	XX
...		...	...	...	...
...		...	...	...	...
BEC8		XX	XX	04	09
BECC		XX	XX	XX	XX
BED0		XX	XX	XX	XX
BED4	ptr	XX	04	09	XX
BED8		XX	XX	XX	XX
BEDC	R4	XX	XX	XX	XX

ptr is not controlled

# Controlling Write-What-Where



- We send 22 empty RFCs
- Additional 2 empty FLUSH elements (for alignment)
- And lastly: We send a FLUSH element (#3) to control lower half of **ptr** (little endian)
- Now we can write an additional element anywhere on the stack!
- Reminder: **ptr** is where the next element is written to.



# Controlling Write-What-Where [2]



...	...	...	...	...
BEB8	XX	XX	XX	XX
BEBc	XX	XX	XX	04
BEC0	09	XX	XX	XX
BEC4	XX	XX	XX	XX
BEC8	XX	XX	02	02
BECC	XX	XX	02	02
BED0	XX	XX	02	02
BED4 ptr	FC	BE	--	--
BED8	--	--	--	--
BEDc R4	--	--	--	--

1. Element overflowing *ptr*

end of stackframe

arbitrary ptr value

*ptr* is now here

BED4 ptr	FC	BE	--	--
BED8	--	--	--	--
BEDc R4	--	--	--	--
BEE0 R5	--	--	--	--
BEE4 R6	--	--	--	--
BEE8 R7	--	--	--	--
BEEc R8	--	--	--	--
BEF0 R9	--	--	--	--
BEF4 R10	--	--	--	--
BEF8 R11	--	--	--	--
BEFc LR	02	02	XX	XX

2. Next element written

Control of LR

# Packaging an Attack Buffer



- Each *ConfRsp* command we send allows a Write-What-Where of 2 bytes anywhere on the stack
- Conveniently, L2CAP allows packing multiple commands into 1 packet. This allows sending multiple *ConfRsp*'s at once (essential for overflowing all 4 bytes of LR)
- We'll use that to write a shellcode somewhere on the stack, word by word, and then point LR there (No NX-bit)



# Usermode helpers



- We've got Kernel mode code exec. We want a root shell.
- *orderly\_poweroff* function runs a command in userspace that is supposed to shut the machine down gracefully
- *poweroff\_cmd* is a global (writeable) string in kernel memory that holds that command.
- Our payload writes a bash connectback to *poweroff\_cmd*, and then calls *orderly\_poweroff*



# Exploit Recap (Amazon Echo)



- Begin an L2CAP connection, with a high MTU
- Inject a crafted packet with multiple ConfRsp's:
  - Each ConfRsp writes 2 bytes of payload to an unused area on the stack
  - The last 2 ConfRsp's point the LR to the payload
- The payload is a shellcode that overwrites `poweroff_cmd` and causes a bash command to be executed.
  - Finally, it restores execution (jumps back)



# Linux 3.18.14 RCE flow



- Performed on Gear S3 Smartwatch
  - No limitation to size of *ConfRsp* on this newer kernel
  - NX-bit enabled, arm-64, FORTIFY\_SOURCE
- But no stack canary... Therefore, we overflow LR directly
- Point LR to a stack pivot, executing a ROP chain from our *ConfRsp*.
- ROP performs the same usermode helpers trick



# Defeating modern mitigations



- On major Linux distros, kernel stack canaries are enabled. Some enable KASLR. However:

```
static int l2cap_parse_conf_rsp(struct l2cap_chan *chan, void *rsp, int len,
                               void *data, u16 *result) {
```

```
...
```

```
struct l2cap_conf_efs efs; // <- Uninitialized
```

```
...
```

```
while (len >= L2CAP_CONF_OPT_SIZE) {
```

```
...
```

```
    case L2CAP_CONF_EFS:
```

```
        if (olen == sizeof(efs))
```

```
            memcpy(&efs, (void *)val, olen);
```

```
        ...
```

```
        l2cap_add_conf_opt(&ptr, L2CAP_CONF_EFS, sizeof(efs),
```

```
                           (unsigned long) &efs);
```

*olen* is attacker controlled, this memcpy can be avoided

Uninitialized *efs* (16 bytes from stack) will be leaked to attacker

# Defeating modern mitigations [2]



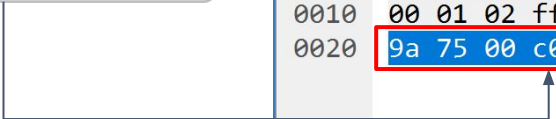
45.055012	00:aa:aa:aa:aa:cc ...	SamsungE_64:21:7d ...	87	Sent Configure Response - Failure - unacceptable par
45.059429	controller	host	8	Rcvd Number of Completed Packets
45.060605	SamsungE_64:21:7d ...	00:aa:aa:aa:aa:cc ...	39	Rcvd Configure Request (DCID: 0x0040)
45.063190	SamsungE_64:21:7d ...	00:aa:aa:aa:aa:cc ...	23	Rcvd Configure Response - Pending (SCID: 0x0040)
45.064499	SamsungE_64:21:7d ...	00:aa:aa:aa:aa:cc ...	39	Rcvd Configure Request (DCID: 0x0040)

Command Identifier: 0x05  
Command Length: 26  
Destination CID: Dynamically Allocated Channel (0x0040)  
0000 0000 0000 000. = Reserved: 0x0000  
..... = Continuation Flag: False

- > Option: MTU
- ▼ Option: Extended Flow Specification
  - Type: Extended Flow Specification (0x06)
  - Length: 16
  - Identifier: 0x0c
  - Service Type: No traffic (0x00)
  - Maximum SDU Size: 0
  - SDU Inter-arrival Time (us): 0
  - Access Latency (us): 7707256
  - Flush Timeout (us): 4294967232

```
0000 02 48 20 22 00 1e 00 01 00 04 05 1a 00 40 00 00 .H ". . . . .@..
0010 00 01 02 ff ff 06 10 0c 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 78 . . . . .x
0020 9a 75 00 c0 ff ff ff .u.....
```

pointer from  
the stack

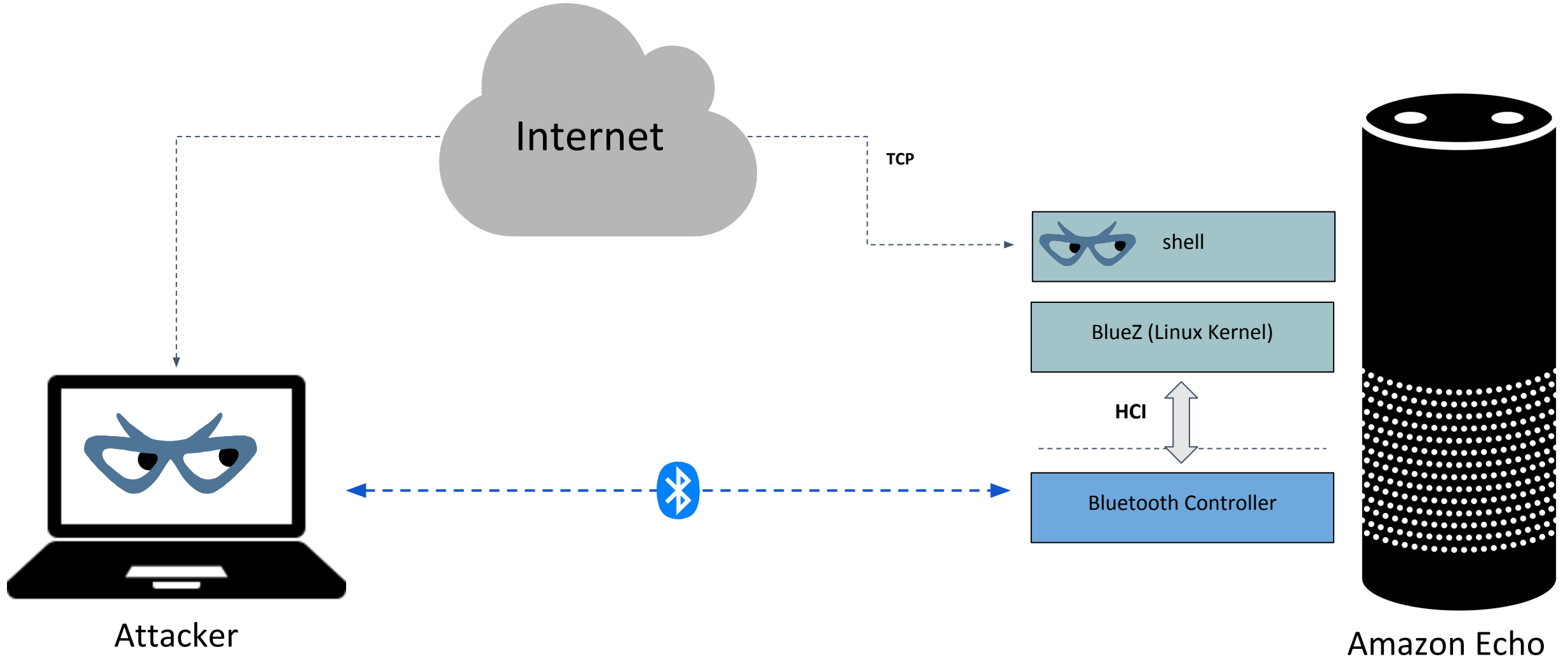


# BlueBorne References

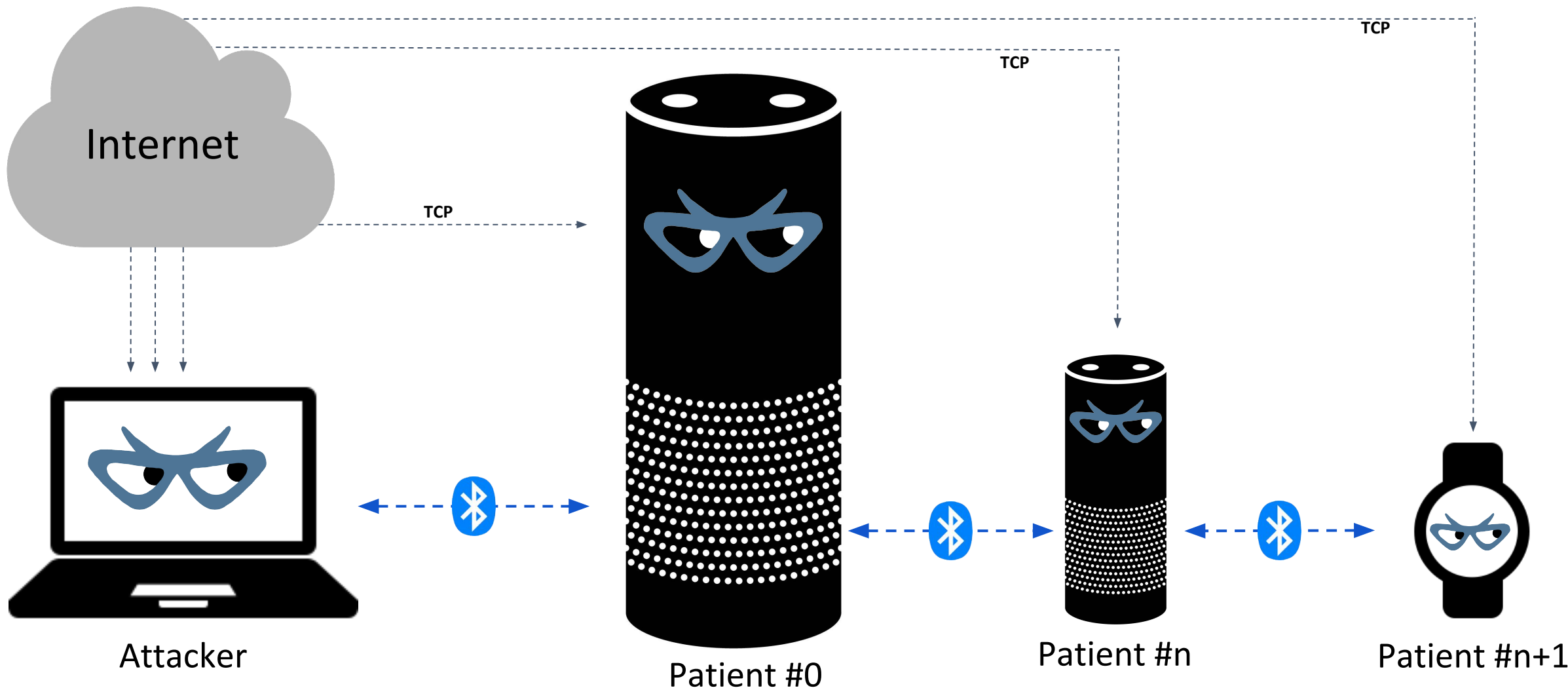
- BlueBorne Linux Exploit (<https://github.com/ArmisSecurity>)
- BlueBorne Linux Exploit Blog (<https://armis.com/armis-labs>)
- BlueBorne Technical White Paper (<https://armis.com/blueborne>)



# Demo



# Spreading the attack



# Key Takeaways



- Bluetooth implementations are complex and underexamined
- Mitigations in Linux devices (especially IoT) are lagging behind
- Security mechanisms should be monitoring Bluetooth, and other wireless protocols as well





**black hat**<sup>®</sup>  
EUROPE 2017

QUESTIONS



 #BHEU / @BLACKHATEVENTS