

Botconf 2024

IoT Malware and Rookit Detections Using Electromagnetic Insights: Unveiling the Unseen

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UMR IRISA

Trellix

ANR-JCJC: Automated Hardware Malware Analysis (AHMA)

"Can side-channel play a role against Malware?"



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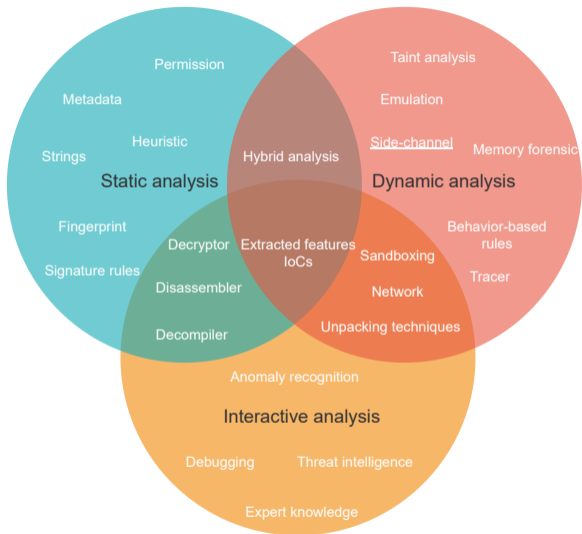
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- 1 Introduction
 - Context
 - State of the art
- 2 Acquisition setup
- 3 Data preprocessing
- 4 Results
- 5 Conclusion and perspectives
- 6 References

- Trending of attacks on embedded devices.
- Difficulties for antivirus solutions on IoT devices: constraints, diversity, dataset.
- Malware detection bypasses

Malware analysis techniques

- Malware detection
- Malware similarities
- Malware classification



Static analysis

- Malware obfuscation
- Packers

Dynamic analysis

- Anti-debugging
- "Side-channel information"

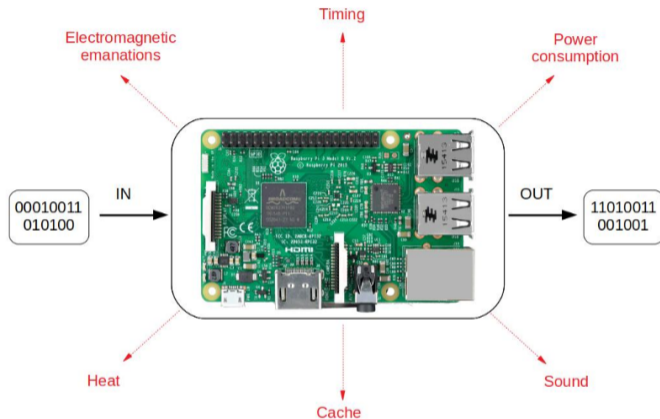
Evasion of Detection Technologies (EDR/XDR)

- Evade behavioral detection
- Gaps in detection capabilities



(hackaday)

- Embedded device
- Side channel information
 - Power consumption
 - Electromagnetism (EM)
 - Cache, HPC (software)



- Anomaly detection using power consumption and EM.

Contribution

Automated framework to automatically classify IoT malware by leveraging EM.

- Anomaly detection using power consumption and EM.
- Lack of research of side-channel detection for real-world malware.
- No variations regarding obfuscation and packers.

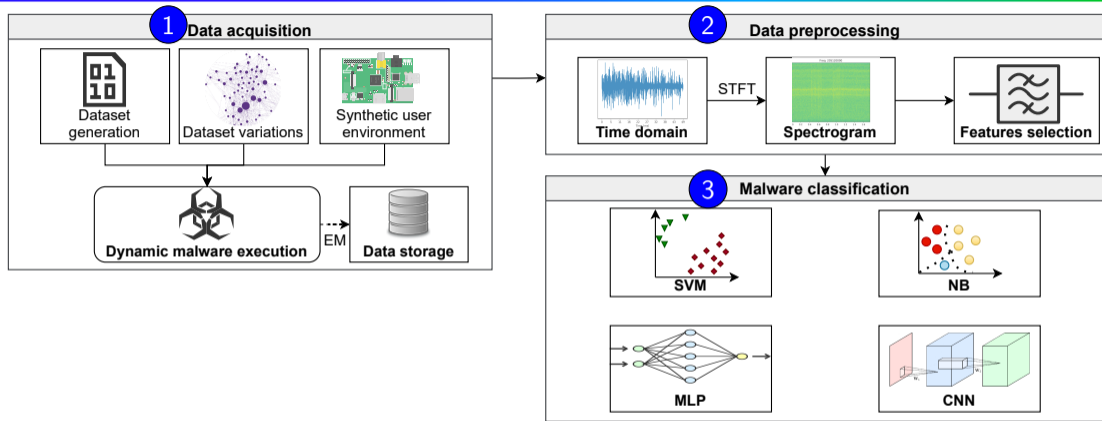
Contribution

Real-world malicious and benign IoT dataset classification.

- Anomaly detection using power consumption and EM.
- Lack of research of side-channel detection for real-world malware.
- No variation regarding obfuscation and packers.
- Utilize benchmark software to detect rootkit.

Contribution

Novel *baits* to detect rootkit in real-time.

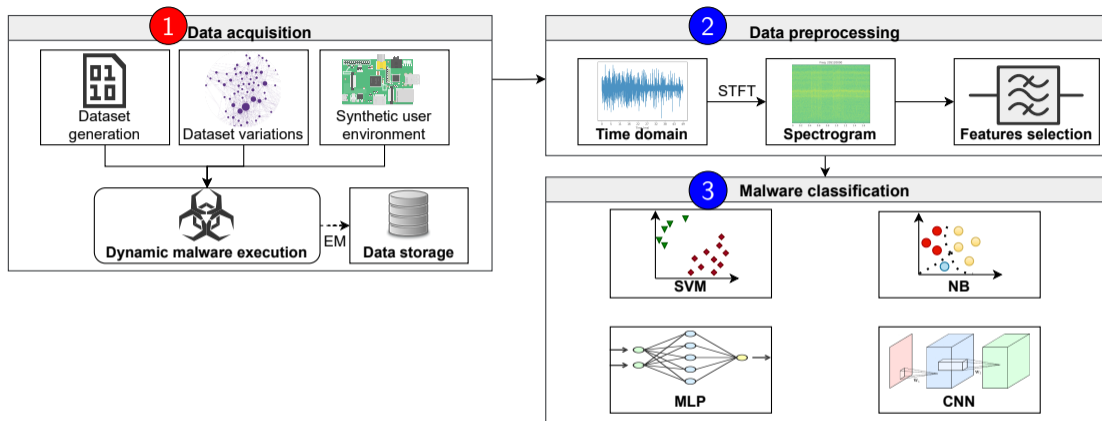


Open-source (code and dataset)

<https://github.com/ahma-hub/analysis/wiki>

<https://gitlab.com/ultra-RK/ultra>

Dataset divergences between AHMA and ULTRA



Dataset

- 1 AHMA focuses on malwares' variations classification, while ULTRA focuses on rootkits detection.

Samples

- **benign** [5]: random34, playaudio, recordcamera, takepicture, encodevideo
- **mirai** [8]
- **gonnacy** [12]
- **rootkits** [2]
- **bashlite** [8]

Obfuscations and variations

obfuscations: `_addopaque`, `_virtualize`, `_flatten`, `_cfflatten`, `_bcf`, `_sub`, `_upx`.

encryption algorithm for gonnacy (by default blowfish): `[_aes]`, `[_des]`

- Benign activities

- User-space: Linux utilities, etc.

- Kernel-space: Kernel drivers, firewalls, etc.

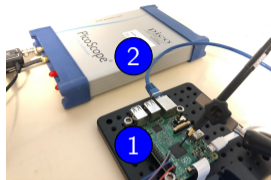
- Rootkit dataset

	Hide files	Network	Keylogger	RAT	LPE	Mode
<i>diamorphine</i> *	✓				✓	Kernel
<i>m0ham3d</i> *	✓	✓			✓	Kernel
<i>adore-ng</i>	✓	✓		✓		Kernel
<i>spy</i>			✓			Kernel
<i>maK_it</i>			✓			Kernel
<i>beurk</i>	✓	✓		✓		User
<i>vlany</i>	✓	✓		✓		User

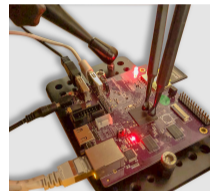
* plus an obfuscated version.

Specifications

- Multi-purpose embedded device.
 - Prominent architecture: ARM and MIPS.
- Raspberry Pi B+, Creator CI20



Raspberry Pi B+



Creator CI20



Picoscope

- cheap oscilloscope, but not very cheap
- standard in side-channel
- Setup:** EM monitoring during 2.5s at 2MHz sampling rate.
 - 200k traces [2TB]

SDR Advantages

- Flexible and adaptable
- Suitable for streaming mode
- Affordable and portable
- Setup:** EM monitoring during 0.5s using HackRF SDR with 2MHz window
 - Centered in 1222MHz for Raspberry Pi B+ and 792MHz for the Creator CI20.
 - 800k traces [6.6TB]

AHMA

- recording start at the malware installation using a software trigger,

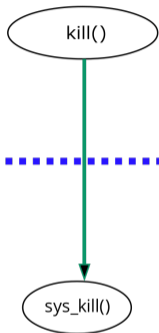
ULTRA

- record **baits** activities

Bait definition

A *bait* β , which is a software or hardware stimulus on a device δ , has the following requirements:

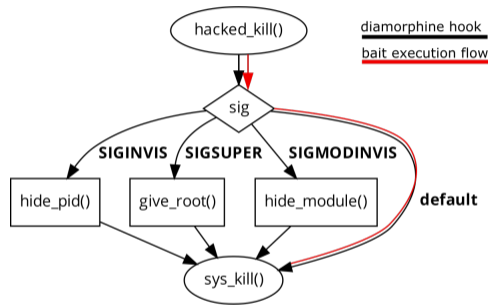
- (i) The bait can trigger partial or full behavior of rootkits without knowing *modus operandi* of the rootkit in advance;
- (ii) It has a variable duration time of execution activities that can be remotely controlled;
- (iii) It cannot be distinguished from common benign behavior (e.g., it relies on unprivileged execution).



user space

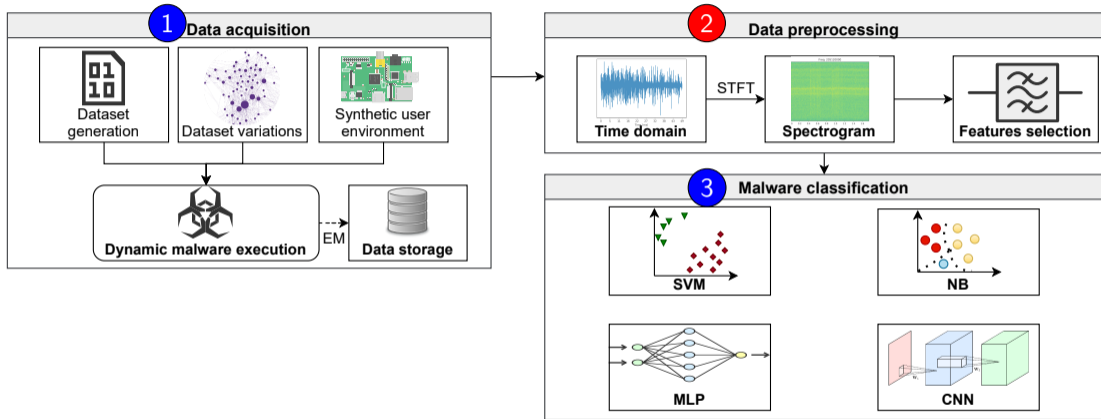
kernel space

kill() syscall flow



Diamorphine rootkit syscall hooking

Frameworks overview: data acquisition



- Raw traces:

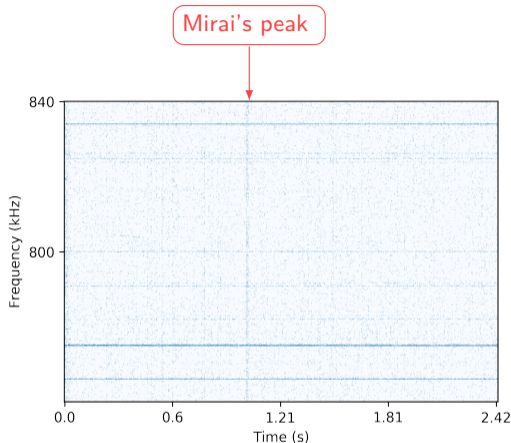
106k(traces) \times 2(MS/s) \times 2.5(s) [1.2TB]

- Time-frequency representation:

Short-time Fourier transform

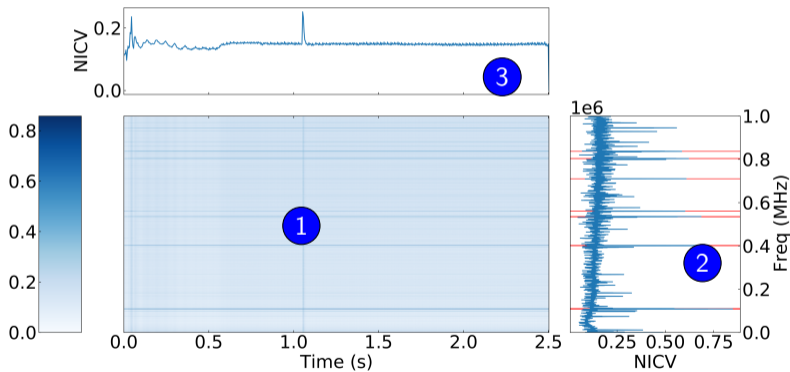
$$\text{spectro}\{x(n)\}(m, \omega) = \left| \sum_{n=0}^N x(n)w(n-m)e^{-j\omega n} \right|^2$$

$$\begin{cases} \text{windows} & = 8192 \\ \text{overlap} & = 4096 \end{cases}$$



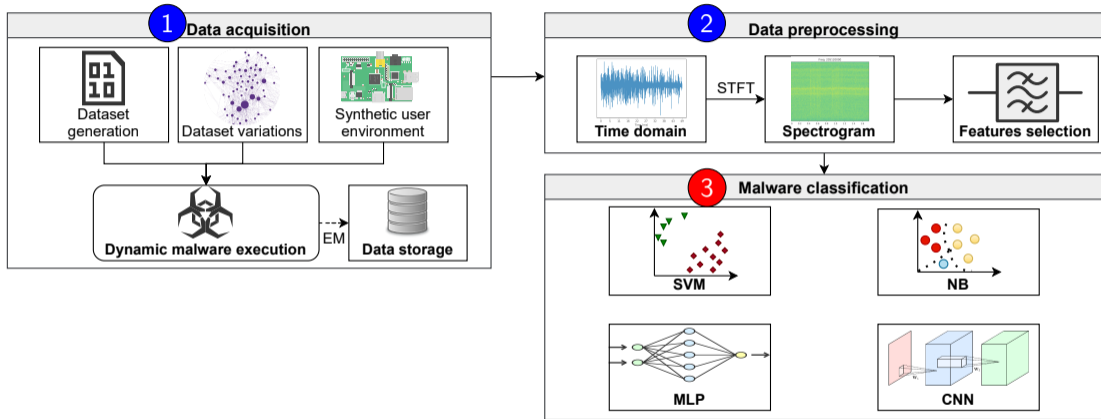
$$\text{NICV}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[X|Y]]}{\text{Var}[X]}$$

$$F_{\text{extract}} = \underset{\epsilon}{\text{argmax}} \left(\left\{ \max[\text{NICV}(X, Y)_f^D] \right\}_{f < F} \right)$$



Based on NICV's results

- AHMA: try from one to F bandwidth without rejections,
- ULTRA: hill-climbing process, with rejection process to select optimal bandwidth subspace.



Machine Learning

- (AHMA)Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) / (ULTRA)Kernel PCA
+ (AHMA + ULTRA) Naive Bayes (NB)
- (AHMA)Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) / (ULTRA)Kernel PCA
+ (AHMA + ULTRA) Support vector machine (SVM)

Deep Learning

- (AHMA + ULTRA) Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)
- (AHMA) Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

Malware classification results

	#	MLP	CNN	MLP	CNN
Scenarios			Rasp.		ci20
Family	6	98.00 [14]	99.36 [11]	96.96 [11]	96.99 [11]

Table 1. Accuracy obtained with MLP, CNN applied on several scenarios for the ci20 and raspberry.

Labels	<i>benign,</i>	<i>mirai,</i>	<i>gonnacry,</i>	<i>maK_it spy</i>	<i>bashlite</i>
Samples	random34, encodevideo, takepicture, recordcamera, playaudio	mirai, mirai_cfflatten, mirai_virtualize, mirai_flatten, mirai_bcf, mirai_addopaque, mirai_sub, mirai_upx	gonnacry, gonnacry_upx, gonnacry_aes_upx, gonnacry_aes, gonnacry_virtualize, gonnacry_flatten, gonnacry_bcf, gonnacry_sub, gonnacry_cfflatten, gonnacry_addopaque, gonnacry_des, gonnacry_des_upx	maK_it, spy	bashlite, bashlite_bcf, bashlite_flatten, bashlite_upx, bashlite_addopaque, bashlite_cfflatten, bashlite_sub, bashlite_virtualize

Malware classification results

Scenarios	#	MLP	CNN	MLP	CNN
		Rasp.		ci20	
Novelty (family)	5	96.65 [11]	89.04 [4]	99.92 [25]	99.91 [11]

Table 1. Accuracy obtained with MLP, CNN applied on several scenarios for the ci20 and raspberry.

Labels	<i>benign,</i>	<i>mirai,</i>	<i>gonnacry,</i>	<i>rootkit,</i>	<i>bashlite</i>
Samples learning	random34, encodevideo, takepicture, recordcamera, playaudio	mirai, mirai_cfflatten, mirai_bcf, mirai_upx	gonnacry, gonnacry_upx, gonnacry_virtualize, gonnacry_flatten, gonnacry_bcf, gonnacry_sub, gonnacry_addopaque,	maK_it,	bashlite, bashlite_bcf, bashlite_upx, bashlite_addopaque, bashlite_cfflatten, bashlite_sub
Samples testing	random34, encodevideo, takepicture, recordcamera, playaudio	mirai_virtualize, mirai_flatten, mirai_addopaque, mirai_sub	gonnacry_aes_upx, gonnacry_aes, gonnacry_cfflatten	spy (kisni)	bashlite_flatten, bashlite_virtualize

Malware classification results

	#	MLP	CNN	MLP	CNN
Scenarios		Rasp.		ci20	
Obfuscation	7	71.1 [11]	78.9 [15]	42.8 [5]	44.7 [5]

Table 1. Accuracy obtained with MLP, CNN applied on several scenarios for the ci20 and raspberry.

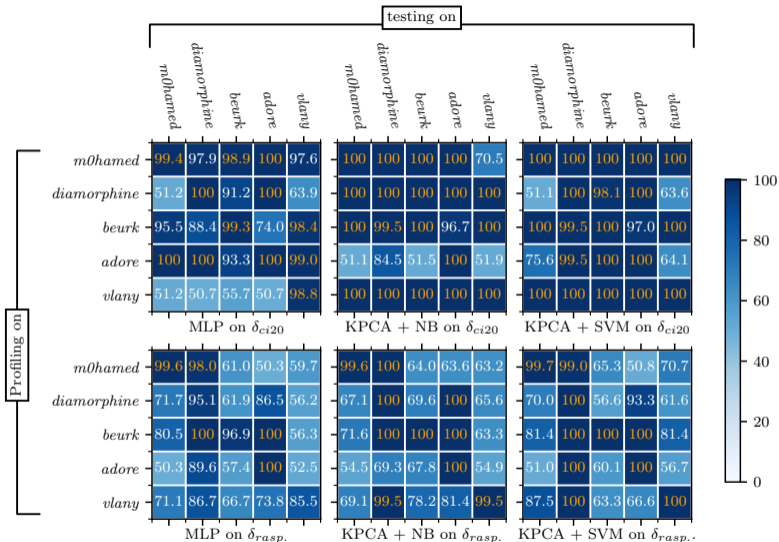
Labels	<i>addopaque,</i>	<i>virtulalize,</i>	<i>flatten</i>	
Samples	mirai_addopaque, gonnacry_addopaque, bashlite_addopaque	mirai_virtualize, gonnacry_virtualize, bashlite_virtualize	mirai_flatten, gonnacry_flatten, bashlite_flatten	
Labels	<i>cflatten,</i>	<i>upx,</i>	<i>sub,</i>	<i>bcf</i>
Samples	mirai_cflatten, gonnacry_cflatten, bashlite_cflatten	mirai_upx, gonnacry_upx, bashlite_upx	mirai_sub, gonnacry_sub, bashlite_sub	mirai_bcf, gonnacry_bcf, bashlite_bcf

Scenarios	#	MLP	CNN	MLP	CNN
		Rasp.		ci20	
Executables	35	70.7 [5]	77.1 [10]	29.9 [9]	34.3 [6]

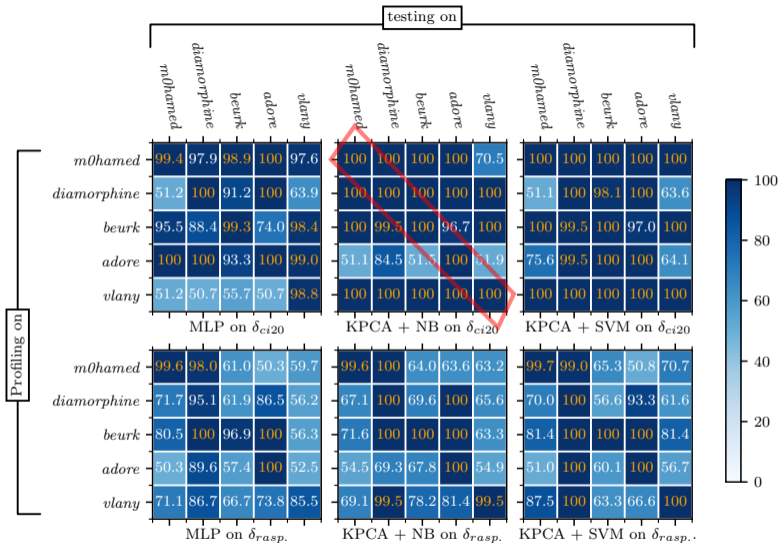
Table 1. Accuracy obtained with MLP, CNN applied on several scenarios for the ci20 and raspberry.

Labels: *random34, mirai, mirai_addopaque, mirai_virtualize, mirai_flatten, mirai_bcf, mirai_cfflatten, mirai_sub, mirai_upx, gonnacry, gonnacry_upx, gonnacry_aes_upx, gonnacry_aes, gonnacry_des, gonnacry_des_upx, gonnacry_virtualize, gonnacry_flatten, gonnacry_bcf, gonnacry_sub, gonnacry_cfflatten, gonnacry_addopaque, maK_it, spy (kisni), bashlite, bashlite_bcf, bashlite_flatten, bashlite_upx, bashlite_addopaque, bashlite_cfflatten, bashlite_sub, bashlite_virtualize, playaudio, recordcamera, takepicture, encodevideo*

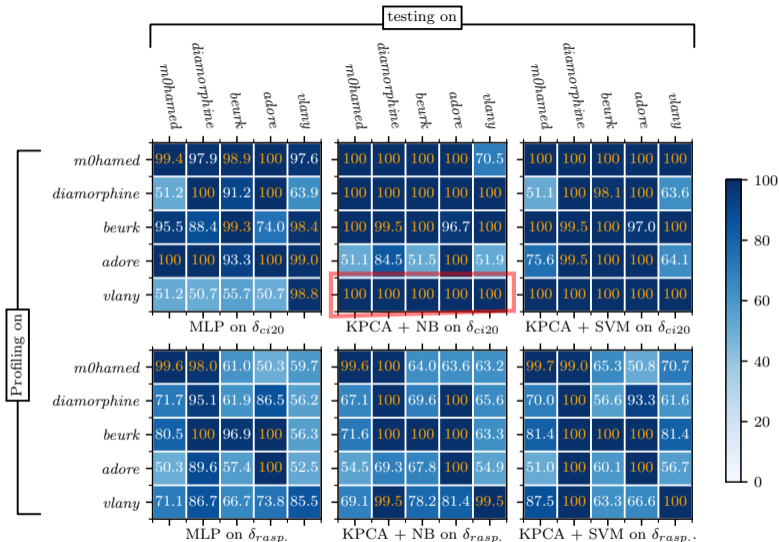
Rootkit detection: Novelty detection using getdents



Rootkit detection: Novelty detection using getdents



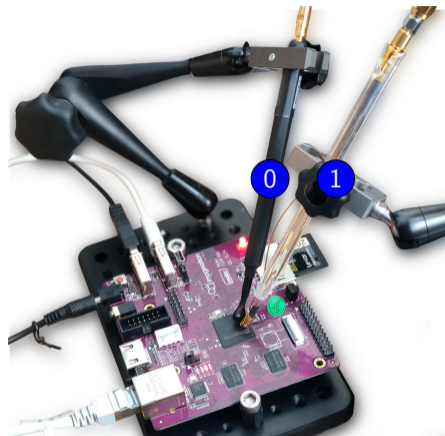
Rootkit detection: Novelty detection using getdents



Probe type

Scenario	MLP			KPCA + NB			KPCA + SVM		
	BA $[\epsilon_{opt}]$	TPR	TNR	BA $[\epsilon_{opt}]$	TPR	TNR	BA $[\epsilon_{opt}]$	TPR	TNR
$\{0, 0\} \rightarrow \{0, 0\}$	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100
$\{0, 0\} \rightarrow \{1, 0\}$	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100
$\{0, 0\} \rightarrow \{2, 1\}$	60.6 _[2]	21.4	99.9	50.0 _[2]	0.0	100	50.0 _[2]	0.0	100
$\{1, 0\} \rightarrow \{1, 0\}$	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[3]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100
$\{2, 1\} \rightarrow \{2, 1\}$	100 _[1]	100	100	100 _[4]	100	100	100 _[4]	100	100

- More scenarios available:** sample classification, keyloggers detection with software and hardware baits, influence of benign kernel activities, effect of background noise, influence of obfuscation.

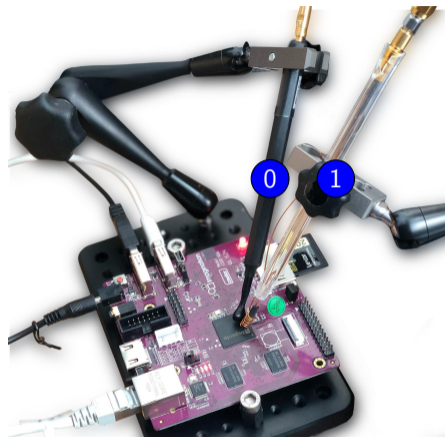


ULTRA with a cheap probe
beurk vs. open bait

Probe location

Scenario	MLP			KPCA + NB			KPCA + SVM		
	BA $[\epsilon_{opt}]$	TPR	TNR	BA $[\epsilon_{opt}]$	TPR	TNR	BA $[\epsilon_{opt}]$	TPR	TNR
$\{0, 0\} \rightarrow \{0, 0\}$	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100
$\{0, 0\} \rightarrow \{1, 0\}$	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100
$\{0, 0\} \rightarrow \{2, 1\}$	60.6 _[2]	21.4	99.9	50.0 _[2]	0.0	100	50.0 _[2]	0.0	100
$\{1, 0\} \rightarrow \{1, 0\}$	100 _[2]	100	100	100 _[3]	100	100	100 _[2]	100	100
$\{2, 1\} \rightarrow \{2, 1\}$	100 _[1]	100	100	100 _[4]	100	100	100 _[4]	100	100

- **More scenarios available:** sample classification, keyloggers detection with software and hardware baits, influence of benign kernel activities, effect of background noise, influence of obfuscation.



ULTRA with a cheap probe
beurk vs. open bait

DEMO

Achievement

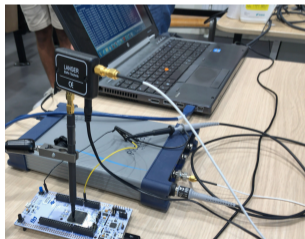
- (fully open-source) AHMA framework: classification in presence of obfuscation
- (fully open-source) ULTRA framework: Wave-and-Play solution.
- Investigation of various experiments and real-world scenarios.
- Promising solution (detection accuracy up to 100%) and handy: tested with multiple probes and probe relocation with affordable SDR.

Media Coverage

- The Hacker News, Schneier on Security, 01 net...
- ...But be Careful to the fake news, we **never** used raspberry to detect malware on your computer!

What next?

- Is it possible to reverse the classification?
- Larger dataset and upcoming threats (eg. hypervisor, eBPF rootkits)
- A standalone solution that uses electromagnetic waves to detect malware and similar threats for other platforms (PLC, Linux servers, etc.)
- Portable solution with GPU (e.g. Nvidia Jetson Nano)



- Duy-Phuc Pham et al. “Obfuscation Revealed: Leveraging Electromagnetic Signals for Obfuscated Malware Classification”. In: *Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC)*. 2021.
 - Duy-Phuc Pham, Damien Marion, and Annelie Heuser. “Poster: Obfuscation Revealed-Using Electromagnetic Emanation to Identify and Classify Malware”. In: *2021 IEEE European Symposium on Security and Privacy (EuroS&P)*. IEEE. 2021, pp. 710–712.
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- Duy-Phuc Pham thesis: Leveraging side-channel signals for IoT malware classification and rootkit detection

Thank you!

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Consider a dataset that contains 99 negative samples and 1 positive sample. Classifying all values as negative yields a 0.99 accuracy score.

Balanced Accuracy is not affected by this issue. It normalizes true positive and true negative predictions by the number of positive and negative samples, respectively, and divides their sum by two:

$$\mathbf{BA} = \frac{TPR + TNR}{2} \quad (1)$$

- Picoscope 6000
- Keysight Infiniium
- HackRF SDR



Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)

Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

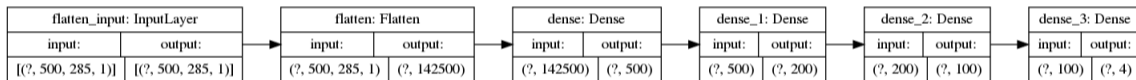


Table: Proposed MLP architecture of ULTRA framework

Layer	Size	Filter	Activation
Flatten	spectrogram_size	—	leaky relu
Dense	500	—	leaky relu
Dense	200	—	leaky relu
Dense	100	—	leaky relu
Dense	N	—	softmax (multi-class) or sigmoid (two-class)

Layer	Size	Filter	Activation
Convolution	64	7×7	relu
Max Pooling	64	2×2	—
Convolution	128	3×3	relu
Convolution	128	3×3	relu
Max Pooling	128	2×2	—
Convolution	256	3×3	relu
Convolution	256	3×3	relu
Max Pooling	256	2×2	—
Dense	128	—	relu
Dense	64	—	relu
Dense	nb_labels	—	softmax

Article	Year	Techniques
WattsUpDoc: Power SC to Nonintrusively Discover Untargeted MW on Embedded Medical Devices	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detection of 12 MW variants - Power & MLP & 3NN & RF
Detecting crypto-ransomware in IoT networks based on energy consumption footprint	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MW detection of Ransomware - PowerTutor & KNN
Deep learning-based classification and anomaly detection of side-channel signals	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anomaly detection of botnet - Power & MLP & LSTM
HLMD: a signature-based approach to HW-level behavioral MW detection and classification	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MW classification of 14 variants - HPC & singular values

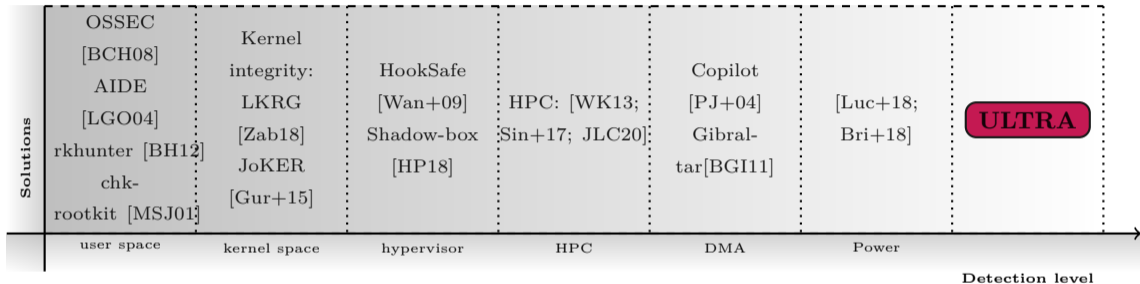
Article	Year	Techniques
EDDIE: EM-based detection of deviations in program execution	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Code Inj. detection- EM & STFT & KS
MW detection in embedded systems using NN model for EM SC signals	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- MW detection of DDoS, Ransomware, CF Hijack- EM & MLP

→ Real world malware.

Table: Comparison with related works on side-channel malware (SCM) analysis using EM or power consumption.

Article	SCM detection	Anomaly detection	SCM classification	Real-world SCM	Real-world analysis environment	Samples size	Variations	Benign dataset	Window size	Open data, source code	Device under test
WattsUpDoc [Cla+13]	✓	-	-	✓	-	15	-	-	5s	-	Windows XP Embedded 664 MHz
IDEA [Kha+19]	-	✓	-	-	-	3	-	-	<40 μ s	-	AT328p 16MHz, Cortex A8
REMOTE [Seh+20]	-	✓	-	✓	-	3	-	-	<10ms	-	Single-core ARM 1Ghz
Wang <i>et al.</i> [Wan+18]	-	✓	-	-	-	1	-	-	10s	-	Raspberry Pi, Arduino, Siemens PLC
Khan <i>et al.</i> [Kha+19]	✓	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	<150 μ s	-	Cyclone II FPGA & NIOS II soft-processor
DeepPower [Din+20]	✓	-	✓	✓	-	5	-	-	1s	-	MIPS/ARM OpenWRT
Chawla <i>et al.</i> [CKM21]	✓	-	✓	✓	-	137	-	✓	10s	-	Android Intrinsic Open-Q 820
Chapter ??	(✓)*	-	✓	✓	✓	35	✓	✓	2.5s	✓	Multi-core, 900 Mhz ARM

State of the art (4)

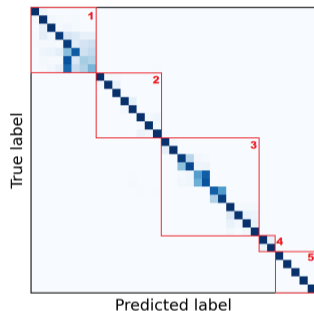


Taxonomy of rootkit detection approaches and positioning our approach in the state of the art and open source tools.

Table: Comparison with related works on rootkit (RK) detection using different side-channel analysis techniques: HPC, DMA, Power consumption (Power) and EM.

	Article	WnP	Classification	Baits	ML	DL	Sample size	Open source	Benign	User RK	Window size	Device under test
HPC	Numchecker [WK13]	-	-	✓	-	-	8	-	-	-	262.3 ms	32-bit Ubuntu PC
	[Sin+17]	-	-	-	✓	-	5	-	-	-	45s	VMWare Windows 7 Intel
	[JLC20]	-	-	✓	✓	-	4	-	-	-	2.91s	ARM Cortex-A53
DMA	Copilot [PJ+04]	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	30s	PCI-compatible Intel PC Linux
	Gibraltar [BGI11]	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	✓	-	20s	PCI-compatible Intel PC Linux
Power	[Luc+18]	-	-	-	✓	✓	5	-	-	✓	>5m	PC Windows 10 & Ubuntu 14
	[Bri+18]	-	-	-	✓	-	5	-	-	-	>1m	Dell OptiPlex 755 Windows 7
EM	ULTRA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9	✓	✓	✓	1.3s	ARM Raspberry Pi & MIPS Ci20

Confusion matrix of a CNN classification into 35 binaries



Confusion matrix of a CNN classification into 35 binaries from left to right (with and without obfuscation).

(1) *bashlite_cfflatten*, *bashlite_upx*, *bashlite_bcf*, *bashlite*, *bashlite_addopaque*, *bashlite_sub*, *bashlite_flatten*, *bashlite_virtualize*;

(2) *mirai_sub*, *mirai_bcf*, *mirai_cfflatten*, *mirai*, *mirai_upx*, *mirai_addopaque*, *mirai_flatten*, *mirai_virtualize*;

(3) *gonnacry_des*, *gonnacry_des_upx*, *gonnacry*, *gonnacry_aes*, *gonnacry_aes_upx*, *gonnacry_upx*, *gonnacry_flatten*, *gonnacry_virtualize*, *gonnacry_addopaque*, *gonnacry_bcf*, *gonnacry_sub*, *gonnacry_cfflatten*;

(4) *spy*, *maK_I*;

(5) *benign*: encode video, play audio, take picture, record camera, random.

Activities	Executables			
Linux Utilities	mknod	vdir	more	find
	zgrep	ls	cat	findmnt
	zmore	as	ed	rm
	touch	dmesg	sleep	cd
	less	grep	objdump	
Network	wget	hostname	ss	ip
Compression	gunzip	bunzip2	bzip2	tar
	uncompress			
Data backup	dd			
Scripting	python			
Photo & Video	rastipill	rastipid		
Video Encoding	MP4Box			
Audio player	mpg321			

- Binaries from fresh Linux installation
- Random activities

Table: ULTRA's targeted devices specification, architectures (Arch.), and their targeted frequency leakage (Fc) and CPU in MHz.

Device δ	Arch.	CPU	RAM	OS	Fc
Raspberry Pi B+	ARM32	700	512MB	Linux 4.1.7	1222
Creator CI20	MIPS32	1200	1GB	Linux 3.18.3	792

Table: ULTRA's bill of materials

Equipment	Rate/Unit	Count	Amount (Euro)
HackRF One SDR	309	1	309
Adapter SMA Male BNC Female RG316	5	1	5
Amplifier Langer PA-303 BNC	375	1	375
<i>Probe Langer RF-U 5-2*</i>	250	1	250
Total			939

* *This can be omitted in the case of using a hand-crafted probe.*

Comparison

Table: Performance evaluation of rootkit (RK) and their obfuscated variants^(*) detection results, and execution latency. List of indicators: (✓) RK detected; (-) Not detected; (†) Malicious behavior trigger required; (☹) Kernel panicked; Executed on (‡) CPU ; (§) GPU.

RK	AV solutions			
	<i>rkhunter</i>	<i>chkrootkit</i>	<i>LKRG</i>	<i>ULTRA</i>
diamorphine	✓	-	✓†	✓
diamorphine ^(*)	-	-	✓†	✓
m0ham3d	✓	-	✓†	✓
m0ham3d ^(*)	-	-	✓†	✓
adore-ng	-	-	✓†☹	✓
spy	-	-	-	✓
maK_it	-	-	-	✓
beurk	-	-	-	✓
vlany	-	-	-	✓
Latency (sec)	1326.6‡	44.3‡	2.6‡	1.3§-1.5‡

Table: Classification by family and by activity obtained with MLP, LDA + NB and LDA + SVM. The column “#” gives the number of classes per scenario.

		MLP	LDA + NB	LDA + SVM
Scenario	#	AC $[\epsilon_{opt}]$ ^{PR} /RC	AC $[\epsilon_{opt}]$ ^{PR} /RC	AC $[\epsilon_{opt}]$ ^{PR} /RC
δ_{ci20}	family 19	91.3 _[65] ^{83.0} /83.0	76.0 _[10] ^{65.6} /65.4	85.6 _[8] ^{76.1} /76.3
	activity 46	82.5 _[45] ^{83.0} /82.5	62.5 _[10] ^{63.2} /62.4	76.0 _[10] ^{75.8} /76.0
$\delta_{rasp.}$	family 19	82.1 _[50] ^{79.1} /76.5	54.7 _[10] ^{53.9} /55.3	66.2 _[10] ^{66.9} /60.1
	activity 46	75.0 _[40] ^{75.4} /75.0	50.6 _[10] ^{51.5} /55.6	59.2 _[9] ^{59.4} /59.2