



CENSUS
IT Security Works

IDENTIFYING IoT SECURITY VULNERABILITIES

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www.census-labs.com

> INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT)

“the interconnection via the Internet of computing devices embedded in everyday objects, enabling them to send and receive data” – Oxford Dictionary



> TESTING THE SECURITY OF IoT DEVICES

Device

Hardware Security



Is it possible to decrypt stored data just by communicating with the secure chip?

Software Security



Is it possible for an unauthorized actor to remotely control the device due to a bug in the software?

Communications Security



Is it possible for someone to eavesdrop on device communications?

Command & Control

Management Platform Security

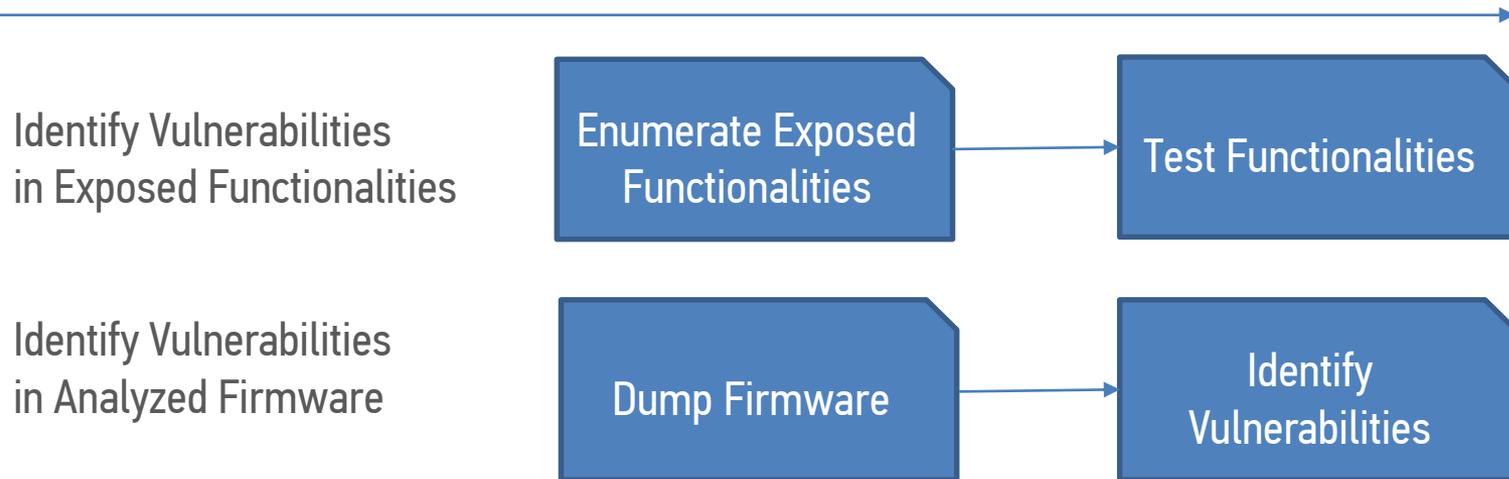


Is it possible for an unauthorized actor to collect all data gathered by the devices?



> TESTING THE SECURITY OF IoT DEVICES

Black Box Testing Timeline



> TESTING CONTEXT

- Sometimes a *product* is tested before it enters the market
- Sometimes a configured *device* is tested within the context of an organization's infrastructure
- Different contexts require different methodologies
 - And different methodologies may yield different findings!



> TYPICAL ISSUES FOUND DURING IoT PRODUCT TESTING

- Use of hardcoded credentials
- Missing/broken authentication for critical functions
- Device spoofing
- Exposure of sensitive user information
 - Unprotected cloud storage
 - Device Theft scenarios
 - Security defects in Command & Control
- Firmware uses vulnerable third party components



> TYPICAL ISSUES FOUND DURING PENETRATION TESTING

- Use of default credentials
- Disabled authentication for critical functions
- Firmware comes with known vulnerabilities
 - Unpatched device
 - A device that no longer receives security updates



> DEMO OF IoT DEVICE BUG EXPLOITATION

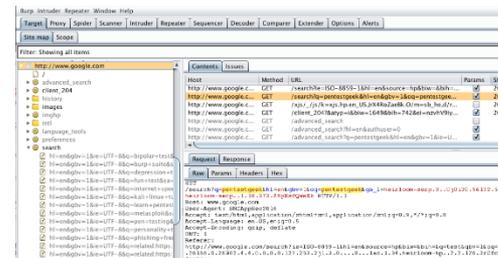
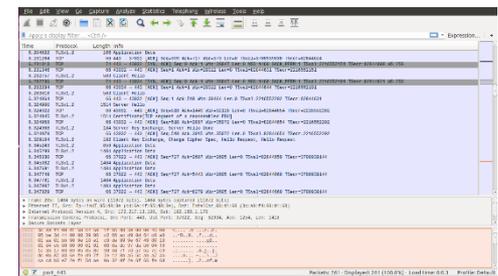
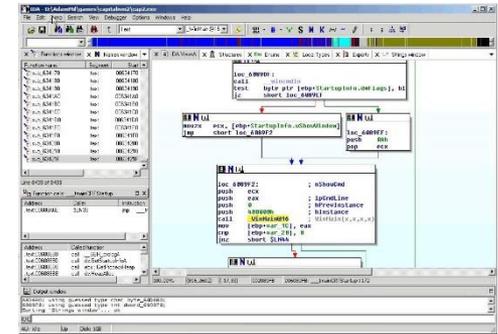
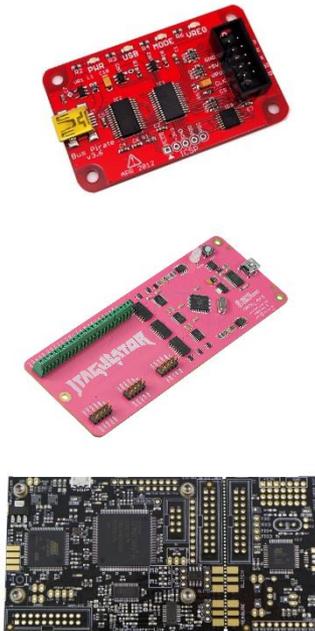


> IDENTIFYING VULNERABILITIES: THE TOOLS

Inspection Level: Hardware

Communications

Software



> IDENTIFYING VULNERABILITIES: THE SKILLS

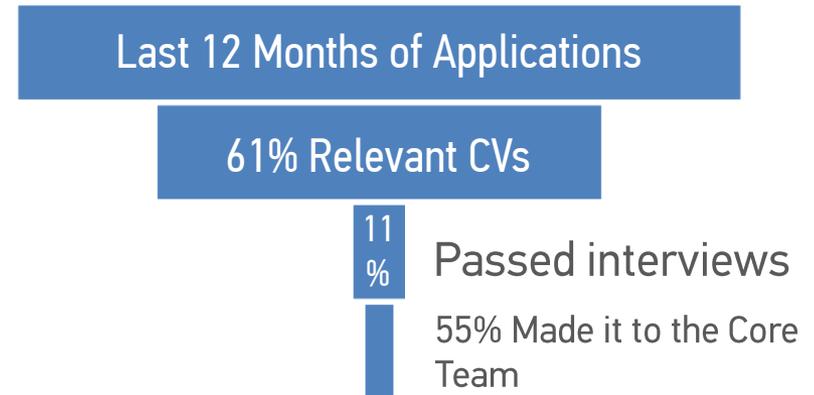
- Information Security Skills
- Analytical Thinking
- Software Engineering & Debugging Skills
- Systems Administration & Network Engineering Skills
- Systems Programming Skills
- Reverse Engineering Skills
- Good Communication Skills (in English)
- Hardware Debugging Skills
- Radio and SDR Skills



> IDENTIFYING VULNERABILITIES: THE PEOPLE

- “Cybersecurity workforce gap” 2019 report from [csis.org](https://www.csis.org)
 - lack of required technology skills was one of the greatest challenges facing organizations when hiring cybersecurity candidates
 - 61% percent of organizations believe that **fewer than half** of all applicants for open cybersecurity positions are actually qualified for the job
 - 23% (of IT employers) thought education programs were fully preparing students to enter the cybersecurity industry

- Last year’s HR stats:



> CONCLUSION

- IoT devices have their share of security vulnerabilities
- Vendors should follow a *Secure Development Lifecycle* to catch issues early and efficiently
- Connected devices should not be used after their *security support* period
- IoT Security Testing requires a diverse skillset



Thank you!



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