
ARCHIE: A QEMU-Based Framework for Architecture-Independent Evaluation of Faults

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AISEC

Outline

Just Another Fault Tool ...?

ARCHIE

Experimental Verification

Summary

Just Another Fault Tool ...?

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Fault Analysis in Practice

Laser fault injection into embedded devices ¹

Task: Find “fault candidates”, test binary

However:

- No source code available
- Binary varies depending on compiler settings

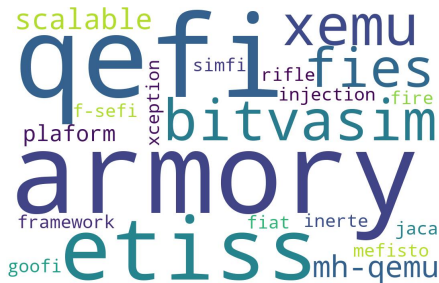
⇒ Manual examination of binary needed

Question: Is there an easier way to do this?

¹K. Garb, J. Obermaier: Temporary Laser Fault Injection into Flash Memory. IEEE IOLTS 2020

Just Another Fault Tool ...?

The Zoo of Fault Simulation Tools



However:

- Architecture-dependent
- Only specific fault types and models
- Source code mostly non-available
- Old QEMU version

Just Another Fault Tool ...?

Requirements for a Fault Tool

- Support of different architectures
- Support of different fault types
 - Transient and permanent faults
 - Instruction and data faults
 - In registers, RAM, and flash memory
- Automated, parallelized execution
- Open source

⇒ ARCHitecture-Independent Evaluation (ARCHIE) of faults

ARCHIE

ARCHIE

QEMU

- Generic and open source machine emulator and virtualizer
- Quick execution time
- Support of 22 different architectures, e.g.,
 - ARM
 - RISC-V
 - x86_64
- Easy to add new machines

⇒ Fulfills requirements

- Execution of guest instructions
- Division of guest instructions into basic blocks
- Translation of basic block into host instructions

```
void send_aesdata()
{
0x08000294:  b570      push  {r4, r5, r6, lr}
0x08000296:  4d06      ldr  r5, [pc, #24] ; (80002b0)
0x08000298:  1d2c      adds r4, r5, #4
0x0800029a:  3514      adds r5, #20
    uint32_t i = 0u;
    for (i = 0u; i < 16u; ++i)
    {
        sendHexByte(aesData[i]);
0x0800029c:  7820      ldrb r0, [r4, #0]
0x0800029e:  3401      adds r4, #1
0x080002a0:  f7ff ffd4 bl  800024c <sendHexByte>
    }
0x080002a4:  42ac      cmp  r4, r5
0x080002a6:  d1f9      bne.n 800029c <send_aesdata+0x8>
    }
    sendDbg("\r\n");
0x080002a8:  4802      ldr  r0, [pc, #8] ; (80002b4)
0x080002aa:  f7ff ff5d bl  8000168 <sendDbg>
    }
0x080002ae:  bd70      pop  {r4, r5, r6, pc}
0x080002b0:  200006b0 .word 0x200006b0
0x080002b4:  08000f70 .word 0x08000f70
}
```

TCG plugin interface (since QEMU 4.2, November 2019)

⇒ API for monitoring TCG and read access to low-level guest instructions

Fault injection plugin:

- Minimal extension of TCG plugin interface
- Read and write to guest memory and registers
- Logging of guest behavior

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Experiment, Campaign, Golden Run

Fault

Low-level alteration of a physical state, e.g., one or multiple bit flips

Experiment

One or multiple faults

Campaign

Multiple experiments that follow a high-level goal of testing for failure

Golden Run

binary execution without faults

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Configuration

QEMU configuration: binary, machine

Fault configuration:

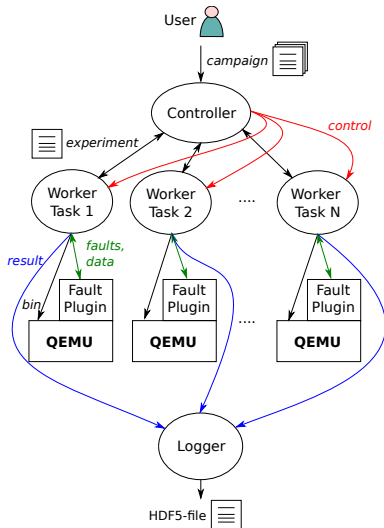
- address, type
- model, mask, lifespan
- trigger address and counter

Output:

- difference to golden run
- translation blocks
- memory access

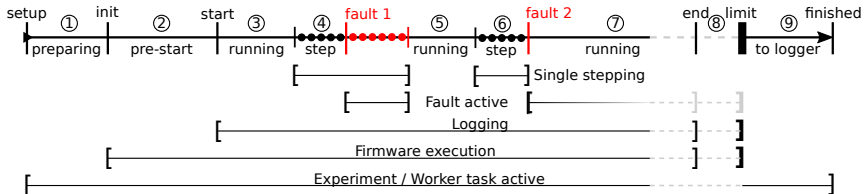
ARCHIE

Overview of ARCHIE



ARCHIE

Execution of an Experiment



Experimental Verification

Experimental Verification

Fault Injection into AES

Laser Fault Injection (LFI) experiment ²

- target: ARM Cortex-M0 (STM32F0discovery)
- diagonal fault attack on AES S-Box ³
⇒ 5 unique faulty ciphertexts

Analysis with ARCHIE

- campaign: transient 1-bit data faults in flash memory (“set1”)
- 588 faults leading to exploitable unique faulty ciphertexts

²K. Garb, J. Obermaier: Temporary Laser Fault Injection into Flash Memory. IEEE IOLTS 2020

³Saha et al., IACR Cryptology ePrint Archive, vol. 2009, p. 581, 2009.

Experimental Verification

Control Flow Manipulation of AES

- LFI attack to skip last round of AES⁴ \Rightarrow 1 fault
- ARCHIE \Rightarrow 24 exploitable faults
- transient 1-bit instruction faults in flash memory (“set1”)

Addr.	Opcode	Instruction
0x08000930	0100 1010 0000 1001	<i>ldr r2, [pc, 36]</i>
0x08000932	0010 0001 0000 0001	<i>movs r1, 1</i>
0x08000934	0000 0010 0000 1001	<i>lsls r1, r1, 8</i>
0x08000936	0110 0000 0001 0001	<i>str 1, [r2]</i>
0x08000938	0100 0110 1001 1010	<i>mov r10, r3</i>
0x0800093A	1001 1011 0000 0000	<i>ldr r3, [sp]</i>
0x0800093C	0100 0100 1001 0001	<i>add r9, r10</i>
0x0800093E	0100 0101 0100 1011	<i>cmp r3, r9</i>
0x08000940	1101 0011 0000 0000	<i>blo AESFINISHED</i>
0x08000942	1110 0111 0111 0111	<i>b ROUNDSTART</i>

⁴K. Garb, J. Obermaier: Temporary Laser Fault Injection into Flash Memory. IEEE IOLTS 2020

Experimental Verification

Performance

Measurement was taken with 24,794 faults into TinyAES

Device	OS	CPU	RAM	Storage	Cores / Threads	Worker Tasks	Exec. time
Dell eredge Server	Pow- Rack Debian 11 via QEMU/KVM	AMD EPYC 7502	192 GB	SAS 7200rpm	32 / 64	64	6 min 50 s
Lenovo P52	Ubuntu 20.04	Intel Core i7- 8750H	48 GB	SSD	6 / 12	12	23 min 12 s
Lenovo P15v	Debian 11 via VirtualBox on Windows 10	Intel Core i7- 10750H	32 GB	SSD	6 / 12	12	24 min 32 s
Fujitsu Server TX140 S2	Debian 11 via QEMU/KVM	Intel Xeon E3-1230	28 GB	SSD	4 / 8	8	33 min 12 s
Supermicro Server	Ubuntu 20.04 via ESXI 6.7	Intel Xeon Silver 4108	16 GB	NAS (HDD)	8 / 8	8	38 min 41 s
Supermicro Server	Ubuntu 20.04 via ESXI 6.7	2 x Intel Xeon E5645	32 GB	SAN (HDD)	8 / 9	9	42 min 21 s
Cloud Server	Debian 10	Generic In- tel Skylake	8 GB	SSD	3 / 3	3	46 min 44 s
Lenovo T470s	Debian 10	Intel Core i5- 6200U	20 GB	SSD	2 / 4	4	80 min 19 s

Experimental Verification

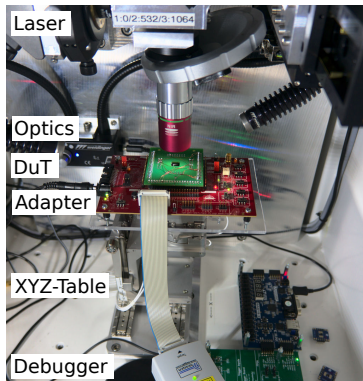
Secure Bootloader

Testing with ARCHIE

- secure bootloader implementation
- test for permanent 1-bit faults

Verification through LFI

- Infineon XMC1400 (ARM Cortex-M0)
- backside attack on SRAM



Experimental Verification

Firmware Testing on RISC-V

- RISC-V processor: 32-bit RV32IMC
- S-Box faulting:
 - 526 unique exploitable ciphertexts
- Control flow manipulation of AES
 - only 2 possible 1-bit faults (instead of 24 for ARM)
- Secure bootloader: identical vulnerability

Summary

Summary

- ARCHIE supports all guest architectures of QEMU
 - ⇒ Verification for ARM and RISC-V architectures
- Binary testing (AES, bootloader)
 - ⇒ Large amount of different fault types
 - ⇒ Identification of new fault candidates
- ARCHIE is available on GitHub:
<https://github.com/Fraunhofer-AISEC/archie>

Future work

- Further runtime improvements
- Add support for multiprocessor guests

Contact Information



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