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University of Applied Sciences  
Wiesbaden Rüsselsheim

WAMOS 2018

# Common Attack Vectors of IoT Devices

09.08.2018



## Motivation

- Botnetworks and Internet attacks increased rapidly

### Examples of security issues:

- Mirai-Bot-Network
- CVE-2018-10967, bufferoverflow via malicious HTTP-request, D-Link DIR-816
- CVE-2015-2887, Backdoor Credentials, iBaby M3S
- CVE-2015-2888, Authentication-Bypass, Internet-Viewing-System
- CVE-2016-5054, Replay-Attack, Osram Lightify Home

**There are permanently security issues found with IoT Devices**

# Agenda



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- 1. Arbitrary Code Execution/Return-Oriented-Programming**
- 2. Reverse Engineering**
- 3. Fault Injections**
- 4. Analyzing Signals with SDRs**
- 5. Conclusion**

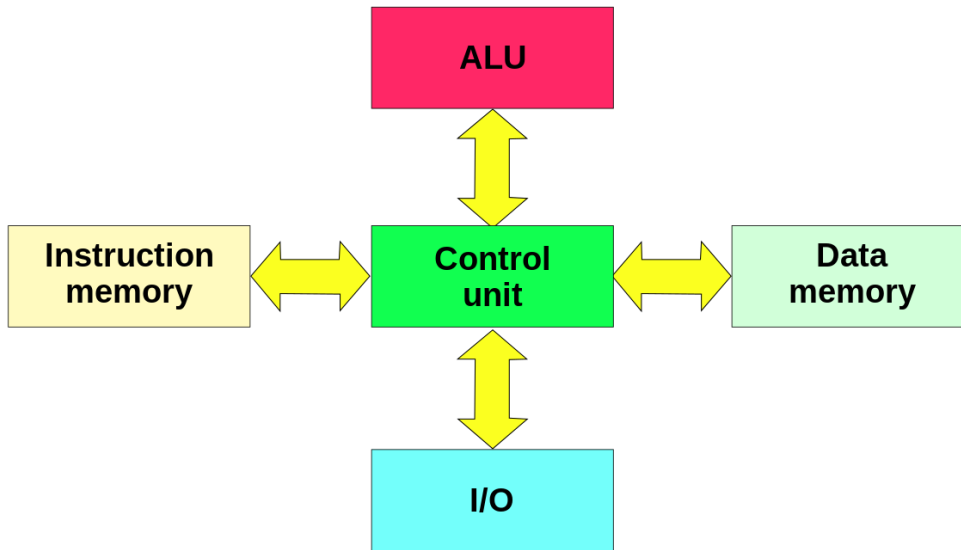


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01

# Arbitrary Code Execution/ROP

# Harvard-Architecture



## Attacks differ from Neumann as x86

- Code and Data are separated
  - Stack is unexecutable
  - Most IoT devices use a modified Harvard-Architecture
- => Traditional attack doesn't work

Fig. 1: Schematic of Harvard-Architecture.<sup>1</sup>

**For arbitrary code execution only code from Instruction Memory can be used**

# Return-Oriented-Programming



- Bufferoverflow-vulnerability required

## ROP gadget

- Sequence of instructions terminated by a free return or branch instruction

## ROP chain

- Sequence of addresses of ROP gadgets

## Return-to-libc

- Simplest form of a ROP
- Address of `System()` is placed onto the stack instead of code together with argument

**ROP can be used to bypass a non-executable-stack**

# Why ret2libc doesn't work on ARM



- returns on ARM are performed manually (Load-and-Store-Arch.)

## Load and Store-Architecture

- Values must be loaded into registers to operate on them
- No instruction directly operates on values in memory

register	description
R0 to R10	Used for arguments
R13	Stack-Pointer
R14	Link-Register
R15	Program-Counter

Tab. 1: ARM-Registers.

**An attacker has to setup arguments and registers manually**

# Return-to-Zero-Protection



- Presented by Itzhak Avraham in 2009
- Applies ret2libc to ARM

```
ldm sp, r0 , r1  
add sp, sp, #12  
pop lr  
bx lr
```

```
sub sp, fp, #4  
pop{fp, pc}
```

- First ROP gadget can be used for loading arguments
- Adresses of gadgets and used arguments have to be placed at the right place on stack

**ROPs mustn't change adresses and depend from compiler-options**



# ROP chains on AVR



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First published worm for Wireless-Sensor-Network (ATmega128s) by Franc Aurellion (2010):

- IP packets with malicious code send to node
- Last packet causes overflow and places ROP-chain on stack
- ROP-chain consists of *SPM* instruction and copies bytes from data to program memory
- Compromised node sends same packets to next node

**Trough a ROP chain also a code-injection can be performed on  
AVRs with a bootloader**



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02

# Reverse-Engineering

Software- and Hardware



# Reverse-Engineering

- Competitor can copy functionalities
- Attacker can create a malicious firmware (and resell the device)

## **Software:**

- can be searched for vulnerabilities
- Functionalities or security-related routines can be analyzed

## **Hardware:**

- Sniffing on Bus to get (more) information
- Dump memory directly from the device

**Reverse-Engineering is essential for finding security issues or creating exploits**



## Firmware Analysis

- Firmware contains all software-components of an embedded-device (Bootloader, Kernel, Filesystem...)
- Signatures for headers or components can be identified
- filesystem can be searched for passwords, API keys, private certificates or be backdoored
- Individual binaries or firmware itself can be emulated with Qemu and GDB

=> Firmware-Modification-Kit and Firmware-Analysis-Tool can automate process

**Through Firmware Analysis software components  
can be identified and analyzed**

# Firmware Analysis



```
> binwalk Dlink_firmware.bin
```

DECIMAL	HEXADECIMAL	DESCRIPTION
48	0x30	Unix path: /dev/mtdblock/2
96	0x60	uImage header, header size: 64 bytes, header CRC: 0x7FE9E826, created: 2010-11-23 11:58:41, image size: 878029 bytes, Data Address: 0x80000000, Entry Point: 0x802B5000, data CRC: 0x7C7CAE85, OS: Linux, CPU: MIPS, image type: OS Kernel Image, compression type: lzma, image name: "Linux Kernel Image"
160	0xA0	LZMA compressed data, properties: 0x5D, dictionary size: 33554432 bytes, uncompressed size: 2956312 bytes
917600	0xE0060	Packing section delimiter tag, little endian size: 7348736 bytes; big endian size: 2256896 bytes
917632	0xE0080	Squashfs filesystem, little endian, non-standard signature, version 3.0, size: 2256151 bytes, 1119 inodes, blocksize: 65536 bytes, created: 2010-11-23 11:58:47

```
alex@alex-virtual-machine:~/Schreibtisch$ dd if=Dlink_firmware.bin skip=917632 bs=1 of=fs_dlink_bin dev etc home httdocs lib mnt proc sbin sys tmp usr var www
alex@alex-virtual-machine:~/Schreibtisch/squashfs-root$ cd www && ls
__adv_app.php          comm                  permission_deny.php   tools_
adv_app.php            conninfo.php         pic                  tools_
adv_apx.php           DevInfo.php          post_login.xml       tools_
__adv_firewall_httpallow.php DevInfo.txt          router_info.xml      tools_
__adv_firewall.php    down_limit_info.php  __schedule_combobox.php tsyslo
adv_firewall.php      down_threshold_info.php session_full.php     up_lim
__adv_firewall_pingallow.php do_wps.php          set_temp_nodes.php  up_thr
adv_firewall_vstty.php do_wps_step1.php    set_adv.php         up_b1
```

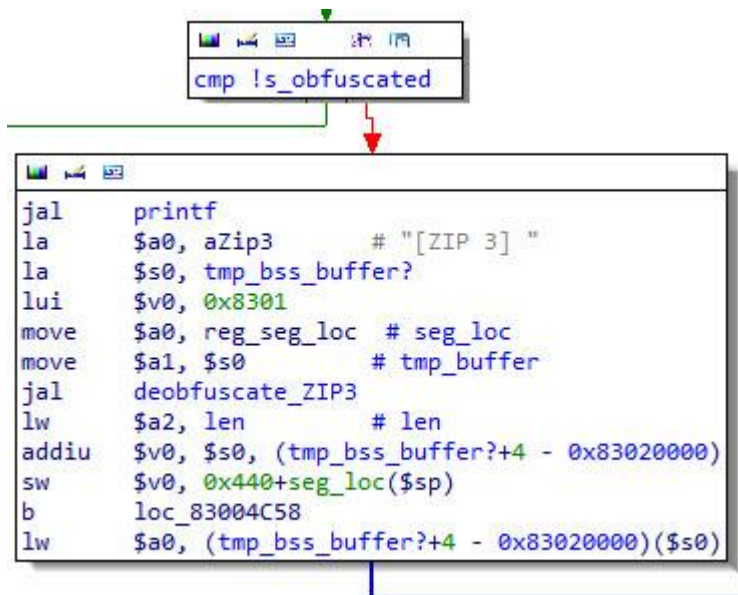
Fig. 3: Firmware scan and filesystem-extraction

To avoid reverse-engineering firmware is usually obfuscated

# Dissasembling



```
M:830007E4                                     # sub_830004D8+2E0fj ...  
M:830007E4  addiu  $a0, (aUnzippingFir_0 - 0x83000000) # "\nUnzipping firmware
```



- Architecture can be identified
  - used instructions can be analyzed
  - function calls and program-flow can be traced with known entry-point
- ⇒ **IDA or Radare can automate and visualize part of this process**

Fig. 4: Dissassembled Deobfuscation-Routine with IDA

**Through dissasembling an attacker can search for backdoors or identifying and bypassing security-related functions**



## Using hardware interfaces

### Logic-Analyzer:

- Can be used to identify protocols and connectors
- Can be used to sniff on Bus lines as SPI connection between CPU and external Memories

### Dumping flash:

- Through JTAG or SPI (connectors)
- Desoldering the Chip and read-out with programming device

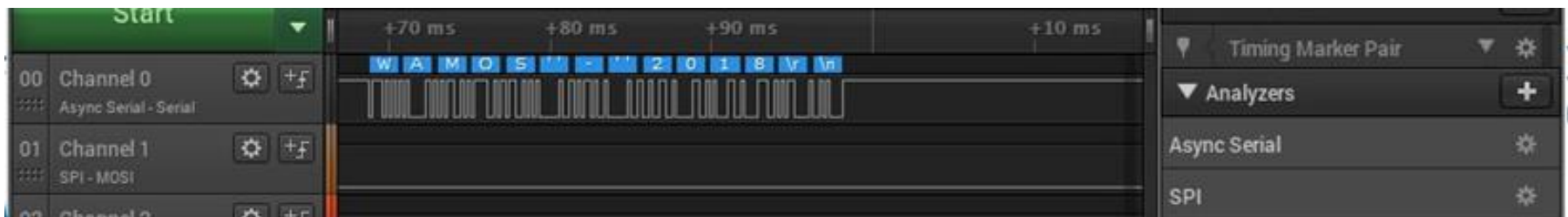


Fig. 5: Captured transmission of UART-interface with a Logic-Analyzer (example).

**External interfaces or components are additional target surfaces**



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03

# Fault-Injections

Overclock- and Powerglitch





## Overclock-Glitch

- Frequency of clock is increased for a short period of time
  - Frequency has to be a factor of max. specified by manufacturer
- ⇒ Used by Chris Gerlinsky in 2010 to skip Copy-Read-Protection on LPC-series

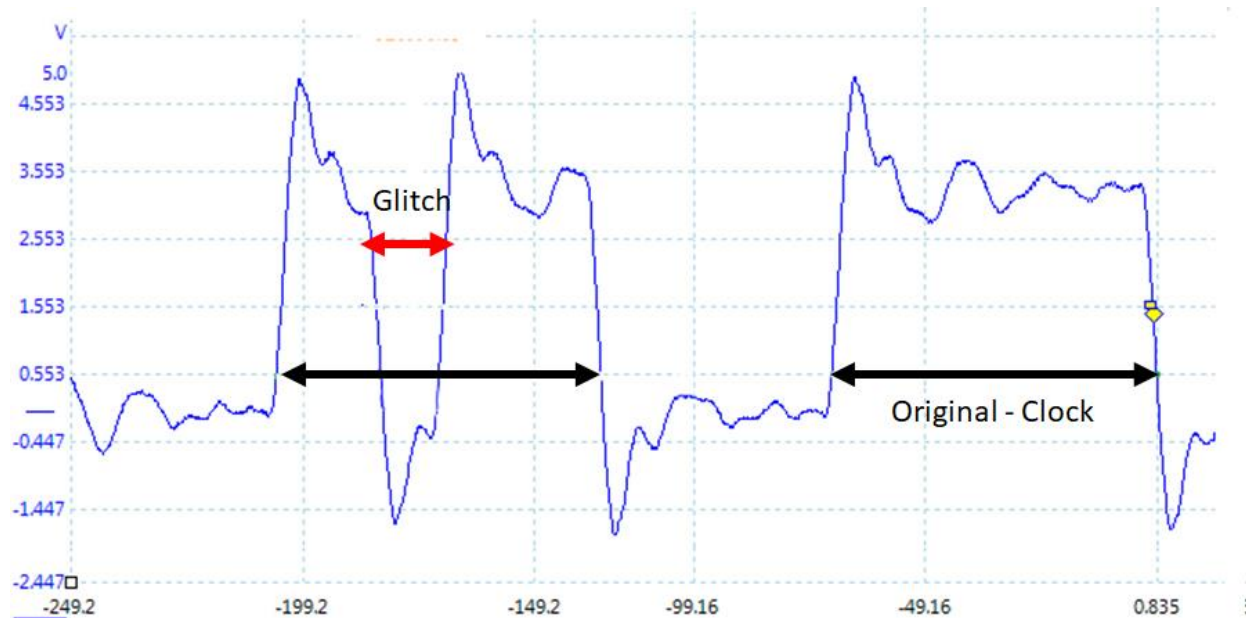


Fig. 6: One glitched and normal clock-pulse for ATmega128P.

**With an overclock glitch instructions can be skipped**



# Fault-Injections

## Power-Glitch

- Supply voltage is changed rapidly
  - Can affect Amplitude change in variable time
- ⇒ On Atmega128P can be performed by turning supply on- and off at 12Mhz

## Fault-Injections

- Timing- and sidechannelanalysis are required
  - Can be done randomly while monitoring interfaces
- ⇒ FPGAs are cheap tools for glitches against uCs as they can reach higher frequencies

**Glitches affect a wide range of uCs and are cheap to perform**



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04

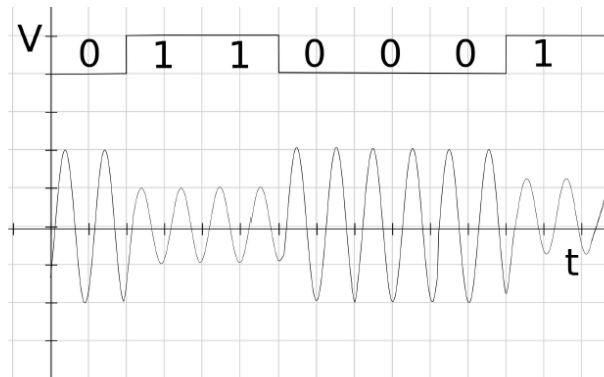
# Analyzing Signals with SDR

# Software-Defined-Radios and wireless transmission

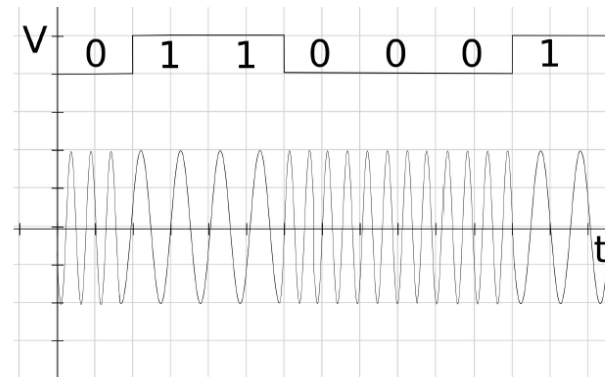


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- Hardware takes only care of receiving and transmitting signals
- Signal processing itself is done by soft- or firmware
- Many Open-Source available



Amplitude-Shift-Keying



Frequency-Shift-Keying

Fig. 6: Common modulations for wireless-transmission.

**SDRs allow flexible and fast analysis of different wireless signals with the same device**

# Capturing and Replaying a Signal



## Requirements for capturing a signal

- Frequency
- Bandwidth and Sample-Rate
- Frequency or Channel-hopping

## Requirements for blind replaying a signal

- Captured or recorded signal
- SDR with transmit capability
- Proper Software (ex.: GNURadio)

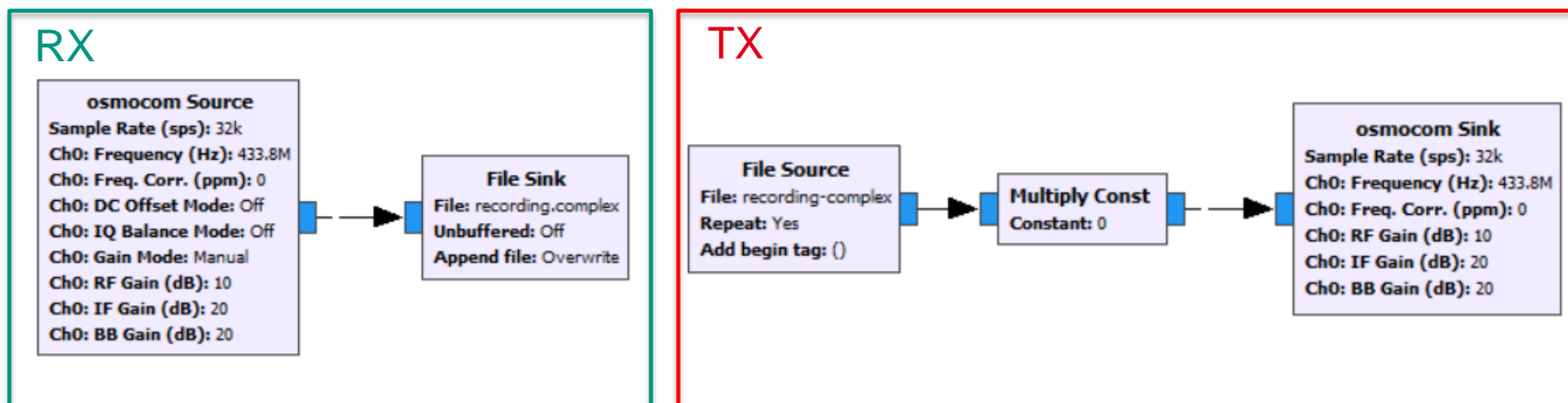


Fig. 7: GNURadio.Flowgraph for recording and replaying a Signal.

**Simple replay-attacks affect garage-openers, wireless-bells or simple sensor-nodes**

# Analyzing Signals



## Requirements spoofing commands

- Modulation of signal
- Data/Symbol-rate
- protocol-analysis

With demodulated signal further protocol-analysis can be performed and data as ASCII or HEX extracted

## Selected security-related SDR Open-Source (for standardized) wireless-protocols<sup>2</sup>:

- ble\_dump
- SecBee (based on killerbee)
- EZ-Wave
- GPS-SDR-SIM
- OpenBTS, OpenLTE

**For non-standardized protocols manual analysis has to be performed**

# Demodulating a signal

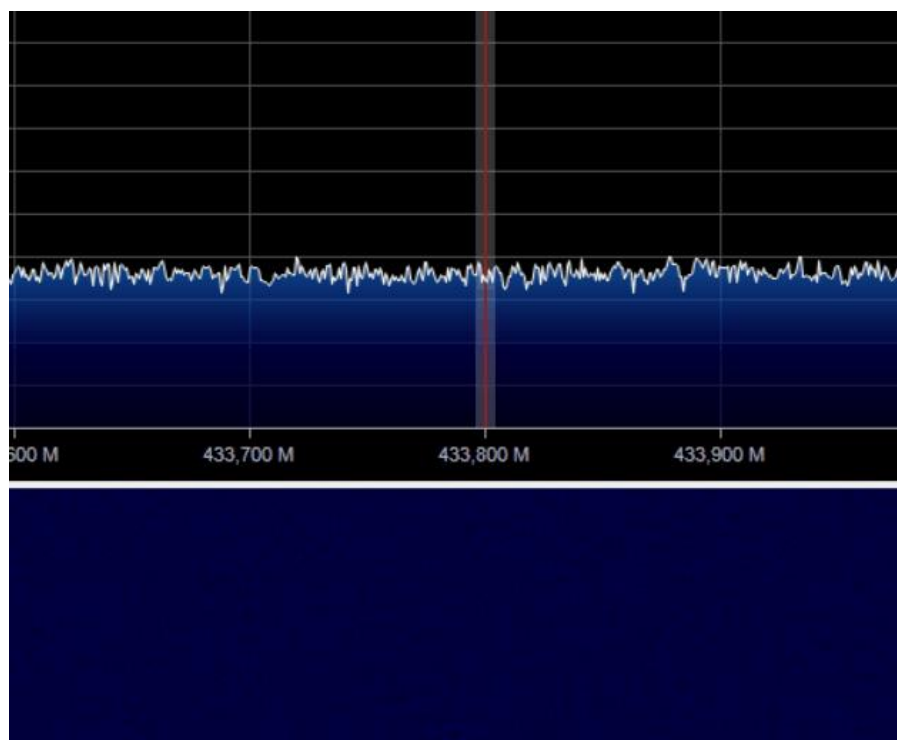


Fig. 9: Spectrum while up-Button of presenter is pressed.

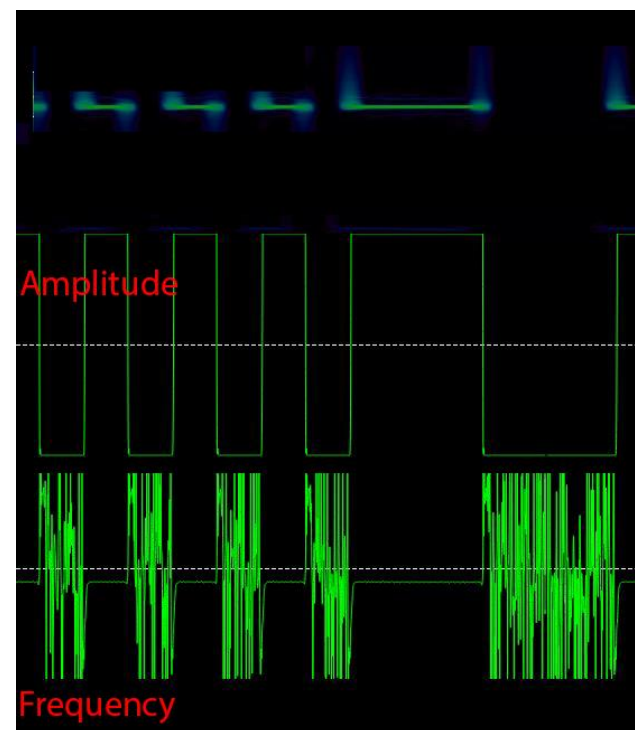


Fig. 10: Demodulation of recorded presenter-control with dspectrum

**Unencrypted (simple) wireless-transmission can be broken in a short time**

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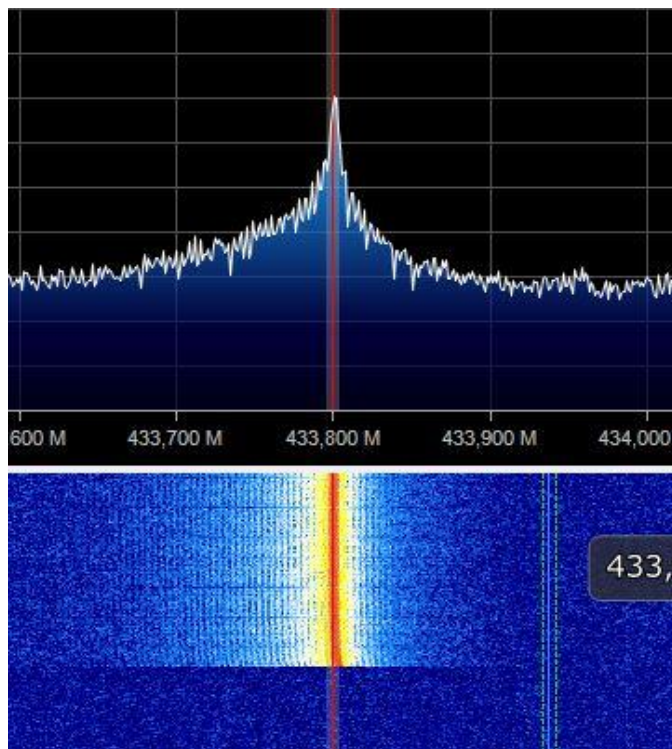


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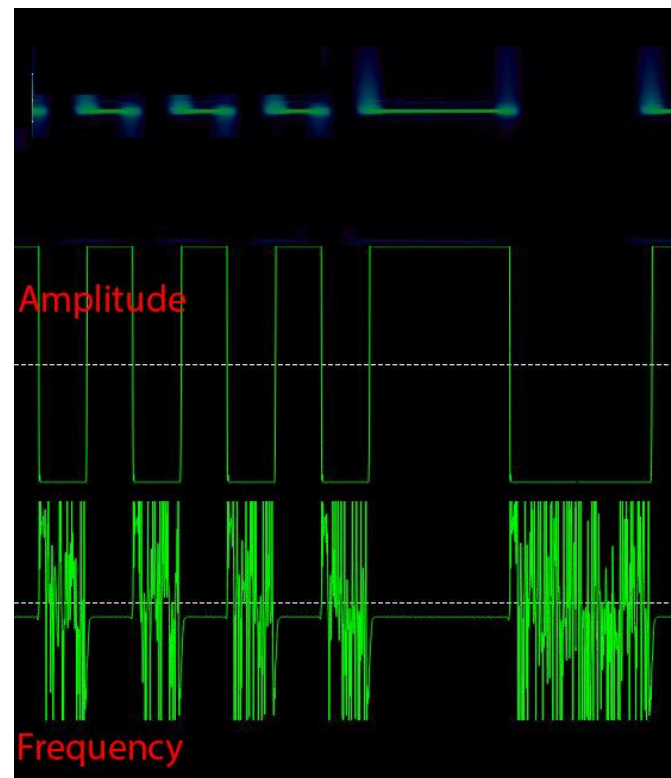


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**Unencrypted (simple) wireless-transmission can be broken in a short time**





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# 06 Conclusion

# Conclusion



- Vectors can be used independently or be combined
- Many Open-Source-Software available keeping time expenditure low
- Inexpensible Hardware for hardware or wireless related attacks
- Fully implemented mitigations would make devices too expensive

**Security-Analysis of IoT Devices is recommended**



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# Questions & Answers