

NetSpectre

A Truly Remote Spectre Variant

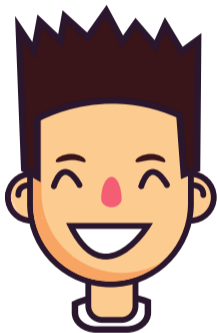


Michael Schwarz

@misc0110

Martin Schwarzl

@marv0x90



Michael Schwarz

PhD candidate @ Graz University of Technology

🐦 @misc0110

✉ michael.schwarz@iaik.tugraz.at



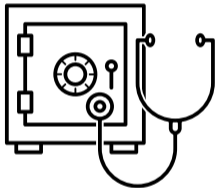
Martin Schwarzl

Master student @ Graz University of Technology

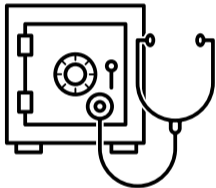
🐦 @marv0x90

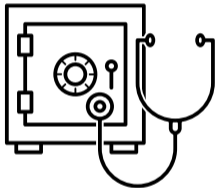
✉ m.schwarzl@student.tugraz.at

- Bug-free software does not mean safe execution



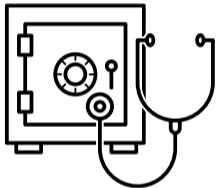
- Bug-free software does not mean safe execution
- Information leaks due to **underlying hardware**





- Bug-free software does not mean safe execution
- Information leaks due to **underlying hardware**
- **Exploit** leakage through **side-effects**

- Bug-free software does not mean safe execution
- Information leaks due to **underlying hardware**
- **Exploit** leakage through **side-effects**



Power consumption

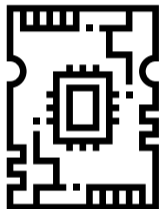


Execution time



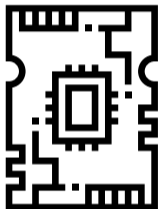
CPU caches





- Modern CPUs contain multiple **microarchitectural elements**

- Modern CPUs contain multiple **microarchitectural elements**

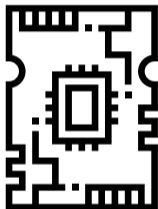


Caches and buffers



Predictors





- Modern CPUs contain multiple **microarchitectural elements**



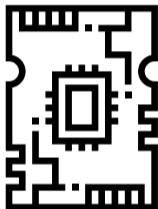
Caches and buffers



Predictors



- **Transparent** for the programmer



- Modern CPUs contain multiple **microarchitectural elements**



Caches and buffers

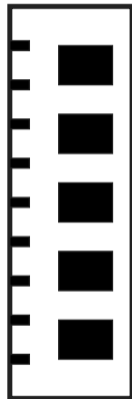
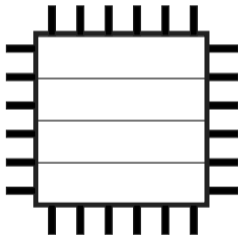


Predictors



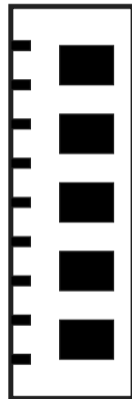
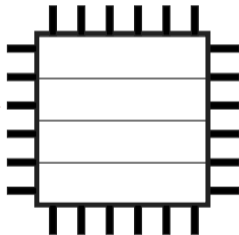
- **Transparent** for the programmer
- Timing optimizations → side-channel leakage

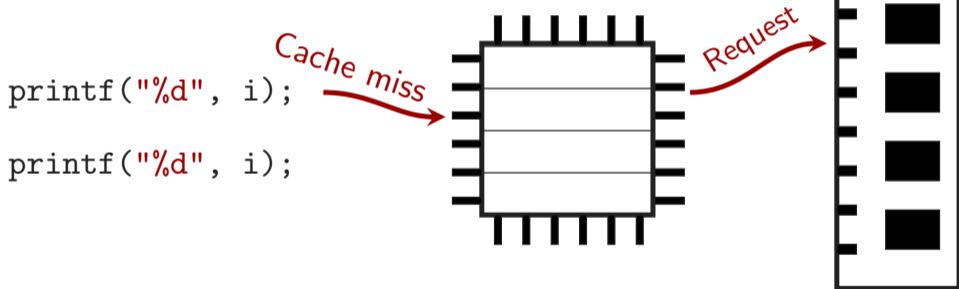
```
printf("%d", i);  
printf("%d", i);
```

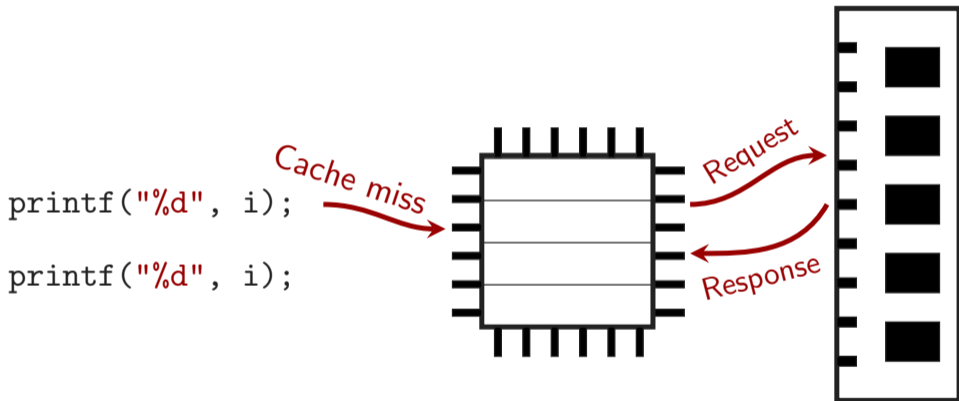


```
printf("%d", i);  
printf("%d", i);
```

Cache miss



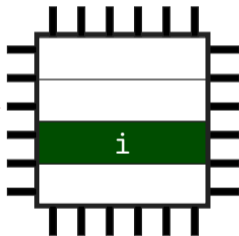




```
printf("%d", i);
```

```
printf("%d", i);
```

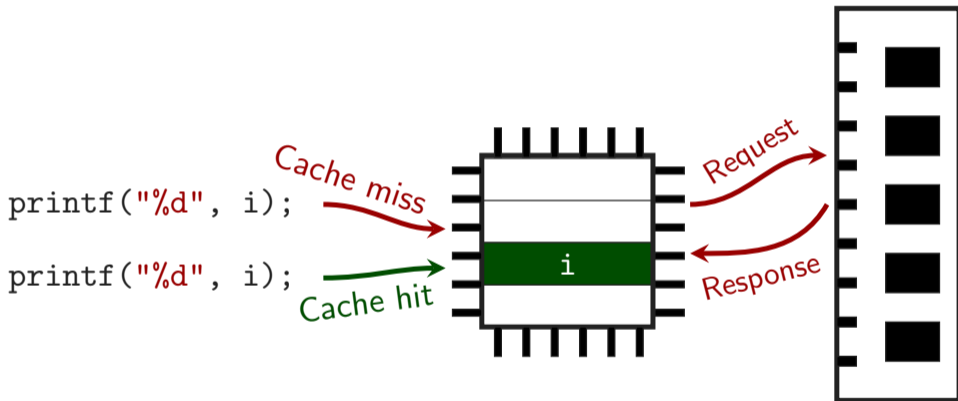
Cache miss

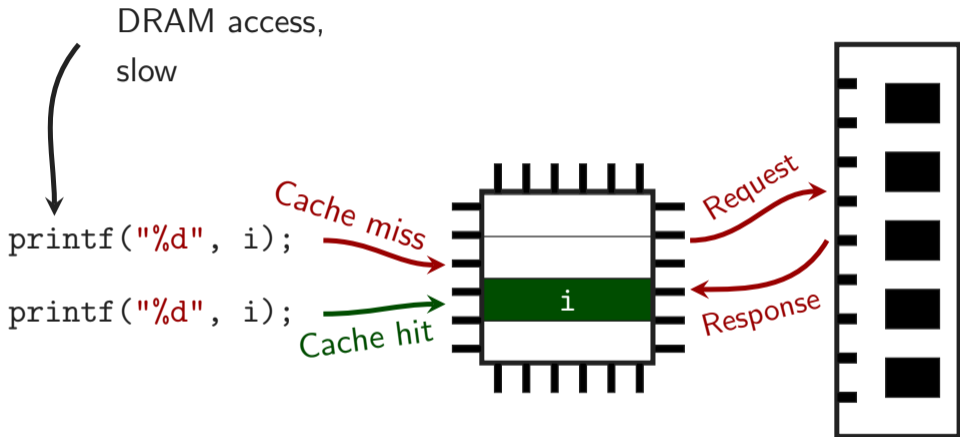


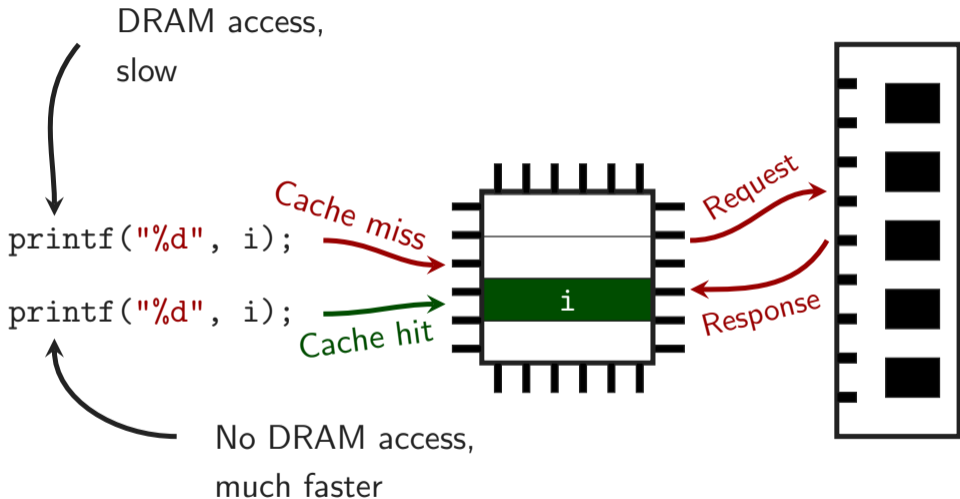
Request

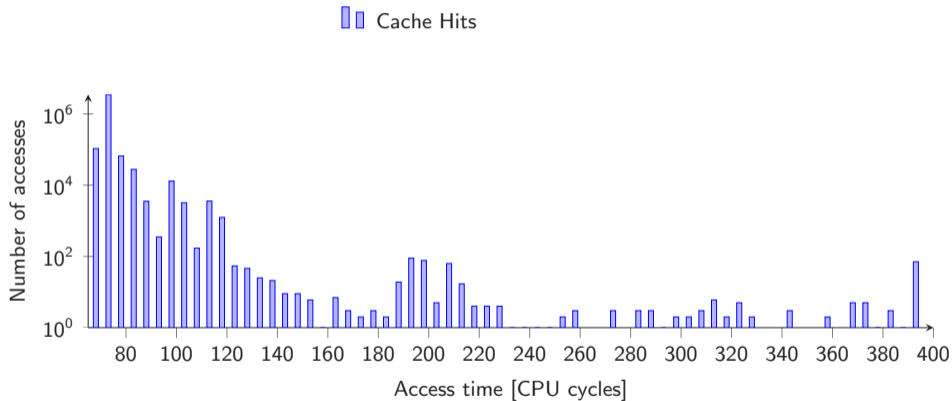
Response

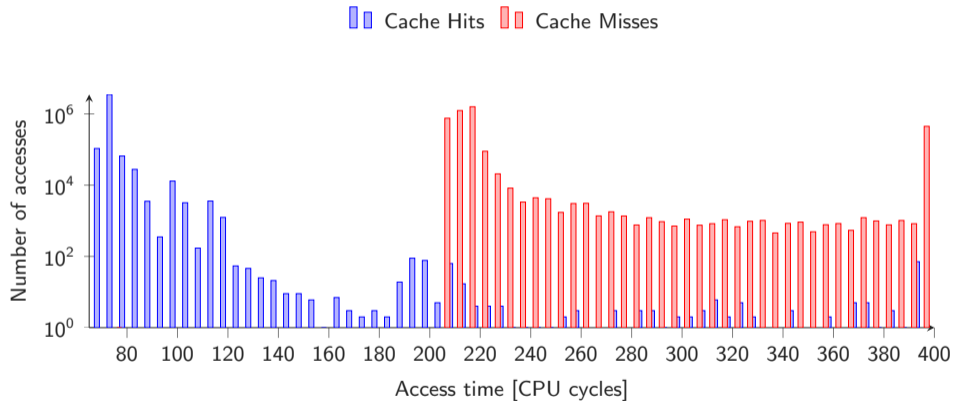


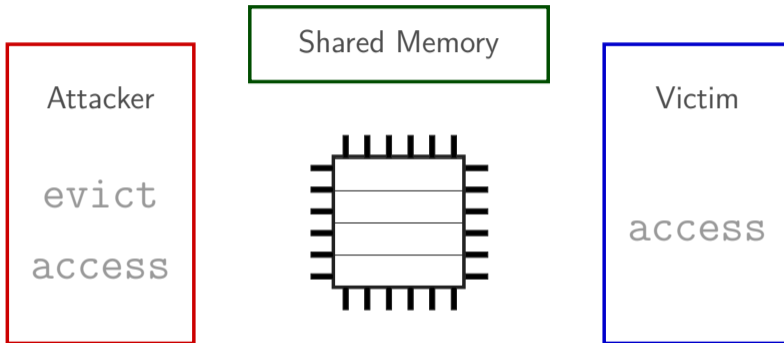


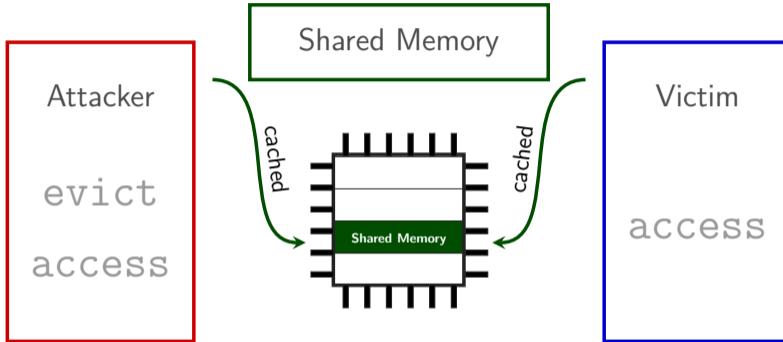


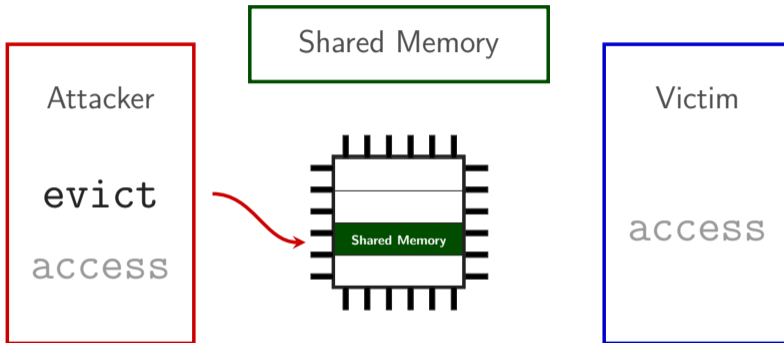


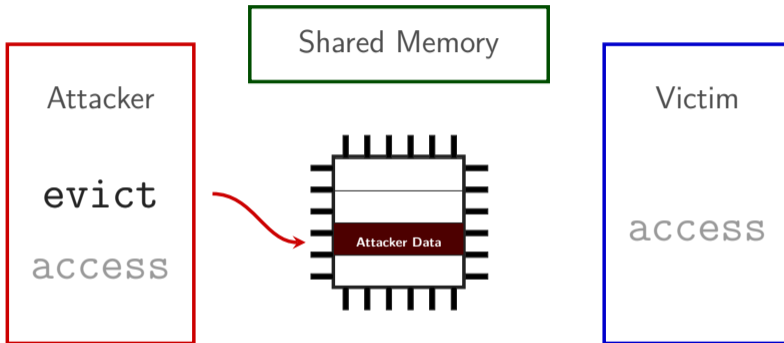


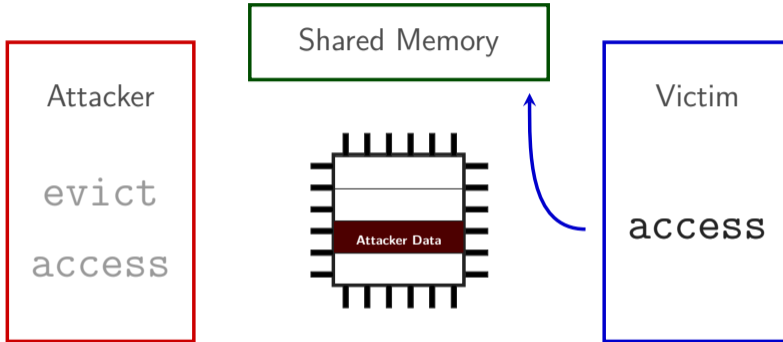


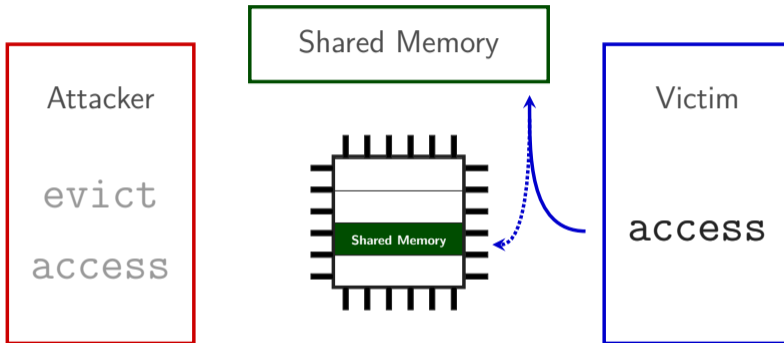


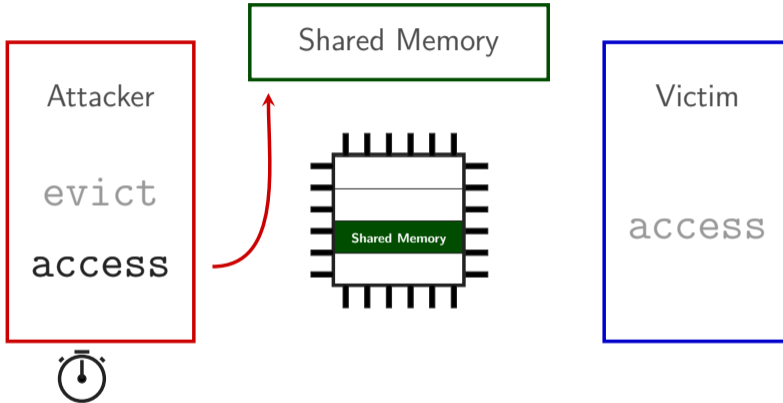


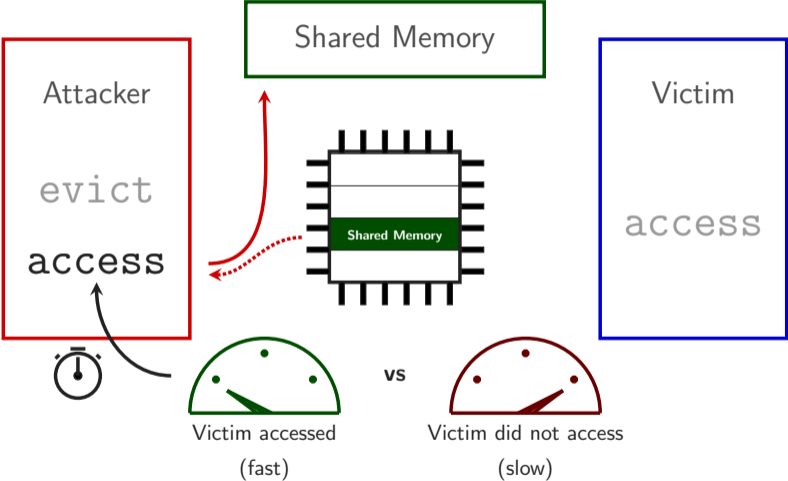














- CPU tries to predict the future (branch predictor), ...



- CPU tries to predict the future (branch predictor), ...
 - ...based on events learned in the past



- CPU tries to predict the future (branch predictor), ...
 - ...based on events learned in the past
- **Speculative execution** of instructions



- CPU tries to predict the future (branch predictor), ...
 - ...based on events learned in the past
- **Speculative execution** of instructions
- If the prediction was correct, ...



- CPU tries to predict the future (branch predictor), ...
 - ...based on events learned in the past
- **Speculative execution** of instructions
- If the prediction was correct, ...
 - ...very fast



- CPU tries to predict the future (branch predictor), ...
 - ...based on events learned in the past
- **Speculative execution** of instructions
- If the prediction was correct, ...
 - ...very fast
 - otherwise: Discard results



PIZZA

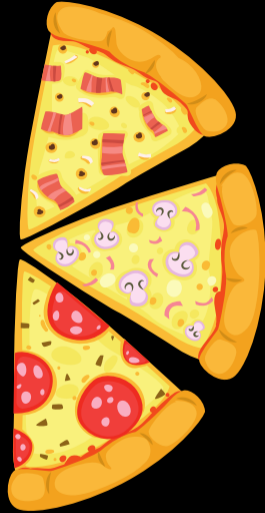
SPECIAL RECIPES



Prosciutto



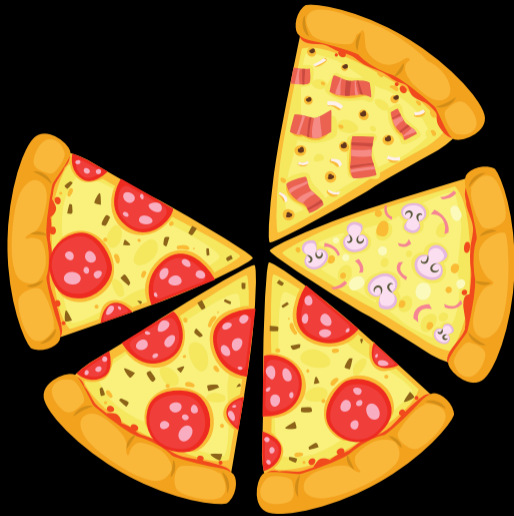
Funghi



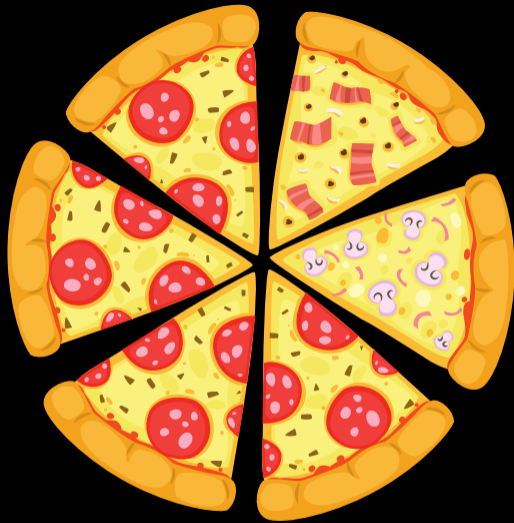
Diavolo



Diavolo



Diavolo



Diavolo

»A table for 6 please«





Speculative Cooking



»A table for 6 please«





PIZZA

SPECIAL RECIPES



PIZZA

SPECIAL RECIPES

PIZZA



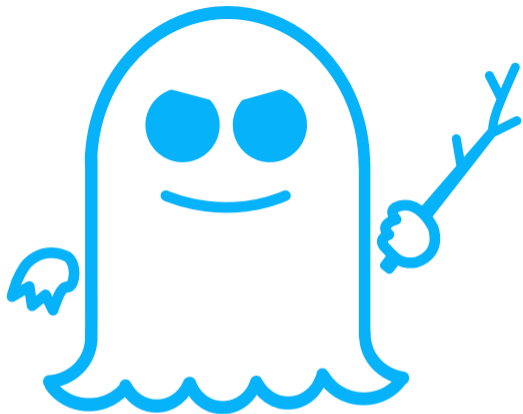




PIZZA

SPECIAL RECIPES





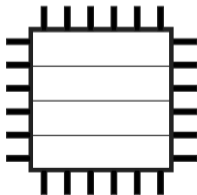
SPECTRE

`index = 0`

Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z

```
if (index < 4)
  then
    glyph[data[index]]
  else
    {}
```



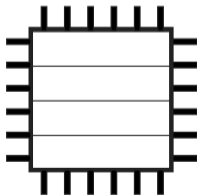
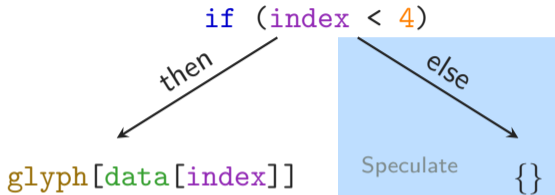
Memory

D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	

index = 0

Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



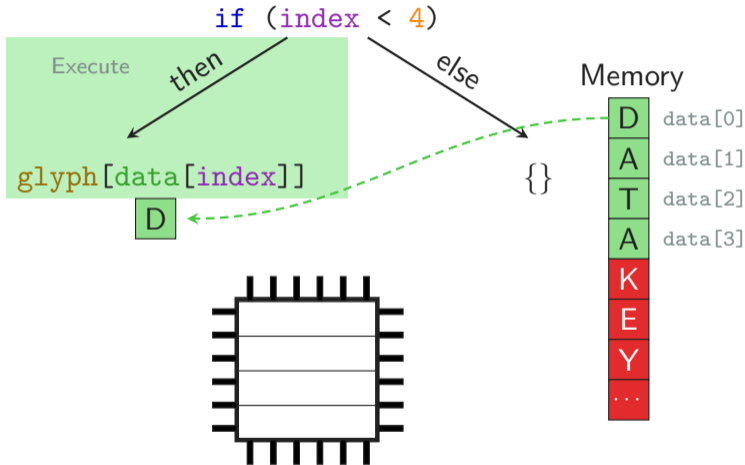
Memory

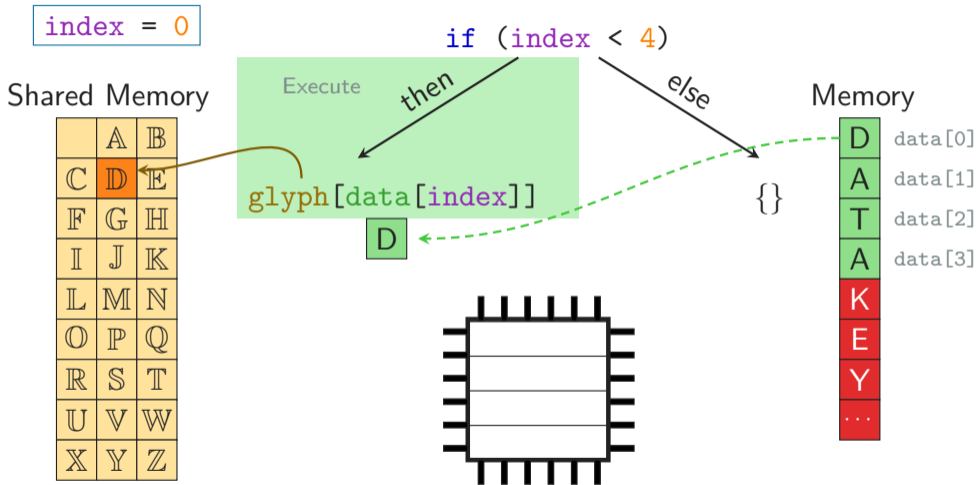
D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	

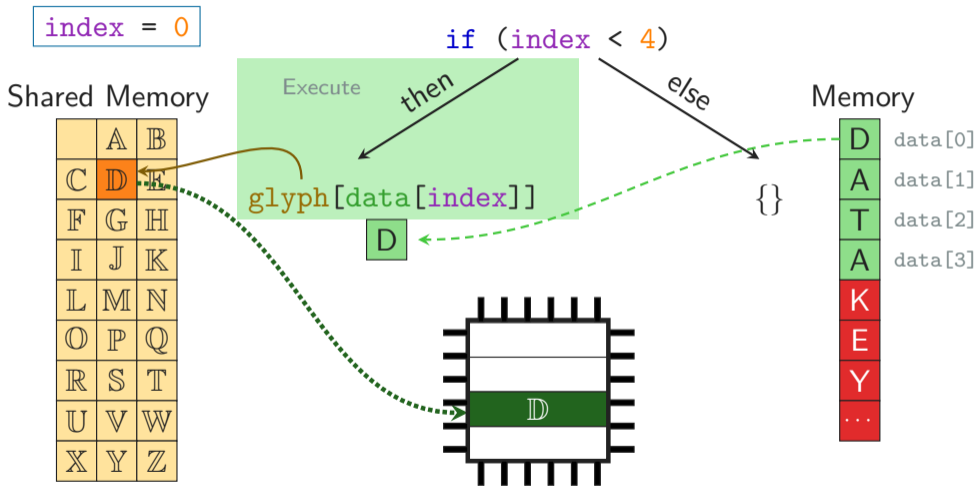
index = 0

Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z





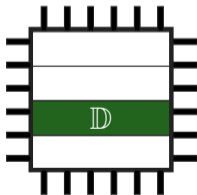


`index = 1`

Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z

```
if (index < 4)
  then glyph[data[index]]
  else {}
```



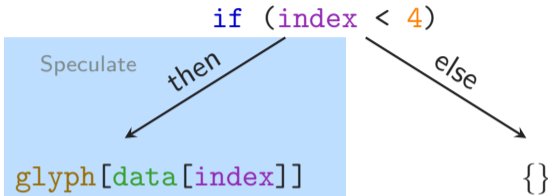
Memory

D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	

index = 1

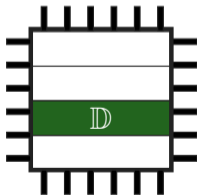
Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



Memory

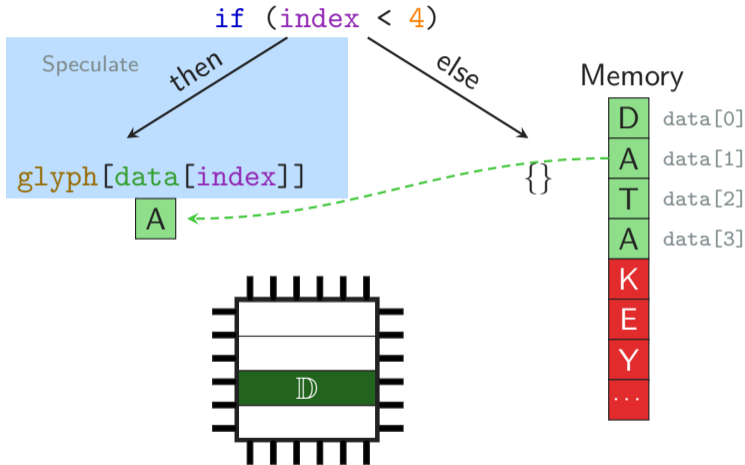
D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	

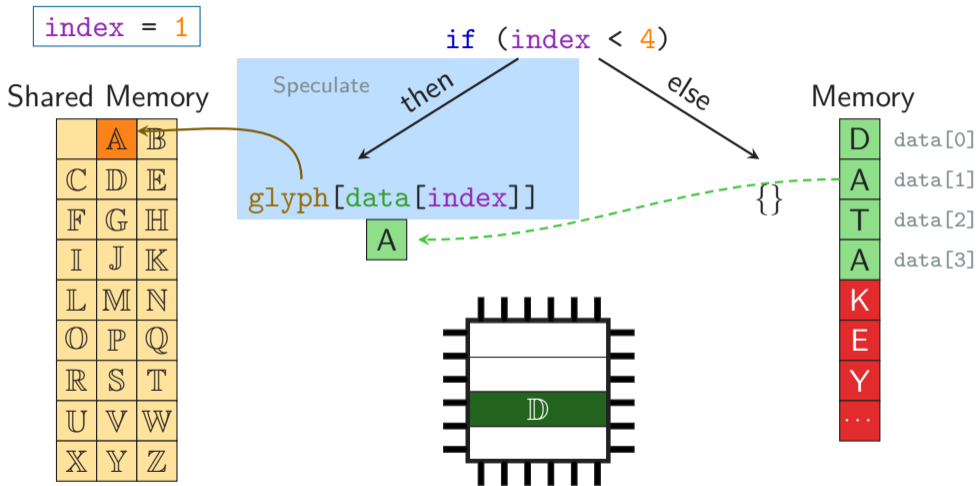


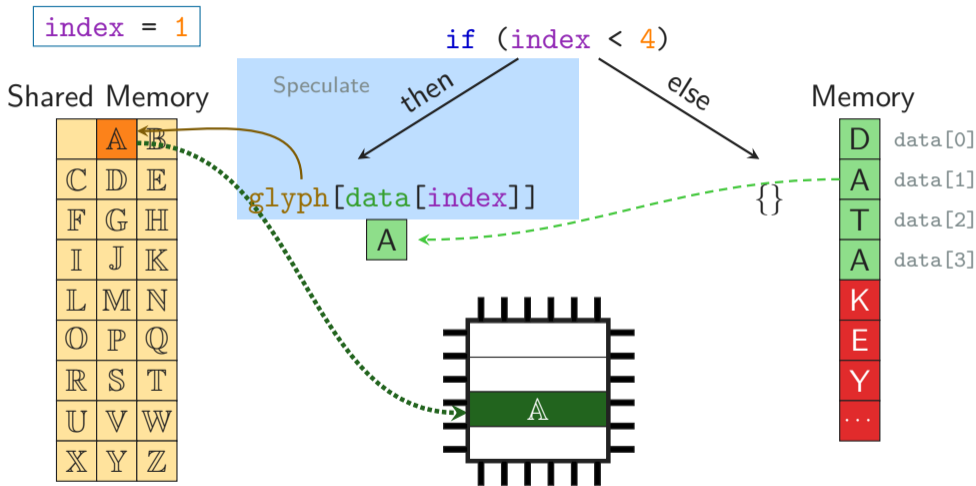
index = 1

Shared Memory

A	B	
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z







index = 1

Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z

```
if (index < 4)
```

Execute

then

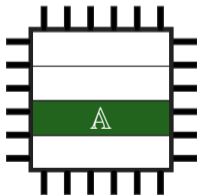
```
glyph[data[index]]
```

else

```
{
```

Memory

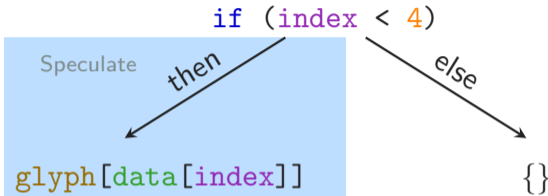
D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	



`index = 2`

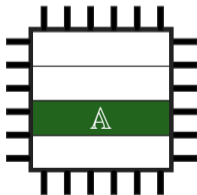
Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



Memory

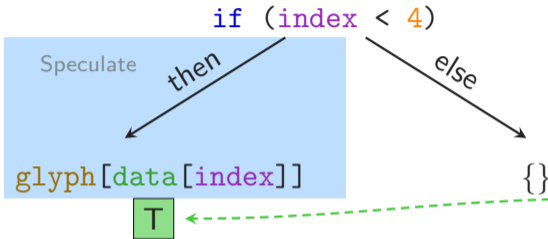
D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	



index = 2

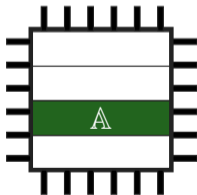
Shared Memory

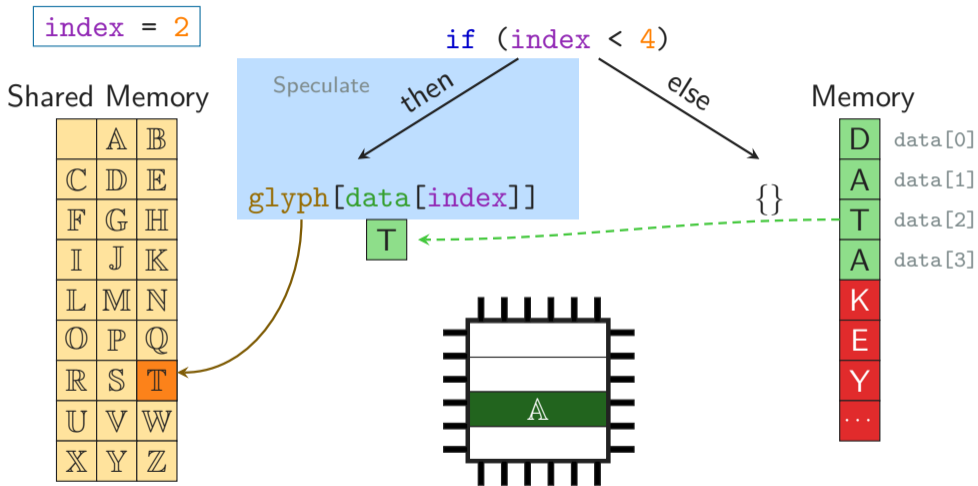
A	B	
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z

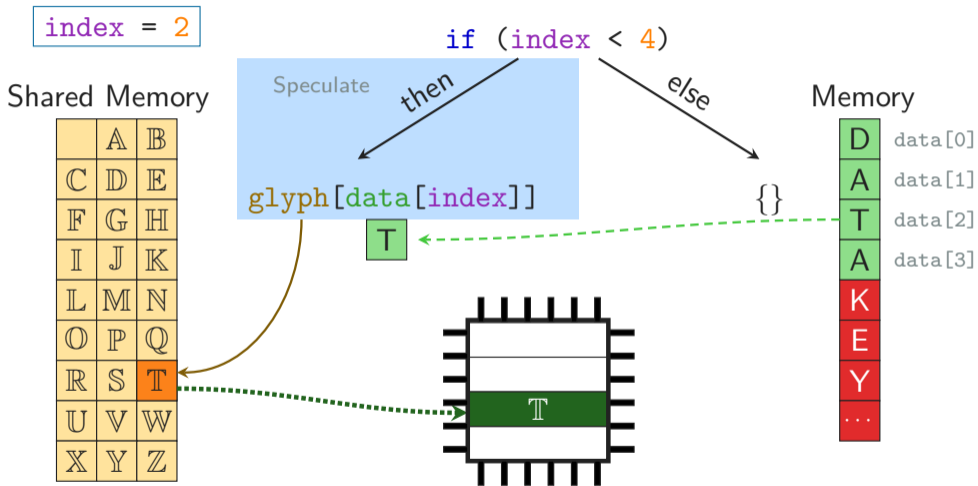


Memory

D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	



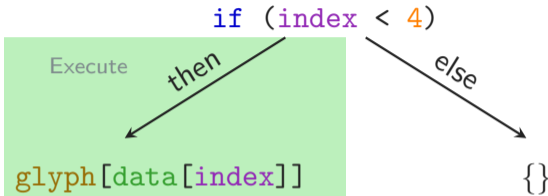




index = 2

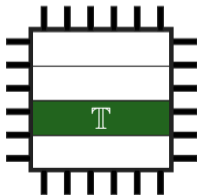
Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



Memory

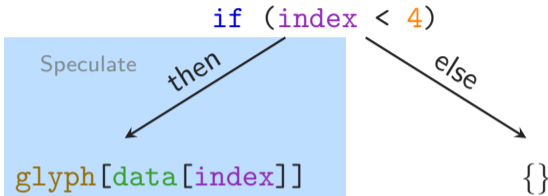
D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	



`index = 3`

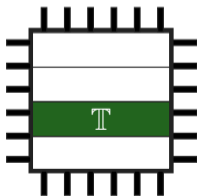
Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



Memory

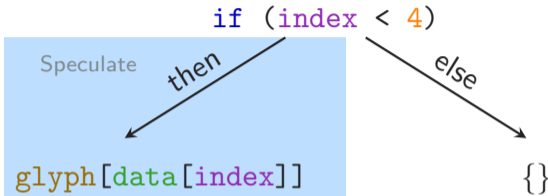
D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	



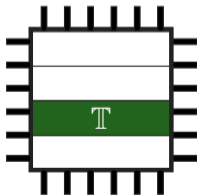
index = 3

Shared Memory

A	B	
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



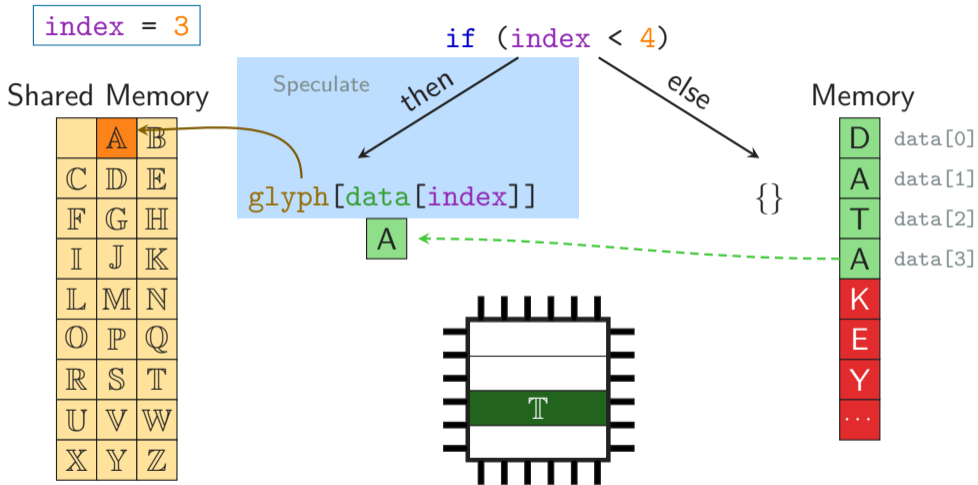
A



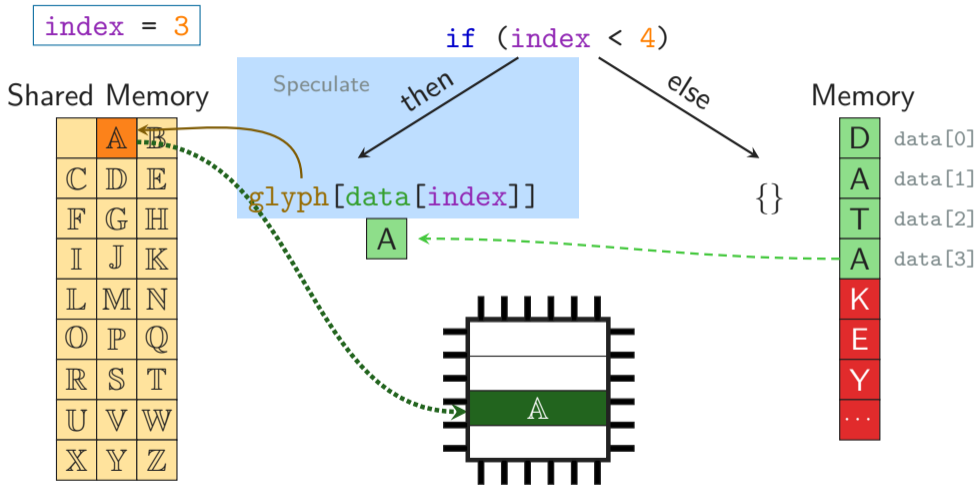
Memory

D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	

Spectre-PHT (aka Spectre Variant 1)



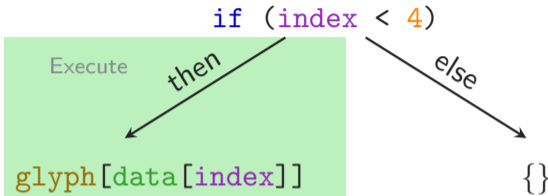
Spectre-PHT (aka Spectre Variant 1)



index = 3

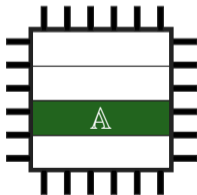
Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



Memory

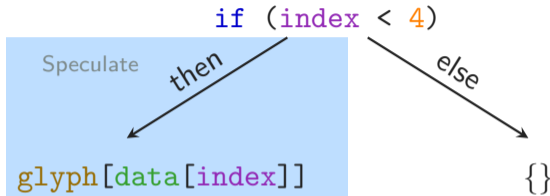
D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	



`index = 4`

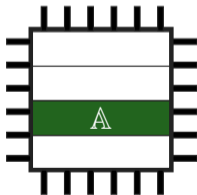
Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



Memory

D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	



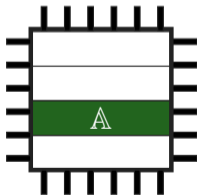
index = 4

Shared Memory

A	B	
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z

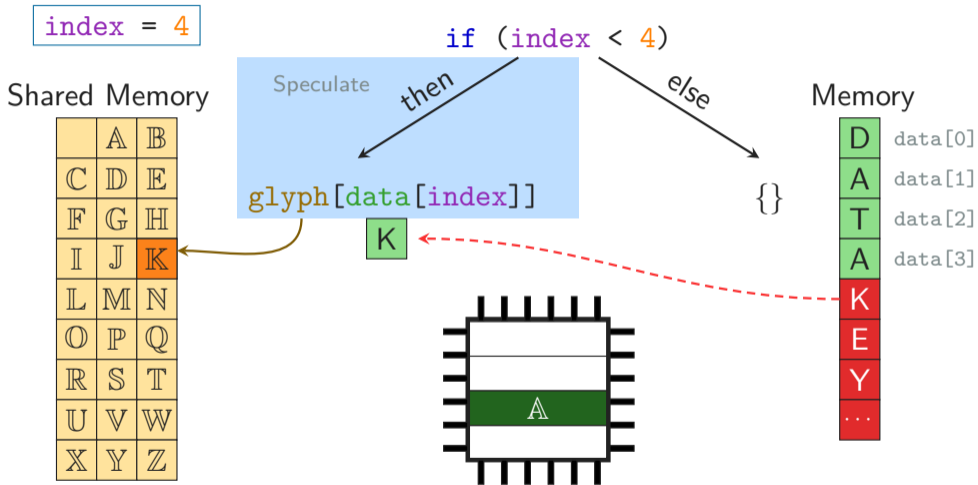
```
if (index < 4)
  Speculate then
    glyph[data[index]]
  else
    {}
```

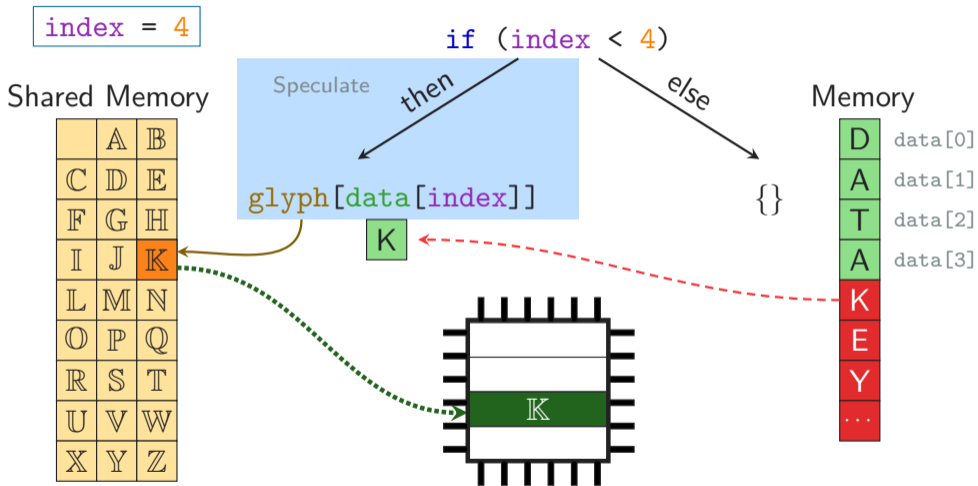
K



Memory

D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	

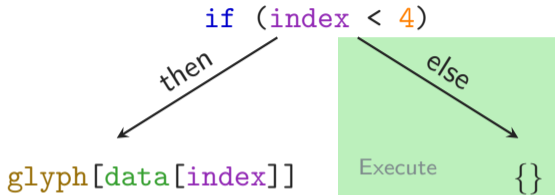




index = 4

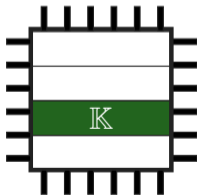
Shared Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z



Memory

D	data[0]
A	data[1]
T	data[2]
A	data[3]
K	
E	
Y	
...	





We want to build a Spectre attack which...



We want to build a Spectre attack which...

- is capable of leaking secrets from a remote system



We want to build a Spectre attack which...

- is capable of leaking secrets from a remote system
- has neither physical access nor code execution on system



We want to build a Spectre attack which...

- is capable of leaking secrets from a remote system
- has neither physical access nor code execution on system
- does not rely on software vulnerabilities

CVSS v3 for CVE-2017-5753 (Spectre)

Attack Vector

Network	Adjacent Network	Local	Physical
---------	------------------	-------	----------

CVSS v3 for CVE-2017-5753 (Spectre)

Attack Vector



Attack Complexity



CVSS v3 for CVE-2017-5753 (Spectre)

Attack Vector



Attack Complexity



Privilege Required



CVSS v3 for CVE-2017-5753 (Spectre)

Attack Vector



Attack Complexity



Privilege Required



User Interaction





Spectre **without code execution** is complicated



Spectre **without code execution** is complicated

- Which **branch** can be exploited



Spectre **without code execution** is complicated

- Which **branch** can be exploited
- Cannot observe the **cache state**



Spectre **without code execution** is complicated

- Which **branch** can be exploited
- Cannot observe the **cache state**
- Spectre **gadgets** will be different



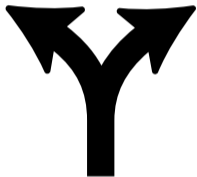
Spectre **without code execution** is complicated

- Which **branch** can be exploited
- Cannot observe the **cache state**
- Spectre **gadgets** will be different
- No **timing** measurement on the attacked system



Spectre **without code execution** is complicated

- Which **branch** can be exploited
- Cannot observe the **cache state**
- Spectre **gadgets** will be different
- No **timing** measurement on the attacked system
- How to select the **data** to leak



- No code can be injected



- No code can be injected
- Public interface (**API**) accessing data



- No code can be injected
- Public interface (**API**) accessing data
- Branches in API can be mistrained remotely



- No code can be injected
- Public interface (**API**) accessing data
- Branches in API can be mistrained remotely
- Attacker only calls the API via **network requests**

```
def check_user_privileges(user_id):  
    [...]  
    if user_id < len(users):  
        if test_bit(privileges, user_id) == True:  
            admin = True  
  
    return SUCCESS
```



```
def check_user_privileges(user_id):  
    [...]  
    if user_id < len(users):  
        if test_bit(privileges, user_id) == True:  
            admin = True  
  
    return SUCCESS
```

Bounds check

```
def check_user_privileges(user_id):  
    [...]  
    if user_id < len(users):  
        if test_bit(privileges, user_id) == True:  
            admin = True  
  
    return SUCCESS
```

Bounds check

Speculative
out-of-bounds
read

```
def is_admin():  
    return admin
```

```
def is_admin():  
    return admin
```



```
def is_admin():  
    return admin
```



- If **bit** in array was **set** → admin is **cached**

```
def is_admin():  
    return admin
```



- If **bit** in array was **set** → admin is **cached**
- If **bit** was **not set** → admin is **not cached**

```
def is_admin():  
    return admin
```



- If **bit** in array was **set** → admin is **cached**
- If **bit** was **not set** → admin is **not cached**
- Observe cache state via function execution time



- Cannot measure time directly on the attacked system



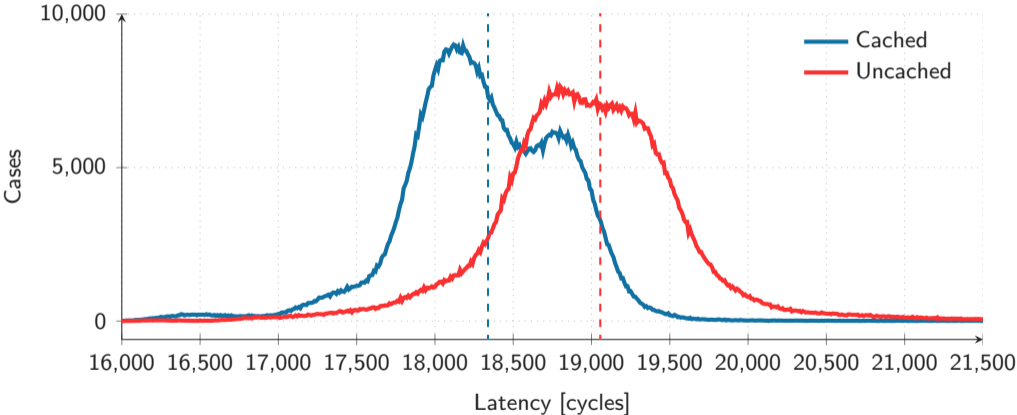
- Cannot measure time directly on the attacked system
- Network **latency** depends on API **execution time**



- Cannot measure time directly on the attacked system
 - Network **latency** depends on API **execution time**
- Measure the network **roundtrip time**



- Cannot measure time directly on the attacked system
 - Network **latency** depends on API **execution time**
- Measure the network **roundtrip time**
- Reveals whether the variable is cached





- After **measuring** variable is always **cached**



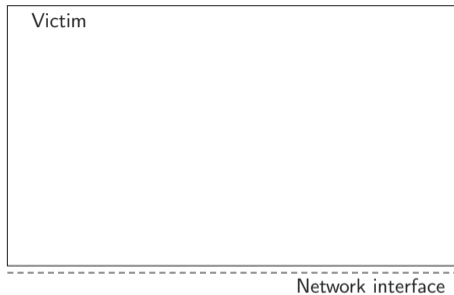
- After **measuring** variable is always **cached**
- How do we **evict** the variable?

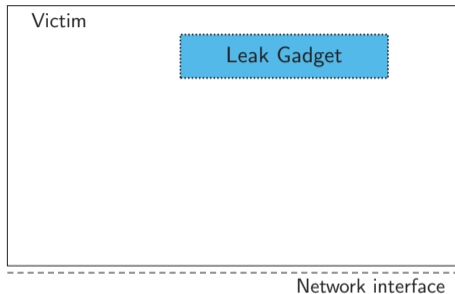


- After **measuring** variable is always **cached**
- How do we **evict** the variable?
- Constantly evict the cache via a **file download**

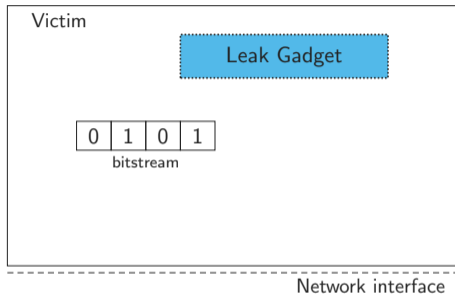


- After **measuring** variable is always **cached**
- How do we **evict** the variable?
- Constantly evict the cache via a **file download**
- Thrash+Reload → crude form of Evict+Reload

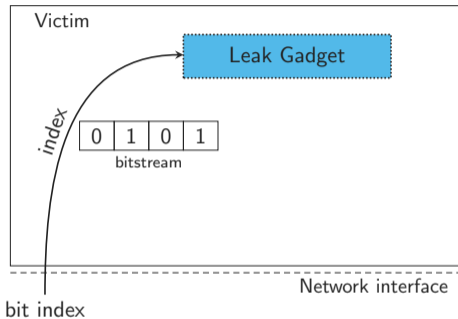




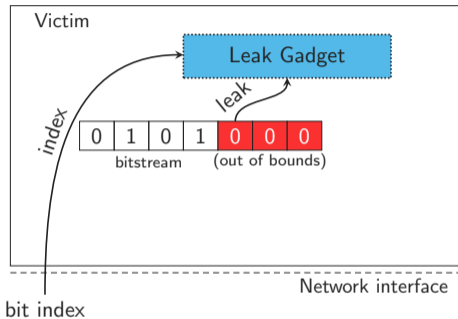
```
if (x < bitstream_length)
    if(bitstream[x])
        flag = true
```



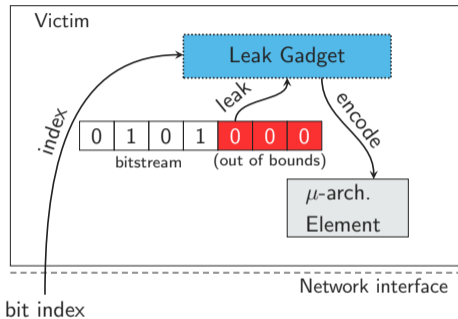
```
if (x < bitstream_length)
    if(bitstream[x])
        flag = true
```



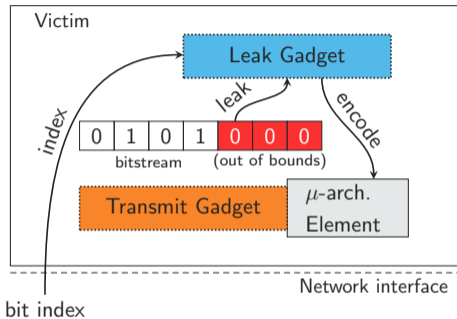
```
if (x < bitstream_length)
    if(bitstream[x])
        flag = true
```



```
if (x < bitstream_length)
    if(bitstream[x])
        flag = true
```

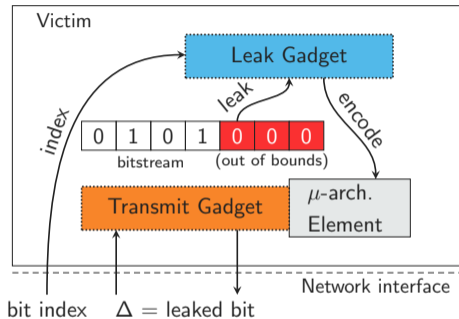


```
if (x < bitstream_length)
    if(bitstream[x])
        flag = true
```



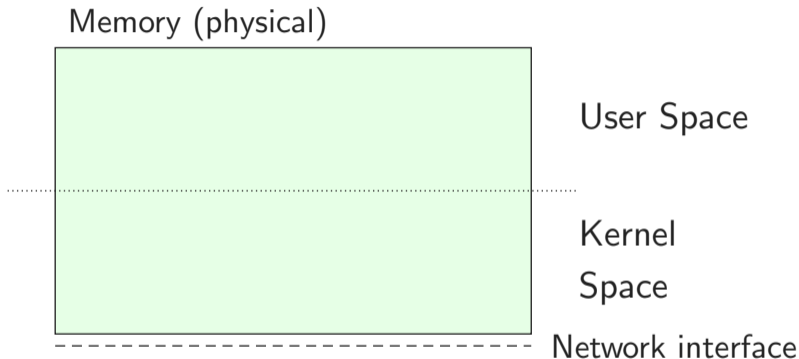
```
if (x < bitstream_length)
    if (bitstream[x])
        flag = true
```

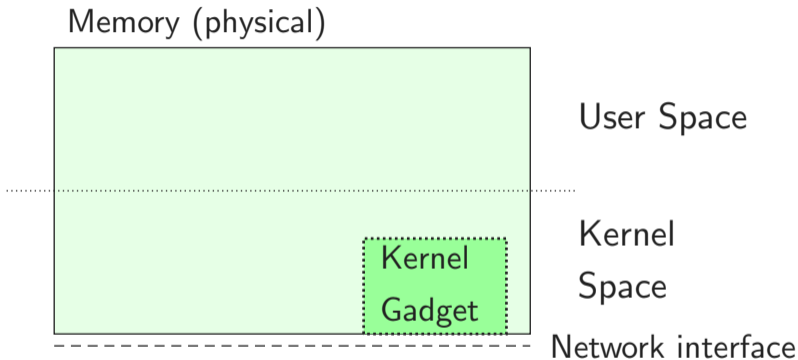
```
send(flag)
```

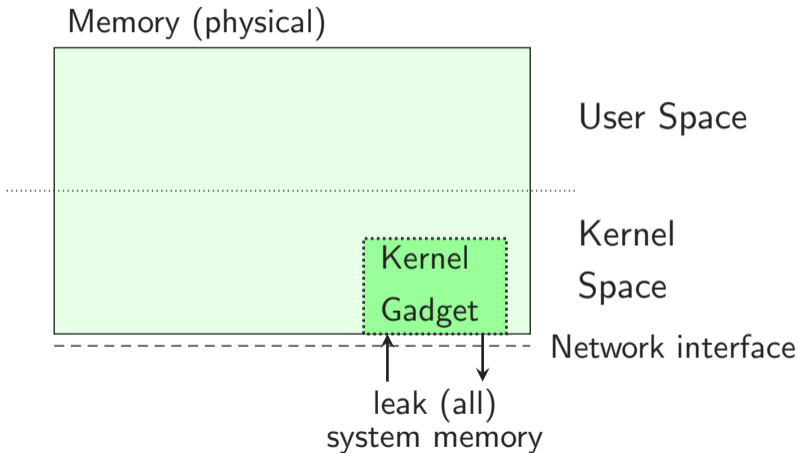


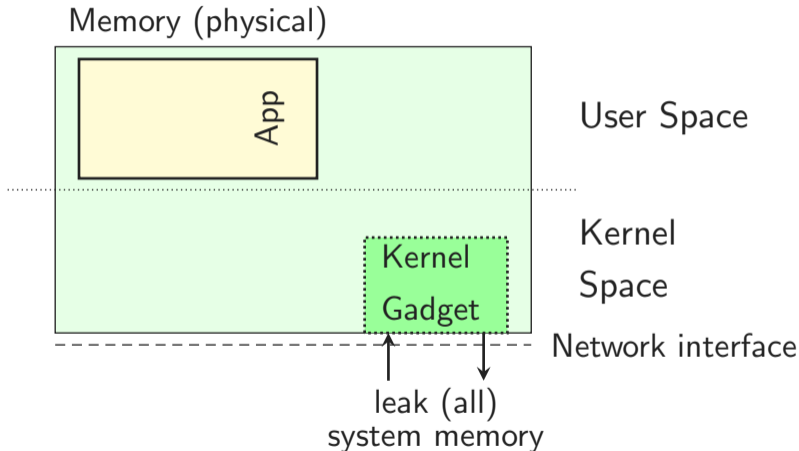
```
if (x < bitstream_length)
    if (bitstream[x])
        flag = true
```

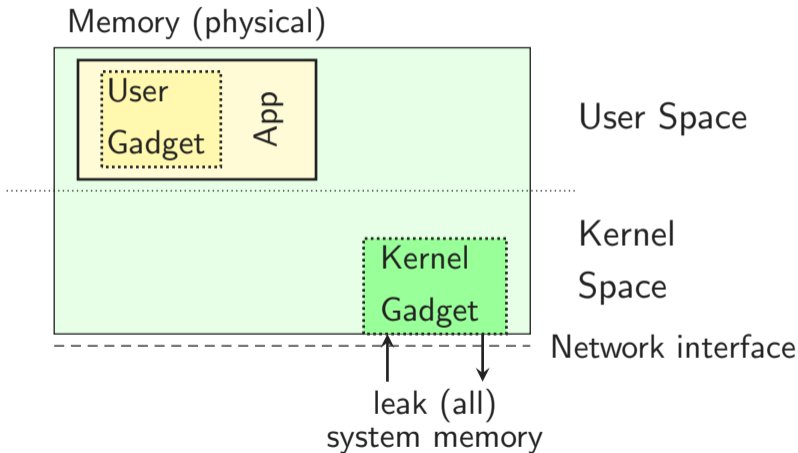
```
send(flag)
```

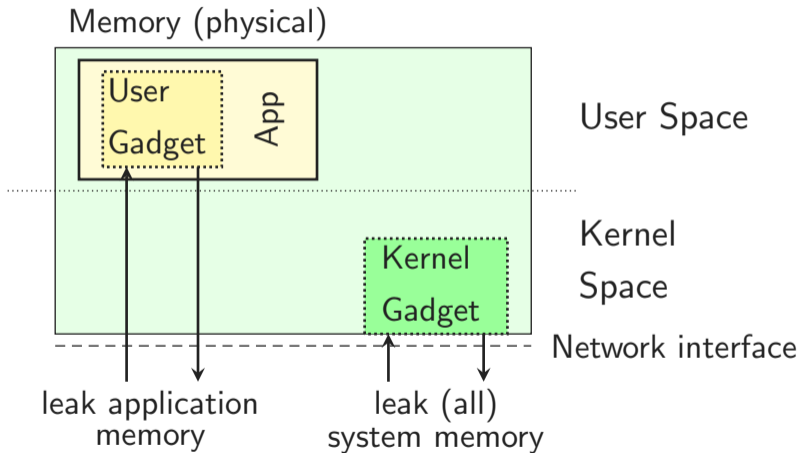



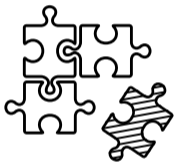




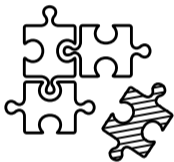




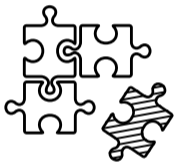




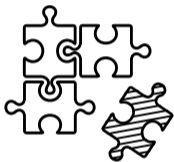
- **Mistrain** branch predictor with in-bounds requests



- **Mistrain** branch predictor with in-bounds requests
- **Evict** everything from cache via file download



- **Mistrain** branch predictor with in-bounds requests
- **Evict** everything from cache via file download
- **Leak** a bit: do nothing ('0') or cache a memory location ('1')



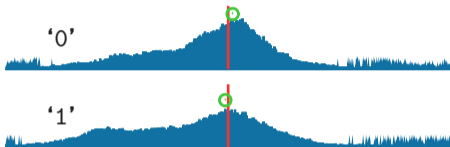
- **Mistrain** branch predictor with in-bounds requests
- **Evict** everything from cache via file download
- **Leak** a bit: do nothing ('0') or cache a memory location ('1')
- **Measure** function latency which uses the memory location



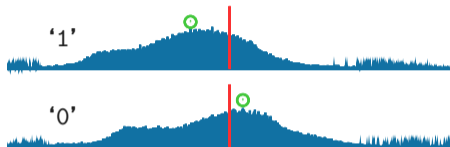
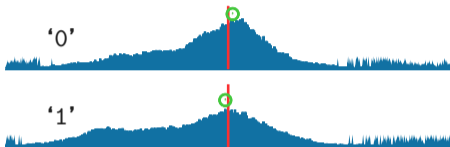
Leaking byte 'd' (0)



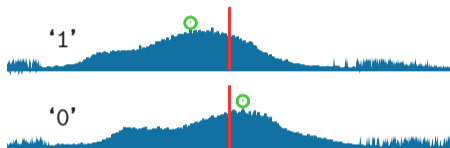
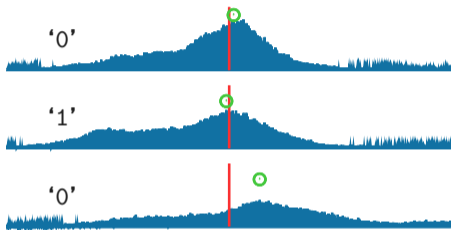
Leaking byte 'd' (01)



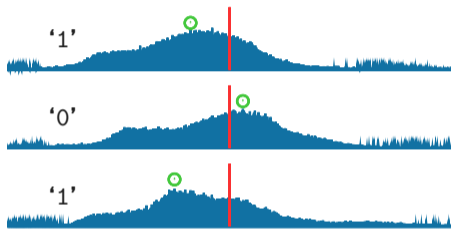
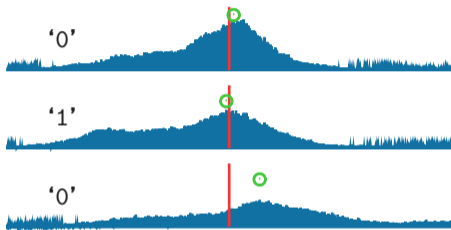
Leaking byte 'd' (011)



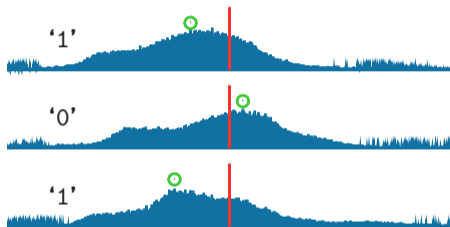
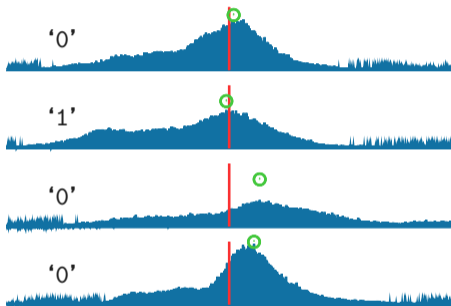
Leaking byte 'd' (0110)



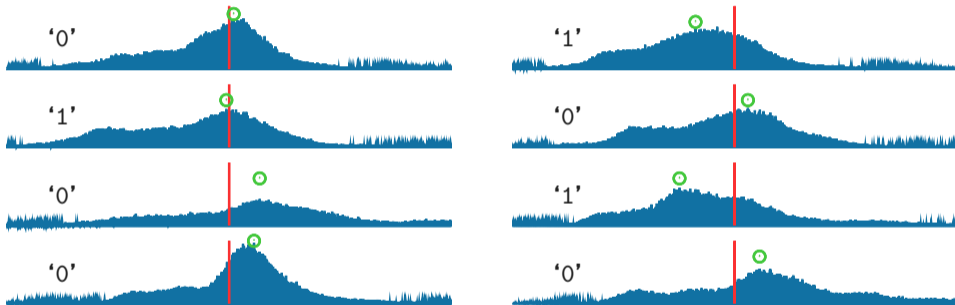
Leaking byte 'd' (01100)



Leaking byte 'd' (011001)



Leaking byte 'd' (0110010)



Leaking byte 'd' (01100100)

- Several possible attack targets

- Several possible attack targets
- Different impacts depending on target

- Several possible attack targets
- Different impacts depending on target



Web/FTP Servers
(user gadget)

- Several possible attack targets
- Different impacts depending on target



Web/FTP Servers
(user gadget)



SSH Daemons
(user gadget)

- Several possible attack targets
- Different impacts depending on target



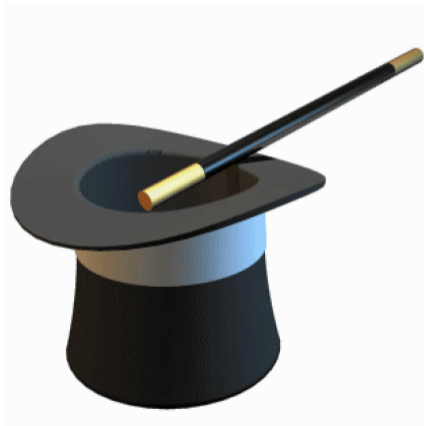
Web/FTP Servers
(user gadget)



SSH Daemons
(user gadget)



Network Drivers
(kernel gadget)





- Finding Spectre gadgets is still an open problem



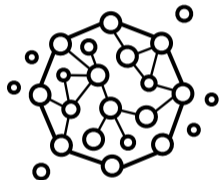
- Finding Spectre gadgets is still an open problem
- Out of all papers, only 4 show real-world gadgets



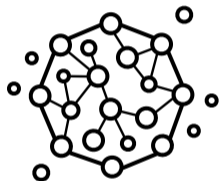
- Finding Spectre gadgets is still an open problem
- Out of all papers, only 4 show real-world gadgets
- Among them, only 2 Spectre-PHT (v1) gadgets



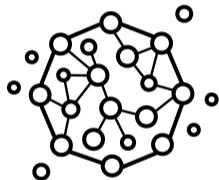
- Finding Spectre gadgets is still an open problem
- Out of all papers, only 4 show real-world gadgets
- Among them, only 2 Spectre-PHT (v1) gadgets
- Still no fully automated approach



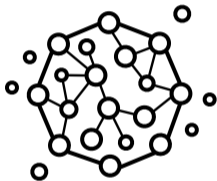
- Linux kernel uses **static code analysis**



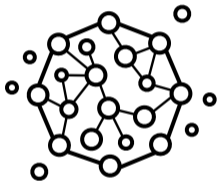
- Linux kernel uses **static code analysis**
- High **false positive** rate



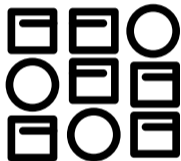
- Linux kernel uses **static code analysis**
 - High **false positive** rate
- Out of 736 reports only 15 real gadgets



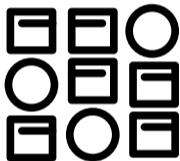
- Linux kernel uses **static code analysis**
 - High **false positive** rate
- Out of 736 reports only 15 real gadgets
- Ongoing effort, > 100 patches applied to Linux kernel



- Linux kernel uses **static code analysis**
 - High **false positive** rate
- Out of 736 reports only 15 real gadgets
- Ongoing effort, > 100 patches applied to Linux kernel
 - > 930 Spectre patches in open-source projects



- Built 21 toy examples, 18 containing Spectre gadgets



- Built 21 toy examples, 18 containing Spectre gadgets
- We created two static approaches on detecting (Net)Spectre gadgets



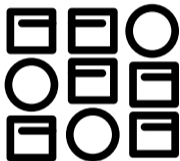
- Built 21 toy examples, 18 containing Spectre gadgets
- We created two static approaches on detecting (Net)Spectre gadgets
 - Coccinelle (Matching the **code pattern**)



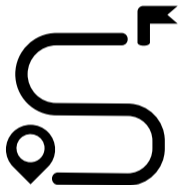
- Built 21 toy examples, 18 containing Spectre gadgets
- We created two static approaches on detecting (Net)Spectre gadgets
 - Coccinelle (Matching the **code pattern**)
 - Python Capstone (Matching the **binary pattern**)



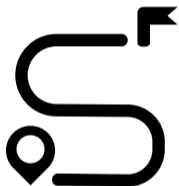
- Built 21 toy examples, 18 containing Spectre gadgets
- We created two static approaches on detecting (Net)Spectre gadgets
 - Coccinelle (Matching the **code pattern**)
 - Python Capstone (Matching the **binary pattern**)
- All gadgets were detected, only 3 false positives



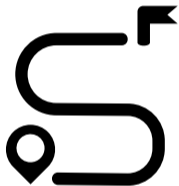
- Built 21 toy examples, 18 containing Spectre gadgets
- We created two static approaches on detecting (Net)Spectre gadgets
 - Coccinelle (Matching the **code pattern**)
 - Python Capstone (Matching the **binary pattern**)
- All gadgets were detected, only 3 false positives
- Adapted oo7 approach to masscan open-source software



- Taint Tracking ↔ mark all input as evil



- **Taint Tracking** \leftrightarrow mark all input as **evil**
- If input x flows into branch $x < size$, the branch is marked as tainted



- **Taint Tracking** \leftrightarrow mark all input as **evil**
- If input x flows into branch $x < size$, the branch is marked as tainted
- \exists a memory access relative within an array in a time window, report it as susceptible



- Not clear how a Spectre gadget can look like



- Not clear how a Spectre gadget can look like
- Potentially many **different forms**



- Not clear how a Spectre gadget can look like
- Potentially many **different forms**
- Can be scattered over many instructions



- Not clear how a Spectre gadget can look like
- Potentially many **different forms**
- Can be scattered over many instructions
- **Similar** to finding **ROP** chains



- Not clear how a Spectre gadget can look like
- Potentially many **different forms**
- Can be scattered over many instructions
- **Similar** to finding **ROP** chains
- While searching, discovered novel type of gadget

- No indirection, **simple array access**

- No indirection, **simple array access**

```
if (x < array_length)
    y = array[x];
```



- What to do with weaker gadgets?



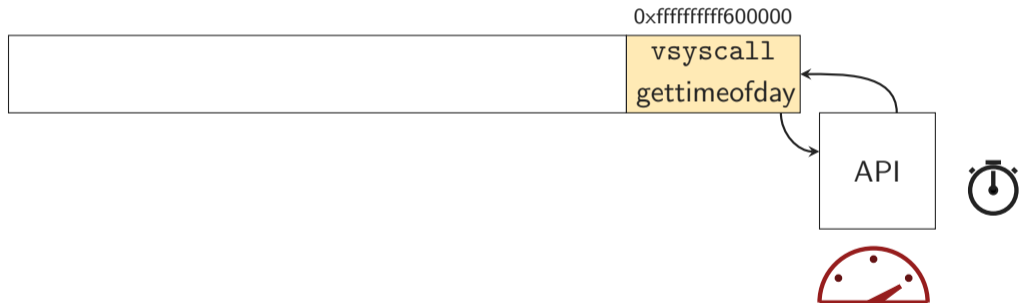
- What to do with weaker gadgets?
- Break **ASLR**

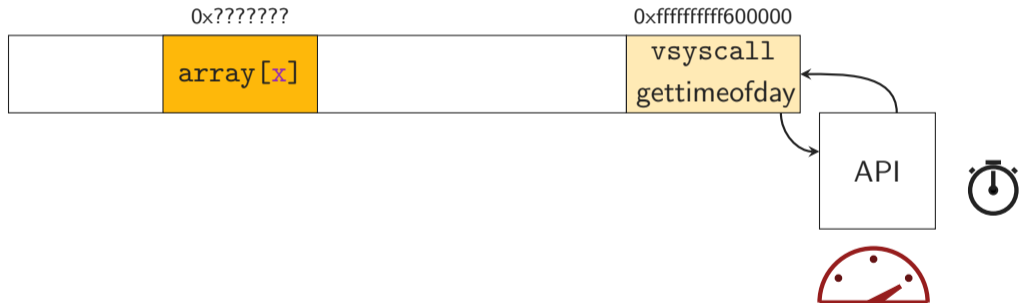


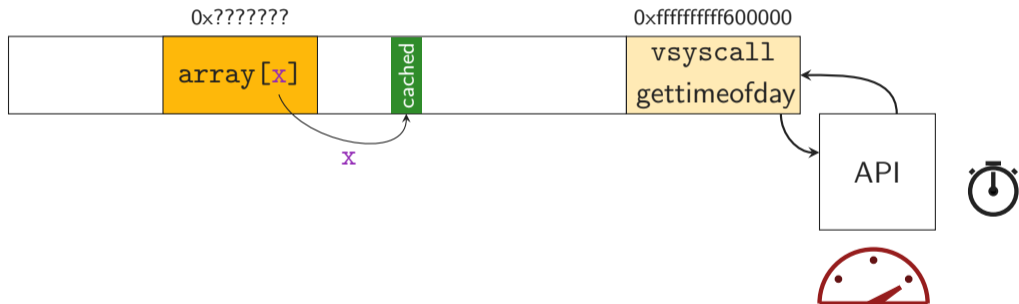
- What to do with weaker gadgets?
- Break **ASLR**
- Not relevant for local Spectre attacks

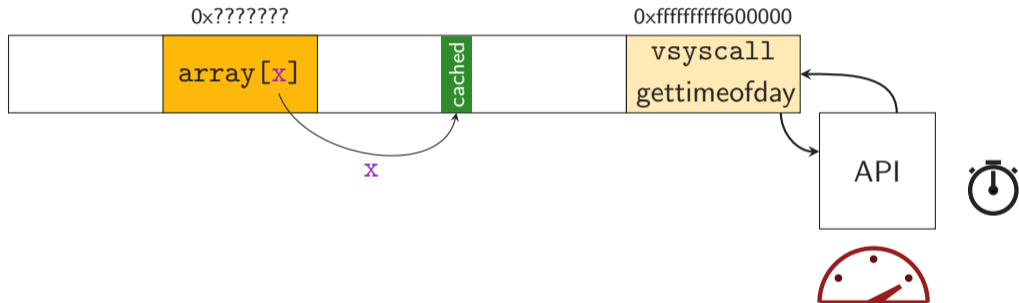


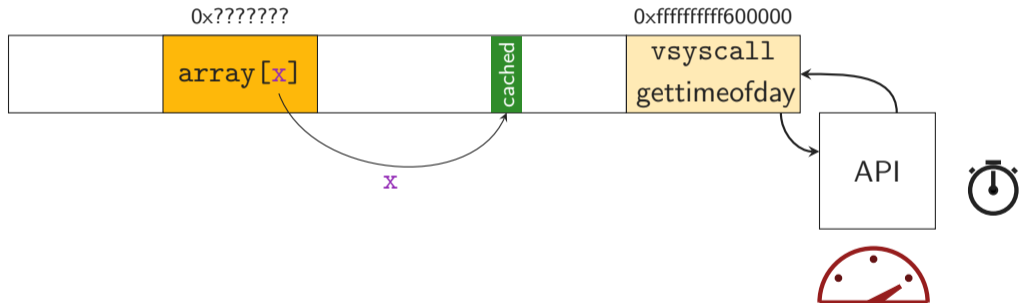
- What to do with weaker gadgets?
- Break **ASLR**
- Not relevant for local Spectre attacks
 - Valuable in a **remote** scenario

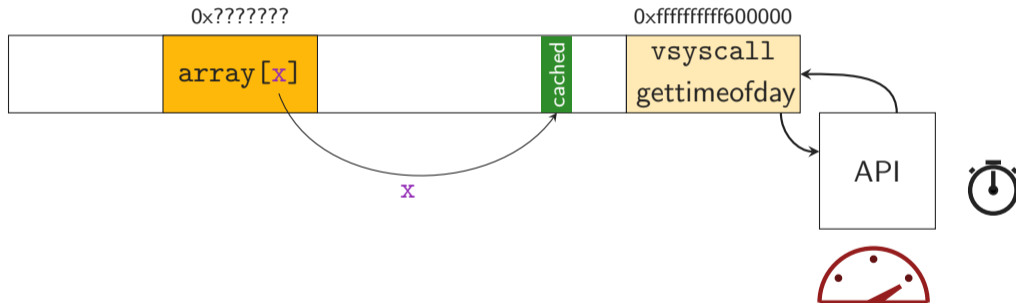


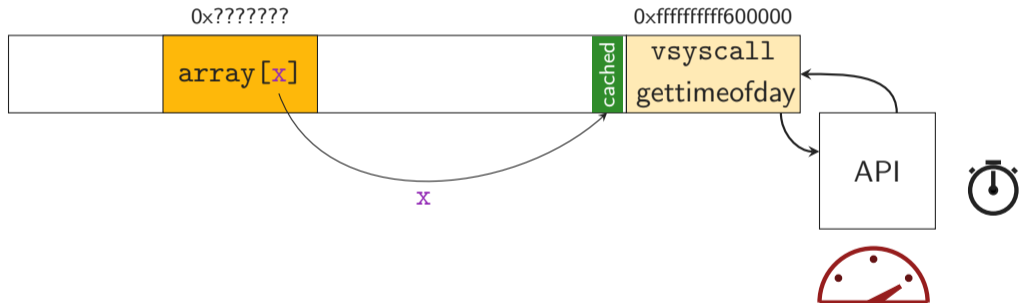


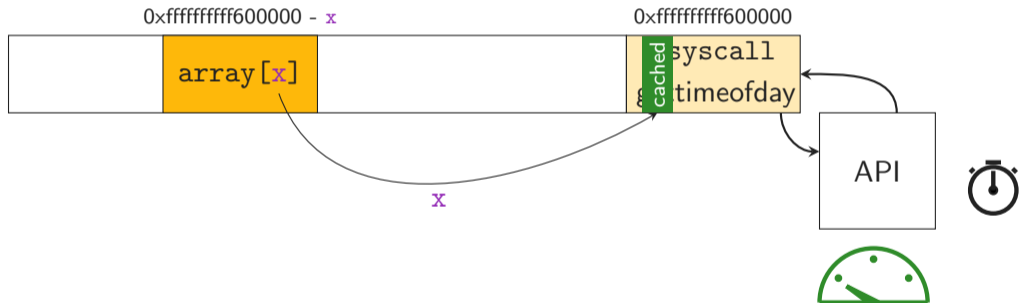




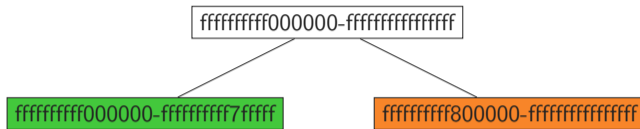


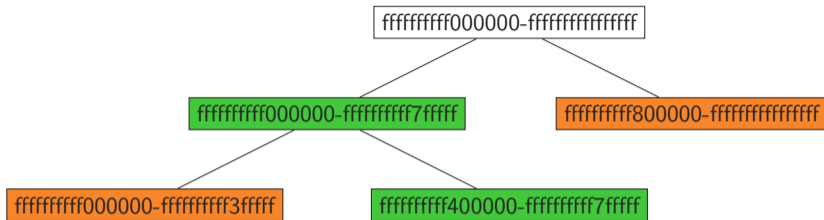


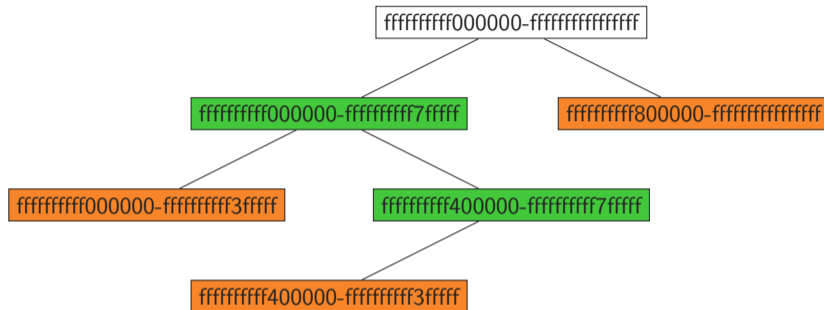


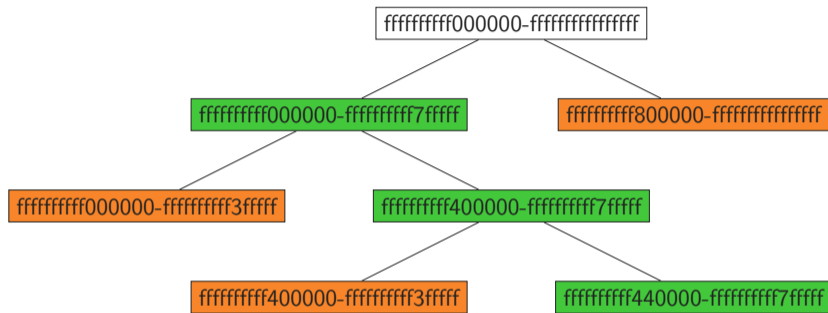


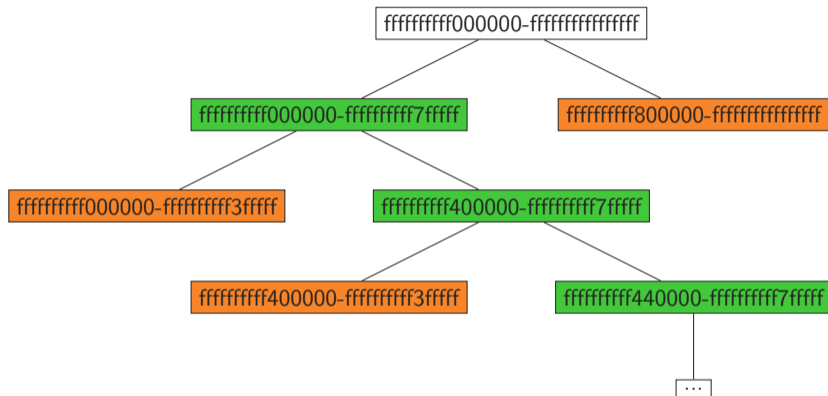
fffffffff000000-fffffffffffffff

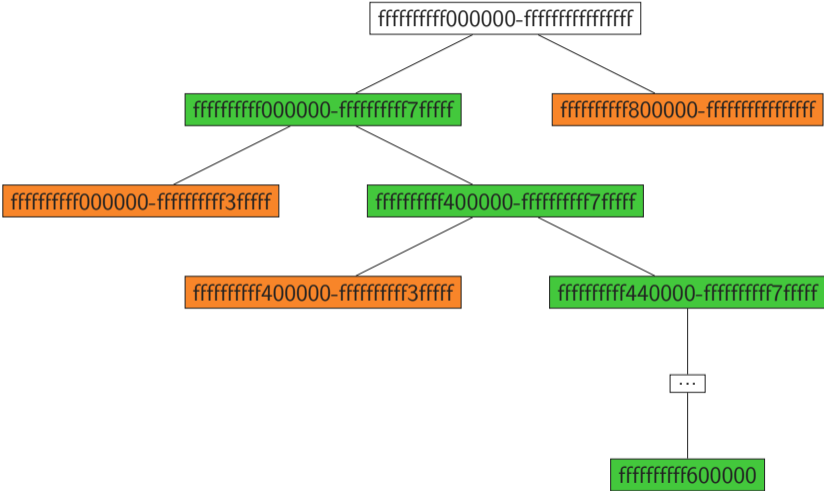














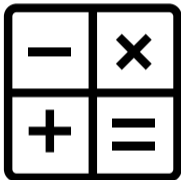
- All Spectre variants so far use the **cache**



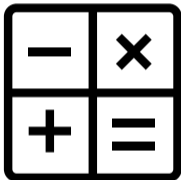
- All Spectre variants so far use the **cache**
- Is this a requirement?



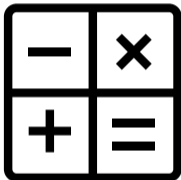
- All Spectre variants so far use the **cache**
- Is this a requirement?
- Can we encode the data **somewhere else**?



- Allow performing an operation in **parallel** on **multiple data**

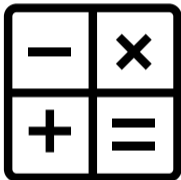


- Allow performing an operation in **parallel** on **multiple data**
- Commonly used in gaming and cryptography



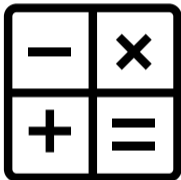
- Allow performing an operation in **parallel** on **multiple data**
- Commonly used in gaming and cryptography



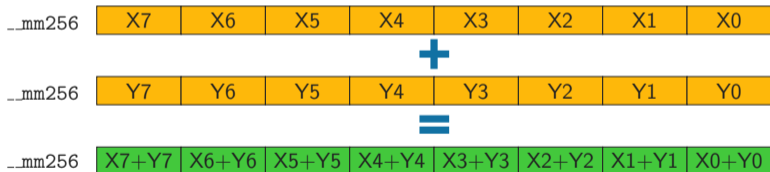


- Allow performing an operation in **parallel** on **multiple data**
- Commonly used in gaming and cryptography





- Allow performing an operation in **parallel** on **multiple data**
- Commonly used in gaming and cryptography





- 256-bit instructions need a lot of **power**



- 256-bit instructions need a lot of **power**
 - On Intel, **disabled by default**, enabled on first use



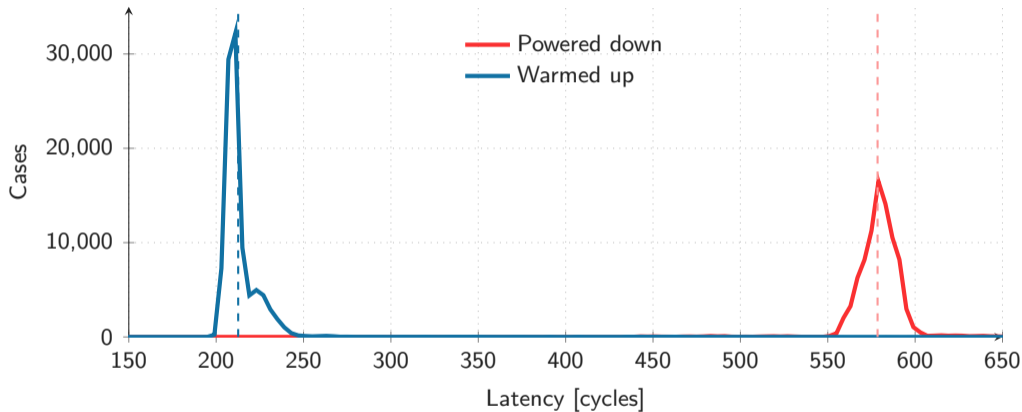
- 256-bit instructions need a lot of **power**
 - On Intel, **disabled by default**, enabled on first use
- Requires some time to power up



- 256-bit instructions need a lot of **power**
 - On Intel, **disabled by default**, enabled on first use
- Requires some time to power up
- Measure execution time of AVX instruction



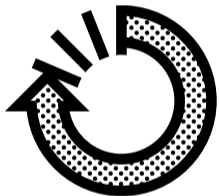
- 256-bit instructions need a lot of **power**
 - On Intel, **disabled by default**, enabled on first use
 - Requires some time to power up
 - Measure execution time of AVX instruction
- **Leak** timing information



```
if (x < bitstream_length)
    if(bitstream[x])
        _mm256_instruction();
```



- We had to thrash cache to reset state



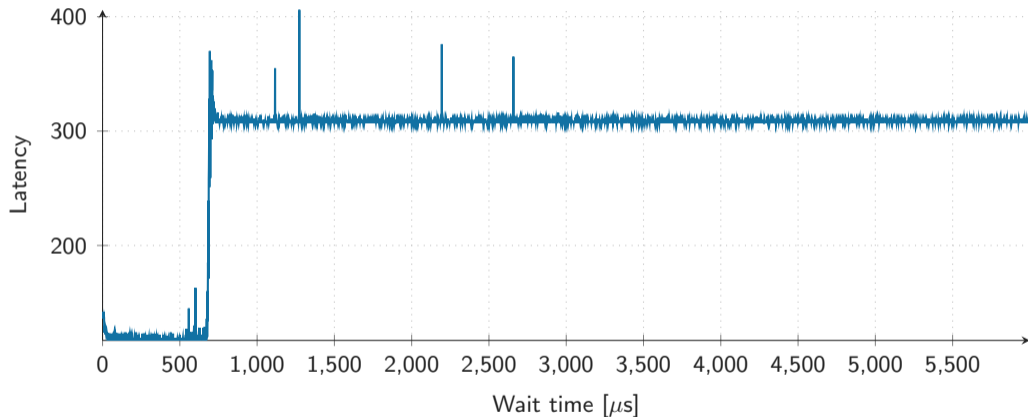
- We had to thrash cache to reset state
- **Wait** ≈ 1 ms \rightarrow AVX unit powers off

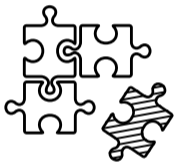


- We had to thrash cache to reset state
- **Wait** ≈ 1 ms \rightarrow AVX unit powers off
- More efficient and stealthier than constantly downloading a file

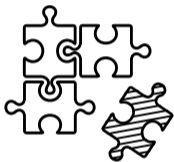


- We had to thrash cache to reset state
- **Wait** ≈ 1 ms \rightarrow AVX unit powers off
- More efficient and stealthier than constantly downloading a file
- \rightarrow higher performance than cache covert channel

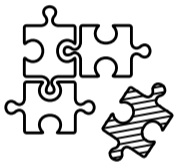




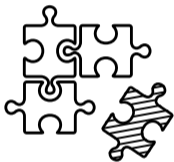
1. **Mistrain** branch predictor with in-bounds requests



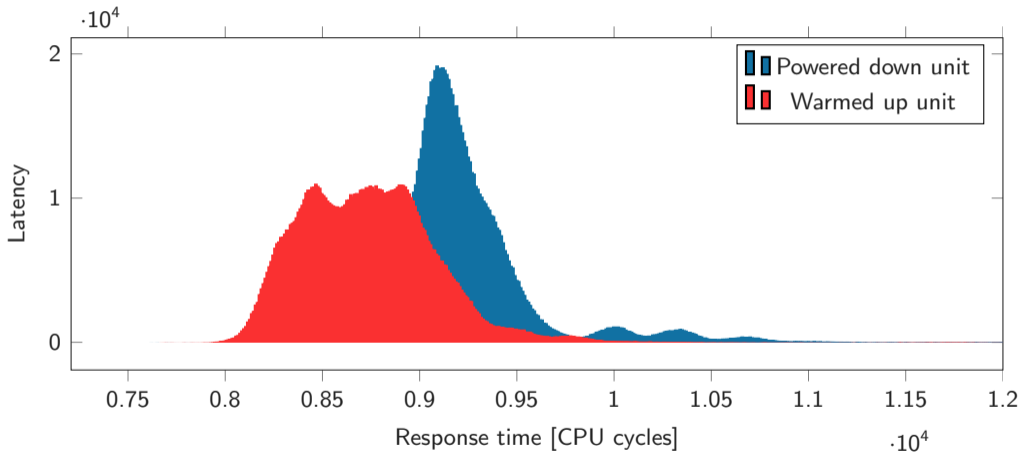
1. **Mistrain** branch predictor with in-bounds requests
2. **Wait** for AVX unit to power off (1ms)



1. **Mistrain** branch predictor with in-bounds requests
2. **Wait** for AVX unit to power off (1ms)
3. **Leak** a bit: do nothing ('0') or power AVX unit ('1')



1. **Mistrain** branch predictor with in-bounds requests
2. **Wait** for AVX unit to power off (1ms)
3. **Leak** a bit: do nothing ('0') or power AVX unit ('1')
4. **Measure** function latency which uses AVX instruction



- NetSpectre tested in various environments

- NetSpectre tested in various environments



i5-6200U, i7-8550U

- NetSpectre tested in various environments

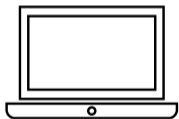


i5-6200U, i7-8550U



i7-6700K, i7-8700K

- NetSpectre tested in various environments



i5-6200U, i7-8550U

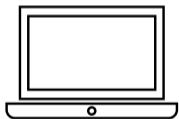


i7-6700K, i7-8700K



Skylake Xeon

- NetSpectre tested in various environments



i5-6200U, i7-8550U



i7-6700K, i7-8700K



Skylake Xeon



ARM Cortex A75

- Local Network (1 000 000 measurements/bit)



- Local Network (1 000 000 measurements/bit)



30 min/byte

- **Local Network** (1 000 000 measurements/bit)



30 min/byte



8 min/byte

- **Local Network** (1 000 000 measurements/bit)



30 min/byte



8 min/byte

- **Cloud** (20 000 000 measurements/bit)



- **Local Network** (1 000 000 measurements/bit)



30 min/byte



8 min/byte

- **Cloud** (20 000 000 measurements/bit)



1 h/bit





- Mitigating NetSpectre



- Mitigating NetSpectre



Network side



- Mitigating NetSpectre



Network side



Fix Spectre

- Prevent NetSpectre on the **network** side



- Prevent NetSpectre on the **network** side



Firewalls and DDoS
protections

- Prevent NetSpectre on the **network** side



Firewalls and DDoS
protections



Add random noise to
packets

- Prevent NetSpectre on the **network** side



Firewalls and DDoS
protections



Add random noise to
packets



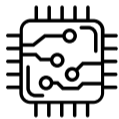
Network
segmentation



- Prevent (Net)Spectre on the **system** side



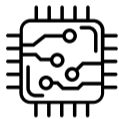
- Prevent (Net)Spectre on the **system** side



Hardware Fixes



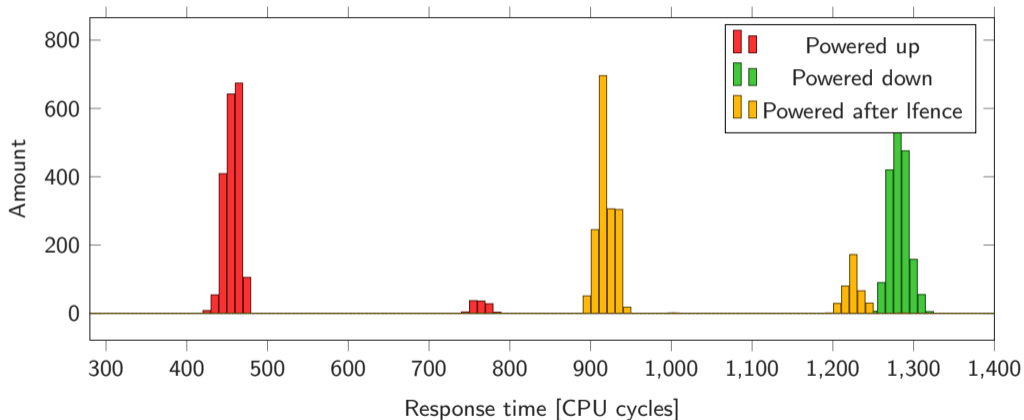
- Prevent (Net)Spectre on the **system** side



Hardware Fixes



Software Changes





- NetSpectre requires a **fast and stable network** connection



- NetSpectre requires a **fast and stable network** connection
 - Local networks



- NetSpectre requires a **fast and stable network** connection
 - Local networks
 - Data centers (VM to VM attack)



- NetSpectre requires a **fast and stable network** connection
 - Local networks
 - Data centers (VM to VM attack)
- Internet speeds improve (e.g., fiber, 5G)



- NetSpectre requires a **fast and stable network** connection
 - Local networks
 - Data centers (VM to VM attack)
 - Internet speeds improve (e.g., fiber, 5G)
- possible in the **near future**?



- NetSpectre requires a **fast and stable network** connection
 - Local networks
 - Data centers (VM to VM attack)
 - Internet speeds improve (e.g., fiber, 5G)
- possible in the **near future**?
- Attack speeds can be drastically **improved**



- NetSpectre requires a **fast and stable network** connection
 - Local networks
 - Data centers (VM to VM attack)
 - Internet speeds improve (e.g., fiber, 5G)
- possible in the **near future**?
- Attack speeds can be drastically **improved**
 - Better signal processing/filtering



- NetSpectre requires a **fast and stable network** connection
 - Local networks
 - Data centers (VM to VM attack)
 - Internet speeds improve (e.g., fiber, 5G)
- possible in the **near future**?
- Attack speeds can be drastically **improved**
 - Better signal processing/filtering
 - Dedicated measuring hardware



- **Gadgets** are more **versatile** than expected



- **Gadgets** are more **versatile** than expected
- **Finding** gadgets is even **harder** than expected



- **Gadgets** are more **versatile** than expected
- **Finding** gadgets is even **harder** than expected
- Proposed security mechanisms are **incomplete**



- **Gadgets** are more **versatile** than expected
- **Finding** gadgets is even **harder** than expected
- Proposed security mechanisms are **incomplete**
 - focus only on the cache



- **Gadgets** are more **versatile** than expected
- **Finding** gadgets is even **harder** than expected
- Proposed security mechanisms are **incomplete**
 - focus only on the cache
 - often assume (local) code execution



- **Gadgets** are more **versatile** than expected
- **Finding** gadgets is even **harder** than expected
- Proposed security mechanisms are **incomplete**
 - focus only on the cache
 - often assume (local) code execution
- Root problem has to be solved → **more research** required



- Speculative execution **leaks** secrets **without** exploiting **bugs**
- Spectre attacks are **not limited** to **local** attackers
- Spectre attacks have a **larger impact** than assumed

NetSpectre

A Truly Remote Spectre Variant



Michael Schwarz

@misc0110

Martin Schwarzl

@marv0x90