# DIAT:

# Data Integrity Attestation for Resilient Collaboration of Autonomous Systems

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# Motivation





# Remote attestation checks trustworthiness of a remote (embedded) device

#### **Remote Attestation**



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Key Limitation: Static attestation schemes do not address runtime attacks

# **Problem Space of Runtime Attacks**



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# Control-flow attestation aims at the detection of runtime attacks

## **Control-Flow Attestation**

Cumulative Hash Value:  $H_i = H (H_{i-1}, N)$ 

- H<sub>i-1</sub> -- previous hash result
- N -- instruction block (node) just executed



Problems

## **Control-Flow Attestation**

#### High overhead on the verifier

Program complexity leads to a large number of valid hashes

#### Only applicable to small programs

# Control-flow attestation for autonomous systems

# **High Level Idea**







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#### Modularization

Software is divided into smaller isolated modules

#### **Data-flow attestation**

Attestation is executed when data is exchanged

#### **Exec path representation**

Execution path is represented as a multiset of edges

# Assumptions



#### Modularization

Software is divided into smaller isolated modules

#### Modular software

can be decomposed into simple interacting modules

#### Data-flow monitoring

Software modules interact through a well-defined communication channels

#### **Isolation Architecture**

Software modules are securely isolated for each other

Data-flow attestation

**Exec path representation** 

Attestation is executed when data is exchanged

Execution path is represented as a multiset of edges

# **Data-Flow Monitoring**



#### Modularization

Software is divided into solutions and the solution of the soluted modules and the solution of the solution of

#### **Data-flow attestation**

Attestation is executed when data is exchanged

Exec path representation Execution path is represented

a multiset of edges

# **Control-Flow Monitoring**



#### Modularization

Software is divided into solution is a solution is a soluted modules is a soluted module solution is a solution

#### Data-flow attestation

Attestation is executed when data is exchanged

#### **Exec path representation**

Execution path is represented as a multiset of edges

# **High Level Idea**



**DFMonitor CFMonitor**  $M_3 M_5 M_6$  $M_3 \rightarrow M_5$  $M_5 \rightarrow M_6$  $M_6 \to M_3$ 



Implementation

#### **Autonomous Drones**

#### Pixhawk: open-hardware project autopilot hardware

#### PX4: open source flight control software for drones







NuttX

# DFMonitor

#### Objective

Observes data flow between software modules and identify critical ones

#### Realization

Extending Middleware to enable data-flow monitoring functionalities

#### **Functionalities:**

- Extending MAVLink message format to include attestation requests/response
- Extending uORB to record message subscription and data generation
- Flushing uORB data buffers before when sensitive data is requested

## DFMonitor

#### **Extending MAVLink message format**



#### Flushing uORB data buffers



Observing data flow between modules



# CFMonitor

#### Objective

Observes execution of critical modules and records their control flow

#### Realization

Instrumenting software modules with instructions that allow recording its control flow

#### **Functionalities:**

- Logic for recording the control flow events of critical modules
- Instrumentation instruction which call the logic at every control-flow event

# CFMonitor



# Integration into PX4

## Concept



# **Evaluation**

# **GPS Coordinates**

MODULE	CFG SIZE	EXECUTION PATH	ATTESTATION TIME	VERIFICATION TIME				
GPS	2922	22249	835	849				
GYROSCOPE	912	20004	748	760				
E-COMPASS	1468	18907	716	718				
GPS coordinates involves 1 of 13 executing modules								
FMU	1828	38132	1510	1511				
ΡΧ4ΙΟ	3661	12723	484	489				
<sup>1</sup> Modularity entails an improvement of 95% on runtime								
Shividz Ade	2 <i>3</i> 1	212/7	005	000				
COMMANDER	7852	9418	354	365				
LOAD MONITOR	135	8	0,3	0,4				
SENSORS	2032	40410	1618	1623				
SYSTEMLIB	2555	662142	26341	26365				
TOTAL	27014	1005120	39799,3	39892,4				

# **Different Data Types**

Data		cmd_state	battery_status	sensor_acel	sensor_gyro
	Critical Modules	12	12	2	2
Count	Executed Modules	12	13	7	8
	Percentage	100%	92%	28%	25%
$\sum of$ CFGs	<b>Critical Modules</b>	197823	46860778	194	250
	Executed Modules	197823	46862156	1590	1328
	Percentage	100%	99%	12%	18%
$\sum of$ Executed Paths	Critical Modules	26572	26572	3373	2817
	Executed Modules	26572	27104	13622	13873
	Percentage	100%	98%	24%	20%

# Scalability

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# Runtime



# Security

# **Security Considerations**

#### **DFMonitor:**

• All critical modules will be detected and attested

#### **CFMonitor:**

- Adding edges not in CFG will be detected
- Adding edges in CFG to execution path requires security policy
- **Reordering edges** in the execution path *cannot* be detected

# Conclusion

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Static attestation cannot detect runtime attacks

Control-flow attestation (CFA) is too complex

DIAT allows CFA in the autonomous settings. However, this requires

- Modular software design with clear communication
- Strong isolation between software modules

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