Fast symmetric crypto on embedded CPUs

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Summer School on the design and security of cryptographic algorithms
and devices for real-world applications

Embedded CPUs

4-bit CPUs

- TMS 1000
- Intel 4004
- Atmel MARC4
- Toshiba TLCS-47

8-bit CPUs

- Atmel AVR
- Intel 8051
- Microchip Technology PIC
- STMicroelectronics STM8

16-bit CPUs

- TI MSP430
- Microchip Technology PIC24

32-bit CPUs

- ARM11
- ARM Cortex-M∗
- ARM Cortex-A∗
- Atmel AVR32
- MIPS32
- AIM 32-bit PowerPC
- STMicroelectronics STM32

Symmetric crypto

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CryptMT
F-FCSR-H
Hermes MAG
Salsa
Rabbit
ABC
LEX
Grain
DICING
Dragon Bear
NLS TSC
Phelix SSS
DECIM VEST
Mir
Py Polar
SFINKS POMARANCH
MICKEY
YAEA
Frogbit Edon TRBDK Achterbahn
Yamb
MOUSTIQUE HC
WG
ZK-Crypt
SOSEMANUK
Trivium

Symmetric crypto

SHA
Fugue
MeshHash ARIRANG HASH
SANDstorm EnRUPT NaSHA SHAMATA
CubeHash CRUNCH Khichidi Blender
LANE Midnight Lesamnta Sarmal
Luffa FSB CHI Waterfall Abacus SIMD
ECOH WaMM Tangle LUX Sgàil
Skein ZK-Crypt Vortex
Ponic Cheetah SWIFFTX Shabal
JH Maraca Spectral Edon-R MD Boole
Wish TIB StreamHash Hamsi
DCH Twister ESSENCE
Grøstl MCSSHA
ECHO Keccak Dynamic
AURORA SHAvite NKS2D
Blue BLAKE

Symmetric crypto

Minalpher SHELL STRIBOB
POLAWIS Deoxys ICEPOLE π-Cipher
OMD Julius AES-OTR Tiaoxin
ELmD AES-CPFB LAC
Wheesht
HS1-SIV AES-CMCC CBA Prøst
Keyak Ascon AEGIS Calico
MORUS Joltik ⇔AE AEZ PAEQ
Ketje ACORN Artemia SILC
OCB AES-COPA CLOC Silver
AES-JAMBU iFeed[AES]
SCREAM AVALANCHE NORX PRIMATEs
Raviyoyla Enchilada KIASU TriviA-ck
YAES POET Sablier Marble

Optimizing crypto

- ▶ This talk: optimize for speed
- ▶ Implement algorithms in assembly
- ▶ Available instructions and registers are determined by the target **architecture**

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- ▶ **Latency** of an instruction: number of cycles we have to wait before using the result
- ▶ Latency and throughput are determined by the **microarchitecture**
- ▶ Optimizing software in assembly means:
  - ▶ Find good representation of data
  - ▶ Choose suitable instructions that implement the algorithm
  - ▶ Schedule those instruction to hide latencies
  - ▶ Assign registers efficiently (avoid spills)

Keccak on ARM11

Joint work with Bo-Yin Yang and Shang-Yi Yang

The ARM11

- 16 32-bit integer registers (1 used as PC, one used as SP): 14 freely available
- Executes at most one instruction per cycle
- 1 cycle latency for all relevant arithmetic instructions, 3 cycles for loads from cache
- Standard 32-bit RISC instruction set; two exceptions:

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  - One input of arithmetic instructions can be rotated or shifted for free as part of the instruction
  - This input is needed one cycle earlier in the pipeline ⇒ "backwards latency" + 1
  - Loads and stores can move 64-bits between memory and 2 adjacent 32-bit registers (same cost as 32-bit load/store)

Keccak

- State of 5×5 matrix of 64-bit lanes
- Absorb message in blocks of 128 bytes
- Perform state transformation in 24 rounds; each round:
    - Compute $b_0, \ldots, b_4$ as XORs of columns
    - Compute $c_0, \ldots, c_4$, each as $b_i \oplus (b_j \lll 1)$

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  - Update state columnwise
  - Pick up 5 lanes from a diagonal
  - XOR each lane with one of the c_i
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  - One lane per column is additionally XORed with a round constant

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- ▶ When both inputs of an instruction need to be rotated:

$$a \leftarrow (b \lll n_1) \odot (c \lll n_2).$$

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- ▶ Need to keep implicit rotation distances invariant over loop iterations
- ▶ Full unrolling essentially makes all rotates free

Memory access overhead

- 200-byte state is way too large for 56 register bytes
- Simple structure of main transformations:
  - Load 5 half-lanes
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- ▶ Actual performance: **79.32 cycles/byte**

Salsa20 on ARM Cortex-A8

Joint work with Daniel J. Bernstein

The ARM Cortex-A8

The ARM core

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- ▶ Again, 16 integer registers, 14 freely available
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The NEON vector unit

- 16 128-bit vector registers
- One arithmetic + one load/store/shuffle per cycle
- No free shifts or rotates
- Fairly complex latency rules

Salsa20

- ► Generates random stream in 64-byte blocks, works on 32-bit integers
- ► Blocks are independent
- ► Per block: 20 rounds; each round doing 16 add-rotate-xor
  sequences, such as
  ```
  s4 = x0 + x12
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- In ARM *without* NEON: 2 instructions, 1 cycle
- Sounds like total of $(20 \cdot 16)/64 = 5$ cycles/byte, but:
  - Only 14 integer registers (need at least 17)
  - Latencies cause big trouble
  - Actual implementations slower than 15 cycles/byte

A first approach in NEON

- Per round do $4\times$ something like:

```
4x a0 = diag1 + diag0
4x b0 = a0 << 7
4x a0 unsigned >>= 25
   diag3 ^= b0
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- $+$ some (free) shuffles
- Intuitive cycle lower bound:
  $(5 \cdot 4 \cdot 20)/64 = 6.25$ cycles/byte
- Problem: The above sequence has a 9-cycle latency, thus:
  $(9 \cdot 4 \cdot 20)/64 = 11.25$ cycles/byte

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- Lower bound when interleaving 2 blocks: 6.875 cycles/byte
- Lower bound when interleaving 3 blocks: 6.25 cycles/byte

Going even further

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- Idea: Also keep the ARM core busy with Salsa20 computations
- New bottleneck: ARM core decodes at most 2 instructions per cycle
- Add-rotate-xor is only 2 ARM instructions
- Best tradeoff: One block on ARM, two blocks on NEON

A flavor of the code

```
4x a0 = diag1 + diag0
   4x next_a0 = next_diag1 + next_diag0
            s4 = x0 + x12
            s9 = x5 + x1
4x b0 = a0 << 7
   4x next_b0 = next_a0 << 7
4x a0 unsigned>>= 25
   4x next_a0 unsigned>>= 25
            x4 ^= (s4 >>> 25)
            x9 ^= (s9 >>> 25)
            s8 = x4 + x0
            s13 = x9 + x5
   diag3 ^= b0
      next_diag3 ^= next_b0
   diag3 ^= a0
      next_diag3 ^= next_a0
            x8 ^= (s8 >>> 23)
            x13 ^= (s13 >>> 23)
```

Result

5.47 cycles/byte for Salsa20 encryption on ARM Cortex-A8 with NEON

The case of AES

Importance of AES

- Most widely used symmetric crypto algorithm
- Used in many constructions:
  - 10 SHA-3 submissions were AES-based
  - 25 CAESAR submissions use AES
- Only accepted encryption algorithm for various security certifications
- You need a stream cipher? "Use AES-CTR"

AES on 32-bit processors

- Idea from the AES proposal: Merge SubBytes, ShiftRows, and MixColumns
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The first round of AES in C

- ▶ Input: 32-bit integers y0, y1, y2, y3
- ▶ Output: 32-bit integers z0, z1, z2, z3
- ▶ Round keys in 32-bit-integer array rk[44]

```
z0 = T0[ y0 >> 24         ] ^ T1[(y1 >> 16) & 0xff] \
   ^ T2[(y2 >>  8) & 0xff] ^ T3[ y3         & 0xff] ^ rk[4];
z1 = T0[ y1 >> 24         ] ^ T1[(y2 >> 16) & 0xff] \
   ^ T2[(y3 >>  8) & 0xff] ^ T3[ y0         & 0xff] ^ rk[5];
z2 = T0[ y2 >> 24         ] ^ T1[(y3 >> 16) & 0xff] \
   ^ T2[(y0 >>  8) & 0xff] ^ T3[ y1         & 0xff] ^ rk[6];
z3 = T0[ y3 >> 24         ] ^ T1[(y0 >> 16) & 0xff] \
   ^ T2[(y1 >>  8) & 0xff] ^ T3[ y2         & 0xff] ^ rk[7];
```

Foot-shooting prevention

Foot-Shooting Prevention Agreement

I, _____ , promise that once
        Your Name
I see how simple AES really is, I will
not implement it in production code
even though it would be really fun.

    This agreement shall be in effect
until the undersigned creates a
meaningful interpretive dance that
compares and contrasts cache-based,
timing, and other side channel attacks
and their countermeasures.

X_____   _____
        Signature   Date

http://www.moserware.com/2009/09/stick-figure-guide-to-advanced.html

The problem with T tables

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- Timing attacks are practical. Osvik, Shamir, Tromer, 2006: Use cache-timing attack to steal AES-256 key for Linux hard-disk encryption in just 65 ms.
- To put it bluntly:
  - AES is a well understood secure algorithm
  - Implementations of AES are horribly insecure

How could AES be chosen?

"Table lookup: not vulnerable to timing attacks; relatively easy to effect a defense against power attacks by software balancing of the lookup address."

*   —Report on the Development of the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES), October 2000*

Modern AES software

T tables

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- Caches are *not* the only problem
- Use assembly to prevent(?) foot-shooting

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Bitslicing

- ▶ Transpose binary state matrix in registers
- ▶ Simulate hardware implementation in software
- ▶ Needs fast XOR and AND instructions
- ▶ Example: 384 bit operations per cycle on 64-bit Intel CPUs

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Vector permutes

- Implement AES through $\mathbb{F}_{2^8}$ arithmetic
- Represent $\mathbb{F}_{2^8}$ as quadratic extension of $\mathbb{F}_{2^4}$
- Use vector-permute instructions as lookups
- Needs fast and powerful vector-permute instructions
- Example: AltiVec, NEON(?)

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Hardware support

- Intel has AES-NI since Westmere
- ARMv8 has HW AES
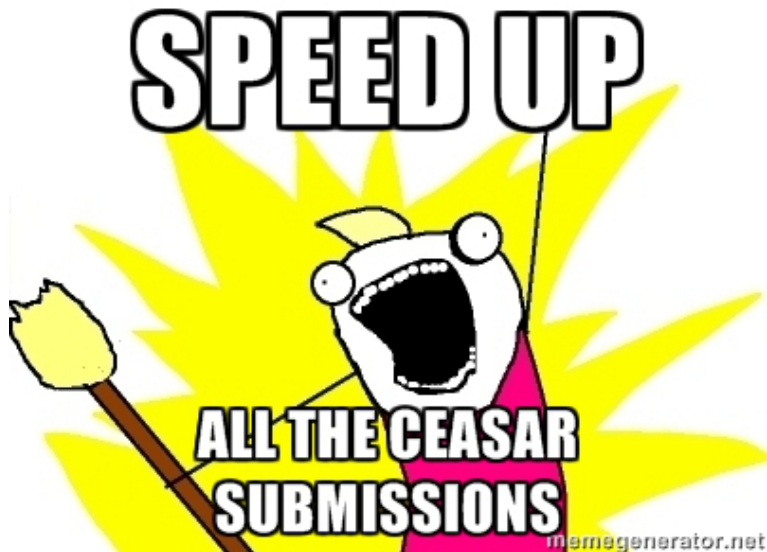
Challenges

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- Implement AES without T tables in plain ARM

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