A case study: secure information flow in AUTOSAR models

Modern automotive electronics systems are real-time embedded systems running over networked Electronic Control Units (ECUs) interconnected by wired networks such as the Controller Area Network (CAN) or Ethernet.

Over 80 different embedded processors, interconnected with each other.

Key ECUs (Electronic Control Unit):
- Engine Control Modul (ECM)
- Electronic Brake Control Module (EBCM)
- Transmission Control Module (TCM)
- Vehicle Vision System (VVS)
- Navigation Control Module (NCM)
- …
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Automotive systems: Mixed-criticality safety critical systems

- **High criticality**
  - Braking system, Throttle system, ...

- **Low criticality**
  - Infotainment system, ...

Recent research has shown that it is possible for external intruders to compromise the proper operation of safety functions getting access to the infotainment system.

**Low security level data must not compromise the computation of high criticality functions**
A case study: secure flow in AUTOSAR models

AUTomotive Open Systems ARchitecture: open industry standard for automotive software architectures, spanning all levels, from device drivers, to operating system, communication abstraction layers and the specification of application-level components.
Path Planning, Lane Keeping and Lane Departure Warning are active safety functions that receive such data and send commands to actuators (steering, throttle and brakes).

- Throttle component is assigned the high trust level;

- Throttle request link is assigned the integrity security requirement.

AUTOSAR models are extended with security annotations.
Data received by Throttle on the link Throttle_request must satisfy integrity security requirement

The point is that:
the way in which security annotations are specified must consider the causal dependencies between data that traverse the model.

If Throttle requires integrity on its input data sent by Path Planning, then integrity must be guaranteed also along the path from the data originator (GPS) to Path Planning (the Vehicle_position link), otherwise, the security constraint cannot be satisfied and the set of annotations is not correct.
The simplest solution assigns integrity to all links directly or indirectly connected to Throttle_request.

In order to obtain a more efficient solution, information flow theory can be exploited.
A fundamental concept of AUTOSAR is the separation between:

- application and
- infrastructure.

An application in AUTOSAR consists of Software Components interconnected by connectors.
• Runnables define the behavior of components
• Runnables are entry points to code-fragments and are (indirectly) a subject for scheduling by the operating system.
int runnable1 (int a) {
    if (a>200)  a = a/2;
    else  a = a+5;
    return a;
}
int runnable2 (int a) {
    while (a>200)
        a = a -10;
    return a;
}

Visual Studio C++
gcc  -fdump-tree-cfg

runnable1

runnable2
Runnable interaction

Global variables

**Ports** define interaction points between (runnables belonging to) different SWCs.

For interactions among runnables belonging to the same component
**Inter Runnable Variables** (IRVs)

The RTE provides protection mechanisms for IRVs (as opposed to global variables)
An AUTOSAR model satisfies data secure flow if data sent on a link at run-time, always have a security requirement not lower than those specified by the security annotations.

For each link, we compute:

- the security requirement of data sent on the link
The abstract interpreter: EXEC

Each runnable is executed starting from the abstract memory and the context file, and applying the abstract rules.

All branches of conditional/iterative instructions are always executed, due to the loss of real data in the abstract semantics.
A PORT is a variable.

RTE function for reading from or writing onto ports are mapped to read and write of the port variable. For simplicity, the name of the port variable is equal to the name of the port.

RTE functions that invoke remote services trigger the runnable that implements the service. The function implementing the service is invoked.
Abstract semantics

A POINTER is assumed to be simple variable, that maintains the dependencies of the pointer, plus the dependencies of the pointed data in the abstract execution.

An ARRAY is assumed to be a simple variable, that maintains the whole dependencies of each element in the array.

A STRUCTURED VARIABLE is mapped to a set of simple variables, one for each member (we use the notation, as usual). If we have a variable data that is a structure with two fields a and b, we map such variable into two simple variables, data:a and data:b, respectively.
Iterative analysis

Iterative analysis until fixpoint is reached

A: security context
R: set of all runnables

\[
\begin{align*}
A & := A^0 \\
T & := R \\
\text{while}(T \neq \emptyset) & \text{ select } r \in T \\
& \quad T := T - \{r\} \\
& \quad A' := \text{EXEC}(r, A) \\
\text{if}(A' \neq A) & \quad A := A' \\
& \quad T := R
\end{align*}
\]
An example: Front Light Manager

Security annotations:  

Daytime_runningLights : High  
FLM_TO_DRL : integr

Data secure flow is not satisfied

data sent on the link FLM_TO_DRL are not protected along the path from the sources to the destination
An example of component: Front_light_manager

```c
void FLM_Runnable3(void) {
    Rte_IWrite_Runnable3_PPort_out3(Rte_IrvIRead_Runnable3_IRV1());
    Rte_IWrite_Runnable3_PPort_out5((Rte_IrvIRead_Runnable3_IRV2()));
    if ( (Rte_IrvIRead_Runnable3_IRV1() == REQ_HEADLIGHT_ON) ||
         (Rte_IrvIRead_Runnable3_IRV2() == REQ_DAYTIME_ON) ) {
        Rte_IWrite_Runnable3_PPort_out4(LIGHTS_ON);
    } else {
        Rte_IWrite_Runnable3_PPort_out4(LIGHTS_OFF);
    }
}
```
% global variables
int HR_voltage_threshold1;
int HR_voltage_threshold2;
int DLR_voltage_threshold1;
...
% inter runnable variables
int16_t FLM_IRV1;
int16_t FLM_IRV2;
int16_t DLR_IRV1;
...

% ports
int in1;
int in2;
...
int out1;
int out2;
...
% functions
void flm_Runnable1() 0;
void flm_Runnable2() 0;
.....
% links
out2 -> in7;
out1 -> in6;
the output port of Front light manager connected to the Daytime_running_lights (out5 in our implementation) does not depend on the input port connected to the Headlight request component (in6 in our implementation)

Model satisfies Secure flow property