

### kAFL: Hardware-Assisted Feedback Fuzzing for OS Kernels

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IJG jpeg libjpeg-turbo libpng libtiff mozjpeg PHP Moz**Internet** ExplorerOpenSSL LibreOffice poppler freetype GnuTLS GnuPG PuTTY ntpd nginx bash tcpdump JavaScriptCore pdfium Hmpeg libmatroska libarchive ImageMagick

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**Böhme, Marcel, et al. "Coverage-based greybox fuzzing as markov chain."** Proceedings of the 2016 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security. ACM. 2016.

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#### What about Kernel Security?



| Fast | Crash Tolerant | OS Independent | Binary Only |
|------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
|      |                |                |             |
|      |                |                |             |
|      |                |                |             |
|      |                |                |             |
|      |                |                |             |



|  | Fast | Crash Tolerant | OS Independent | Binary Only |
|--|------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| TriforceAFL<br>(Jesse Hertz & Tim Newsham,<br>NCC Group) | X    | ✓              | ~              | ✓           |
|  |      |                |                |             |
|  |      |                |                |             |
|  |      |                |                |             |



|  | Fast | Crash Tolerant | OS Independent | Binary Only |
|--|------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| TriforceAFL<br>(Jesse Hertz & Tim Newsham,<br>NCC Group) | X    | ✓              | ~              | ✓           |
| Syzkaller<br>(Dmitry Vyukov)                             | ✓    | ✓              | ×              | X           |
|  |      |                |                |             |
|  |      |                |                |             |



|   | Fast         | Crash Tolerant | OS Independent | Binary Only |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>TriforceAFL</b><br>(Jesse Hertz & Tim Newsham,<br>NCC Group)         | X            | ✓              | ~              | ✓           |
| Syzkaller<br>(Dmitry Vyukov)  | $\checkmark$ | ✓              | ×              | X           |
| AFL Filesystem Fuzzer<br>(Vegard Nossum & Quentin<br>Casanovas, Oracle) | ✓            | ~              | ×              | X           |
|   |              |                |                |             |



|   | Fast         | Crash Tolerant | OS Independent | Binary Only |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| TriforceAFL<br>(Jesse Hertz & Tim Newsham,<br>NCC Group)                | X            | ✓              | ~              | ✓           |
| Syzkaller<br>(Dmitry Vyukov)  | $\checkmark$ | ✓              | ×              | X           |
| AFL Filesystem Fuzzer<br>(Vegard Nossum & Quentin<br>Casanovas, Oracle) | ✓            | ~              | ×              | X           |
| PT Kernel Fuzzer<br>(Richard Johnson, Talos)                            | ✓            | ×              | ×              | ✓           |





Build a **kernel** fuzzer that is all of this:

#### Fast

- Reliable
- (mostly) OS independent
- No source level access required

























### **Blackbox Fuzzing**





### **Blackbox Fuzzing**





### **Blackbox Fuzzing**





# **Coverage-Guided Fuzzing**

### **Coverage-Guided Fuzzing**























| Closed-Source | Kernel | Stable | Fast |
|---------------|--------|--------|------|
|               |        |        |      |
|               |        |        |      |
|               |        |        |      |
|               |        |        |      |
|               |        |        |      |
|               |        |        |      |
|               |        |        |      |



|                                 | Closed-Source | Kernel | Stable | Fast |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| Compile-Time<br>Instrumentation | X             | ✓      | ✓      | ++   |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |

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|                                 | Closed-Source | Kernel | Stable | Fast |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| Compile-Time<br>Instrumentation | <b>X</b>      | ✓      | ✓      | ++   |
| Static Rewriting                | ✓             | -      | X      | ++   |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |
|                                 |               |        |        |      |

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|                                   | Closed-Source | Kernel | Stable | Fast |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| Compile-Time<br>Instrumentation   | X             | √      | ✓      | ++   |
| Static Rewriting                  | ✓             | -      | X      | ++   |
| Dynamic Binary<br>Instrumentation | ✓             | _*     | ✓      | -    |
|                                   |               |        |        |      |
|                                   |               |        |        |      |
|                                   |               |        |        |      |

\* Peter Feiner, et al., DRK: DynamoRIO as a Linux Kernel Module
# **Feedback Mechanism**

|                                   | Closed-Source | Kernel | Stable | Fast |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| Compile-Time<br>Instrumentation   | ×             | ✓      | ✓      | ++   |
| Static Rewriting                  | ✓             | -      | X      | ++   |
| Dynamic Binary<br>Instrumentation | ✓             | _*     | ✓      | -    |
| Emulation                         | ✓             | ✓      | ✓      |      |
|                                   |               |        |        |      |
|                                   |               |        |        |      |

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# **Feedback Mechanism**

|                                   | Closed-Source | Kernel       | Stable | Fast |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------|------|
| Compile-Time<br>Instrumentation   | ×             | $\checkmark$ | ✓      | ++   |
| Static Rewriting                  | ✓             | -            | ×      | ++   |
| Dynamic Binary<br>Instrumentation | ✓             | _*           | ✓      | -    |
| Emulation                         | ✓             | ✓            | ✓      |      |
| Intel Branch Trace Store          | ✓             | ✓            | ✓      | +    |
|                                   |               |              |        |      |

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# **Feedback Mechanism**

|                                   | Closed-Source | Kernel | Stable | Fast |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| Compile-Time<br>Instrumentation   | ×             | ✓      | ✓      | ++   |
| Static Rewriting                  | ✓             | -      | X      | ++   |
| Dynamic Binary<br>Instrumentation | ✓             | _*     | ✓      | -    |
| Emulation                         | ✓             | ✓      | ✓      |      |
| Intel Branch Trace Store          | ✓             | ✓      | ✓      | +    |
| Intel Processor Trace             | ✓             | ✓      | ✓      | +++  |

\* Peter Feiner, et al., DRK: DynamoRIO as a Linux Kernel Module





#### Instruction

#### **Intel PT Packet**



| Instruction    | Intel PT Packet            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| jmp/call loc_b | Inferable from disassembly |



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| Instruction    | Intel PT Packet            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| jmp/call loc_b | Inferable from disassembly |
| jnz loc_a      | Taken / Not Taken          |



| Instruction    | Intel PT Packet            |
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| jmp/call loc_b | Inferable from disassembly |
| jnz loc_a      | Taken / Not Taken          |
| jmp/call [eax] | Target IP                  |



| Instruction    | Intel PT Packet            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| jmp/call loc_b | Inferable from disassembly |
| jnz loc_a      | Taken / Not Taken          |
| jmp/call [eax] | Target IP                  |
| ret            | Target IP (if required)    |



Intel PT Data

Not Taken Target IP (0x1009) Target IP (0x1055)



Intel PT Data

Not Taken Target IP (0x1009) Target IP (0x1055)

Target Binary

























Benefits: √Coverage











Benefits: √Coverage √Crash Tolerance





#### **Benefits:**

✓ Coverage
 ✓ Crash Tolerance
 ✓ OS Independence





#### **Benefits:**

✓ Coverage
 ✓ Crash Tolerance
 ✓ OS Independence
 ✓ Scalable









Full System Tracing





vCPU Tracing

Filter-Mechanisms: ✓vCPU





**Guest Ring-0 Tracing** 

Filter-Mechanisms: ✓vCPU ✓ Supervisor





**Guest Ring-0 Tracing** 





Guest Ring-0 Tracing (Fuzzing-Process)

Host Virtual Machine Intel PT aware Kernel Hypervisor coverage Agent Fuzzer

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Filter-Mechanisms: ✓ vCPU ✓ Supervisor ✓ CR3

Guest Ring-0 Tracing (Fuzzing-Process & Target Range)

Filter-Mechanisms: ✓ vCPU ✓ Supervisor ✓ CR3 ✓ IP-Range



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**Guest to Host:** 





Guest to Host:

Synchronization





#### **Guest to Host:**

SynchronizationNext payload





#### **Guest to Host:**

Synchronization
Next payload
Disclose CR3 value





#### **Guest to Host:**

- Synchronization
- Next payload
- Disclose CR3 value
- Panic handler address




### **Guest to Host:**

- Synchronization
- Next payload
- Disclose CR3 value
- Panic handler address
- Signal kernel panic





### **Guest to Host:**

SynchronizationNext payload

- Disclose CR3 value
- Panic handler address
- Signal kernel panic

Host to Guest:





### **Guest to Host:**

Synchronization
Next payload
Disclose CR3 value

- Panic handler address
- Signal kernel panic

### Host to Guest:

Agent





### **Guest to Host:**

Synchronization
Next payload
Disclose CR3 value

Panic handler address

Signal kernel panic

### Host to Guest:

Agent

Payloads





### **Guest to Host:**

Synchronization

- Next payload
- Disclose CR3 value
- Panic handler address
- Signal kernel panic

### Host to Guest:

Agent

Payloads

Overwrite panic handler





# CPU

#### CPU:

generates raw Intel-PT data

writes data to main memory



#### KVM-PT:

configures Intel PT via MSRs
 enables tracing during VM-Entry transition
 disables tracing during VM-Exit transition







#### **QEMU-PT**:

usermode counterpart

decodes Intel PT data on-the-fly





kAFL Fuzzer:

generates new fuzz payloads

detects new behavior





# **Evaluation**

# **New Vulnerabilities**

Windows:

NTFS (DoS)

macOS:HFS (DoS, Memory Corruption)APFS (Memory Corruption)

Linux:

EXT4 (DoS, Memory Corruption)

Keyctl (Nullpointer Dereference)



```
jsmn_parser parser;
   jsmntok_t tokens[5];
2
   jsmn_init(&parser);
3
4
   int res=jsmn_parse(&parser, input, size, tokens, 5);
5
   if(res >= 2){
6
       if(tokens[0].type == JSMN_STRING){
7
           int json_len = tokens[0].end - tokens[0].
8
                start:
           int s = tokens[0].start;
9
           if(json_len > 0 && input[s+0] == 'K'){
10
           if(json_len > 1 && input[s+1] == 'A'){
11
           if(json_len > 2 && input[s+2] == 'F'){
12
           if(json_len > 3 && input[s+3] == 'L'){
13
                panic(KERN_INFO "KAFL...\n");
14
       }}}}
15
16
```



```
jsmn_parser parser;
   jsmntok_t tokens[5];
2
   jsmn_init(&parser);
3
4
   int res=jsmn_parse(&parser, input, size, tokens, 5);
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       if(tokens[0].type == JSMN_STRING){
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                start:
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           if(json_len > 2 && input[s+2] == 'F'){
12
           if(json_len > 3 && input[s+3] == 'L'){
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                panic(KERN_INFO "KAFL...\n");
14
       }}}}
15
16
```



```
jsmn_parser parser;
   jsmntok_t tokens[5];
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12
           if(json_len > 3 && input[s+3] == 'L'){
13
                panic(KERN_INFO "KAFL...\n");
14
       }}}}
15
16
```





















### Coverage



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Intel i7-6700 / 32GB DDR4





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### Conclusion

Intel PT and virtualization for feedback fuzzing
Fast
OS independence (x86-64)
Reliable and long-term
Fully extensible

High bug yield for kernel fuzzingOpportunities for further fuzzing

### https://github.com/RUB-SysSec/kAFL

