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## USA 2019

**AUGUST 3-8, 2019**  
MANDALAY BAY / LAS VEGAS

# PeriScope: An Effective Probing and Fuzzing Framework for the Hardware-OS Boundary

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# Remote Compromise of Peripheral Chips

**ars** TECHNICA

*BIZ & IT —*

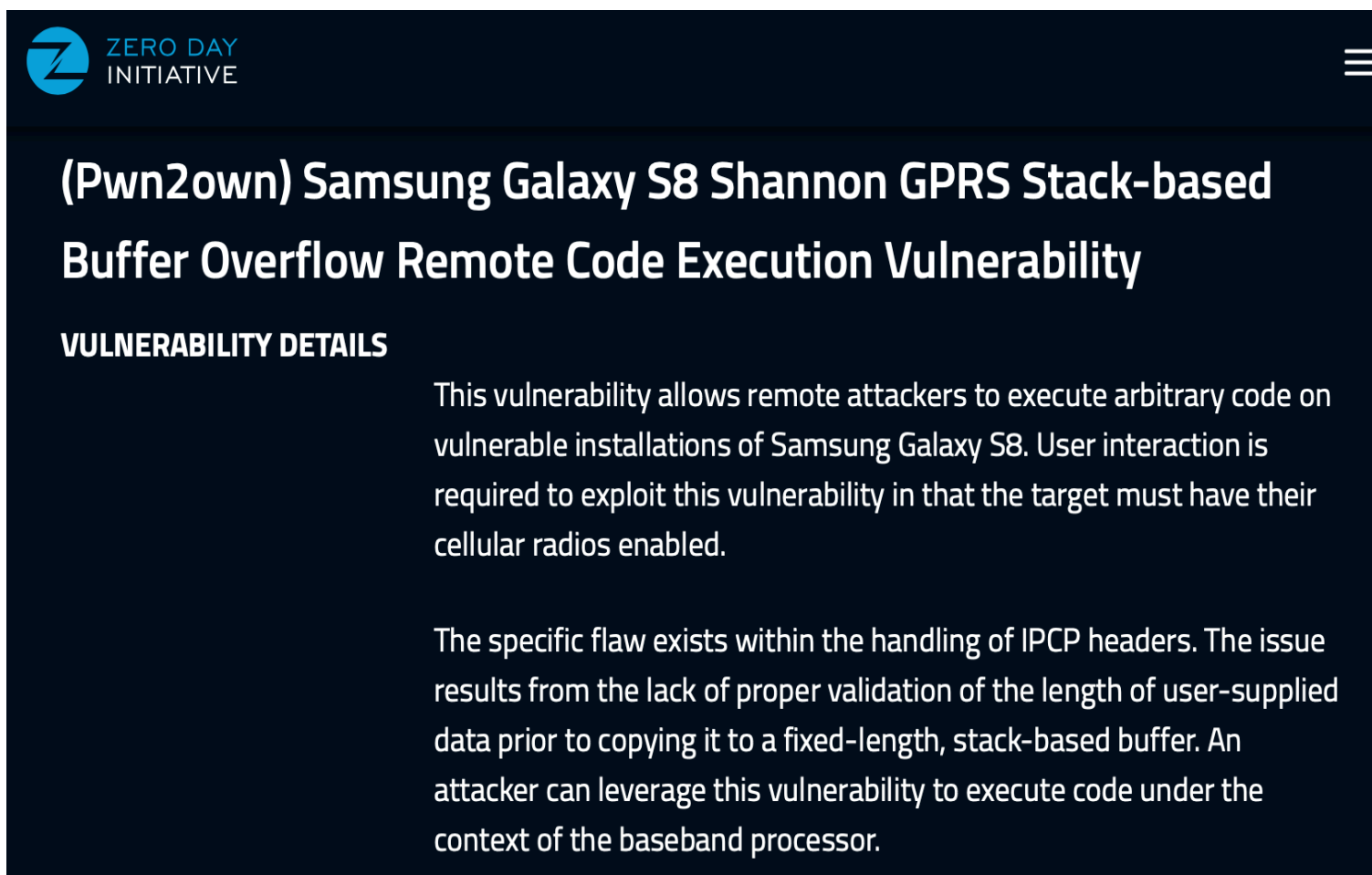
## Broadcom chip bug opened 1 billion phones to a Wi-Fi-hopping worm attack

Wi-Fi chips used in iPhones and Android may revive worm attacks of old.

DAN GOODIN - 7/28/2017, 12:35 PM

Worm Attack via Arbitrary Code Execution on Broadcom Wi-Fi chip (aka BroadPwn)  
— Nitay Artenstein at Black Hat USA 2017

# Remote Compromise of Peripheral Chips



**ZERO DAY INITIATIVE**

## (Pwn2own) Samsung Galaxy S8 Shannon GPRS Stack-based Buffer Overflow Remote Code Execution Vulnerability

**VULNERABILITY DETAILS**

This vulnerability allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code on vulnerable installations of Samsung Galaxy S8. User interaction is required to exploit this vulnerability in that the target must have their cellular radios enabled.

The specific flaw exists within the handling of IPCP headers. The issue results from the lack of proper validation of the length of user-supplied data prior to copying it to a fixed-length, stack-based buffer. An attacker can leverage this vulnerability to execute code under the context of the baseband processor.

Vulnerability used to achieve Arbitrary Code Execution on Shannon Baseband Chip  
– Amat Cama at Mobile Pwn2Own

# Remote Compromise of Peripheral Chips



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## iPhone, Android hit by Broadcom Wi-Fi chip bugs: Now Apple, Google plug flaws

Google's Project Zero shows how attackers could target increasingly powerful Wi-Fi chips on phones as low-hanging fruit.

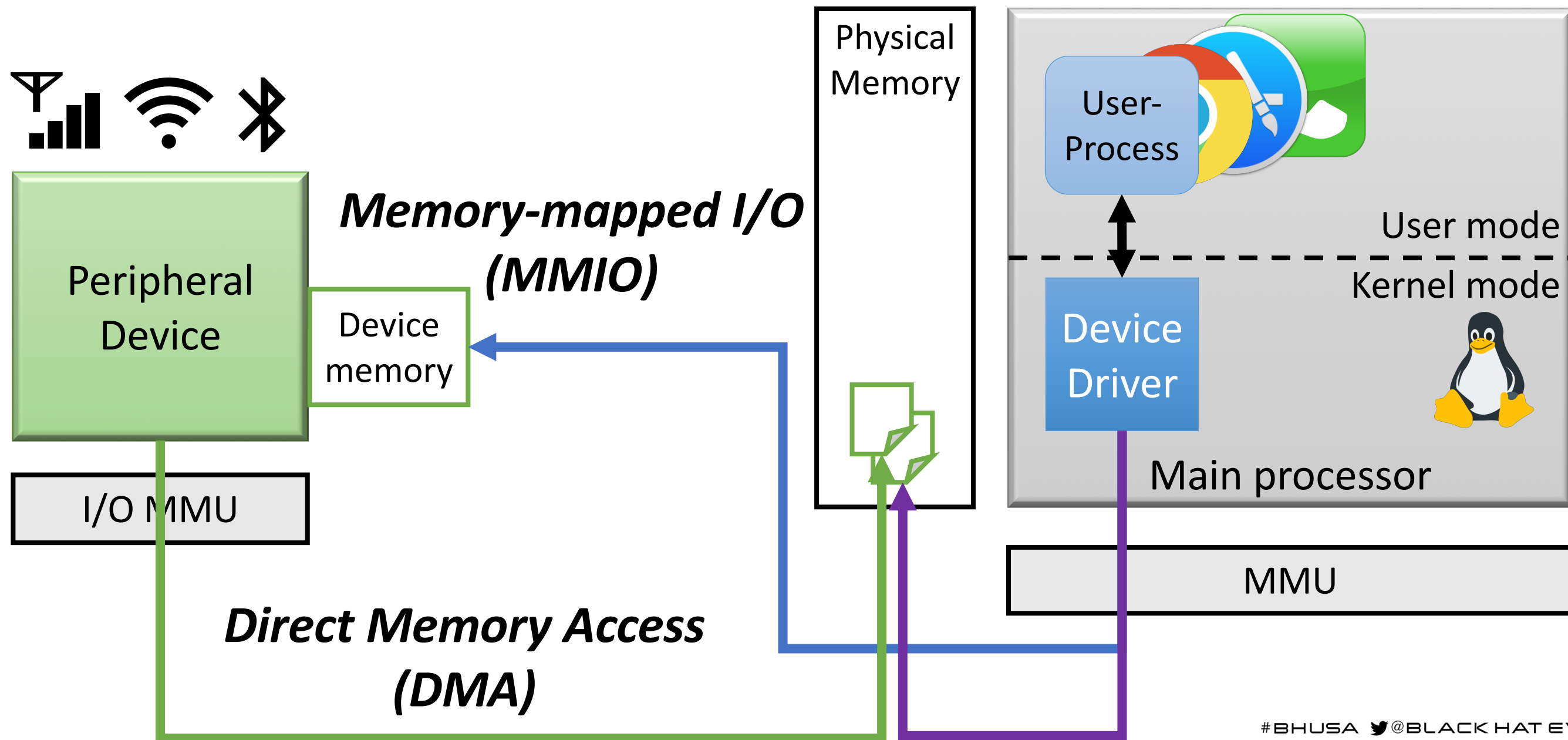


By [Liam Tung](#) | April 5, 2017 -- 10:48 GMT (03:48 PDT) | Topic: [Security](#)

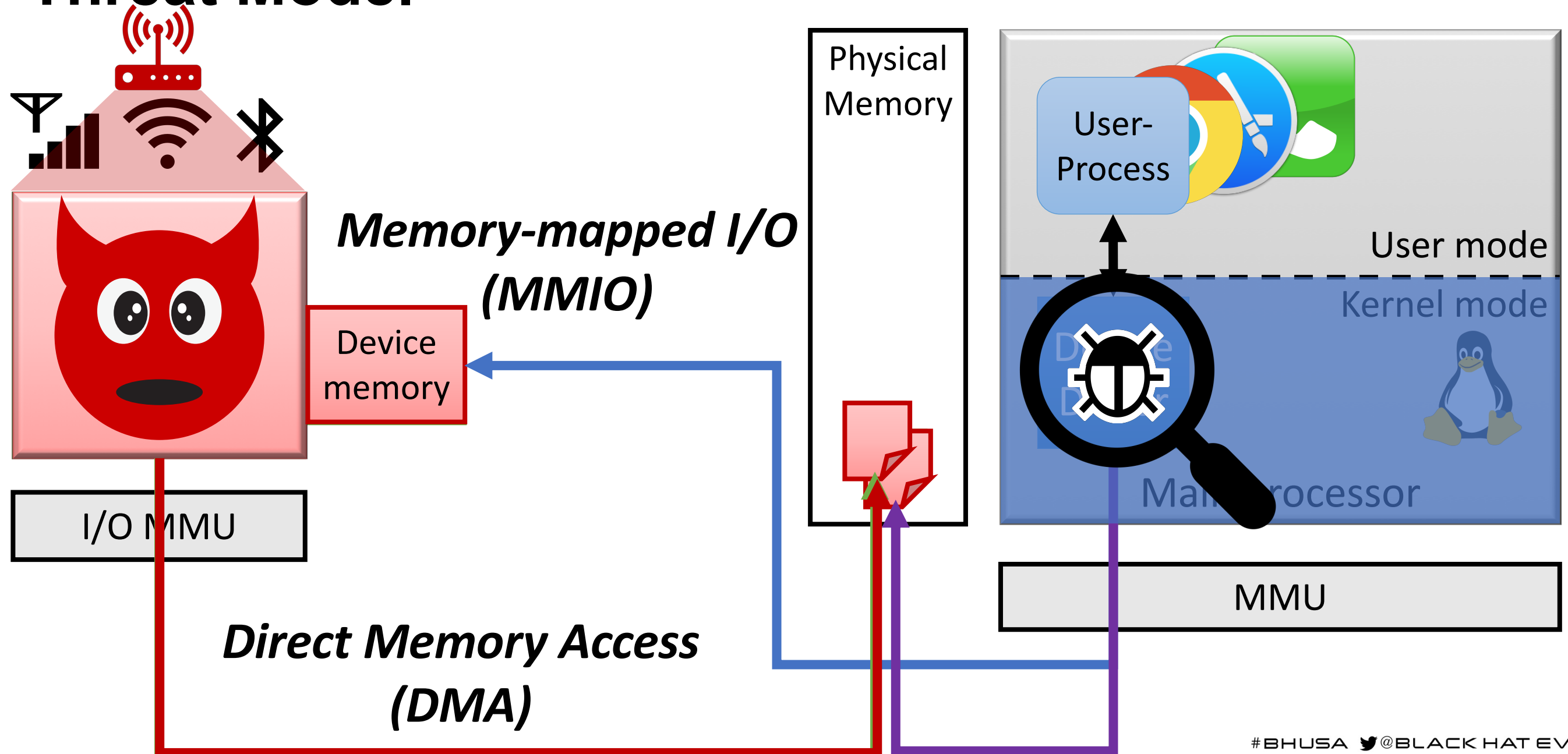
Arbitrary Code Execution on Broadcom Wi-Fi chips *and* Main Processor  
— Gal Beniamini at Google Project Zero



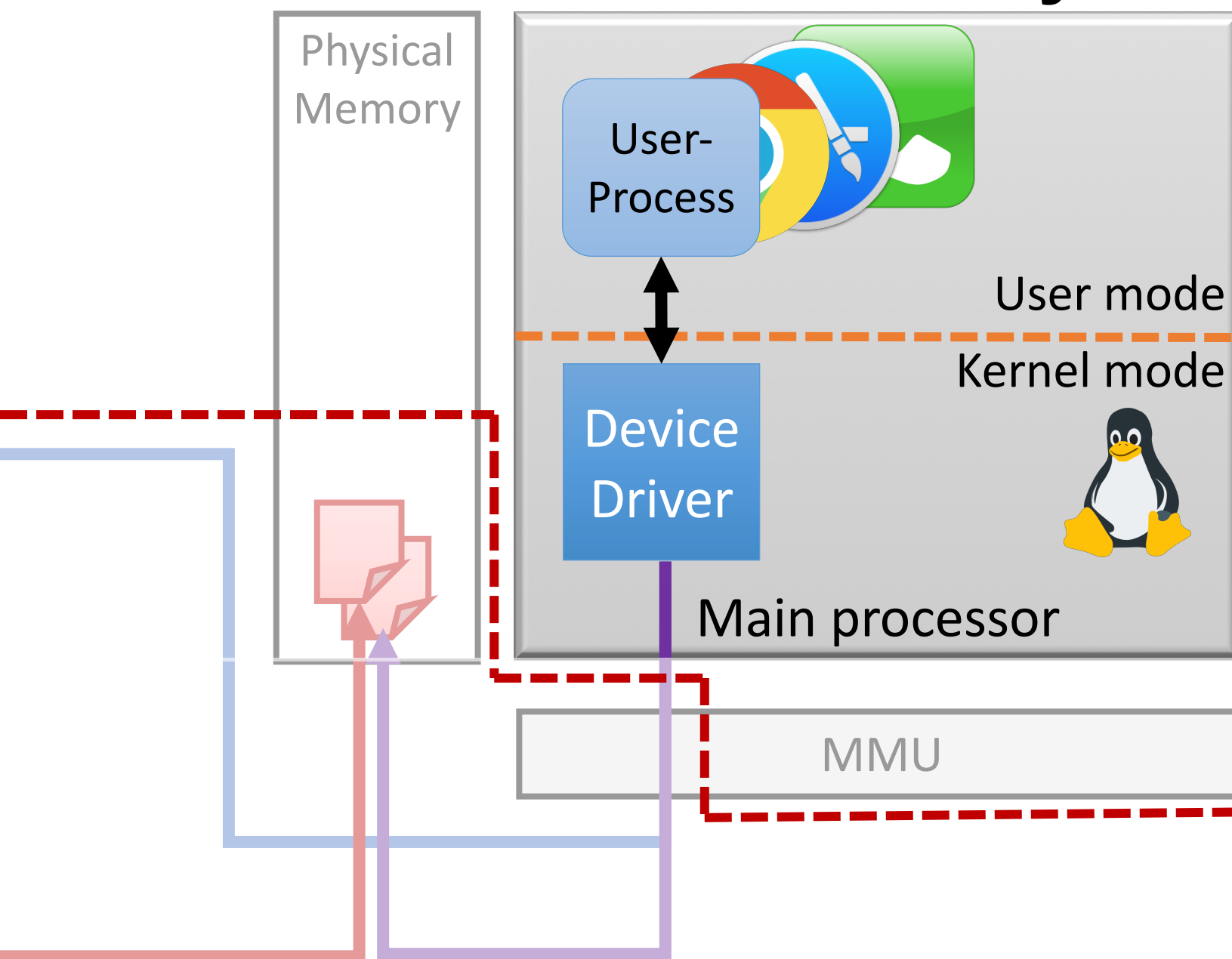
# Hardware-OS Interface: MMIO and DMA



# Threat Model



# Hardware-OS Boundary vs. System Call Boundary



## System Call Boundary

*(A diverse set of) Sandboxes*

- App sandbox, e.g., per-app UID
- Mandatory access control, i.e., SELinux
- Browser sandbox, e.g., seccomp
- I/O daemons



## Hardware-OS Boundary

*Sandbox:* Page-granularity IOMMU



# Memory Exploit Mitigations: Peripheral Firmware vs. User-mode Process

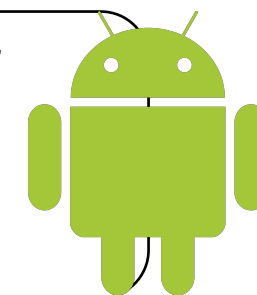
ARMv7, Xtensa, MIPS, ...  
(aka microcontrollers)



ARMv8

*(A diverse set of) Mitigations*

- ASLR and DEP
- Control-Flow Integrity
- Secure Heap Allocator



## *Lack of Mitigations*

- Typically resource-constrained (CPU and memory)
- Firmware often runs bare-metal and lacks MMU

Peripheral  
Device

Device  
memory

Physical  
Memory

User-  
Process

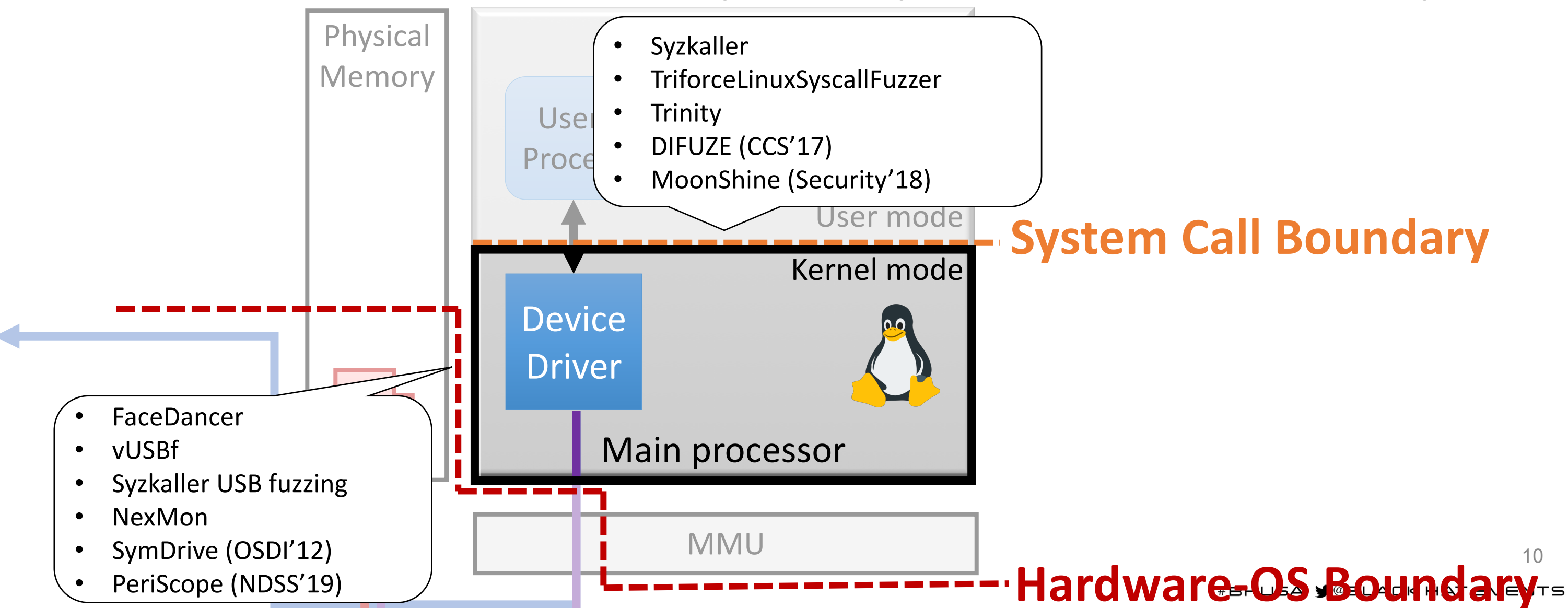
User mode

Kernel mode

Device  
Driver



# Analysis Tools: Hardware-OS Boundary vs. System Call Boundary

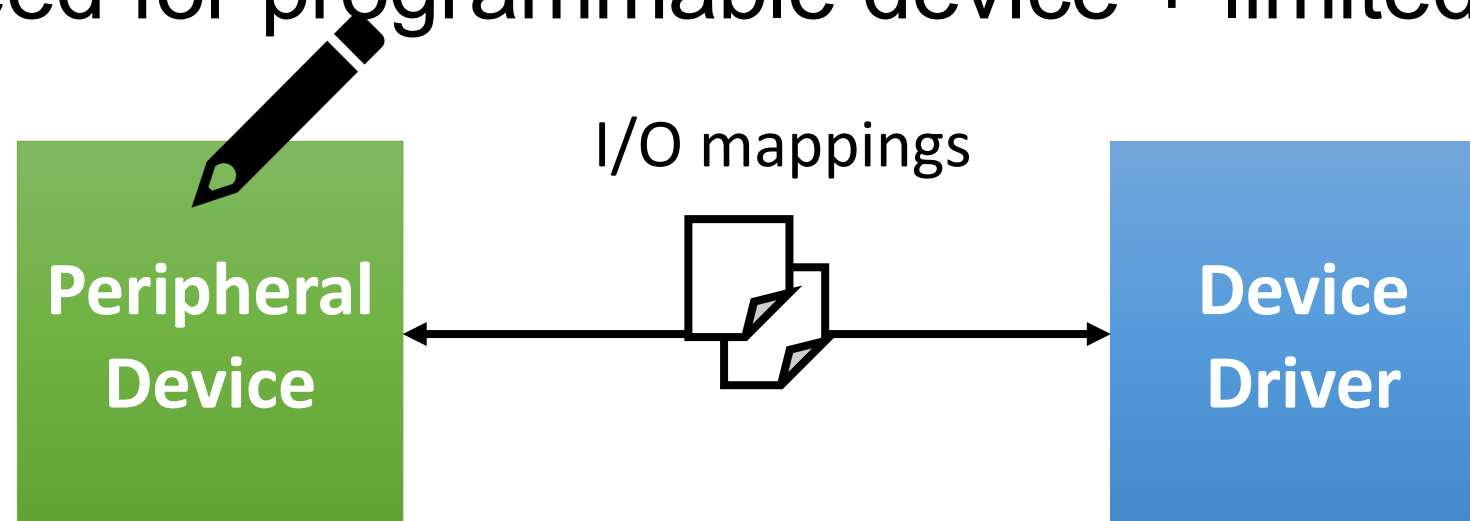




# State-of-the-art: Analyzing HW-OS Interface (1/3)

- **Device Adaptation**

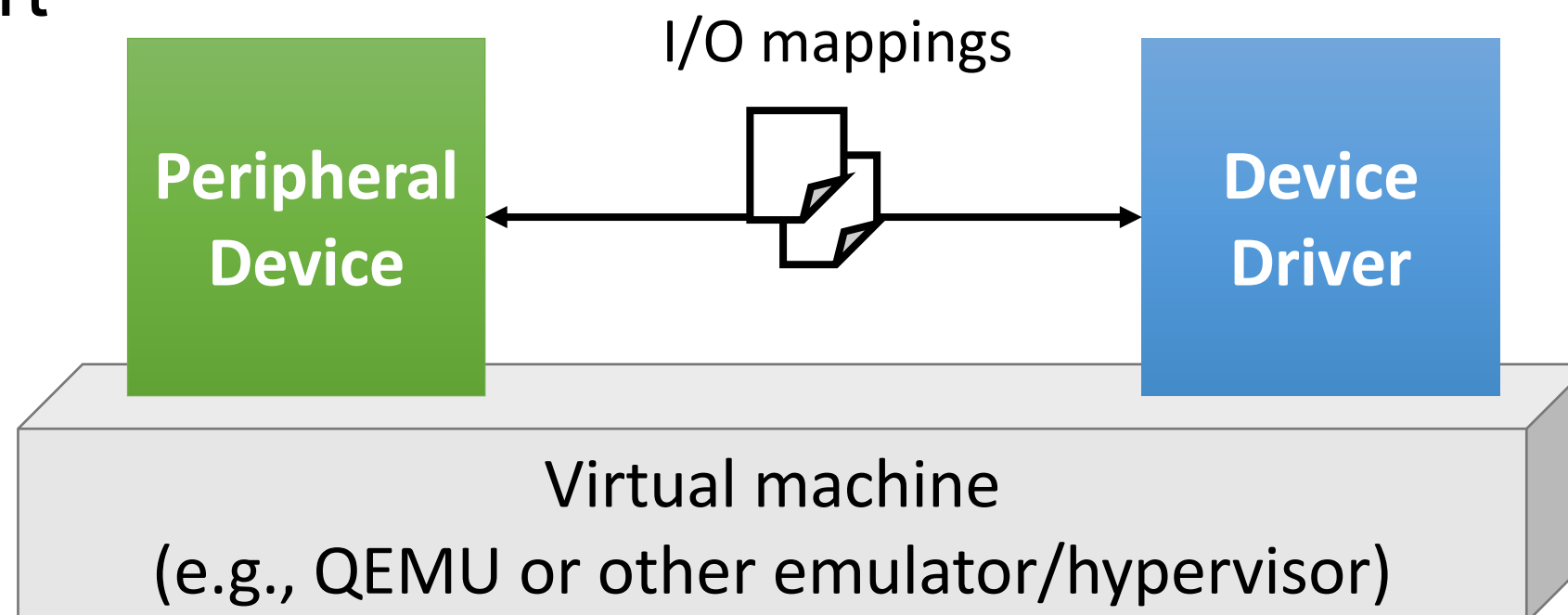
- **Pros:** Non-intrusive (OS-independent)
- **Cons:** Need for programmable device + limited visibility into driver



Reprogram the device  
(e.g., FaceDancer21 custom USB)

## State-of-the-art: Analyzing HW-OS Interface (2/3)

- ***Virtual Machine Introspection***
  - **Pros:** High visibility yet non-intrusive
  - **Cons:** Need for virtual device and/or virtualization HW support

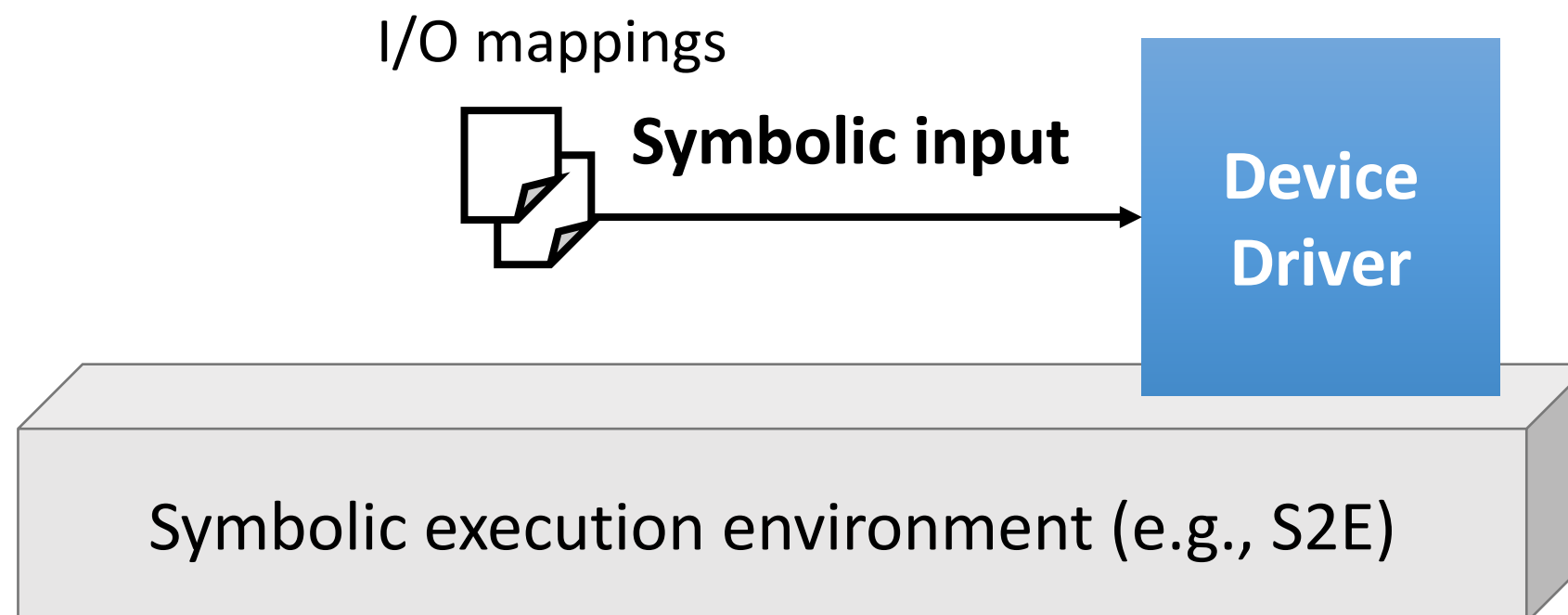




## State-of-the-art: Analyzing HW-OS Interface (3/3)

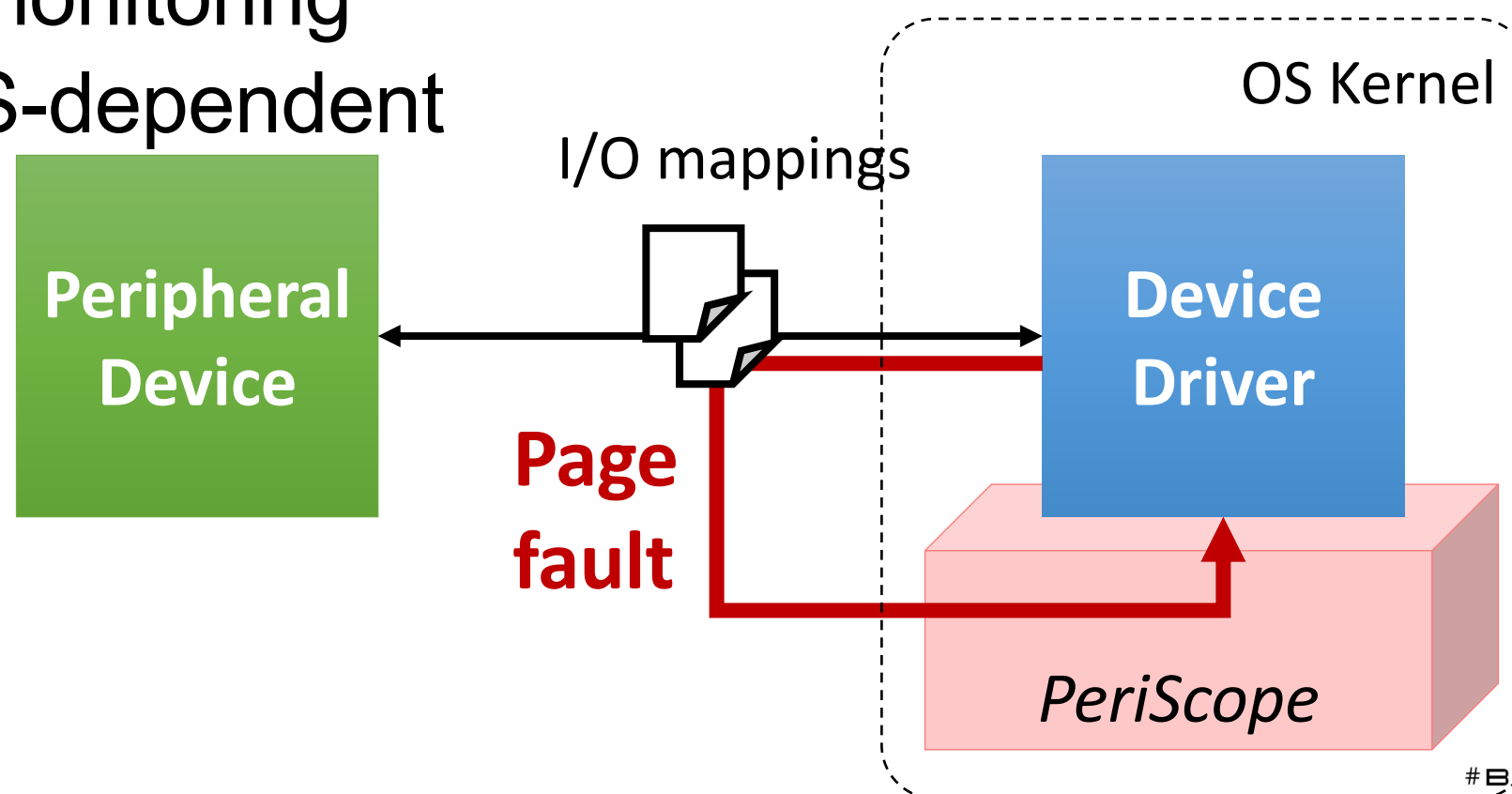
- ***Symbolic Devices***

- **Pros:** No need for physical/virtual device
- **Cons:** Inherits cons of symbolic execution



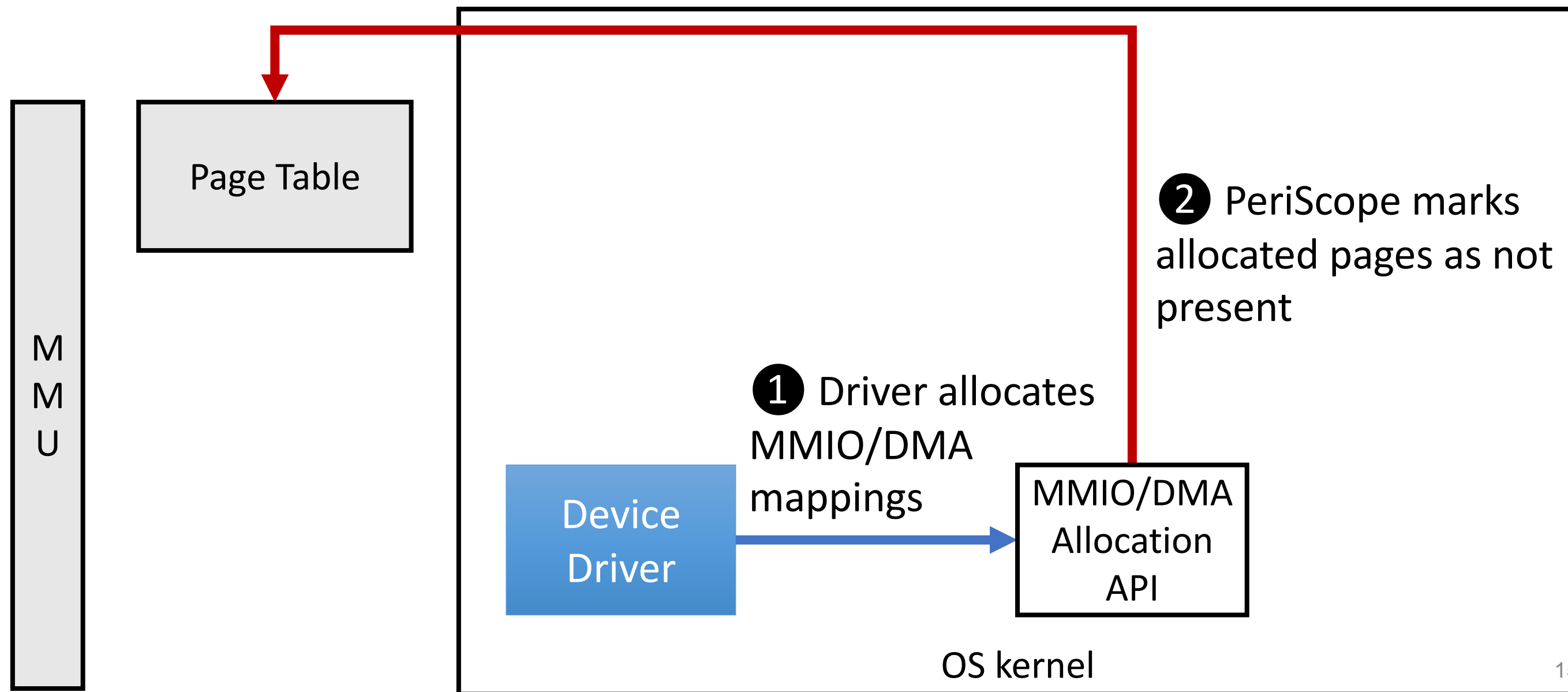
## PeriScope – Our Approach

- *In-kernel, page-fault-based monitoring*
  - **Pros:** No device-specific/virtual device requirement yet fine-grained monitoring
  - **Cons:** OS-dependent

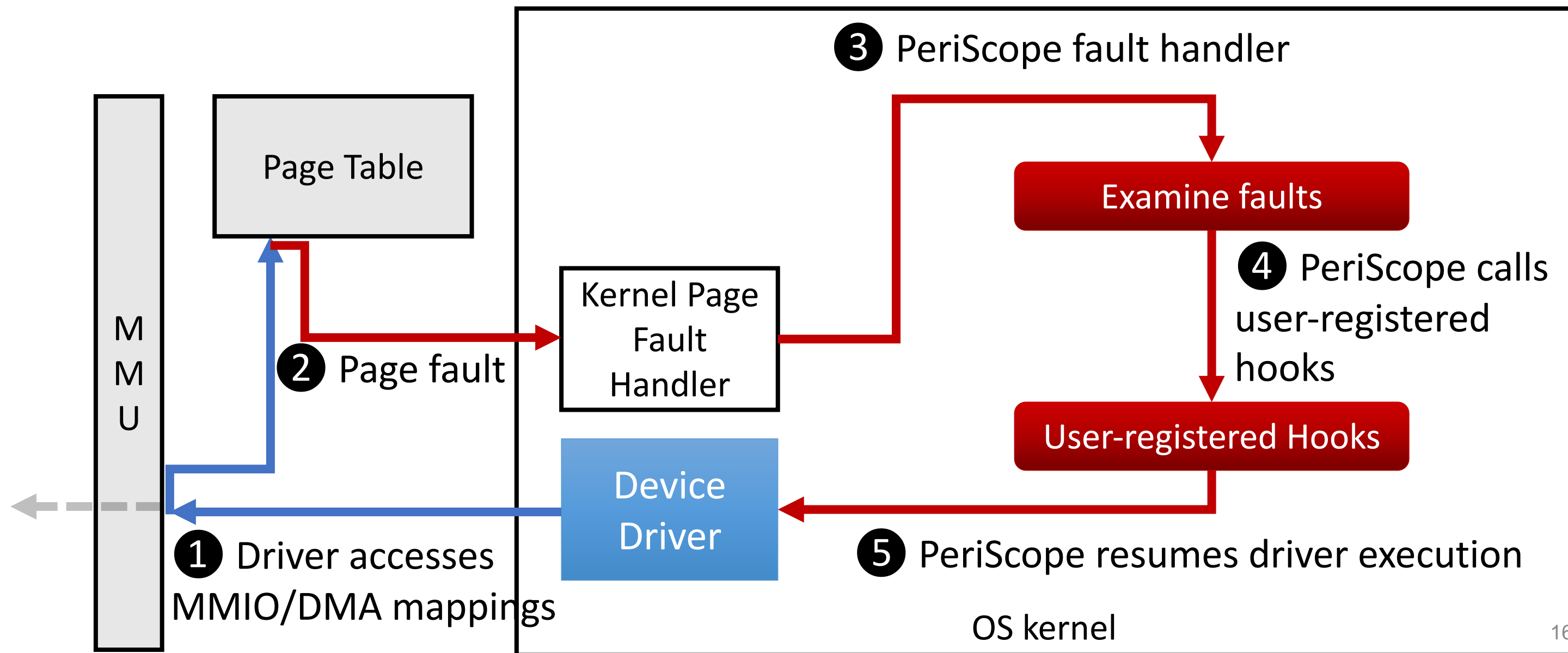




# PeriScope Overview



# PeriScope Overview

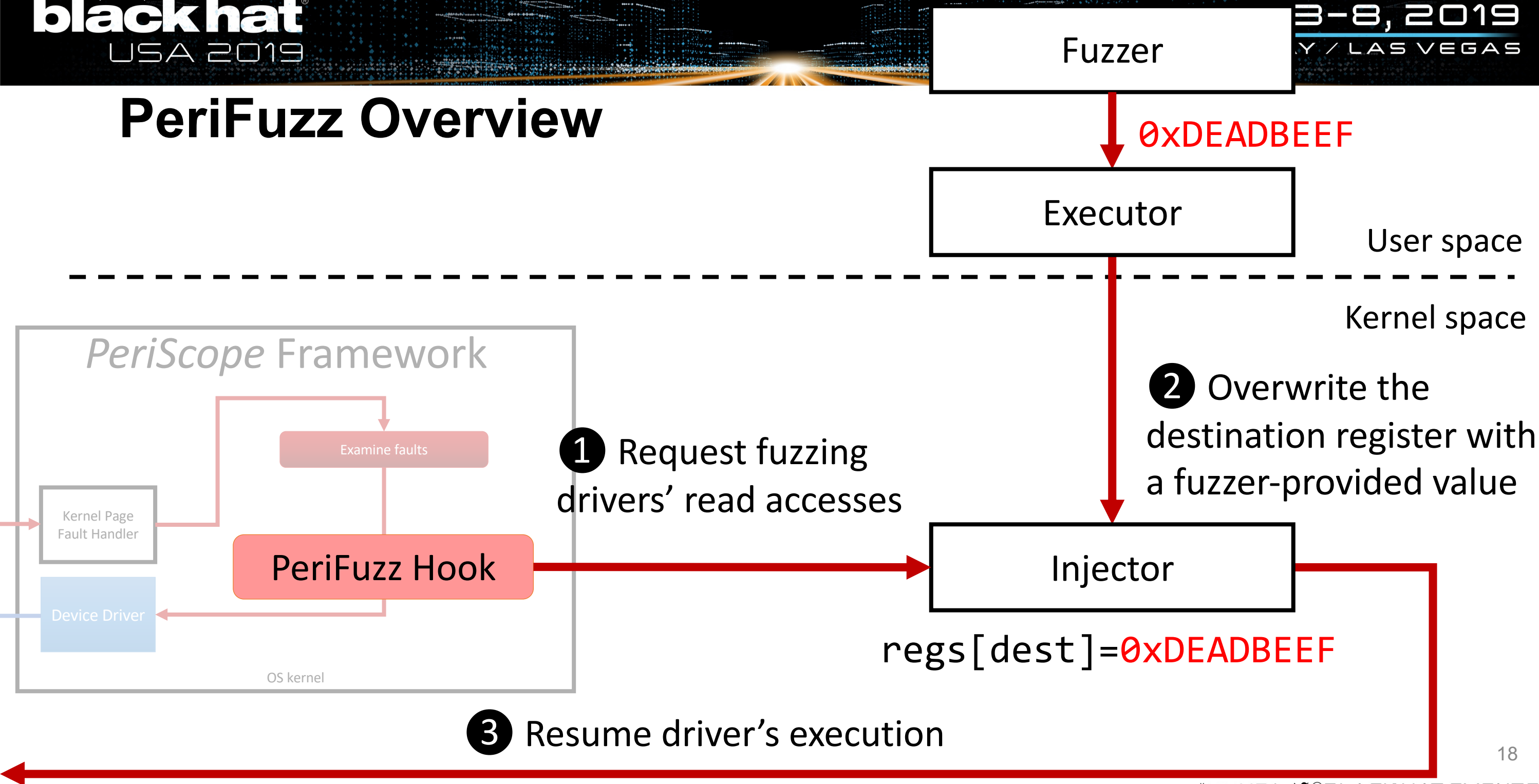




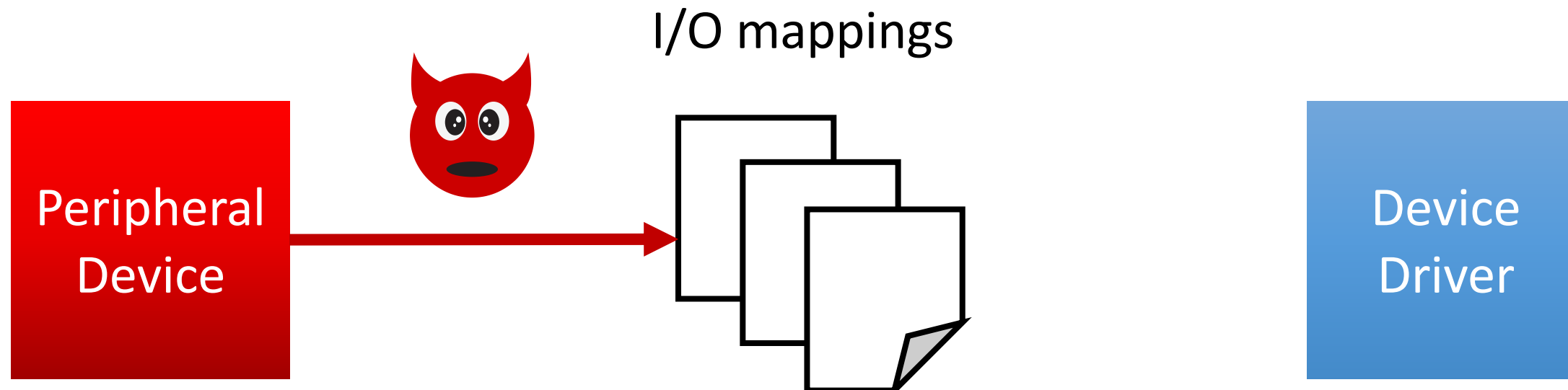
# PeriFuzz – Fuzzer for the HW-OS boundary

- **Goal:** To find vulnerabilities in kernel drivers reachable from a compromised device
- Therefore, *PeriFuzz* fuzzes **Driver's Read Accesses** to MMIO and DMA mappings

# PeriFuzz Overview



# Threat Model Review



Attacker can write **any value** to the I/O mappings  
even multiple times **at any time**



# Potential Double-fetch Bugs in I/O Mappings

An I/O mapping

Peripheral  
Device

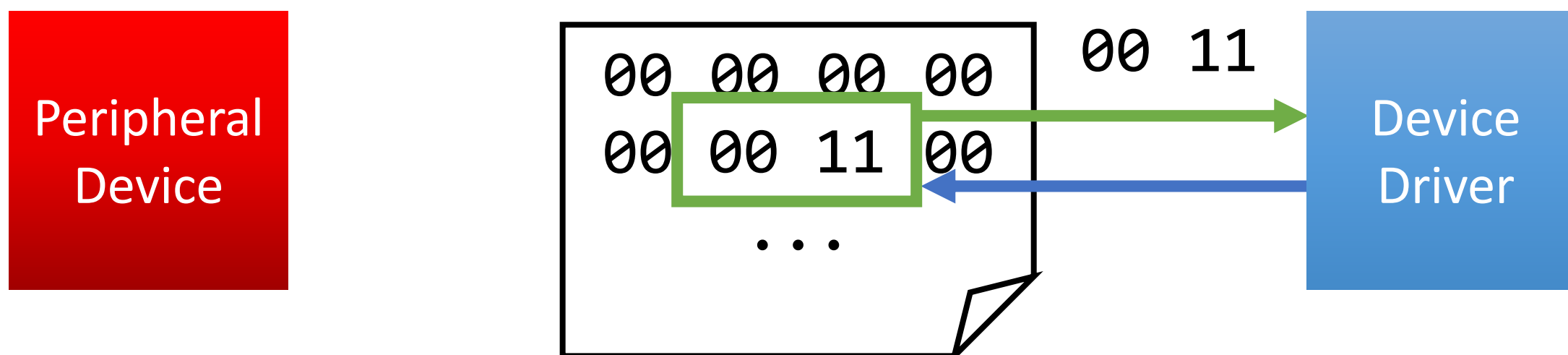
00 00 00 00  
00 00 11 00  
...

Device  
Driver

```
if (*map_ptr <= 0x00FF) {  
    ...  
  
    array[*map_ptr] = ...;  
}
```

# Potential Double-fetch Bugs in I/O Mappings

An I/O mapping

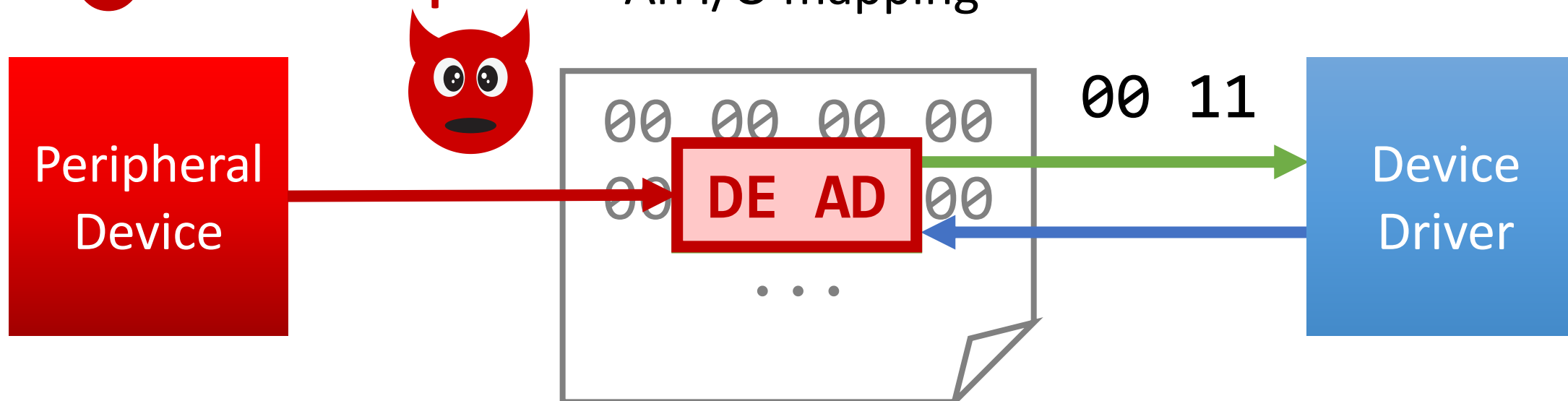


① First fetch  
& check passes

```
if (*map_ptr <= 0x00FF) {  
    ...  
  
    array[*map_ptr] = ...;  
}
```

# Potential Double-fetch Bugs in I/O Mappings

## ② Malicious Update An I/O mapping



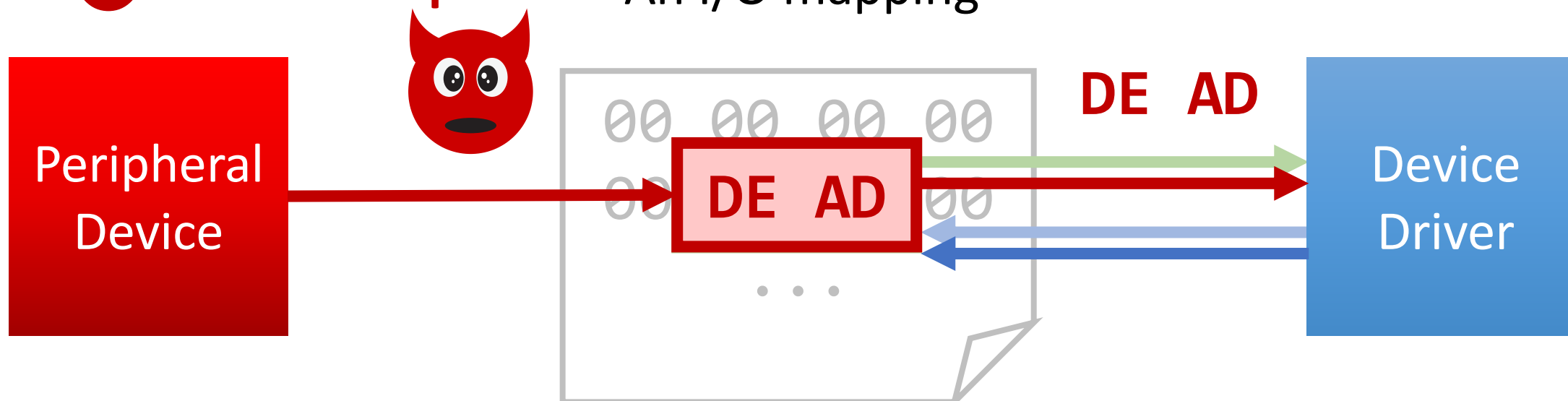
## ① First fetch & check passes

```
if (*map_ptr <= 0x00FF) {  
    ...  
  
    array[*map_ptr] = ...;  
}
```



# Potential Double-fetch Bugs in I/O Mappings

## ② Malicious Update An I/O mapping



① First fetch  
& check passes

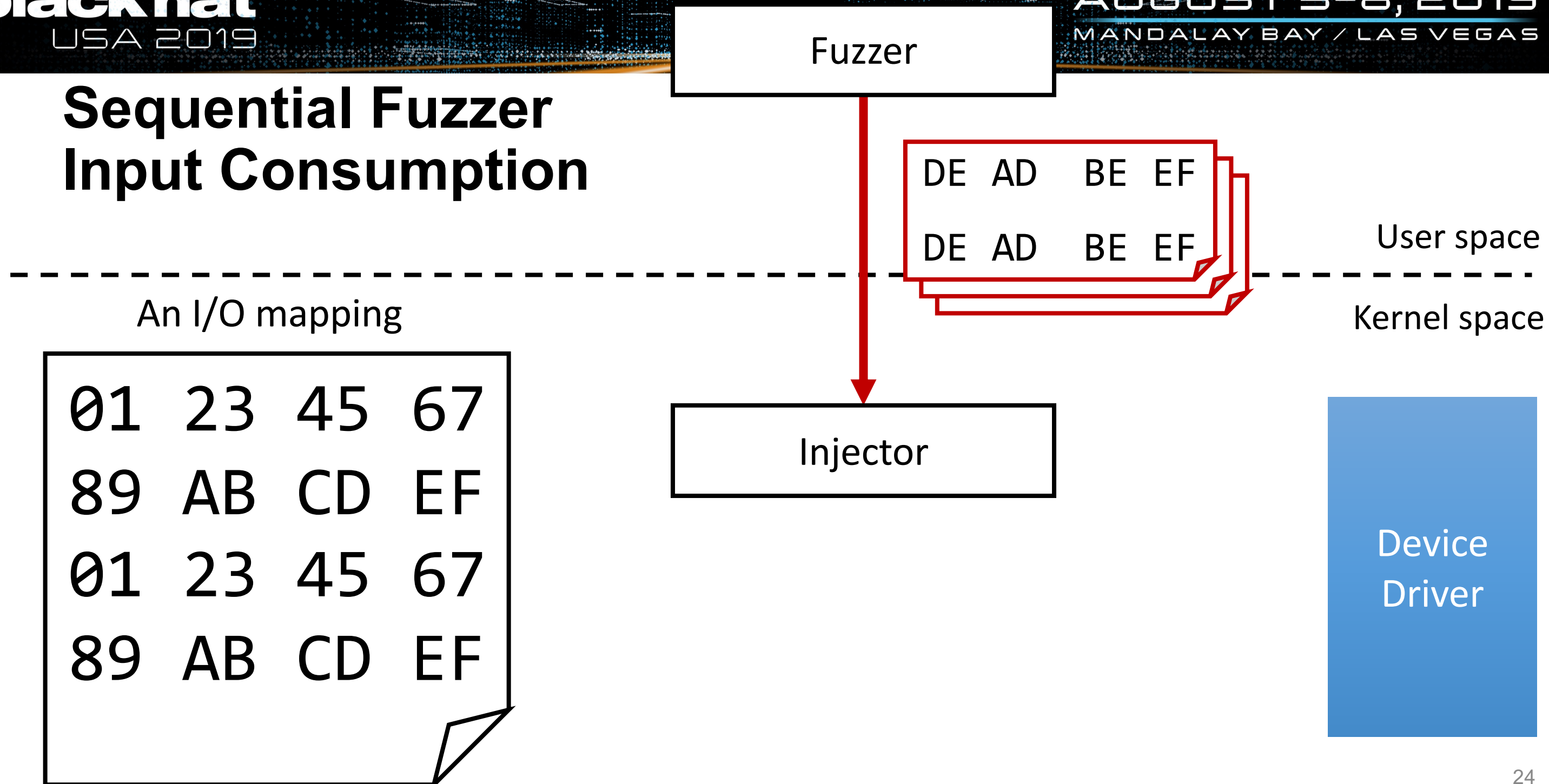
③ Overlapping fetch  
(without rechecking)

```
if (*map_ptr <= 0x00FF) {  
    ...
```

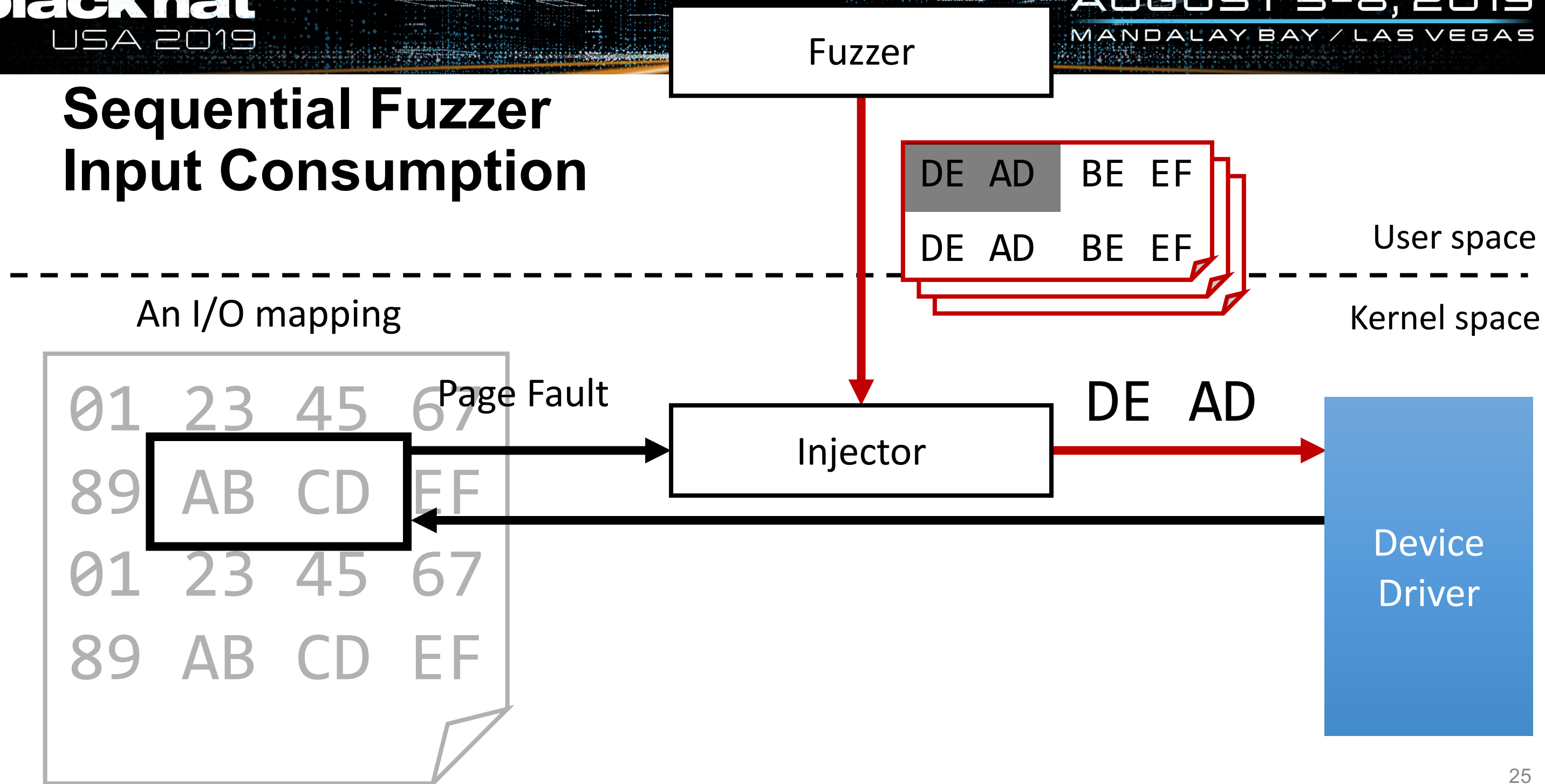
```
array[*map_ptr] = ...;
```

23

# Sequential Fuzzer Input Consumption

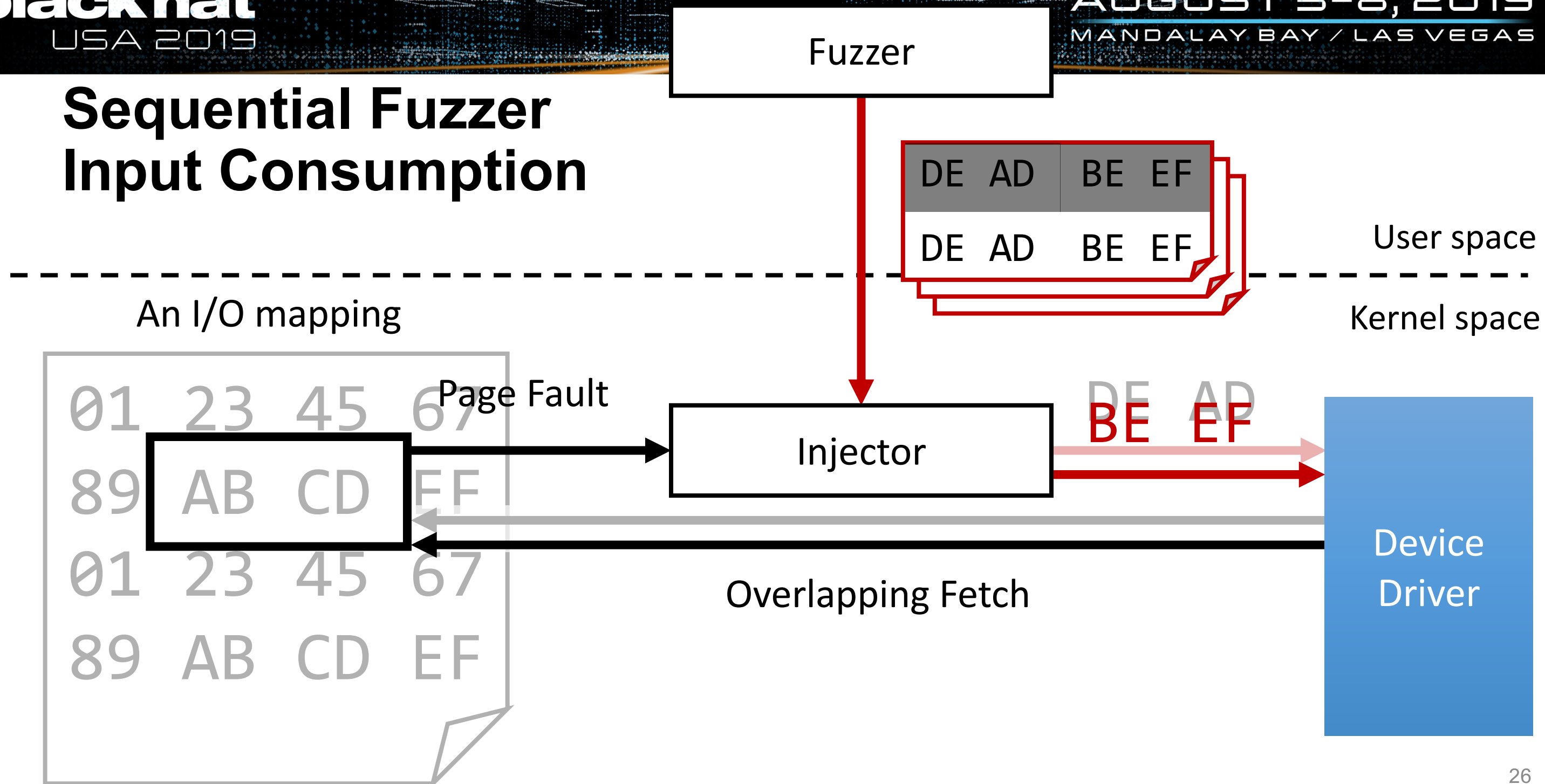


# Sequential Fuzzer Input Consumption

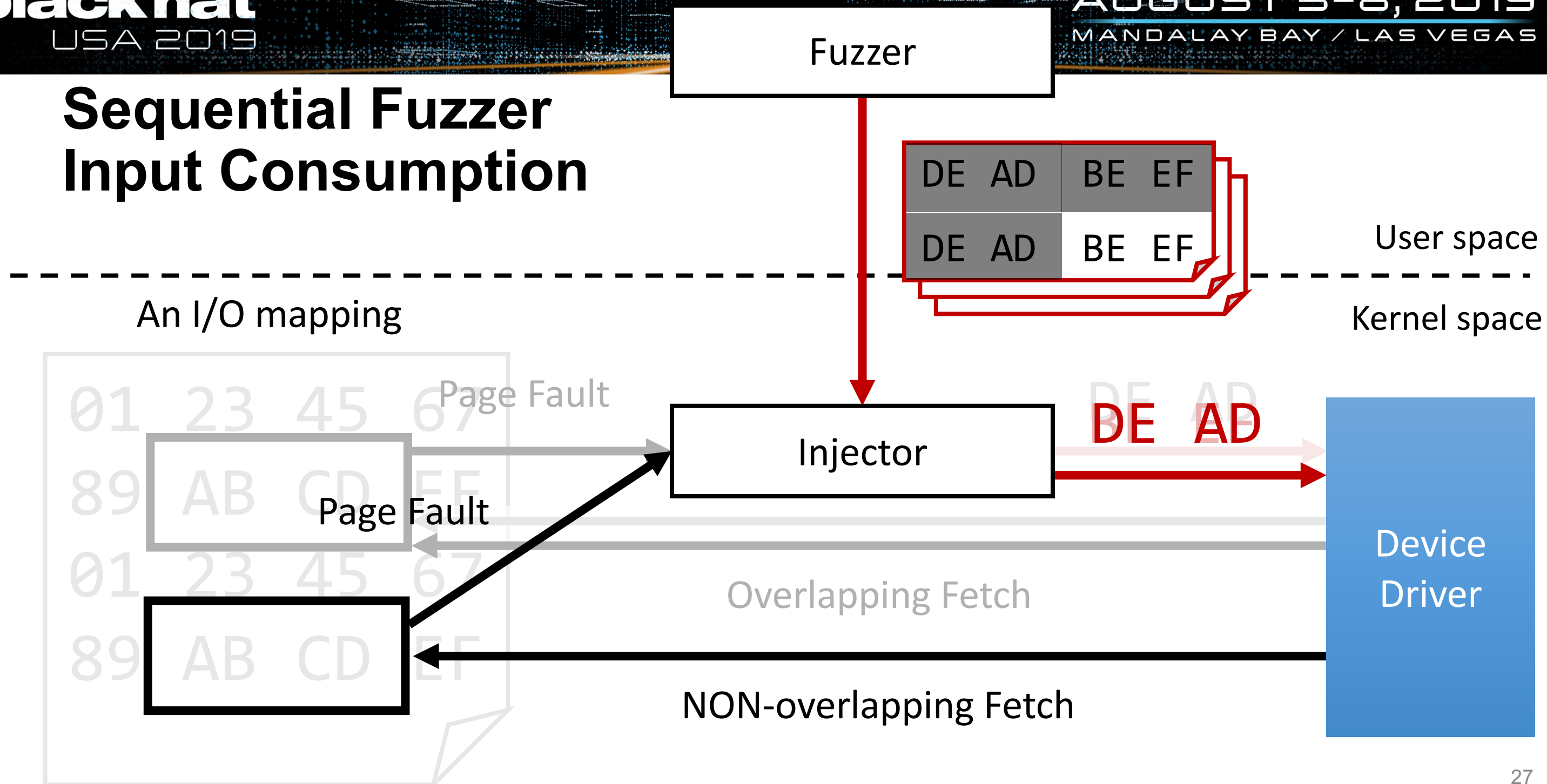




# Sequential Fuzzer Input Consumption

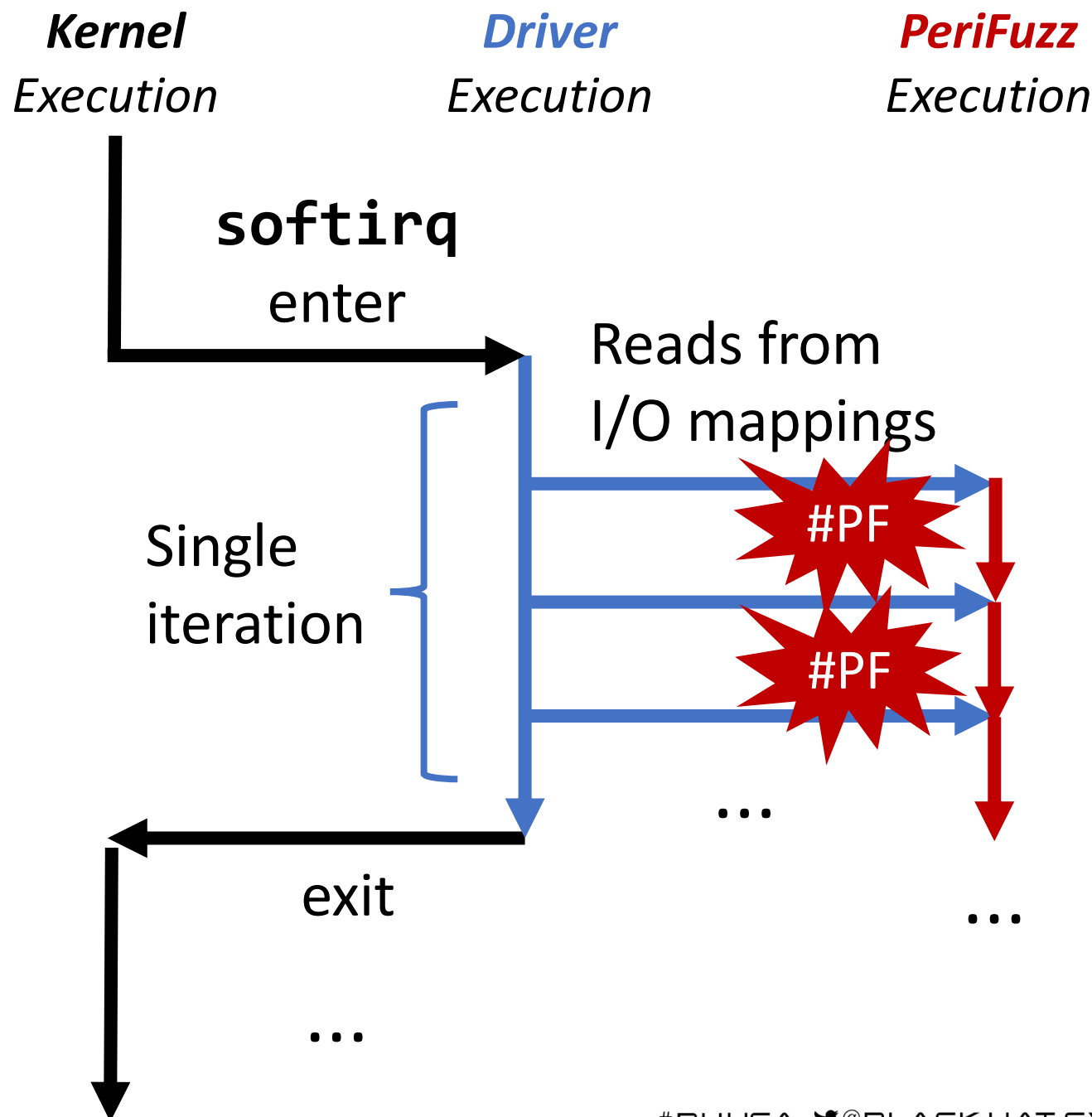


# Sequential Fuzzer Input Consumption



# Fuzzing Loop

- Each iteration of the fuzzing loop consumes a single fuzzer-generated input
- aligned to the execution of software interrupt (softirq) handler's enter & exit
- can have **one or more reads** from I/O mappings.





# Prototype Implementation

- Based on Linux kernel 4.4 for AArch64 (Google Pixel 2)
- Ported to 3.10 (Samsung Galaxy S6)
- AFL 2.42b as *PeriFuzz* front-end

# Fuzzing Target: Wi-Fi Drivers



**Qualcomm's Wi-Fi driver  
in Google Pixel 2**



**Broadcom's Wi-Fi driver  
in Samsung Galaxy S6**

# Fuzzing Target: Wi-Fi Drivers

1. Large codebase
  - Qualcomm's: 443,222 SLOC and Broadcom's: 122,194 SLOC
2. Highly concurrent
  - heavy use of bottom-half handlers, kernel threads, etc.
3. Lots of code runs in interrupt & kernel thread contexts
  - rather than system call contexts
4. No virtual device implementation available
5. No hypervisor support
  - EL2 not available in production smartphones



# Bugs Found

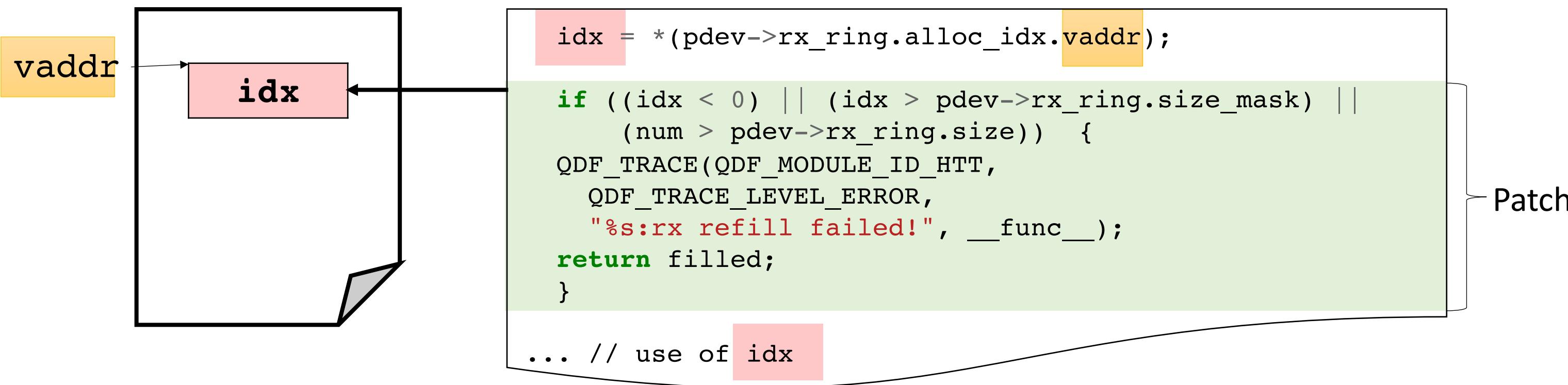
- Different classes of bugs
  - 9 buffer overreads or overwrites
  - 4 double-fetch issues
  - 1 kernel address leak
  - 3 reachable assertions
  - 2 null pointer dereferences
- In total, 15 vulnerabilities discovered
  - 9 previously unknown
  - 8 new CVEs assigned

# Buffer Overflow (CVE-2018-11902)

Driver used a value read from a DMA mapping as an index into an array without validation (**now patched!**)

DMA I/O mapping

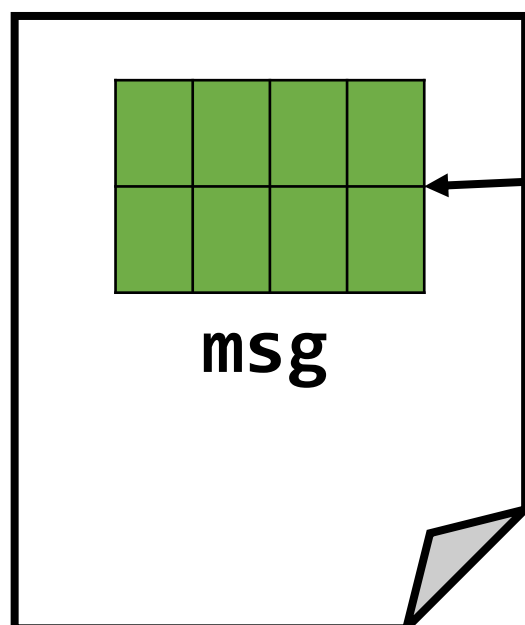
Driver Source Code



# Double-fetch Bug – Initial Fetch & Check

## ① The driver computes and verifies the checksum of a message

DMA I/O mapping



Driver Source Code

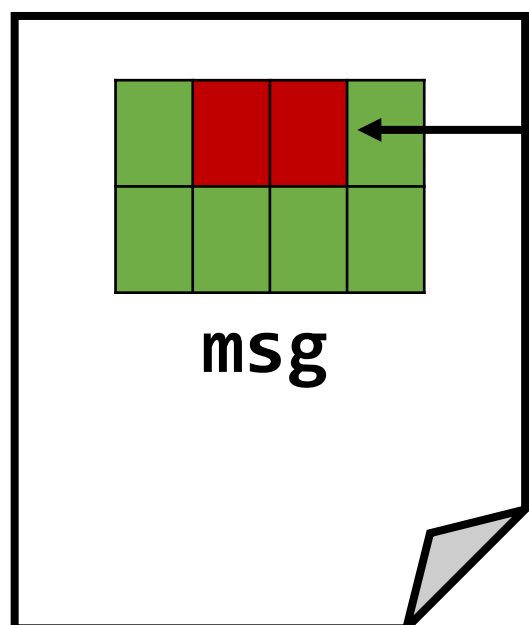
```
static uint8 dhd_prot_d2h_sync_xorcsun(...)  
...  
prot_checksum = bcm_compute_xor32((volatile uint32 *)msg, num_words);  
if (prot_checksum == 0U) { /* checksum is OK */  
    if (msg->epoch == ring_seqnum) {  
        ring->seqnum++; /* next expected sequence number */  
        goto dma_completed;  
    }  
    ...  
}
```



# Double-fetch Bug – Overlapping Fetch & OOB

## ② The driver fetches the same bytes again from msg

DMA I/O mapping



Driver Source Code

```
ifidx = msg->cmn_hdr.if_id;
```

```
...
```

```
ifp = dhd->iflist[ifidx];
```

Overlapping fetch (fuzzed)

Out-of-bounds access

Unable to handle kernel paging request at virtual address **2f6d657473797337**

Kernel panic - not syncing: Fatal exception in interrupt

# Kernel Address Leak (CVE-2018-11947)

Unable to handle kernel paging request at virtual address  
**17000000d7ff0008**

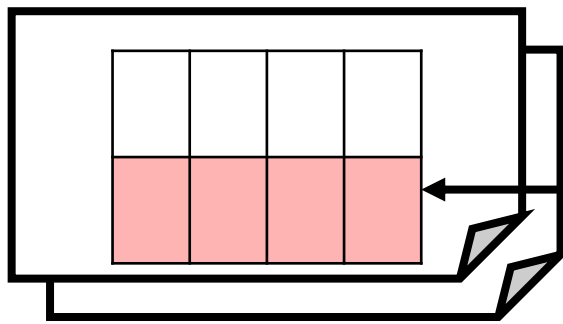
Kernel panic - not syncing: Fatal exception in interrupt

**Symptom:** A fuzzed value provided by *PeriFuzz* was *directly* being dereferenced.

# Kernel Address Leak (CVE-2018-11947)

## ① Driver sends a kernel pointer to the device

DMA I/O mappings

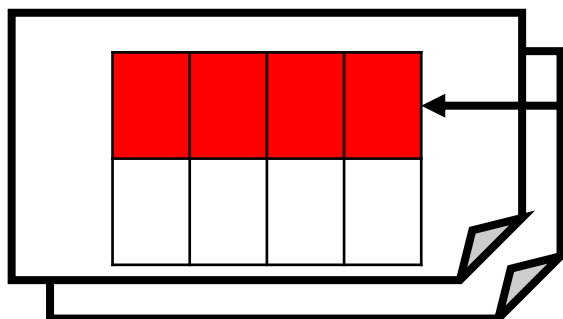


Write  
**cookie**

Driver Source Code

```
non_volatile_req = qdf_mem_malloc(sizeof(*non_volatile_req));  
...  
// use pointer as cookie (which is later sent to the device)  
cookie = ol_txrx_stats_ptr_to_u64(non_volatile_req);  
...
```

## ② Device sends the cookie back, which is then dereferenced by the driver



Read  
**cookie**

(fuzzed)

```
req = ol_txrx_u64_to_stats_ptr(cookie);  
...  
req->... // A value read from I/O mapping is dereferenced
```





# Fuzzing Throughput

- Fuzzing throughput is about 7~24 inputs/sec depending on the nature of the I/O mapping being fuzzed.
- The number of page faults is the main contributor. (e.g., 50 page faults per iteration gives around 20 inputs/sec)
- Rooms for improvement. (Details in the paper)

Phone/Driver	I/O Mapping	Peak Throughput (# of test inputs/sec)
Pixel 2 - QCACLD-3.0	QC1	23.67
	QC2	15.64
	QC3	18.77
	QC4	7.63
Galaxy S6 - BCMDHD4358	BC1	9.90
	BC2	14.28
	BC3	10.49
	BC4	15.92

cf) On Pixel 2, Syzkaller achieves on average 24 program executions per second (max: ~60).  
(1 proc ADB-based configuration measured for a 15-min period)

# Future Work

- Minimizing the impact of shallow bugs
  - All bugs found in less than 10,000 inputs
  - Shallow bugs frequently hit, which causes system restarts (reboot takes 1 min)
  - We had to manually disable subpaths rooted at bugs already found
- Improving throughput
  - Slower than, for example, typical user-space fuzzing
  - Possible optimizations and trade-offs outlined in the paper

# Conclusion

- Remote peripheral compromise poses a serious threat to OS kernel security.
- PeriScope and PeriFuzz are practical dynamic analysis tools that can analyze large, complex drivers along the hardware-OS boundary.
- PeriScope and PeriFuzz are effective at finding vulnerabilities along the HW-OS boundary.
  - Memory overreads/overwrites, address leak, null pointer dereferences, reachable assertions, and double-fetch bugs



# Q & A

## Thank you!

### Contact

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