

# Arm IDA and Cross Check: Reversing the 787's Core Network

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Ruben Santamarta  
Principal Security Consultant



# BACK TO THE FUTURE





KIM ZETTER BUSINESS 01.04.08 12:00 PM

# FAA: BOEING'S NEW 787 MAY BE VULNERABLE TO HACKER ATTACK



<https://www.wired.com/2008/01/dreamliner-security/>

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*"The proposed architecture of the 787 is different from that of existing production (and retrofitted) airplanes. **It allows new kinds of passenger connectivity to previously isolated data networks connected to systems that perform functions required for the safe operation of the airplane.** Because of this new passenger connectivity, the proposed data network design and integration **may result in security vulnerabilities from intentional or unintentional corruption of data and systems critical to the safety and maintenance of the airplane**"*

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2008/01/02/E7-25467/special-conditions-boeing-model-787-8-airplane-systems-and-data-networks-security-isolation-or>



# 2015

## Is It Possible for Passengers to Hack Commercial Aircraft?

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Lemme says there may be some aircraft that now use ethernet connections in place of ARINC 429 buses to transmit data from the avionics to the entertainment system. But in a design like that, he says, there would be a box sitting between the avionics system and the in-flight system to securely convey information to the latter without allowing a connection back to the avionics from the IFE.

<https://www.wired.com/2015/05/possible-passengers-hack-commercial-aircraft/>





# 787's Core Network Cabinet



<https://www.redimec.com.ar/producto-isc2200-information-services-cabinet-601>  
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# Old tricks never die...

## Index of /onsParts/airplaneCredentials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Last modified</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Description</u>
<a href="#">Parent Directory</a>		-	
<a href="#">170512-204146-N7X72T.&gt;</a>	2018-09-17 15:15	1.0K	
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<a href="#">170914-153637-N7X72T.&gt;</a>	2017-09-24 21:05	1.0K	
<a href="#">170928-211404-N7X72T.&gt;</a>	2017-10-20 14:05	1.0K	
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<a href="#">ACN49-KEYS-0001/</a>	2017-04-18 01:00	-	
<a href="#">BOE2F-0AS6-123C/</a>	2016-08-16 21:34	-	
<a href="#">ITL3C-APK0-0007/</a>	2017-03-21 16:45	-	
<a href="#">ITL3D-APK0-0006/</a>	2017-03-01 08:15	-	

- September 2018
- Publicly available Boeing server
- Google query

## Files

- 787's Core Network Cabinet Fw
- 737's Onboard Network System Fw
- VM to VPN into a Boeing network



# Methodology

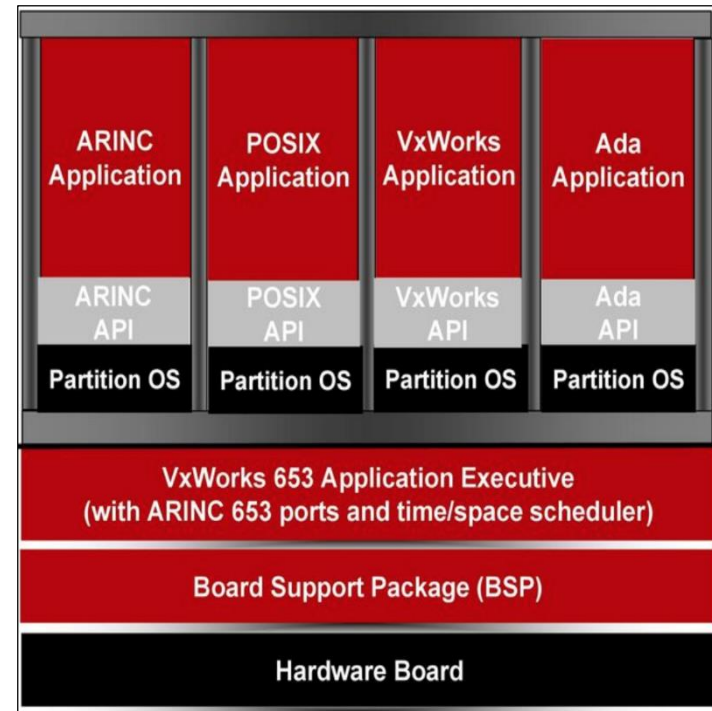
- Information Gathering
  - Documents, multimedia material, presentations, papers, press releases, patents, books, etc.
- Reverse Engineering
  - Identify the elements, components, and functionalities described in the patents
  - Identify attack vectors
  - Prioritize attack areas
  - Find a minimum set of vulnerabilities required to demonstrate each of the attack scenarios described in 2.2
  - Assess the exploitability and post-exploitation scenarios, which included reviewing the machine code for the presence of compiler-level mitigations.
  - Evaluate the overall security posture of the in-scope elements taking information and knowledge gained in the previous phases into account



# Boeing 787 Overview

## Common Core System

- General Processing Modules
- Remote Data Concentrators
- A664-P7 Network



[http://www.artist-embedded.org/docs/Events/2007/IMA/Slides/ARTIST2\\_IMA\\_WindRiver\\_Wilson.pdf](http://www.artist-embedded.org/docs/Events/2007/IMA/Slides/ARTIST2_IMA_WindRiver_Wilson.pdf)





# Common Computing Resource Cabinets

- Two (2) Power Conditioning Modules (PCMs)
- Eight (8) General Processing Modules (GPMs)
- Two (2) ARINC 664-P7 network Cabinet Switches (ACSs)
- Two (2) Fiber Optic Translator Modules (FOXs)
- Two (2) Graphic Generators (part of the Display and Alert Crew System)



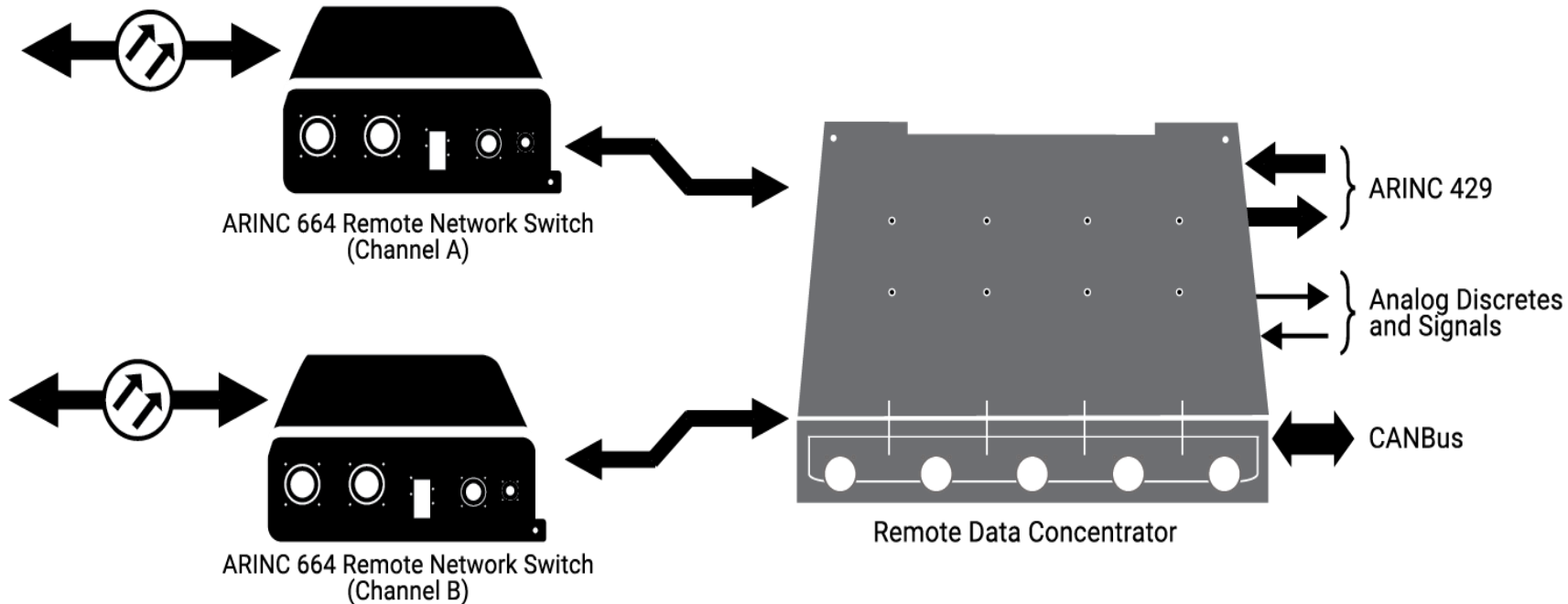


# GPM Hosted Functions

- Cabin Air Temperature Control System
- Remote Power Distribution System (RPDS)
- Power Distribution Panels (PDPs)
- Generator/Bus Power Control Units (GCU/BPCU)
- Low Pressure System
- Fuel Quantity System
- Hydraulic System Control
- Power Electronics Cooling System
- Communication Management Function
- Landing Gear Indication and Control
- Flight Management Function
- Circuit Breaker Indication and Control
- Electrical Power Distribution and Control
- ...

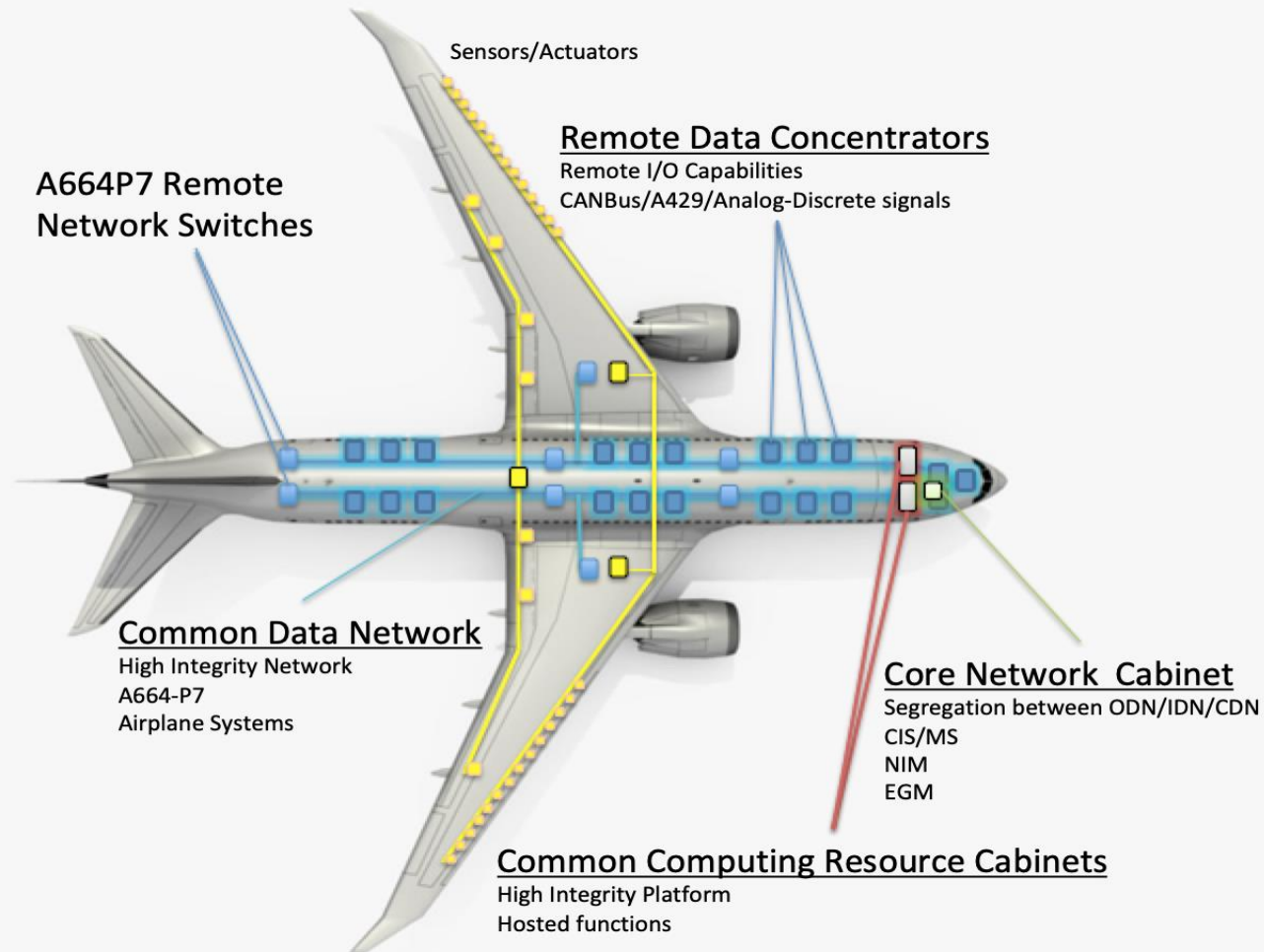


# Remote Data Concentrators





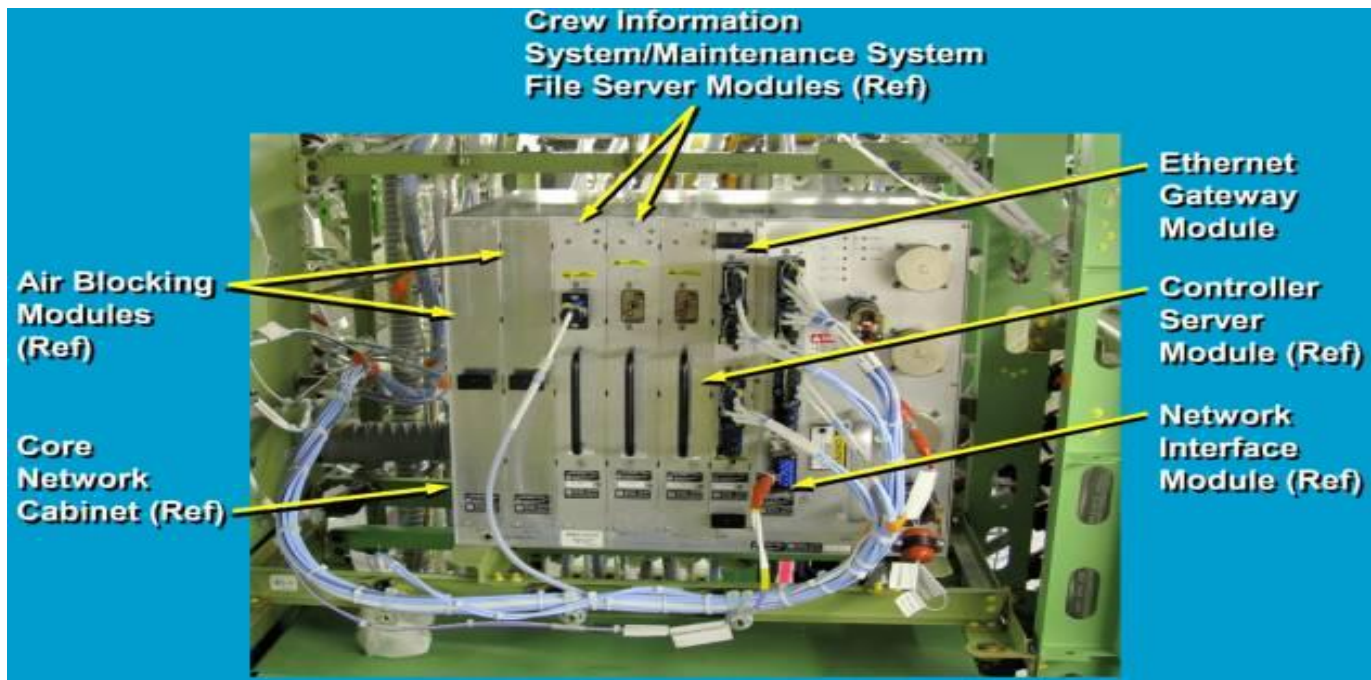
# Common Data Network





# Crew Information System

Interface between the 'outside world'/non-critical domains and the CCS







# CIS Networks

- ODN (Open Data Network)
  - Non-critical aircraft domains
  - External Networks
  - Potentially hostile devices: IFE, SATCOM, TWLU/CWLU...
- IDN
  - Secure, but non-safety, devices.
    - Voice and Data Flight Recorders (Black Box)
    - Electronic Flight Bag
- CDN
  - High Integrity Network (Avionics)
  - Airplane systems



# CIS Modules

- CIS/MS FSM
  - VxWorks 6.2 (x86) COTS Board (CPB4612)
  - RTPs
- EGM
  - Linux ZNYX ZX4500
- NIM
  - End System is a GE's ASIC



# Attack Surface of the Core Network Cabinet

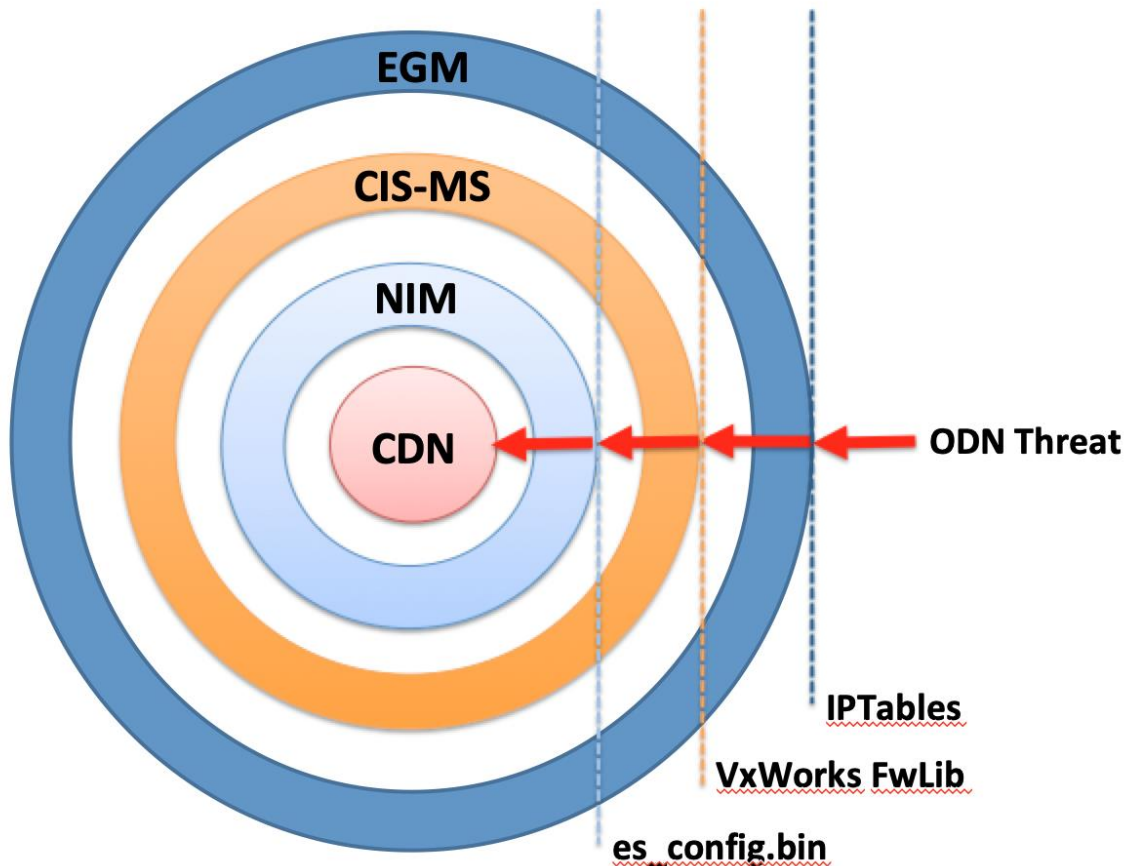
- *“The architecture provides segregation between network devices in the IDN and CDN related to operation and navigation of the vehicle, and network devices in the ODN”*

**US Patent 7756145 B2**

<https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2007117285A2/en>

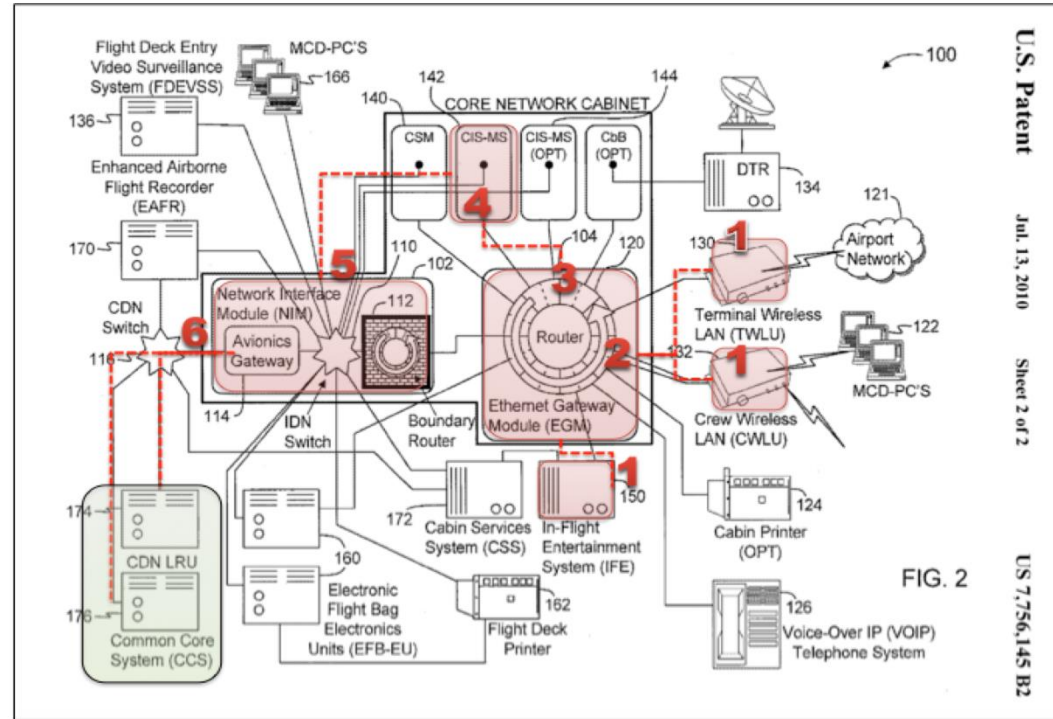


# Security Boundaries





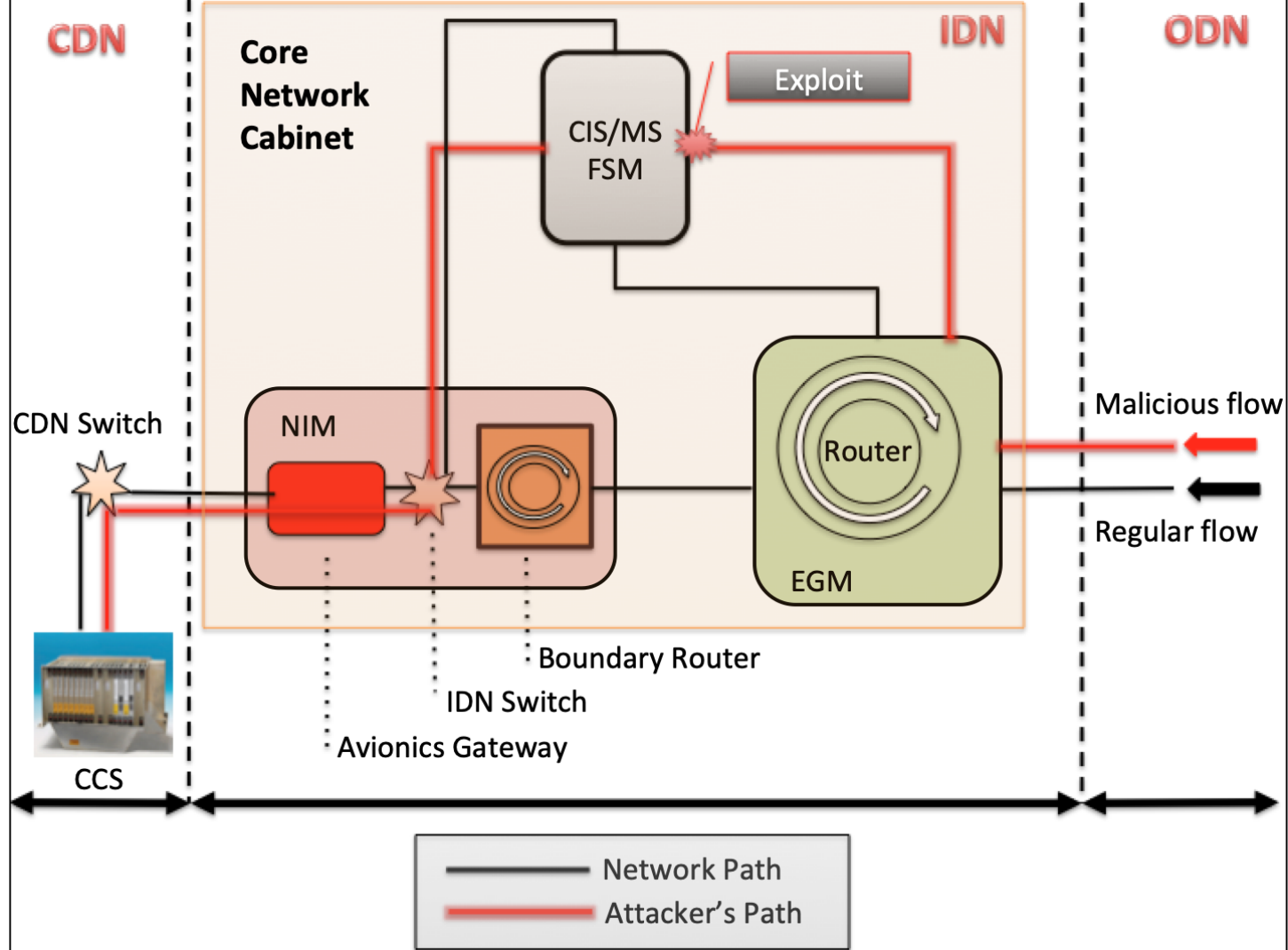
1. ODN attack vectors
2. Iptables Rules (EGM)
3. EGM to CIS/MS rule
4. RCE on CIS/MS
5. Unblock Access to CDN
6. Jump to CDN through NIM







# Attack Scenario





# CIS/MS FSM

## VxWorks Kernel

### User-Mode

#### Real-Time Processes

1. FBM.vxe
2. FTS\_Manager.vxe
3. MSPE.vxe
4. OBEDS.vxe
5. ODLF.vxe
6. bmt.vxe
7. fsmTgtLdr.vxe
8. ftpd.vxe
9. mtf\_main.vxe
10. mtf\_rtp.vxe
11. omls.vxe
12. osm.vxe
13. rexec\_server.vxe
14. wlanmf\_rtp.vxe

#### Shared Libraries

1. ACP.so
2. AML.so
3. DiskUtilities.so
4. DisplayUtilities.so
5. FCCS.so
6. FSMAAircraftVerification.so
7. JSON.so
8. LDI.so
9. Messaging.so
10. OBEDSInterface.so
11. OrderedList.so
12. SNMP.so
13. cisUtil.so
14. mtfIOUtilities.so
15. ossAccessors.so



# CIS/MS Vulnerabilities

- Hundreds of references to insecure functions ('sprint', 'strcpy', 'strcat'..)
- Integer overflows
- Buffer Overflows
- Denial of Service
- Memory Corruption
- Out-Bound-Read/Write
- ...



# Breaking into the CIS/MS

- Minimum set of vulnerabilities that allow the CIS/MS to be compromised from the ODN
  - Remote Code Execution
  - Privilege Escalation to Kernel



# FTS\_Manager.vxe - TFTP Opcode Stack Overflow

```
value = recvfrom(
    serversocket,
    &requestbuffer,
    0x200u,
    0,
    (struct sockaddr *)&clientaddr,
    &clientaddrlen);
if ( value == -1 )
{
    sprintf(&log_buffer, "TFTP --> could not read on TFTP port %d", fs_listen_port[server_instance]);
    rtpLog(3, 0, &log_buffer);
    goto LABEL_107;
}
opcode = ((unsigned __int8)requestbuffer << 8) | ((requestbuffer & 0xFF00) >> 8);
strncpy(&fileforoptneg, (const char *)&requestbuffer + 2, 0x80u);
v20 = 0;
sprintf(
    &log_buffer,
    "%s --> %s Request Received for file %s from ",
    &fs_tftp_task_name[20 * server_instance],
    &opcode_string[5 * opcode],
    &fileforoptneg);
```





# Exploitability

- **Controlled parameters**

- Destination File
- Opcode
- Adjacent memory
- 0x4FFFB (.data+.bss)
- ~0x700 bytes

```
&opcode_string[5 * opcode],
```

```
.data:080DF040 public opcode_string
.data:080DF040 opcode_string db 'INV',0
.data:080DF044 db 0
.data:080DF045 aRrq db 'RRQ',0
.data:080DF049 db 0
.data:080DF04A aWrq db 'WRQ',0
.data:080DF04E db 0
.data:080DF04F aData db 'DATA',0
.data:080DF054 aAck db 'ACK',0
.data:080DF058 db 0
.data:080DF059 aErr_0 db 'ERR',0
.data:080DF05D db 0
.data:080DF05E aOack db 'OACK',0
.data:080DF063 db 0
```



# Exploitability

- From ODN to CIS/MS' 'FTS\_Manager.vxe' Service
- EGM Iptable Rules

File: 'S24egmcfg'

```
# VLAN 140; In-Flight Entertainment System
zconfig zhp22 : vlan140=zre20
...
iptables -A IFE -j ACCEPT -i zhp22 -s 172.27.40.2 -d 172.24.10.12 -p udp --sport 1024:65535 --dport 16005
```

- 172.27.40.2 - ife-router.odn.pnet
- 172.24.10.12 - cis-ms-active.idn.pnet

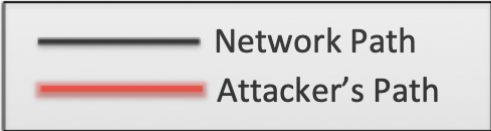


# Exploitability

- File 'AimCfg.xml'
- NIM's Boundary Router

```
<!-- *** IFE FTS *** -->
<!-- CABINET-CABIN_EQPMT_CENTER-IFE interfaces with APP-CIS MS ACTIVE (FTS Service) -->
<Rule chain="FORWARD" target="ACCEPT">
  <Parameters>-i eth0 -p udp -s 172.27.40.2 --sport 1024:65535 -d 172.24.10.12 --dport 16005</Parameters>
  <Tag>Boundary router rule</Tag>
  <Sanction>Do-Nothing</Sanction>
</Rule>
```

- 172.27.40.2 - ife-router.odn.pnet
- 172.24.10.12 - cis-ms-active.idn.pnet





# ***'duParseLUSFile' Memory Corruption***

- 'diskUtils.so'
  - Exercise vulnerable path from 'ODLF.vxe' (Onboard Data Loading Function)
  - Caller allocates a fixed fileData structure (stack)
  - buffer is pointing to the attacker controlled LUS file.

```
for ( idxf = bytesRead; idxf < bytesRead + 2; ++idxf )
    fileData->numberHeaders += buffer[idxf] << (8 - 8 * (idxf - bytesRead));
bytesRead = bytesRead + 2;
for ( hdrIndex = 0; hdrIndex < fileData->numberHeaders; ++hdrIndex )
{
    fileData->files[hdrIndex].headerNameLength = 0;
    for ( idxg = bytesRead; idxg < bytesRead + 1; ++idxg )
        fileData->files[hdrIndex].headerNameLength += buffer[idxg] << -8 * (idxg - bytesRead);
    v4 = bytesRead + 1;
    strncpy(fileData->files[hdrIndex].headerName, (const char *)&buffer[v4], fileData->files[hdrIndex].headerNameLength);
    fileData->files[hdrIndex].headerName[fileData->files[hdrIndex].headerNameLength] = 0;
    bytesRead = fileData->files[hdrIndex].headerNameLength + v4;
    fileData->files[hdrIndex].partNumberLength = 0;
```



# Exploitability

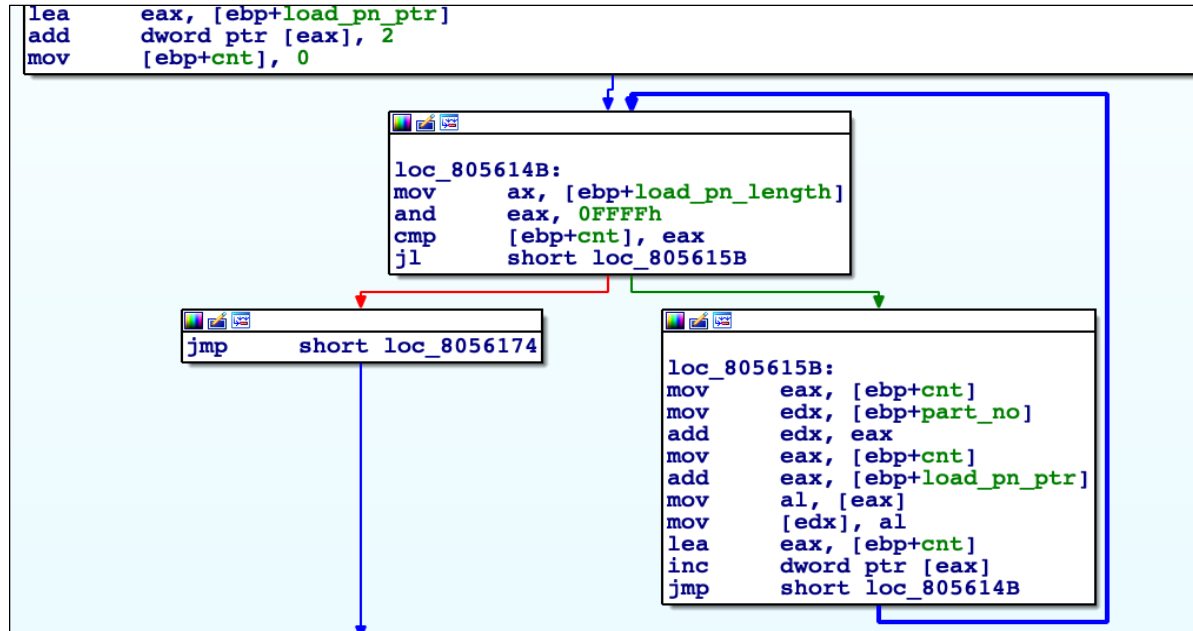
- The attacker can corrupt the stack buffer in a solid way, using controllable values from the LUS file, which allows the attacker to effectively control the EIP and those registers required to initiate a ROP chain (if it's ever required)\*
- A remote unauthenticated attacker can exercise the vulnerable execution path. It is worth mentioning that any compromised LRU that is about to be updated may also trigger this vulnerability as the ODLF acts as a server/client.





# FsmTgtLdr.vxe – LUH Part Number Stack Overflow

- When parsing .LUH files (ARINC Load Upload Headers), the part number length is not properly checked.





# Exploitability

- The attacker is able to corrupt the stack buffer in a solid way, using controllable values from the LUH file, which allows the attacker to effectively control the EIP and those registers required to initiate a ROP chain.
- A remote unauthenticated attacker can exercise the vulnerable execution path.



# VxWorks – Insecure Syscall Handlers Privilege Escalation

- RCE done, now let's jump to the Kernel.
- CIS/MS Custom SysCall Group 'FSMSYSTEM'
- Invoked from user mode by using a CallGate

```
.data:0081C020      public syscallGroupTbl
.data:0081C020 syscallGroupTbl dd 0          ; DATA XREF: rtpSysctlSyscall+4D↑r
.data:0081C020      ; rtpSysctlSyscall+AE↑r ...
.data:0081C024 dword_81C024      dd 0          ; DATA XREF: rtpSysctlSyscall+11E↑r
.data:0081C024      ; syscallGroupRegister+12E↑w ...
.data:0081C028      align 10h
.data:0081C030      dd offset FSMSYSTEMRtnTbl
.data:0081C034      db 26h ; &
```



# VxWorks – Insecure Syscall Handlers Privilege Escalation

- They are not validating any pointer received from user-mode, so it is possible to read/write arbitrary kernel memory
- They use insecure functions and other insecure patterns, which can be used to trigger different kinds of vulnerabilities.



# 'cissFwSetByDynFirewallRule' SysCall (0x224)

- It enables RTPs to add arbitrary firewall rules to the CIS/MS packet filter
- Useful during exploitation to unblock CDN access.

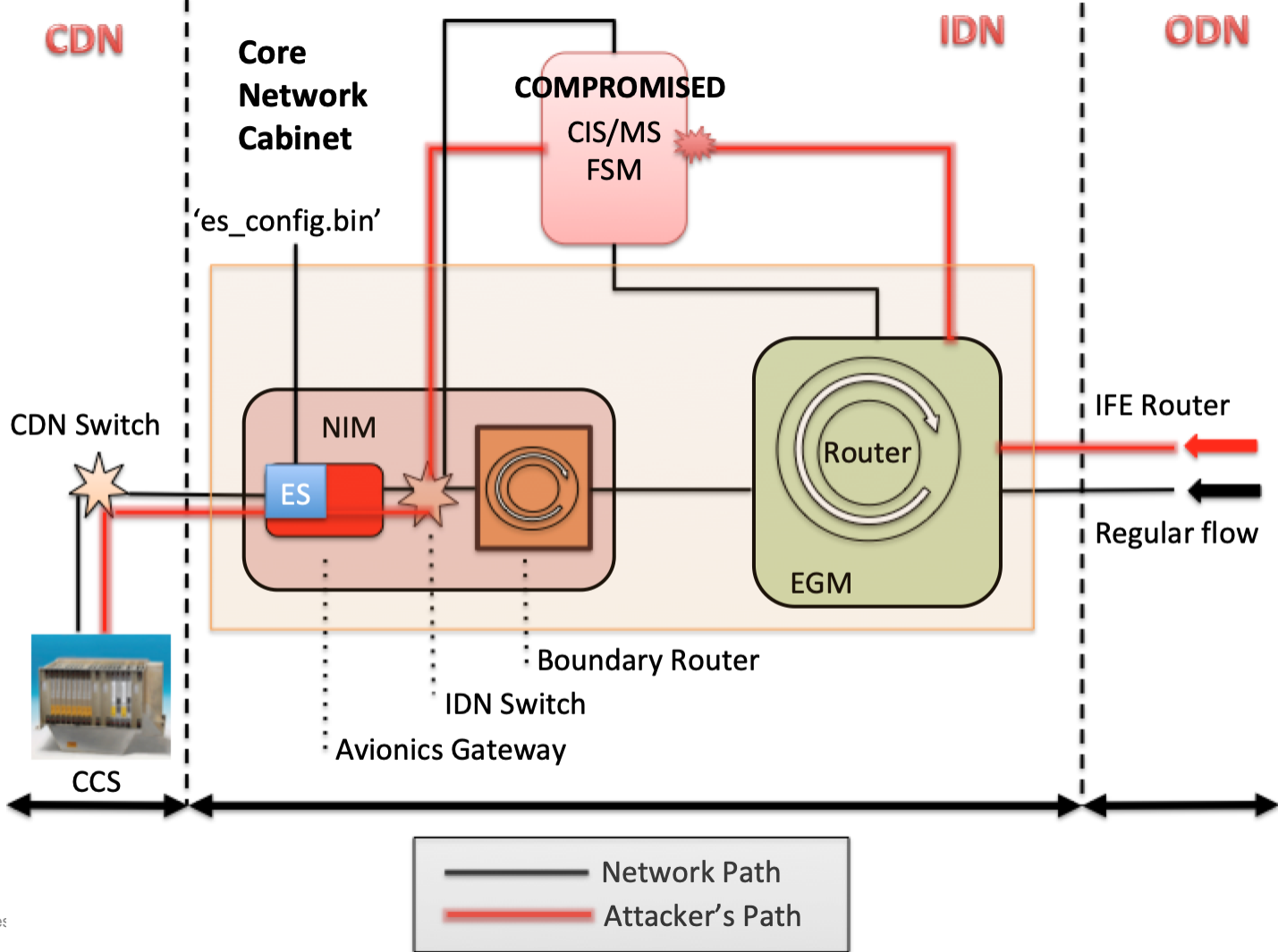


# Syscall 0x224

```
.text:003246E3 ; Attributes: bp-based frame
.text:003246E3
.text:003246E3         public cissFwSetDynFirewallRuleSc
.text:003246E3         cissFwSetDynFirewallRuleSc proc near      ; DATA XREF: .data:0081BFF0j_o
.text:003246E3         arg_0                                     = dword ptr 8
.text:003246E3         push    ebp
.text:003246E4         mov     ebp, esp
.text:003246E6         sub     esp, 18h
.text:003246E9         mov     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
.text:003246EC         mov     eax, [eax+0Ch]
.text:003246EF         mov     [esp+0Ch], eax
.text:003246F3         mov     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
.text:003246F6         mov     eax, [eax+8]
.text:003246F9         mov     [esp+8], eax
.text:003246FD         mov     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
.text:00324700         mov     eax, [eax+4]
.text:00324703         mov     [esp+4], eax
.text:00324707         mov     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
.text:0032470A         mov     eax, [eax]
.text:0032470C         mov     [esp], eax
.text:0032470F         call    cissFwSetDynFirewallRule
.text:00324714         leave
.text:00324715         retn
.text:00324715         cissFwSetDynFirewallRuleSc endp
.text:00324715
.text:00324716 ; ===== S U B R O U T I N E =====
.text:00324716 ; Attributes: bp-based frame
.text:00324716
.text:00324716         public cissFwShowRulesSc
.text:00324716         cissFwShowRulesSc proc near      ; DATA XREF: .data:0081C000j_o
.text:00324716         push    ebp
.text:00324717         mov     ebp, esp
.text:00324719         sub     esp, 18h
.text:0032471C         mov     dword ptr [esp+4], offset aCissfwshowrule ; "cissFwShowRulesSc: Showing Firewall Rul"...
.text:00324724         mov     dword ptr [esp], offset cissFwlogTmp_0
.text:0032472B         call    sprintf
.text:00324730         mov     dword ptr [esp+8], offset cissFwlogTmp_0
.text:00324738         mov     dword ptr [esp+4], offset aCissfw_0 ; "CISSFW"
.text:00324740         mov     dword ptr [esp], 6
.text:00324747         call    kernLog
.text:0032474C         mov     dword ptr [esp], 0
.text:00324753         call    fwRulesShow
.text:00324758         mov     dword ptr [esp+4], offset aCissfwshowru_0 ; "cissFwShowRulesSc: Showing Firewall Rul"...
.text:00324760         mov     dword ptr [esp], offset cissFwlogTmp_0
.text:00324767         call    sprintf
.text:0032476C         mov     dword ptr [esp+8], offset cissFwlogTmp_0
.text:00324774         mov     dword ptr [esp+4], offset aCissfw_0 ; "CISSFW"
.text:0032477C         mov     dword ptr [esp], 6
.text:00324783         call    kernLog
.text:00324788         mov     dword ptr [esp], 2
.text:0032478F         call    fwRulesShow
.text:00324794         mov     dword ptr [esp+4], offset aCissfwshowru_1 ; "cissFwShowRulesSc: Firewall Logging is "...
.text:0032479C         mov     dword ptr [esp], offset cissFwlogTmp_0
.text:003247A3         call    sprintf
.text:003247A8         mov     dword ptr [esp+8], offset cissFwlogTmp_0
.text:003247B0         mov     dword ptr [esp+4], offset aCissfw_0 ; "CISSFW"
.text:003247B8         mov     dword ptr [esp], 6
.text:003247BF         call    kernLog
.text:003247C4         leave
.text:003247C5         retn
.text:003247C5         cissFwShowRulesSc endp
.text:003247C5
```



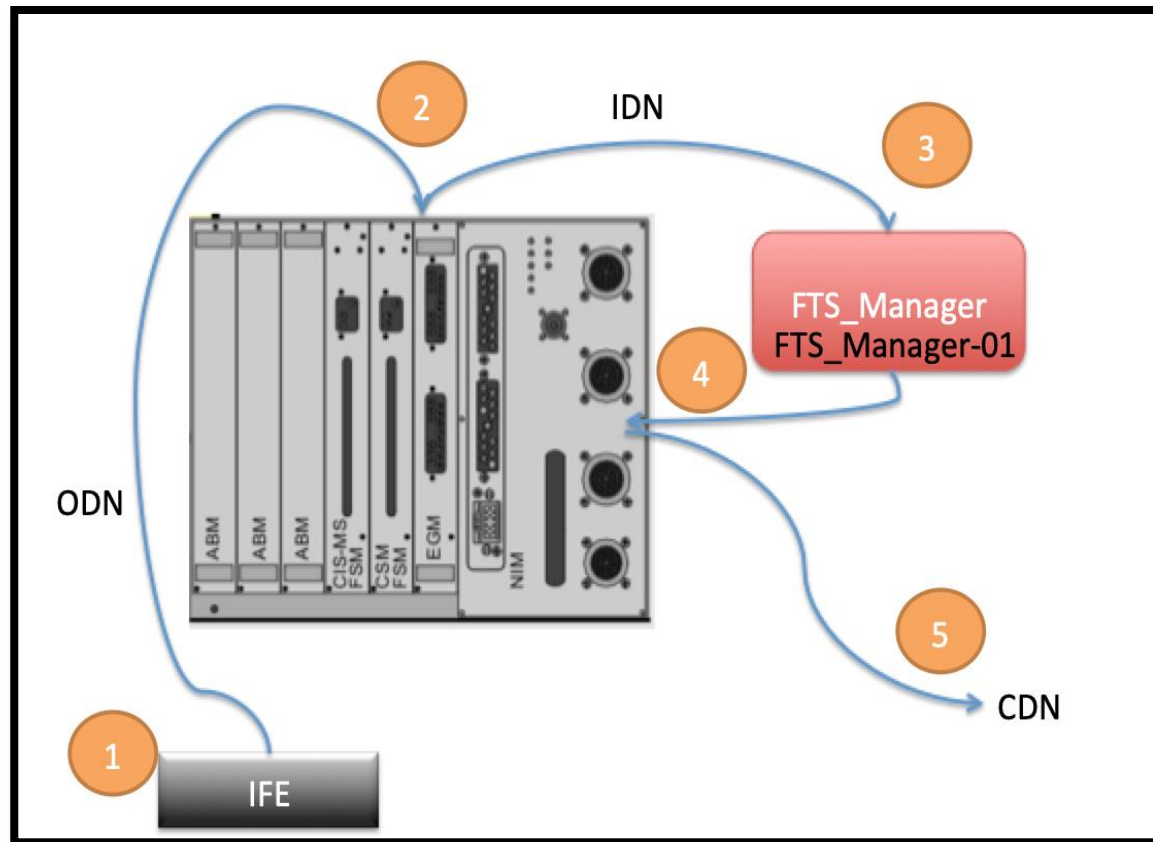
# ODN to CDN





# Attack Scenario #1 – IFE to CDN

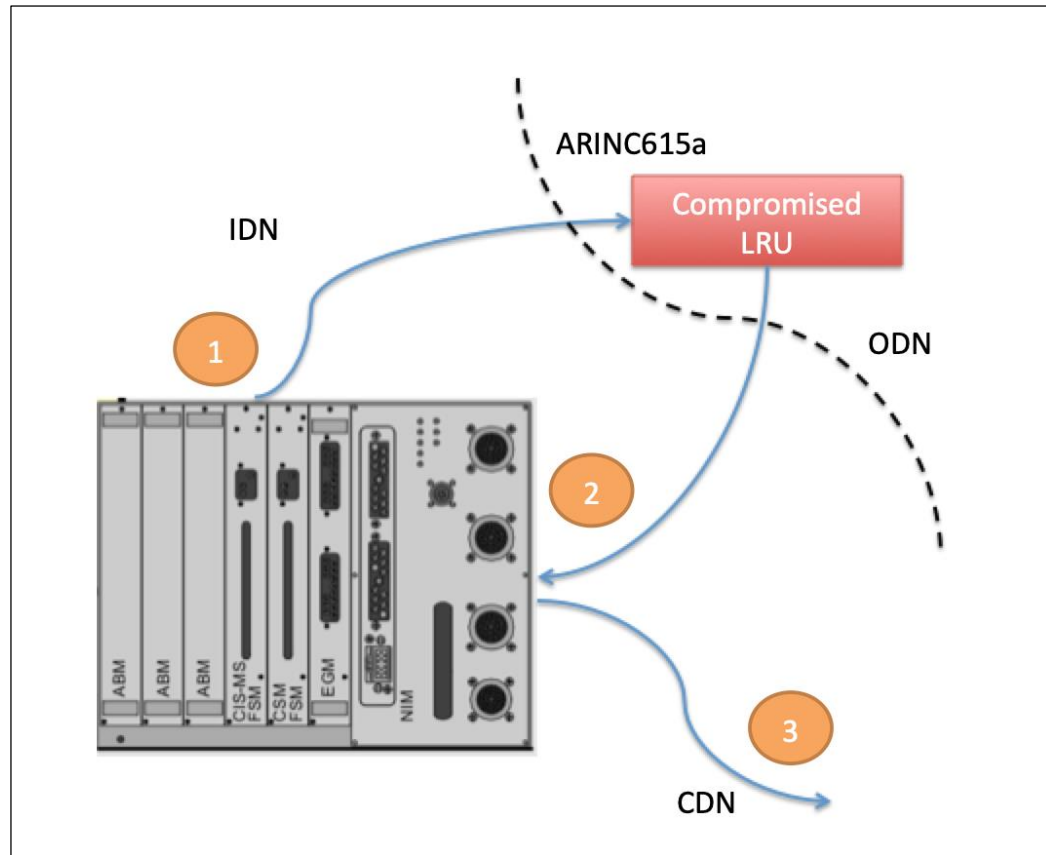
- Compromise IFE
- EGM->CIS/MS
- TFTP Exploit
- SysCal 0x224
- CIS/MS to CDN





# Scenario #2 – Arbitrary LRU to CDN

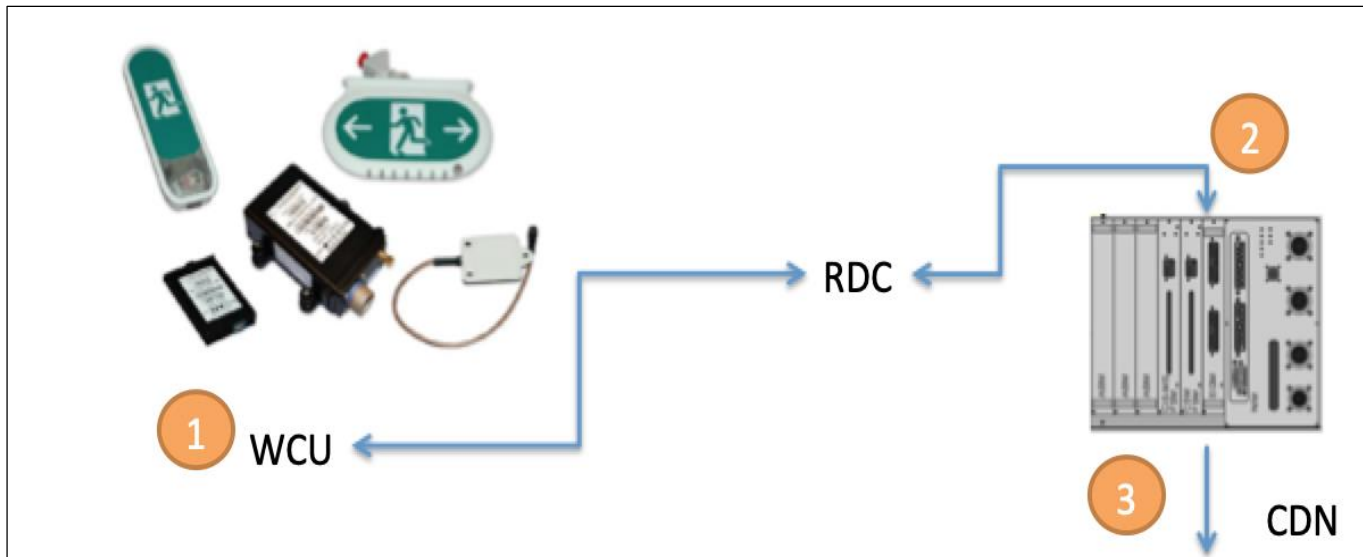
- CIS/MS Data Load
- Compromised LRU
- ODLF.vxe exploit
- LRU->CIS/MS->CDN





# Scenario #2.1 – Wireless LRU to CDN

- Wireless Emergency Lighting System



<https://www.securaplane.com/products/wireless/>



# Scenario #2.1 – Wireless LRU to CDN

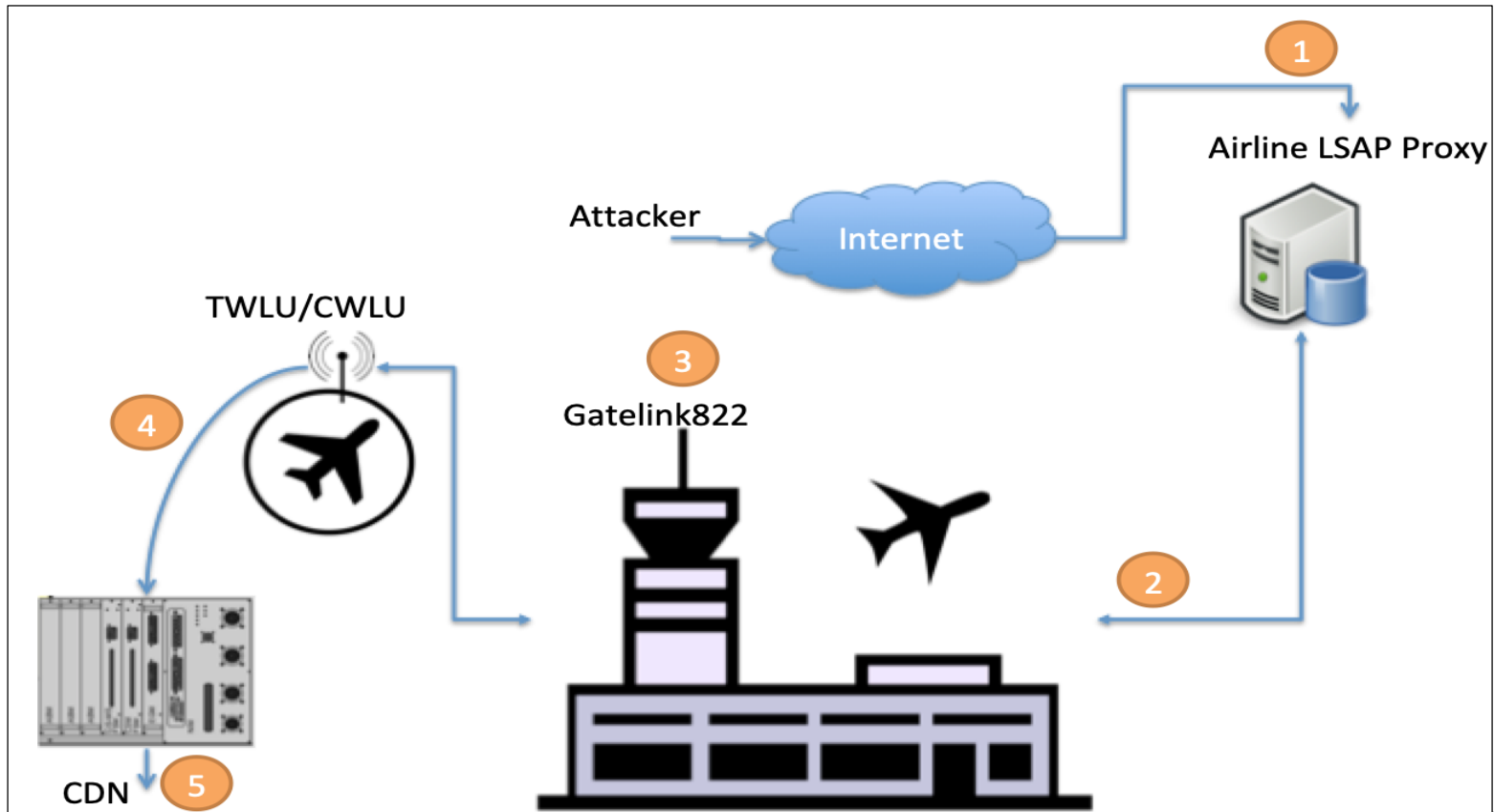
- Onboard attacker (or supply chain) compromises WCU
- WCU exploits ODLF.vxe vulnerabilities through RDC
- Attacker gains access to the CDN

File: 'AimCfg.xml'

```
<!-- PDT = [CAN Data Load]    ODLF_200kb_CAN_S1_Tx1 |Usg to UNIT-WELS CONTROL-PRIME-DR 3L |Usg.R5_C2_ODLF_WKP_HFQI_10 |Usg -->
<!--*** APP-CIS MS ACTIVE-1 |Usg to UNIT-WELS CONTROL-PRIME-DR 3L |Usg ***-->
<Uni_Tx>
  <CDN_Dest_IP>10.42.165.10</CDN_Dest_IP>
  <CDN_Dest_UDP>59</CDN_Dest_UDP>
  <Es_Tx_Port_ID>66112</Es_Tx_Port_ID>
  <IDN_Source_IP>172.24.10.12</IDN_Source_IP>
  <IDN_Source_UDP>62911</IDN_Source_UDP>
</Uni_Tx>
```



# Scenario #3 – External Network to CDN





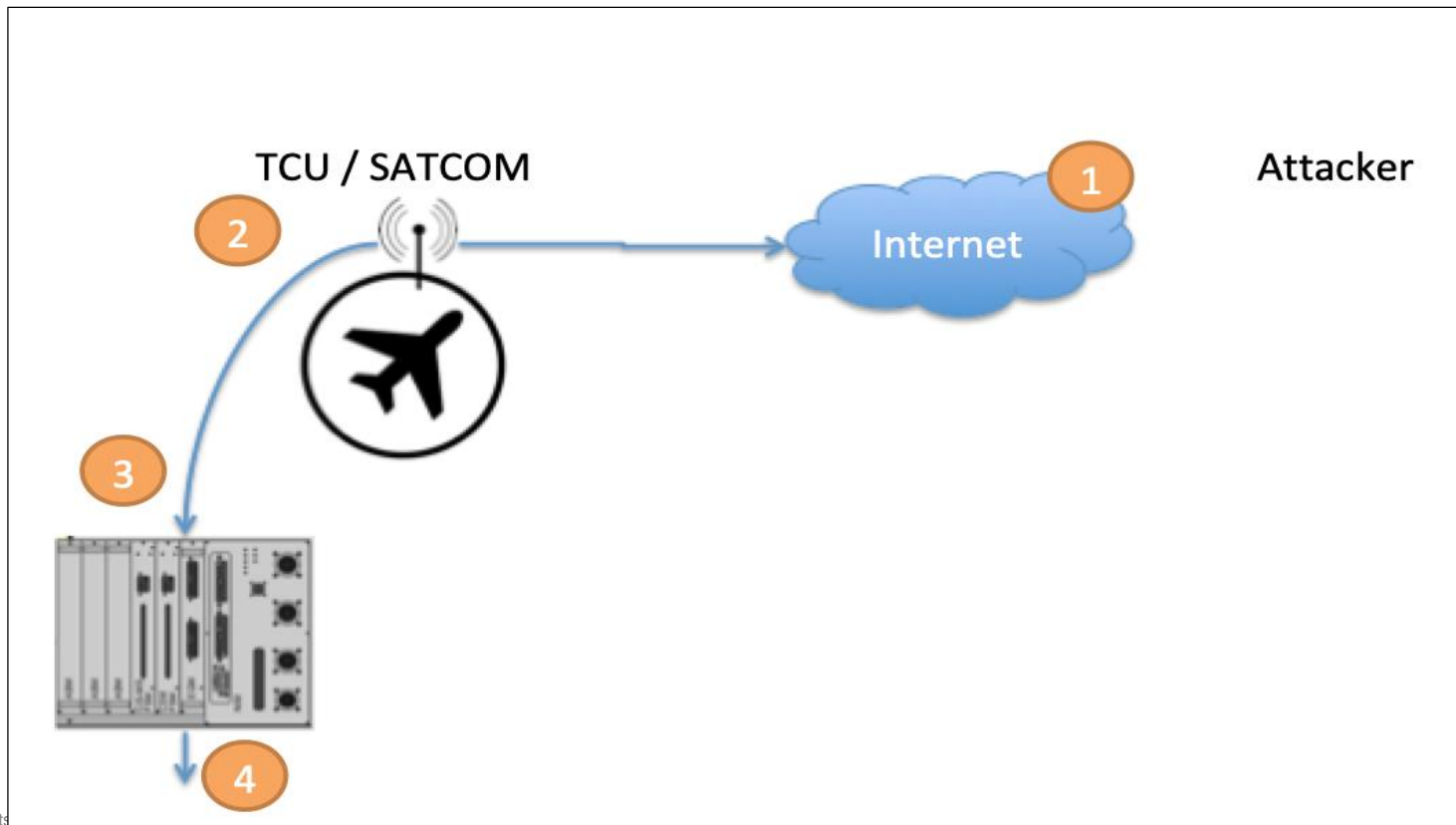


# Scenario #3 – External Network to CDN

- An attacker compromises an **Internet-facing** vulnerable LSAP proxy server.
- The attacker controls LSAP repository/uplink-downlink requests (OBEDS.vxe/FTS\_Manager.vxe)
- The Gatelink822 Airport's local infrastructure may also expose an attack vector.
- The attacker reaches the IDN through the TWLU/CWLU EGM rules.
- The attacker gains CDN access by exploiting any of the documented vulnerabilities.
- **IOActive discovered two vulnerable instances of Internet-accessible LSAP proxy servers belonging to airlines operating Boeing aircraft and shared the details with Boeing..**
- Gatelink822 infrastructure and reachability may vary between airports. As an example, in Terminal 4S of the Barajas Adolfo Suarez Airport in Madrid (Spain), the Gatelink822 SSID is publicly broadcast throughout the terminal.



# Scenario #4 – Communication Link to CDN





# Scenario #4 – Communication Link to CDN

- TCU/SATCOM providers may assign a public IP that is exposed to the Internet.
- An attacker gains access to the TCU/SATCOM device.
- The attacker reaches the CIS/MS through the EGM rules for TCU/SATCOM interfaces (if any, as SATCOM may be optional)
- The attacker gains CDN access by exploiting any of the vulnerabilities documented in the CIS/MS services.



# Post Exploitation

- Initiate a **potentially** malicious firmware update in Safety Critical Units
  - Potential Mitigation: Integrity controls
- Abuse maintenance (Circuit breakers, tests..)
- Deceive maintenance engineers

**We are just using the system in the way it was designed for.**



# From CDN to Safety Critical Systems

## 21 Remote Data Concentrators

- Main Engine Data Concentrators
- Brake System Control Cards
- Valve Control Circuit Cards
- Proximity Sensors Data Concentrators
- Electric Motor Pump Controller
- Electric Control Break Actuator
- Fuel Quantity
- Emergency Power Assist System
- Wireless Emergency Light System
- Ram Air Fan Controller
- Maintenance Display Unit
- Cabin Air Compressor
- Shutoff Fuel Module
- Refuel Control Panel
- Wing Ice Protection System
- Bus Power Control Unit
- Electronic Control Unit
- Secondary Power Distribution Unit
- Engine Monitor Unit
- Electronic Engine Control
- Remote Power Distribution Unit
- Graphics Generator Display
- Flight Recorder
- Audio Units



# From CDN to Safety Critical Systems

## Electronic Engine Controller – DataLoad A615A Rule

```
<!-- PDT = [ARINC 615A] ODLF_10Mb_S2_Tx1 |Usg to CONTROLLER-EEC_CHANNEL==B-1 |Occ.EECB_Data_Load_Rx0_L |Occ -->
<!--*** APP-CIS MS ACTIVE-1 |Usg to CONTROLLER-EEC_CHANNEL==B-1 |Occ ***-->
<Uni_Tx>
  <CDN_Dest_IP>10.73.2.0</CDN_Dest_IP>
  <CDN_Dest_UDP>59</CDN_Dest_UDP>
  <Es_Tx_Port_ID>10009</Es_Tx_Port_ID>
  <IDN_Source_IP>172.24.10.12</IDN_Source_IP>
  <IDN_Source_UDP>62904</IDN_Source_UDP>
</Uni_Tx>
```

172.24.10.12 – CIS/MS FSM

10.73.2.0 – EEC\_Controller

59 TFTP Port





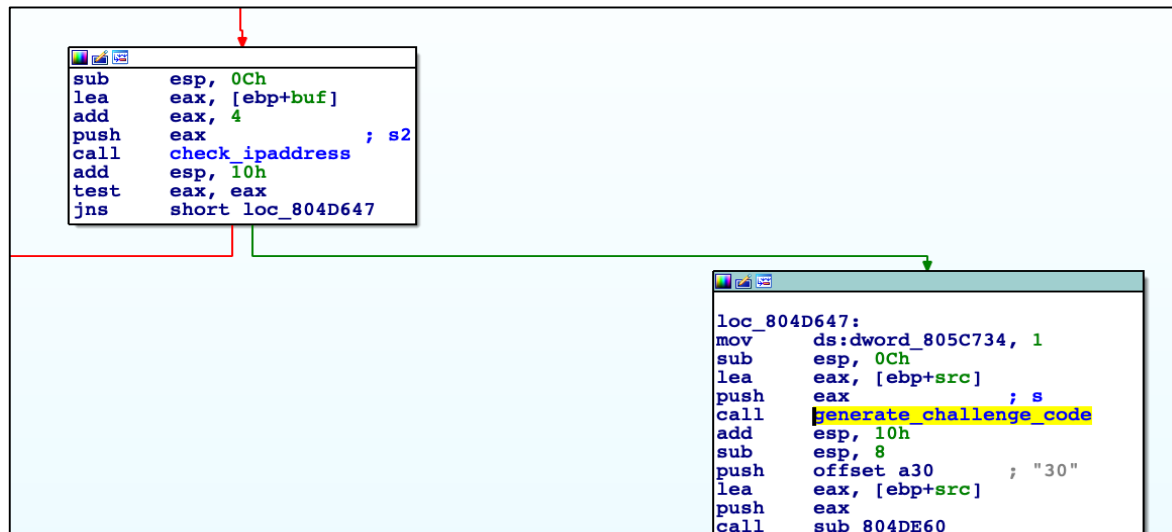
# Maintenance Operations

- **Wired:** When the engineer is connected through one of the three wired ports in the flight deck or equipment centers, it is possible to exercise any maintenance operation available on the system.
- **Wireless:** When the engineer is connected wirelessly through the CWLU/TWLU, only a limited set of maintenance operations are enabled.
- **Full Wireless:** This mode enables the engineer who is wirelessly connected through the CWLU/TWLU to 'upgrade' from a Wireless connection to a Full Wireless mode, which is equivalent to the Wired mode. In order to enable all of the operations, the engineer needs to enter a code that is generated in the CIS/MS through the cabin interphones. If the code entered matches the locally generated challenge code, the engineer is upgraded to Full Wireless mode, and the CIS/MS unblocks CDN access for the engineer's Maintenance Terminal IP.



# Maintenance Operations

- Challenge Code Generator – OMLS.vxe (Onboard Maintenance Laptop Function)





# Maintenance Operators

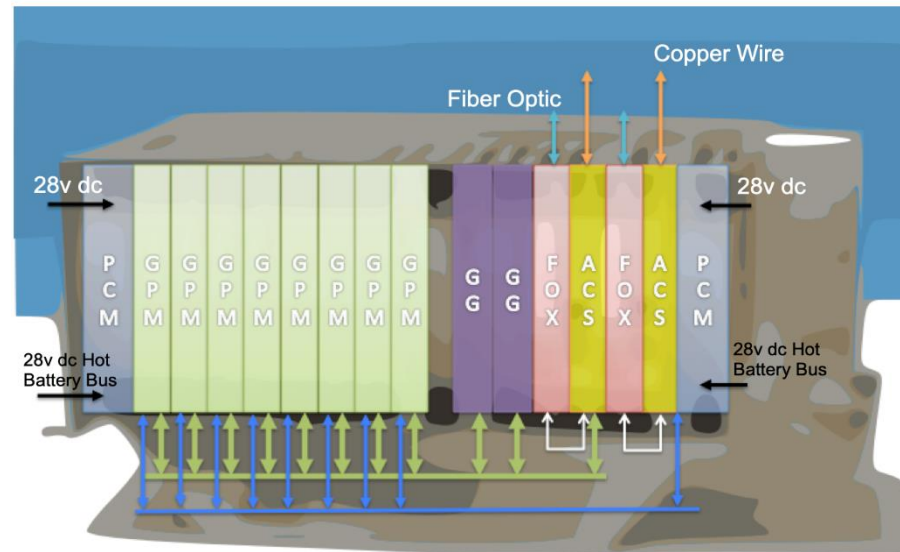
- Challenge received from Cabin Interphone

```
text:0804DA78 loc_804DA78: sub esp, 8 ; CODE XREF: authentication_manager+B71↑j
text:0804DA7B lea eax, [ebp+s1]
text:0804DA81 push eax ; s
text:0804DA82 push dword ptr [ebp+addr.sa_data+2] ; char
text:0804DA88 call inet_ntoa_b
text:0804DA8D add esp, 10h
text:0804DA90 sub esp, 8
text:0804DA93 push offset byte_805D14C ; s2
text:0804DA98 lea eax, [ebp+s1]
text:0804DA9E push eax ; s1
text:0804DA9F call _strcmp
text:0804DAA4 add esp, 10h
text:0804DAA7 test eax, eax
text:0804DAA9 jz short loc_804DAE4
text:0804DAAB sub esp, 4
text:0804DAAE lea eax, [ebp+s1]
text:0804DAB4 push eax
text:0804DAB5 push offset aCabinInterphon ; "Cabin Interphone Message received from "...
text:0804DABA lea eax, [ebp+var_6A8]
text:0804DAC0 push eax ; s
text:0804DAC1 | call _sprintf
text:0804DAC6 add esp, 10h
text:0804DAC9 sub esp, 4
text:0804DACC lea eax, [ebp+var_6A8]
text:0804DAD2 push eax
text:0804DAD3 push 0
```



# Maintenance Operations

- Central Maintenance Computing Function (Hosted Function at CCS)
- Deceive Technicians
- Initiate tests
- Circuit Breakers





# Responsible disclosure

- Boeing and Honeywell confirmed that these vulnerabilities are present in the current 787's Core Network codebase
- The official response IOActive received from Boeing was that they do not consider our reported findings exploitable vulnerabilities, as they could not reproduce these flaws.
- Boeing stated that they have 'compiler-level' mitigations in place that prevent the vulnerabilities from being exploited. No further details were shared.



# Responsible disclosure

- Versions

Boeing did not share with IOActive the version of the CIS/MS firmware they were using in their testing, despite the fact that this information was requested several times. This is a crucial part in any responsible vulnerability disclosure, even more important when discrepancies in the results exist.

- Testing plan

During the vulnerability coordination process IOActive did not have any visibility over the tests, methodologies, proof-of-concept code, exploitation techniques, or any technical details in general terms, that Boeing and partners implemented during their internal evaluation of the vulnerabilities. To help address this situation, IOActive offered to assist Boeing in reproducing these vulnerabilities at their own controlled environment. Unfortunately, Boeing declined.



# Responsible Disclosure

- Mitigations

Boeing communicated to IOActive that there are certain built-in compiler-level mitigations that, in their point of view, prevent these vulnerabilities from being successfully exploited. IOActive was unable to locate or validate the existence of those mitigations in the CIS/MS firmware version we analyzed. **When asked, Boeing declined to answer whether these mitigations might have been added on a later version.**

**Honeywell is checking it \*today\***



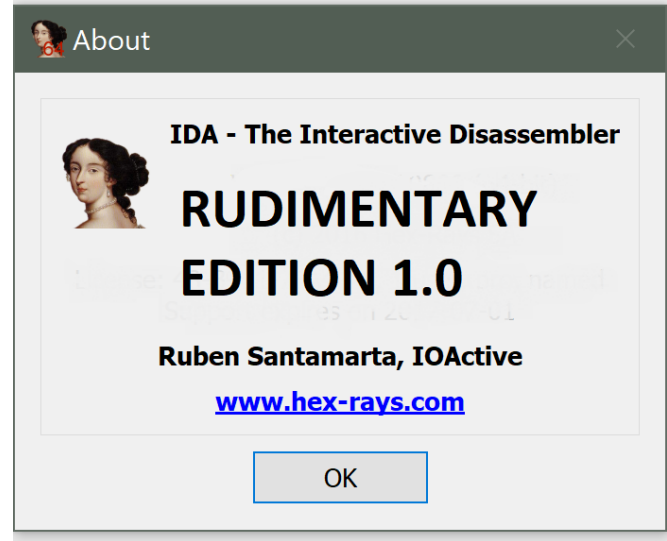


# Response from Boeing

- “IOActive reviewed only one part of the 787 network using *rudimentary* tools”  
“IOActive chose to ignore our **verified** results”\*

(\*) Verified by those who consider that :

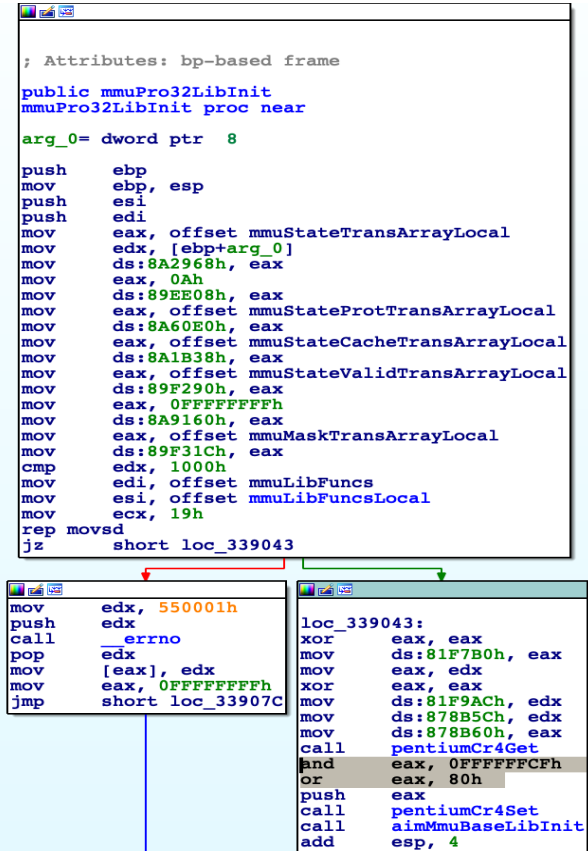
- IDA is a rudimentary tool
- ‘sprintf’ is an unexploitable function.
- A ROP chain in an RTOS is not possible because there are not enough functionalities
- Compiler-level mitigations can work even if they are not added to the resulting binary





# Mitigations (or the lack of them)

- NX/XD
  - 32-bit Pentium M
  - Unknown model
  - VxWorks MMU Initialization
    - PAE/PSE bits cleared





# Mitigations (or the lack of them)

- GCC Stack Protection

```
; Attributes: bp-based frame
public strcpy
strcpy proc near
arg_0= dword ptr 8
arg_4= dword ptr 0Ch
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
sub esp, 4
push esi
push edi
mov esi, [ebp+arg_4]
mov edi, [ebp+arg_0]
mov edx, esi
mov dl, [edx]
mov eax, edi
mov [eax], dl
mov eax, edi
cmp byte ptr [eax], 0
mov ecx, edi
jz short loc_3568C
```

```
loc_3567F:
inc ecx
inc esi
mov edx, esi
mov [ecx], dl
cmp byte ptr [ecx], 0
jnz short loc_3567F
```

```
loc_3568C:
pop edi
pop esi
mov esp, ebp
pop ebp
retn
strcpy endp
```

```
.text:08076DC8 ; int __cdecl server_task(int, char *src)
.text:08076DC8 public server_task
.text:08076DC8 server_task proc near ; DATA XREF: sub_806852D+169F0
.text:08076DC8
.text:08076DC8 var_E2C = dword ptr -0E2Ch
.text:08076DC8 var_E28 = dword ptr -0E28h
.text:08076DC8 var_E24 = dword ptr -0E24h
.text:08076DC8 var_E20 = dword ptr -0E20h
.text:08076DC8 var_E1C = dword ptr -0E1Ch
.text:08076DC8 var_E18 = dword ptr -0E18h
.text:08076DC8 var_E14 = dword ptr -0E14h
.text:08076DC8 var_E10 = dword ptr -0E10h
.text:08076DC8 var_E0C = dword ptr -0E0Ch
.text:08076DC8 var_E08 = byte ptr -0E08h
.text:08076DC8 dest = byte ptr -808h
.text:08076DC8 var_7C0 = dword ptr -7C0h
.text:08076DC8 var_7BC = dword ptr -7BCh
.text:08076DC8 var_7B8 = byte ptr -7B8h
.text:08076DC8 var_799 = byte ptr -799h
.text:08076DC8 n1 = byte ptr -738h
.text:08076DC8 var_6B9 = byte ptr -6B9h
.text:08076DC8 var_6AC = dword ptr -6ACh
.text:08076DC8 var_6A8 = dword ptr -6A8h
.text:08076DC8 var_2A8 = dword ptr -2A8h
.text:08076DC8 var_298 = dword ptr -298h
.text:08076DC8 optval = dword ptr -290h
.text:08076DC8 var_28C = dword ptr -28Ch
.text:08076DC8 var_288 = dword ptr -288h
.text:08076DC8 var_284 = dword ptr -284h
.text:08076DC8 var_280 = dword ptr -280h
.text:08076DC8 var_27C = dword ptr -27Ch
.text:08076DC8 var_278 = dword ptr -278h
.text:08076DC8 var_274 = dword ptr -274h
.text:08076DC8 var_270 = dword ptr -270h
.text:08076DC8 var_26C = dword ptr -26Ch
.text:08076DC8 var_268 = dword ptr -268h
.text:08076DC8 n = dword ptr -260h
.text:08076DC8 var_260 = dword ptr -260h
.text:08076DC8 fd = dword ptr -25Ch
.text:08076DC8 var_258 = dword ptr -258h
.text:08076DC8 var_254 = dword ptr -254h
.text:08076DC8 var_240 = dword ptr -240h
.text:08076DC8 ptr = dword ptr -23Ch
.text:08076DC8 buf = dword ptr -238h
.text:08076DC8 n = byte ptr -28h
.text:08076DC8 var_27 = byte ptr -27h
.text:08076DC8 var_26 = word ptr -26h
.text:08076DC8 var_24 = dword ptr -24h
.text:08076DC8 addr = sockaddr ptr -18h
.text:08076DC8 var_8 = byte ptr -8h
.text:08076DC8 var_4 = dword ptr -4h
.text:08076DC8 arg_0 = dword ptr 8
.text:08076DC8 src = dword ptr 0Ch
push ebp
mov ebp, esp
push esi
sub esp, 0E34h
mov [ebp+var_268], 0
```

```
text:0807846C add esp, 10h
text:0807846F mov eax, 0
text:08078474 mov edi, [ebp+var_4]
text:08078477 leave
text:08078478 retn
text:08078478 server_task endp
```



# Conclusions

- We hope that a determined, highly capable third party can safely confirm that these vulnerabilities are not exploitable due to the mitigation controls not visible to us during this analysis. We are confident owners and operators of these aircraft would welcome such independent validation and verification.
- We believe as strongly in safety as we do in security. We provide these detailed findings herein so that all stakeholders, security industry and affected entities can form their own judgment as to the exploitability and impact of these confirmed software vulnerabilities.



Thank you!