

# CableTap

Wirelessly Tapping your Home Network

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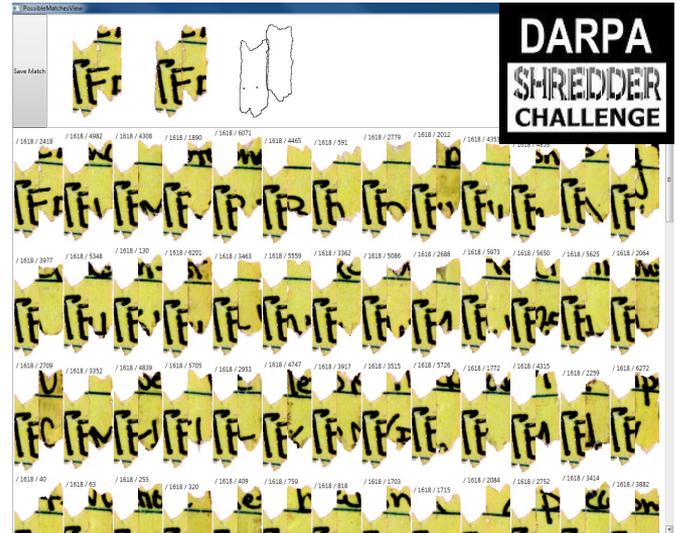
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Welcome to the  
LineCon after-party.

# Marc Newlin (@marcnewlin)

Wireless Security Researcher @ Bastille Networks



# Christopher Grayson (@\_lavalamp)

- Web development
- Academic researcher
- Haxin' all the things
- Founder & Principal Engineer  
(Web Sight)



# Logan Lamb (Researcher @ Bastille Networks)



**ADT Agrees To Pay \$16M To End Alarm Hackability Suits**

By Daniel Siegal



***Lawsuit Seeks to Void Georgia Congressional Election Results***

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS JULY 4, 2017, 4:06 P.M. E.D.T.

# What is CableTap?

- 26 CVEs
- ISP-provided wireless gateways and set-top boxes
- Multiple unauthenticated RCE attack chains
- Network vulnerabilities
- Wi-Fi vulnerabilities
- ZigBee RF4CE vulnerabilities

# Why does CableTap matter?

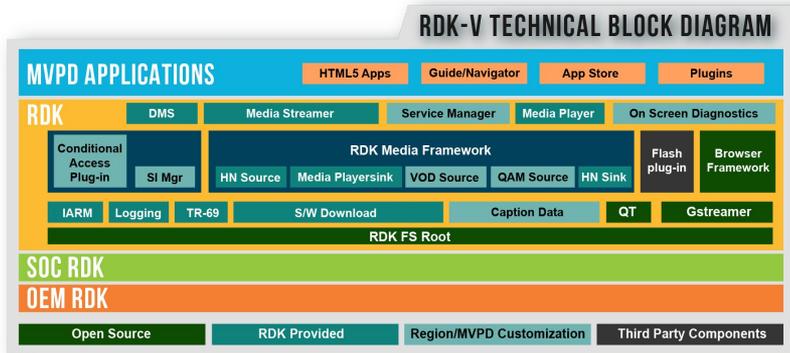
- Full compromise of affected devices
- Wide impact
  - ISP vulnerabilities
  - Vendor vulnerabilities
  - RDK vulnerabilities (software stack used by many major ISPs)
- Attack chains affecting Comcast XFINITY devices have been patched

# Agenda

1. Background on RDK
2. RDK-based devices
3. Progression of research
4. Vulnerabilities
5. Disclosure process
6. Q&A

# Background on RDK

# Reference Development Kit (RDK)



<https://rdkcentral.com/>

- “a standardized software stack with localization plugins created to accelerate the deployment of next-gen video products and services by multichannel video providers (MVPDs).”
- Founded in 2012
- Standardized software stack for modems, set top boxes, media devices

# Yay Open Source (?) Software!

- An open-source, community-driven project available at:

<https://code.rdkcentral.com/>

- But wait what's this WHOIS record?
- Ohhhh that sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach...

| S | Project Name                                       | Project Description  |
|---|--|--|
|   | components/generic/westeros                        | Wayland compositor.  |
|   | devices/intel-x86-pc/rdk/westeros                  | Westeros compositor emulator HAL implementation.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/audiocapturemgr             | Presents audio data to registered applications.  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/crashupload                 | Crash upload component.  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/dca                         | Data Collection and Analysis (DCA).  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/deviceSettings              | Unified interface to control device components (e.g. LED, audio/video ports, etc.).  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/diagnostics                 | HTML diagnostic support for Hybrid Gateway devices and IP clients.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/dtcp                        | HAL layer APIs for the DTCP plugins provided by the SOC vendors.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/hdmioc                      | HDMI CEC.  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/iambus                      | Platform-agnostic inter-process communication (IPC) interface.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/iammgrs                     | IARM Managers are IARM applications that provide a set of services (e.g. Bus Daemon, IR Manager, Power Manager, etc.).             |
|   | rdk/components/generic/injectdbundle               | Integration layer between Service Manager and the player in RDK Browser and WPE.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/ledmgr                      | Manages the STB front panel color LED to communicate the system status.  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/libusbtrtl                  | USB hotplug support for Service Manager.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/media_utils                 | Media utilities to stream out audio over Bluetooth to BT Headset /Speakers.  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/mocahal                     | Provides a standard set of MoCA driver interfaces.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/netsrvmgr                   | Network manager.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/rdk_logger                  | RDK logging framework.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/rdkapps                     | Utilities that include some commonly used scripts and sample applications.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/rdkbrowser                  | This browser is based on QT 5.0. It has integrated support of IR key codes and users can use the TV remote control for navigation. |
|   | rdk/components/generic/rdkbrowser2                 | Generic component.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/rmf_medistreamer            | RMF media streamer.  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/rmf_tools/generate_si_cache | RMF tool: Generate SI cache.   |
|   | rdk/components/generic/rmf_tools/enableHDCP        | RMF tool: HDCP.  |
|   | rdk/components/generic/serviceManager              | A uniform mechanism for discovering and consuming services (APIs) on a target device.  |

```
Tech Name: Comcast Domains
Tech Organization: Comcast Corporation
Tech Street: 1701 JFK BLVD.
Tech City: Philadelphia
Tech State/Province: PA
Tech Postal Code: 19103
Tech Country: US
Tech Phone: +1.2152861700
Tech Phone Ext:
Tech Fax: +1.2152861700
Tech Fax Ext:
Tech Email: Hostmaster@comcast.com
Name Server: ns2.usm1184.sgded.com
Name Server: ns1.usm1184.sgded.com
```

# Yeah But Who Needs Patches Anyhoo

```
lovalamp@molten ~/D/G/webui> git log | grep --ignore-case "vuln"
Merge "RDKB-12011: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in XB6"
Merge "RDKB-11346: UI Dev mode Security Vulnerability"
Merge "RDKB-11860: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Connected Devices"
Merge "RDKB-11347: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Wi-Fi pages"
Merge "RDKB-11861: UI DevDebug Security Vulnerability in Advanced tab pages"
Merge "RDKB-11862: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in library files"
Merge "RDKB-11863: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Parental Control"
RDKB-12011: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in XB6
Reason for change: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in XB6
RDKB-11346: UI Dev mode Security Vulnerability
Reason for change: UI Dev mode Security Vulnerability
RDKB-11860: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Connected Devices
Reason for change: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Connected Devices Computers and LAN pages
RDKB-11347: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Wi-Fi pages
Reason for change: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Wi-Fi pages
RDKB-11861: UI DevDebug Security Vulnerability in Advanced tab pages
Reason for change: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Advanced tab pages
RDKB-11862: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in library files
Reason for change: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in library files
RDKB-11863: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Parental Control
Reason for change: UI Dev Debug Security Vulnerability in Parental Control tab pages
Reason for change: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] due to Untrusted data in HTML body - Gateway tab
Merge "RDKB-10201: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] - Port Triggering"
Merge "RDKB-10199: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] - Gateway tab"
Merge "RDKB-10201: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] - Advanced tab"
Merge "RDKB-10200: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] - Parental Control tab"
RDKB-10201: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] - Port Triggering
Reason for change: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] due to Untrusted data in HTML body - Advanced tab > Port Triggering
RDKB-10199: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] - Gateway tab
Reason for change: Security Vulnerabilities[XSS] due to Untrusted data in HTML body - Gateway tab
```

- There's the open source version, then there's the versions deployed on deployed devices
- Lots of vulns patched in the open source repo
- Patches take months to deploy, no CVEs filed for, no disclosure to affected customers
- Still faster to deploy patches with RDK than non-standardized "native" stacks
- RCE, XSS, XSRF, you name it they got it

# RDK-Based Devices

# RDK Devices

- RDK-B - gateways
- RDK-V - set-top boxes

# RDK-V Consumer Standpoint

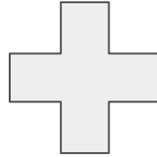
- Watch TV!
- On-screen guide
- On Demand / Pay per view
- DVR
- WebApps (Pandora, Netflix)

# RDK-V Engineer Standpoint

- Plumbing
  - DRM, Diagnostics, Management
- Audio / Video
  - PPV, VOD, Closed Captioning (Webkit)
- Features DOCSIS, MoCA, RF4CE
- Webkit / OpenGL / GStreamer

# RDK-B Consumer Standpoint

Modem + Router



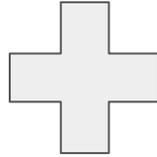
= Gateway

# RDK-B Consumer Standpoint

- Modem and router functionality
- Can connect with home security system and cordless phones
- All-in-one internet solution

# RDK-B Engineer Standpoint

Network Processor + Application Processor



= RDK-B

# RDK-B Engineer Standpoint

- Intel PUMA

## PRODUCT BRIEF

### Puma Family

Cable Modem, Set-Top-Box (STB),  
and Cable Video Solutions



Products by Technology:  
Cable Modem, Set Top Box  
and Video Gateway Solutions

# Progression of Research

# Marc learns to netcat

- Project inspiration (Peter Geissler's talk @ HITB)
- Connecting with Chris
  - Prior Comcast customer (Marc's ISP)
  - "Beyond your cable modem" 32C3 talk
- "How do I webapp security plz?"
- Pulling off the filesystem using the previously disclosed web UI ping vuln
- Digging into the RDK repos

# Getting Serious

- Finding some vulns and getting serious
- Bringing the side project to Bastille
- Bringing Logan into the fold
  - Hardware and embedded hacking expertise
- Expanding to set-top boxes
- Disclosing to vendors as new vulnerabilities are found

# Vulnerabilities

# Vulns - Free Internet

- Public wifi access points run by ISPs
  - e.g. “CableWiFi”, “xfinitywifi”, etc
- AP’s are on customer equipment or ISP equipment
- Customer logs into their ISP account to get access
- MAC address is remembered for future access
- Attacker can spoof the MAC
  - Free Internet on other public access points
  - “xfinitywifi” usage does not count toward a customer’s bandwidth cap

# Vulns - Hidden Home Security WiFi

- Home security service offered by many ISPs
- Touchscreen control panel connects over WiFi
  - Hidden WiFi network runs on the customer's gateway
  - SSID and passphrase generated based on the CM MAC
- Hidden WiFi network, previously documented online
  - Web UI access point index “hack”
  - XHS-XXXXXXXX SSID format, based on CM MAC
- Grepping around for “calculate” “generate” “key” “psk” etc

# Vulns - Hidden Home Security WiFi

- CalculatePSKKey in <some binary>
- Cross compiling for big-endian ARM and running a keygen binary on the gateway
- Guesswork yielding the CM MAC input and PSK key output
- Command line binary observed on some devices
- How to get the CM MAC??

# Vulns - DHCP ACK CM MAC leak

1. Connect to “xfinitywifi” network
2. CM MAC of the wireless gateway is included in the DHCP ACK
3. Generate hidden home security network SSID and passphrase

# Vulns - IPv6 multicast CM MAC leak

1. Sniff the 802.11 channel used by the target wireless gateway
2. Every ~4 seconds, a 156-byte IPv6 multicast packet is transmitted with the I2sd0.500 interface MAC address
3. Translate the I2sd0.500 MAC to the CM MAC
4. Generate hidden home security network SSID and passphrase

`11:22:33:44:55:66 - I2sd0.500`

`0F:22:33:44:55:63 - CM MAC`

# Vulns - eMTA FQDN CM MAC leak

1. mta0 (VoIP) interface has FQDN containing the mta0 MAC
2. Translate the mta0 MAC into the CM MAC
3. Generate hidden home security network SSID and passphrase

**FQDN:**

`m001122334455.atlt6.ga.comcast.net`

**CM MAC:**

`00:11:22:33:44:53 <-- last octet decreased by 2`

# Vulns - IPv6 addressing from CM MACs

- Global IPv6
- Link-local IPv6

**Given the following inputs:**

```
Region identifier: 40:11 (Atlanta)
Unknown octet:    53     (can be brute forced)
MAC address:      11:22:33:44:55:66
```

**The following wan0 IPv6 address is generated:**

```
2001:0558:4011:0053:1122:33FF:FE44:5566
```

# Comcast vs public internet device access

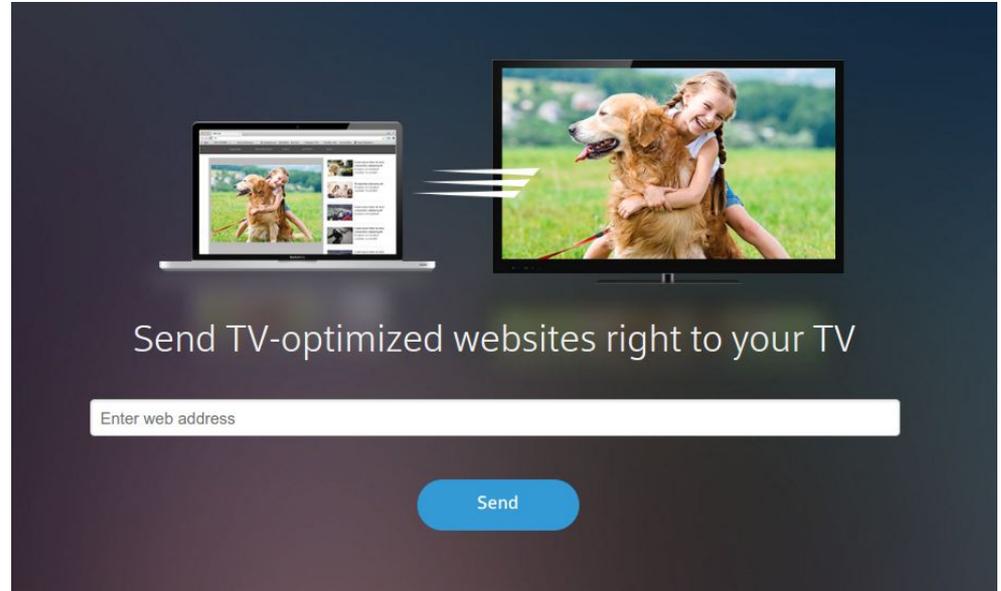
- Web UI supports MSO login from WAN only
- SSH service from WAN only
- Internet-facing network configuration appears well locked-down

# Vulns - POTD

- “Password of the day” can be generated on a wireless gateway
- Used for remote web UI authentication
- Used for remote SSH authentication

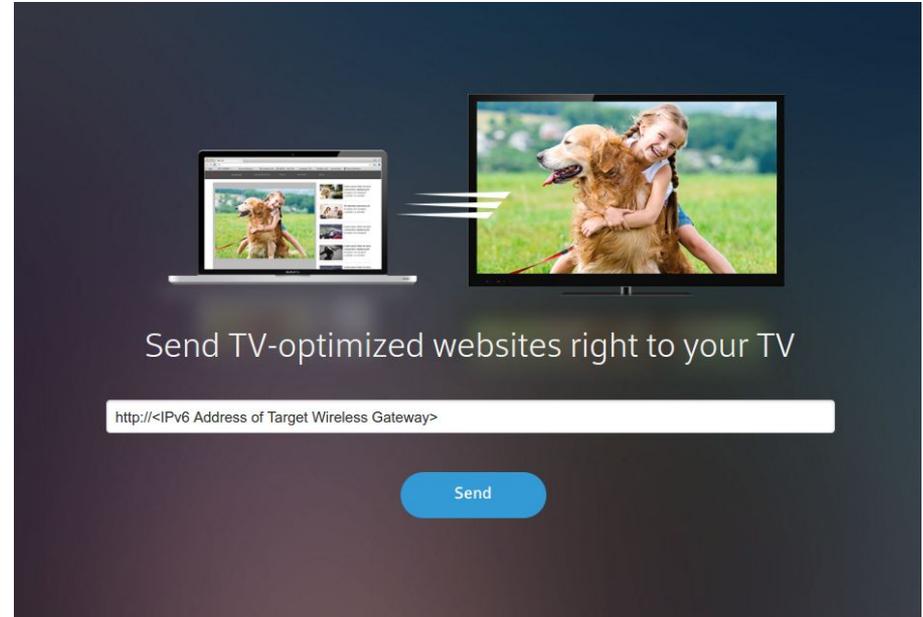
# Xfinity Send-to-TV

- Xfinity customer signs in with their account credentials
- Web app accepts URL
- Set-top box displays URL in a web browser



# Vulns - Xfinity Send-to-TV / Remote Web UI

- Gateway web UI accepts remote requests from Comcast infrastructure
  - MSO login using the POTD
  - Alternative hard-coded credentials
- IPv6 address of target gateway provides remote web UI access via set-top box



# Send-to-TV Attack Demo

# It's Like CGI, But Fast & w/ Exploits

- FastCGI – successor to the Common Gateway Interface (CGI) protocol
- Authored in 1996
- Enables web servers to invoke other processes – birth of dynamic generation of web content
- No RFC, only documentation from MIT .edu site

# FastCGI Protocol

---

## FastCGI Specification

Mark R. Brown  
Open Market, Inc.

Document Version: 1.0  
29 April 1996

Copyright © 1996 Open Market, Inc. 245 First Street, Cambridge, MA 02142 U.S.A.  
Tel: 617-621-9500 Fax: 617-621-1703 URL: <http://www.openmarket.com/>

\$Id: fcgi-spec.html,v 1.1.1.1 2000/08/21 05:24:03 yandros Exp \$

<http://www.mit.edu/~yandros/doc/specs/fcgi-spec.html>

- Binary protocol
- Request IDs for multiplexing
- "0" request ID for querying management information
- Three "roles"
  - Responder – handle the execution of a file from HTTP request (file path passed to FastCGI server)
  - Authorizer – returns an authorized/not authorized response
  - Filter – Same as responder but receives file over STDIN

# PHP FastCGI Process Manager (PHP-FPM)

- PHP + FastCGI – what could possibly go wrong?!
- Lets you reconfigure PHP settings on every request
- HTTP POST data supplied via STDIN FastCGI parameter
- If only there were abusable PHP configuration values...

## PHP

/php/ ↻

*noun*

1. an API for remote code execution  
*synonyms:* terrible, the worst, you literally can't write secure code in this language,

### CGI and command line setups

By default, PHP is built as both a CLI and CGI program, which can be used for CGI processing. If you are running a web server that PHP has module support for, you should generally go for that solution for performance reasons. However, the CGI version enables users to run different PHP-enabled pages under different user-ids.

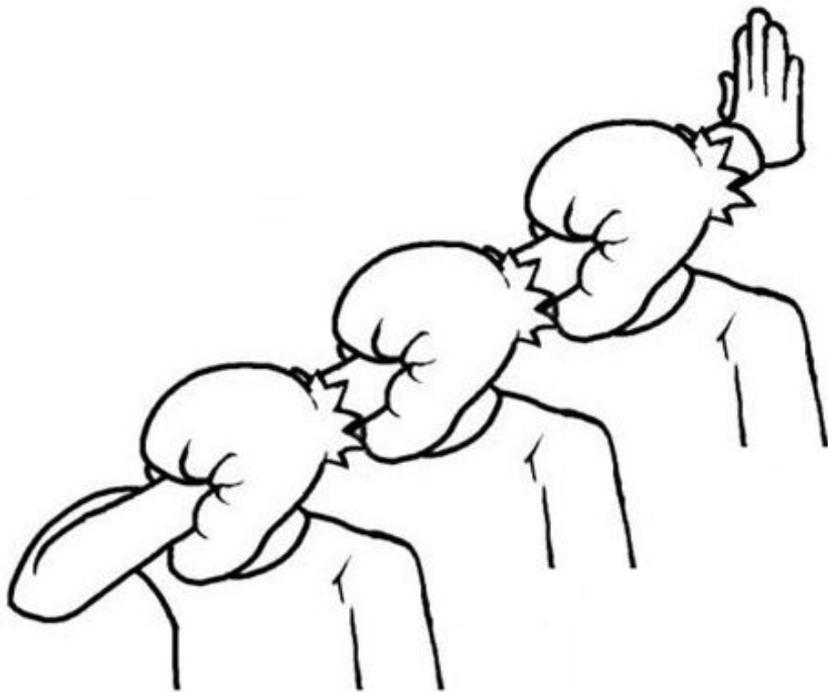
**Warning** A server deployed in CGI mode is open to several possible vulnerabilities. Please read our [CGI security section](#) to learn how to defend yourself from such attacks.

#### `auto_prepend_file` string

Specifies the name of a file that is automatically parsed before the main file. The file is included as if it was called with the `require` function, so `include_path` is used.

The special value `none` disables auto-prepend.

# Piecing Things Together



- We can...
  - Reconfigure the PHP interpreter to include an arbitrary file
  - Supply data to STDIN via HTTP POST
- But how do we include STDIN?
- **PHP TO THE RESCUE!**
  - `php://stdin`

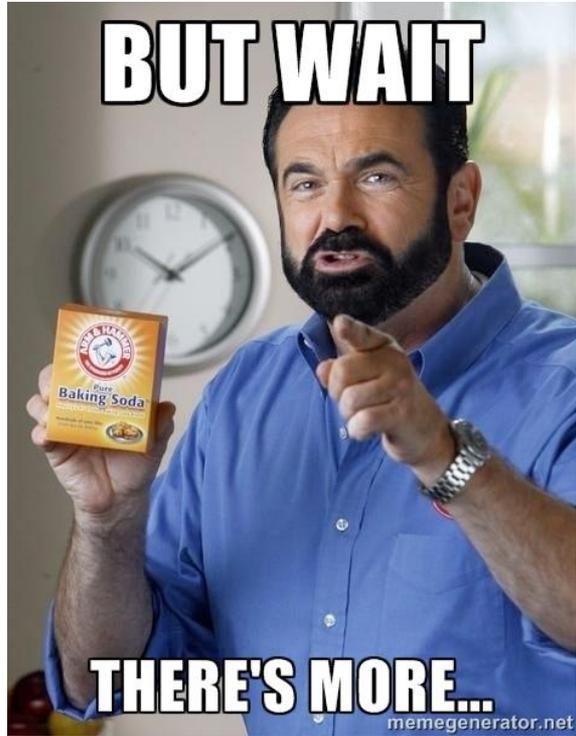
# Isn't This Old News?

- Yes... Kind of (CVE-2012-1823)
- Previous work was on exploiting the PHP-CGI binary residing within a web directory
- But what if the PHP-CGI binary is bound to a network port?
- Nmap sees as tcpwrapped (TCP 1026-1029)
- Scripts for detection included in CableTap code repo

**37,449**

PHPFPM servers on port 1026 (IPv4 address space)

# A Twist in RDKs PHPFPM



- PHPFPM on the RDK deployments we tested had the PHP configuration component **stripped out**
- No publicly-available documentation as to how to do this – why was it removed?
- Could still gain code execution by referencing PHP files on the system and bypassing control flow guards in the default web app

# Svseventd - RCE as a Service (RaaS)

- Binary protocol listener on TCP 52,367 (all interfaces)
- Not the same as Oracle syseventd!
- Intended for firing off commands based on system events (logging??)
- No auth, no nothing!



# Syseventd Usage

1. Create an event with a name and a binary to call upon event occurrence (name must be a file path)

```
$ sysevent --port 52367 --ip 172.16.12.1 async </path/to/file> /bin/cp
```

2. Trigger the event by touching the event name file path and providing an argument

```
$ sysevent --port 52367 --ip 172.16.12.1 set </path/to/file> /var/IGD/<file>
```

- 3.

```
$ /bin/cp </path/to/file> /var/IGD/</file>
```

# Syseventd (ab)Usage

```
/bin/cp /nvram/bbhm_cur_cfg.xml /var/IGD/bbhm_cur_cfg.xml
```



```
/bin/bash -c "<commands to execute>"
```

- Create an event with a target process of `/bin/bash` and an event name of `-c`
- Trigger the event with a value of the bash command to run
- ???
- Profit

# Where The Syseventd At?!

- Bound to all interfaces
- Sometimes not firewalled off from public-facing IP address
- Otherwise exposed to plenty of the LAN IPs

**149,162**

Syseventd services on TCP 52,367 (IPv4 address space)

# A Tale of Two Operating Systems

- Two operating systems on the board
- One ARM (modem w/ web app) and one Atom (router)
- Modem is at bottom of range (10.0.0.1) and Atom is at top of range (10.0.0.254)

# I MAKE MY OWN ROUTES DAMMIT

- Atom OS has an interface allocated in 169.254.0.0/16 range for Dbus
- ...You can route to it if you're into that sort of thing
- Custom RPC service that is quite literally RCE as service, and all that FastCGI goodness
- Once on Atom side, hardcoded root SSH creds to ARM side on 192.168.0.0/16

```
ip route add 169.254.0.1 via 10.0.0.254
```

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ nmap -sT -Pn -T4 -p- 169.254.0.1
Starting Nmap 6.47 ( http://nmap.org ) at 1970-01-01 07:58 UTC
Nmap scan report for 169.254.0.1
Host is up (0.032s latency).
Not shown: 65528 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
111/tcp   open  rpcbind
705/tcp   open  agentx
1026/tcp  open  LSA-or-nterm
1027/tcp  open  IIS
1028/tcp  open  unknown
1029/tcp  open  ms-lsa
51515/tcp open  unknown

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 41.55 seconds
```

# Set-Top box vulns

Remote web inspector

Arbitrary file read

Root command execution

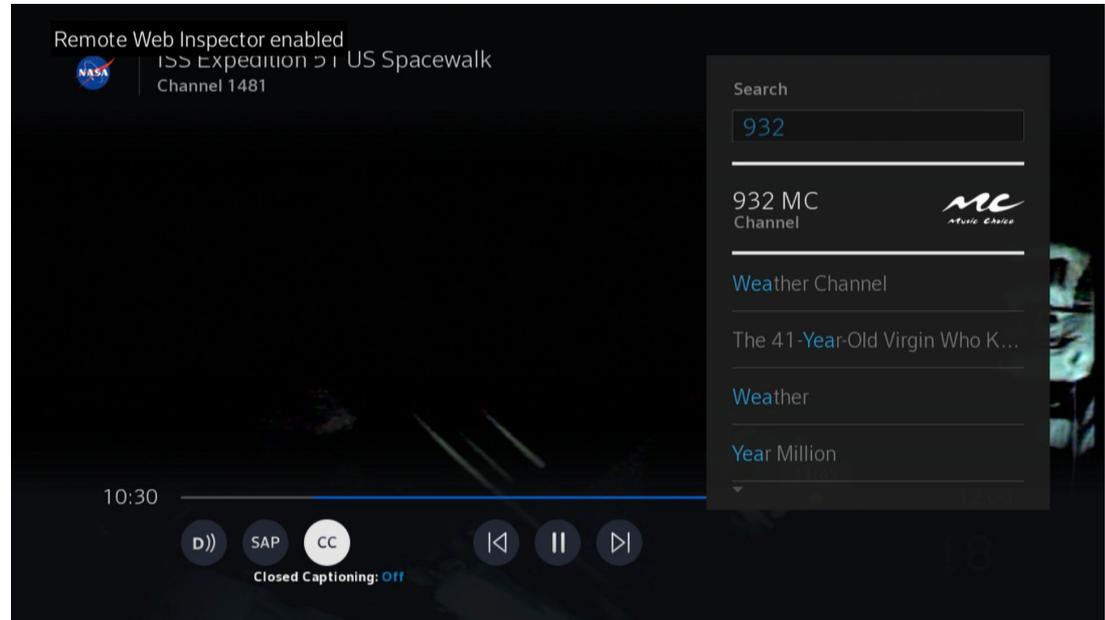
RF4CE remote force pairing

RF4CE remote force OTA

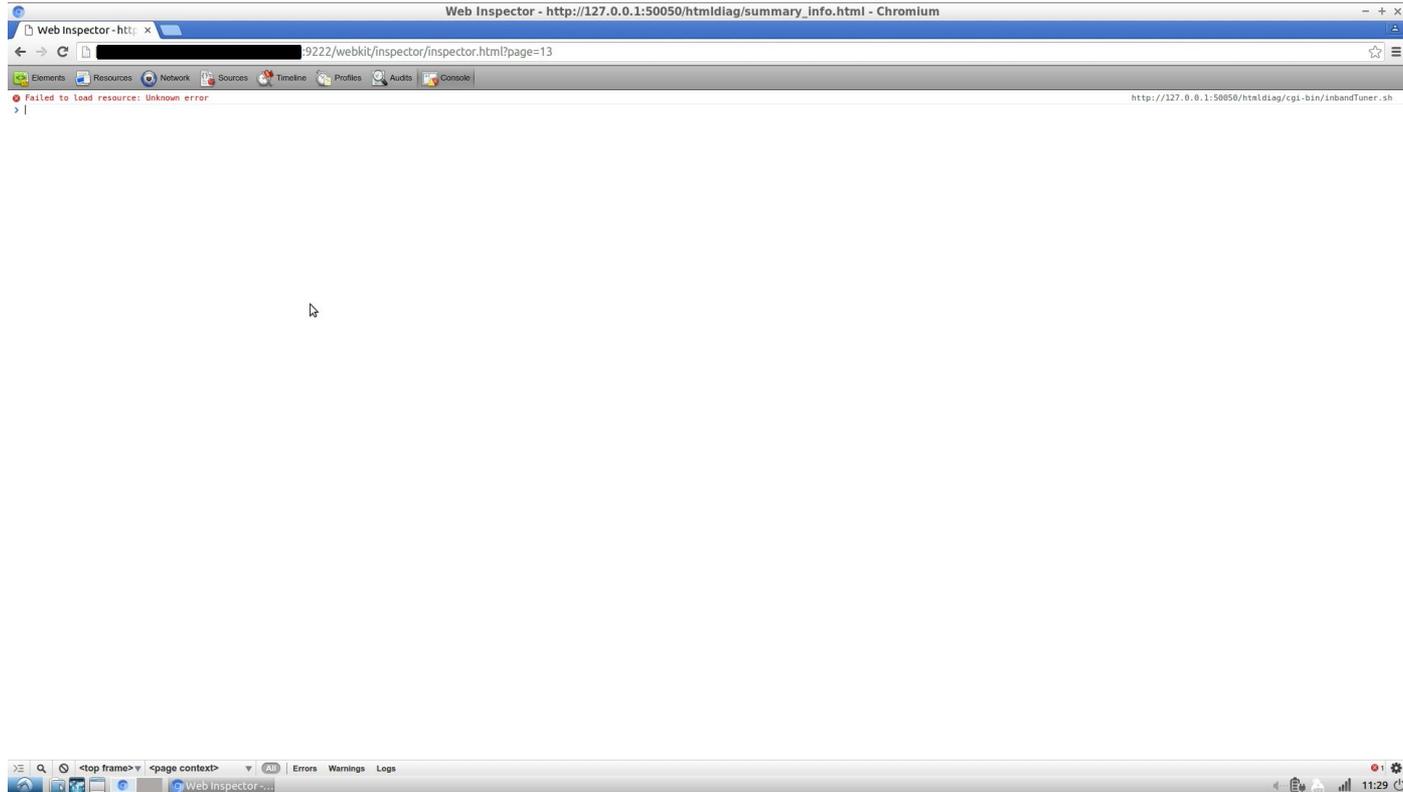
# Remote Web Inspector

Comparable to FireFox and Chrome DevTools

Accessible from over the internet



# Arbitrary file read



# Root command execution

Sanitize your post data!

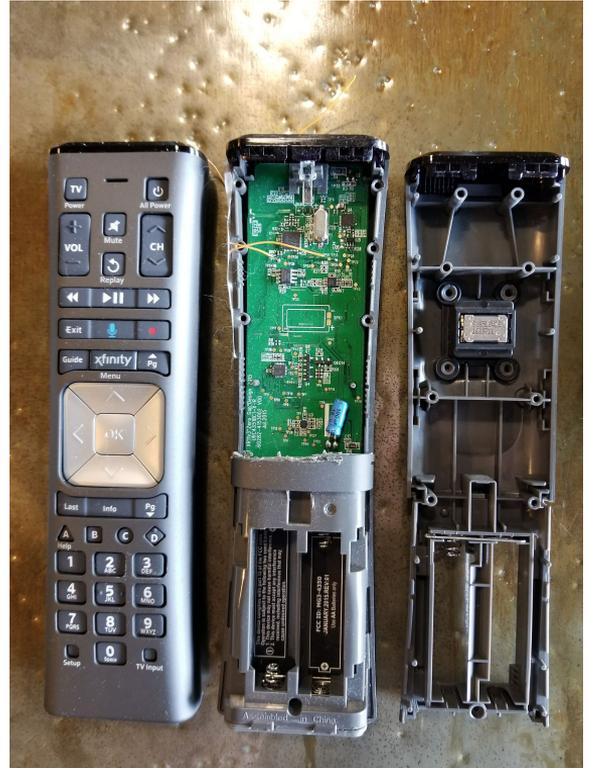
# Voice Remote Overview

Control your STB with your voice!

Wireless instead of IR!

Motion activated lights!

TI CC2530 with RF4CE stack



# RF4CE Overview

Zigbee protocol for remote control

Key exchange is unencrypted

# RF4CE MSO (OpenCable) Overview

Uses RF4CE

For remote control of cable equipment

Binding process is not rate limited

# RF4CE remote force pairing

Emulate remote

Entire binding process in under one second

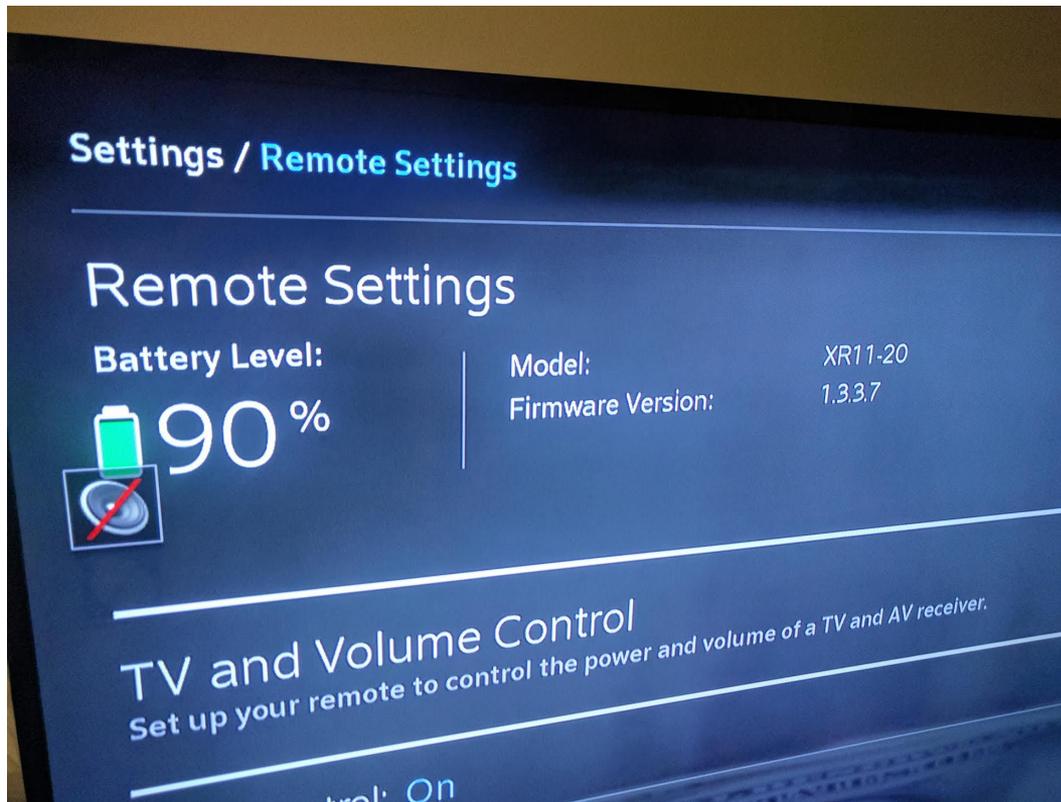
~2 hours to force pair remote



# RF4CE remote force OTA

Firmware package ISN'T signed

- 1) Modify update daemon
- 2) Modify firmware payload
- 3) Fix CRC and version
- 4) OTA :)



Disclosure

# Disclosure Timeline

- **03/27/2017** Group 1 Vendor Disclosures
- **03/28/2017** Group 2 Vendor Disclosures
- **04/20/2017** Group 3 Vendor Disclosures
- **04/28/2017** Group 4 Vendor Disclosures
- **07/28/2018** Public Disclosure (all groups)

# Remediation and Mitigation

- Unauthenticated RCE attack chains affecting Comcast XFINITY devices have been remediated
- Customers of other ISPs should contact their ISP to determine if their hardware is affected by CableTap

# Final Remarks

- Not enough time to talk about all of the vulnerabilities
- Please see our whitepaper for further details <link to whitepaper>
- We found a substantial number of vulns, but the most severe have been patched (hooray!)

# Q&A

Thank you for watching our talk :)

Thanks to Bastille for supporting our research.

Thanks to Comcast for remediating the unauthenticated RCE attack chains affecting Xfinity-branded devices.

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