



V2X Cybersecurity Onn Haran, CTO onn.haran@auto-talks.com

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V2X and Autonomous Driving

- V2X is a low-cost 360° sensor
 - ✓ Any weather, any visibility, any lighting
 - ✓ Non-line of sight operation: intersection, behind trucks, curves, etc...
- V2X facilitates road usage agreement between vehicles
 ✓ Lane merge assistance
- V2X is valuable for protecting Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs)
 ✓ Motorcycles, pedestrians
- V2X can provide accurate information from infrastructure
 Traffic light status, signs
 - ✓ Traffic light status, signs
- V2X enables Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control (CACC)

• V2X will be mandated in every new vehicle in US

System Diagram



V2X Security Basics

- Main V2X security goals are **Integrity** and **Authenticity**
 - ✓ Integrity: Information should be protected against modification or deletion
 - Authenticity: It should not be possible for an unauthorized user to pose as a valid user
- V2X communication is employing public-key cryptography to authenticate over-the-air messages
 - Signatures are calculated according to Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA) using 256 bits long keys
 - Each vehicle has many private-public key pairs
 - Frequently changed for protecting vehicle user privacy
 - Each public key is distributed in a certificate
 - \checkmark The certificates are signed by a certificate authority (CA)
 - The same cryptographic solutions can be applied in US and Europe with only minor differences

V2X Security Functions

• ECDSA signing

- Attach a signature generated with a selected private key to an outgoing V2X message
- ✓ Key requirement: Secure storage

ECDSA verification

- Check the correctness of a received signature based on an already verified public key
- ✓ Key requirement: Verification performance

Cybersecurity platform

 Prevent harmful operations in V2X unit, other units of vehicle, and V2X units of other vehicles

• Solution certification is essential to validate the security claims

Potential Attacks

- Attacking other ECUs in the vehicle via IVN (e.g. CAN)
 - ✓ Remedy: IVN transmission is only possible from a secure execution domain
- Sending fake messages to generate false alerts
 ✓ Remedy: Line-rate verification blocks all fake messages
- Sending messages using stolen private keys
 ✓ Remedy: Private keys are securely stored

Worm spreading over-the-air

- ✓ Remedy: Minimal attack surface
- Remedy: Secure gateway architecture limiting the capabilities of a compromised application



Tamper Resistant HSM

- Tamper-resistant HSMs will prevent a flood of stolen V2X private keys, potentially putting vehicle users at risk
 - As opposed to a tamper-evident HSM, a tamper-resistant HSM destroys secret keys when it detects a physical attempt to read them
 - Tamper-resistant HSM blocks cheap physical methods for copying private keys from a V2X device
- Side-channel protection prevents key extraction by monitoring time and static and dynamic power consumption
- A large amount of V2X certificate revocations will overwhelm the capacity of CRL distribution and storage systems
- Tamper-resistant HSM is best practice in industries where private keys are stored outside of a secure environment (e.g. credit cards)

Verify-All

- ECDSA verification of all incoming V2X messages
- Unverified V2X messages
 can never affect the vehicle
- No received message, including emergency, is ever missed
- Not requiring applications to decide whether a message should be verified
 - Simplifies application security design and testing

 Assumptions about incoming message rate fail when it matters



- I-94 road, Galesburg, MI
- January 9th 2015
- 193 vehicles involved

Verify-All vs. Verify-on-Demand

Verify-All

- V2X facilities and apps are never exposed to untrusted data
- Minimal potential contamination

Verify-on-Demand

- All layers are exposed to untrusted data
- Any database can be contaminated
- Imposing unquantifiable risk



Cryptographic Agility

- Existing curves might be upgraded in the future
- Cryptographic agility is required
 - Users will not agree to disable V2X after enjoying the benefits
 - OEMs will have to replace equipment if not upgradable
- Design requirements
 - ✓ Field update of curves
 - Verification performance should be maintained at long curves
 - Signing latency should be low at long curves



V2X Secure Gateway (V2X-SG)









Thank you!

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