



Smart Cards

NFC Tools

read and write NFC tags
by *wakdev*



App Store

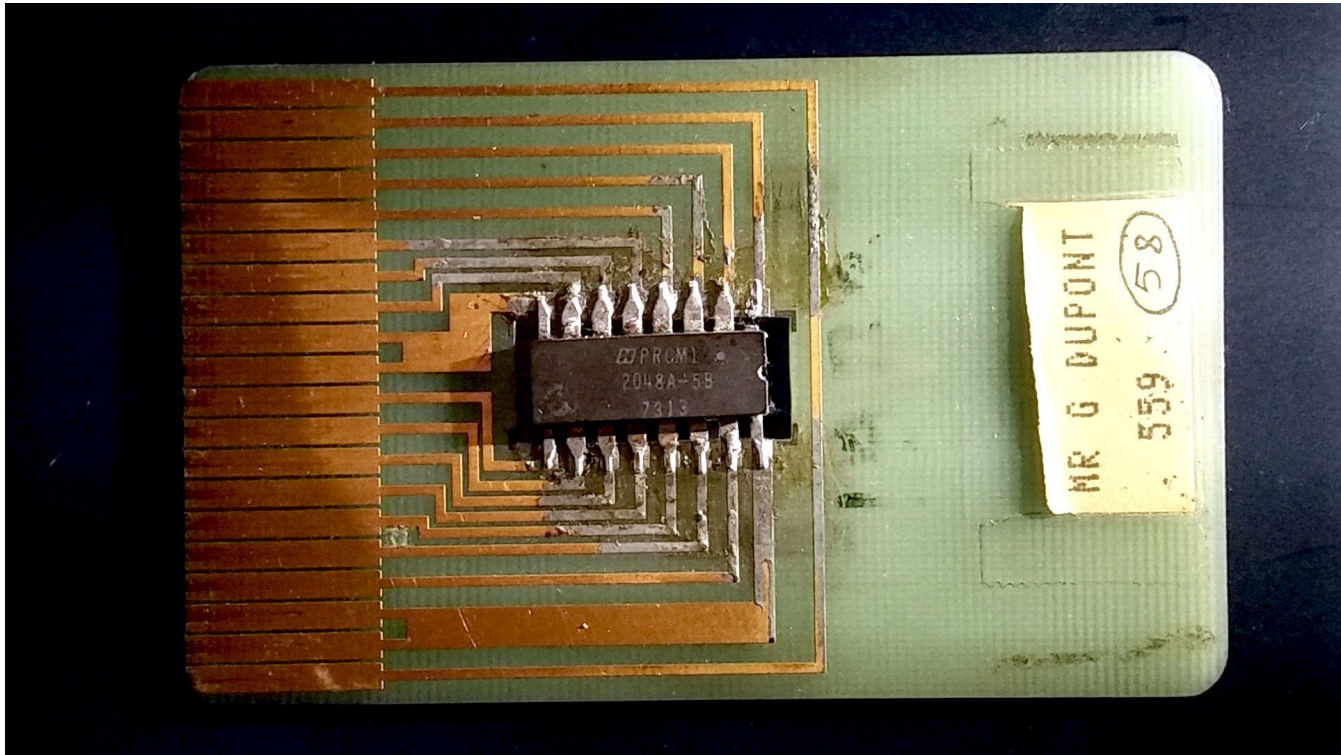


Play Store



The Beginning of smart cards

- Mid 1970s: first smart card
 - Storage device
- 1979: Michel Ugon from Bull invents the first microprocessor smart card with two chips: "Bull CP8"
 - Storage + Processor
- Early 1980s: smart cards spread to Europe
- 1983: Card access pay phones in Europe
- 1985: U.S. becomes interested in smart cards
- Early 1990s: Smart cards spread to other parts of the world
- In Europe, nearly all bank cards have been converted to smart cards
- Smart cards today: credit and debit cards, electronic cash systems, secure authentication and identification systems, ...



PROM
2048A-5B
7213

MR G DUPONT

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58



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CP8

PHONECARD
MUSEUM

HONEYWELL BULL A/S
Otto Mønstedes Plads 9
1563 København V
Tlf.: 01 15 15 07





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Magnetic Stripe Cards

- Storing data on magnetic material attached to card
- Content can be updated
- Read by swiping it past a magnetic reading head
- Common in credit cards, identity cards, transportation tickets
- Various security flaws
- Data not protected by encryption
- Vulnerable to “skimming”

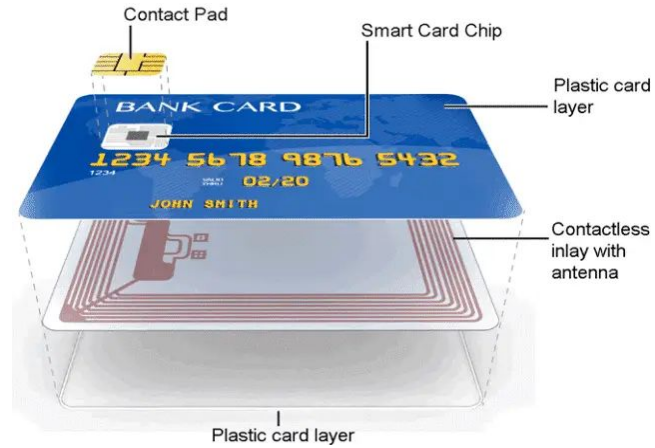


The Beginning of smart cards

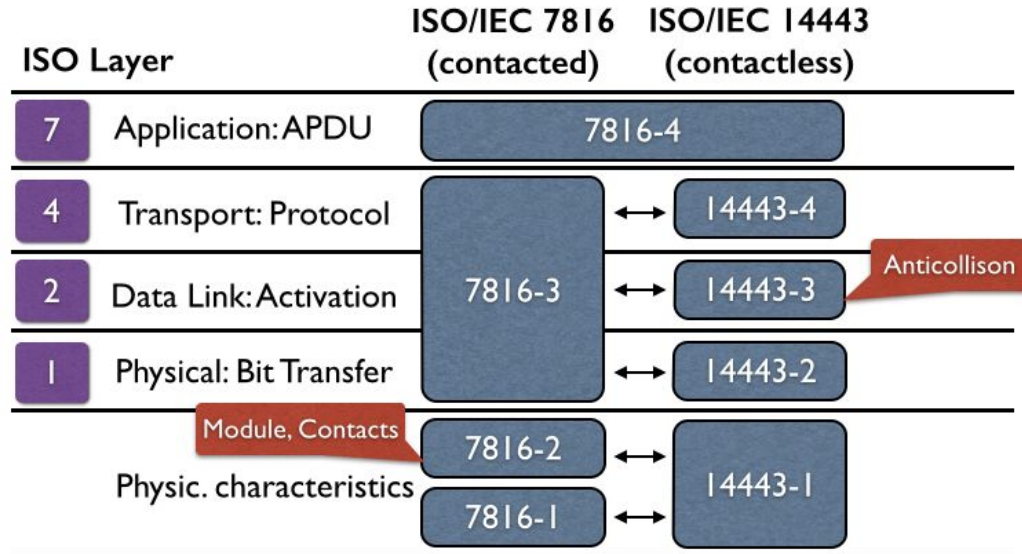
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Structure



ISO Layers





Contacted: ISO 7816-1 and 7816-2

- ISO 7816-1:
 - Physical characteristics
 - Mechanical characteristics
 - Environmental characteristics
- ISO 7816-2:
 - Location and size of contact area
 - Form and material of contacts
 - Contact arrangement



Contactless ISO 14443-1

- ISO 14443-1
 - Physical characteristics of contactless cards
 - Dimensions and tolerances of the card and antenna
 - Frequency range and modulation
 - Power level requirements
 - Test procedures for evaluating the card's performance

Types of Smart Cards



Contact Smart Cards

- Require physical contact with a card reader.
When inserted:
 - Card powers up
 - Communicates with reader
- Common in debit and credit cards
 - Card needs to be inserted into a reader and then enter their pin code

Contactless Smart Cards

- These cards use RFID / NFC to communicate with a card reader
- Transportation cards, Access control, Electronic wallets



RFID

- “Radio-Frequency Identification”
- One-way communication between an active reader and passive tag.
- Uses different frequencies, including 125 kHz, 13.56 MHz, and 860-960 MHz.
- Longer communication range, up to several meters.



NFC

- Evolved from RFID and supports RFID Type A, Type B.
- Enables two-way communication, allowing peer-to-peer data exchange.
- Operates at 13.56 MHz frequency.
- Shorter communication range, typically up to 4 cm.
- Common applications include mobile payments, transit ticketing, and data sharing between devices.



Dual-interface smart cards

- Both contact and contactless interfaces
- Increasingly popular for banking applications
- Flexible
- Work for both interfaces
- Payments, transportation and access control



Host Card Emulation (HCE)

- Most modern phones have a NFC antenna
- Allows Device to read and emulate various NFC cards
- Functionality is locked behind a strict API
 - Usually has a private emulation address space (08 XX XX XX)
 - iOS also limits access to very specific use cases
 - can be bypassed by Jailbreaking/Rooting the device
- Technology that powers Apple Pay and Google Pay
 - Payments at any payment terminal that accepts traditional cards

Communication



APDU: Application Protocol Data Unit

- Communication protocol
- Data transfer between Card and Reader
- Command APDU
- Response APDU



Command APDU

- CLA (1 Byte): type of command
- INS (1 Byte): specifies command
- P1 - P2 (2 Byte): parameters
- Lc (0, 1 or 3 Bytes): encodes the number of bytes of the command data:
- Data / Nc:
 - Variable length (Lc)
 - Instruction data
- Le (0, 1, 2 or 3 Bytes): expected length of response

Command APDU						
Command APDU Header				Lc	Data	Le
CLA	INS	P1	P2			
CLA: Class byte (command-ID), INS: Instruction, P1, P2: Parameter, Lc: Length of command data, Data: Command data, Le: Length of expected data						



Response APDU

- Variable data length followed by 2 bytes
- Data: response data for reader device
- SW: status of command
 - Success:
 - SW1: '90'
 - SW2: '00'
 - Failure:
 - SW1: error code
 - SW2: additional information about error

Response APDU		
Data	SW1	SW2
Data: Response data, SW1, SW2: Status Word		



UID

- “Unique Identifier”: unique identification number assigned to a contactless smart card in its first sector
- Generated by manufacturer and cannot be changed
- The use of UID as a form of security is limited
- Often used for simple access control systems

Demo Time!

(Access Control)

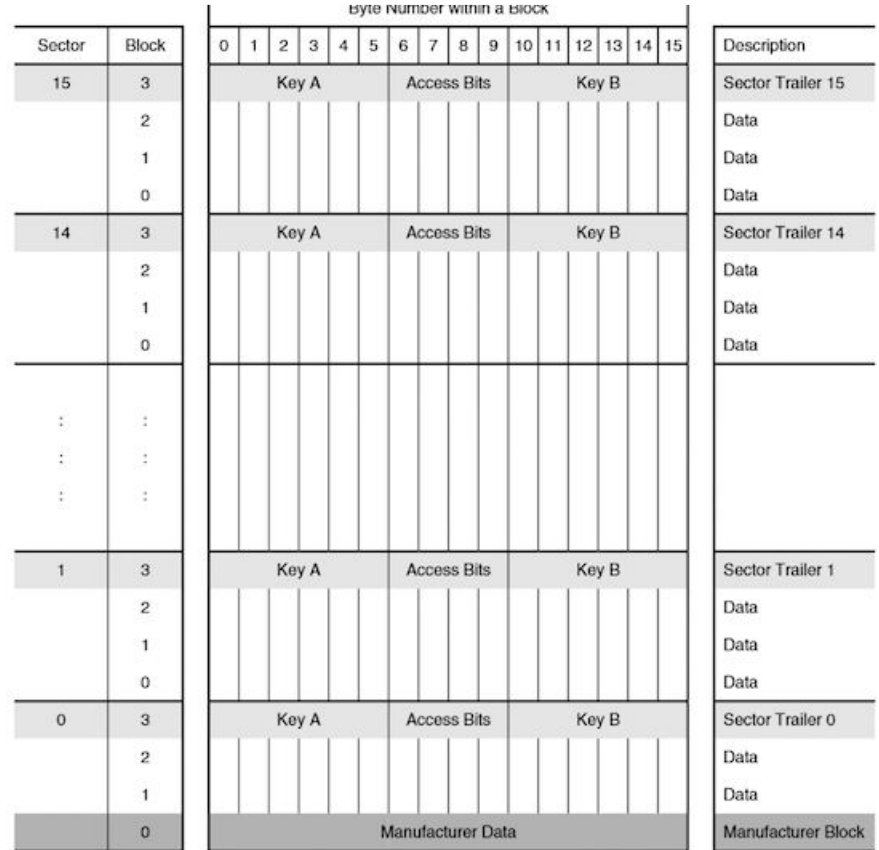


“Crypto” Cards

- Security-wise more sophisticated than UID-based systems
- Have an onboard crypto chip for key authentication
- To be able to read or write, you need to provide the correct key(s)
- Useful for public transport, vending machines, hotel cards etc.

MIFARE Classic

- First card since the 90s
 - very safe (at first)
- Data organized in blocks and sectors
 - Data Blocks
 - UID Block
 - Sector Trailer Blocks
 - authentication keys
 - access control



MIFARE Classic

- Access Bits
 - describe the allowance of the keys
 - stored in 3 Bytes: reversed, normal and mixed
- Example: $C1_3=1, C2_3=1, C3_3=1$
 - A & B sector read only

Table 6. Access conditions

Access Bits	Valid Commands		Block	Description
$C1_3, C2_3, C3_3$	read, write	→	3	sector trailer
$C1_2, C2_2, C3_2$	read, write, increment, decrement, transfer, restore	→	2	data block
$C1_1, C2_1, C3_1$	read, write, increment, decrement, transfer, restore	→	1	data block
$C1_0, C2_0, C3_0$	read, write, increment, decrement, transfer, restore	→	0	data block

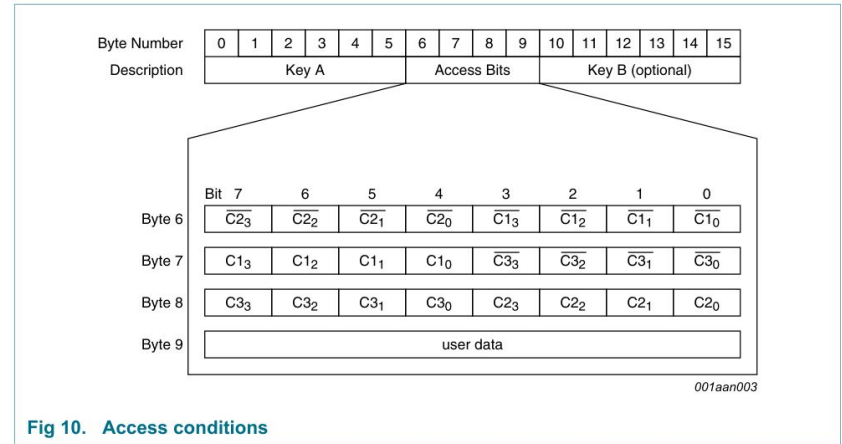


Fig 10. Access conditions

MIFARE Classic

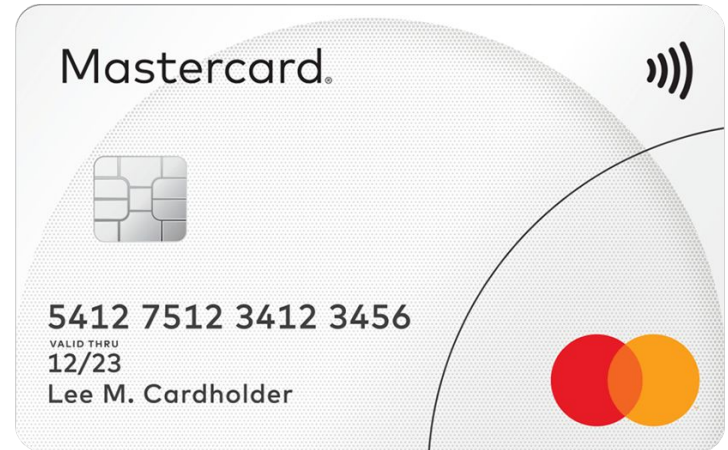
- Crypto-1:
 - Designed by NXP
- Data not readable without authentication





EMV Standard: Introduction

- EMV: Europay, Mastercard, Visa collaboration
- Global standard for chip-based payment cards
- Enhanced security over magnetic stripe cards
- Widely adopted, reduces fraud and counterfeiting
- Chip stores cardholder data securely
- Enables secure online and offline transactions



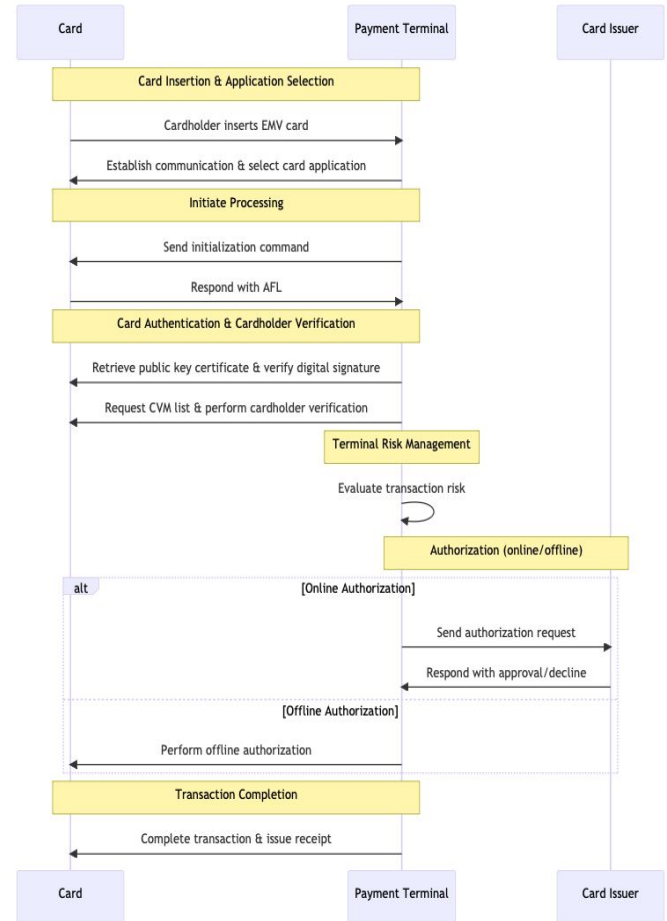
EMV Transaction Flow (1/3)

- Cardholder inserts EMV card into payment terminal, initiating transaction
- Payment terminal establishes communication with card's chip for data exchange
- Terminal assesses card applications, selects appropriate app (e.g., debit or credit) based on transaction type and its own capabilities
- Terminal sends initialization command, card responds with Application File Locator (AFL), providing files and records needed for transaction



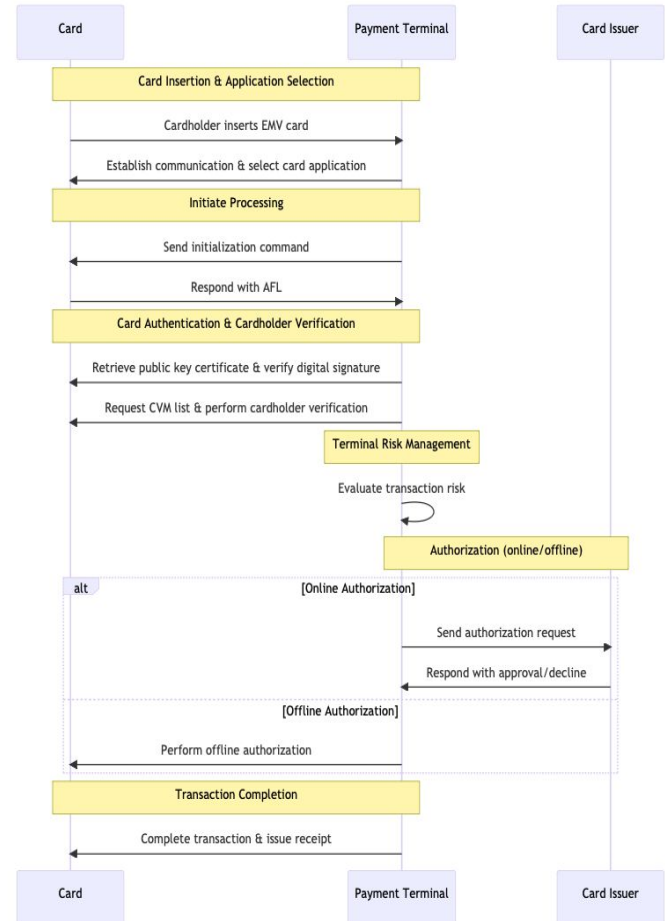
EMV Transaction Flow (2/3)

- Terminal retrieves card's public key certificate
 - verifies authenticity by validating digital signature
- Terminal requests Cardholder Verification Method (CVM) list from card
 - chooses suitable CVM
 - verifies cardholder identity
- Terminal evaluates online and offline transaction based on risk management parameters
 - floor limit checks,
 - random transaction selection for online authorization



EMV Transaction Flow (3/3)

- Online authorization
 - terminal sends request to card issuer, issuer evaluates, responds with approval/decline
- Offline authorization
 - terminal uses card's risk management capabilities, cryptographic techniques for approval
- Approved transaction leads to completion, receipt issuance, and potentially a Transaction Certificate (TC) proof of authenticity





Cryptography in EMV - Asymmetric Cryptography

- Public/private key pairs essential for securing digital signatures and card authentication
- Card's private key never leaves the chip, public key shared via certificate
- RSA: popular choice in EMV, large prime numbers offer strong security
- ECC: more efficient than RSA, smaller key sizes save computational power and memory in devices like smart cards



Cryptography in EMV - Symmetric Cryptography

- Symmetric algorithms protect sensitive data during card-terminal communication
- Secret key shared between card and terminal for data encryption/decryption
- Triple DES (3DES): widely used in EMV for “secure” messaging and session key derivation
- AES: faster and more secure than 3DES, adoption in EMV gradually increasing for enhanced security



Cryptography in EMV - Key Management

- Effective key management crucial for EMV security
- Static keys: consistent throughout card's lifecycle, stored securely in chip, used for card authentication
- Dynamic keys: generated on-the-fly during transactions for specific tasks (e.g., secure messaging, session key derivation), temporary and discarded once transaction is completed
- EMV key management processes ensure secure key generation, storage, and usage

Attack vectors on smart cards

UID-Cloning

- Simple Access Control Systems only check for a matching UID
- UID is placed in memory sector 0, which is not writeable (on “genuine” cards)
- As only NXP knows how to manufacture RFID tags, this system is safe



Kategorien

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Scannen oder Klicken Sie zum Download

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2 verkauft
5 stücke 13,5 MHZ UID Veränderb...
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i You last purchased this item on 14 Apr 2023

Colour Name: Pack Of 10 | [View order details](#)



Roll over image to zoom in



KDL Smart RFID 13.56MHz Card Rewritable UID Removable PVC Material for MF1 1K S50 Card Clone Block 0 S0 S0 Empty, UIDcard-10

Brand: Kadongli

4.1 27 ratings

Amazon's Choice for "mifare classic 1k uid changeable"

€7³⁶

prime

Prices for items sold by Amazon include VAT. Depending on your delivery address, VAT may vary at Checkout. For other items, please see [details](#).

Colour Name: **Pack Of 10**



- 1, Betriebsfrequenz: 13,56 Mhz.
- 2, Eigenschaften: lesbar und wiederbeschreibbar. UID änderbar.
- 3, Protokoll: ISO 14443-A.
- 4, Material: PVC-Kunststoff.
- 5, Größe: 86 * 54 * 0,84 mm.

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UID Cloning - Magic Cards

- Chinese Clones exist
- They do not have this artificial limitation
- As Sector 0 is writeable, the UID can be easily changed (eg. using libnfc)
- Attack only needs brief physical “access” to a valid RFID tag:

<https://youtu.be/cbgHZgO6wiE?t=3320>



Demo Time!

(UID Cloning)



UID Cloning - Mitigations

- Reader device attempts to write to Sector 0 of the card
- Deny access if successful, indicating detection of a magic card
- Invalidate suspected magic cards by writing all 0x00 to it (optional)
- Magic cards can however be configured to be read-only or block write attempts
- Limit reliance on UID for security-critical operations

MIFARE Classic - How to not implement your Crypto

- MIFARE Classic cards use the CRYPTO1 cipher
- Proprietary Stream Cipher designed by NXP, they decided to keep the implementation secret
- More than 3,5 billions cards was produced over the years
- Dec. 2007: Nohl & Plötz present Crypto-1 reverse engineering at CCC.
- Mar. 2008: Radboud Univ. fully reverse engineers Crypto-1; NXP attempts to block publication.
- Jul. 2008: Court allows paper publication on free speech grounds.
- Oct. 2008: Radboud Univ. publishes open-source Crypto-1 implementation (GNU GPL v2).
- Public exploits emerge, compromising Mifare Classic card reputation.





MIFARE Classic - Weaknesses of CRYPTO-1

- Keys: 48-bit length, brute-force possible with FPGA (~10h for one key).
- LFSR (Linear Feedback Shift Register) in RNG is predictable (constant initial condition); random numbers depend on clock cycles.
- Attacker can control generated random numbers by manipulating protocol, enabling key recovery.

Different attacks have emerged

- Card-Only Attacks:
 - Nested Attack: Introduced 2009 by Nijmegen Oakland (MFOC tool).
 - Dark-Side Attack: Introduced 2009 by Nicolas Courtois (MFCUK tool).
- Proxmark3 + Active Sniffing:
 - Proxmark3 allows emulation of Mifare cards by sniffing & replaying communication.

Proxmark3 + Active Sniffing:

- Proxmark3 is considered the “eierlegende Wollmilchsau” for RFID pentesting, analysis and research
- Attacker intercepts communication between MIFARE card & reader.
- Attacker obtains UID & keys for emulation and key recovery.
- Requires close proximity to card & reader for successful capture.





MIFARE Classic - Nested Attack (Overview)

- Authenticate to the block with default key and read tag's Nonce N_t (determined by LFSR)
- Authenticate to the same block with default key and read tag's Nonce N_t' (determined by LFSR)
- Compute “timing distance” (number of LFSR shifts)
- Guess the next N_t value, calculate ks_1 , ks_2 and ks_3 and try authenticate to a different block.



MIFARE Classic - Dark-Side-Attack (Overview)

- During authentication, when the reader sends its Nonce $\{Nr\}$ and Key $\{Ar\}$, the tag checks the parity bits before checking the correctness of Ar . If one of the eight parity bits is incorrect, the tag does not respond.
- However, if all eight parity bits are correct, but the response Ar is incorrect, the tag will respond with a 4-bit error code $0x5$ (NACK) indicating a transmission error. Moreover, this 4-bit error code is sent encrypted.
- If the attacker combine (XOR) the error code $0x5$ value (known plaintext) with its encrypted version, he can recover four keystream bits.

Demo Time!

(MIFARE Classic)

If interested, tools used and more details can be found here:

<https://www.blackhat.com/docs/sp-14/materials/arsenal/sp-14-Almeida-Hacking-MIFARE-Classic-Cards-Slides.pdf>

<https://github.com/nfc-tools/mfoc>

<https://github.com/nfc-tools/mfcuk>



MIFARE Classic - Now what?

- NXP responded with "hardened" cards like MIFARE Classic EV1 (released around 2011),
 - in 2015, a new attack could recover secret keys from hardened variants
- NXP recommends migrating to higher security products.
 - MIFARE DESFire: Side-channel attack discovered in 2010; NXP claims difficulty in replication.
 - MIFARE Ultralight: Fare card manipulation demonstrated by Intrepidus in 2012.
 - MIFARE Ultralight EV1: Introduced with three decrement-only counters to address reloading attacks.
- Basically, do not use it
 - However, migration costs \$\$\$ (quite a lot of that)
 - therefore still widely used today:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIFARE#Places_that_use_MIFARE_products

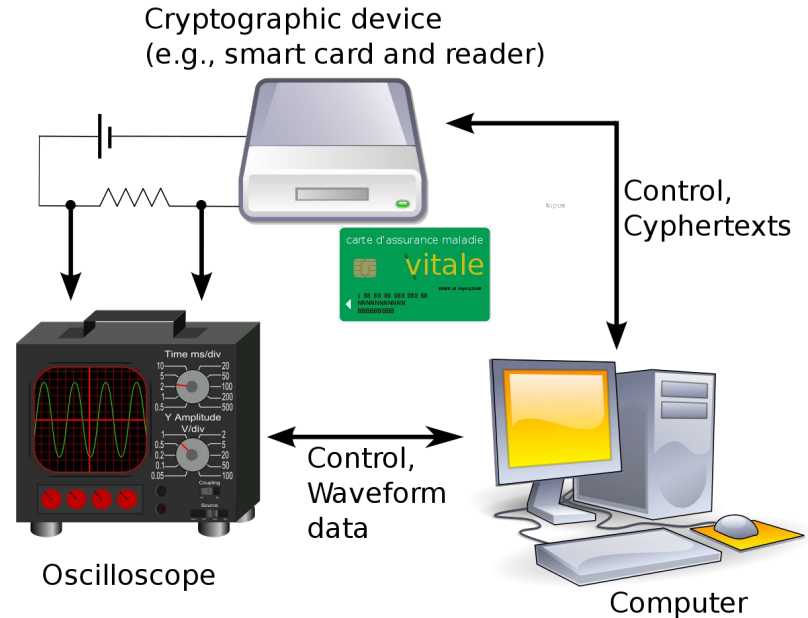


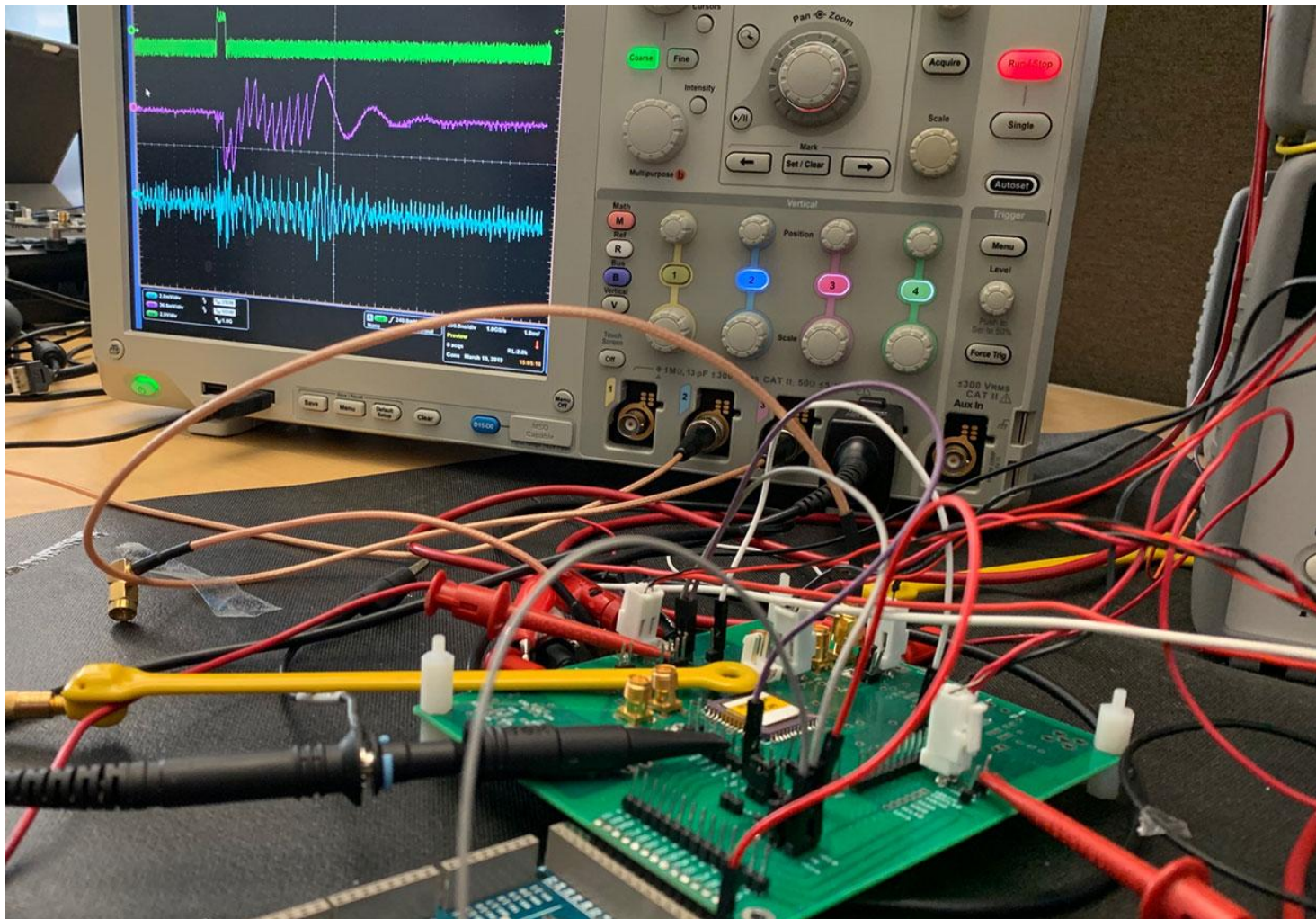
Sophisticated Attacks - for EMV and similar cards

- Store essential information like cardholder details, card number, expiration date, and a dynamic security code
- Security-wise far more advanced than typical smart cards
- Cryptographic operations are performed locally, Authentication secrets never leave the chip
- Combination of symmetric and asymmetric cryptography for secure communication and transaction authorization makes it difficult or impossible to sniff in on communication
- Primary Goal: Extract secrets like Private Keys, PIN or dynamic security codes from the chip
- Use case for the following methods: I have “acquired” a very high value smart card, but need an additional factor for authentication, which is verified by the card itself.

Side Channel Attacks

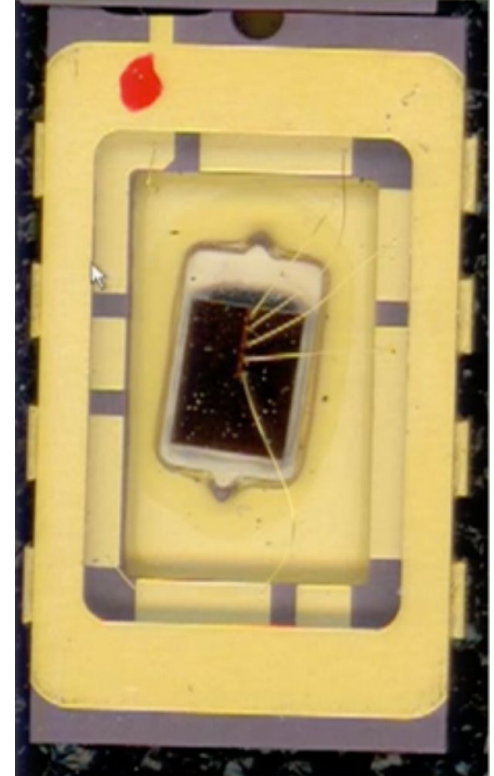
- Exploiting Unintended Information Leakage
- Types: Simple Power Analysis (SPA), Differential Power Analysis (DPA), Electromagnetic Analysis (EMA)
- Targeting power consumption, electromagnetic emissions, and timing information
- Revealing cryptographic keys or sensitive data
- Countermeasures: adding noise, randomizing timing of operations

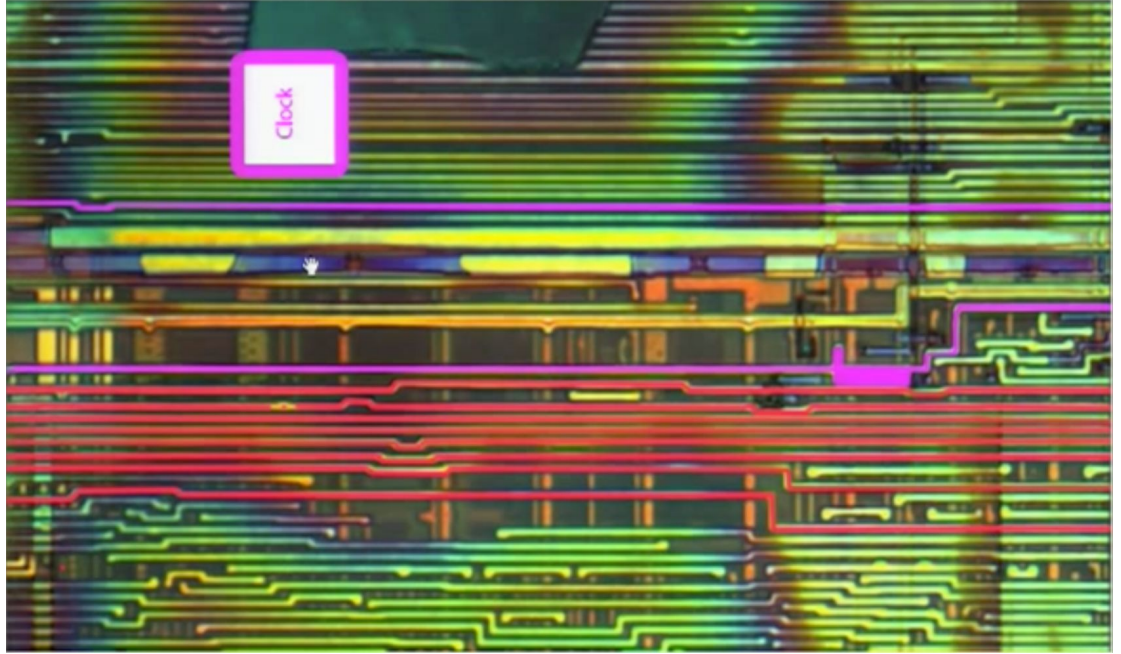
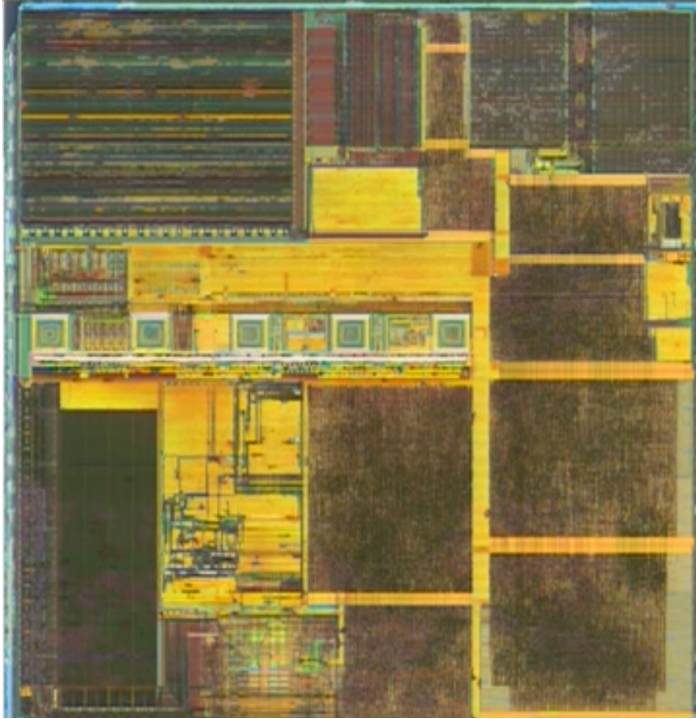




Microprobing

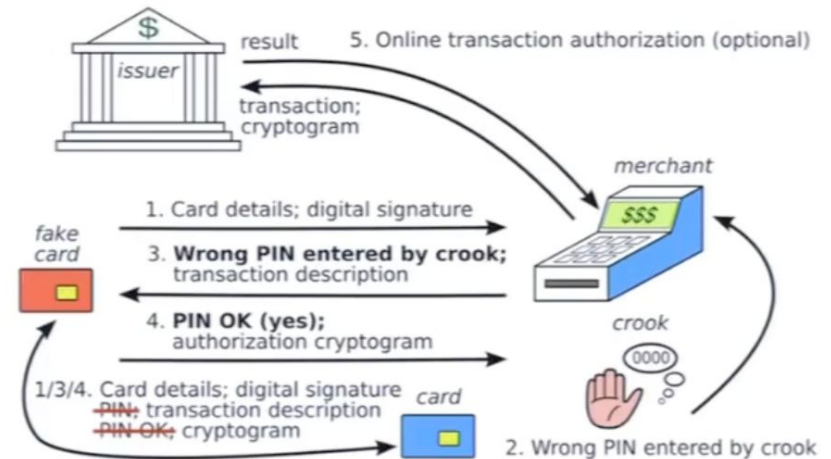
- Physically accessing chip's internal components using microscopic needles
- Monitoring or manipulating signals to reveal sensitive information or bypass security
- Reverse engineering chip design to identify targets for microprobing
- Requires high skill, specialized equipment, and access to the target chip
- Potentially damaging the chip or triggering tamper-evident mechanisms
- Less common and more challenging compared to other attacks due to technical barriers





EMV Protocol Attacks - No-PIN Attack

- Bypassing PIN authentication by manipulating transaction data
- Tricking terminal into believing the correct PIN has been entered
- Enabling unauthorized transactions, compromising payment system security
- Demonstrated in BlackHat talk "How Smartcard Payment Systems Fail"
- Protecting against No-PIN attacks: proper security measures & monitoring transaction data
- See: <https://youtu.be/ET0MFkRorbo?t=1671>





Bypassing all of that - Skimming EMV Cards

Despite not spitting out PINs or Private Keys, it is shocking how much information a EMV card provides without any authentication at all. This levels the ground for skimming devices.

- Small, illicit devices (“skimmers”) placed over or inside card readers
- Capturing card data, including number, expiration date, and cardholder's name
- Stolen data used for fraudulent transactions or sold on the dark web
- Protecting against skimming: cardholder vigilance & inspecting card readers
- Merchants' role: security measures, tamper-evident seals & regular inspections

Demo Time!

(Card Skimming)



Thank you for listening!