Exploiting Out-of-Order-Execution

Processor Side Channels to Enable Cross VM Code Execution

Sophia D’Antoine

REcon 2015

```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31...
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

The Cloud

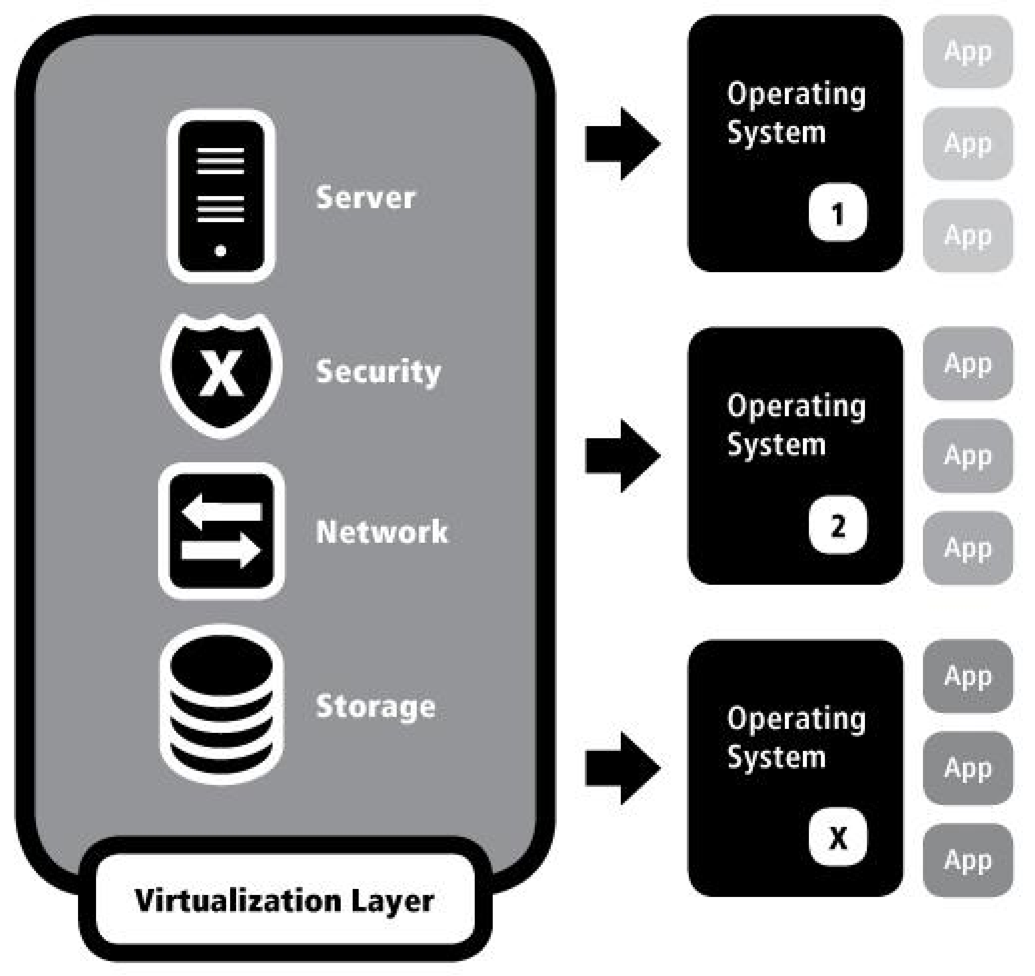
DEMAND A SAFER CLOUD

client-side encryption, server-side computation

beginning with encrypted search

Cloud Computing (IaaS)

- Virtual instances
- Hypervisors



Dynamic allocation

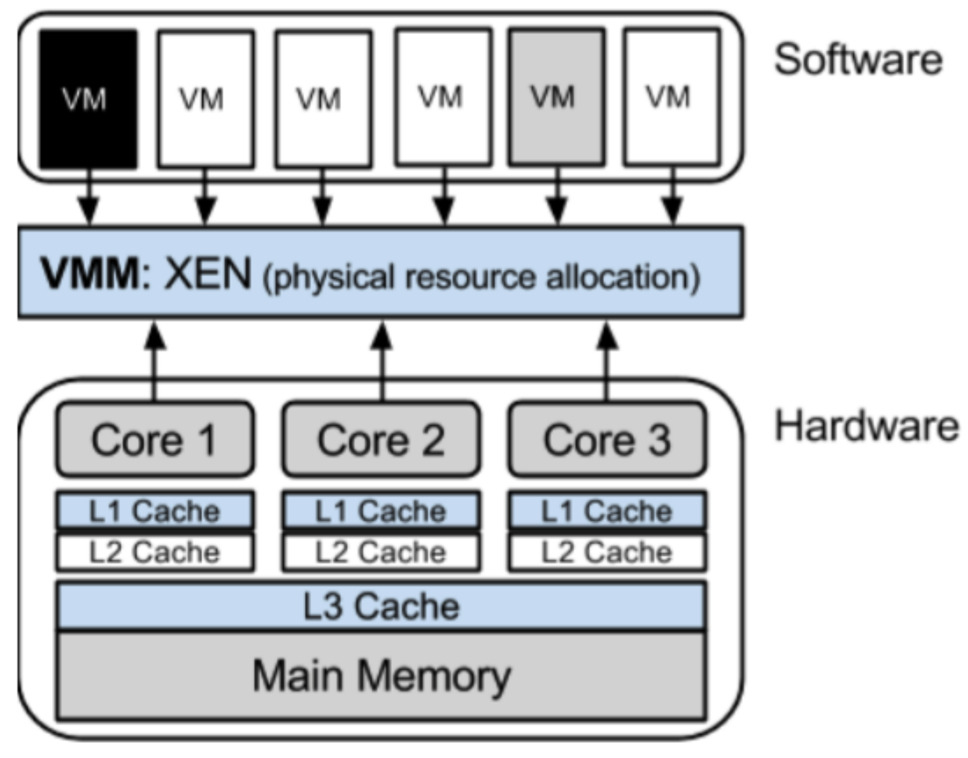
=> Reduces cost

Everyone’s Happy

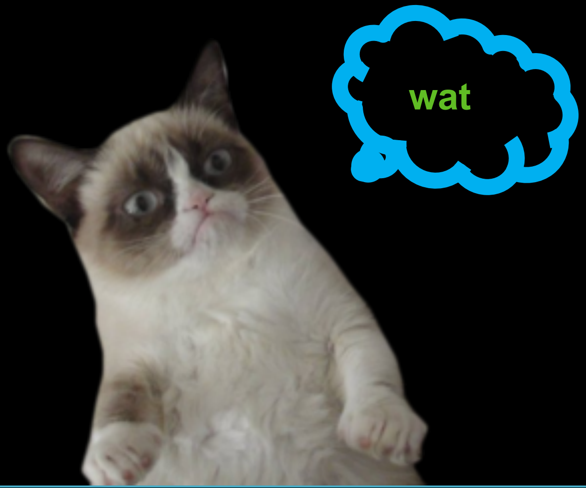
Problems with the Cloud

Security issues with cloud computing

- Sensitive data stored remotely
- Vulnerable host
- Untrusted host
- Co-located with foreign VM's

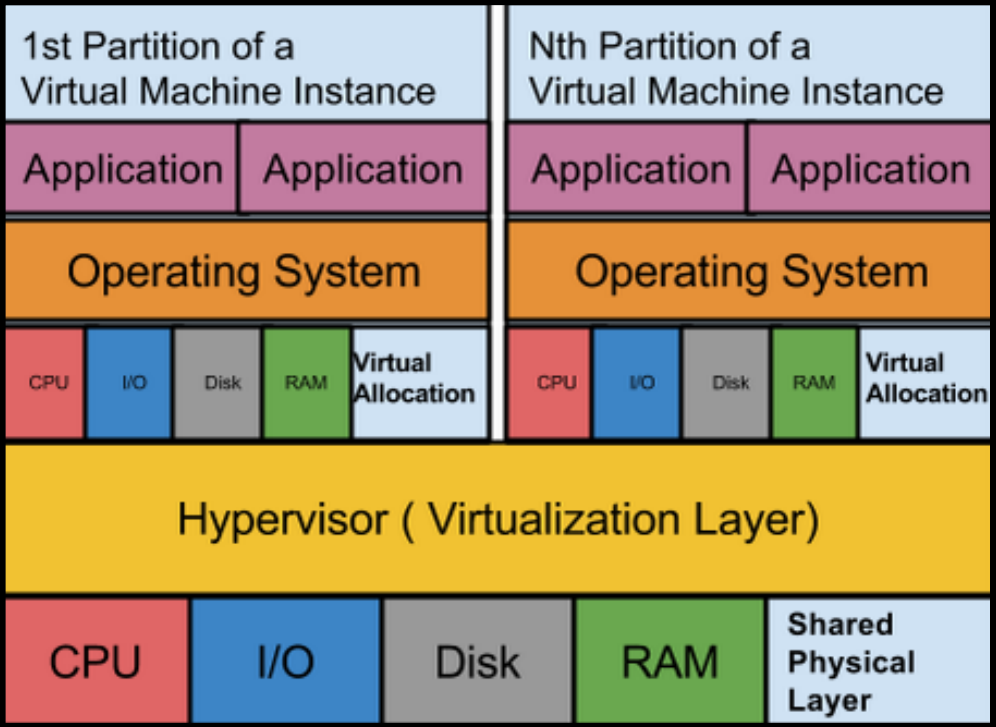


Physical co-location leads to side channel vulnerabilities.



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; -----------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Cloud Hardware



1st Partition of a Virtual Machine Instance

Application | Application

Operating System

CPU | I/O | Disk | RAM | Virtual Allocation

Nth Partition of a Virtual Machine Instance

Application | Application

Operating System

CPU | I/O | Disk | RAM | Virtual Allocation

Hypervisor (Virtualization Layer)

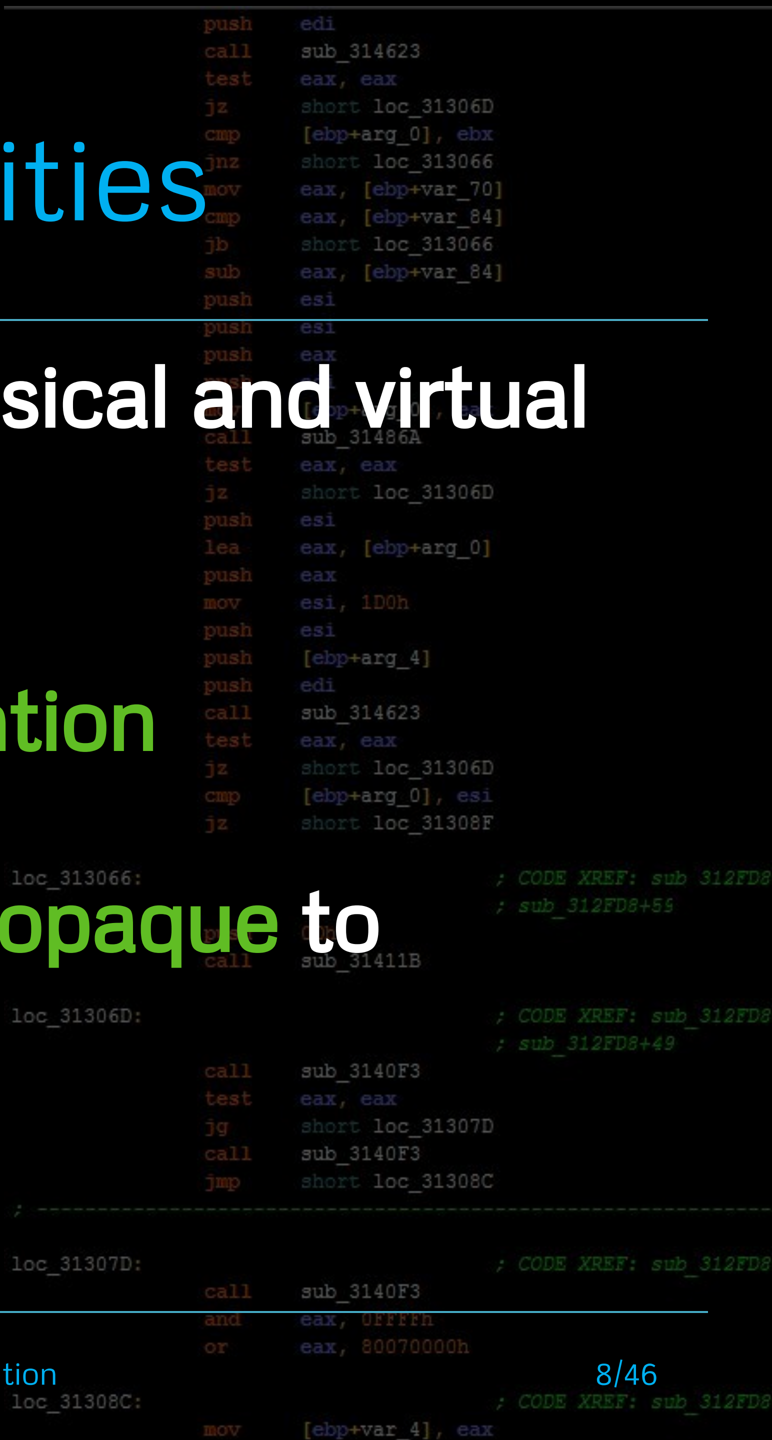
CPU | I/O | Disk | RAM | Shared Physical Layer

Universal Vulnerabilities

1) Translation between physical and virtual hardware based on need

2) Allocation causes contention

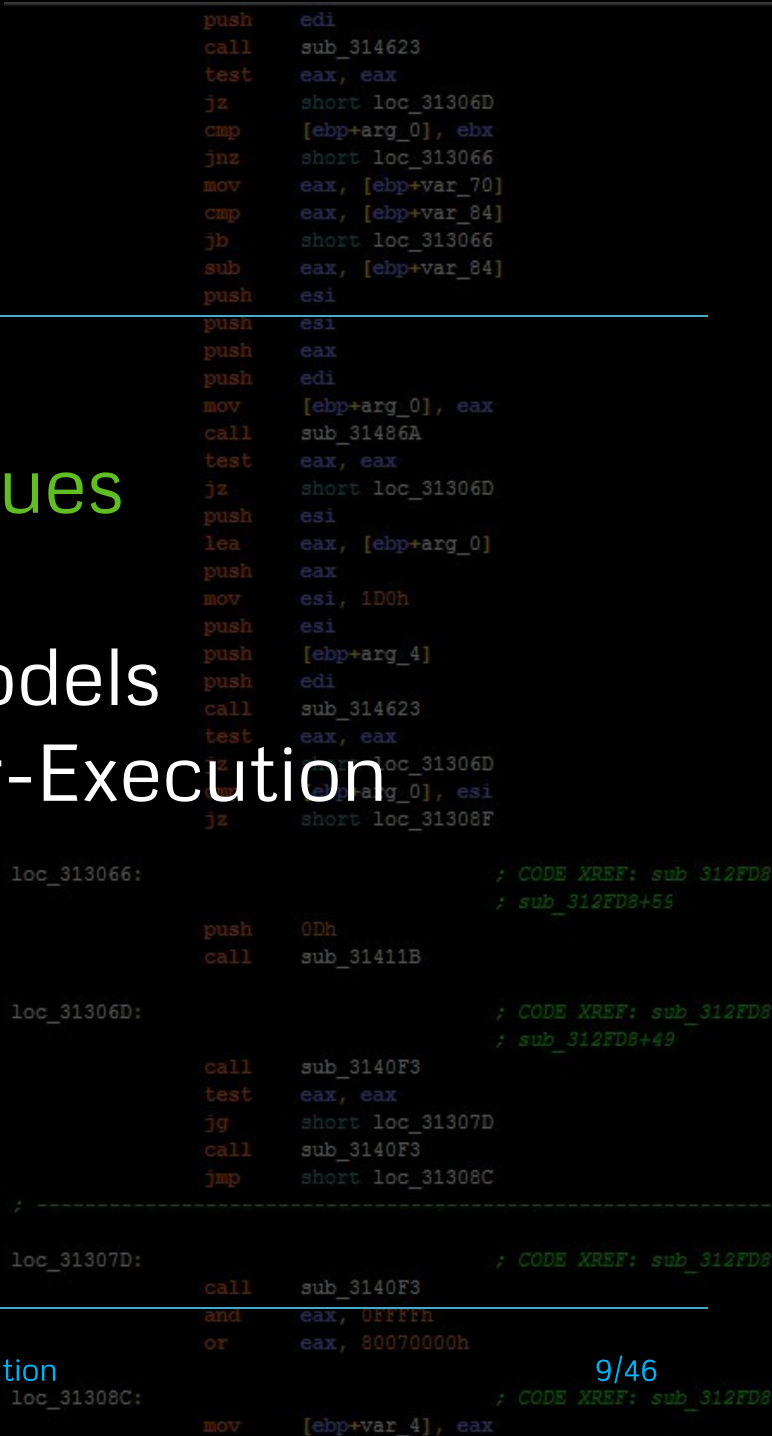
3) Private VM activities not opaque to co-residents



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    [illegible]
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Overview

1. Introduction
2. Cloud exploitation techniques
3. Targeting the processor
4. Importance of memory models
5. Design of an Out-of-Order-Execution channel
6. Demo
7. Conclusion



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Side Channel Attack

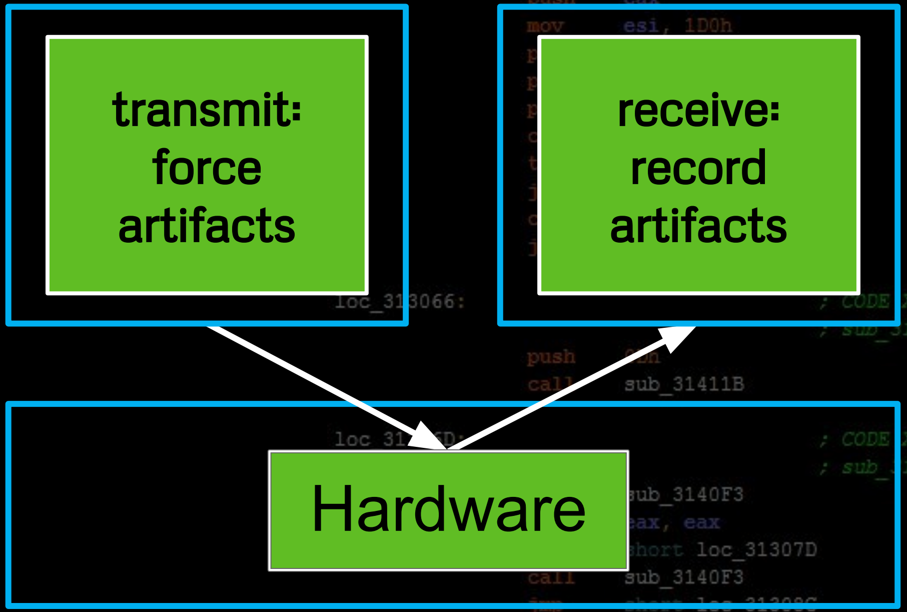
"In cryptography, a **side-channel** attack is any attack based on information gained from the physical implementation of a cryptosystem"

Cloud Computing

- Hardware side channel
- Cross virtual machine
- Information gained through recordable changes in the system

Classification S/R Model

- Hardware agnostic
- Two methods of interacting
  - Transmit
  - Receive



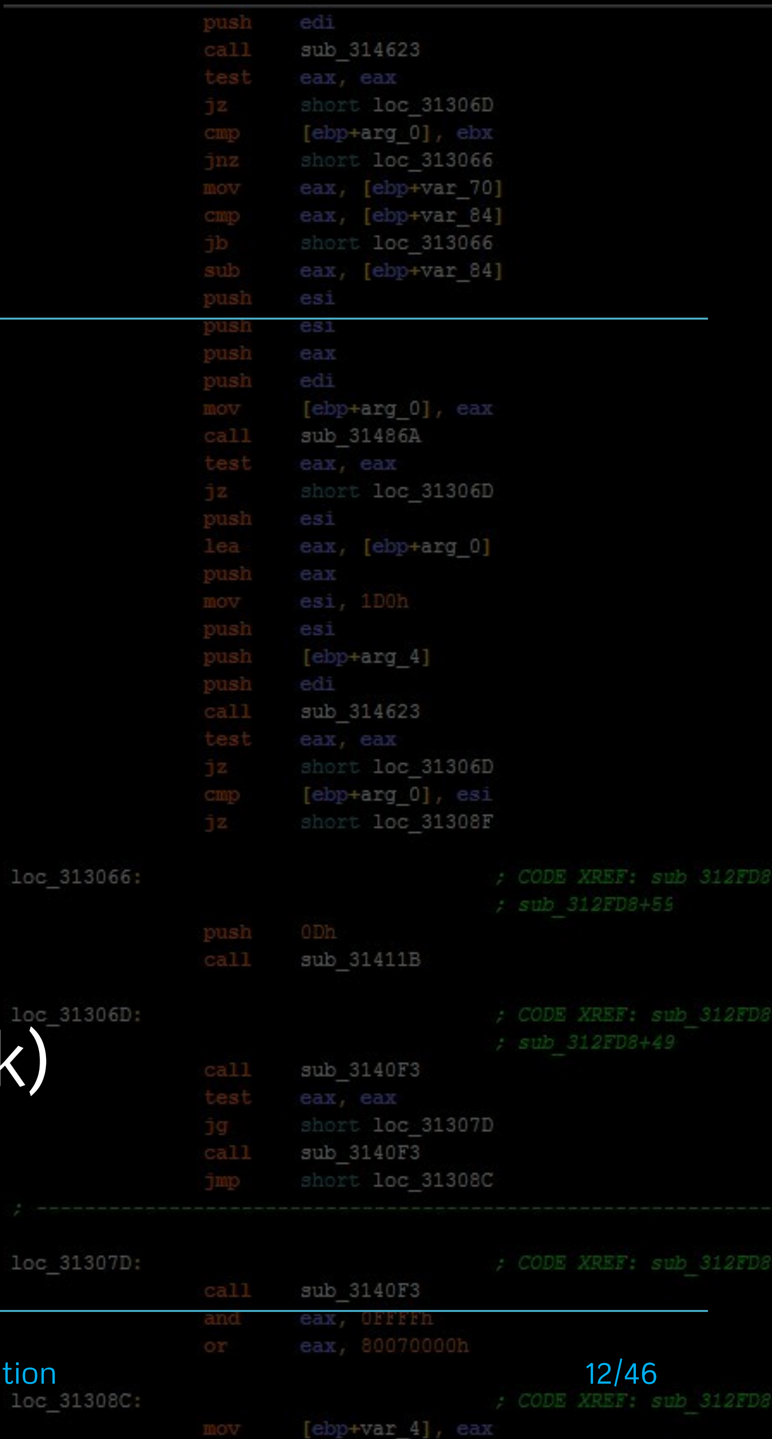
transmit: force artifacts

receive: record artifacts

Hardware

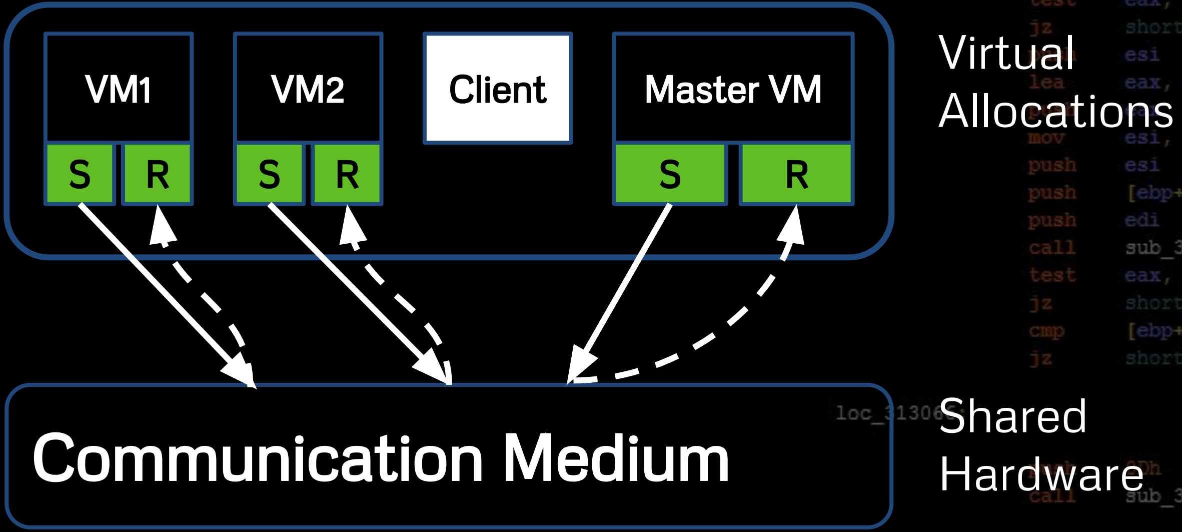
Possible Exploits

- Receive (exfiltrate)
  1. crypto key theft
  2. process monitoring
  3. environment keying
  4. broadcast signal
- Transmit (infiltrate)
  1. DoS
  2. co-residency
- Transmit & Receive (network)
  1. communication (C&C)



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Communication

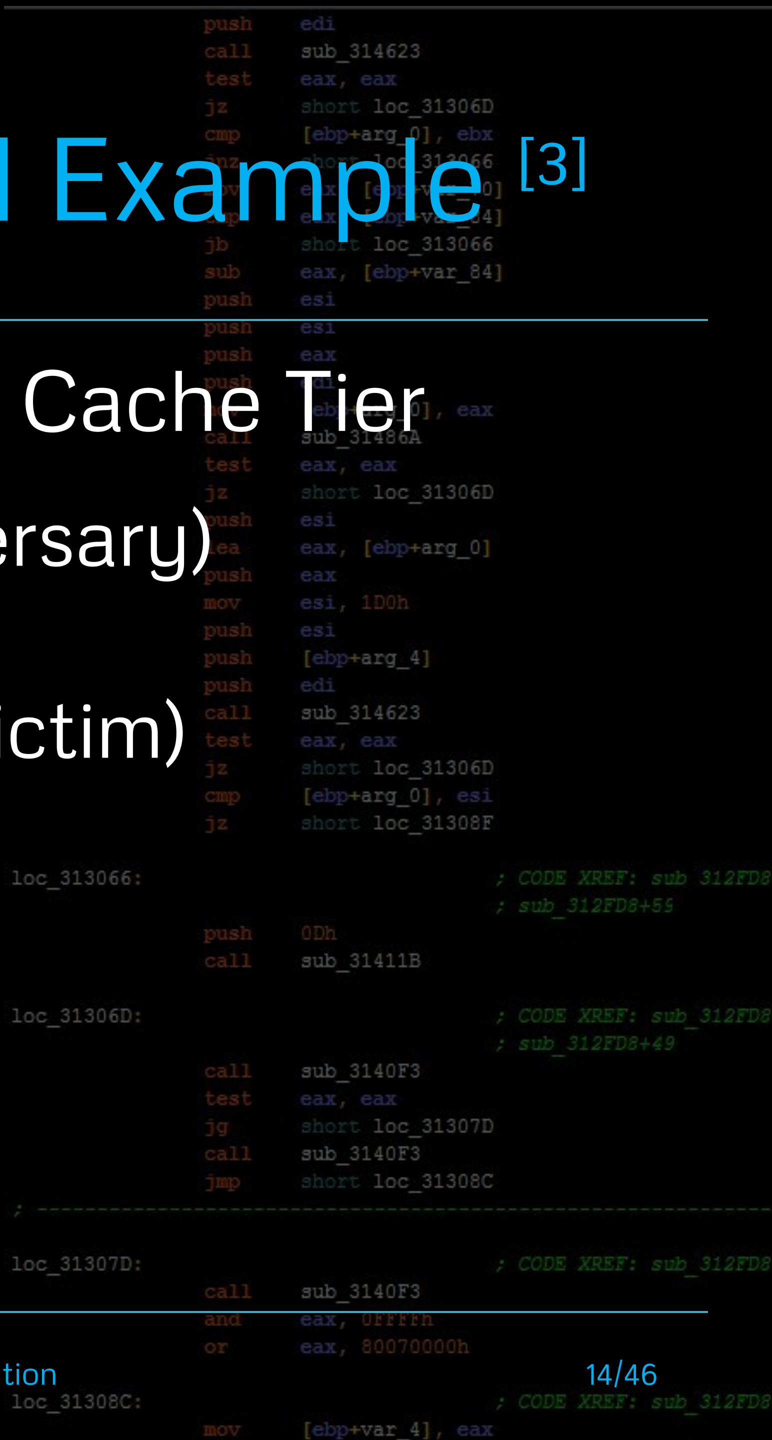


Cache Side Channel Example [3]

Flush+Reload targets the L3 Cache Tier

- Receiving Mechanism (Adversary)
  - Flushes & queries
- Transmitting Mechanism (Victim)
  - Accesses same L3 line
- Leaked GnuPG Private Key

sophia.re/cache.pdf

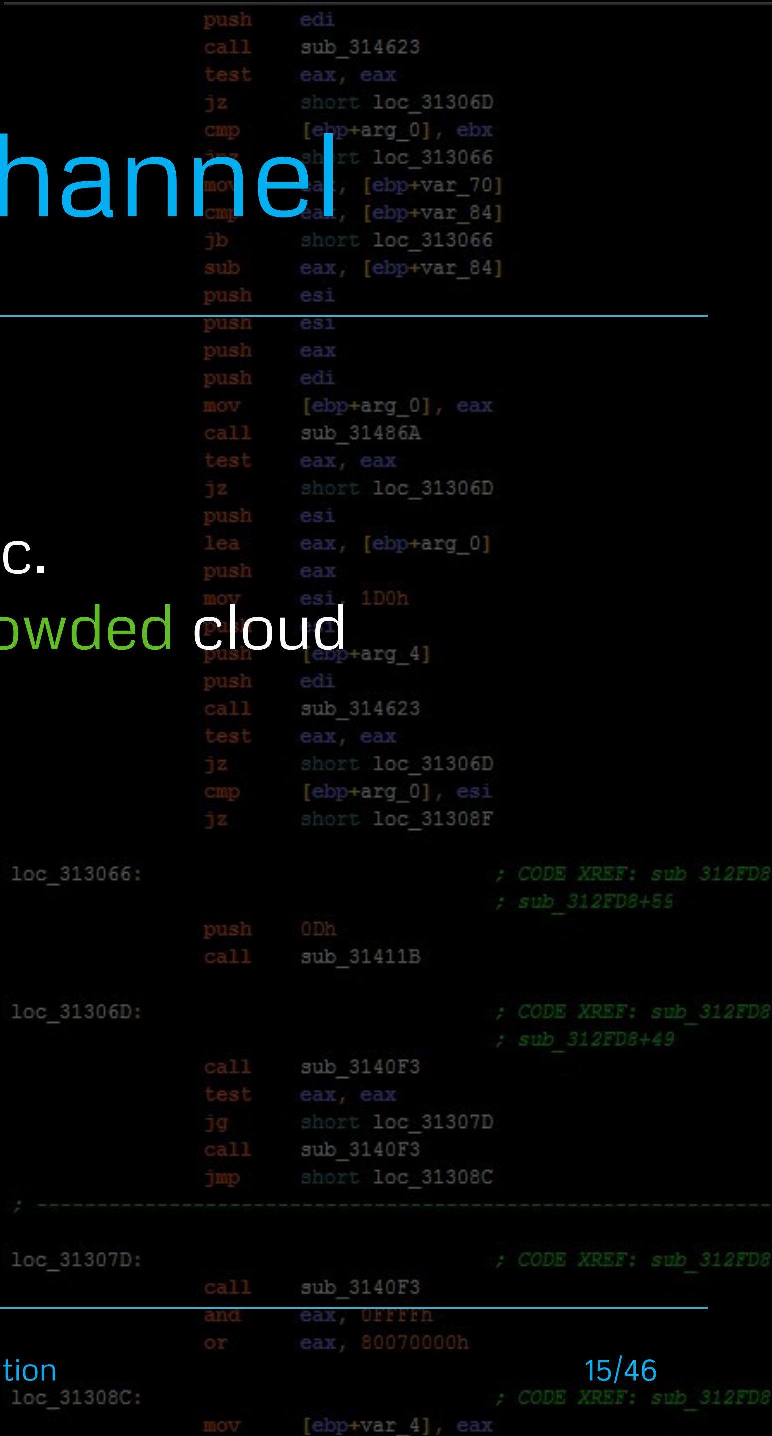


```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_[illegible]0]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                [illegible] [ebp+[illegible]0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Pipeline vs Cache Channel

Benefits:

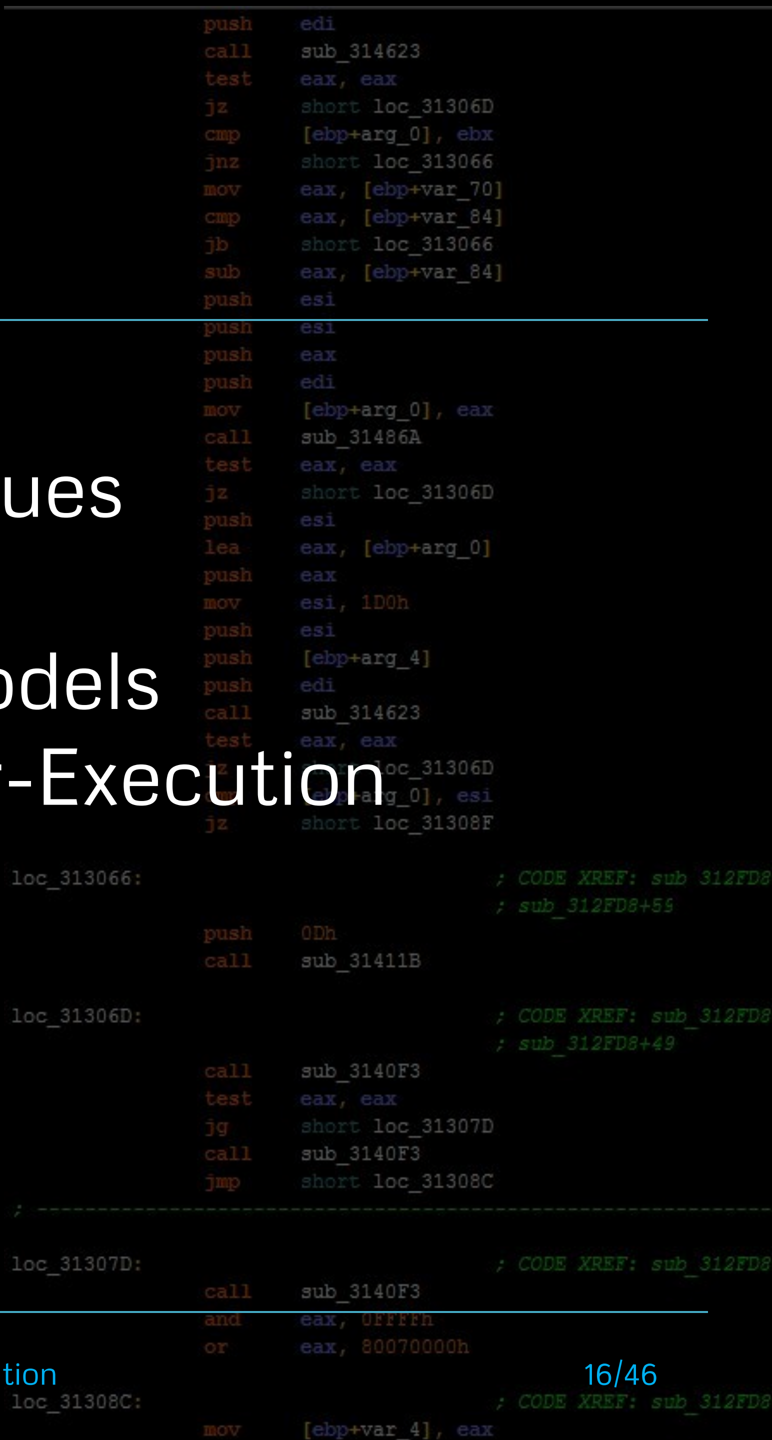
- Quiet, covert channel
- Not affected by cache misses, etc.
- Channel & noise amplifies in a crowded cloud environment



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    edi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+59
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Overview

1. Introduction
2. Cloud exploitation techniques
3. Targeting the pipeline
4. Importance of memory models
5. Design of an Out-of-Order-Execution channel
6. Demo
7. Conclusion



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

The Attack Vector

Side Channels which Exploit Hardware Vulnerabilities Inherent to Modern Cloud Computing Systems

Requirements:

- Shared hardware
- Dynamically allocated hardware resources
- Co-Location with adversarial VMs or infected VMs

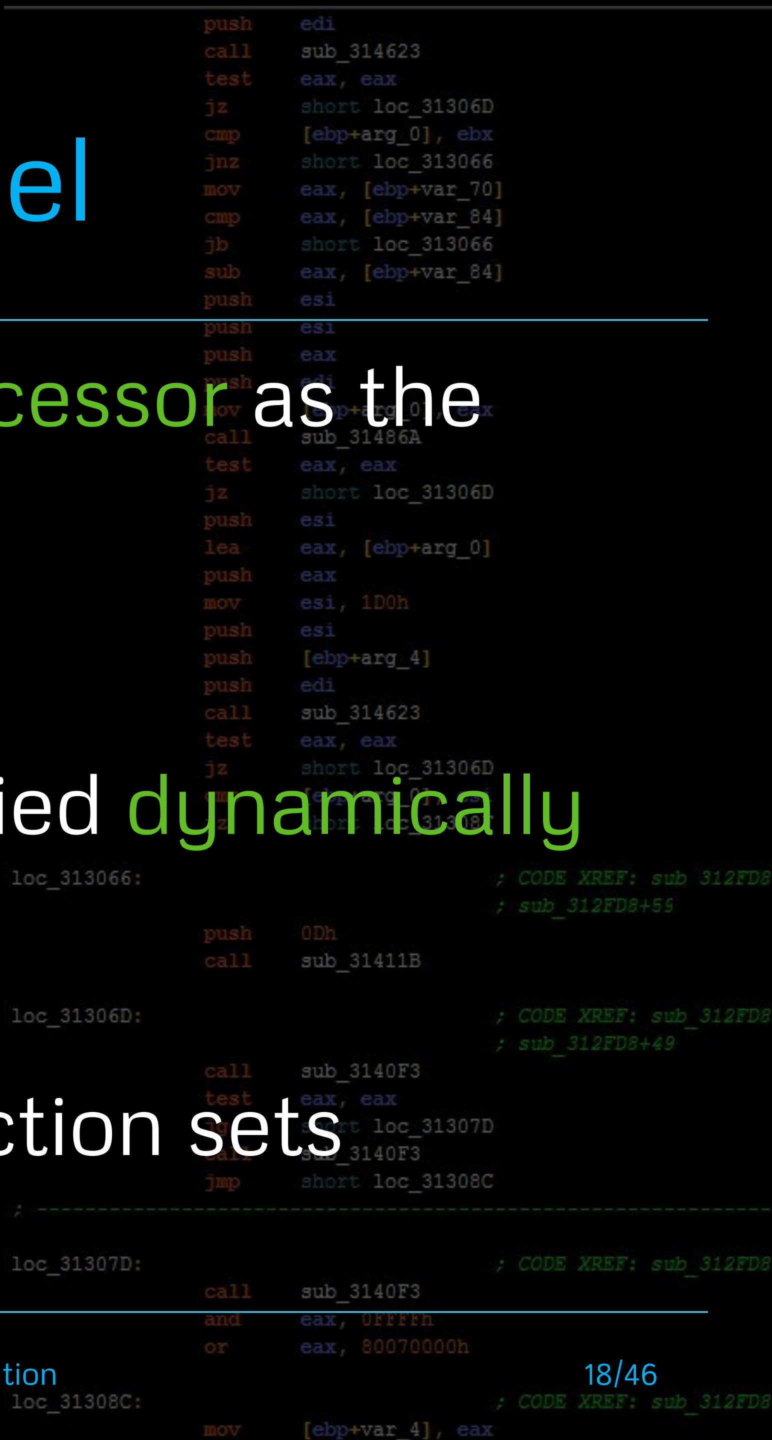
```
push    edi
call    sub_314623
test    eax, eax
jz      short loc_31306D
cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
jnz     short loc_313066
mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
jb      short loc_313066
sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
push    esi
push    esi
push    eax
        edi
        [ebp+arg_0], eax
call    sub_31486A
test    eax, eax
        loc_31306D
lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
push    eax
mov     esi, 1D0h
push    esi
push    [ebp+arg_4]
push    edi
call    sub_314623
test    eax, eax
jz      short loc_31306D
cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
push    0Dh
call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
call    sub_3140F3
test    eax, eax
        loc_31307D
call    sub_3140F3
jmp     short loc_31308C

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
call    sub_3140F3
and     eax, 0FFFFh
or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Pipeline Side Channel

We chose to target the processor as the hardware medium.

=> CPU’s pipeline
=> System artifacts queried dynamically

- Instruction order
- Results from instruction sets

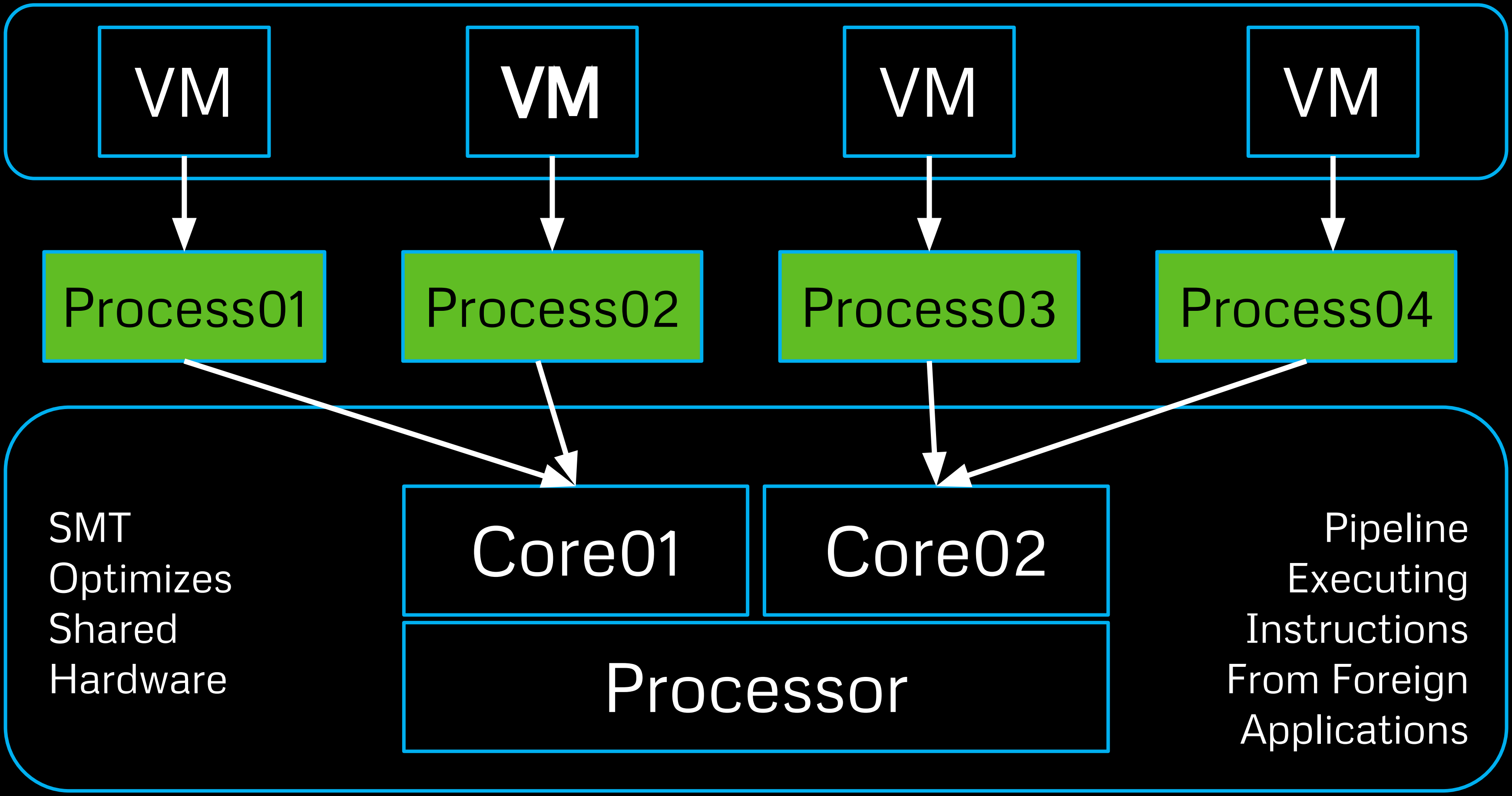


```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308C

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Out-of-Order-Execution

```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Processor Pipeline Contention



VM

VM

VM

VM

Process01

Process02

Process03

Process04

SMT
Optimizes
Shared
Hardware

Core01

Core02

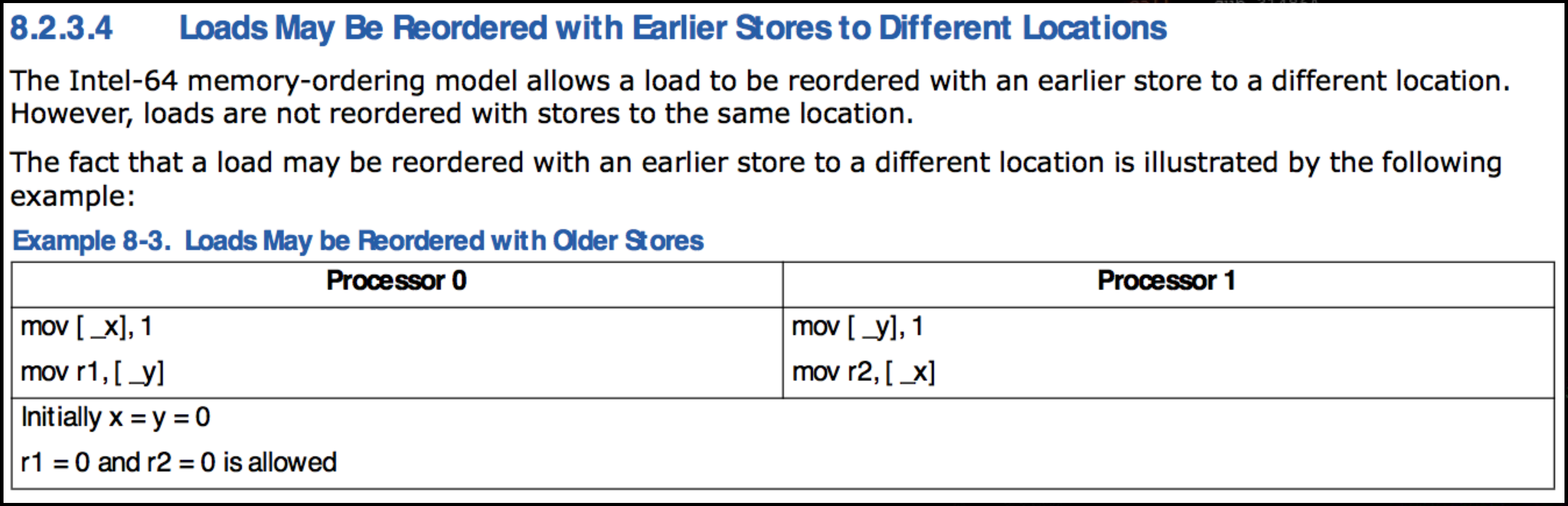
Processor

Pipeline
Executing
Instructions
From Foreign
Applications

RECEIVER

```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Record Out of Order Execution [6]



8.2.3.4 Loads May Be Reordered with Earlier Stores to Different Locations

The Intel-64 memory-ordering model allows a load to be reordered with an earlier store to a different location. However, loads are not reordered with stores to the same location.

The fact that a load may be reordered with an earlier store to a different location is illustrated by the following example:

Example 8-3. Loads May be Reordered with Older Stores

Processor 0	Processor 1
mov [_x], 1 mov r1, [_y]	mov [_y], 1 mov r2, [_x]
Initially x = y = 0 r1 = 0 and r2 = 0 is allowed	

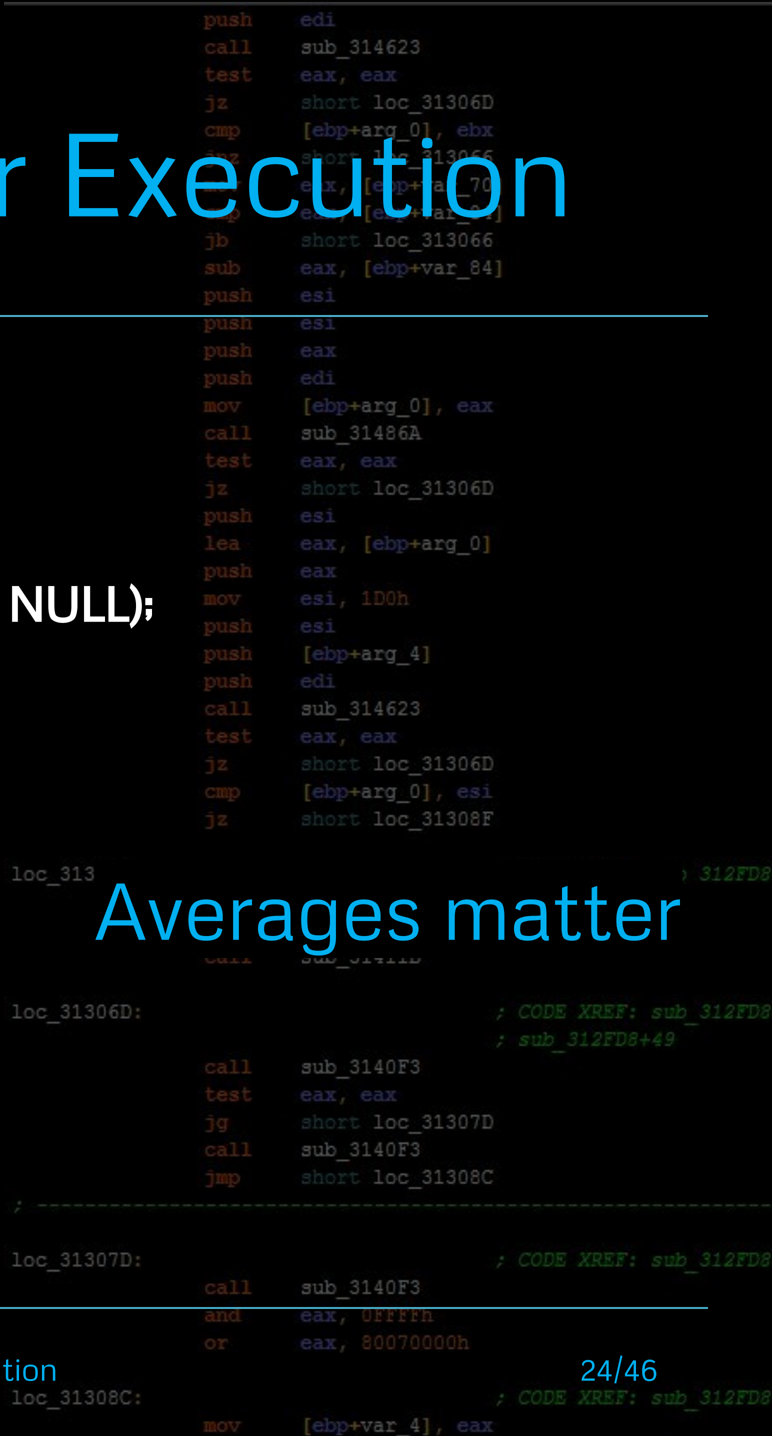
Record Out of Order Execution

	THREAD 1	THREAD 2		
Synched	store [X], 1 load r1, [Y]	store [Y], 1 load r2, [X]	=>	r1 = r2 = 1
Asynched	store [X], 1 load r1, [Y]	store [Y], 1 load r2, [X]	=>	r1 = 0 r2 = 1
Out of Order Execution	load r1, [Y] store [X], 1	load r2, [X] store [Y], 1	=>	r1 = r2 = 0

Record Out of Order Execution

```
int X,Y,count_OoOE;
....initialize semaphores Sema1 & Sema2...
pthread_t thread1, thread2;
pthread_create(&threadN, NULL, threadNFunc, NULL);

for (int iterations = 1; ; iterations++)
        X,Y = 0;
        sem_post(beginSema1 & beginSema2);
        sem_wait(endSema1 & endSema2);

         if (r1 == 0 && r2 == 0)
             count_OoOE ++;
```

Averages matter



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_3130[illegible]
                [illegible]     eax, [e[illegible]+var_70]
                [illegible]     ea[illegible], [e[illegible]+var_[illegible]]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313[illegible]                              [illegible] 312FD8
                [illegible]

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

TRANSMITTER

```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Force Out of Order Execution

Memory Fences

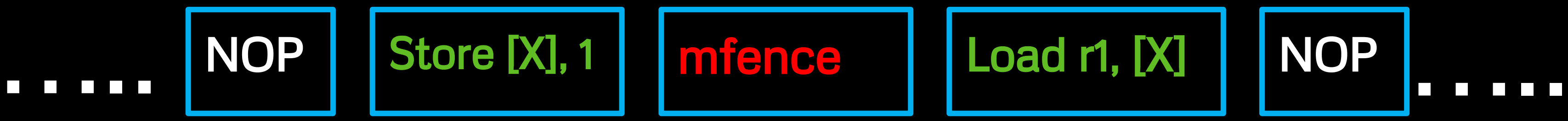
Mfence:

- x86 instruction full memory barrier prevents memory reordering of any kind
- order of 100 cycles per operation

```
... mov dword ptr [_spin1], 0
    ...   mfence

... mov dword ptr [_spin2], 0
    ...   mfence
```

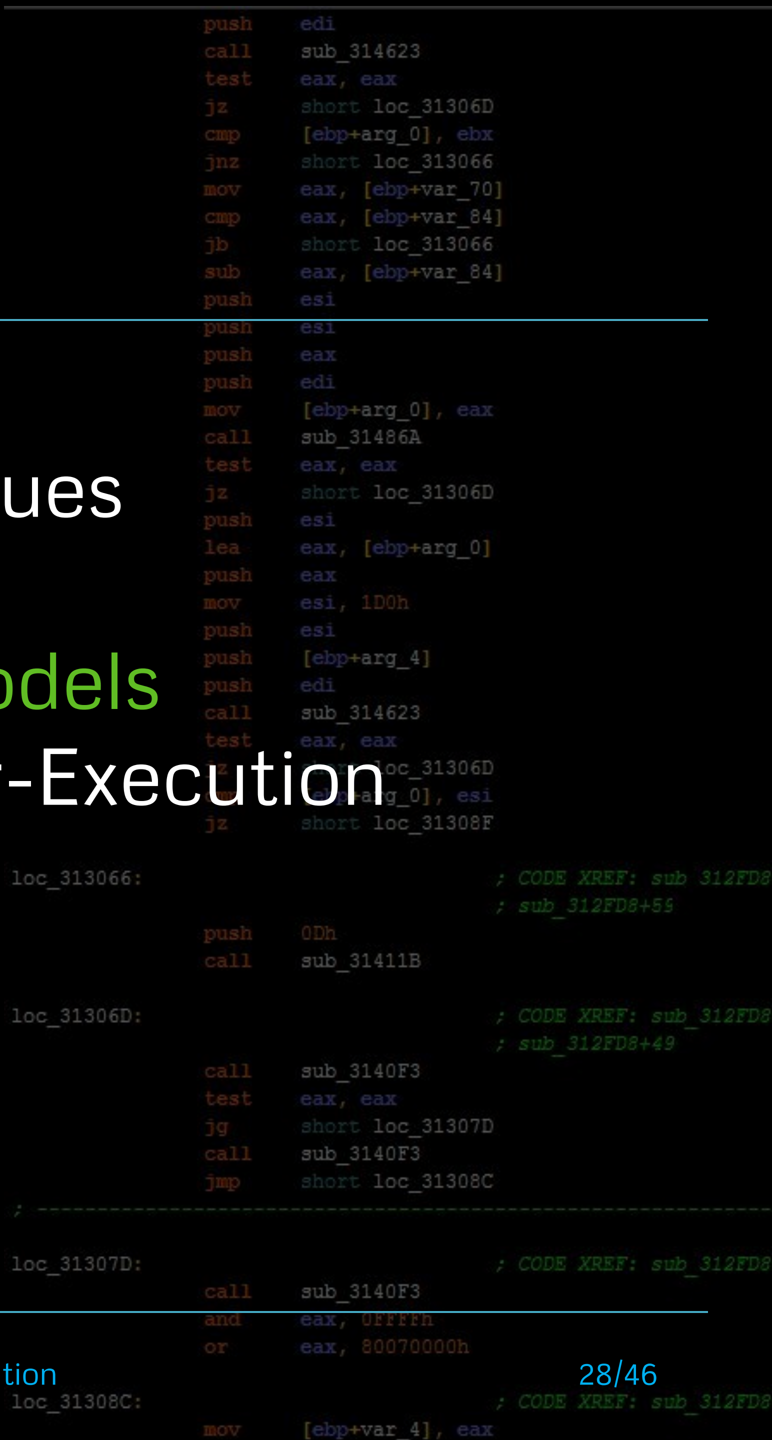
Force Out of Order Execution

THE PIPELINE



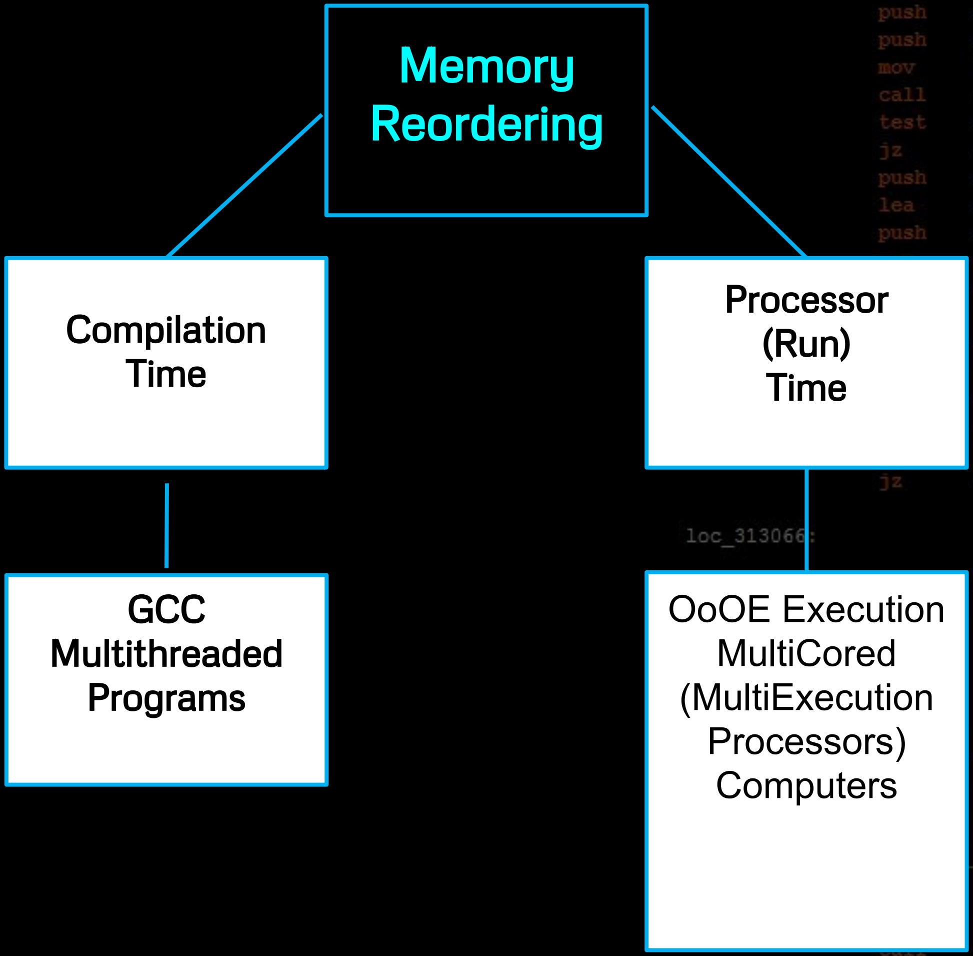
Overview

1. Introduction
2. Cloud exploitation techniques
3. Targeting the processor
4. Importance of memory models
5. Design of an Out-of-Order-Execution channel
6. Demo
7. Conclusion



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Types of Memory Reordering



Memory Reordering

Compilation Time

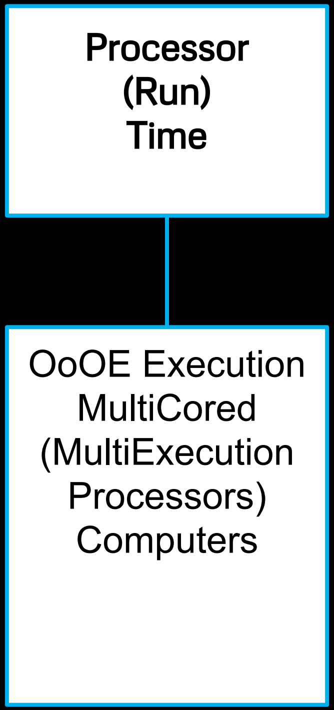
GCC Multithreaded Programs

Processor (Run) Time

OoOE Execution MultiCored (MultiExecution Processors) Computers

Types of Memory Reordering

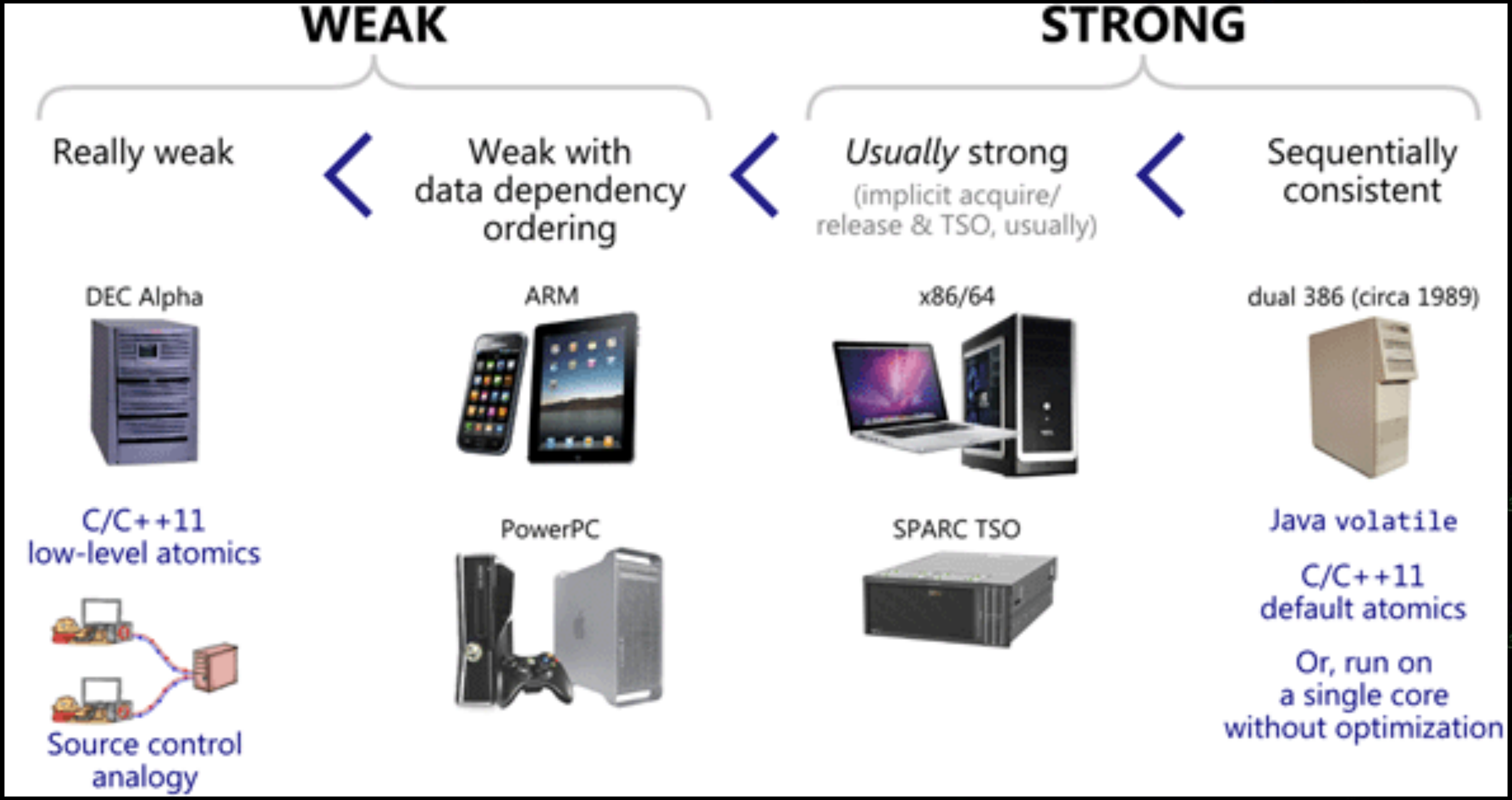
Dynamic side channel artifacts



Processor
(Run)
Time

OoOE Execution
MultiCored
(MultiExecution
Processors)
Computers

Weak Memory Models [7]



WEAK

STRONG

Really weak <

Weak with data dependency ordering <

Usually strong (implicit acquire/ release & TSO, usually) <

Sequentially consistent

DEC Alpha

ARM

x86/64

dual 386 (circa 1989)

C/C++11 low-level atomics

PowerPC

SPARC TSO

Java volatile

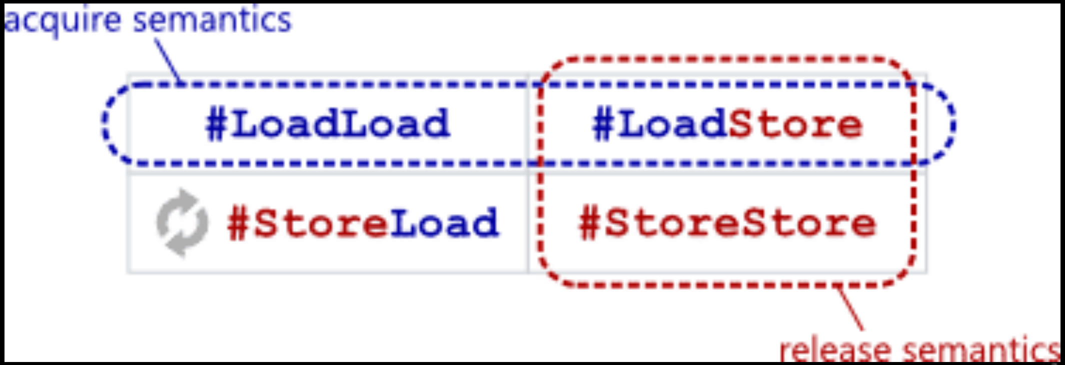
C/C++11 default atomics

Or, run on a single core without optimization

Source control analogy

Types of Memory Reordering

4 types of run time reordering barriers



acquire semantics

#LoadLoad	#LoadStore
#StoreLoad	#StoreStore

release semantics

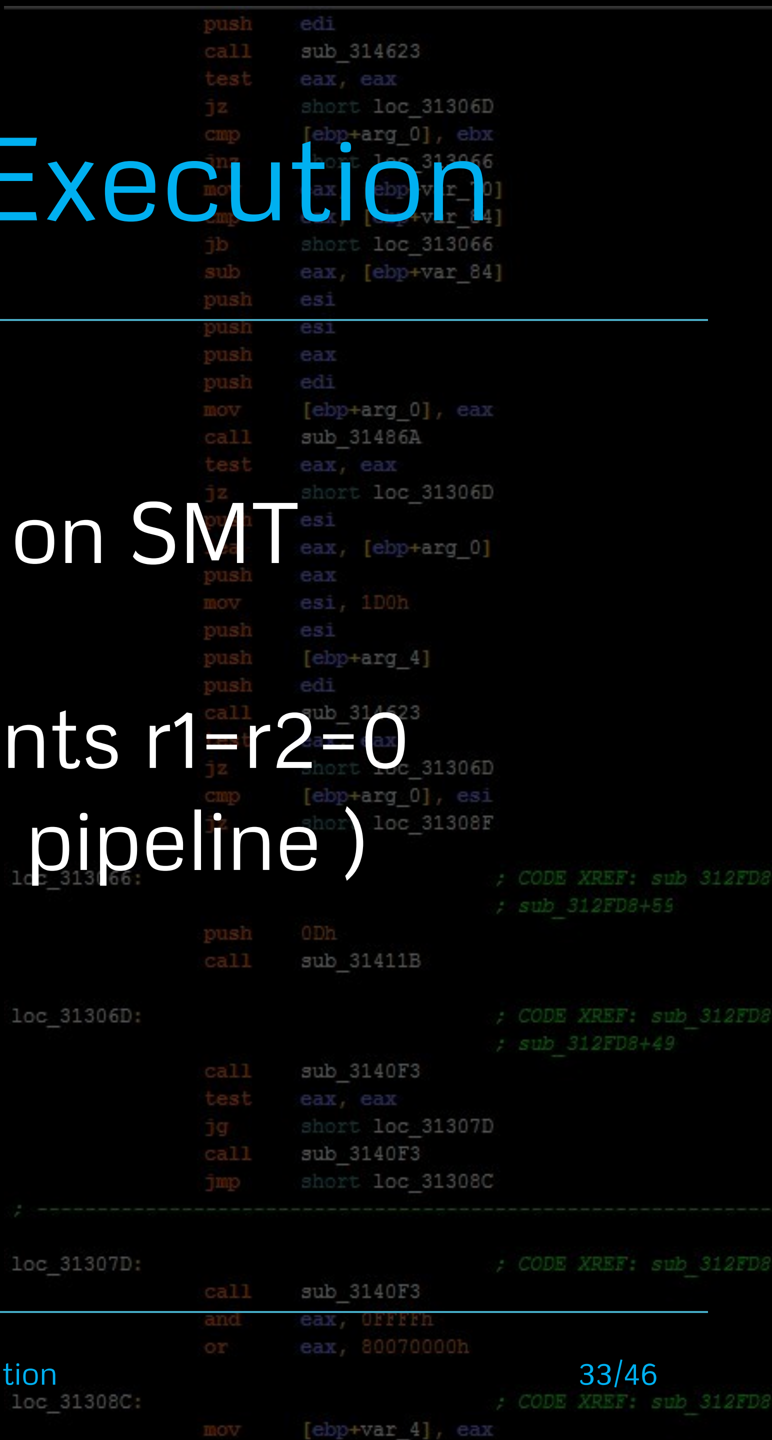
[4, 5]

- Instruction A visible to all processes before B occurs
- #StoreLoad most expensive operation

Force Out of Order Execution

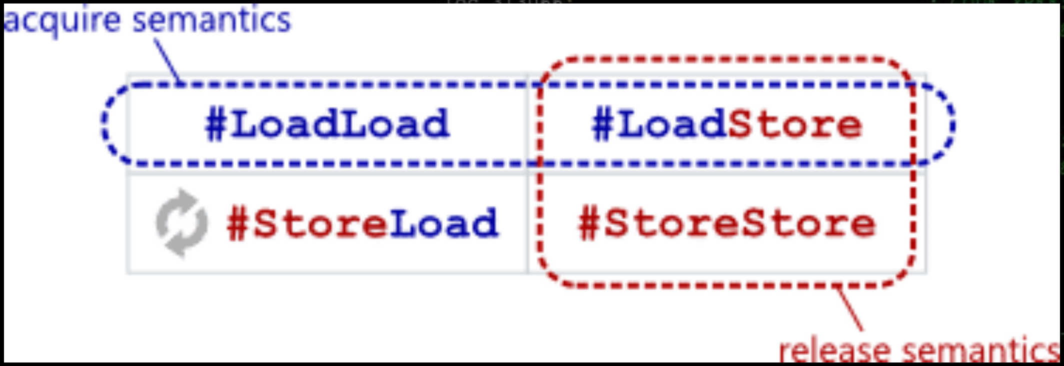
Memory Barrier

- ‘Lock-free programming’ on SMT multiprocessors
- #StoreLoad unique prevents r1=r2=0
- x86: mfence (effects the pipeline)



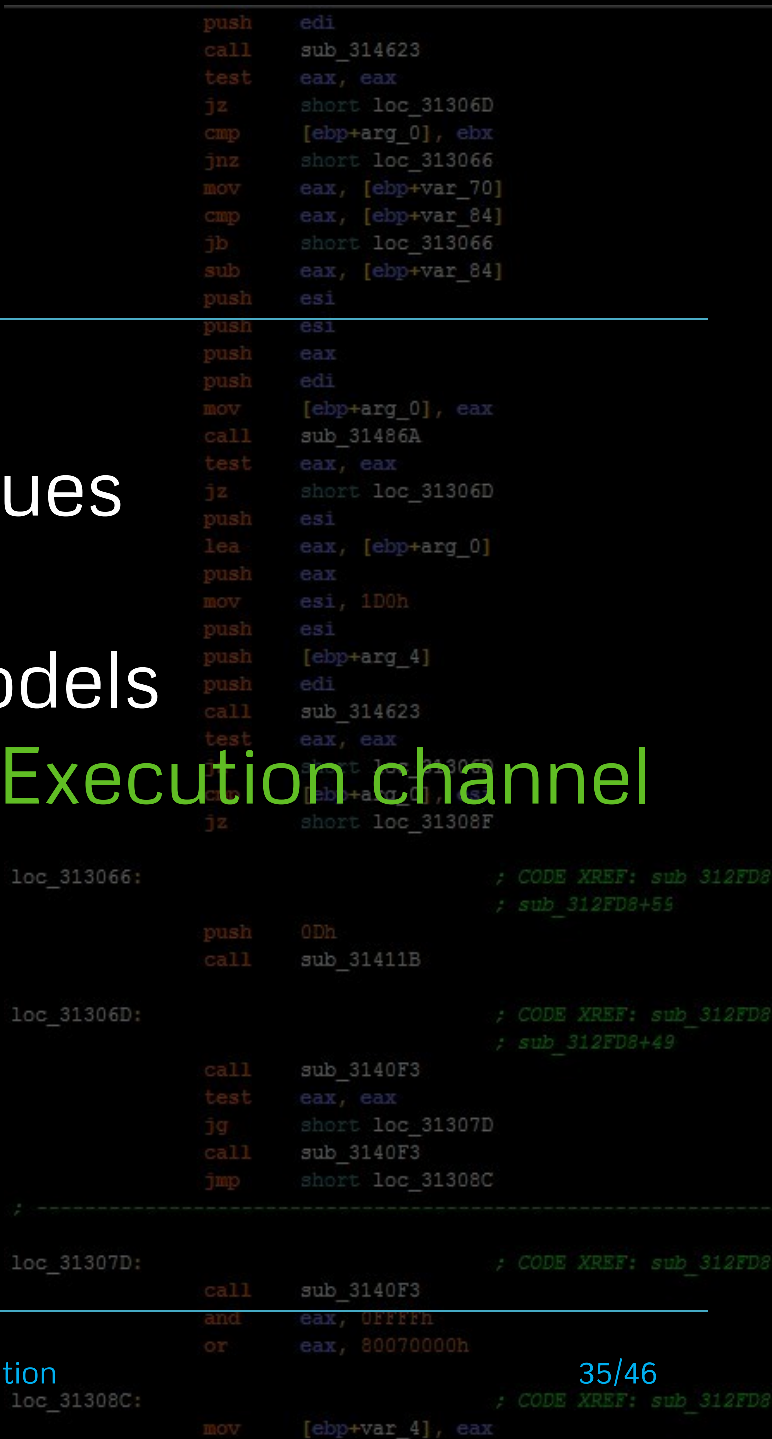
Channel Transmitter (Victim)

- Force Out-of-Order-Execution patterns
- Affect the order of stores and loads
- Time frame dependant
- x86: mfence



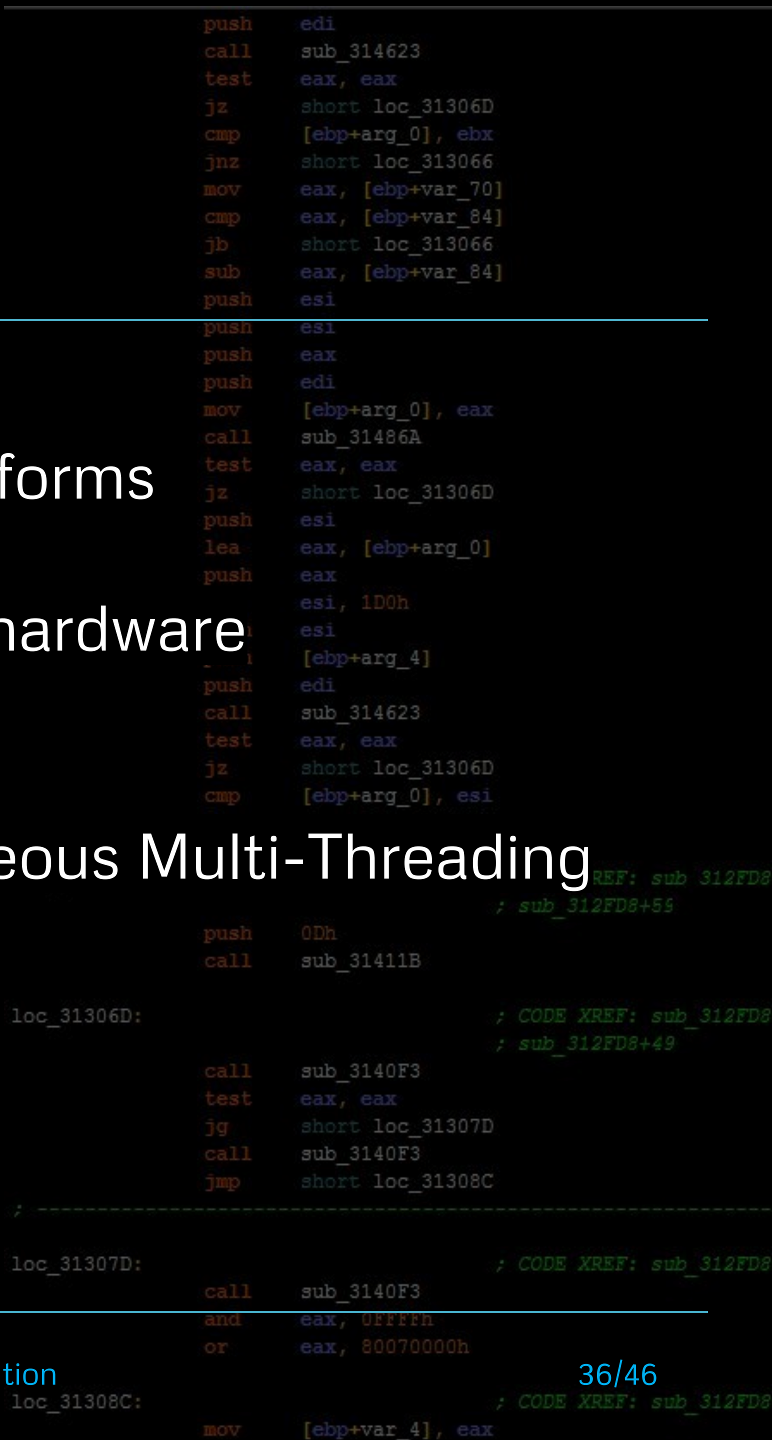
Overview

1. Introduction
2. Cloud exploitation techniques
3. Targeting the processor
4. Importance of memory models
5. Design of an Out of Order Execution channel
6. Demo
7. Conclusion



```
                 push    edi
                 call    sub_314623
                 test    eax, eax
                 jz      short loc_31306D
                 cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                 jnz     short loc_313066
                 mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                 cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                 jb      short loc_313066
                 sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                 push    esi
                 push    esi
                 push    eax
                 push    edi
                 mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                 call    sub_31486A
                 test    eax, eax
                 jz      short loc_31306D
                 push    esi
                 lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                 push    eax
                 mov     esi, 1D0h
                 push    esi
                 push    [ebp+arg_4]
                 push    edi
                 call    sub_314623
                 test    eax, eax
                 jz      short loc_31306D
                 cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                 jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                              ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                         ; sub_312FD8+55
                 push    0Dh
                 call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                              ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                         ; sub_312FD8+49
                 call    sub_3140F3
                 test    eax, eax
                 jg      short loc_31307D
                 call    sub_3140F3
                 jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                              ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                 call    sub_3140F3
                 and     eax, 0FFFFh
                 or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                              ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                 mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Lab Model



Scheduler Xen hypervisor

- Popular commercial IaaS platforms

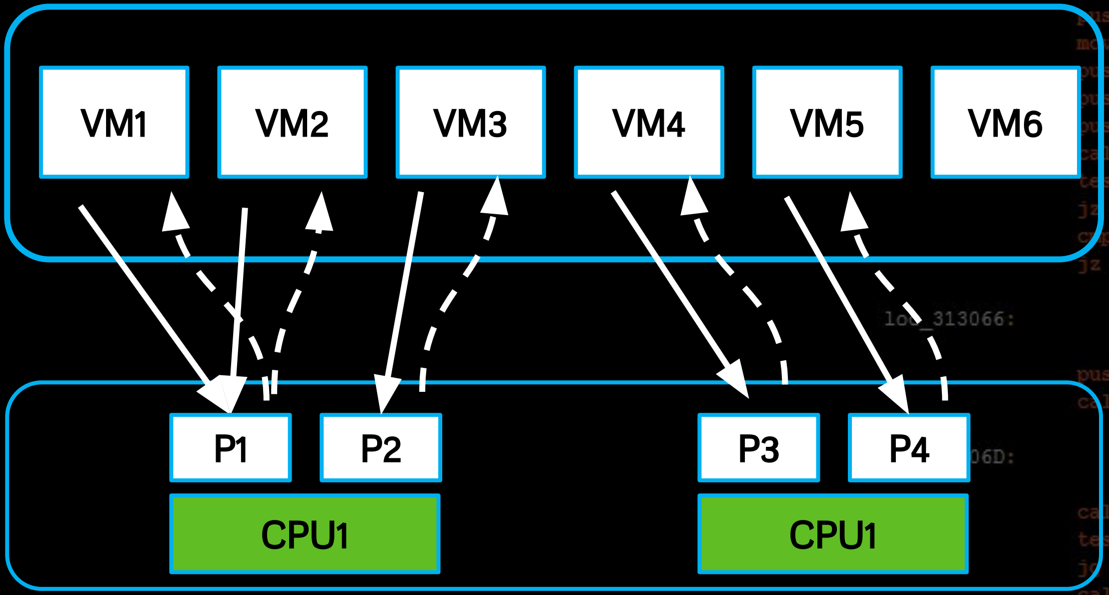
Xeon Processors

Shared multi-core/ multi-processor hardware

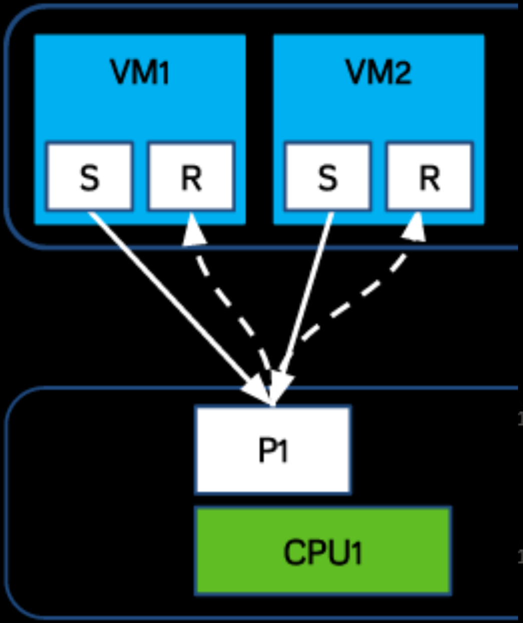
- 8 logical CPU’s/ 4 cores
- 6 virtual machines (VM’s)
- Parallel Processing/ Simultaneous Multi-Threading On (SMT)

Virtual Machines

- 6 Windows 7 VM’s

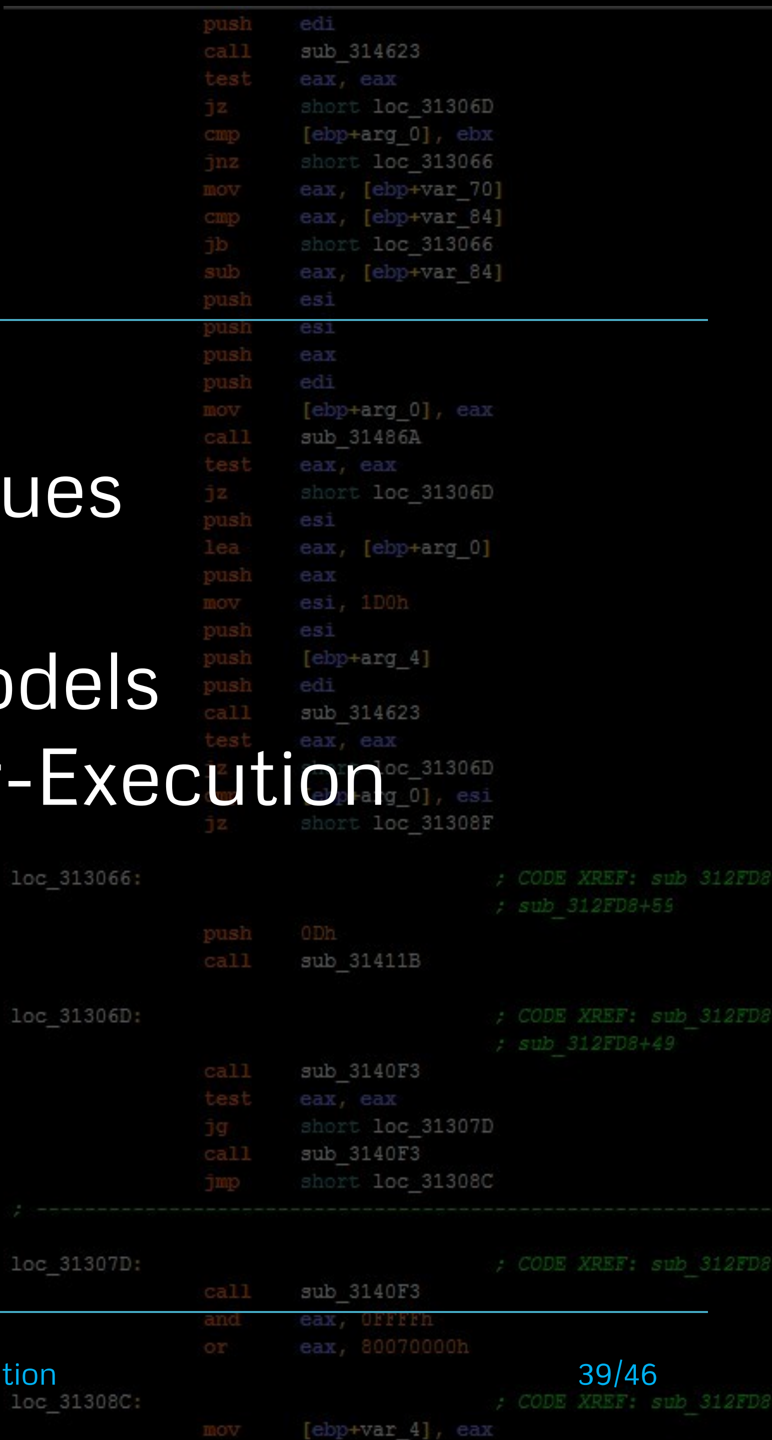


Virtual Machine S/R



Overview

1. Introduction
2. Cloud exploitation techniques
3. Targeting the processor
4. Importance of memory models
5. Design of an Out-of-Order-Execution channel
6. Demo
7. Conclusion



```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Demo Links

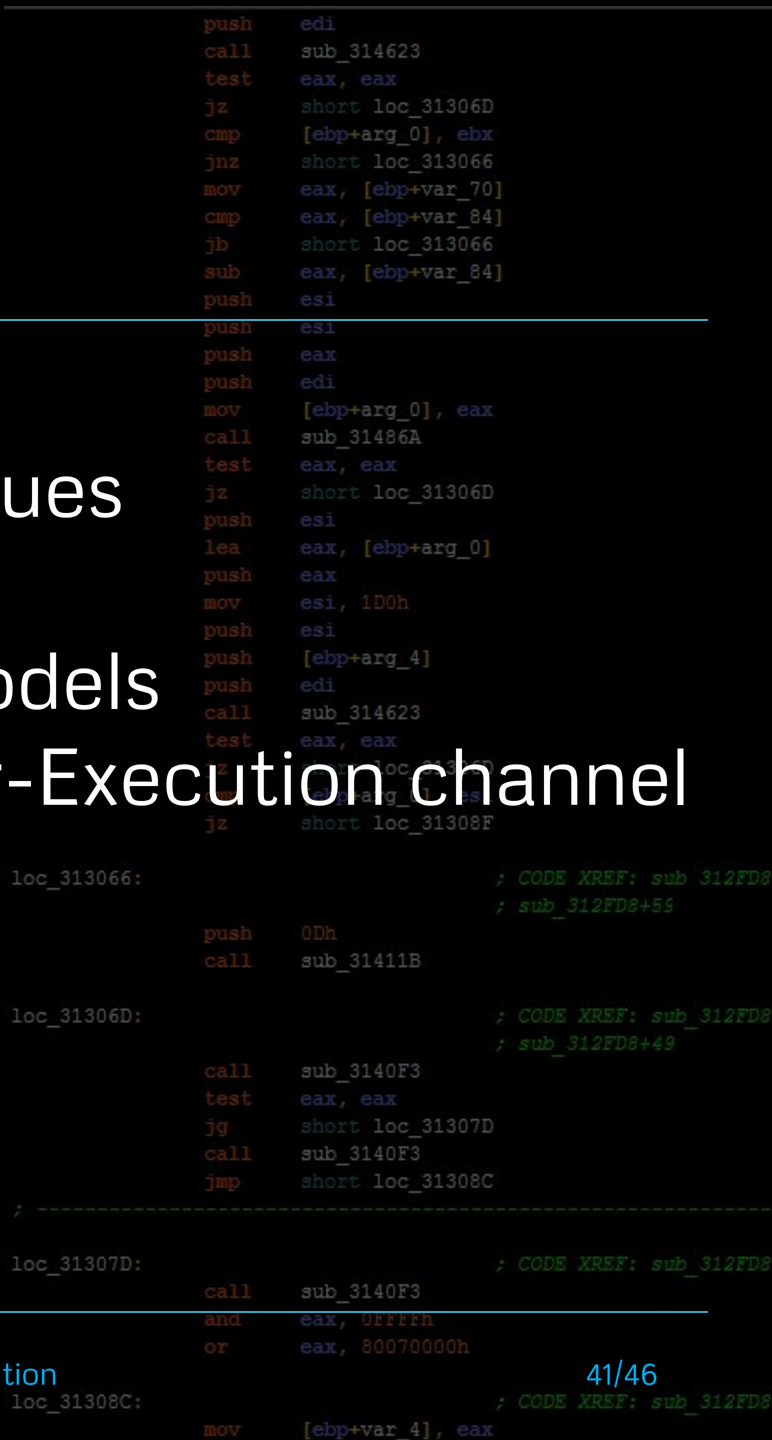
sophia.re/sender.py

sophia.re/receiver.py

```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Overview

1. Introduction
2. Cloud exploitation techniques
3. Targeting the processor
4. Importance of memory models
5. Design of an Out-of-Order-Execution channel
6. Demo
7. Conclusion

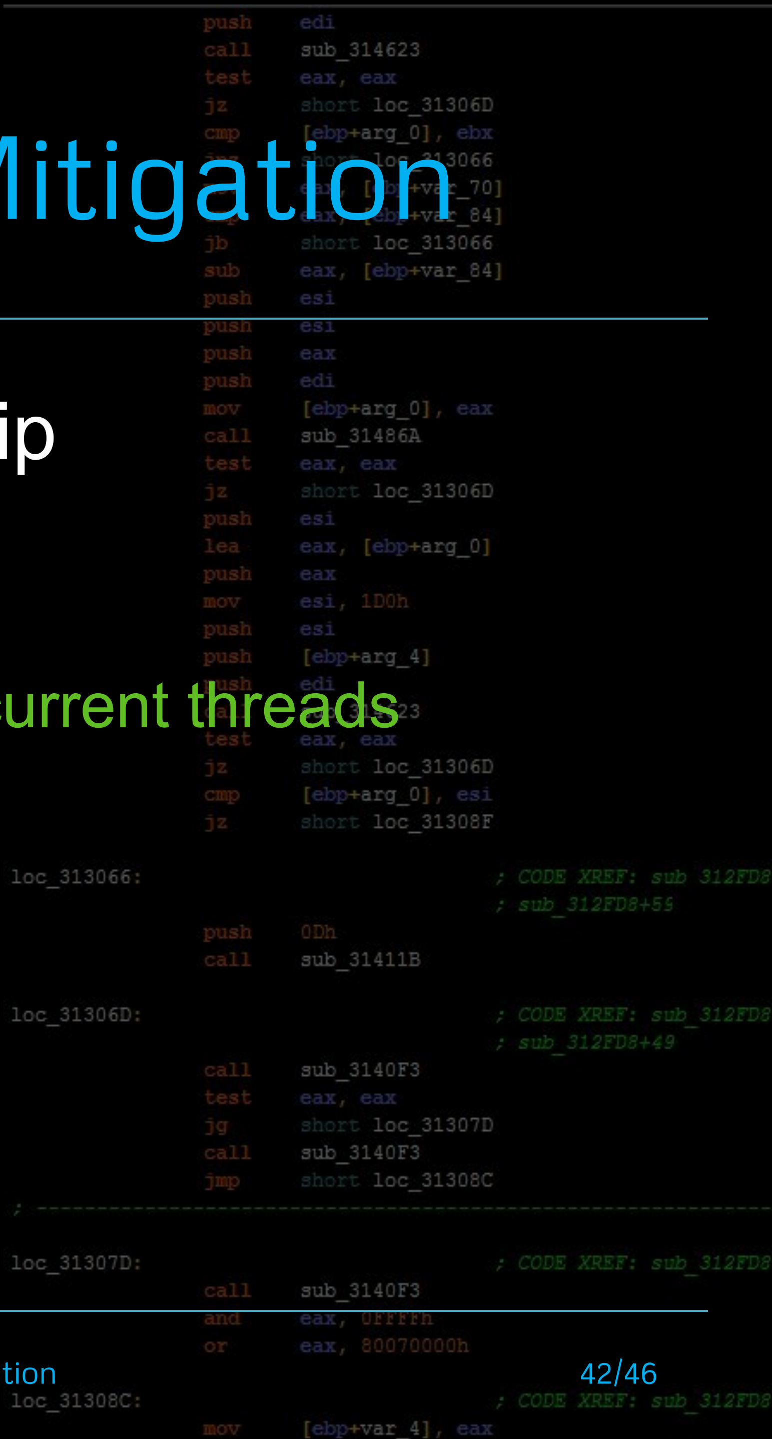


```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Potential Channel Mitigation

Protected Resource Ownership

- Isolating VM’s
- Turn off hyperthreading
- Blacklisting resources for concurrent threads
- Downside: cloud benefits



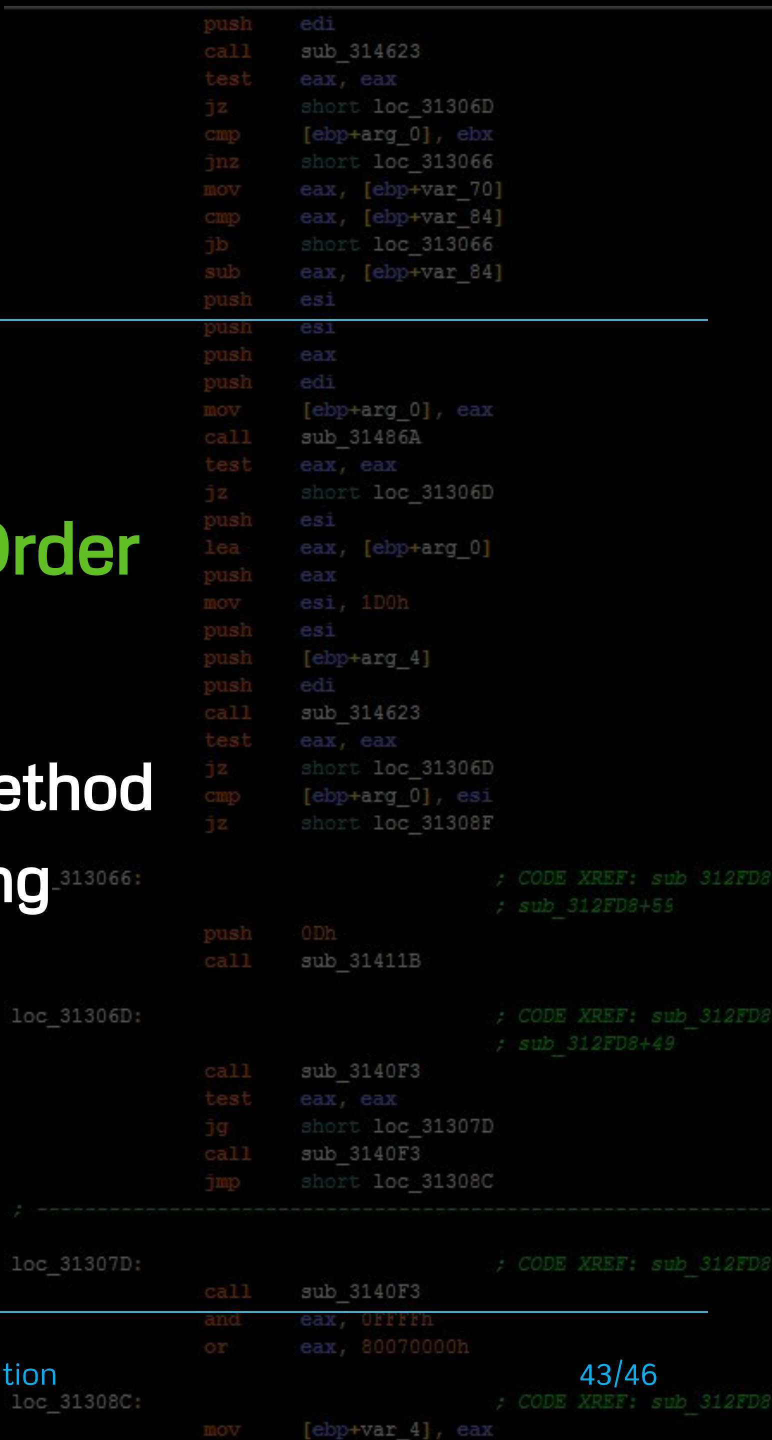
```
                  push    edi
                  call    sub_314623
                  test    eax, eax
                  jz      short loc_31306D
                  cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                  jnz     short loc_313066
                  mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                  cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                  jb      short loc_313066
                  sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                  push    esi
                  push    esi
                  push    eax
                  push    edi
                  mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                  call    sub_31486A
                  test    eax, eax
                  jz      short loc_31306D
                  push    esi
                  lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                  push    eax
                  mov     esi, 1D0h
                  push    esi
                  push    [ebp+arg_4]
                  push    edi
                  call    sub_314623
                  test    eax, eax
                  jz      short loc_31306D
                  cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                  jz      short loc_31308F

loc_313066:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+55
                  push    0Dh
                  call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                        ; sub_312FD8+49
                  call    sub_3140F3
                  test    eax, eax
                  jg      short loc_31307D
                  call    sub_3140F3
                  jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                  call    sub_3140F3
                  and     eax, 0FFFFh
                  or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                  mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

In Conclusion…

Contribution:

We demonstrate a novel Out of Order Execution side channel.

- Dynamic querying/ forcing method
- Application to cloud computing
- Mitigation techniques

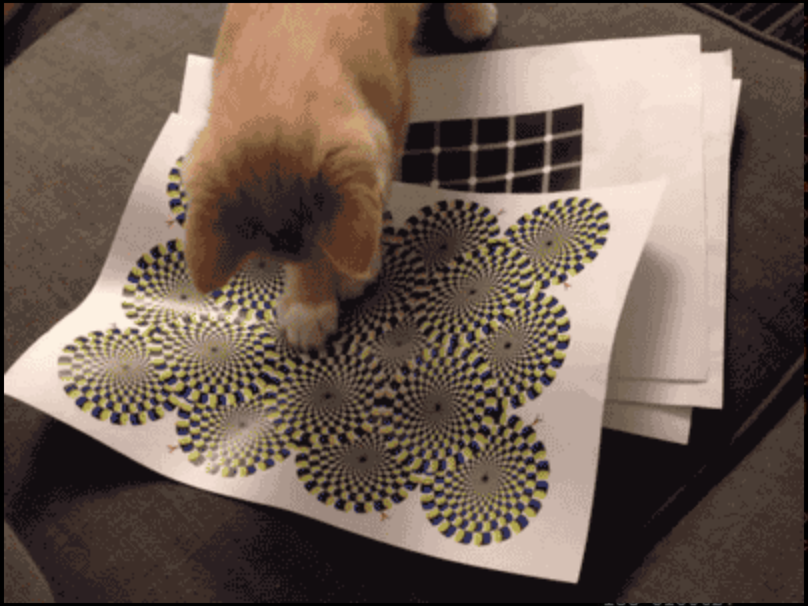


```
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], ebx
                jnz     short loc_313066
                mov     eax, [ebp+var_70]
                cmp     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                jb      short loc_313066
                sub     eax, [ebp+var_84]
                push    esi
                push    esi
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     [ebp+arg_0], eax
                call    sub_31486A
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                push    esi
                lea     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                push    eax
                mov     esi, 1D0h
                push    esi
                push    [ebp+arg_4]
                push    edi
                call    sub_314623
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_31306D
                cmp     [ebp+arg_0], esi
                jz      short loc_31308F

313066:                                        ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                               ; sub_312FD8+55
                push    0Dh
                call    sub_31411B

loc_31306D:                                    ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                                               ; sub_312FD8+49
                call    sub_3140F3
                test    eax, eax
                jg      short loc_31307D
                call    sub_3140F3
                jmp     short loc_31308C
; ---------------------------------------------------------------

loc_31307D:                                    ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                call    sub_3140F3
                and     eax, 0FFFFh
                or      eax, 80070000h

loc_31308C:                                    ; CODE XREF: sub_312FD8
                mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
```

Acknowledgements

- Jeremy Blackthorne
- RPISEC
- Trail of Bits

Any Questions?



IRC: quend (#rpisec, #pwning)
email: sophia@trailofbits.com
thesis link: sophia.re/thesis.pdf

References

[1] http://www.thewhir.com/web-hosting-news/aws-to-reach-24-billion-in-revenue-by-2022-morgan-stanley

[2] http://www.forbes.com/sites/louiscolumbus/2015/01/24/roundup-of-cloud-computing-forecasts-and-market-estimates-2015/

[3] https://www.usenix.org/system/files/conference/usenixsecurity14/sec14-paper-yarom.pdf

[4] http://bartoszmilewski.com/2008/11/05/who-ordered-memory-fences-on-an-x86/

[5] http://preshing.com/20120913/acquire-and-release-semantics/

[6] http://www.intel.com/Assets/en_US/PDF/manual/253668.pdf

[7] http://preshing.com/20120930/weak-vs-strong-memory-models/

[8] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory_barrier#An_illustrative_example

[9] http://preshing.com/20120710/memory-barriers-are-like-source-control-operations/