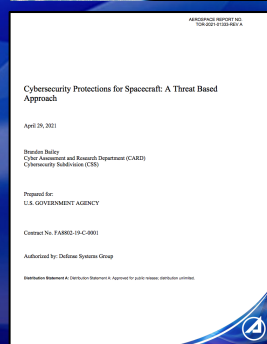




# CYSAT 2023 Hacking Spacecraft using Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis

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**Papers:**

- [Defending Spacecraft in the Cyber Domain](#)
- [Establishing Space Cybersecurity Policy, Standards, & Risk Management Practices](#)
- [Cybersecurity Protections for Spacecraft: A Threat Based Approach](#)
- [Protecting Space Systems from Cyber Attack](#)

**Presentations:**

- [DEF CON 2020: Exploiting Spacecraft](#)
- [DEF CON 2021: Unboxing the Spacecraft Software BlackBox Hunting for Vulnerabilities](#)
- [DEF CON 2022: Hunting for Spacecraft Zero Days using Digital Twins](#)

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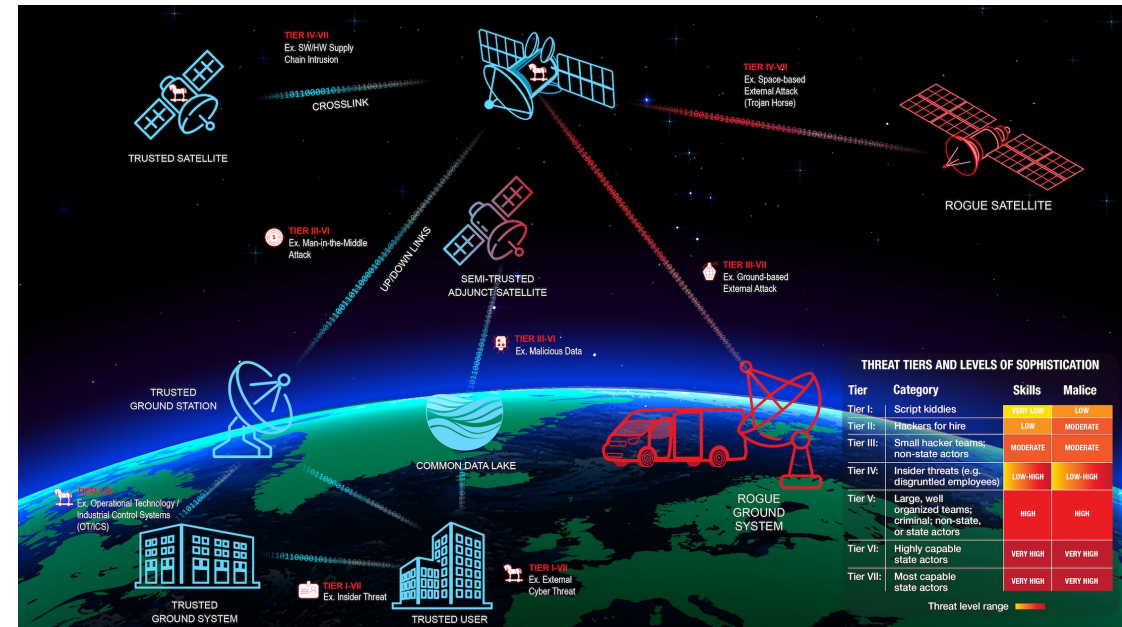
<https://aerospacecorp.medium.com/protecting-space-systems-from-cyber-attack-3db773aff368>



<https://sparta.aerospace.org/resources/>

# The Cybersecurity in Space Problem

- Traditional spacecraft/payload architectures, sub-systems, and supply chains were developed before current cyber threats were envisioned
- Traditionally, cybersecurity for DoD, civilian and commercial space systems has concentrated on the ground segment with minimal, if any, cyber protections onboard the SV/payload
  - *Encryption/Authentication, TRANSEC, COMSEC, and TEMPEST are typically the only controls (if any)*
- Aerospace is helping lead advancement in cybersecurity for the spacecraft and ground systems
  - *Many articles/publications identify problems, but few are solutions oriented*
    - Aerospace has had concerted effort on publishing information publicly to inform commercial & gov space sector
  - *One area is helping customers define the “right” requirements*
    - Defining the requirements using threats / tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) vice compliance requirements (ISO/RMF baselines generated for traditional IT)
      - *TOR 2021-01333 REV A and now SPARTA provide resources to managers/developers/etc. to implement countermeasures to reduce cyber risk for space systems*



*blue lines indicate normal expected communications/access*  
*red lines indicate communications from adversary's infrastructure directly*

**By defining the right cyber requirements/countermeasures, customers will be able reduce cyber risk for the space system**



# Example Cyber Incidents Against Space Systems

1. [SPACE: Cybersecurity's Final Frontier, London Cybersecurity Report, June 2015.](#)
2. [Black Hat 2020: Satellite Comms Globally Open to \\$300 Eavesdropping Hack, Threatpost, Aug. 2020](#)
3. [Turla APT Group Abusing Satellite Internet Links, Threatpost, Sep. 2015](#)
4. [Network Security Breaches Plague NASA, Bloomberg, Nov 2008](#)
5. [Hackers Seized Control of Computers in NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, WIRED, Mar. 2012](#)
6. [UT Austin Radio Radionavigation Laboratory](#)
7. [2019 NASA OIG Report](#)
8. [Cyber security in New Space](#)



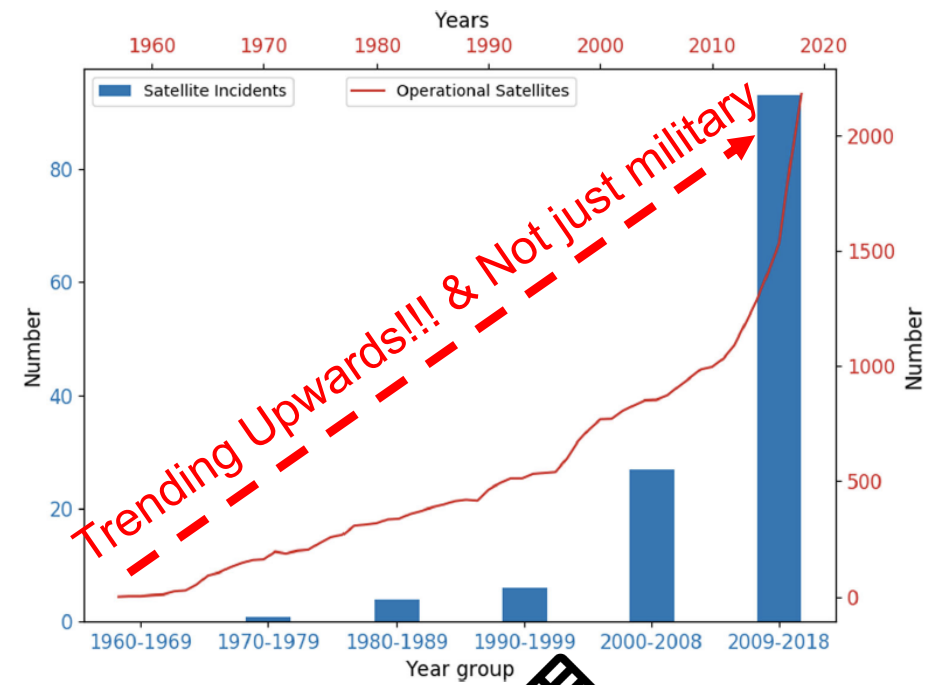
**April 2005<sup>4</sup>:** A rogue program penetrated NASA KSC networks, surreptitiously gathered data from computers in the Vehicle Assembly Building and removed that data through covert channels.

**2011<sup>5</sup>:** Cybercriminals managed to compromise the accounts of about 150 most privileged JPL users.

**2018<sup>7</sup>:** Weaknesses in JPL's system of security controls exploited; attacker moved undetected within multiple internal networks for about 10 months

## Cyber security in New Space

Fig. 6 Number of satellites attacks per year group is plotted on the bottom and left axes, and the number of operational satellites between 1958 and 2018 is plotted on the top and right axes



**Since 2007<sup>3</sup>** several elite APT groups have been using — and abusing — satellite links to manage their operations — most often, their C&C infrastructure, for example, Turla.

**Black Hat 2020<sup>2</sup>:** Eavesdropping on Sat ISPs. Basically, ISP not protecting their links and it can be picked up easily.

**June/July 2008<sup>1</sup>:** Terra EOS AM-1/Landsat-7, attempted satellite hijacking, hackers achieved all steps for remote command of satellite.

**2013-2014<sup>6</sup>:** UT Austin Radio-Navigation Lab conducts GPS spoofing for UAV control and navigation interruption.

# Attacks/TTPs

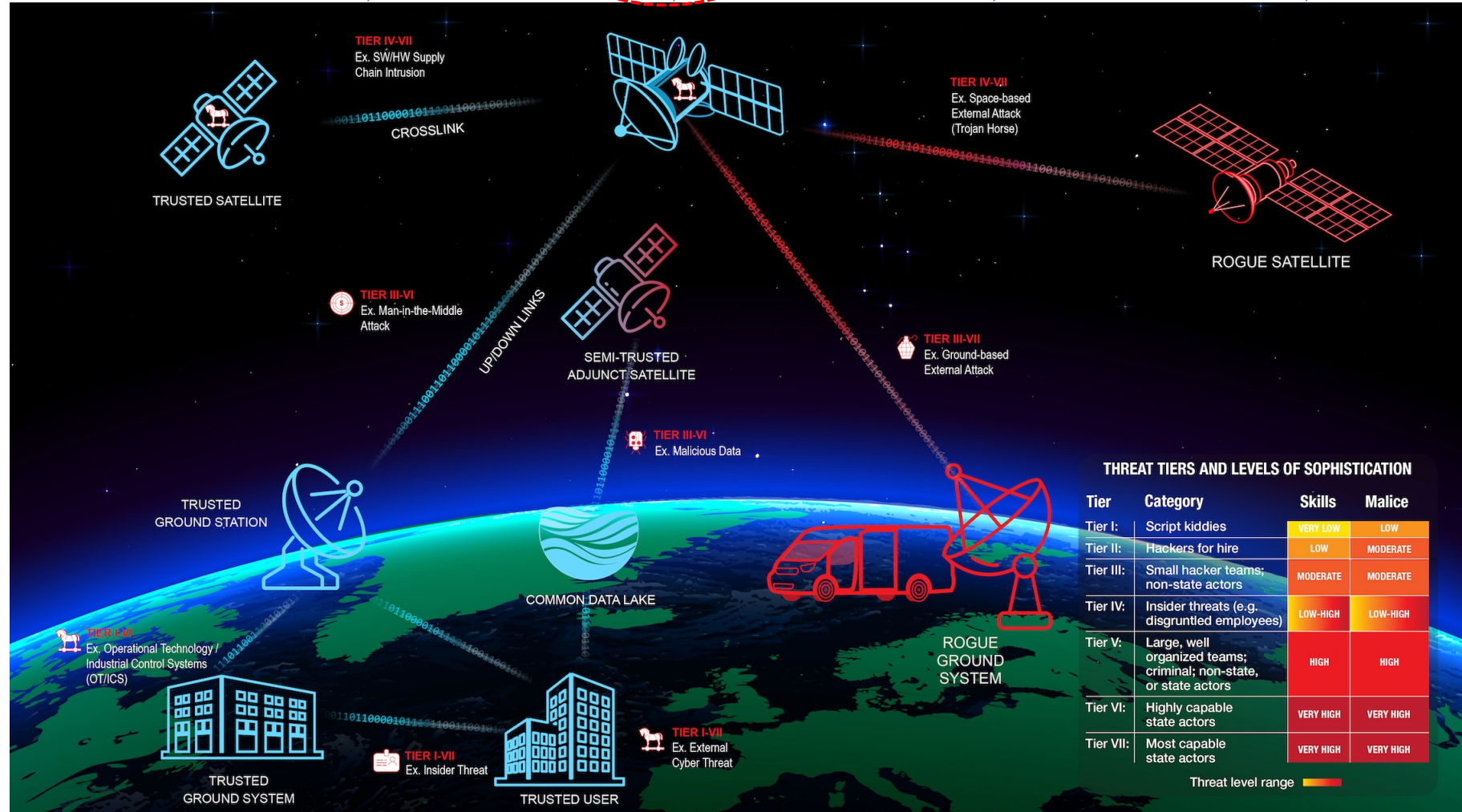
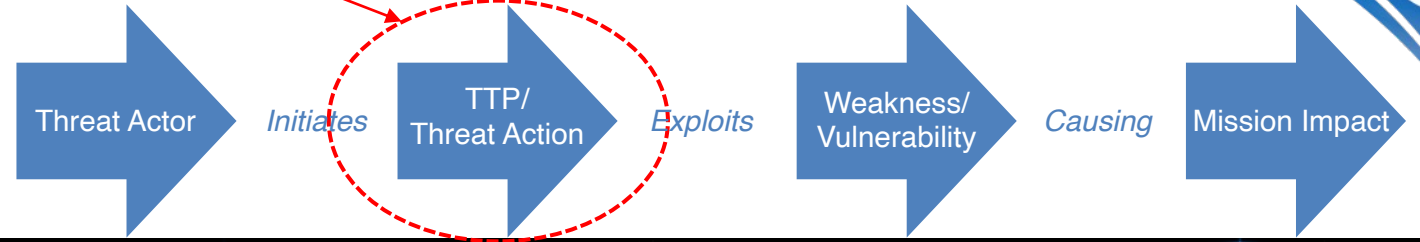
Problem Statement: Where are these documented for space and how do you mitigate?

SPD-5<sup>1</sup> defines “Space System” as “a combination of systems, to include ground systems, sensor networks, and one or more space vehicles, that provides a space-based service.”

SPD-5<sup>1</sup> states *Protection against unauthorized access to critical space vehicle functions*. This should include safeguarding command, control, and telemetry links using effective and validated authentication or encryption measures designed to *remain secure against existing and anticipated threats during the entire mission lifetime*

Attacks / TTPs can occur across all segments within a space system {i.e., ground, link, and space} to achieve the desired impact for the threat actor

TTP= Tactics, Techniques, & Procedures





# Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis (SPARTA) – Launched Oct 2022

## Filling the TTP Gap for Space

- Cybersecurity matrices are industry-standard tools and approaches for commercial and government users to navigate rapidly evolving cyber threats and vulnerabilities and outpace cyber threats
  - They provide a critical knowledge base of adversary behaviors
  - Framework for adversarial actions across the attack lifecycle with applicable countermeasures
- Current cybersecurity matrices (including [MITRE ATT&CK](#)) are limited to ground systems which lead to a gap!
- **Aerospace’s SPARTA is the first-of-its-kind body of knowledge on cybersecurity protections for spacecraft and space systems, filling a critical vulnerability gap exists for the U.S. space enterprise**

Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis (SPARTA)

Reconnaissance 9 techniques	Resource Development 4 techniques	Initial Access 12 techniques	Execution 15 techniques	Persistence 4 techniques	Defense Evasion 6 techniques	Lateral Movement 4 techniques	Exfiltration 9 techniques	Impact 6 techniques
Gather Spacecraft Design Information (3)	Acquire Infrastructure (3)	Compromise Supply Chain (3)	Replay (2)	Memory Compromise (0)	Disable Fault Management (0)	Hosted Payload (0)	Replay (0)	Deception (or Misdirection) (0)
Gather Spacecraft Descriptors (3)	Compromise Infrastructure (3)	Compromise Software Defined Radio (0)	Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Geofencing (0)	Backdoor (2)	Prevent Downlink (3)	Exploit Lack of Bus Segregation (0)	Side-Channel Attack (5)	Disruption (0)
Gather Spacecraft Communications Information (2)	Obtain Capabilities (2)	Crosslink via Compromised Neighbor (0)	Modify Authentication Process (0)	Ground System Presence (0)	Modify On-Board Values (12)	Constellation Hopping via Crosslink (0)	Eavesdropping (2)	Denial (0)
Gather Launch Information (1)	Stage Capabilities (2)	Secondary/Backup Communication Channel (2)	Compromise Boot Memory (0)	Replace Cryptographic Keys (0)	Masquerading (0)	Visiting Vehicle Interface(s) (0)	Out-of-Band Communications Link (0)	Degradation (0)
Eavesdropping (3)		Rendezvous & Proximity Operations (3)	Exploit Hardware/Firmware Corruption (2)		Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe Mode (0)			
		Compromise Hosted Payload (0)	Disable/Bypass Security (0)					

**SPARTA provides unclassified information to space professionals about how spacecraft may be compromised**

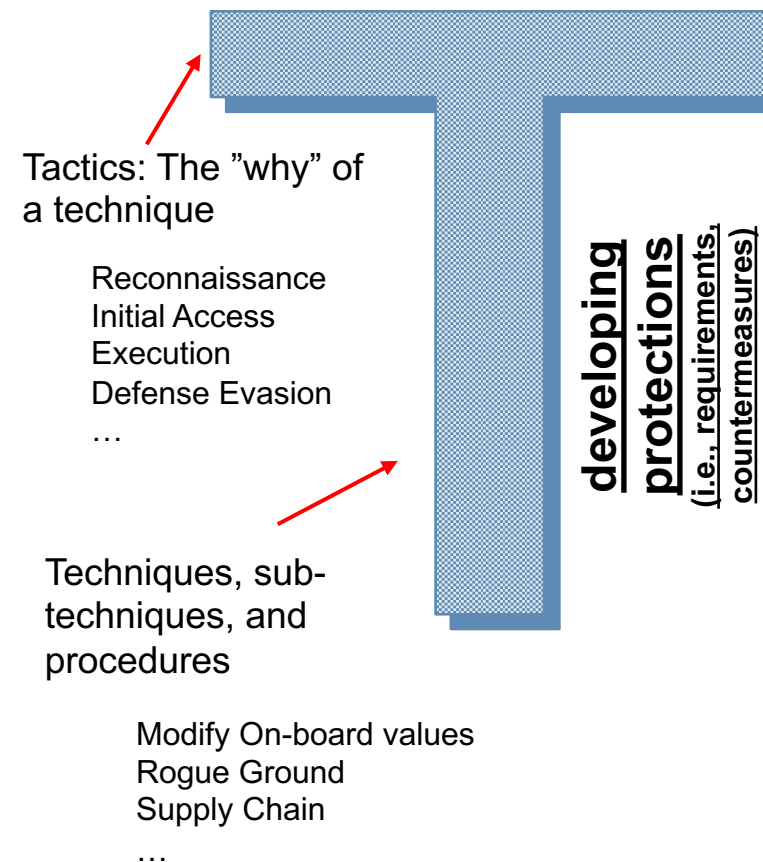


# Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis (SPARTA)

*An evolution of Aerospace's technical insight in cybersecurity*

- SPARTA has resulted from consistent technical insight from Aerospace's Cybersecurity and Advanced Platforms Subdivision (CAPS) across the space enterprise
  - 2019: [Defending Spacecraft in the Cyber Domain](#) (CSPS Paper)
  - 2020: [Establishing Space Cybersecurity Policy, Standards, & Risk Management Practices](#) (published in response to SPD-5)
  - [2020](#) | [2021](#) | [2022](#): DefCon Talks at [Aerospace Village](#)
  - 2021: [Cybersecurity Protections for Spacecraft: A Threat based Approach](#) (release TOR 2021-01333 REV A)
  - 2022: [Protecting Space Systems from Cyber Attack](#) (Medium/1MSF)
- SPARTA leverages cybersecurity industry-standard approaches to communicate 3+ years of Aerospace's work to our customers on one of their hardest problems (cyber)

## understanding the threat



***Enabling space enterprise resiliency through a wealth of cyber knowledge via a publicly releasable tool***



# ***Building Spacecraft Attack Chains***



## **Blast from the Past**

- Replay Attack from DefCon 2020
- Memory Injection Attack DefCon 2022

## **New Attacks**

- Supply Chain Attack – Time bomb that executes command sequence 30 secs after boot
- Reaction Wheel Attack – Sending commands from rogue ground station due to no auth/encryption

## **Theoretical Attack Chain in Backup**

- PCspooF

# Example Attack Chains from the Past



## DefCon 2020 – Exploiting Spacecraft Example (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8QWNiqTx1c>)

Attacker performs a man-in-the-middle attack at the ground station where they record command packets in the UDP traffic [REC-0005 , RD-0005.01] for replaying to the spacecraft [EX-0001.01]. In this example UDP mimics the radio frequency link. This same attack could be applied through RF signal sniffing [REC-0005.01, IA-0008.01] vice UDP captures. From the spacecraft perspective, the flight software processes the traffic whether or not the traffic is coded to radio frequency signals and then decoded on the spacecraft. Upon receiving commands, the spacecraft flight software responds by downlinking command counter data to the ground indicating that commands were received [EXF-0003.02]. In this scenario, the attacker collected the commands at the ground station [EXF-0003.01, EXF-0007] and then promptly replay the traffic to the spacecraft [EX-0001.01] thereby causing the flight software to reprocess the commands again [EX-0001]. This would be visible in the downlinked command counters [REC-0005.02, EXF-0003.02] and unless the ground operators are monitoring specific telemetry points, this attack would likely go unnoticed. If the replayed commands were considered critical commands like firing thrusters, then more critical impact on the spacecraft could be encountered [IMP-0002, IMP-0004, IMP-0005].

Reconnaissance 9 techniques	Resource Development 4 techniques	Initial Access 12 techniques	Execution 15 techniques	Persistence 4 techniques	Defense Evasion 8 techniques	Lateral Movement 5 techniques	Exfiltration 10 techniques	Impact 6 techniques
Gather Spacecraft Design Information (3)	Acquire Infrastructure (3)	Compromise Supply Chain (3)	Replay (2)	Command Packets	Disable Fault Management (0)	Hosted Payload (0)	Replay (0)	Deception (or Misdirection) (0)
Gather Spacecraft Descriptors (3)	Mission-Operated Ground System	Compromise Software Defined Radio (0)	Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Geofencing (0)	Bus Traffic	Prevent Downlink (3)	Exploit Lack of Bus Segregation (0)	Side-Channel Attack (5)	Disruption (0)
Gather Spacecraft Communications Information (3)	Compromise Infrastructure (3)	Crosstalk via Compromised Neighbor (0)	Modify Authentication Process (0)	Ground System Presence (0)	Modify On-Board Values (12)	Constellation Hopping via Crosslink (0)	Eavesdropping (2)	Denial (0)
Gather Launch Information (1)	3rd Party Ground System	Secondary/Backup Communication Channel (2)	Compromise Boot Memory (0)	Replace Cryptographic Keys (0)	Masquerading (0)	Visiting Vehicle Interface(s) (0)	Downlink Intercept	Degradation (0)
	3rd-Party Spacecraft	Rendezvous & Proximity Operations (3)	Exploit Hardware/Firmware Corruption (2)		Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode (0)	Virtualization Escape (0)	Out-of-Band Communications Link (0)	Destruction (0)
	Obtain Capabilities (2)	Compromise Hosted Payload (0)	Disable/Bypass Encryption (0)		Modify Whitelist (0)		Proximity Operations (0)	Theft (0)
	Stage Capabilities (2)	Compromise On-Orbit Update	Trigger Single Event Upset (0)		Rootkit (0)		Modify Communications Configuration (2)	
Eavesdropping (4)	Downlink Intercept	Compromise Ground System (2)	Malicious Commanding via Valid GS		Bootkit (0)		Compromised Ground System (0)	
	Proximity Operations	Rogue External Entity (2)	Rogue Ground Station				Compromised Developer Site (0)	
	Active Scanning (RF/Optical)	Trusted Relationship (3)	Rogue Spacecraft				Compromised Partner Site (0)	
Gather FSW Development Information (2)		Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode (0)	Inject Malicious Code (0)				Payload Communication Channel (0)	
Monitor for Safe-Mode Indicators (0)		Auxiliary Device Compromise (0)	Exploit Code Flaws (3)					
Gather Supply Chain Information (4)		Assembly, Test, and Launch Operation Compromise (0)	Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode (0)					
Gather Mission Information (0)			Modify On-Board Values (13)					
			Flooding (3)					
			Spoofing (4)					
			Side-Channel Attack (0)					



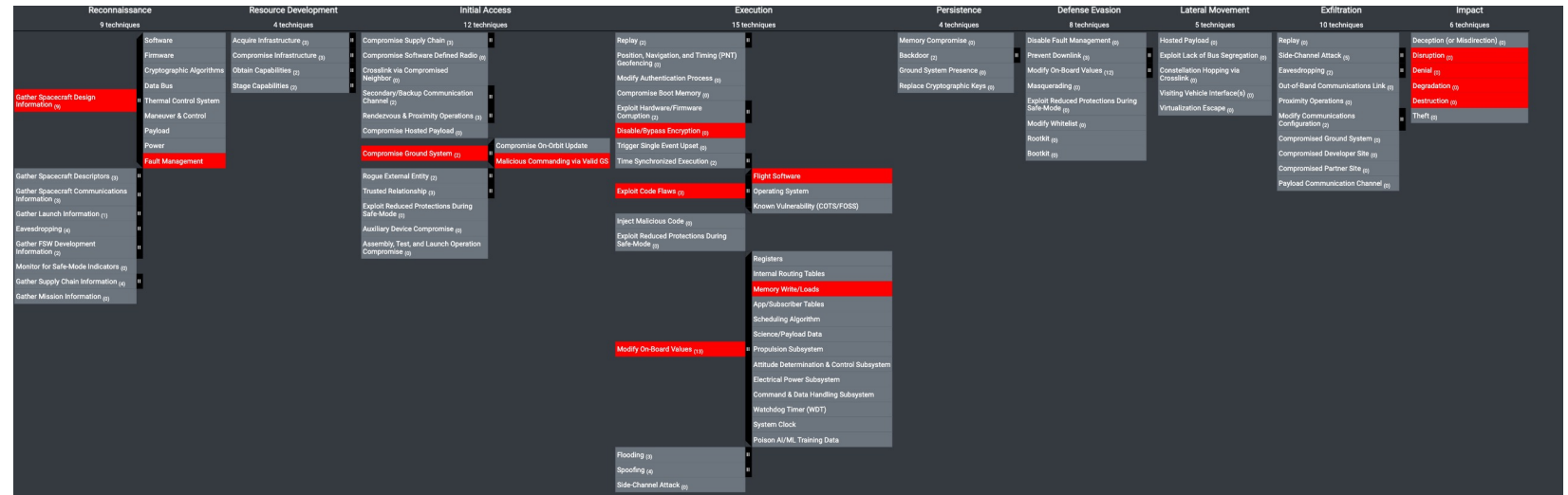




## DefCon 2022 - Memory Manipulation Attack ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t\\_efCpd2PbM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_efCpd2PbM))

This example requires significant effort in the reconnaissance phase [REC-0001, REC-0003] to understand the specific attack vectors. However, after understanding the memory maps/locations and how the VxWorks and PowerPC interrelates, the attack can be performed to disrupt [IMP-0002] and deny [IMP-0003] the spacecraft's ability to process information. Upon performing all the necessary research, a single command packet is all that is required to affect the spacecraft. Understanding the precise memory location and overwriting it with desired values, exploits the inherit trust between the ground and the spacecraft [IA-0009].

In this exploit example, the attacker leverages the authenticated/encrypted command pathway to send two commands to the spacecraft [IA-0007.02, EX-0006]. A simple NO-OP for demonstration purposes followed by a “magic packet” or “kill-pill” that corrupts the running state of the PowerPC processor thereby disabling the spacecraft's ability to process information. The below figure shows redacted information to remove the actual corrupting content, but the “vxworks!” is essentially the kernel throwing a panic and crashing. This is where having direct memory access [EX-0012.03] via the spacecraft flight software can be dangerous and must be protected [EX-0009.01]. There are many instances where the ground can issue legitimate commands to degrade/deny/destroy [IMP-0004, IMP-0003, IMP-0005] the spacecraft which puts pressure on fault management to account for this truth [REC-0001.09].





# Fuzzing Memory Addresses

## Lots of Trial and Error

- Hardware design documentation reveals “features” of hardware design
  - Can these features be leveraged for nefarious purposes?
    - Creating faults, abusing functions, etc. from design docs are common TTPs when performing aggression on spacecraft technology
- Lots of debugging and reverse engineering later
  - Setting breakpoints, working with registers, memory regions, etc.
    - Digital twins come in extremely handy during this research
      - See: Hunting for Spacecraft Zero Days using Digital Twins
  - Triggering exceptions and understanding what they mean

```

Sending garbage to 0x3
KI2LoadVMBookmark() result: True
b'FED123$\xa4'
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x3
KI2LoadVMBookmark() result: True
b'FED123$|'
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x3|
KI2LoadVMBookmark() result: True
b'FED123$'
Exception occurred!
Exception type: 1
Exception occurred!
Exception type: 1
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to
KI2LoadVMBookmark
b'FED123$\x00'
Exception occurre
Exception type:

```

```

Sending garbage to 0x:
Exception occurred!
PowerPC Exception 6: Alignment Exception
Error Code: 262144
Exception occurred!
PowerPC Exception 7: Program Exception
Error Code: 0
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x:
Exception occurred!
PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
Error Code: 0
Exception occurred!
PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
Error Code: 0
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x:
Exception occurred!
PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
Error Code: 0
Exception occurred!
PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
Error Code: 0
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x:
Exception occurred!
PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
Error Code: 0
Exception occurred!
PowerPC Exception 2: Machine Check
Error Code: 0
Timeout occurred!
Sending garbage to 0x:

```

Table 6-2. Exceptions and Conditions—Overview

Exception Type	Vector Offset (hex)	Causing Conditions
Reserved	00000	—
System reset	00100	The causes of system reset exceptions are implementation-dependent. If the conditions that cause the exception also cause the processor state to be corrupted such that the contents of SRR0 and SRR1 are no longer valid or such that other processor resources are so corrupted that the processor cannot reliably resume execution, the copy of the RI bit copied from the MSR to SRR1 is cleared.
Machine check	00200	The causes for machine check exceptions are implementation-dependent, but typically these causes are related to conditions such as bus parity errors or attempting to access an invalid physical address. Typically, these exceptions are triggered by an input signal to the processor. Note that not all processors provide the same level of error checking. The machine check exception is disabled when MSR[ME] = 0. If a machine check exception condition exists and the ME bit is cleared, the processor goes into the checkstop state. If the conditions that cause the exception also cause the processor state to be corrupted such that the contents of SRR0 and SRR1 are no longer valid or such that other processor resources are so corrupted that the processor cannot reliably resume execution, the copy of the RI bit written from the MSR to SRR1 is cleared. (Note that physical address is referred to as real address in the architecture specification.)
DSI	00300	A DSI exception occurs when a data memory access cannot be performed for any of the reasons described in Section 6.4.3, "DSI Exception (0x00300)." Such accesses can be generated by load/store instructions, certain memory control instructions, and certain cache control instructions.
ISI	00400	An ISI exception occurs when an instruction fetch cannot be performed for a variety of reasons described in Section 6.4.4, "ISI Exception (0x00400)."
External interrupt	00500	An external interrupt is generated only when an external interrupt is pending (typically signalled by a signal defined by the implementation) and the interrupt is enabled (MSR[EE] = 1).
Alignment	00600	An alignment exception may occur when the processor cannot perform a memory access for reasons described in Section 6.4.6, "Alignment Exception (0x00600)." Note that an implementation is allowed to perform the operation correctly and not cause an alignment exception.

[https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/MPCFPE\\_AD\\_R1.pdf](https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/MPCFPE_AD_R1.pdf)

```

Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1
Timeout occurred!
Inputting b'0x1

```



# Manually Invoking Crash – Post Fuzzing

Confirming Input Results Provides Desired Reaction

The screenshot shows a debugger window with two console panes. The top pane displays a series of error messages: "EVS Port1 296/1/CFE\_SB 14: No subscribers for MsgId 0x19bd, sender SCH\_LAB" repeated for several different message IDs. The bottom pane shows a crash dump with the following content:

```
39199102 instructions per second
r0=00000000 r1=00000000 r2=00000000 r3=00000000 r4=00000000 r5=00000000
r6=00000000 r7=ffffffffff r8=00000000 r9=00000001 r10=00000000 r11=00000001
r12=00000000 r13=00000000 r14=00000000 r15=00000000 r16=00000000 r17=00000000
r18=00000000 r19=00000000 r20=00000000 r21=00000000 r22=00000000 r23=00000000
r24=00000000 r25=00000000 r26=00000000 r27=00000000 r28=00000000 r29=00000000
r30=00000000 r31=00000000 lr=00000000 ctr=00000000 cr=20000000 xer=20000000
nip=00000000 instrctr=00000000
Current PID=78 TID=78 (tNetTask)
vxworks!r
00000000: 41 00 00 00 beq 0x17000000 [br=1]
wb 000 | FF FF FF
Enter Clear Output Toggle Color Scroll Unlink
```

The bottom console pane shows a crash dump with the following content:

```
r30=00000000 r31=00000000 lr=00000000 ctr=00000000 cr=40000000 xer=20000000
nip=00000000 instrctr=00000000
Current PID=3 TID=3 (tNetTask)
vxworks!i
00000000: ff 00 00 00 ??
** Program nip=000 (ctr=00000000) **
1 instructions per second
r0=00000000 r1=00000000 r2=00000000 r3=00000000 r4=00000000 r5=00000000
r6=00000000 r7=00000000 r8=00000000 r9=00000000 r10=00000000 r11=00000000
r12=00000000 r13=00000000 r14=00000000 r15=00000000 r16=00000000 r17=00000000
r18=00000000 r19=00000000 r20=00000000 r21=00000000 r22=00000000 r23=00000000
enter debugger commands here
Enter Clear Output Toggle Color Scroll Unlink
```





# Supply Chain Injection – Boot Sequence (RTS)

RTS001 loads after boot

## 2.2.7 RTS Tables

RTS tables are a sequence of Relative Time Sequence commands. The purpose of Relative Time Sequence commands is to be able to specify commands to be executed at a specific time *after* (“relative to”) an ATS.

For Relative Time Command Sequence commands there is a field that represents the time in seconds that the command will *delay* before executing. This delay is relative to the time when the previous Relative Time Tagged Command (RTC) was executed. In the case of the first command of the sequence, this time is relative to when the sequence was started.

More details of timing and format for RTS tables are shown in Chapter 3.

### 3.4.5 Naming Conventions for RTSs

Because RTSs can be loaded at startup, the files for those RTSs must be in a predetermined location (CFS SC Configuration Parameter SC\_RTS\_FILE\_NAME).

This location must be in non-volatile memory. Otherwise, the files would not exist upon a Power-On reset.

Also, the RTS table file must be named according to a specific convention (CFS SC Configuration Parameter SC\_RTS\_TABLE\_NAME). The file name must start with the value of the (CFS SC Configuration Parameter SC\_RTS\_TABLE\_NAME) platform configuration parameter.

Next, must be a three digit number indicating which RTS this table file is, and the last must be “.tbl”. An example of this for RTS No.1, with SC\_RTS\_TABLE\_NAME set to “RTS\_TBL” would be: ‘RTS\_TBL001.tbl’.

In addition to the file naming convention, the name of the table contained within the table file should be the same as the file name, without the path or extension.

Remember to also have the application name prefixed to the name of the table. For the file ‘RTS\_TBL001.tbl’, its table name should be ‘SC.RTS\_TBL001, if the name of the application is ‘SC’.

**Compromise Supply Chain: Software Supply Chain**  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IA-0001/02/>

```

39
40 /*
41 ** RTS Table Data
42 */
43 uint16 RTS_Table001[SC_RTS_BUFF_SIZE] =
44 {
45 /* cmd time, <----- cmd pkt primary header -----> <----- cmd pkt 2nd header -----> <-- opt data -->
46 1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(DS_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(5), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(DS_SET_APP_STATE_CC), 0x0001, 0x0000, /*
47 1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(TO_LAB_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(21), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(TO_DEBUG_ENABLE_CC), 0x0031, 0x3237, 0
48 1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(SAMPLE_APP_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(1), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(SAMPLE_APP_NOOP_CC), // Sample Instrum
49 5, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(LC_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(5), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(LC_SET_LC_STATE_CC), 0x0001, 0x0000, /*
50
51 };

```

RTS001

```

** RTS Table Data
*/
uint16 RTS_Table001[SC_RTS_BUFF_SIZE] =
{
/* cmd time, <----- cmd pkt primary header -----> <----- cmd pkt 2nd header -----> <-- opt data --> */
1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(DS_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(5), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(DS_SET_APP_STATE_CC), 0x0001, 0x0000, // Enable DS
1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(TO_LAB_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(21), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(TO_DEBUG_ENABLE_CC), 0x0031, 0x3237, 0x2E30, 0x2E30, 0x2E31, 0x
1, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(SAMPLE_APP_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(1), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(SAMPLE_APP_NOOP_CC), // Sample Instrument NOOP
5, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(LC_CMD_MID), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(5), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(LC_SET_LC_STATE_CC), 0x0001, 0x0000, // Enable LC
6, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x18A9), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(1), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x0000), // SC NOOP - test Command
7, CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x1866), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(PKT_FLAGS), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(3), CFE_MAKE_BIG16(0x0200), 0x0002 //Reset ATTACK

```

```

EVS Port1 42/1/SC 73: RTS Number 001 Started
EVS Port1 42/1/SCH 21: Major Frame Sync too noisy (Slot 1). Disabling synchronization.
EVS Port1 42/1/TO_LAB 3: TO telemetry output enabled for IP 1
EVS Port1 42/1/SAMPLE 11: SAMPLE: NOOP command received
EVS Port1 42/1/LC 26: Set LC state command: new state = 1
EVS Port1 42/1/SC 52: No-op command. Version 2.5.0.0
EVS Port1 42/1/SC 86: RTS 001 Execution Completed
2000-001-00:00:24.26000 POWERON RESET called from CFE_ES_ResetCFE (Commanded).
CFE_PSP: Exiting cFE with POWERON Reset status.
CFE_PSP: Critical data store shared memory segment removed
Reset Area Shared memory segment removed
User Reserved Area Shared memory segment removed
CFE_PSP: Shutdown initiated - Exiting cFE

```

**Inject Malicious Code & Time Synchronized Execution: Relative Time Sequences**  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0010/>  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0008/02/>

Reboot command but could be “anything” – like reaction wheels?

Reconnaissance	Resource Development	Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Defense Evasion	Lateral Movement	Exfiltration	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 techniques</li> <li>Gather Spacecraft Design Information</li> <li>Gather Spacecraft Description</li> <li>Gather Spacecraft Communications Information</li> <li>Gather Launch Information</li> <li>Enumerate</li> <li>Gather Port Development Information</li> <li>Monitor for Self-Made Indicators</li> <li>Gather Supply Chain Information</li> <li>Gather Mission Information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 techniques</li> <li>Acquire Infrastructure</li> <li>Compromise Infrastructure</li> <li>Obtain Capabilities</li> <li>Stage Capabilities</li> <li>Compromise Software Defined Radio</li> <li>Secondary Backup Communication Channel</li> <li>Redundancy &amp; Proximity Operations</li> <li>Compromise Hosted Payload</li> <li>Compromise Ground System</li> <li>Compromise On-Orbit Update</li> <li>Malicious Commanding via Valid SS</li> <li>Rogue External Entity</li> <li>Trusted Relationship</li> <li>Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode</li> <li>Auxiliary Device Compromise</li> <li>Assembly, Test, and Launch Operation Compromise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 techniques</li> <li>Software Dependencies &amp; Development Tools</li> <li>Hardware Supply Chain</li> <li>Compromise Boot Memory</li> <li>Exploit Hardware/Firmware Corruption</li> <li>Disable/Ignore/Encrypt</li> <li>Trigger Single Event Upset</li> <li>Time Synchronized Execution</li> <li>Relative Time Sequences</li> <li>Inject Malicious Code</li> <li>Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode</li> <li>Modify On-Board Values</li> <li>Flooding</li> <li>spoofing</li> <li>Side Channel Attack</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 techniques</li> <li>Registry</li> <li>Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Spoofing</li> <li>Modify Authentication Process</li> <li>Compromise Boot Memory</li> <li>Exploit Hardware/Firmware Corruption</li> <li>Disable/Ignore/Encrypt</li> <li>Trigger Single Event Upset</li> <li>Absolute Time Sequences</li> <li>Relative Time Sequences</li> <li>Inject Malicious Code</li> <li>Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode</li> <li>Modify On-Board Values</li> <li>Flooding</li> <li>spoofing</li> <li>Side Channel Attack</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 techniques</li> <li>Backdoor</li> <li>Group System Penetration</li> <li>Rotate Cryptographic Keys</li> <li>Memory Compromise</li> <li>Prevent Downhill</li> <li>Modify On-Board Values</li> <li>Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode</li> <li>Modify Whitelist</li> <li>BooKle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 techniques</li> <li>Disable Fault Management</li> <li>Exploit Loss of Bus Segregation</li> <li>Exploit Loss of Bus Segregation</li> <li>Out-of-Band Communications Link</li> <li>Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode</li> <li>Modify Whitelist</li> <li>BooKle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 techniques</li> <li>Hosted Payload</li> <li>Exploit Loss of Bus Segregation</li> <li>Out-of-Band Communications Link</li> <li>Virtualization Escape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 techniques</li> <li>Registry</li> <li>Side Channel Attack</li> <li>Enumeration</li> <li>Out-of-Band Communications Link</li> <li>Proximity Operations</li> <li>Modify Communications Configuration</li> <li>Compromised Ground System</li> <li>Compromised Developer SH</li> <li>Compromised Partner SH</li> <li>Payload Communication Channel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 techniques</li> <li>Disruption</li> <li>Denial</li> <li>Deception</li> <li>Denial</li> <li>Theft</li> </ul>

**Disrupt/Denial**  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0002/>  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0003/>

# Rogue Ground Station – Attacking Reaction Wheel

## Spinning a CubeSat Uncontrollably

- Many CubeSats do not implement strong, sometimes any, authentication / encryption – therefore, can be vulnerable to command link intrusion from Rogue Ground Station
- Requires reconnaissance on spacecraft

Gather Spacecraft Design Information: Software  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/REC-0001/01/>

Gather Spacecraft Communications Information: Commanding Details  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/REC-0003/02/>

Rogue Ground System SW

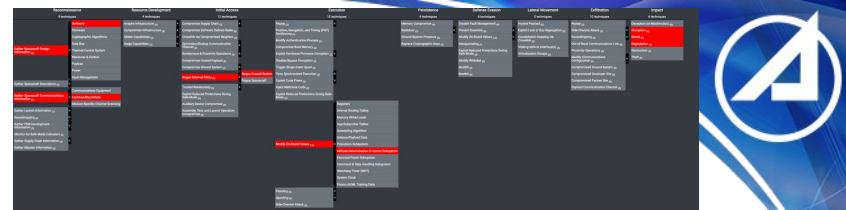
Command Link Intrusion from Rogue Ground  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IA-0008/01/>

- This attack creates a CCSDS frame to send to spacecraft from a rogue ground station

```
0000000 0d0a 0a0d 0060 0000 3c4d 1a2b 0001 0000
0000010 ffff ffff ffff ffff 0004 003a 6445 7469
0000020 6163 2070 5728 7269 7365 6168 6b72 2029
0000030 2e33 2e32 2033 4728 7469 7620 2e33 2e32
0000040 2033 6170 6b63 6761 6465 6120 2073 2e33
0000050 2e32 2d33 2931 0000 0000 0000 0060 0000
0000060 0001 0000 0014 0000 0001 0000 0000 0004
0000070 0014 0000 0006 0000 0054 0000 0000 0000
0000080 f7a5 0005 23d7 faa0 0032 0000 0032 0000
0000090 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0008 0045
00000a0 2400 58a6 0040 1140 6e96 007f 0100 007f
00000b0 0100 acbc 9413 1000 23fe 9219 00c0 0300
00000c0 0003 0014 0054 0000
000000c8 -
```

### Example SPARTA Countermeasures

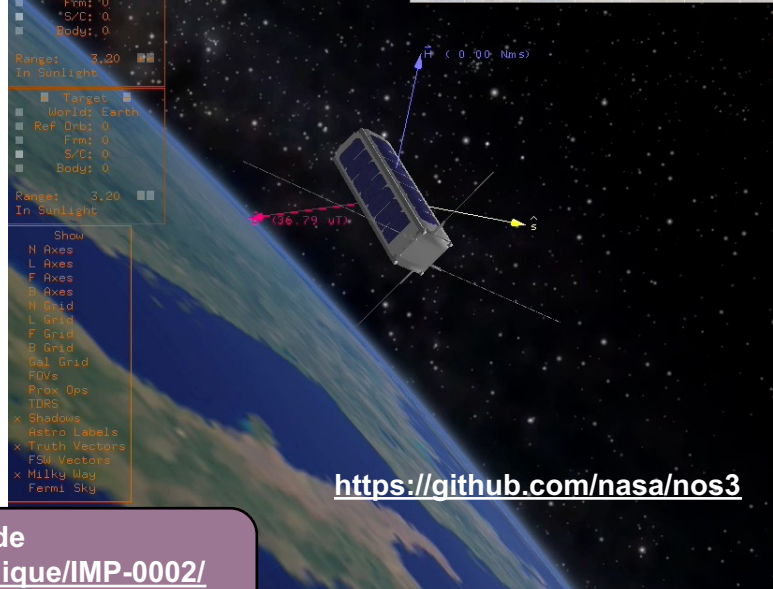
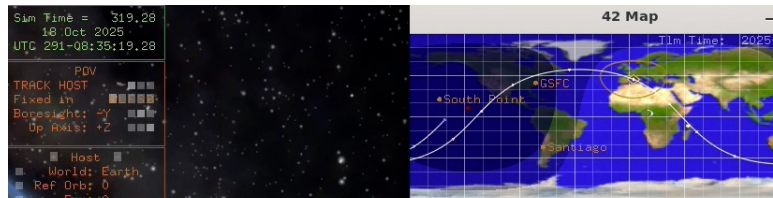
ID	Name	Description	NIST Rev5
CM0002	COMSEC	A component of cybersecurity to deny unauthorized persons information derived from telecommunications and to ensure the authenticity of such telecommunications. COMSEC includes cryptographic security, transmission security, emissions security, and physical security of COMSEC material. It is imperative to utilize secure communication protocols with strong cryptographic mechanisms to prevent unauthorized disclosure of, and detect changes to, information during transmission. Systems should also maintain the confidentiality and integrity of information during preparation for transmission and during reception. Spacecraft should not employ a mode of operations where cryptography on the TT&C link can be disabled (i.e., crypto-bypass mode). The cryptographic mechanisms should identify and reject wireless transmissions that are deliberate attempts to achieve imitative or manipulative communications deception based on signal parameters.	AC-17(1)   AC-17(10)   AC-17(2)   AC-18(1)   AC-2(11)   AC-3(10)   IA-4(9)   IA-5   IA-5(7)   IA-7   SA-8(18)   SA-9(6)   SC-10   SC-12   SC-12(1)   SC-12(2)   SC-12(3)   SC-12(6)   SC-13   SC-13(1)   SC-13(2)   SC-16(3)   SC-28(1)   SC-28(3)   SC-7   SC-7(10)   SC-7(11)   SC-7(18)   SC-7(5)   SI-10   SI-10(3)   SI-10(5)   SI-10(6)   SI-19(4)   SI-3(8)
CM0001	Authentication	Authenticate all communication sessions (crosslink and ground stations) for all commands before establishing remote connections using bidirectional authentication that is cryptographically based. Adding authentication on the spacecraft bus and communications on-board the spacecraft is also recommended.	AC-17(10)   AC-17(10)   AC-17(2)   AC-18(1)   IA-3(1)   IA-4   IA-4(9)   IA-7   SA-8(18)   SA-8(9)   SC-14(2)   SC-32(1)   SC-7(11)   SI-14(3)
CM0003	Relay Protection	Implement relay and replay-resistant authentication mechanisms for establishing a remote connection or connections on the spacecraft bus.	AC-17(10)   AC-17(10)   IA-2(8)   IA-3   IA-3(1)   IA-4   IA-7   SC-13   SC-28   SC-7   SC-7(11)   SC-7(18)   SI-10   SI-10(5)   SI-10(6)   SI-3(8)



Modify On-Board Values: Attitude Determination & Control  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/EX-0012/08/>



1992c000000303001400



<https://github.com/nasa/nos3>

Disrupt/Denial/Degrade  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0002/>  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0003/>  
<https://sparta.aerospace.org/technique/IMP-0004/>

UG ] - GenericRWHardwareModel::uart\_read\_callback: REQUEST C  
 UG ] - GenericRWHardwareModel::uart\_read\_callback: REPLY C



# Combining the 4 Attack Chains

## SPARTA Navigator – Extracting Countermeasures / NIST Controls

<https://sparta.aerospace.org/navigator>

SPARTA Navigator interface showing a tree view of attack chains. The 'Persistence' category is highlighted with a red box. The tree includes categories like Reconnaissance, Resource Development, Initial Access, Execution, Persistence, Defense Evasion, Lateral Movement, Exfiltration, and Impact.

CYSAT-CM-Export

Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Automate Acrobat Tell me

Default

Keep Exit New Options Normal Page Break Preview Page Custom Layout Views

Gridlines Headings

Zoom 100%

Zoom to 100%

Zoom to Selection

New Window Arrange All Unfreeze Panes Freeze Top Row Freeze First Column Unhide Switch Windows View Macros

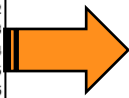
F2

T1592,T1592.001,T1592.002,T1592.003

ID	Name	Description	References	Aerospace Related Threats	Related MITRE ATT&K	Countermeasures	NIST Rev5 Controls
EX-0001.01	Command Packets	Threat actors may interact with the victim spacecraft by replaying captured commands to the spacecraft. While not necessarily malicious in nature, replayed commands can be used to overload the target spacecraft and cause it to onboard systems to crash, perform a DoS attack, or monitor various responses by the spacecraft. If critical commands are captured and replayed, thruster fires, then the impact could impact the spacecraft's attitude control/orbit.		SV-AC-1,SV-AC-2	T0831	CM0002,CM0029,CM0031,CM0032,CM0033,CM0034,CM0036,CM0055	AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),IA-4(9),IA-5,IA-5(7),IA-7,SA-8(18),SA-9(6),SC-10,SC-12,SC-12(1),SC-12(2),SC-12(3),SC-12(6),SC-13,SC-13(1),SC-13(2),SC-16(9),SC-28(1),SC-28(3),SC-7,SC-7(10),SC-7(11),SC-7(18),SC-7(5),SI-10,SI-10(3),SI-10(5),SI-10(6),SI-19(4),SI-3(8),IA-3(1),IA-4,SA-8(15),SA-8(9),SC-16(2),SC-32(1),SI-14(3),AU-14,AU-2,AU-3,AU-3(1),AU-4,AU-4(1),AU-5,AU-5(2),AU-5(5),AU-6(1),AU-6(4),AU-8,AU-9,AU-9(2),AU-9(3),CA-7(6),CM-1(1),CP-10,CP-10(4),IR-4,IR-4(1),IR-4(12),IR-4(5),IR-5,IR-5(1),RA-10,RA-3(4),SA-8(21),SA-8(22),SA-8(23),SC-5,SC-5(3),SC-7(9),SI-16,SI-17,SI-3,SI-4,SI-4(1),SI-4(10),SI-4(11),SI-4(13),SI-4(16),SI-4(17),SI-4(18),SI-4(19),SI-4(20),SI-4(21),SI-4(22),SI-4(23),SI-4(24),SI-4(25),SI-4(4),SI-4(5),SI-6,SI-6(5),SI-7(8),SI-7(17),SI-7(8),CP-4(5),SA-8(24),SC-24,SI-13
EX-0006	Disable/Bypass Encryption	Threat actors may perform specific techniques in order to bypass or disable the encryption mechanism onboard the victim spacecraft. By bypassing or disabling this particular mechanism, further tactics can be performed, such as Exfiltration, that may have not been possible with the internal encryption process in place.		SV-AC-3,SV-AC-8,SV-AV-5,SV-CF-4,SV-MA-7	T1562,T1600.002	CM0002,CM0031,CM0032,CM0042,CM0043	4(11),IR-4(12),IR-4(14),IR-4(5),IR-5,IR-5(1),RA-10,RA-3(4),SA-8(21),SA-8(22),SA-8(23),SC-5,SC-5(3),SC-7(9),SI-16,SI-17,SI-3,SI-4,SI-4(1),SI-4(10),SI-4(11),SI-4(13),SI-4(16),SI-4(17),SI-4(18),SI-4(19),SI-4(20),SI-4(21),SI-4(22),SI-4(23),SI-4(24),SI-4(25),SI-4(4),SI-4(5),SI-6,SI-6(5),SI-7(8),SI-7(17),SI-7(8),CP-4(5),SA-8(24),SC-24,SI-13

AC-3(11)	SA-10(7)	MA-3(1)	AC-3	SC-28(11)	CA-3(6)	SI-4(15)	CP-9	SI-10(5)
AC-4(23)	SA-11	MA-3(2)	AC-3(13)	SC-28(3)	CA-3(7)	SI-4(16)	CP-9(1)	SI-3(8)
AC-4(25)	SA-11(2)	MA-3(3)	AC-3(15)	SC-3	CA-7	SI-4(17)	CP-9(2)	PE-19
CM-12	SA-11(9)	MA-4	AC-3(4)	SC-38	CA-7(1)	SI-4(2)	CP-9(3)	PE-19(1)
CM-12(1)	SA-15	MA-4(1)	AC-4	SC-39	CA-7(6)	SI-4(20)	IA-11	PE-21
PM-11	SA-15(3)	MA-4(3)	AC-4(24)	SC-4	CA-8	SI-4(22)	IA-12	CP-11
PM-17	SA-15(7)	MA-4(6)	AC-4(26)	SC-45	CA-9	SI-4(23)	IA-12(1)	PM-16
SA-3(1)	SA-17	MA-4(7)	AC-4(31)	SC-45(1)	CM-10(1)	SI-4(24)	IA-12(2)	SA-15(8)
SA-3(2)	SA-2	MA-5(1)	AC-4(32)	SC-45(2)	CM-11	SI-4(25)	IA-12(3)	SC-32(1)
SA-4(12)	SA-22	MA-6	AC-6	SC-49	CM-11(2)	SI-4(4)	IA-12(4)	SA-10(3)
SA-5	SA-3	MA-7	AC-6(1)	SC-5	CM-11(3)	SI-4(5)	IA-12(5)	SA-10(4)
SA-9(7)	SA-4	MP-2	AC-6(10)	SC-5(1)	CM-14	SI-5	IA-12(6)	CA-8(3)
SI-21	SA-4(1)	MP-3	AC-6(2)	SC-5(2)	CM-2	SI-5(1)	IA-2	CM-4(1)
SI-23	SA-4(10)	MP-4	AC-6(3)	SC-5(3)	CM-2(2)	SI-6	IA-2(1)	SA-11(1)
SR-12	SA-4(2)	MP-5	AC-6(5)	SC-50	CM-2(3)	SI-7	IA-2(12)	SA-11(4)
SR-7	SA-4(3)	MP-5(4)	AC-6(8)	SC-51	CM-2(7)	SI-7(1)	IA-2(2)	SA-11(5)
AC-1	SA-4(5)	MP-6	AC-6(9)	SC-7	CM-3	SI-7(17)	IA-2(5)	SA-11(6)
AC-10	SA-4(7)	MP-6(3)	AC-7	SC-7(10)	CM-3(1)	SI-7(2)	IA-2(6)	SA-11(7)
AC-11	SA-4(9)	MP-7	AC-8	SC-7(11)	CM-3(2)	SI-7(5)	IA-2(8)	SA-11(8)
AC-11(1)	SA-8	PE-3(7)	AT-2(4)	SC-7(12)	CM-3(5)	SI-7(7)	IA-3	SA-15(5)
AC-12	SA-8(14)	PL-10	AT-2(5)	SC-7(13)	CM-3(7)	SI-7(8)	IA-3(1)	CM-7(4)
AC-12(1)	SA-8(15)	PL-11	AT-2(6)	SC-7(14)	CM-3(8)	SR-1	IA-4	RA-5(3)
AC-14	SA-8(18)	PL-8	AT-3	SC-7(18)	CM-4	SR-10	IA-4(9)	CM-8(7)
AC-16	SA-8(21)	PL-8(1)	AT-3(2)	SC-7(21)	CM-5(1)	SR-11	IA-5	SI-7(12)
AC-16(6)	SA-8(22)	PL-8(2)	AT-4	SC-7(25)	CM-5(5)	SR-11(1)	IA-5(1)	SI-7(15)
AC-17	SA-8(23)	PL-9	AU-10	SC-7(29)	CM-6	SR-11(2)	IA-5(13)	CM-5
AC-17(1)	SA-8(24)	PM-16(1)	AU-11	SC-7(3)	CM-6(1)	SR-11(3)	IA-5(14)	SI-7(9)

CM0001	CM0015	CM0028	CM0043
CM0002	CM0016	CM0029	CM0044
CM0003	CM0017	CM0030	CM0046
CM0004	CM0018	CM0031	CM0047
CM0005	CM0019	CM0032	CM0052
CM0007	CM0020	CM0033	CM0053
CM0008	CM0021	CM0034	CM0054
CM0009	CM0022	CM0035	CM0055
CM0010	CM0023	CM0036	CM0066
CM0011	CM0024	CM0038	CM0069
CM0012	CM0025	CM0039	CM0070
CM0013	CM0026	CM0040	CM0072
CM0014	CM0027	CM0042	CM0073





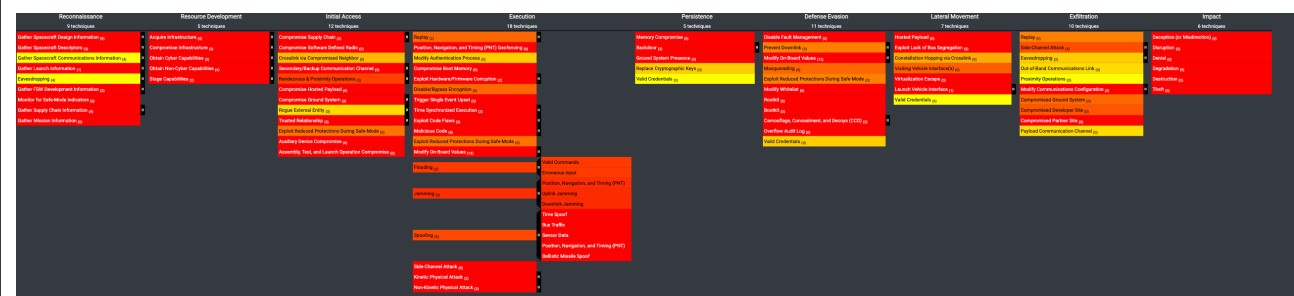


# New SPARTA Countermeasure Mapper / Defensive Gap Analyzer

<https://sparta.aerospace.org/countermeasures/mapper>

- Attack chains built in SPARTA's navigator can help identify countermeasures against the TTPs used in the attack
  - Many users do not know TTPs, they only know the countermeasures they have implemented (or plan to)...
- The SPARTA Gap Analyzer enables a graphical mechanism to select and deselect countermeasures from SPARTA's defense-in-depth view, as the starting point, to drive TTP mitigation & security planning
  - It can export the data into Excel which provides tabs for coverage and gaps from a TTP perspective, including NIST controls
- Below depicts the TTPs that have some mitigation when only applying COMSEC/TRANSEC/TEMPEST
  - **Green/Yellow/Orange** indicates some level of coverage where **Red** indicates no coverage of the TTP

Data	Spacecraft Software	Single Board Computer	IDS/IPS	Cryptography	Comms Link	Ground	Prevention
TEMPEST	Development Environment Security	Secure boot	Cloaking Safe-mode	COMSEC	TRANSEC	Ground-based Countermeasures	Protect Sensitive Information
Shared Resource Leakage	Software Version Numbers	Disable Physical Ports	On-board Intrusion Detection & Prevention	Crypto Key Management	Disabling Physical Ports	Monitor Critical Telemetry Points	Security Testing Results
Machine Learning Data Integrity	Update Software	Segmentation	Robust Fault Management	Authentication	Physical Authenticators	Protect Authenticators	Threat Intelligence Program
On-board Message Encryption	Vulnerability Scanning	Backdoor Commands	Robust Fault Management	Relay Protection	Physical Security Controls	Physical Security Controls	Threat modeling
	Software Bill of Materials	Error Detection and Correcting Memory	Cyber-safe Mode	Traffic Flow Analysis Defense	Fault Injection Redundancy	Data Backup	Criticality Analysis
	Resilient Position, Navigation, and Timing	Tamper Resistant Body	Model-based System Verification	Anti-counterfeit Hardware	Alternate Communications Paths	Supplier Review	Supplier Review
	Software Source Control	Power Randomization	Smart Contracts			Original Component Manufacturer	Original Component Manufacturer
	CWE List	Power Consumption Offuscation	Reinforcement Learning			ASIP/FPGA Manufacturing	ASIP/FPGA Manufacturing
	Dynamic Standard	Secret Shares				Tamper Protection	Tamper Protection
	Static Analysis	Increase Clock Cycles/Timing				User Training	User Training
	Software Digital Signature	Dual Layer Protection				Insider Threat Protection	Insider Threat Protection
	Configuration Management	OSAM Dual Authorization				Two-Person Rule	Two-Person Rule
	Session Termination	Communication Physical Medium				Distributed Constellations	Distributed Constellations
	Least Privilege	Protocol Update / Refactoring				Proliferated Constellations	Proliferated Constellations
	Long Duration Testing					Diversified Architectures	Diversified Architectures
	Operating System Security					Space Domain Awareness	Space Domain Awareness
	Secure Command Mode(s)					Space-Based Radio Frequency Mapping	Space-Based Radio Frequency Mapping
	Dummy Process - Associative Node					Minimizing	Minimizing



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
ID	Name	Description	References	Aerospace	Related MI	Counterme	NIST Rev5	Controls					
REC-0003	Gather Spa	Threat act	<a href="https://cra">https://cra</a>	SV-CF-3	T1592,T15	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1						Spoofting
REC-0003	Communi	Threat act	<a href="https://cra">https://cra</a>	SV-CF-3,SV	T1592,T15	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1						Active Filtering
REC-0003	Commandi	Threat act	<a href="https://cra">https://cra</a>	SV-CF-3,SV	T1592,T15	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1						ing
REC-0003	Mission-Sp	Threat act	Derived fro	SV-CF-3,SV	T1592	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1						
REC-0003	Valid Crede	Threat act	<a href="https://att">https://att</a>	SV-AC-3,SV	T1586,T15	CM0001,CI	AC-3(11),AC-4(23),AC-4(25),AC-4(6),CA-3,CM-12,CM-12(1),PL-8,PL-8(1),PM-11,PM-1						
REC-0005	Eavesdrop	Threat act	Sec and sch	SV-AC-7,SV	T1040,T08	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18,AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I						
REC-0005	Uplink Inte	Threat actors may capt		SV-AC-7,SV	T1040,T08	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18,AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I						
REC-0005	Downlink I	Threat act	Kaspersky:	SV-AC-7,SV	T1040,T08	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18,AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I						
REC-0005	Proximity	Threat act	<a href="https://spa">https://spa</a>	SV-AC-5,SV	T1040,T08	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18,AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I						
REC-0005	Active Scan	Threat act	Derived fro	SV-AC-7,SV	T1595	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18,AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I						
IA-0003	Crosslink vi	Threat actors may com		SV-AC-1,SV-AC-1,SV-IT	CM0002,CI	AC-17,AC-17(1),AC-17(10),AC-17(2),AC-18,AC-18(1),AC-2(11),AC-3(10),CA-3,IA-4(9),I							

Excel Output



# SPARTA

SPACE ATTACK RESEARCH & TACTIC ANALYSIS

<https://sparta.aerospace.org>

## Sample Media Links:

- <https://cyberscoop.com/space-satellite-cybersecurity-sparta/>
- <https://www.darkreading.com/ics-ot/space-race-defenses-satellite-cyberattacks>
- <https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/daily-podcast/1715/notes> & <https://thecyberwire.com/newsletters/signals-and-space/6/21>

## Key SPARTA Links:

- Getting Started with SPARTA: <https://sparta.aerospace.org/resources/getting-started> | <https://sparta.aerospace.org/resources/>
- Understanding Space-Cyber TTPs with the SPARTA Matrix: <https://aerospace.org/article/understanding-space-cyber-threats-sparta-matrix>
- Leveraging the SPARTA Matrix: <https://aerospace.org/article/leveraging-sparta-matrix>
- Use Case w/ PCspooF: <https://aerospacecorp.medium.com/sparta-cyber-security-for-space-missions-4876f789e41c> & <https://medium.com/the-aerospace-corporation/a-look-into-sparta-countermeasures-358e2fcd43ed>
- FAQ: <https://sparta.aerospace.org/resources/faq>
- Matrix: <https://sparta.aerospace.org>
- Navigator: <https://sparta.aerospace.org/navigator> | Countermeasure Mapper: <https://sparta.aerospace.org/countermeasures/mapper>
- Related Work: <https://sparta.aerospace.org/related-work/did-space> with ties into [TOR 2021-01333 REV A](#)

Space Attack Research & Tactic Analysis (SPARTA)

show sub-techniques hide sub-techniques

Reconnaissance 9 techniques	Resource Development 5 techniques	Initial Access 12 techniques	Execution 18 techniques	Persistence 5 techniques	Defense Evasion 11 techniques	Lateral Movement 7 techniques	Exfiltration 10 techniques	Impact 6 techniques
Gather Spacecraft Design Information (3)	Acquire Infrastructure (4)	Compromise Supply Chain (3)	Replay (2)	Memory Compromise (6)	Disable Fault Management (6)	Hosted Payload (6)	Replay (6)	Deception (or Misdirection) (6)
Gather Spacecraft Descriptors (2)	Compromise Infrastructure (1)	Compromise Software Defined Radio (2)	Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Spoofing (8)	Backdoor (2)	Prevent Downlink (1)	Exploit Lock of Bus Segregation (8)	Side-Channel Attack (3)	Disruption (6)
Gather Spacecraft Communications Information (4)	Obtain Cyber Capabilities (2)	Crosslink via Compromised Neighbor (2)	Modify Authentication Process (6)	Ground System Presence (3)	Modify On-Board Values (12)	Constellation Hopping via Crosslink (6)	Eavesdropping (2)	Denial (6)
Gather Launch Information (1)	Obtain Non-Cyber Capabilities (4)	Secondary/Backup Communication Channel (2)	Compromise Boot Memory (6)	Replace Cryptographic Keys (6)	Masquerading (6)	Visiting Vehicle Interface(s) (6)	Out-of-Band Communications Link (6)	Degradation (6)
Eavesdropping (4)	Stage Capabilities (2)	Rendezvous & Proximity Operations (2)	Exploit Hardware/Firmware Corruption (2)	Valid Credentials (3)	Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode (6)	Virtualization Escape (6)	Proximity Operations (6)	Destruction (6)
Gather FSW Development Information (2)		Compromise Hosted Payload (6)	Disable/Bypass Encryption (6)		Modify Whitelist (6)	Launch Vehicle Interface (1)	Modify Communications Configuration (2)	Theft (6)
Monitor for Safe-Mode Indicators (6)		Compromise Ground System (2)	Trigger Single Event Upset (6)		Rootkit (6)	Valid Credentials (6)	Compromised Ground System (6)	
Gather Supply Chain Information (4)		Rogue External Entity (3)	Time Synchronized Execution (2)		Bootkit (6)		Compromised Developer Site (6)	
Gather Mission Information (6)		Trusted Relationship (2)	Exploit Code Flaws (2)		Camouflage, Concealment, and Decoys (CCD) (3)		Compromised Partner Site (6)	
		Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode (6)	Malicious Code (4)		Overflow Audit Log (6)		Payload Communication Channel (6)	
		Auxiliary Device Compromise (6)	Exploit Reduced Protections During Safe-Mode (6)		Valid Credentials (6)			
		Assembly, Test and Launch Operation Compromise (6)	Modify On-Board Values (13)					
			Flooding (2)					
			Jamming (3)					
			Spoofing (3)					
			Side-Channel Attack (3)					
			Kinetic Physical Attack (2)					
			Non-Kinetic Physical Attack (2)					



## ***Other Aerospace Papers and Resources***

- DefCON Presentations:
  - [DEF CON 2020: Exploiting Spacecraft](#)
  - [DEF CON 2021: Unboxing the Spacecraft Software BlackBox Hunting for Vulnerabilities](#)
  - [DEF CON 2022: Hunting for Spacecraft Zero Days using Digital Twins](#)
- Papers/Articles:
  - 2019: [Defending Spacecraft in the Cyber Domain](#)
  - 2020: [Establishing Space Cybersecurity Policy, Standards, & Risk Management Practices](#)
  - 2021: [Cybersecurity Protections for Spacecraft: A Threat Based Approach](#)
  - 2021: [The Value of Space](#)
  - 2022: [Protecting Space Systems from Cyber Attack](#)
- July 2022 Congressional Testimony:
  - Video: <https://science.house.gov/hearings?ID=996438A6-A93E-4469-8618-C1B59BC5A964>
  - Written Testimony: <https://republicans-science.house.gov/cache/files/2/9/29fff6d3-0176-48bd-9c04-00390b826aed/A8F54300A11D55BEA5AF2CE305C015BA.2022-07-28-bailey-testimony.pdf>



## ***Theoretical Attack Chain - PCspooF***



# Example Attack Chains from the Past

## 2022 TTE Vulnerability - PCspooF

- Research paper by Andrew Loveless, Linh Thi Xuan Phan, Ronald Dreslinski and Baris Kasikci describing an attack dubbed PCspooF. The academic paper expertly articulates a [vulnerability in and exploit of Time-Triggered Ethernet \(TTE\)](#), which is used as a bus service for a variety of spacecraft including NASA's Orion capsule, NASA's Lunar Gateway space station, and ESA's Ariane 6 launcher — among others.

### PCSPooF: Compromising the Safety of Time-Triggered Ethernet

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**Abstract**—Designers are increasingly using mixed-criticality networks in embedded systems to reduce size, weight, power, and cost. Perhaps the most successful of these technologies is Time-Triggered Ethernet (TTE), which lets critical time-triggered (TT) traffic and non-critical best-effort (BE) traffic share the same switches and cabling. A key aspect of TTE is that the TT part of the system is *isolated* from the BE part, and thus BE devices have no way to disrupt the operation of the TTE devices. This isolation allows designers to: (1) use untrusted, but low cost, BE hardware, (2) lower BE security requirements, and (3) ignore BE devices during safety reviews and certification procedures.

We present PCSPooF, the first attack to break TTE's isolation guarantees. PCSPooF is based on two key observations. First, it is possible for a BE device to infer private information about the TT part of the network that can be used to craft malicious synchronization messages. Second, by injecting electrical noise into a TTE switch over an Ethernet cable, a BE device can trick the switch into sending these malicious synchronization messages to other TTE devices. Our evaluation shows that successful attacks are possible in seconds, and that each successful attack can cause TTE devices to lose synchronization for up to a second and drop tens of TT messages — both of which can result in the failure of critical systems like aircraft or automobiles. We also show that, in a simulated spaceflight mission, PCSPooF causes uncontrolled maneuvers that threaten safety and mission success. We disclosed PCSPooF to aerospace companies using TTE, and several are implementing mitigations from this paper.

**Index Terms**—Time-Triggered Ethernet, packet-in-packet attacks, electromagnetic interference, embedded systems

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Increasingly, embedded systems are using *mixed-criticality* network technologies that allow traffic with different timing and fault tolerance requirements to coexist in the same physical network [1]–[4]. These technologies let designers reduce size, weight, power, and cost by sharing the same network between critical and non-critical parts of the system. For example, aircraft can share one network between vehicle control systems and passenger Wi-Fi and entertainment systems [5], [6]; spacecraft can share one network between life support systems and onboard experiments [7], [8]; and manufacturing plants can share one network between robot control systems and data collection systems [9].

One of the most successful mixed-criticality network technologies is *Time-Triggered Ethernet (TTE)* [2]. Today, TTE serves as the network backbone for several spacecraft, including NASA's Orion capsule [10], NASA's Lunar Gateway space station [7], and ESA's Ariane 6 launcher [11]. TTE is also widely used in aircraft [12]–[14], energy generation

systems [15], and industrial control systems [16], [17], and is a leading contender to replace CAN bus and FlexRay as the standard network technology in future automobiles [18], [19].

TTE has several properties that make it attractive for safety and mission-critical applications. Most notably, TTE follows a *time-triggered (TT)* paradigm, in which devices are tightly synchronized, and they send messages and execute software according to a predetermined schedule. This TT approach reduces message latencies to hundreds of microseconds and jitter to near-zero [20], [21], making TTE appropriate for even the tightest control loops. TTE also provides fault tolerance by replicating the whole network to form multiple *planes*, and by forwarding messages over all planes simultaneously [22].

In addition, TTE enables mixed-criticality architectures by being 100% compatible with standard Ethernet [23]. This means that *non-critical* systems, which typically use standard Ethernet hardware to lower costs [24], can send messages over the same cabling as the critical TTE devices. Unlike TT traffic, standard Ethernet traffic is forwarded on a *best-effort (BE)* basis, filling in space *around* the TT traffic [23]. Also, standard Ethernet traffic typically only travels over a single network plane, so does not have any fault tolerance guarantees [7].

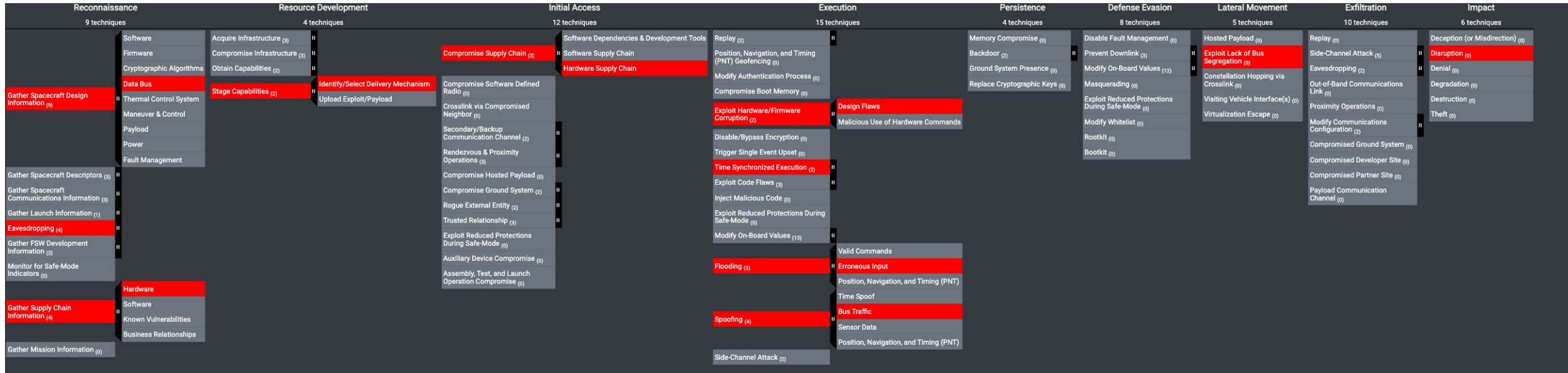
A key aspect of TTE's mixed-criticality design is that the TT part of the system is *isolated* from the BE part. In other words, no matter how the BE devices behave, they should not be able to disrupt synchronization between TTE devices, or the timely or successful delivery of TT traffic [25]. This isolation is commonly used as justification for several cost-cutting measures, including: (1) procuring BE devices from relatively untrusted (but low cost) suppliers [26], [27]; (2) relaxing security requirements for BE devices [28]; and (3) reducing the scope of analysis and certification of a system to focus solely on the TTE devices [29]. For example, on NASA spacecraft, onboard experiments are often provided by university research groups, are operated by the university students with minimal NASA involvement, and are not considered in safety reviews or the certification process of the overall vehicle [30], [31].

In this paper, we present PCSPooF, a new attack that breaks TTE's isolation guarantees for the first time — allowing a single malicious BE device on a single plane to disrupt synchronization and communication between TTE devices on all planes. PCSPooF is based on two key observations:

First, it is possible for a malicious BE device to *infer* private information about the TTE network that is needed to construct valid TTE synchronization messages, called *protocol control*



## PCspooF Potential Attack Chain



Introducing SPARTA using PCspooF: Cyber Security for Space Missions - <https://medium.com/the-aerospace-corporation/sparta-cyber-security-for-space-missions-4876f789e41c>  
 A Look into SPARTA Countermeasures - <https://medium.com/the-aerospace-corporation/a-look-into-sparta-countermeasures-358e2fcd43ed>



# PCspooF Countermeasure Samples

## Quick Way to Identify Potential Mitigations

Introducing SPARTA using PCSpooF: Cyber Security for Space Missions - <https://medium.com/the-aerospace-corporation/sparta-cyber-security-for-space-missions-4876f789e41c>

A Look into SPARTA Countermeasures - <https://medium.com/the-aerospace-corporation/a-look-into-sparta-countermeasures-358e2fcd43ed>

### Original Component Manufacturer

Components that cannot be procured from the original component manufacturer or their authorized franchised distribution network should be approved by the supply chain to prevent and detect counterfeit and fraudulent parts and materials.

### Best Segment for Countermeasure Deployment

- Development Environment

### Informational References

- AC-20(5) - Use of External Systems | Portable Storage Devices — Prohibit
- PM-30 - Supply Chain Risk Management Strategy
- PM-30(1) - Supply Chain Risk Management Strategy | Suppliers of Critical essential Items
- RA-3(1) - Risk Assessment | Supply Chain Risk Assessment
- SR-1 - Policy and Procedures
- SR-11 - Component Authenticity
- SR-2 - Supply Chain
- SR-2(1) - Supply Chain
- SR-3 - Supply Chain
- SR-3(1) - Supply Chain

### Dynamic Analysis

Employ dynamic analysis (e.g., using simulation, penetration testing, commercial, or third-party developed code). Testing should occur in development, test, and production environments, and (3) throughout the lifecycle of the system.

### Techniques

ID	Name
IA-001	Compromised Supply Chain
IA-003	Hardware Supply Chain
IA-002	Compromised Ground Station

### Best Segment for Countermeasure Deployment

- Ground Segment and Development Environment

### Informational References

- CA-8 - Penetration Testing
- CP-4(5) - Contingency Plan Testing | Self-challenge
- RA-5(11) - Vulnerability Monitoring and Scanning | Public
- SA-11(5) - Developer Testing and Evaluation | Penetration
- SA-11(8) - Developer Testing and Evaluation | Dynamic Code Analysis
- SA-11(9) - Developer Testing and Evaluation | Interactive
- SC-2(2) - Separation of System and User Functionality | Disjoint
- SC-7(29) - Boundary Protection | Separate Subnets to Isolate
- SR-6(1) - Supplier Assessments and Reviews | Testing and

### Techniques Addressed by Countermeasure

ID	Name	Description
IA-001	Compromise Supply Chain	Threat actors may manipulate and modify on-board updates before they are sent to the target SV. This attack can be done in a number of ways, including manipulation of source code, manipulation of
.02	Software Supply Chain	Threat actors may manipulate and modify on-board updates before they are sent to the target SV. This attack can be done in a number of ways, including manipulation of source code, manipulation of
.03	Hardware Supply Chain	Threat actors may manipulate and modify on-board updates before they are sent to the target SV. This attack can be done in a number of ways, including manipulation of source code, manipulation of
IA-007	Compromise Ground Station	Threat actors may initially compromise the ground station in order to access the target SV. Once compromised, the threat actor can perform a multitude of initial access techniques, including hijacking, compromising authentication schemes.
.01	Compromise On-Board	Threat actors may manipulate and modify on-board updates before they are sent to the target SV. This attack can be done in a number of ways, including manipulation of source code, manipulation of

### On-board Intrusion Detection & Prevention

Utilize on-board intrusion detection/prevention system that monitors the mission critical components or systems and audit/logs actions. The IDS/IPS should have the capability to respond to threats and it should address signature-based attacks along with dynamic never-before seen attacks using machine learning/adaptive technologies. The IDS/IPS must integrate with traditional fault management to provide a holistic approach to faults on-board the spacecraft. Spacecraft should select and execute safe countermeasures against cyber-attacks. These countermeasures are a ready supply of options to triage against the specific types of attack and mission priorities. Minimally, the response should ensure vehicle safety and continued operations. Ideally, the goal is to trap the threat, convince the threat that it is successful, and trace and track the attacker — with or without ground support. This would support successful attribution and evolving countermeasures to mitigate the threat in the future. "Safe countermeasures" are those that are compatible with the system's fault management system to avoid unintended effects or fratricide on the system.

### Sources

- <https://attack.mitre.org/mitigations/M1031/>

### Best Segment for Countermeasure Deployment

- Space Segment

### Informational References

- AU-14 - Session Audit
- AU-2 - Event Logging
- AU-3 - Content of Audit Records
- AU-3(1) - Content of Audit Records | Additional Audit Information
- AU-4 - Audit Log Storage Capacity
- AU-4(1) - Audit Log Storage Capacity | Transfer to Alternate Storage
- AU-5 - Response to Audit Logging Process Failures
- AU-5(2) - Response to Audit Logging Process Failures | Real-time Alerts
- AU-5(5) - Response to Audit Logging Process Failures | Alternate Audit Logging Capability
- AU-6(1) - Audit Record Review, Analysis, and Reporting | Automated Process Integration
- AU-6(4) - Audit Record Review, Analysis, and Reporting | Central Review and Analysis
- AU-8 - Time Stamps
- AU-9 - Protection of Audit Information
- AU-9(2) - Protection of Audit Information | Store on Separate Physical Systems or Components
- AU-9(3) - Protection of Audit Information | Cryptographic Protection
- CA-7(6) - Continuous Monitoring | Automation Support for Monitoring
- CM-11(3) - User-installed Software | Automated Enforcement and Monitoring
- CP-10 - System Recovery and Reconstitution
- CP-10(4) - System Recovery and Reconstitution | Restore Within Time Period
- IR-4 - Incident Handling
- IR-4(11) - Incident Handling | Integrated Incident Response Team
- IR-4(12) - Incident Handling | Malicious Code and Forensic Analysis
- IR-4(14) - Incident Handling | Security Operations Center
- IR-5 - Incident Monitoring

### Techniques Addressed by Countermeasure

ID	Name	Description
EX-006	Disable/Bypass	Threat actors may perform specific techniques in order to bypass or disable the encryption mechanism onboard the victim SV. By bypassing or disabling this particular mechanism, further tactics can be performed to compromise the target SV.

### Segmentation

Identify the key system components or capabilities that require isolation through physical or logical means. Information should not be allowed to flow between partitioned applications unless explicitly permitted by security policy. Isolate mission critical functionality from non-mission critical functionality by means of an isolation boundary (implemented via partitions) that controls access to and protects the integrity of, the hardware, software, and firmware that provides that functionality. Enforce approved authorizations for controlling the flow of information within the spacecraft and between interconnected systems based on the defined security policy that information does not leave the spacecraft boundary unless it is encrypted. Implement boundary protections to separate bus, communications, and payload components supporting their respective functions.

### Sources

- <https://attack.mitre.org/mitigations/M1030/>

### Authentication

Authenticate all communication sessions (crosslink and ground stations) for all commands before establishing remote connections using bidirectional authentication that is cryptographically based. Adding authentication on the spacecraft bus and communications on-board the spacecraft is also recommended.

### Best Segment for Countermeasure Deployment

- Space Segment

### Informational References

- AC-17(10) - Remote Access | Authenticate Remote Commands
- AC-17(2) - Remote Access | Protection of Confidentiality and Integrity Using Encryption
- AC-18(1) - Wireless Access | Authentication and Encryption
- IA-3(1) - Device Identification and Authentication | Cryptographic Bidirectional Authentication
- IA-4 - Identifier Management
- IA-4(9) - Identifier Management | Attribute Maintenance and Protection
- IA-7 - Cryptographic Module Authentication
- SA-8(15) - Security and Privacy Engineering Principles | Predicate Permission
- SA-8(9) - Security and Privacy Engineering Principles | Trusted Components
- SC-16(2) - Transmission of Security and Privacy Attributes | Anti-spoofing Mechanisms
- SC-32(1) - System Partitioning | Separate Physical Domains for Privileged Functions
- SC-7(11) - Boundary Protection | Restrict Incoming Communications Traffic
- SI-14(3) - Non-persistence | Non-persistent Connectivity

### Techniques Addressed by Countermeasure

ID	Name	Description
IA-003	Crosslink via Compromised Neighbor	Threat actors may compromise a victim SV via the crosslink communications of a neighboring SV that has been compromised. SVs in close proximity are able to send commands back and forth. Threat actors can compromise other SVs once they have access to another that is nearby.
EX-001	Replay	Replay attacks involve threat actors recording previously data streams and then resending them at a later time. This attack can be used to fingerprint systems, gain elevated privileges, or even cause a denial of service.
.01	Command Packets	Threat actors may interact with the victim SV by replaying captured commands to the SV. While not necessarily malicious in nature, replayed commands can be used to overload the target SV and cause it to attack, or monitor various responses by the SV. If critical commands are captured and replayed, threat actors can impact the SV's attitude control/orbit.
EX-006	Disable/Bypass	Threat actors may perform specific techniques in order to bypass or disable the encryption mechanism onboard the victim SV. By bypassing or disabling this particular mechanism, further tactics can be performed to compromise the target SV.

ID: CM0038  
Created: 2022/10/19  
Last Modified: 2022/10/19

ID: CM0032  
Created: 2022/11/19  
Last Modified: 2022/11/19

- 2-16(3) - Transmission of Security and Privacy Attributes | Cryptographic Binding
- 2-2(2) - Separation of System and User Functionality | Disassociability
- 3 - Security Function Isolation
- 3(2)(1) - System Partitioning | Separate Physical Domains for Privileged Functions
- 39 - Process Isolation
- 4 - Information in Shared System Resources
- 49 - Hardware-enforced Separation and Policy Enforcement
- 50 - Software-enforced Separation and Policy Enforcement
- 6 - Resource Availability
- 7(21) - Boundary Protection | Isolation of System Components
- 7(29) - Boundary Protection | Separate Subnets to Isolate Functions

ID: CM0031  
Created: 2022/10/19  
Last Modified: 2022/10/19

within visual contact or close

to deploy malware to latera

has the ability to connect vi

specific command set. The co  
to command hosted paylo