

## HexPADS: a platform to detect "stealth" attacks

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## Deployed defenses focus on memory corruption

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## Consider program state and behavior

# HexPADS Design

## HexPADS Design

- Host-based Intrusion/Attack Detection System
- Measure fine-grained process-level
  *runtime* behavior
  - Operating system provides basic runtime characteristics
  - Performance Monitoring Unit (PMU) allows counting/sampling of detailed and fine-grained events
- Detect attacks based on signatures/anomalies
- Take evasive action/counter measure



## **Default Metrics (always collected)**

- Number of executed instructions
- Number of last level cache accesses
- Number of last level cache misses
- Minor/major page faults
- Execution time



## **Additional Metrics**

- Anything in /proc
  - Opened files, network ports, and IPC
  - Loaded libraries
  - Memory maps
- Any measurable PMU event
  - Memory/cache hierarchy events
  - Instruction mix and behavior
  - Execution profile and branch records
- System calls

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2409	gannimo	20	0	1342M	37052	26940		1.3	0.2	0:00.1	) nautilus -n	
1433	root	20	0	13180	980	536		0.7	0.0	1:20.4	3 /usr/sbin/ninja /etc/ninja/ninja.conf	
2321	gannimo	20	0	1524M	92708	<b>34</b> 236		0.7	0.6	2:19.2	2 compiz	
1634		20	0	663M	117M	<mark>98</mark> 256		0.7	0.7	2:40.3	L /usr/bin/X -core :0 -seat seat0 -auth /var/run/lightdm	i/r
2484	gannimo	20	0		42888	20500		0.7	0.3	0:17.8	7 /usr/bin/python /usr/bin/terminator	
1932	gannimo	20		22304	640	420		0.7	0.0	0:03.8	5 upstart-dbus-bridgedaemonsessionuserbus-na	ime
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2594	gannimo	20	0		<mark>9</mark> 112	5308		0.0	0.1	0:00.1	L zeitgeist-datahub	
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## Implementation

- Modular implementation
- Collect metrics for all processes
- Keep configurable history
- Run detection modules every iteration



## http://github.com/HexHive/HexPads

Evaluation



### Rowhammer

- Cause DRAM bit flips by accessing adjacent cells
  - High amount of cache misses: > 500,000/s
  - High cache miss rate: > 70%
  - Low page fault rate: < 1%</li>
- Possible extension: use sampling
  - Detect and correlate actual accesses
  - Detect "nearby" accesses



### **Cache-based side/covert channels**

- Communicate through access timing
  - Same pattern as rowhammer
  - Additional challenge: which process is bad?
- Possible extension: longer history
  - Consider development over time



## Cross-VM ASL INtrospection (CAIN)\*

- CAIN attacks leak ASLR base addresses in co-located VMs
  - High amount of page faults/allocated pages/cache misses/per instr.
  - Followed by inactivity
- Possible extension: study access patterns
  - Push detection to VMM level
  - Check page similarity
  - Evaluate page access patterns



CAIN: Silently Breaking ASLR in the Cloud. Antonio Barresi, Kaveh Razavi, Mathias Payer, and Thomas R. Gross. In WOOT '15

## **Upcoming Challenges**

- Move collection to VMM to allow per-machine correlation
- Extend and develop new detection modules
- Synthesize detection modules by applying machine learning



Conclusion

## Conclusion

- HexPADS is a modular IDS/ADS framework
- Process-based collection of runtime/performance information
- High precision and negligible overhead through PMU
- Ongoing work:
  - More detection modules
  - Machine learning
  - Push framework to VMM level
- Go clone the project at https://github.com/HexHive/HexPADS



# Thank you! Questions?

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