Practical implications of Intel SGX with Graphene

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Software Guard Extensions (SGX)

- Untrusted system
- Trusted enclave
- Attestation
- Encrypted & isolated memory
- Integrity, confidentiality, isolation



Graphene-SGX

- Library OS
- Standard C library
- Unmodified applications
- Multi-process support
- Dynamic shared libraries
- Manifest

Enclave

User application

Library OS

Related work Use-cases

• SGX

- DRM, Anti-cheat
- Compilers
- TLS termination
- Databases
- System logs
- Middleboxes
- Graphene
 - No modifications required
 - Reduced development effort
 - Facilitate SGX research

Related work Existing attacks on SGX

- Cache side channel attacks
 - Foreshadow
 - SgxPectre
 - BranchScope
 - CacheZoom
- Asyncshock
- Controlled channel

What are the practical implications of running arbitrary applications in Intel SGX using Graphene-SGX?

Security implications

Misaligned threat model

- Intel SGX
 - Operating system = untrusted
- Most applications
 - Operating system = trusted

Arbitrary applications are often not designed to guard against a malicious operating system.

Iago attacks

- Attacks by malicious kernel
- System calls
- Mitigation

 Verification

Date / time manipulation

- gettimeofday()
- Reliant on OS supplied vDSO
- Not verified by Graphene
- Implications
 - Transaction order
 - Kerberos
 - 2FA token validity
 - Rate limiting



Date / time manipulation demo

Environment variable manipulation

- Arbitrary environment vars
- Not present in manifest
- Not checked by Graphene
- Easily overlooked
- Implications
 - Influence execution
 - GCC Epoch

Framework maturity

Running applications in Graphene

- OS version support
- Framework bugs
- Disk writes
- Non trivial to port complex applications

Discussion & conclusions

Discussion

- Security may be compromised
- Can be mitigated
- Graphene as research project
- Not ready for production

Developers should take care when running arbitrary applications in SGX using Graphene, as there may be non-trivial security implications and framework bugs.



Future work

- Explore additional system calls
- Environment variable dependent applications
- Investigate SCONE/Panoply

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Software Attestation

- Attestation data
- Attestation key
- Attestation signature



Software Attestation SGX

- MRENCLAVE Enclave Identity
- MRSIGNER Sealing Authority Public key hash
- Attestation Key in µcode



Source: Intel documentation