



Pandora: Principled Symbolic Validation of Intel SGX Enclave Runtimes

Fritz Alder¹, Lesly-Ann Daniel¹, David Oswald², Frank Piessens¹, Jo Van Bulck¹

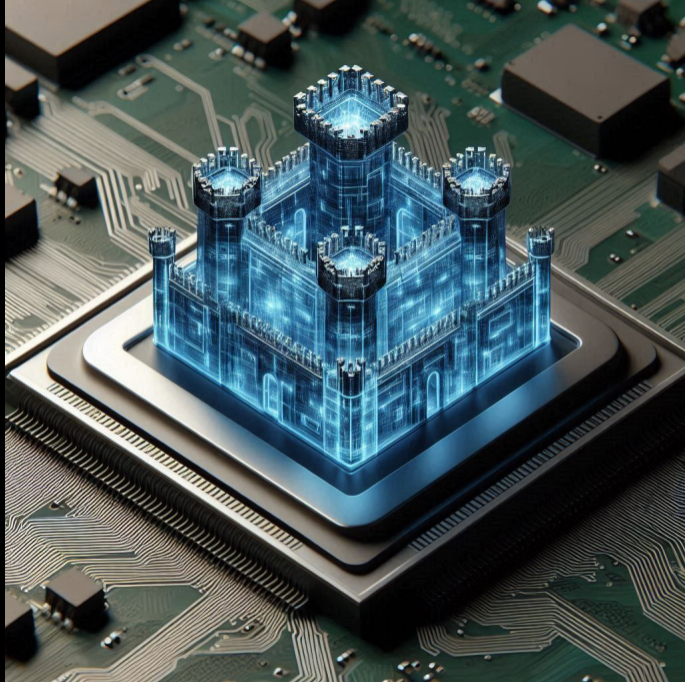
45th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P) – May 22, 2024

¹DistriNet, KU Leuven, Belgium ²University of Birmingham, UK

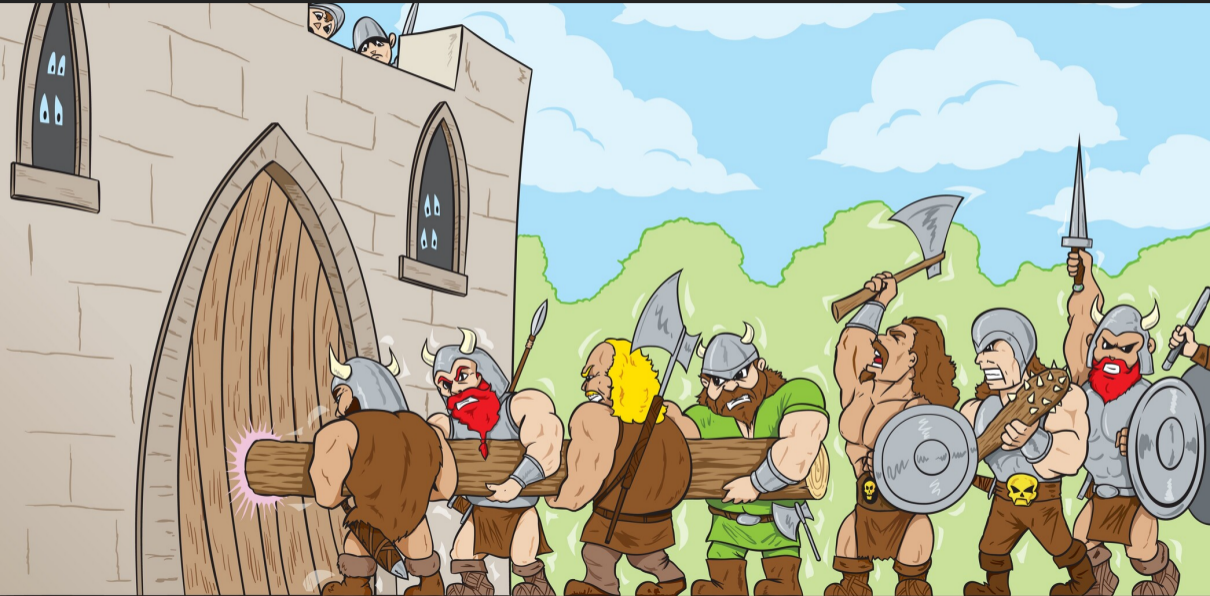










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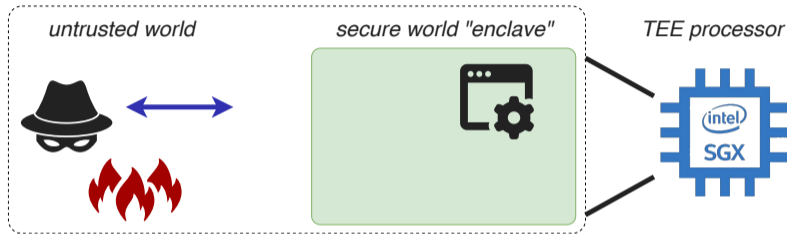


Besieging the SGX Fortress: Software Interface Attacks

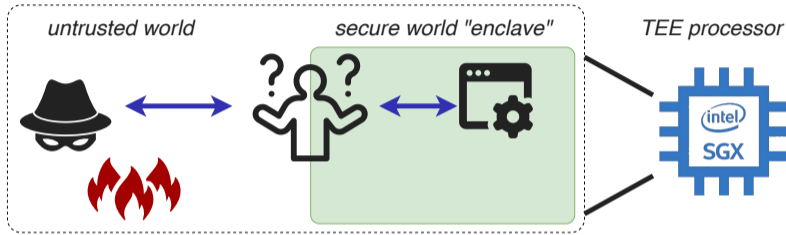


 Improper sanitization of MXCSR and RFLAGS	Moderate
GHSA-5gfr-m6mx-p5w4 published on Jul 17, 2023 by radhikaj	
 Intel Processor Stale Data Read from Legacy xAPIC	Moderate
GHSA-v3vm-9h66-wm76 published on Aug 13, 2022 by radhikaj	
 Intel Processor MMIO Stale Data Vulnerabilities	Moderate
GHSA-wm9w-8857-8fgj published on Jun 14, 2022 by radhikaj	
 Open Enclave SDK Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability	Moderate
GHSA-mj87-466f-jq42 published on Jul 13, 2021 by radhikaj	
 Socket syscalls can leak enclave memory contents	Moderate
GHSA-525h-wxcc-f66m published on Oct 12, 2020 by radhikaj	
 x87 FPU operations in enclaves are vulnerable to ABI poisoning	Low
GHSA-7wjx-wcwg-w999 published on Jul 14, 2020 by CodeMonkeyLeet	
 Intel SGX Load Value Injection (LVI) vulnerability	Moderate
GHSA-8934-g2pr-x6cg published on Mar 12, 2020 by radhikaj	
 Enclave heap memory disclosure vulnerability	Moderate
GHSA-mg2p-657r-46cj published on Oct 8, 2019 by CodeMonkeyLeet	

Context: Writing "Secure" Enclave Software is Hard...

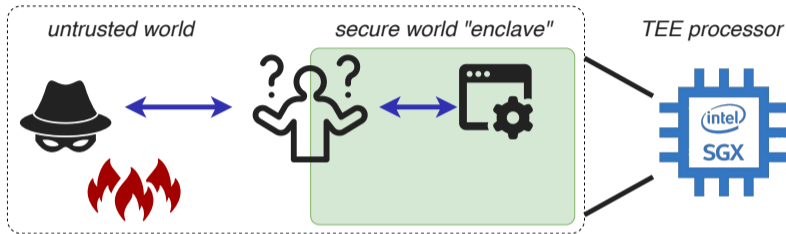


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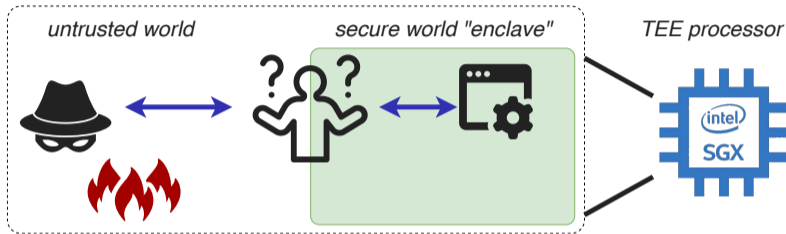
- **API level:** Sanitize pointer arguments in shared address space

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- **API level:** Sanitize pointer arguments in shared address space
- **ABI level:** Sanitize low-level CPU configuration registers

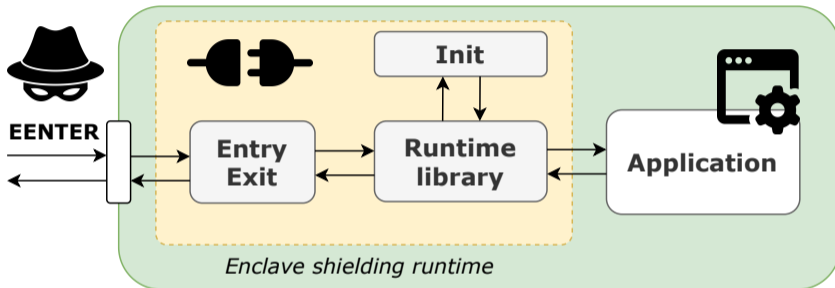
Context: Writing “Secure” Enclave Software is Hard...



- **API level:** Sanitize pointer arguments in shared address space
- **ABI level:** Sanitize low-level CPU configuration registers
- **μ -arch level:** Spectre/LVI → `lfence`; \AA EPIC/MMIO stale data → `verw`; cacheline GPU leak → `avoid dword0/1...`



Solution: Enclave Shielding Runtimes



Key idea: Transparent **input sanitization** on **enclave entry/exit**

01 INTEL
OPEN
SOURCE
.org

PROJECTS 01

COMMUNITY

ABOUT

Intel®
Software
Guard
Extensions

INTEL® SOFTWARE GUARD EXTENSIONS SDK FOR LINUX*

GRAMINE



Open Enclave SDK

Build Trusted Execution Environment based applications with an open source SDK that provides access to hardware technologies as well as all platforms from Intel to ARM.



LSDS

Large-Scale Data & Systems Group

SGX-LKL: Linux Binaries in SGX Enclaves



Enarx

WebAssembly + Confidential Computing

Enarx Introduction - 10min

Gramine - a Library OS for Unmodified Applications

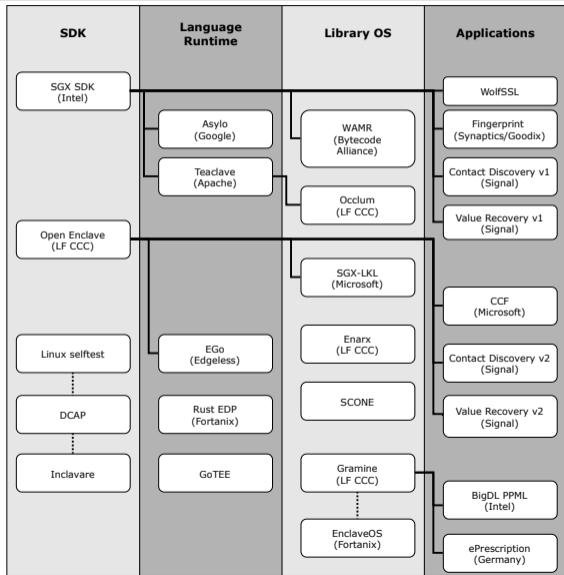
Open-Source community project driven by a core team of contributors. Previously Graphene

Fortanix
EDP

ENCLAVE DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM

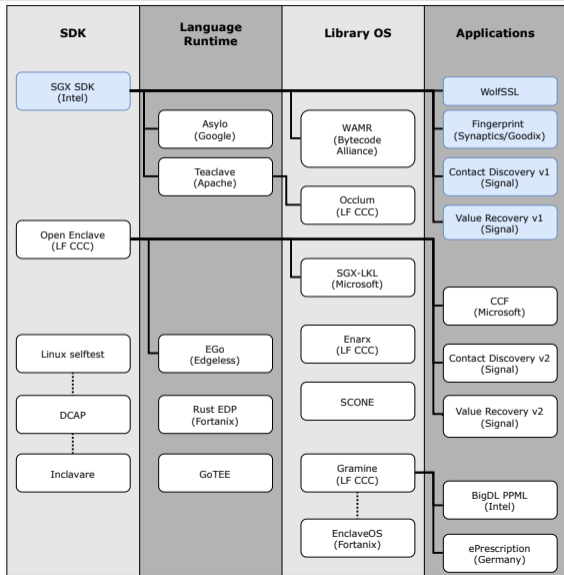
The Fortanix EDP is the preferred way for writing Intel® SGX applications from scratch.

Challenge: Diverse Intel SGX Software Ecosystem



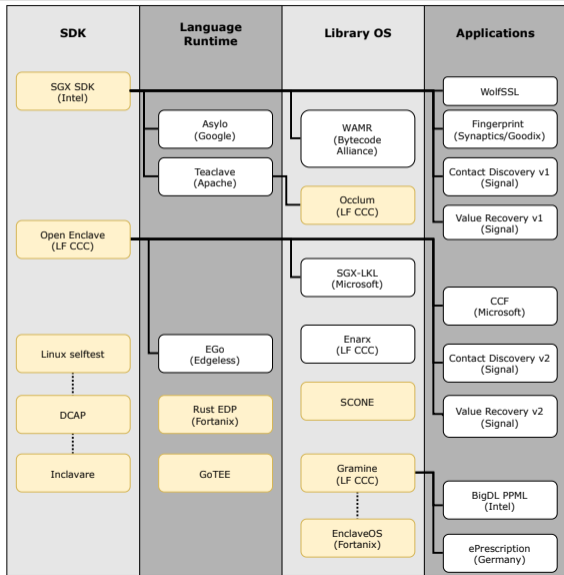
- **Ecosystem:** Diverse programming paradigms & abstractions

Challenge: Diverse Intel SGX Software Ecosystem

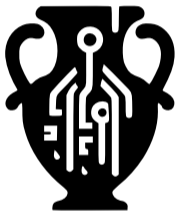


- **Ecosystem:** Diverse programming paradigms & abstractions
- **Prior work:** Selected applications on Intel SDK (e.g., NULL pointers)

Challenge: Diverse Intel SGX Software Ecosystem



- **Ecosystem:** Diverse programming paradigms & abstractions
- **Prior work:** Selected applications on Intel SDK (e.g., NULL pointers)
- **Pandora:** Runtime-agnostic & truthful symbolic execution
 1. Exact attested memory binary
 2. Vulnerability detection plugins



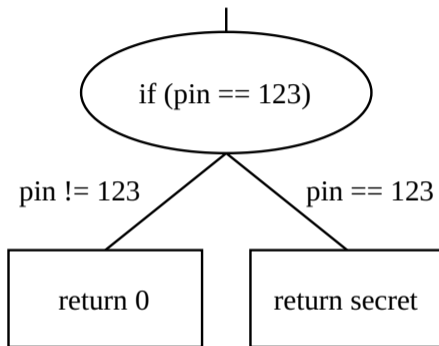
1. Truthful Symbolic Execution

Background: Symbolic Execution and angr

```
1 int ecall(int pin){  
2   if(pin == 123){  
3     return secret;  
4   } else {  
5     return 0;  
6   }  
7 }
```

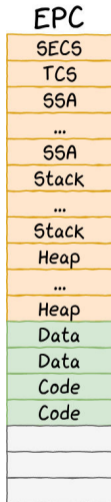


<https://angr.io/>



- Symbolic execution uses a **constraint solver**
- Execution works on **instruction-level**, i.e., as close to the binary as possible

Challenge: Intel SGX Memory Layout



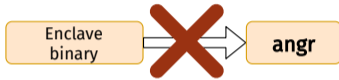
Angr is designed to load normal OS binaries

↔ No uniform **SGX enclave binary format!**

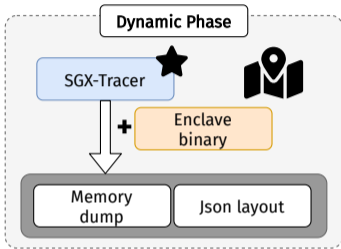
- Untrusted **runtime loader** parses ELF binary embedded metadata to create enclave image with **TCS**, **SSA**, **Stack**, **Heap**, etc.
- MRENCLAVE attestation independent of load address → partial **relocation** in enclave

↔ No syscalls; untrusted interaction through **enclu** (ecall/ocall/...)

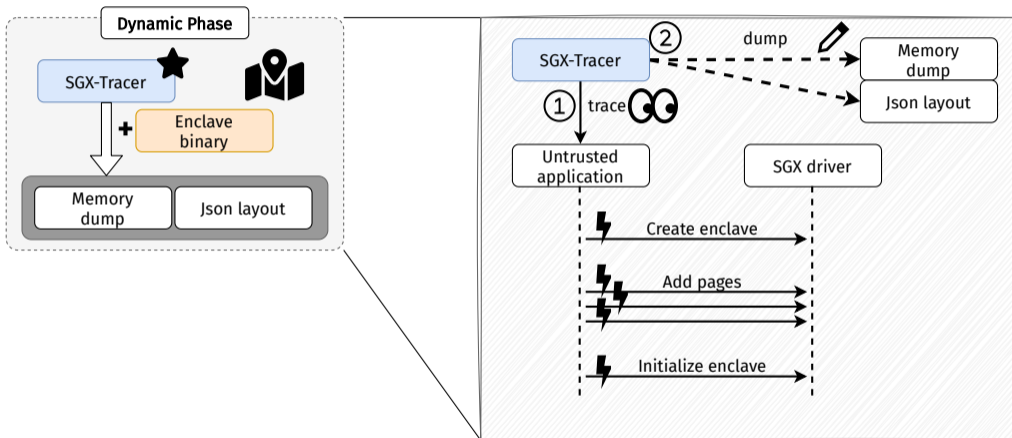
Pandora: Runtime-Agnostic Enclave Loading



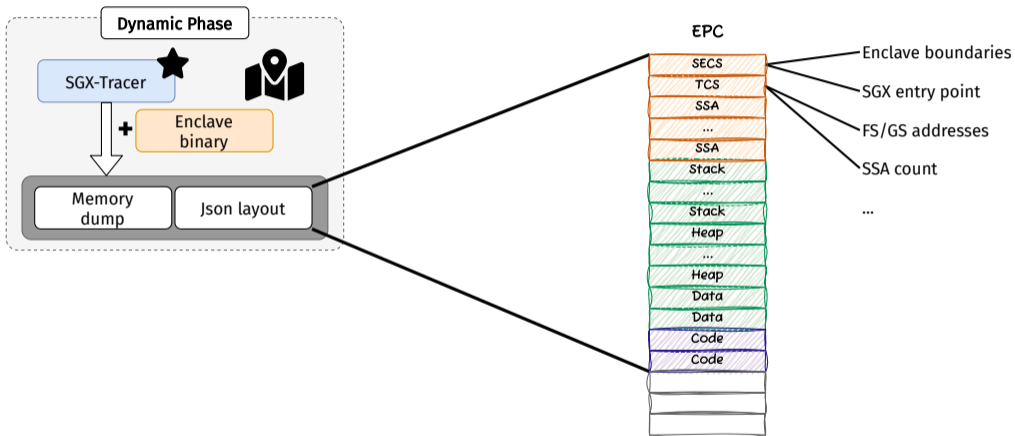
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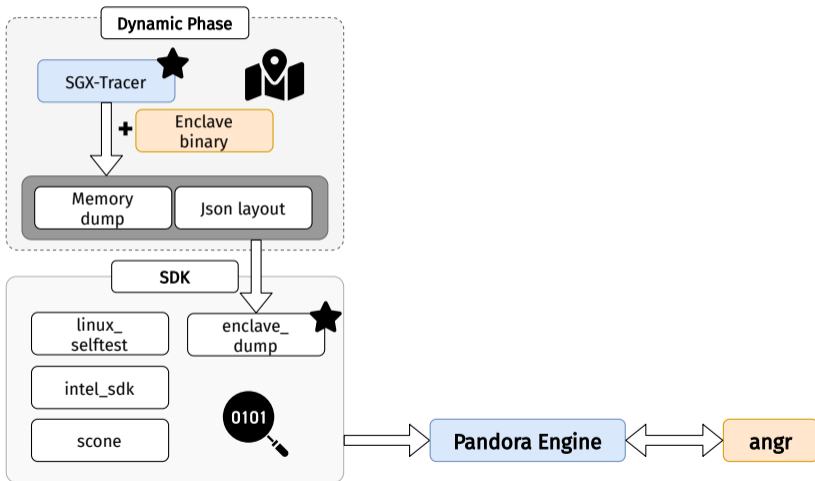
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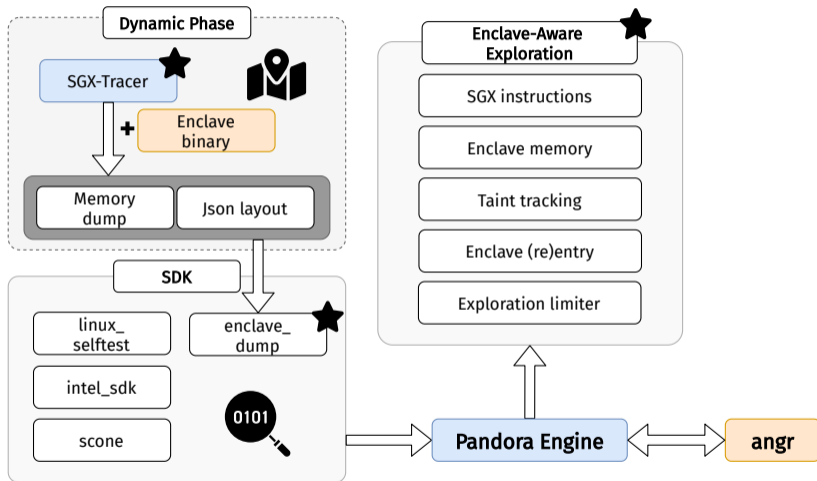
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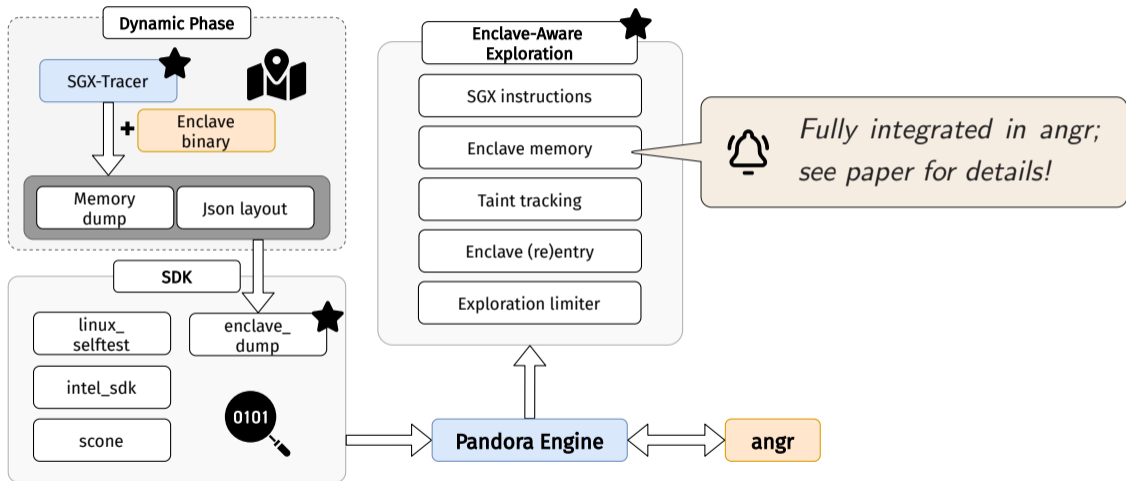
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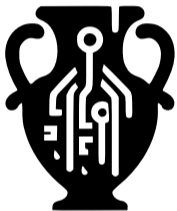


Pandora: Enclave-Aware Symbolic Exploration



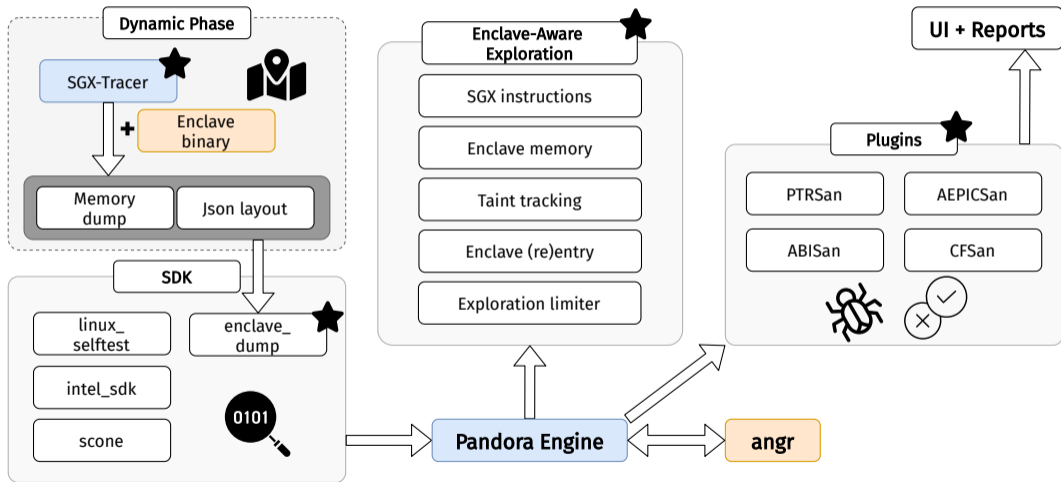
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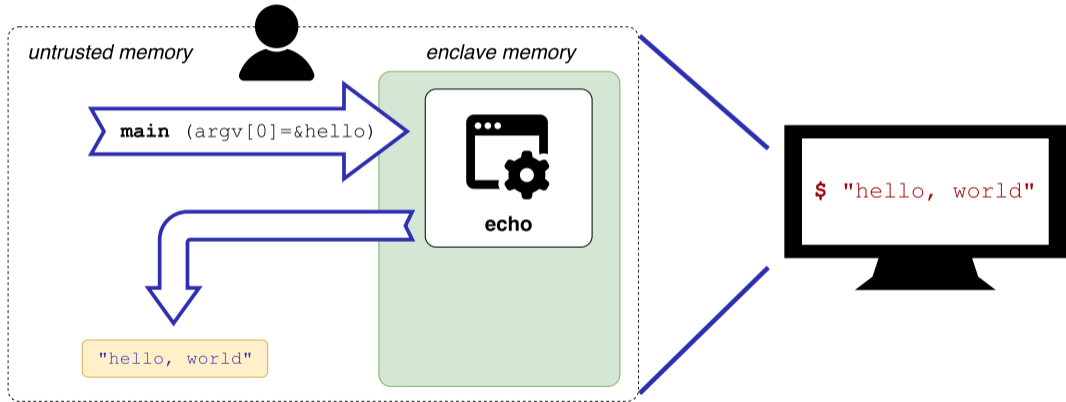


2. Pluggable Vulnerability Detection

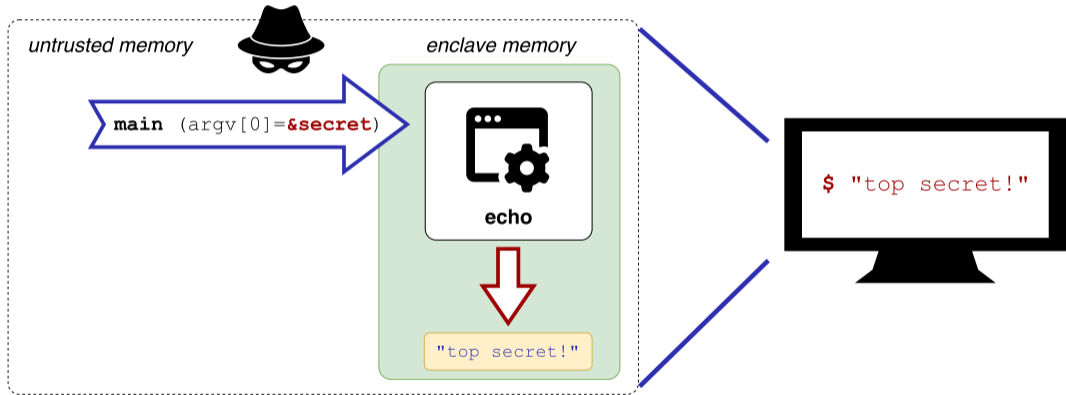
Pandora: Plugin-Based Vulnerability Detection



API Vulnerabilities: Confused-Deputy Attacks



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Excuse: Secure Enclave Pointer Usage is Hard...

```
1 struct encl_args {uint64_t value; uint64_t addr;};
2
3 static void do_encl_op_get_from_addr(struct encl_args *op)
4 {
5     /* 1. Base pointer check */
6     if (!sgx_is_outside_enclave(op, sizeof(struct encl_args)))
7         return;
8     /* 2. Prevent time-of-check time-of-use */
9     volatile void* ptr = (void*) op->addr;
10    /* 3. Nested pointer check */
11    if (!sgx_is_outside_enclave((void*) ptr, 8))
12        return;
13    memcpy(&op->value, (void*) ptr, 8);
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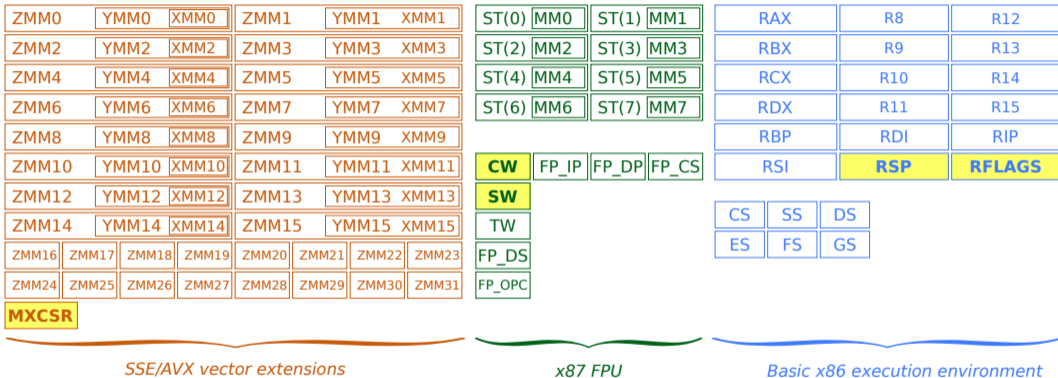
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ABI Vulnerabilities: x86 Control Register Poisoning



■ x86 user-space CPU control registers

Pandora: Principled Symbolic Validation?



1. Extend angr with **enclave-aware breakpoints**
2. Validate **software invariants** during symbolic exploration!
3. Aggregate violations in human-readable rich **HTML reports**

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Challenge: Understanding attacks + specifying adequate invariants:

- **ABI:** No *attacker-tainted CPU control register* reads
- **API:** No *attacker-tainted addresses* (partially) inside the enclave
- **MMIO/ÆPIC:** All *attacker-tainted addresses* aligned or preceded by `verw`
- **Control flow:** No (arbitrary) *attacker-tainted jumps* in enclave memory

Experimental Results: > 200 New Vulnerable Code Locations

Runtime	Version	Prod	Src	Plugin	Instances
EnclaveOS	3.28	✓	✗ [†]	ABISan	1
EnclaveOS	3.28	✓	✗ [†]	PTRSan	15
EnclaveOS	3.28	✓	✗ [†]	EPICSan	33
EnclaveOS	3.28	✓	✗ [†]	CFSan	2
GoTEE	b35f	✗	✓	PTRSan	31
GoTEE	b35f	✗	✓	EPICSan	18
GoTEE	b35f	✗	✓	CFSan	1
Gramine	1.4	✓	✓	ABISan	1
Intel SDK	2.15.1	✓	✓	PTRSan	2
Intel SDK	2.19	✓	✓	EPICSan	22
↳ Occlum	0.29.4	✓	✓	EPICSan	11
Open Enclave	0.19.0	✓	✓	ABISan	2
Rust EDP	1.71	✓	✓	ABISan	1

Runtime	Version	Prod	Src	Plugin	Instances
Linux selftest	5.18	✗	✓	ABISan	1
↳ DCAP	1.16	✓	✓	ABISan	1
↳ Inclavare	0.6.2	✗	✓	ABISan	1
Linux selftest	5.18	✗	✓	PTRSan	5
↳ DCAP	1.16	✓	✓	PTRSan	17
↳ Inclavare	0.6.2	✗	✓	PTRSan	2
Linux selftest	5.18	✗	✓	CFSan	1
↳ Inclavare	0.6.2	✗	✓	CFSan	1
SCONE	5.7 / 5.8	✓	✗	ABISan	2 / 1
SCONE	5.7 / 5.8	✓	✗	PTRSan	10 / 3
SCONE	5.7 / 5.8	✓	✗	EPICSan	11 / 3
SCONE	5.8	✓	✗	CFSan	1

Report PointerSanitizationPlugin

Plugin description: Validates attacker-tainted pointer dereferences.

Analyzed 'pandora_selftest_enclave_sanitization3.elf', with 'Linux selftest enclave' enclave runtime. Ran for 0:00:12.758955 on 2023-08-03_19-16-58.

 Enclave info: Address range is [0x0, 0xbfff]

 Summary: Found 1 unique WARNING issue; 2 unique CRITICAL issues.

Report summary

Severity	Reported issues
WARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Attacker tainted read inside enclave at 0x2476</i>
CRITICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Unconstrained read at 0x22c3</i>• <i>Unconstrained read at 0x20be</i>

Unconstrained read **CRITICAL** RIP=0x22c3

Plugin extra info

Key	Value
Address	<BV64 0x3000 + ((attacker_mem_66_32{UNINITIALIZED}) .. 0x1) << 0x3>
Attacker tainted	True
Length	8
Pointer range	[0x3008, 0xffffffff800003008]
Pointer can wrap address space	False
Pointer can lie in enclave	True
Extra info	Read address may lie inside or outside enclave

Execution state info

- Disassembly 
- CPU registers 

Backtrace

- Basic block trace (most recent first) 

Conclusions and Outlook



[github.com/
pandora-tee](https://github.com/pandora-tee)



Truthful: **Runtime-agnostic** enclave memory model
→ *Exact attested memory layout (MRENCLAVE)*



Extensible: Validate vulnerability invariants via **plugins**
→ *ABISan, PTRSan, ÆPICSan, CFSan*



Evaluation: > 200 instances; 7 CVEs; **11 SGX runtimes**
→ *Including low-level initialization & relocation logic!*