



SEC #905

Automotive Cyber Security Threat Intelligence Guide

Cyber Security

An in-depth analysis of the public white and black-hat attacks on the evolving vehicle ecosystem, including technical analysis of hacking methods used and SBD's proposed mitigations aligned with industry best practice and UNECE R155 Annex 5.

The Cyber Security Intelligence Guide is designed to raise awareness on the diverse threats and vulnerabilities that affect vehicles and connected & autonomous vehicle systems. This report has been created to promote a positive security culture within OEMs, suppliers and other key players, with insights into the recommended defence and mitigation countermeasures, and to highlight the importance of incident response analysis within the industry.

The Cyber Security Intelligence Guide functions as a key foundation in a robust **UNECE R155** compliance strategy that requires OEMs to continually assess their vehicles against the latest threats and vulnerabilities.

This report is not only aimed at system developers, but it also gives executives a broader understanding and insight of risk management and how this should be applied within their organisation and throughout their supply chain.

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VEHICLE ATTACKS

Analysis of the latest automotive cyber attacks

BACK-END AND SMARTPHONE ATTACKS

A summary of industry and government guides for automotive cyber security

GLOSSARY

RELATED SBD REPORTS

SEC # 539 Cyber Security Legislation Guide

The Automotive Cyber Security Legislation Guide has been designed to be a usable tool, focusing on what is necessary.

The Guide shows the background and timeline of legislation, best practices and standards, but SBD's Cyber Security team has gone further, showing the implications and where you need to be looking, allowing the Legislation Guide to become a vital part of a robust cyber security strategy.

COVERAGE



NA



CHINA



EUROPE



GLOBAL

FREQUENCY



ANNUALLY



QUARTERLY



ONE TIME

PUBLICATION FORMAT



PDF



POWERPOINT



EXCEL



ONLINE

PAGES



165

Key features and benefits

- > The primary destination for threat intelligence for the automotive industry.
- > An in-depth analysis of the public attacks on the evolving vehicle ecosystem
- > Structured to match and encourage cyber strategy best practices.
- > A key foundation in a robust UNECE R155 threat monitoring compliance strategy.
- > Can be used as a training material as well as a knowledge base for analysts and engineers
- > Drive smarter investments in terms of security and enable risk-informed decisions

This research is useful for



PRODUCT PLANNERS



ENGINEERS



C-SUITE



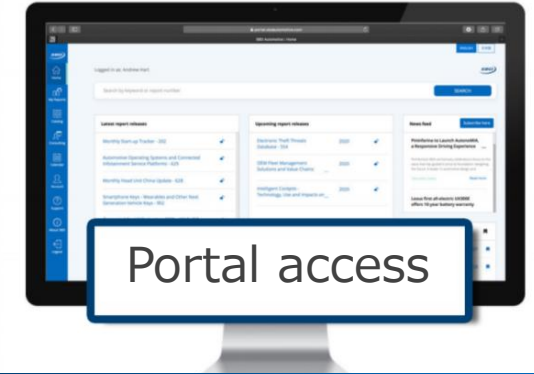
IT

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4,000+ # of auto professionals who access our reports

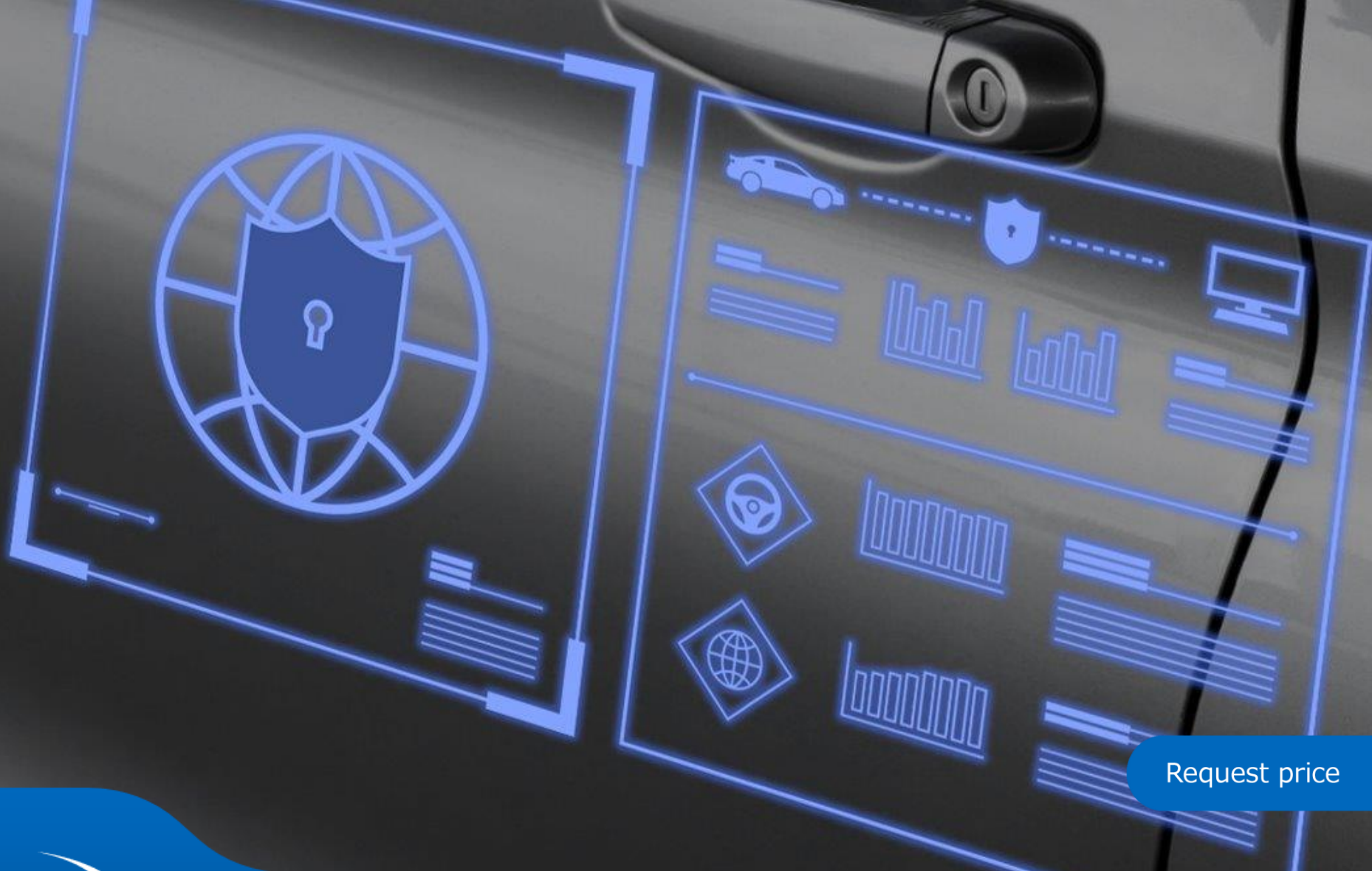


CYBER INTELLIGENCE GUIDE

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CYBER INTELLIGENCE GUIDE

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 The SBD Cyber Intelligence Guide Spreadsheet is available in Excel



Introduction

The purpose, scope and methodology followed in this report



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About SBD



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Purpose

Objectives

This Cyber Intelligence Guide provides an in-depth analysis of the key publicly-reported attacks on the evolving vehicle ecosystem, including technical analysis of the hacking methods used and suggested mitigations aligned with UNECE R155 and ISO/SAE 21434. SBD gathers data from a wide range of sources about white and black-hat attacks on vehicles and their backend systems which is analysed by our experts to produce actionable insights that can be used by OEMs and suppliers as part of their threat monitoring activities.

Significance

The purpose of this report is to:

- Raise awareness on the diverse threats and vulnerabilities that affect vehicles
- Help OEMs and suppliers evaluate and mitigate the risks to their products
- Provide an input into the threat monitoring process mandated by UNECE R155

An effective threat monitoring system requires OEMs to not only detect vulnerabilities on their own products using solutions such as IDS, SOC and even bug bounties, but also to be aware of the threats to competitor products so that the industry as a whole can promote a positive and open security culture where best practice is shared and on-going improvements embraced.

This report is not only aimed at cyber specialists, but it also gives senior managers a broader understanding and insight into cyber risk management and how this should be applied within their organisation and throughout their supply chain.

- **For Cyber Security Teams:** The technical information included in this report is intended to support the risk assessment of vehicles in development and in the field as well as feeding lessons learned into the security requirements process for future new models.
- **For Senior Managers:** The key trends and attack summaries are intended to provide an accessible overview of cyber risks that can result in legal, operational, financial and brand damage to their organisation and to enable smarter investments in terms of security and risk-informed decisions.



This report helps OEMs to meet the requirement to monitor for new cyber threats and vulnerabilities as defined in section 7.2.2.2.g and categorised in Annex 5 of the regulation.



This report provides specific security goals and requirements that OEMs and suppliers can integrate into the Concept Phase of their cyber engineering processes (chapter 9 of the standard).



Scope

SBD's Cyber Intelligence Guide is focused primarily on the attack demonstrations and exploited vulnerabilities that directly affect the vehicle and its backend ecosystem (i.e. product cyber security):

- The report is designed to be a digest of information with details of relevant and more recent attacks and not a complete historical repository
- The aim is to include a broad cross-section of damage scenarios associated with a range of attack targets and not to exhaustively list every example of similar attacks
- Apart from a few historically significant cases, the report will not cover incidents or attacks beyond the last 5 years

In addition, the report also includes a high-level summary of non-product related attacks on OEMs, their extended organization and their supply chain.

Sources Used

A wide range of source types are used for this threat intelligence report to increase its completeness and add value, including but not limited to the following:

- Conferences and security events such as ESCAR, Black Hat, DEF CON, VDI, SAE and Auto-ISAC
- Attack demonstrations published in academic research papers, blogs and news articles
- Other online sources such as Social Media/Twitter, Reddit, GitHub and YouTube

Data Selection

All threats and vulnerabilities gathered are added to an internal database and then a decision-making process is followed to decide which threats are included in each quarter's report. To keep this report manageable, a number of filters are applied such as:

- Attacks older than five years are not included, except if there are very significant
- Old immobiliser attacks are not included
- Old backend and smartphone related attacks are not included
- Attacks that do not include sufficient information to complete the analysis are not included

Note: *The Cyber Intelligence Guide is a live resource that is updated with new information each quarter. Research for this edition concluded on the 20th June 2022.*

How to read this report (1/2)

Overview Page

The first page of each threat summary provides a high-level description of the attack, a system diagram to highlight the components involved and links for further information. It also includes a summary table with SBD's classification of the items listed below:

Mercedes-Benz MBUX Hack

Keen Security Lab analysed the attack surfaces of the latest Mercedes IVI system, MBUX, and demonstrated how to send arbitrary CAN messages from T-Box and manipulate vehicle control functions such as control of ambient/reading light and sunshade cover.

Remote Attack on the Headunit and TCU

Security researchers from Keen Security Lab conducted a security analysis of the hardware and software of MBUX, the latest Mercedes-Benz IVI system. They successfully exploited 13 vulnerabilities on the vehicle system (Headunit and TCU) but they were able to successfully perform an attack via the Wi-Fi and the web interface within the headunit. They also demonstrated how to send arbitrary CAN messages from the TCU and bypass the code signing mechanism to flash a custom SH2A MCU firmware by utilizing the vulnerability they found in SH2A firmware on a debug version TCU.

Attack Target

| |
|----------|
| Headunit |
|----------|

Attack Vector

| |
|--------|
| Remote |
|--------|

Attack Point/Interface

| |
|----------------------|
| Wi-Fi, Web Interface |
|----------------------|

Attack Feasibility

| |
|--------|
| Medium |
|--------|

Impact

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Safety | Financial | Operational | Privacy |
|--------|-----------|-------------|---------|

MMB = Multimedia Board, CSB = Country Specific Board, EIS = Electronic Ignition Switch/Gateway, IC = Instrumental Cluster

(Q2 2021)

Attack target & point/interface

Describes the component and interface(s) that were targeted in the attack.

Attack vector

Describes if the attack can be performed remotely or if it requires physical access to a vehicle, hence providing an indication of scalability.

Attack feasibility

Provides SBD's subjective measure of the effort required to perform the attack by considering the feasibility parameters defined in Annex G of ISO/SAE 21434, namely elapsed time, expertise, equipment, prior knowledge of the system and window of opportunity.

Impact

Provides SBD's classification of the potential impact for damage scenarios relating to each attack based on the categories defined in Annex F of ISO/SAE 21434:

Safety - Damage that affects the safety of vehicle occupants, other road users and/or the infrastructure

Financial - Direct (liability issues, recalls, penalties) or indirect (reputation damage, loss of market share, IP infringement)

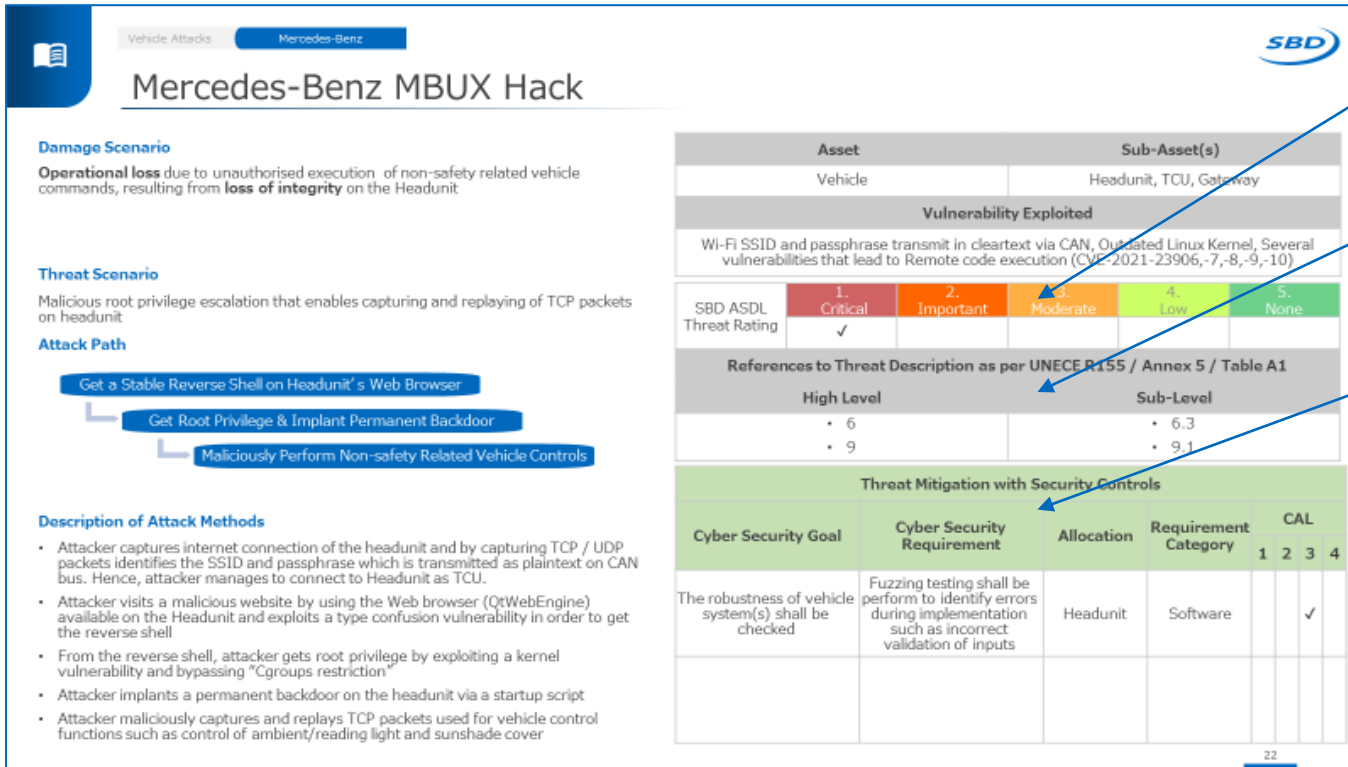
Operational - Loss, impairment or degradation of vehicle functions

Privacy - Lose of data that is sensitive and/or and be linked to a specific road user (PII)

How to read this report (2/2)

Technical Details Page

The second page of each threat summary provides a structured technical description of the attack using terminology aligned to ISO/SAE 21434, namely damage scenario, threat scenario, attack path etc. It also classifies the attack according to the descriptions provided in UNECE R155 Annex 5 and provides SBD's suggested mitigations, again aligned to ISO/SAE 21434 terminology for easy integration into an OEM or supplier threat analysis study.



Mercedes-Benz MBUX Hack

Damage Scenario
Operational loss due to unauthorised execution of non-safety related vehicle commands, resulting from **loss of integrity** on the Headunit

Threat Scenario
Malicious root privilege escalation that enables capturing and replaying of TCP packets on headunit

Attack Path

- Get a Stable Reverse Shell on Headunit's Web Browser
- Get Root Privilege & Implant Permanent Backdoor
- Maliciously Perform Non-safety Related Vehicle Controls

Description of Attack Methods

- Attacker captures internet connection of the headunit and by capturing TCP / UDP packets identifies the SSID and passphrase which is transmitted as plaintext on CAN bus. Hence, attacker manages to connect to Headunit as TCU.
- Attacker visits a malicious website by using the Web browser (QtWebEngine) available on the Headunit and exploits a type confusion vulnerability in order to get the reverse shell
- From the reverse shell, attacker gets root privilege by exploiting a kernel vulnerability and bypassing "Cgroups restriction"
- Attacker implants a permanent backdoor on the headunit via a startup script
- Attacker maliciously captures and replays TCP packets used for vehicle control functions such as control of ambient/reading light and sunshade cover

| Asset | Sub-Asset(s) | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|----------------------|--------|---------|---|---|
| Vehicle | Headunit, TCU, Gateway | | | | | | |
| Vulnerability Exploited | | | | | | | |
| Wi-Fi SSID and passphrase transmit in cleartext via CAN, Outdated Linux Kernel, Several vulnerabilities that lead to Remote code execution (CVE-2021-23906,-7,-8,-9,-10) | | | | | | | |
| SBD ASDL Threat Rating | 1. Critical | 2. Important | 3. Moderate | 4. Low | 5. None | | |
| | ✓ | | | | | | |
| References to Threat Description as per UNECE R155 / Annex 5 / Table A1 | | | | | | | |
| High Level | | | Sub-Level | | | | |
| • 6 • 9 | | | • 6,3 • 9,1 | | | | |
| Threat Mitigation with Security Controls | | | | | | | |
| Cyber Security Goal | Cyber Security Requirement | Allocation | Requirement Category | CAL | | | |
| The robustness of vehicle system(s) shall be checked | Fuzzing testing shall be performed to identify errors during implementation such as incorrect validation of inputs | Headunit | Software | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | ✓ |

SBD ASDL Threat Rating

Rates each threat against SBD's proprietary criteria based on feasibility and impact, where critical issues should be mitigated immediately and lower ratings are more informational.

UNECE R155 reference

Given the importance of R155 SBD has mapped each threat to the list of vulnerabilities in Annex 5 of the regulation as a convenient input into OEM threat monitoring processes.

Threat mitigation

SBD's security experts have analysed each threat to identify a recommended mitigation aligned with the terminology used in ISO/SAE 21434:

Security goal – A concept-level requirement to protect assets against a threat scenario

Security requirement – Description of security controls allocated to an item to achieve a security goal

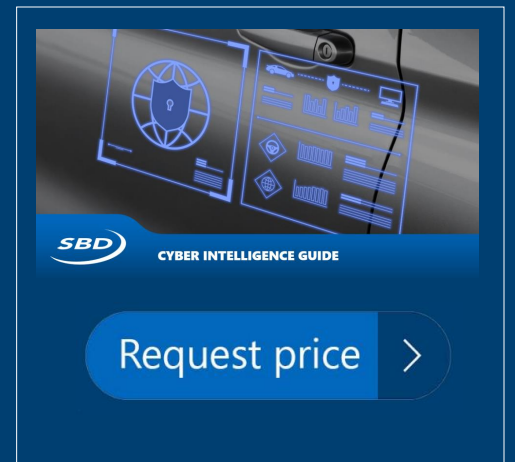
Allocation – Name of part to which the requirements have been allocated

Category – Defines whether the requirement affects software, hardware or both

CAL (Cyber Assurance Level) – SBD's suggested assessment of the level of rigour required in the product development process to address the threat scenario, as defined in Annex E of ISO/SAE 21434 (High = 4, Low = 1). The Cybersecurity Assurance Level is based on a qualitative impact estimation (based on the losses) and the attack vector, see Annex E table E.1.



Example slides from the report





Tesla thieves could enrol their own key



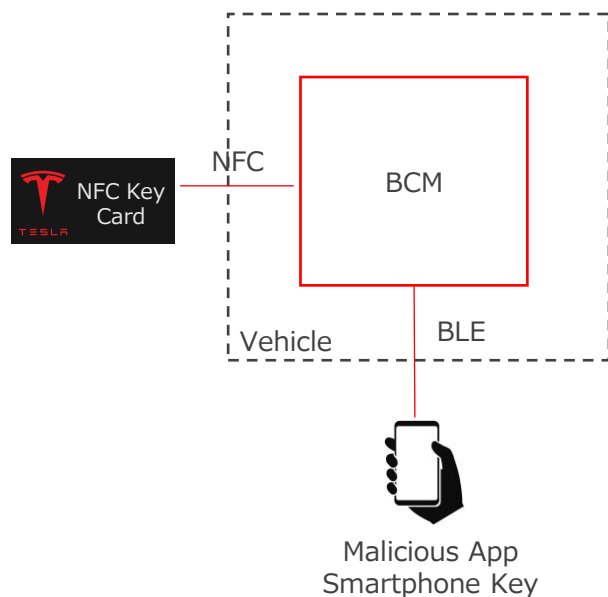
Martin Herfurt, a security researcher from Austria, discovered a flaw in Tesla vehicles that allowed him to enrol a new smartphone key

Lack of authentication and superfluous privileges when utilising the NFC card

After a software update, Tesla vehicles changed the way the NFC key card authorisation works, making it easier to operate the vehicle by just presenting the NFC key card only once. A 130-second interval is started when the driver presents the NFC key card to unlock and drive the vehicle. During this period the vehicle can be started without presenting the NFC key card a second time. The researcher further discovered that during the 130-second interval a new smartphone key can be programmed without any secondary authentication or display notification.

The researcher created his own app that can communicate using the VSec “language” used by the Tesla App to communicate with the Tesla vehicles. By using this app the attacker was able to add an additional smartphone key to be accepted by the vehicle. The attack can be carried out as long as the attacker is within the BLE signal range and the user utilises their NFC key card to unlock the vehicle.

The attack appears to affect models 3 and Y.



| Attack Target | | Attack Vector | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------|
| BCM | | Remote | |
| Attack Point/Interface | | Attack Feasibility | |
| BLE | | Medium | |
| Impact | | | |
| Safety | Financial | Operational | Privacy |
| Attack Maturity | | | |
| Practical | Experimental | Theoretical | |



Discovered by

Martin Herfurt



Published on

8 June 2022



Details

[ArsTechnica](#)



[Click For a Technical Overview](#)



Tesla thieves could enrol their own key

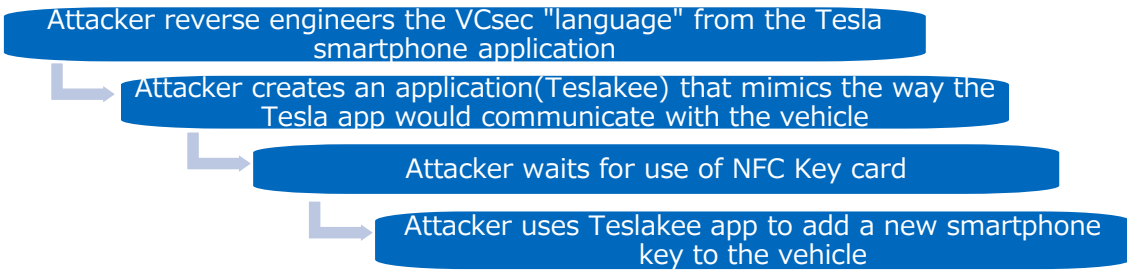
Damage Scenario

Safety, Financial, Privacy and Operational losses due to theft of/from the vehicle due to loss of integrity of smartphone key registration process.

Threat Scenario

Unauthorised addition of unauthenticated smartphone key

Attack Path



Description of Attack Methods

- User unlocks vehicle using NFC Key card
- Attacker uses Teslakee app to add a new smartphone key to the vehicle via BLE
- Attacker gains access to the vehicle and steals it at a more convenient time

| Asset | | Sub-Asset(s) | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|----------------------|--------|---------|---|---|
| Vehicle | | Key | | | | | |
| Vulnerability Exploited | | | | | | | |
| Superfluous privileges given to NFC key card for the type of use, lack of vehicle-side authentication while receiving BLE VCsec instructions | | | | | | | |
| SBD ASDL Threat Rating | 1. Critical | 2. Important | 3. Moderate | 4. Low | 5. None | | |
| | | ✓ | | | | | |
| References to Threat Description as per UNECE R155 / Annex 5 / Table A1 | | | | | | | |
| High Level | | | Sub-Level | | | | |
| • 6, 15, 16 | | | • 6.1, 15.2, 16.1 | | | | |
| Threat Mitigation with Security Controls | | | | | | | |
| Cyber Security Goal | Cyber Security Requirement | Allocation | Requirement Category | CAL | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Authenticate the BLE communications | Only authenticated devices should be able to communicate using the BLE VCsec | BCM | Software | | | ✓ | |
| The addition of new smartphone keys should be authorised by the user | The NFC Key Card shall only authorise new smartphone key addition when the authenticated user has requested it | BCM | Software | | | ✓ | |



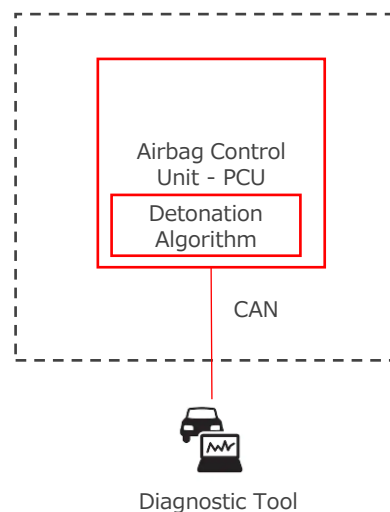
Airbag Control Units Vulnerability

Researchers from the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences discovered an unauthorised detonation vulnerability related to a range of airbag control units (pyrotechnical control units – PCUs) complying to the ISO standard 26021.

Physical Attack Demonstration - Unauthorised Detonation Vulnerability

This attack needs physical access to the vehicle OBD-II port in order to carry out the attack. A rogue device can then be connected to the vehicle which can significantly extend the range of the attacker, meaning the vulnerability can be exploited remotely.

An attacker could brute force or even guess the Security Access code required for the detonation of the airbags.



| Attack Target | | Attack Vector | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------|
| Airbag ECU | | Physical | |
| Attack Point/Interface | | Attack Feasibility | |
| CAN | | High | |
| Impact | | | |
| Safety | Financial | Operational | Privacy |
| Attack Maturity | | | |
| Practical | Experimental | Theoretical | |



Discovered by

Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences



Published on
29 September
2017



Details

[CVE-2017-14937](#)

[Research](#)



[Click For a Technical Overview](#)



Airbag Control Units Vulnerability

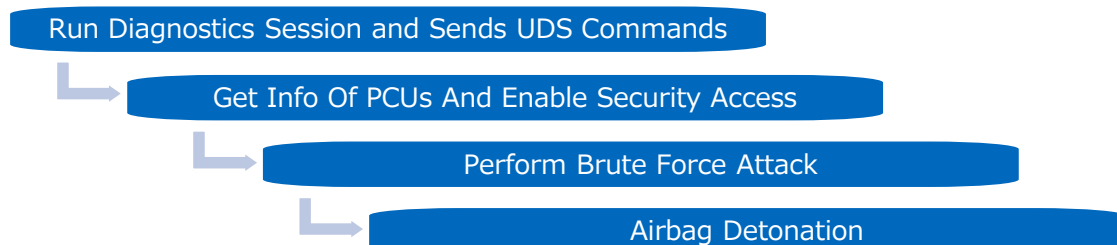
Damage Scenario

Safety loss due to injury of passengers by wilful detonation of airbag control units while the vehicle is not moving, resulting to **loss of availability**.

Threat Scenario

Unauthorised denotation of airbags, implemented using the algorithm as described on the ISO 26021.

Attack Path



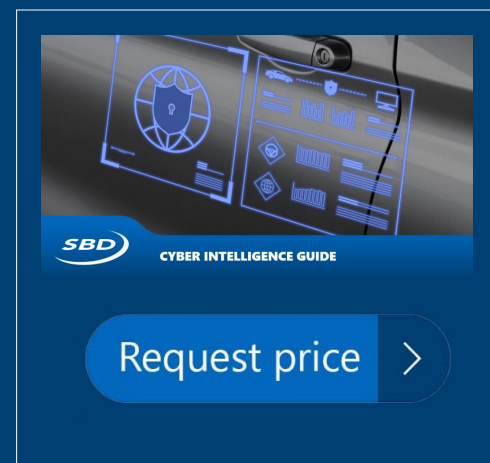
Description of Attack Methods

- Attacker connects physically to the vehicle via the OBD-II port
- Attacker exploits the weak Security Access (SA) algorithm used for the detonation sequence authentication
- Attacker performs brute force attack on the SA key as it is only 2 bytes long and the first byte is known as it represents the detonation version parameter (0x01). This means there are only 256 different key pairs that can be used
- Attacker checks all 256 keys one after another, without any time or other limitations, until the key is accepted and the airbag detonates

| Asset | Sub-Asset(s) | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|----------------------|--------|---------|---|---|
| Vehicle | Airbags, OBD-II port | | | | | | |
| Vulnerability Exploited | | | | | | | |
| Use of broken/weak cryptographic algorithm used for the detonation of airbags, in 2014 vehicles or later. This algorithm was mentioned as an example within the ISO 26021 but it was seen as a requirement. This attack can be successful even if the algorithm was not known. | | | | | | | |
| SBD ASDL Threat Rating | 1. Critical | 2. Important | 3. Moderate | 4. Low | 5. None | | |
| | ✓ | | | | | | |
| References to Threat Description as per UNECE R155 / Annex 5 / Table A1 | | | | | | | |
| | High Level | | Sub-Level | | | | |
| | • 26 | | • 26.2 | | | | |
| Threat Mitigation with Security Controls | | | | | | | |
| Cyber Security Goal | Cyber Security Requirement | Allocation | Requirement Category | CAL | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Best Practices shall be followed for strong cryptographic algorithms | Strong authentication algorithms shall be used | PCU/UDS | Software | | | ✓ | |
| Diagnostics shall have a limit of failed authentication and authorisation attempts | After 5 failed authentication attempts, a persistent lock-down time of 30 mins shall be imposed. | PCU/UDS | Software | | ✓ | | |



Request the price





Contact SBD Automotive

Do you have any questions?

If you have any questions or feedback about this research report or SBD Automotive's consulting services, you can email us at info@sbdautomotive.com or discuss with your local account manager below.



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