



# Software-based Fault Attacks

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## Motivation

Modern processors are being pushed at their limits in terms of heat and power to achieve fast performance. However, in order to keep the processor running within its specification, voltage and frequency needs to be adjusted accordingly.

With Plundervolt [1], the privileged interface to modify the voltage has been exploited to undermine the system's security. By undervolting the CPU an attacker can fault computations, allowing to leak cryptographic keys from SGX enclaves.

The aim of this thesis is to investigate other unexplored methods to induce faults in a CPUs computations.

## Goals and Tasks

- > Get familiar with existing fault attacks
- > Background research on hardware optimizations
- > Perform and evaluate experiments



Logo of the Plundervolt attack

## Literature

- > [K. Murdock et al.](#)  
Plundervolt: Software-based Fault Injection Attacks against Intel SGX  
[Proceedings of the 41st IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy \(S&P'20\)](#)

## Courses & Deliverables

- Introduction to Scientific Working**  
Short report on background  
Short presentation
- Bachelor Project**  
Project code and documentation
- Bachelor's Thesis**  
Project code  
Thesis  
Final presentation

## Recommended if you're studying

- CS
- ICE
- SEM

## Prerequisites

- > C/C++
- > Basic Assembly programming
- > Prior knowledge of CPU architecture is useful, but not essential!

## Advisor / Contact

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