

### Guanhua Yan

Dept. of Computer Science Binghamton University, SUNY

# LEFT: LTE-Oriented Emulation-Instrumented Fuzzing Testbed







# Economic impact of mobile communications



Source: GSMA





# Key industries relying on 4G/LTE communications





ciri.illinois.edu



statista 🔽

### Continued growth of mobile and IoT connections





#### U.S. 4G Networks Are Improving Across the Board

Average 4G (LTE) download speed on major mobile networks in the United States (in Mbps)



\* This metric shows the proportion of time OpenSignal users have an LTE connection available to them. It's a measure of how often users can access a 4G network rather than a measure of geographic or population coverage.

 (i)
 (ii)
 (iii)

 @StatistaCharts
 Source: OpenSignal





### Risks posed to LTE communication infrastructure







### Risks posed from LTE communication interface

Mobile devices

Internet of Things Connected Vehicles









### Concern from mobile and IoT device vendor industry

• What kind of security risks does LTE communication interface expose to mobile or IoT devices?









# Concern from mobile network operators

• What kind of security risks do vulnerable mobile or IoT devices pose to the LTE communication infrastructure?





Hide.me



### Problem statement from industry perspective

- Mobile and IoT device vendors:
  - Is there an integrated testbed that can assess the security risks posed to mobile/IoT devices from their 4G/LTE network interfaces?
- Mobile network operators:
  - Is there an integrated testbed that can assess the security risks posed to 4G/LTE communication infrastructure from vulnerable mobile/IoT devices?

#### **CRI** | CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

A DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE





### Research impact: resilient mobile communications (4G, 5G, ...)







# Partnership

PI: How has working with your industry partner informed/impacted your work? Industry: How did working with the researcher change or inform how you will address future problems in your field

- Feedback from the industry helps prioritize our research efforts and improves usability of LEFT
- Information about the products for security assessment
- Possibility for additional funding

- Exposed new security risks that the industry has not been aware of previously
- Help on effective mitigation of security risks exposed
- Community building on improving resilience of mobile communications





### Unanticipated Challenges and Lessons Learned

### Researcher

 Industry may be lukewarm to our initial efforts on customer engagement: exposed security risks may not be good PR for them.

### Industry

 Dilemma: when external researchers are trying to find security risks of using our products, how much should we help them?

# Trust building is key.

# CR

### Guanhua Yan, Ph.D.

Department of Computer Science

Binghamton University, State University of New York

ghyan@binghamton.edu

Industrial partners we have been engaging with:

- Dr. Roger Piqueras Jover, Bloomberg
   L.P. CTO Security Architecture Team
- Dr. Michael Liljenstam, Ericsson
- Others





# Acknowledgements

### Funding and management by DHS/CIRI

- **UIUC**: Prof. David M. Nicol, Randy Sandone, Andrea Whitesell, Elaina Maria Buhs, Jose Alejandro Medina Cruz, and others.
- DHS: Matt Coats, etc.

### • Hard work done by students at Binghamton University

- Ph.D. students: Kaiming Fang, Zhan Shu
- Master students: Vladimir Beauge, Huanyi Qin
- Undergraduates:
  - Anthony Muratore (Automated Financial Systems, LLC), Max Slocum (Assured Information Security, a contractor for AFRL), Kaiyik Nip (IBM)