Tolerating Hardware Device Failures in Software

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Current state of OS-hardware interaction

• Many device drivers assume device perfection
  » Common Linux network driver: 3c59x.c

While (ioread16(ioaddr + Wn7_MasterStatus)) & 0x8000)

; HANG!

Hardware dependence bug: Device malfunction can crash the system
Current state of OS-hardware interaction

- Hardware dependence bugs across driver classes

```c
void hptitop_iop_request_callback(...) {
    arg = readl(...);
    ...
    if (readl(&req->result) == IOP_SUCCESS) {
        arg->result = HPT_IOCTL_OK;
    }
}
```

*Highpoint SCSI driver (hptiop.c)*

*Code simplified for presentation purposes*
How do the hardware bugs manifest?

- Drivers often trust hardware to **always** work correctly
  - Drivers use device data in critical control and data paths
  - Drivers do not report device malfunctions to system log
  - Drivers do not detect or recover from device failures
An example: Windows servers

• Transient hardware failures caused 8% of all crashes and 9% of all unplanned reboots\cite{1}
  » Systems work fine after reboots
  » Vendors report returned device was faultless

• Existing solution is hand-coded hardened driver:
  » Crashes reduced from 8% to 3%

• Driver isolation systems not yet deployed

\cite{1} Fault resilient drivers for Longhorn server, May 2004. Microsoft Corp.
Carburizer

- Goal: Tolerate hardware device failures in software through hardware failure detection and recovery

- Static analysis tool - analyze and insert code to:
  - Detect and fix hardware dependence bugs
  - Detect and generate missing error reporting information

- Runtime
  - Handle interrupt failures
  - Transparently recover from failures
Outline

• Background
• Hardening drivers
• Reporting errors
• Runtime fault tolerance
• Cost of carburizing
• Conclusion
Hardware unreliability

• Sources of hardware misbehavior:
  » Device wear-out, insufficient burn-in
  » Bridging faults
  » Electromagnetic radiation
  » Firmware bugs

• Result of misbehavior:
  » Corrupted/stuck-at inputs
  » Timing errors/unpredictable DMA
  » Interrupt storms/missing interrupts
Vendor recommendations for driver developers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Recommended by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Intel</td>
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<td>Wrap I/O memory access</td>
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</table>

Goal: *Automatically* implement as many recommendations as possible in commodity drivers
Carburizer architecture

Compile-time components

- Carburizer
- Compiler
- Driver

Run-time components

- Hardened Driver Binary
- Faulty Hardware
- Kernel Interface
- Carburizer Runtime

If (c==0) {
    print("Driver init");
}

Outline

• Background
• Hardening drivers
  » Finding sensitive code
  » Repairing code
• Reporting errors
• Runtime fault tolerance
• Cost of carburizing
• Conclusion
Hardening drivers

• Goal: Remove hardware dependence bugs
  » Find driver code that uses data from device
  » Ensure driver performs validity checks

• Carburizer detects and fixes hardware bugs from
  » Infinite polling
  » Unsafe static/dynamic array reference
  » Unsafe pointer dereferences
  » System panic calls
Hardening drivers

• Finding sensitive code
  » First pass: Identify tainted variables
Finding sensitive code

First pass: Identify tainted variables

```c
int test () {
    a = readl();
    b = inb();
    c = b;
    d = c + 2;
    return d;
}
```

```c
int set() {
    e = test();
}
```

Tainted Variables

- a
- b
- c
- d
- test()
- e
Detecting risky uses of tainted variables

• Finding sensitive code
  » Second pass: Identify risky uses of tainted variables

• Example: Infinite polling
  » Driver waiting for device to enter particular state
  » Solution: Detect loops where all terminating conditions depend on tainted variables
Example: Infinite polling

Finding sensitive code

```c
static int amd8111e_read_phy(........)
{
  ...
  reg_val = readl(mmio + PHY_ACCESS);
  while (reg_val & PHY_CMD_ACTIVE)
  {
    reg_val = readl(mmio + PHY_ACCESS)
  }
}
```

AMD 8111e network driver(amd8111e.c)
while (DAC960_PD_StatusAvailableP(ControllerBaseAddress))
{
    DAC960_V1_CommandIdentifier_T CommandIdentifier= DAC960_PD_ReadStatusCommandIdentifier(ControllerBaseAddress);
    DAC960_Command_T *Command = Controller ->Commands [CommandIdentifier-1];
    DAC960_V1_CommandMailbox_T *CommandMailbox = &Command->V1.CommandMailbox;
    DAC960_V1_CommandOpcode_T CommandOpcode=CommandMailbox->Common.CommandOpcode;
    Command->V1.CommandStatus =DAC960_PD_ReadStatusRegister(ControllerBaseAddress);
    DAC960_PD_AcknowledgeInterrupt(ControllerBaseAddress);
    DAC960_PD_AcknowledgeStatus(ControllerBaseAddress);
    switch (CommandOpcode)
    {
    case DAC960_V1_Enquiry_Old:
        DAC960_P_To_PD_TranslateReadWriteCommand(CommandMailbox);
        ...
    }
Detecting risky uses of tainted variables

• Example II: Unsafe array accesses
  » Tainted variables used as array index into static or dynamic arrays
  » Tainted variables used as pointers
Example: Unsafe array accesses

Unsafe array accesses

```
static void __init attach_pas_card(...) {
    if ((pas_model = pas_read(0xFF88))) {
        ...
        sprintf(temp, "%s rev %d",
            pas_model_names[(int) pas_model], pas_read(0x2789));
        ...
    }
}
```

Pro Audio Sound driver (pas2_card.c)
Analysis results over the Linux kernel

• Analyzed drivers in 2.6.18.8 Linux kernel
  » 6300 driver source files
  » 2.8 million lines of code
  » 37 minutes to analyze and compile code

• Additional analyses to detect existing validation code
Analysis results over the Linux kernel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver class</th>
<th>Infinite polling</th>
<th>Static array</th>
<th>Dynamic array</th>
<th>Panic calls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>net</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scsi</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sound</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>video</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many cases of poorly written drivers with hardware dependence bugs
Repairing drivers

- Hardware dependence bugs difficult to test
- Carburizer automatically generates repair code
  - Inserts timeout code for infinite loops
  - Inserts checks for unsafe array/pointer references
  - Replaces calls to panic() with recovery service
  - Triggers generic recovery service on device failure
Carburizer automatically fixes infinite loops

timeout = rdstcll(start) + (cpu/khz/HZ)*2;
reg_val = readl(mmio + PHY_ACCESS);
while (reg_val & PHY_CMD_ACTIVE) {
    reg_val = readl(mmio + PHY_ACCESS);
    if (_cur < timeout)
        rdstcll(_cur);
    else
        __recover_driver();
}

*Code simplified for presentation purposes

AMD 8111e network driver(amd8111e.c)
Carburizer automatically adds bounds checks

static void __init attach_pas_card(...) 
{
    if ((pas_model = pas_read(0xFF88)))
    {
        ...
        if ((pas_model< 0)) || (pas_model>= 5))
            __recover_driver();
        .
        sprintf(temp, "%s rev %d",
            pas_model_names[(int) pas_model], pas_read(0x2789));
    }
}

*Code simplified for presentation purposes

Pro Audio Sound driver (pas2_card.c)
Runtime fault recovery

• Low cost transparent recovery
  » Based on shadow drivers
  » Records state of driver
  » Transparent restart and state replay on failure

• Independent of any isolation mechanism (like Nooks)
Experimental validation

• Synthetic fault injection on network drivers
• Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device/Driver</th>
<th>Original Driver</th>
<th>Carburizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>Detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3COM 3C905</td>
<td>CRASH</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Carburizer failure detection and transparent recovery work well for transient device failures
Outline

• Background
• Hardening drivers
• Reporting errors
• Runtime fault tolerance
• Cost of carburizing
• Conclusion
Reporting errors

• Drivers often fail silently and fail to report device errors
  » Drivers should proactively report device failures
  » Fault management systems require these inputs

• Driver already detects failure but does not report them

• Carburizer analysis performs two functions
  » Detect when there is a device failure
  » Report unless the driver is already reporting the failure
Detecting driver detected device failures

- Detect code that depends on tainted variables
  - Perform unreported loop timeouts
  - Returns negative error constants
  - Jumps to common cleanup code

```c
while (ioread16 (regA) == 0x0f) {
  if (timeout++ == 200) {
    sys_report("Device timed out %s.\n", mod_name);
    return (-1);
  }
}
```

Reporting code added by Carburizer
Detecting existing reporting code

Carburizer detects function calls with string arguments

```c
static u16 gm_phy_read(...) {
  ...
  if (__gm_phy_read(...))
    printk(KERN_WARNING "%s: ...

SysKonnect network driver(skge.c)
```
Evaluation

• Manual analysis of drivers of different classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Driver detected device failures</th>
<th>Carburizer reported failures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bnx2</td>
<td>network</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mptbase</td>
<td>scsi</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ens1371</td>
<td>sound</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• No false positives

Carburizer *automatically* improves the fault diagnosis capabilities of the system
Outline

- Background
- Hardening drivers
- Reporting errors
- Runtime fault tolerance
- Cost of carburizing
- Conclusion
Runtime failure detection

- Static analysis cannot detect all device failures
  - Missing interrupts: expected but never arrives
  - Stuck interrupts (interrupts storm): interrupt cleared by driver but continues to be asserted
Tolerating missing interrupts

- Detect when to expect interrupts
  » Detect driver activity via referenced bits
  » Invoke ISR when bits referenced but no interrupt activity

- Detect how often to poll
  » Dynamic polling based on previous invocation result
Tolerating stuck interrupts

- Driver interrupt handler is called too many times
- Convert the device from interrupts to polling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver Type</th>
<th>Driver Name</th>
<th>Throughput reduction due to polling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disk</td>
<td>ide-core, ide-disk, ide-generic</td>
<td>Reduced by 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network</td>
<td>e1000</td>
<td>Reduced from 750 Mb/s to 130 Mb/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>ens1371</td>
<td>Sounds plays with distortion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Carburizer ensures system and device make forward progress
Outline

- Background
- Hardening drivers
- Reporting errors
- Runtime fault tolerance
- **Cost of carburizing**
- Conclusion
Throughput overhead

Throughput in Mbps

nVIDIA MCP 55  Intel Pro 1000

Network Card Type

netperf on 2.2 GHz AMD machines
Almost no overhead from hardened drivers and automatic recovery.
## Conclusion

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<tr>
<td>Validation</td>
<td>Input validation</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stuck interrupt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lost request</td>
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<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avoid excess delay in OS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unexpected events</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Report all failures</td>
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## Conclusion

Carburizer improves system reliability by *automatically* ensuring that hardware failures are tolerated in software.

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</table>
```c
If (c==0) {
    print ("Driver init");
}
```

- **Contact**
  » kadav@cs.wisc.edu

- **Visit our website for research on drivers**
  » http://cs.wisc.edu/~swift/drivers
Backup slides
Improving analysis accuracy

• Detect existing driver validation code
  » Track variable taint history
  » Detect existing timeout code
  » Detect existing sanity checks

```c
while ((inb(nic_base + EN0_ISR) & ENISR_RDC) == 0)
  if (jiffies - dma_start> 2) {
      ...
      break;
  }
```

ne2000 network driver (ne2k-pci.c)
Trend of hardware dependence bugs

• Many drivers either had one or two hardware bugs
  » Developers were mostly careful but forgot in a few places

• Small number of drivers were badly written
  » Developers did not account H/W dependence; many bugs
Implementation efforts

• Carburizer static analysis tool
  » 3230 LOC in OCaml

• Carburizer runtime (Interrupt Monitoring)
  » 1030 lines in C

• Carburizer runtime (Shadow drivers)
  » 19000 LOC in C
  » ~70% wrappers – can be automatically generated by scripts