



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

---

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# Fast Data Shields: Hardware for Security

**Tawfiq Musah**

Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University



## About the Speaker



Tawfiq Musah

Assistant Professor, Department of  
Electrical and Computer Engineering,  
The Ohio State University

Research Area:	Integrated Circuit Design (Microelectronics)
Current Position:	OSU Faculty 4 years
Industry Experience:	Intel Corporation 8 years
	Texas Instruments 1 semester
Teaching Experience:	Ohio State University 2018 – Present
	Oregon State University 2008
Hobbies:	Soccer, Movies

# Electrical and Computer Engineering

Electrical engineers and computer engineers work at the frontier of high technology and are involved in research, the creation of new ideas, the design and development of new products and technologies, manufacturing and marketing activities. Faculty members in ECE are active in the following areas:

Circuits

Signal  
Processing

Control /  
Robotics

Electromagnetics

Power/Energy

Networking /  
Communications

Solid State  
Devices

Computer Vision  
Image Processing

Computer  
Architecture

# Electrical and Computer Engineering

Electrical engineers and computer engineers work at the frontier of high technology and are involved in research, the creation of new ideas, the design and development of new products and technologies, manufacturing and marketing activities. Faculty members in ECE are active in the following areas:

Circuits

Signal  
Processing

Control /  
Robotics

Electromagnetics

Power/Energy

Networking /  
Communications

Solid State  
Devices

Computer Vision  
Image Processing

Computer  
Architecture

# Circuits @ OSU

**Aim: Create and combine various devices to:**

- Sense phenomena from our environment and convert to electrical signals
- Process these signals to extract useful information
- Send process signals back into the environment for control

# Circuits @ OSU

## Opportunities:

- Circuit Design Engineer
  - Design at the transistor or the block level
- Product Development Engineer
  - Characterize/Debug at high volume
- Validation Engineer
  - Pre-Si/Post-Si validation: Use simulation/testing to validate chip functionality and performance and debug issues
- Hardware Design Engineer
  - PCB design and Signal Integrity
- FPGA Engineer
  - Rapid prototyping for myriad of applications

# Circuits @ OSU

## Employers:

- Commercial Industries
  - Intel, Apple, TI, Qualcomm, NVIDIA, Broadcom, Silicon labs, Analog Devices, Microsoft, Amazon, Cadence, etc.
- Defense Industries
  - Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Honeywell, Booz Allen Hamilton
- Government Labs
  - AFRL, MIT Lincoln, Brookhaven, Lawrence Livermore, Sandia
- Academia
  - Tenure track professors, research professors, lecturer, research scientist, etc
- Local: **SenseICs**



Things

Network

Cloud/Data Center



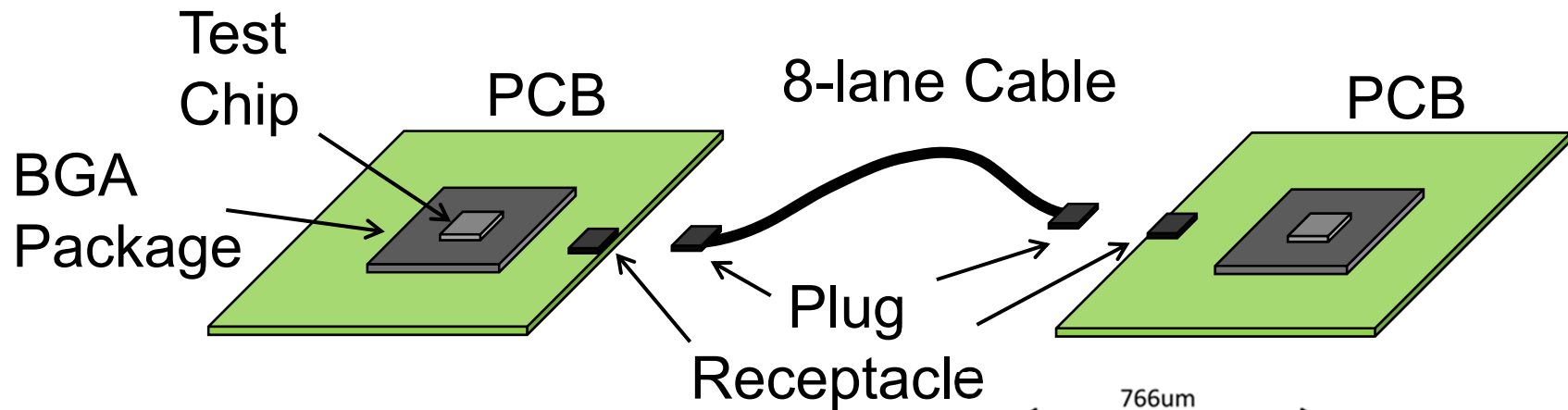
- ❖ Smart and connected devices have led to an explosion of data
- ❖ Massive data movement over conventional links have high cost
- ❖ Emerging applications call for end-to-end data security

My research focuses on hardware innovations that enable the processing and high speed transport of data in a secure and high fidelity manner.

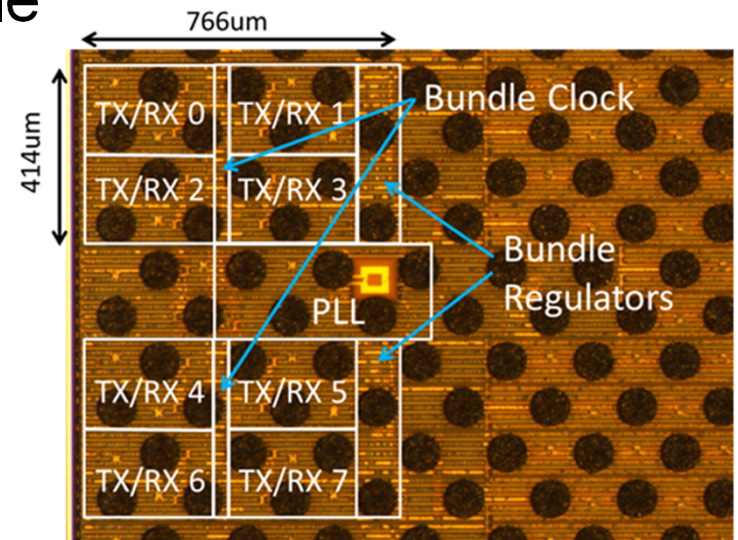




# Research Objective – High Speed Links



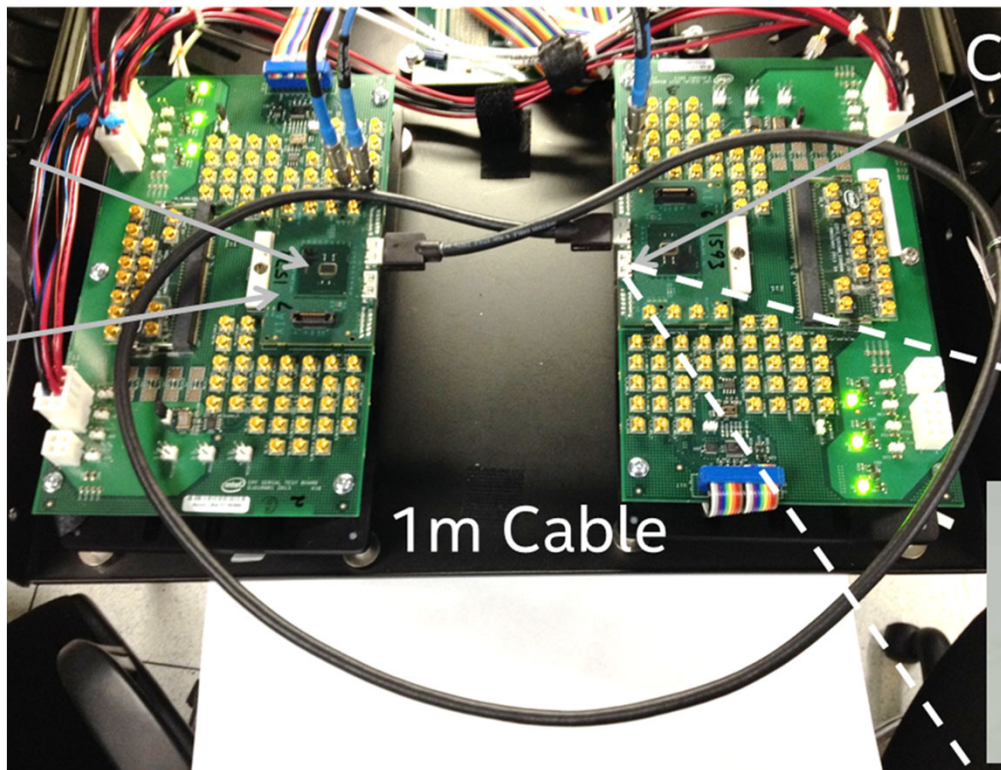
- ❖ Research innovative architectures to enable ultra high data rate comms.
- ❖ Use unique artefacts of the link to ensure data security
- ❖ Study new computing architectures for high efficiency signal processing



(Musah, JSSC 2014)



# Research Objective – High Speed Links

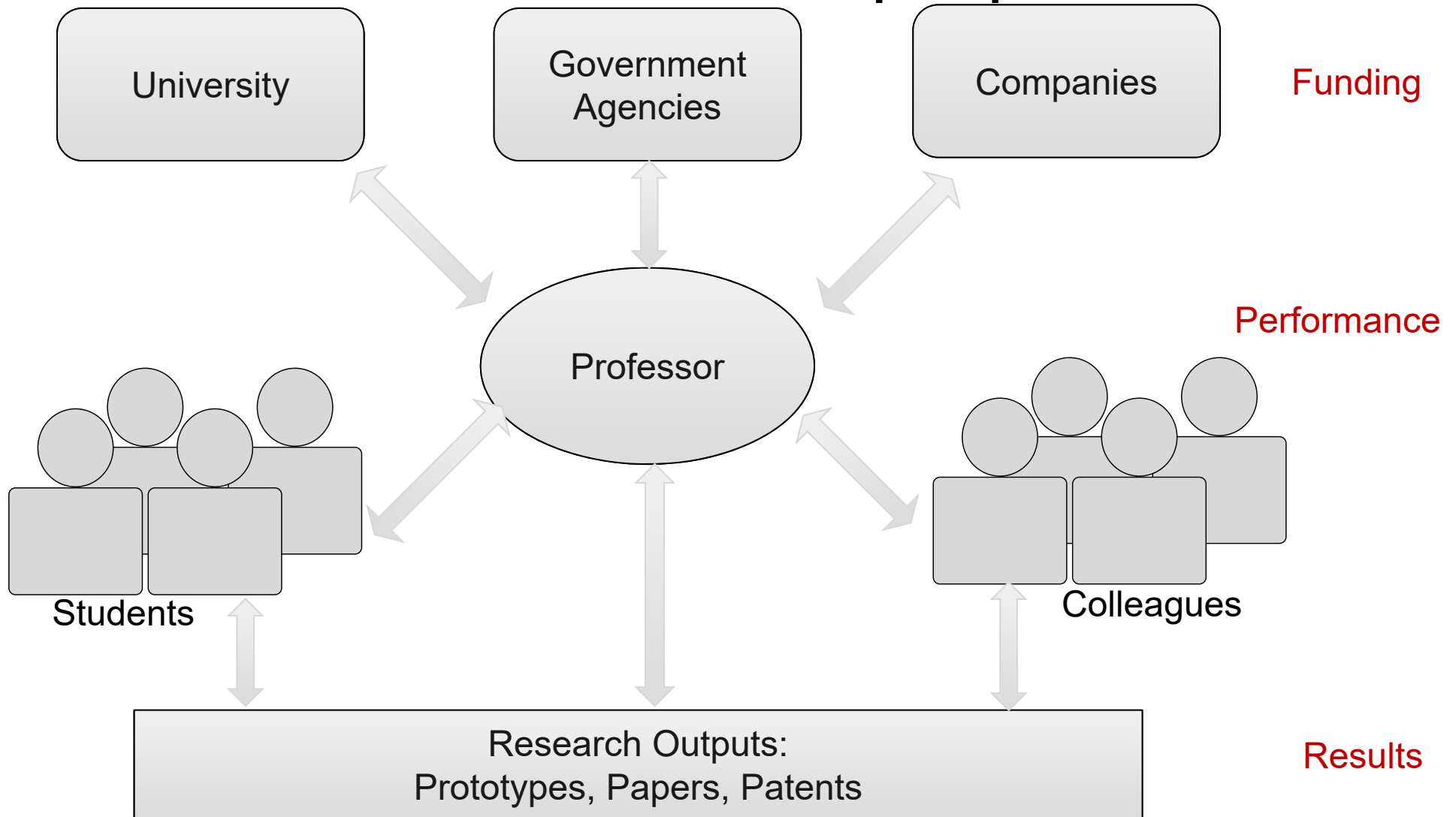


- ❖ In 2014, demonstrated 32Gbps/lane over cable
- ❖ In comparison, USB today has 10Gbps/lane
- ❖ We are now working on 100Gbps/lane links
- ❖ Revolutionary display

- ❖ Electrical and Computer Engineering for design/test
- ❖ Mechanical Engineering for connector/thermal design
- ❖ Material Science for cable/channel/new devices design
- ❖ Computer Science for software/firmware and EDA tools



# Research as a Startup Operation





# Security Fundamentals

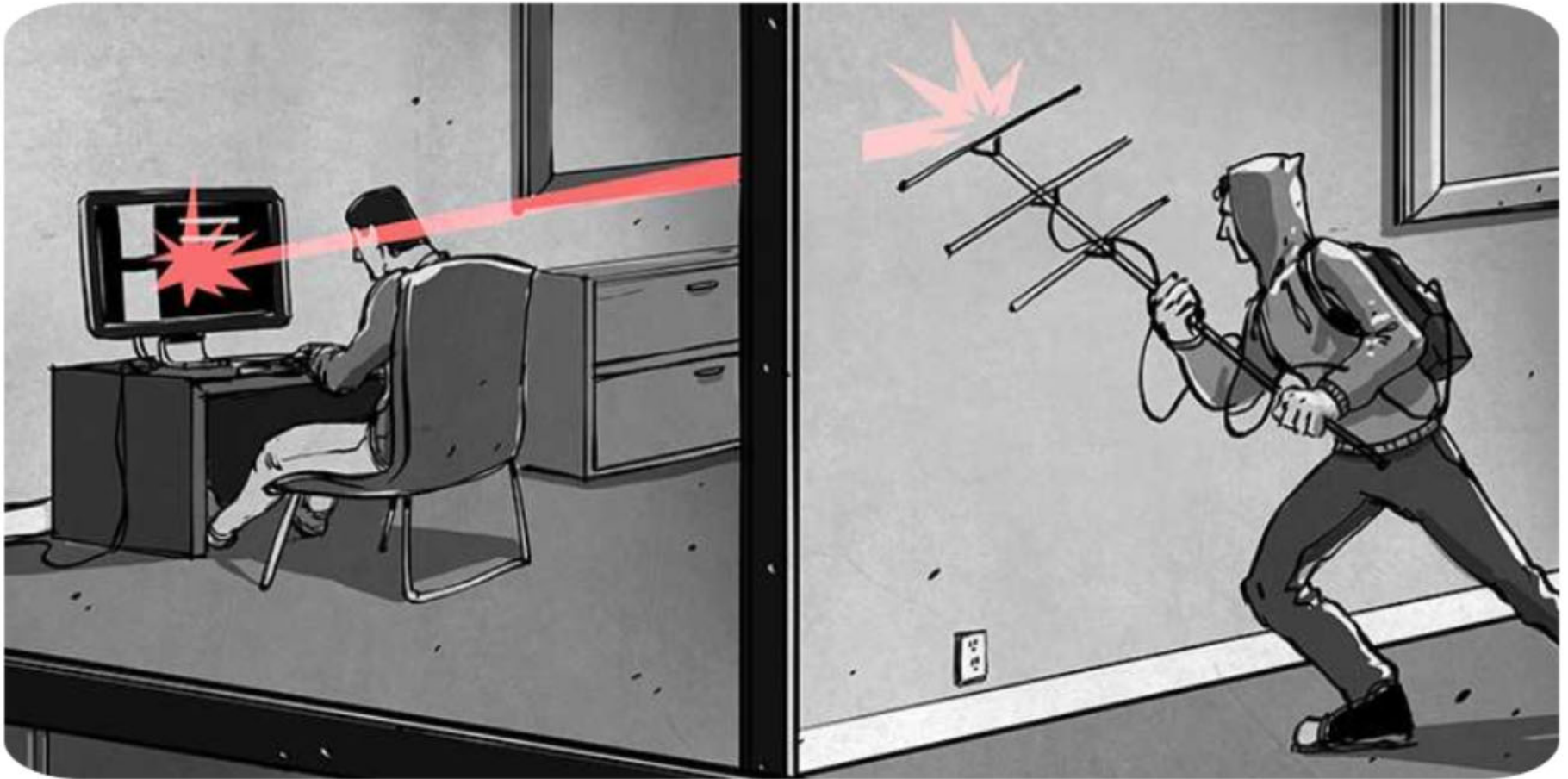


Image from [1]

- ❖ Information security has become one of the most important aspect of our daily lives.





# Security Fundamentals

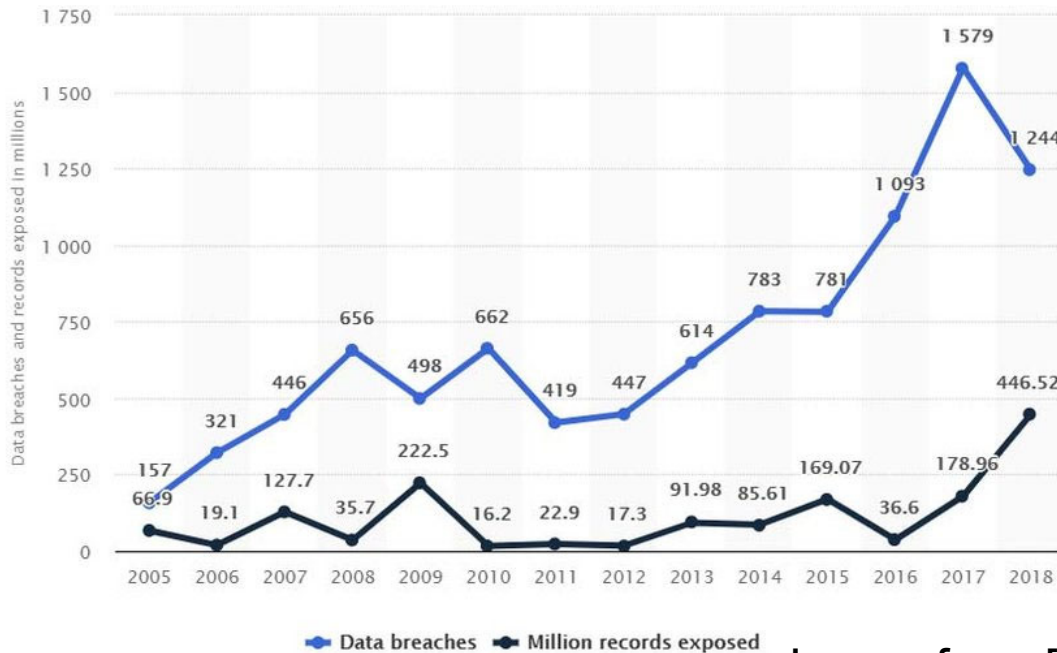


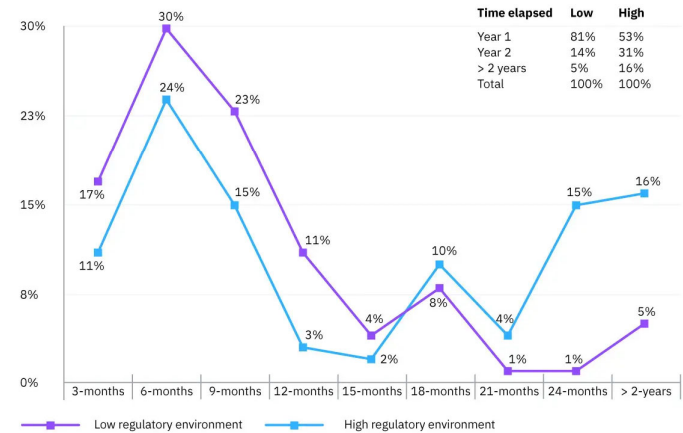
Image from [2]

IBM Security

2019 Cost of a Data Breach Report

Breach costs have a longer tail in high regulatory environments

Distribution of total data breach costs over time



❖ Information security has become one of the most important aspect of our daily lives.



# Security Fundamentals

FORTUNE

RANKINGS ▾ MAGAZINE NEWSLETTERS PODCASTS MORE ▾

SEARCH SIGN IN

Subscribe Now

TECH · TWITTER

## Twitter hacker touting the data of over 5.4 million users, including celebrities and companies, for \$30,000

BY ALICE HEARING  
July 26, 2022, 8:42 AM EDT

MOTHERBOARD  
TECH BY VICE

## Crypto.com Says 'Incident' Was Actually \$30 Million Hack

REUTERS®

World ▾ Business

June 8, 2021  
8:06 PM EDT  
Last Updated a year ago

Energy

The cryptocurrency platform initially called the hack "an incident."

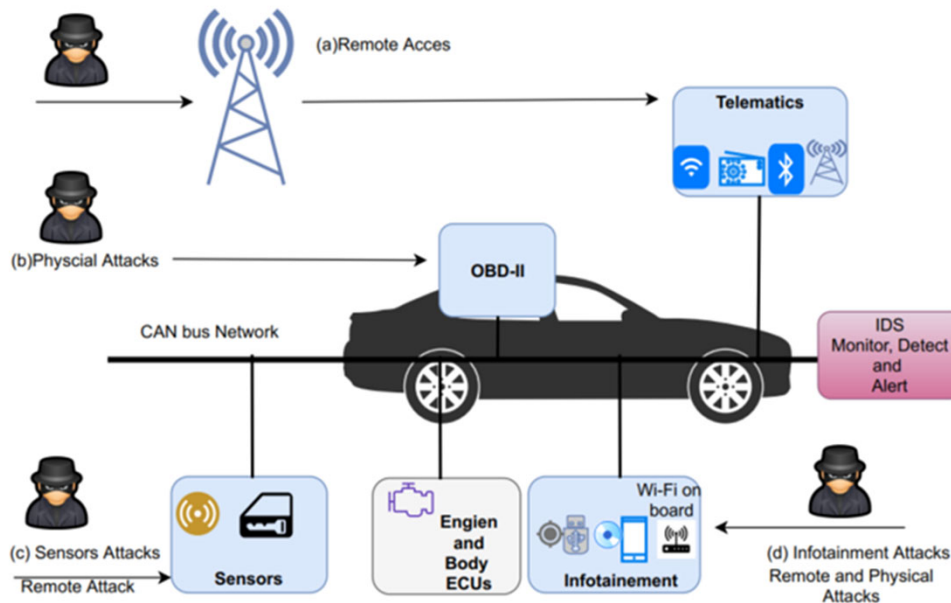
### One password allowed hackers to disrupt Colonial Pipeline, CEO tells senators

By Stephanie Kelly and Jessica Resnick-ault

- ❖ Information security has become one of the most important aspect of our daily lives.
- ❖ It has impacts on both our real and digital (virtual) worlds.



# Automotive Examples



WIRED BACKCHANNEL BUSINESS CULTURE GEAR IDEAS SCIENCE SECURITY

## Hackers Remotely Kill a Jeep on the Highway—With Me in It

I was driving 70 mph on the edge of downtown St. Louis when the exploit began to take hold.



- ❖ Automotive networks, with the numerous ECUs needed for ADAS and autonomous driving provide a wide attack surface
- ❖ The health/safety implications of breaches can't be overstated



# Security Fundamentals

## Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

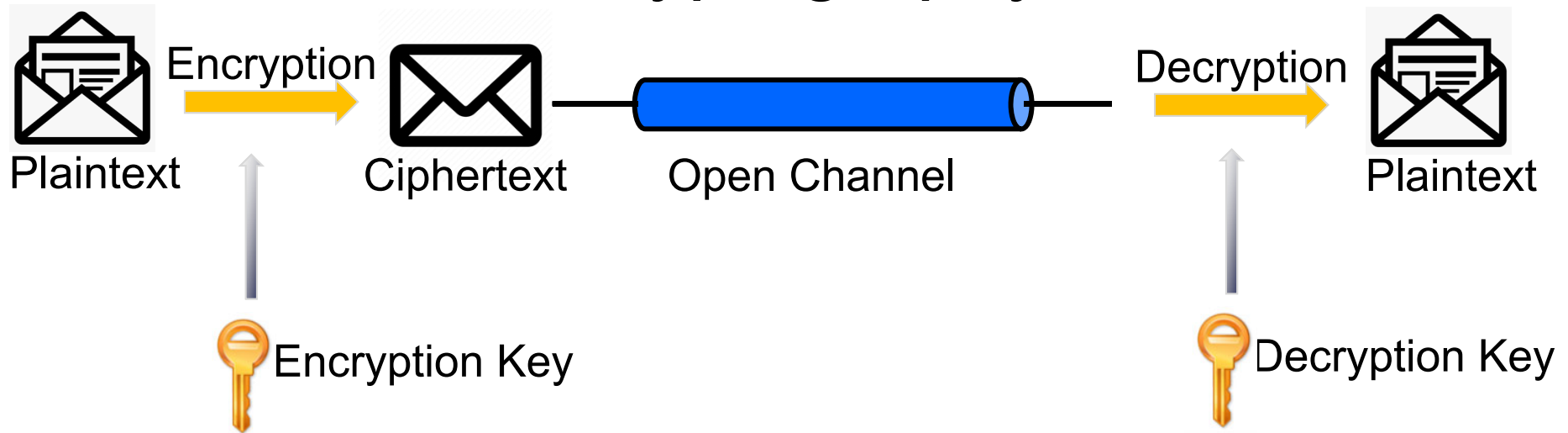


- ❖ Authentication can be used to restrict access to legitimate users
  - ❖ Type of authentication approaches include:
    - ❖ Personal Identification Number (PIN)
    - ❖ Passwords
    - ❖ Smartcards
    - ❖ Biometrics (fingerprint, face, iris, etc)
- ❖ Ultimately, encryption is required to ensure the data is only accessible to only legitimate receivers





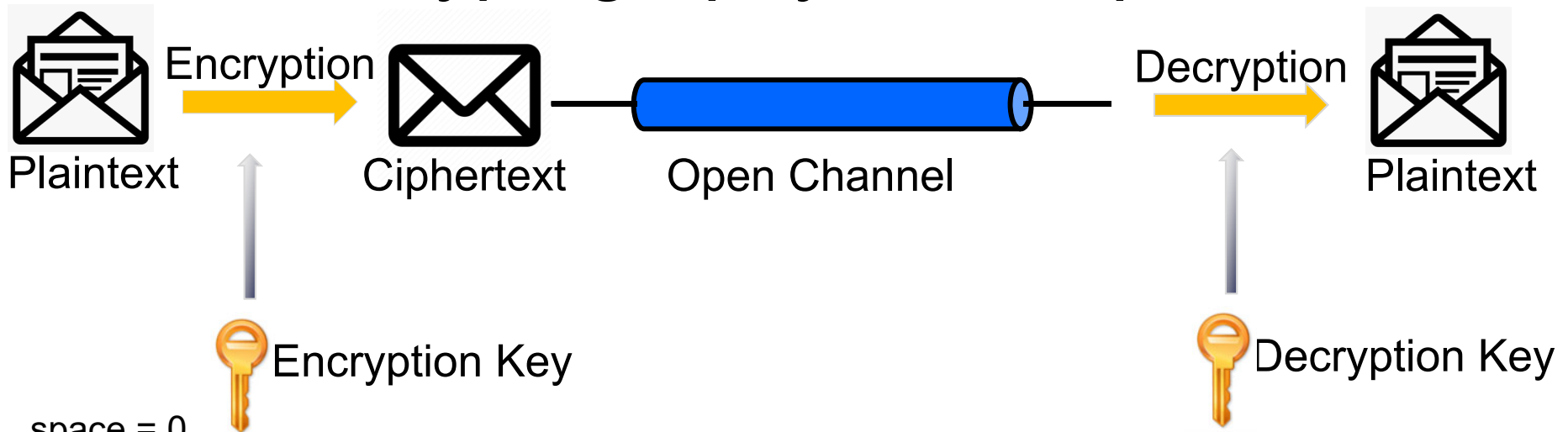
# Cryptography



- ❖ Cryptography ensures information secrecy by encrypting message before transmission on public channels
- ❖ The legitimate target receiver needs information about the key used for encryption to decrypt the message
- ❖ Various encryption/decryption mechanisms exist with varying degrees of secrecy and complexity



# Cryptography - Examples



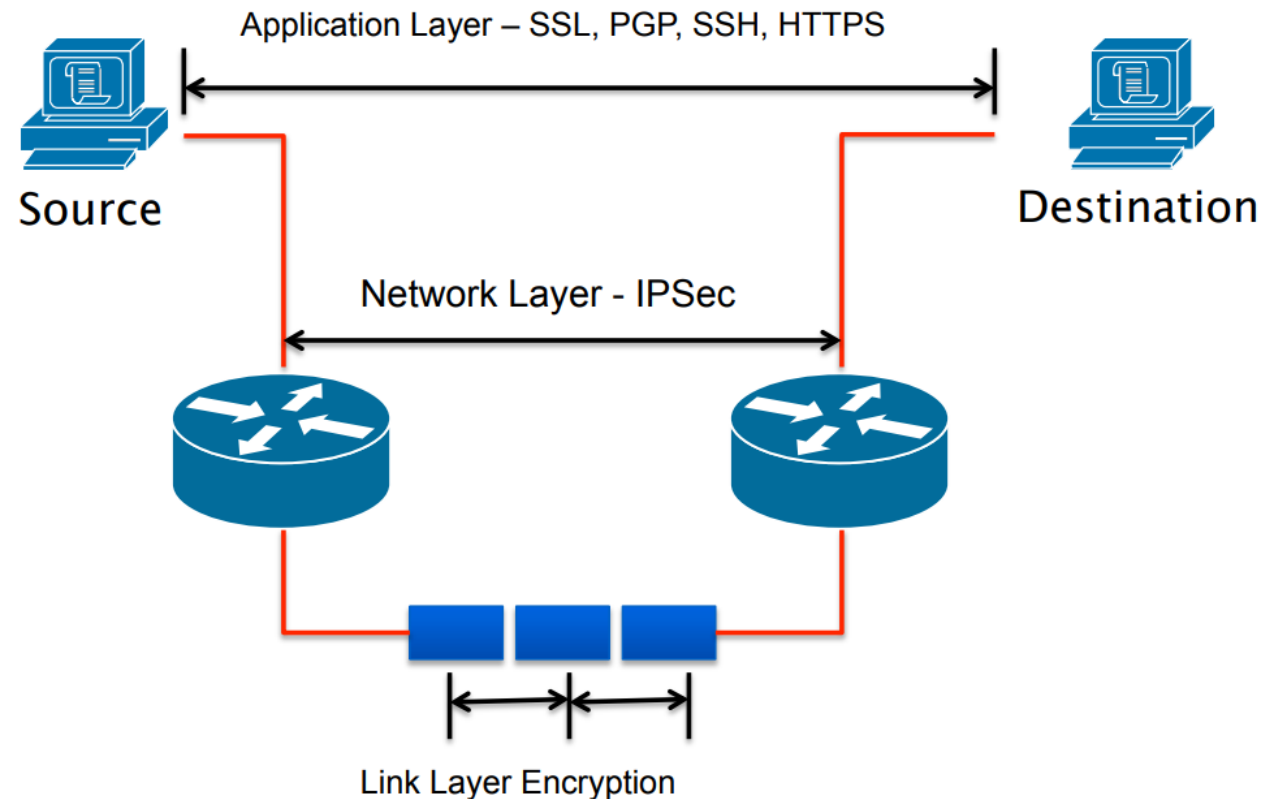
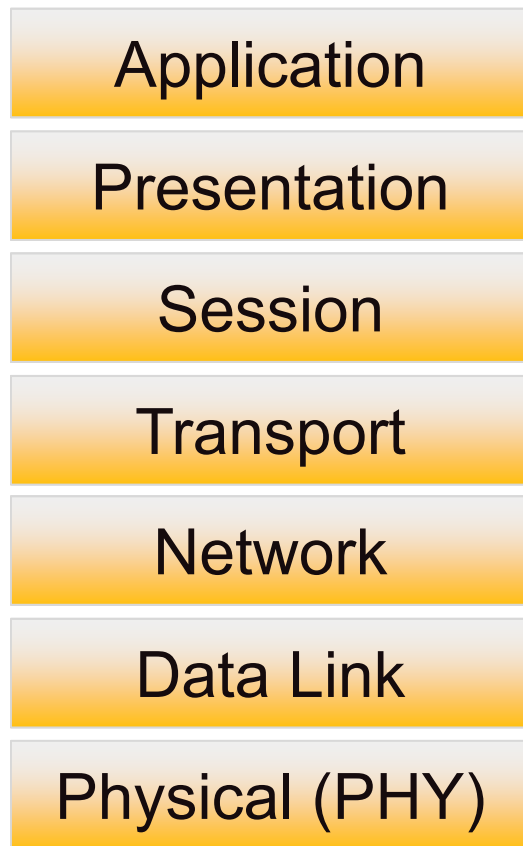
space = 0  
a = 1  
b = 2  
c = 3  
.  
.  
z = 26

Plaintext message	02 21 25 00 04 05 05 16 00 04 09 19 08 00 16 09 26 26 01 00 00 00 00 00 00
One-time pad	08 22 09 11 15 03 17 18 06 05 19 17 17 20 06 24 01 02 26 14 14 08 16 03 09
Cyphertext	10 03 16 11 11 06 20 02 06 01 26 02 25 20 22 17 01 24 01 14 14 08 16 03 09
Send cyphertext message	
One-time pad	08 22 09 11 15 03 17 18 06 05 19 17 17 20 06 24 01 02 26 14 14 08 16 03 09
Recovered Plaintext message	02 21 25 00 04 05 05 16 00 04 09 19 08 00 16 09 26 26 01 00 00 00 00 00 00
	b u y d e e p d i s h p i z z a

- ❖ Cryptography approaches include the use of Vernam cipher, data encryption standard (DES), advanced encryption standard (AES), RSA (Rivest-Shamir-Adleman)



# Security Fundamentals



- ❖ Security is implemented at different layers of the software stack
- ❖ Key distribution and encryption/decryption computation are major design and implementation concerns



# Activity – Cipher

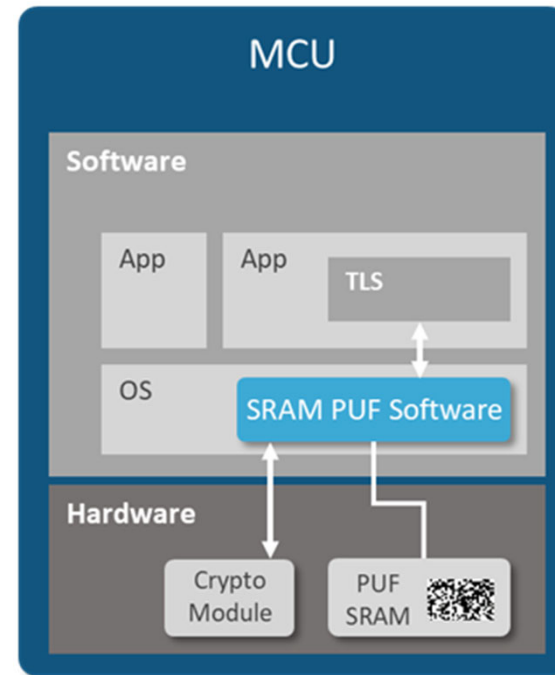
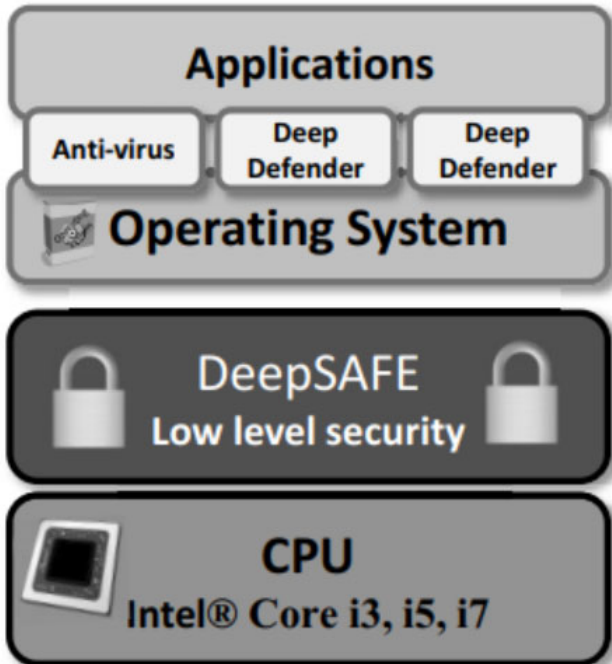
❖ Can you decode the following text?

FOHJOFFST IBWF UIF NPTU GVO



# The Role of Hardware

Image from [3]



- ❖ Hardware resources can be used to aid security in two main ways
  - ❖ Cryptographic algorithm acceleration
  - ❖ PHY layer noise and signatures for authentication and secrecy



# Class Agenda

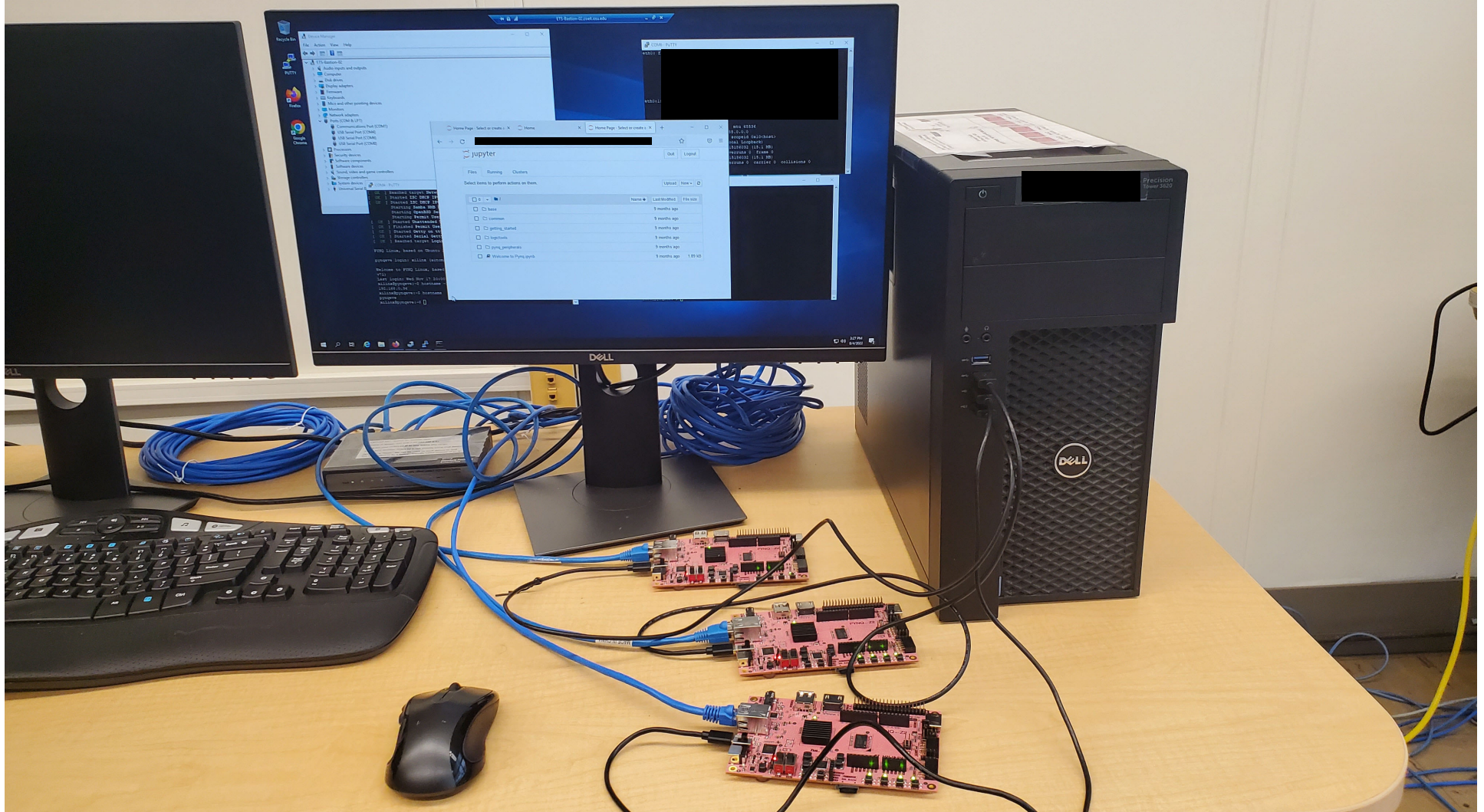
## Week 1

- ❖ Day 1: Introduction to hardware security
- ❖ Day 2: The PYNQ-Z2 board and Jupyter design environment
- ❖ Day 3: Getting started with Notebooks
- ❖ Day 4: Design examples software/hardware
- ❖ Day 5: Design examples software/hardware

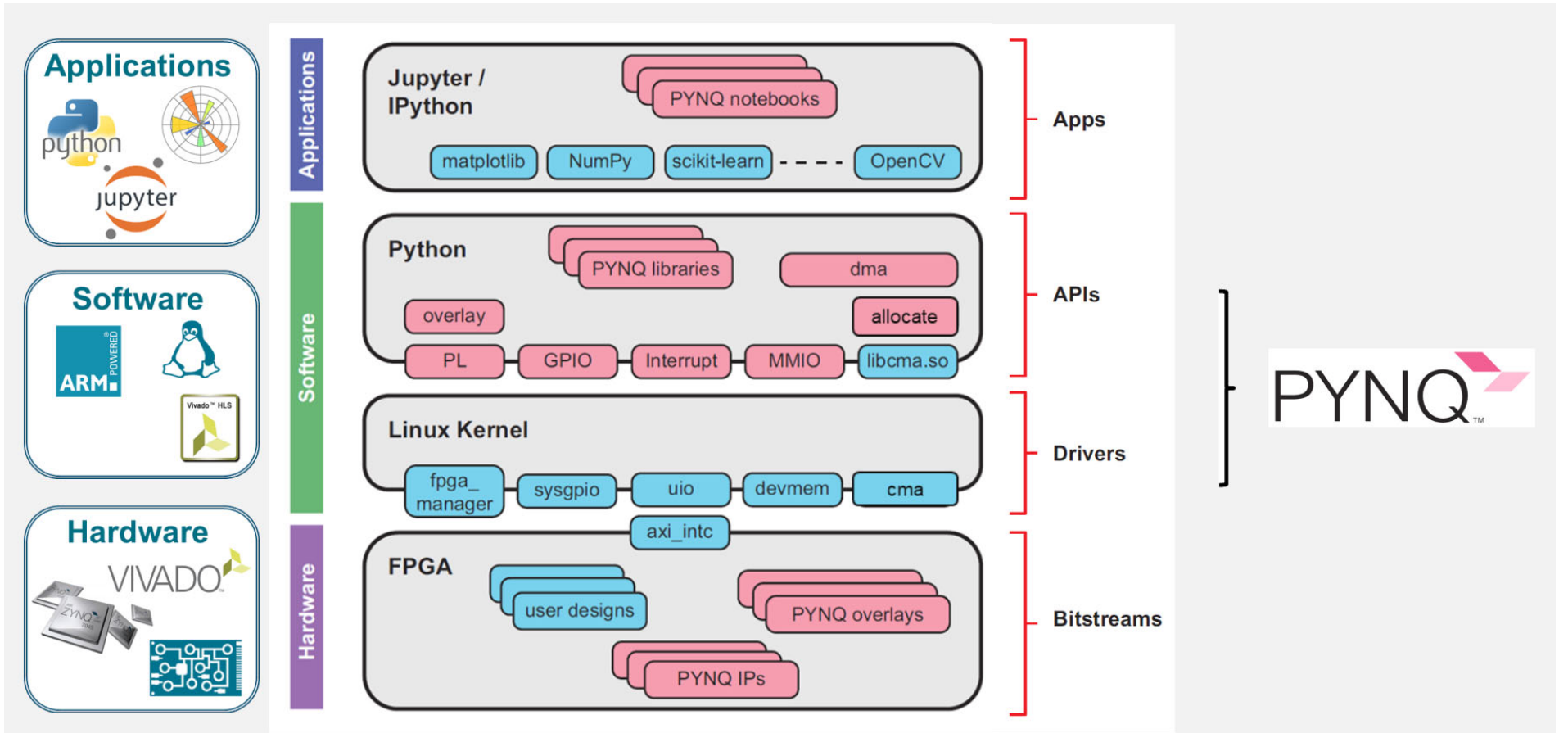
## Week 2

- ❖ Day 1: Group project work
- ❖ Day 2: Group project work
- ❖ Day 3: Group project work
- ❖ Day 4: Presentation prep work
- ❖ Day 5: Presentation





❖ Our hardware devices (PYNQ-Z2 boards) are isolated from the public network.

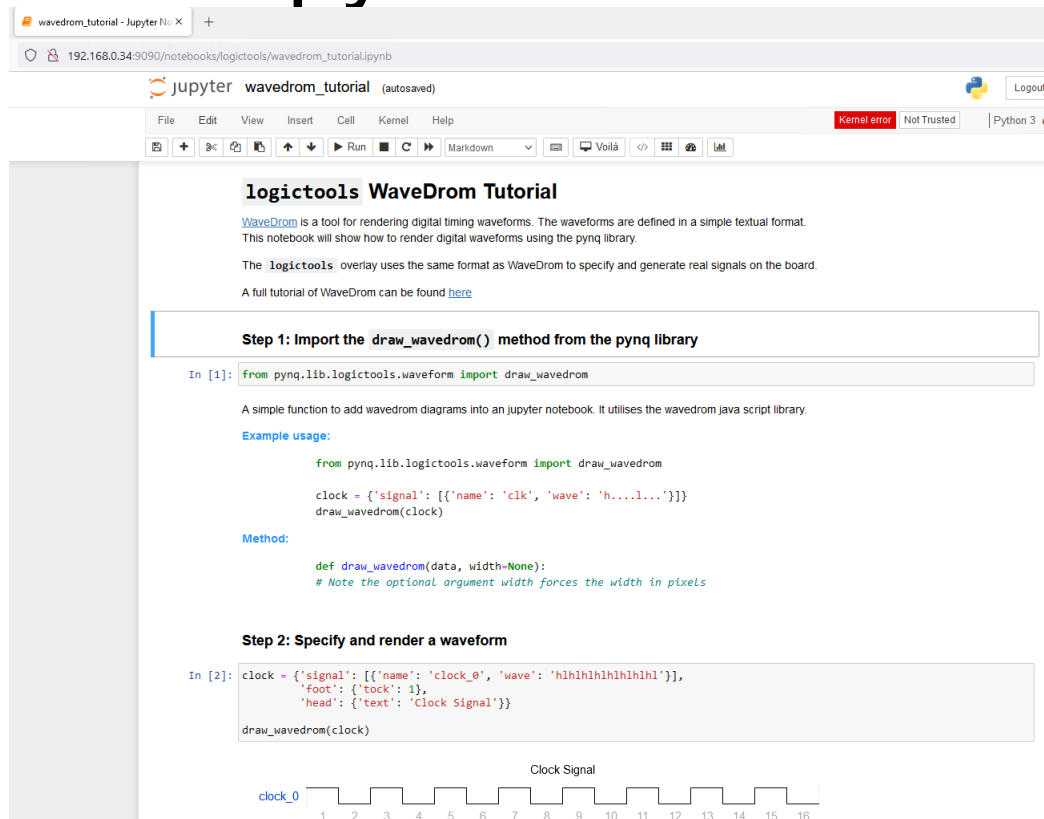


Learn more at the [PYNQ Tutorial](#).





# Jupyter Notebooks



**logictools WaveDrom Tutorial**

WaveDrom is a tool for rendering digital timing waveforms. The waveforms are defined in a simple textual format. This notebook will show how to render digital waveforms using the pynq library.

The logictools overlay uses the same format as WaveDrom to specify and generate real signals on the board. A full tutorial of WaveDrom can be found [here](#).

**Step 1: Import the draw\_wavedrom() method from the pynq library**

```
In [1]: from pynq.lib.logictools.waveform import draw_wavedrom
```

A simple function to add wavedrom diagrams into an jupyter notebook. It utilises the wavedrom java script library.

Example usage:

```
from pynq.lib.logictools.waveform import draw_wavedrom

clock = {'signal': [{'name': 'clk', 'wave': 'h...l...'}]}
draw_wavedrom(clock)
```


Method:

```
def draw_wavedrom(data, width=None):
    # Note the optional argument width forces the width in pixels
```

**Step 2: Specify and render a waveform**

```
In [2]: clock = {'signal': [{'name': 'clock_0', 'wave': 'h1h1h1h1h1h1h1'},
    'foot': {'tock': 1},
    'head': {'text': 'Clock Signal'}}]
draw_wavedrom(clock)
```

clock\_0



Learn more at the [Jupyter Notebooks](#).

❖ This shows an example of rendering digital timing waveforms using Jupyter



# Group Project

- ❖ I am grouping you into three teams
- ❖ Each team should develop 3 notebooks
  - ❖ Image Transmitter with encryption
  - ❖ Image Receiver with decryption information
  - ❖ Eavesdropper notebook that tries to guess encryption key
- ❖ We will work on your notebooks Monday, Tuesday, some of Wednesday
- ❖ On Wednesday, we will test the performance of each notebook by groups playing one of the three roles with members of the other groups



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



# Q & A



# References

- [1] (Image Source) E. Williams, "TEMPEST: a Tin Foil Hat for Your Electronics and Their Secrets", October 2015
- [2] Trabelsi, Slim. (2019). Monitoring Leaked Confidential Data. 1-5. 10.1109/NTMS.2019.8763811.
- [3] Chan, Philip & Barnett, Thomas & Badawy, Abdel-Hameed & Patrick, Jungwirth. (2018). Cyber defense through hardware security. 22. 10.1117/12.2302805.