


Cybersecurity Verification and Validation Testing in Automotive


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Abstract: The new generations of cars have a number of ECUs (Electronic Control Units) which are connected to a central gateway and need to pass cybersecurity integration tests to fulfil the homologation requirements of cars. Cars usually have a gateway server (few have additional domain servers) with Linux and a large number of ECUs which are real time control of actuators (ESP, EPS, ABS, etc. – usually they are multicore embedded controllers) connected by a real time automotive specific bus (CAN-FD) to the domain controller or gateway server. The norms (SAE J3061, ISO 21434) require cybersecurity related verification and validation. For the verification car manufacturers use a network test suite which runs > 2000 test cases and which have to be passed for homologation. These norms have impact on the way how car communication infrastructure is tested, and which cybersecurity attack patterns are checked before a road release of an ECU/car. This paper describes typical verification and validation approaches in modern vehicles and how such test cases are derived and developed.

Keywords: Automotive Cybersecurity, Verification, Validation, Best Practice Design Patterns

Categories: D.2.1, D.2.2, D.2.5, D.4.6

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1 Introduction

In Feb. 2021 VDA (German Automotive Association) AK 13 [ASPICE 2020] published the Automotive SPICE for cybersecurity assessment model (Figure 1). This will be used for cybersecurity homologation assessments which are mandatory for car makers from July 2022.

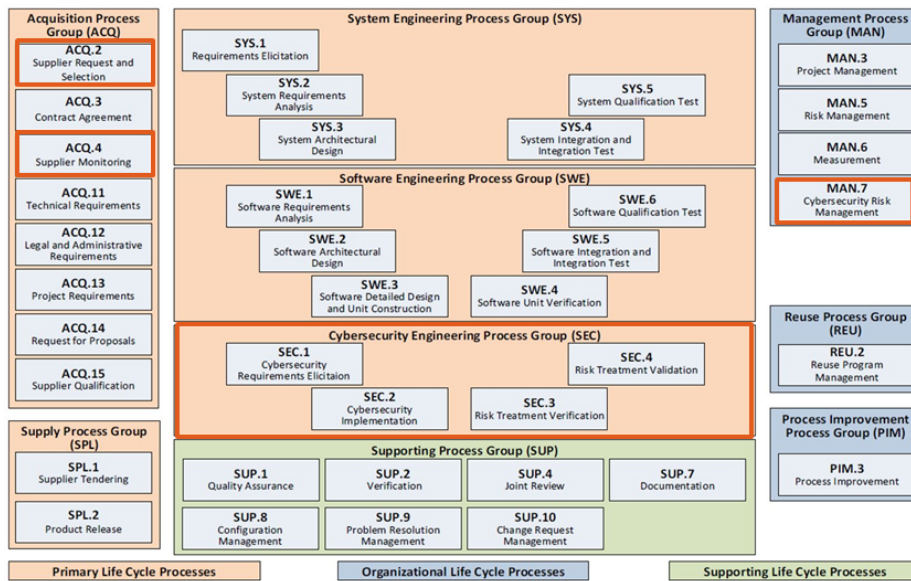


Figure 1: Automotive SPICE Cybersecurity Assessment Model Processes

The model includes new processes

- MAN.7 Cybersecurity Risk Management (Management, performing and tracking a TARA – Cybersecurity Threat Analysis and Risk Analysis, and deriving cybersecurity goals)
- SEC.1 Cybersecurity Requirements Elicitation (Requirements derived from a TARA)
- SEC.2 Cybersecurity Implementation (Designing counter measures against the risks and threats and to achieve the cybersecurity goals)
- SEC.3 Risk Treatment Verification (verification against the cybersecurity requirements)
- SEC.4 Risk Treatment Validation (validation against the cybersecurity goals)

And extended 2 existing processes

- ACQ.2 Supplier Request and Selection (including cybersecurity in the tender)
- ACQ.4 Supplier Monitoring (monitoring the fulfilment of cybersecurity goals work products, requirements)

This paper addresses how the test concepts in cybersecure vehicle architectures are implemented in the SEC.3 and SEC.4 processes.

2 Cybersecurity Testing Related Work Products

In a working party SOQRATES a group of leading automotive suppliers, universities and training bodies and the EU Blueprint project DRIVES [Messnarz 2020] for automotive developed a concept of what typical work products are expected. Figure 2 illustrates the typical work products in listings for 04 to 06.

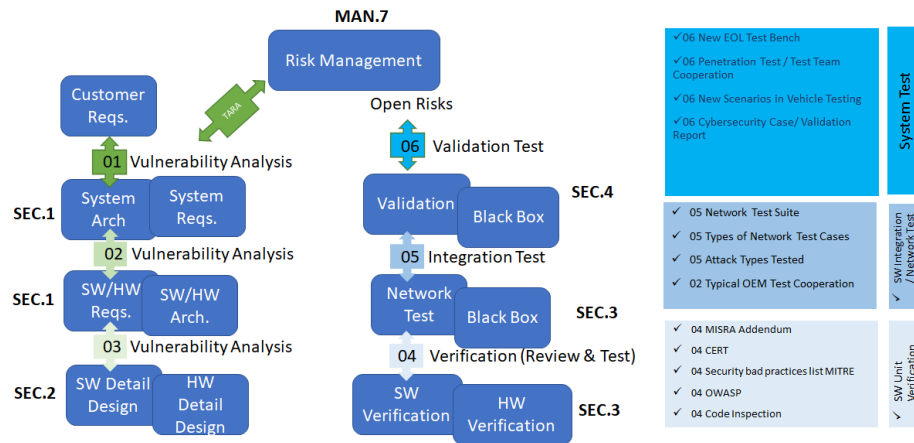


Figure 2: Cybersecurity related work products 04 – 06 for cybersecurity testing

SEC.3 Risk Treatment Verification: SW Unit Verification (see Figure 2 above)

04 MISRA and CERT

- Cybersecurity coding rules MISRA C:2012 Amendment 1 from 2016, and ISO/IEC TS 17961:2013 C-Secure

04 MITRE guidance

- Cybersecurity patterns (list of attacks and recommended actions) <https://attack.mitre.org>
- 04 OWASP
- The Open Web Application Security Project (owasp.org) with good and bad practices for programming in web based secure environments

04 Code Inspection

- Review checklists are extended to include cybersecurity relevant aspects. Typically coding rules are checked automatically. However, cybersecurity relevant SW parts need to be marked, need to be independent from the normal code (freedom from interference) applying an extended cybersecurity related checklist and rule set

SEC.3 Risk Treatment Verification: SW Integration / System Integration / Network Test (see Figure 2 above)

05 NTS Network-Test-Suite

- This is a test suite which is connected by a bus (LIN, CAN, CAN-FD, Ethernet) to the ECU (Electronic Control Unit) and has a programmable interface to write test cases (e.g. a replay attack). automatically performs tests and reports cybersecurity coverage.
- Advanced customers who have already an advanced cybersecurity architecture in place usually require to use a specific test suite and run given customer diagnostic tests on the ECU.

05 Types of Network Test Cases

- Test case types are usually structured by cybersecurity objectives and diagnostic chapters
- e.g. tests for authentication
 - e.g. tests for secure diagnostics and flashing
 - e.g. test for secure boot
 - e.g. tests for replay attacks
 - e.g. tests for UDS (Unified Diagnose Services) diagnostic functions and trying to access secure parts (normally UDS \$27) by non-authenticated diagnostic protocol functions
 - e.g. denial of service attacks
 - e.g. behaviour in case messages get lost, come too often in incorrect time frame etc.

05 Attack Types Tested

- All attack types (usually the MITRE catalogue is checked and those parts which are applicable the product being developed are selected) must be covered.

02 Typical OEM Test Cooperation

- Advanced car manufacturers such as VW, Daimler, BMW, etc. provide requirements for the test tool and test procedure set up: e.g. NTS Network Test Suite for Daimler AG, FAT Tool Suite for BMW, CANoe with CAPL programmed test cases in a combination with a HIL platform (HIL – Hardware in the Loop) in case of VW, etc.

SEC.4 Risk Treatment Validation: Software & System Test (see Figure 2 above)

06 Test Bench for Cybersecurity

- Cars in production at the end of line test receive an IP address and all certificates and keys configured. In a test bench these key updates are tested.
- 06 Penetration Test / Test Team Cooperation
- Penetration testing is done an external cybersecurity teste team. This team does not receive all internal designs but the cybersecurity goals and technical data about the ECU.

06 Vehicle Integration Testing

- Vehicle integration requires now e.g. that the test driver flashes new keys in the vehicle set up.

- 06 Cybersecurity Case/ Validation Report
- A cybersecurity manager produces reports showing that 100% of cybersecurity relevant requirements have been tested and passed.

3 Cybersecurity Requirements for Verification

The cybersecurity norms require to perform a TARA (Threat Analysis and Risk Analysis). The TARA attributes are described in the ISO 21434 norm [SAE 2016][Schmittner 2019][Schmittner 2019 2][ISO 21434 2020][VDA 2021] and a TARA delivers an impact level, a threat level and a security level (combination of impact and threat level by a risk table). [ISO 21434 2020][Macher 2016][Macher 2017][Macher 2017 2] Also, each line in the TARA includes a cybersecurity goals, if the security level shows a security rating (se Figure 4 example extract from a TARA).

Before a TARA is performed a cybersecurity item analysis or threat model is drawn which shows the system, all critical interfaces and critical data and groups the assets which can be attacked [Dobaj 2018][Dobaj 2019][Macher 2020].

See the example in Figure 3 which describes a 6 phase e-motor EPS (Electric Power Steering). One critical interface is e.g. the steering angle request which can lead to unwanted steering of the vehicle [Macher 2019][Macher 2019 2][Macher 2019 3][Messnarz 2016][Messnarz 2016 2][Messnarz 2017][Armengaud 2019][Messnarz 2019 2][Veledar 2019].

Figure 4 shows example lines and selected attributes of the related TARA where the ADAS steering angle request as a critical signal is rated with a threat level medium, and because (not visible) the impact level was critical (since sudden steering leads almost always to an accident), the security level is high.

The assigned security goal in Figure 4 e.g. is “Prevent unwanted steering due to unauthorized commands and assure secure logging of received commands over a period of 800 ms.

The cybersecurity goal is then broken down to system requirements (authorize and authenticate commands) and cybersecure critical SW function and cybersecure critical software data requirements. For the critical function requirements related critical data are referenced, the SW states in which the function is active (white listing) is defined, and security objectives are assigned (see Figure 5).

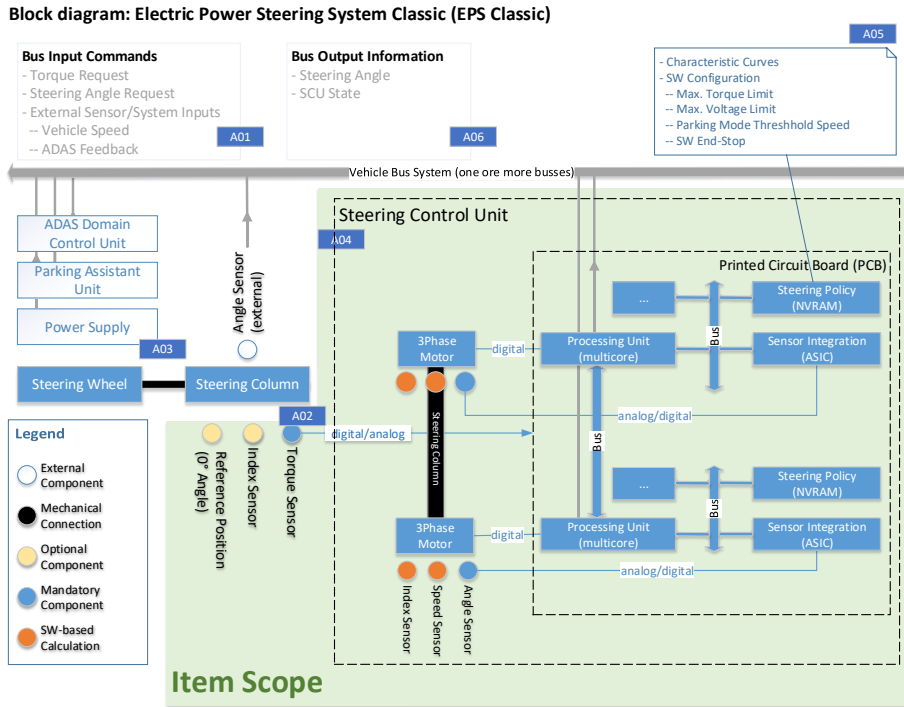


Figure 3: Cybersecurity item analysis – Critical assets and interfaces

Determine Threat Level
 Calculate Security Level
 Define Security Goal (with unique ID)
 Many lines may have the same security goal.

Asset ID	HEAV ID	Asset Name	Applicable Threat (STRIDE)	Threat Scenario
A01.1	1	ADAS Steering Angle Request	Tampering	An attacker pretends to be the ADAS system and sends malicious steering angle request to the SCU.
A01.1	2	ADAS Steering Angle Request	Information Disclosure	An attacker sniffs the messages on the bus and can learn about the command structure and implemented security measures.

Threat level							Security Level		
Expertise	Knowledge about Target of Evaluation (TOE)	Window of Opportunity	Equipment	Justification Threat Level Analysis	TL [SUM]	Threat Level	Security Level	Security Goal ID	Security Goal
Multiple Experts	Restricted	Critical	Specialized	Ex/R - secure gateway as attack surface Ex/K - vehicle/protocol/technology knowledge required Ex/W - vehicle accessible via GSM and OBD interface	5	Medium	High	SecG1	Prevent unwanted steering due to unauthorized commands and ensure the secure logging of received commands
Multiple Experts	Restricted	Critical	Specialized	Ex/R - secure gateway as attack surface Ex/K - vehicle/protocol/technology knowledge required Ex/W - vehicle accessible via GSM and OBD interface	5	Medium	BNV		

Figure 4: Cybersecurity goals – results from a TARA

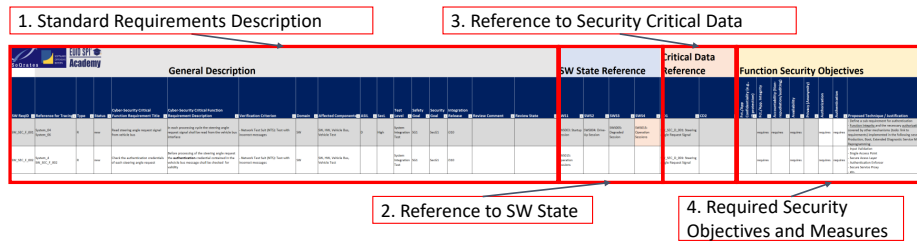


Figure 5: Cybersecurity critical function requirements

For each cybersecurity objective corresponding counter measures are programmed and need to be tested.

Threat	Property	Definition	Example
Spoofing	Authentication	Impersonating something or someone else.	Pretending to be a specific device on the vehicle bus, sending out signals and commands.
Tampering	Integrity	Modifying data or code	Modifying configuration files or firmware storage devices, or modify messages as they traverse the NW.
Repudiation	Non-repudiation	Claiming to have not performed an action	An attacker succeeded to modify some data within a storage or a message, and can pretend to have done it.
Information Disclosure	Confidentiality	Exposing information to someone not authorized to see it.	Reading key material from storage, an application, messages in transit.
Denial of Service	Availability	Deny or degrade service to users	Crashing/deactivating a device on the bus, sending messages to absorbing CPU resources, flooding the bus, ...
Elevation of Privilege	Authorization	Gain capabilities without proper authorization	Allowing a remote user to execute commands on the vehicle internet gateway (i.e., the OTA gateway) to send messages on the vehicle bus.

Figure 6: Cybersecurity objectives / Required Property

Continuing with the example from steering a MAC will be used for only accepting authenticated and authorized messages:

The MAC (Message Authentication Codes) shall provide the following security properties/objectives:

- freshness (Sec. Objective)
- authentication (Sec. Objective)
- information/payload: steering angle request
- integrity (Sec. Objective)

Algorithmic Details we may assign to the SW Level Analysis:

- freshness: a new random number is added to each message
- authentication: via shared secret
- information/payload: steering angle request
- integrity: via HASH plus CRC for error correction from safety
- CAN-message = [h1|steering angle request|CRC]
- p1 = [shared-secret | increase-of-random-number | steering angle request]
- h1 = HASH[shared-secret | HASH[p1]]

4 Integration Testing Verification Strategy - Network Test Suites Approach

Figure 7 illustrates a typical general test framework [Akka 2021][Vector 2021] applied and Figure 7 shows the specific test environment which typically is used, for instance, in Daimler projects.

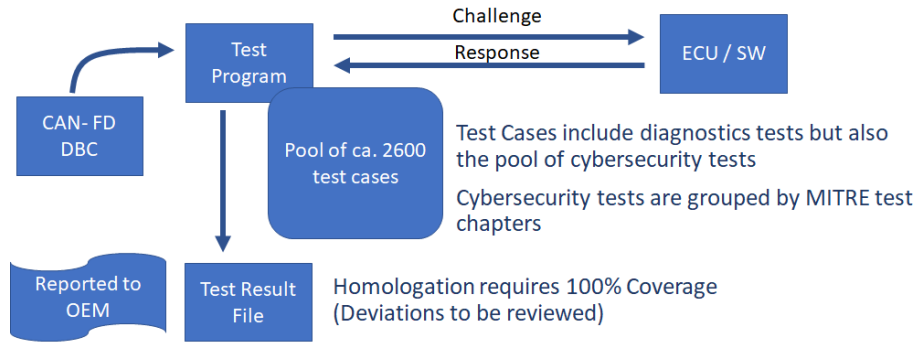


Figure 7: Typical set up of network test suites

A tool affordable for research teams, and small companies is PCAN where you can program test cases in C/C++ and even in Visual Basic. There is also a whole set functions to import DBC files, sniff the bus, and change, adapt and replay messages.

In vehicles a CAN bus is based on a norm J1939 (https://wiki2.org/en/SAE_J1939) in which the message format is standardized (see Figure 9). Research is done to create more secure protocols based on Ethernet [Dobaj 2020].

A CAN FD [ISO 11898] is structured like a CAN and allows Flexible Data (FD) rates. To add to a CAN a cybersecurity (which was not meant at the beginning) a cybersecurity related message bundle is created which contains both, the message and the cybersecurity related message part to authenticate, authorize, check the command/message (see Figure 8 to Figure 10).

It is important to not confuse security with the built in CRC checksum algorithms (see Figure 8) which support a 15-bit, 17-bit, or 21-bit CRC. This CRC is used for an E2E (End to End) validation of messages, that messages have not been altered in general.

The added SecOC bundle is the protection part against the attackers (see h1 in Figure 8).

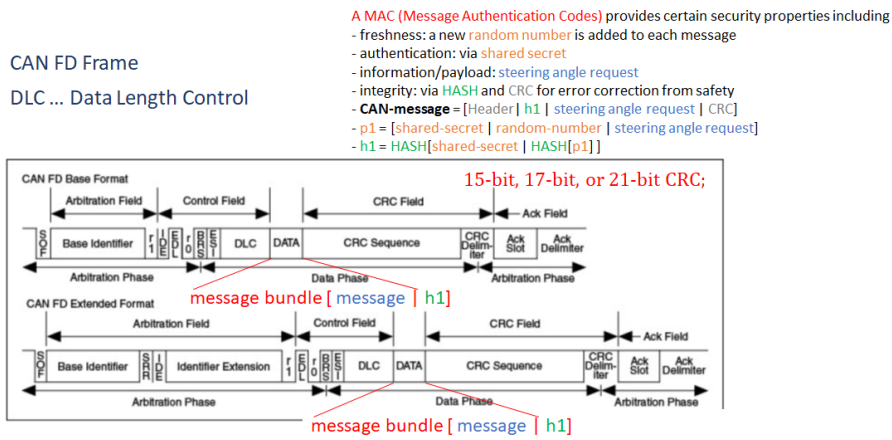


Figure 8: CAN FD Structure and Extension for Cybersecurity

For the design of a vehicle (a vehicle contains many ECUs Electronic Control Units connected by a bus) the CAN message catalogue is specified according to a nom (J1939) and imported by the ECUs. ECU software which is developed for cybersecurity has usually a standard service architecture supported by Autosar >= 4.3 (see Figure 10) which offers services to manage secure communication (SEcOC component), connects to a hardware security module (vHSM and HSM), and allows functional programs to use encryption, decryption, signing, authentication, hash algorithms, etc. The decrypted data are made available via the RTE (Run Time Environment).

CAN DBC Files – Structure of Messages and Signals

```
BO_427 STEER_MOTOR_TORQUE: 1 GATEWAY
SG_MOTOR_CMD_steer : 0|8@1- (1,-128) [-128|128]"N" EPS
```

The message name is STEER_MOTOR_TORQUE and MID is 427 (decimal), and the length is 1 byte , implemented by EPS
 The sender is GATEWAY, 1 signal is specified in the message
 0|8: The unsigned signal starts at bit position 0, and the size of this signal is 8
 (1,-128): It has an accuracy of 1 and -128 offset → range -128 to +127
 [-128|127]: Min and Max is not defined
 "N": unit is Newton meter
 @1-: Defines that the signal is signed: Never change this!



Figure 9: Message Structure without Security Bundle

Figures 9 and 10 show a typical outcome in the RTE, where you can read the requested motor torque and also you can read by a flag if the authentication was ok.

CAN DBC Files – Structure of Messages and Signals – SecOC Bundle

BundleSteer_Motor_Torque10ms

STEER_MOTOR_TORQUE FrameOffset = 0 Framelength = 24 byte

SecOCSTEER_MOTOR_TORQUE FrameOffset = 24 byte Framelength = 8 byte



Figure 10: Message Bundles integrating a message and a security part

In testing Automotive uses an integrated test equipment (Figures 7 and 8) which allow to change, replay, etc. messages and observe the outcome and read by a protocol the values from the RTE.

5 Test Case Design for Verification

Test cases in Automotive need to be linked to the corresponding requirements. This traceability of requirements to test cases and test results is a must in Automotive to prove that features are complete when homologating a vehicle. Different norms check this traceability such as Automotive SPICE [ASPICE 2017] ASPICE 2017 2] and Automotive SPICE extension for Cybersecurity [ASPICE 2021], Functional Safety, and cybersecurity norms like ISO 21434 for proof of coverage of a cybersecurity case. Assessments are made to check this coverage and if the development process supports this [Ekert 2020][Höhn 2015][Messnarz 2007][Messnarz 2009][Messnarz 2012][Messnarz 2019][Schlager 2018][Wegner 2020].

Since the tool set up is supported by a test framework with scripting the test cases usually are designed in a database, linked to requirements and scripts write test results logs which can be imported back to the database to provide a test status.

In SOQRATES best practice attributes for describing such test cases are discussed and in Figure 11 below you find such an example specification using attributes like:

- Text case ID
- Related SW Security Requirement(s)
- Test Case Title
- Test Case Description / Test Steps
- Preconditions, Expected Results
- Test Case Design method used
- Test Level
- Test (Tool) Environment
- Cybersecurity Test level

- Cybersecurity test method / Verification Criteria / Test case design patterns

General Description							
Test ID	Reference for Training	Status	Test Case Title	Test Description/Test Steps	Preconditions	Expected Results	Test Case Design Method (e.g. Equivalence Class, Range Check, Fault Injection, Negative Test)
TC_01	SW_SEC_F_002	new	Steering request with wrong hashkey	Test steer command with -40, 0, 80 N at -20, 5, 15 and 100 kmh. Test should fail Step 1: SC_MOTOR_CMD_steer = -40N, ESP_DT_v_KMH = -20 Step 2: SC_MOTOR_CMD_steer = 0, ESP_DT_v_KMH = 5 Step 3: SC_MOTOR_CMD_steer = 80N, ESP_DT_v_KMH = 15 ...	Use the valid command STEER_MOTOR_TOPICLE and overwrite the hashkey with SC_MOTOR_CMD_Hash = 4f186cd580b6304e930036e6f6421e	Step 1: EPS_Status = Error and command is rejected Step 2: EPS_Status = Error and command is rejected Step 3: EPS_Status = Error and command is rejected -	Negative Test Equivalence Class (test incorrect hash with different operational states)

General Description			
Test ID	Reference for Training	Status	Test Case Title
TC_01	SW_SEC_F_002	new	Steering request with wrong hashkey

General Description			
Test Method (e.g. Vehicle Test, Test Bench, HiL Test)	Cybersecurity Test Method/Pattern	Cybersecurity Test Level	Cybersecurity Test Method/Pattern
HIL	- Verification: Network authentication - Wrong Test Suite - Wrong feedtimes/time/sampl - Verification: Cybersecurity Code Check - Validation: Keys flashing ECU test bench - Wrong checksum - Wrong timing - Flight hash or vehicle test steps - validation: Cybersecurity checksum but data changed - validation: penetration test - service Diagnostics		

Figure 11: Cybersecurity verification test case example

6 Test Case Approach in Case of Validation

While the cybersecurity verification gives the test team a white box view with a number of cybersecurity related function and data requirements, the validation is based on a black box view. The testers know the functions, the technical description and the cybersecurity goals, but they do not receive in e.g. penetration testing the details. This is used to simulate a real case attacker from outside.

Also, attacker teams for penetration test have a structured test strategy which is called “Creating Adversary Emulation Plans based on attack patterns derived from MITRE” (Figure 12) [MITRE 2021][MITRE 2021 2].

Using the test specification, the editors and scripts in the tools framework are used to e.g. resend the message with wrong message counter (which e.g. would happen in a replay attack).

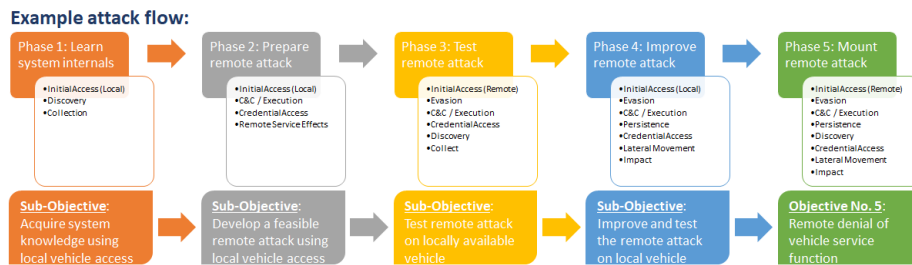


Figure 12: Cybersecurity attack flow analysis

For the preparation of such plans the MITRE Also, attacker teams for penetration test have a structured test strategy which is called “Creating Adversary Emulation Plans based on attack patterns derived from MITRE” (Figure 12).

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In Mitre.org you can select the attack navigator functionality, create a new layer model for you, and start planning. This might result in a strategy described in Figure 13.

Intent: Emulation plans help to focus security testing on specific patterns of behavior

- a) Identify if existing detection and mitigation techniques properly work
- b) Discover gaps across the entire lifecycle (e.g., process, data, tools, design, ...)
- c) Address identified gaps by implementing defensive mechanisms
- d) Re-test regularly using varied behavior and adversary objectives

Example attack flow described within an emulation plan:



Figure 13: Cybersecurity attack flow analysis using MITRE Attack Navigator

MITRE is based on a collection of attack patterns observed in ICT industry, and thus the vehicle testers need to adapt the proposed ICT strategy to a vehicle based strategy. This results in an attack strategy as described in Figure 14.

This way pen Testing structured approach based on the assumed objectives of an adversary pan that was derived from MITRE and adapted for automotive.

Nr	Name	Objective	Target	Link to Threat Intelligence Data
1	Acquire system knowledge	Acquire and extract as much knowledge about the vehicle internals to prepare for later attacks.	- Local vehicle bus sniffing - Read ECU configurations - Extract private key material	
2	Change/tune vehicle service functions	Manipulate the functionality, configuration of one or more items within the vehicle.	- Install apps/services - Change ECU configuration/parameters	
3	Fleed monitoring & continues data extraction	Acquire and extract as much knowledge about the vehicle fleed and its operation to either sell the information or to prepare for later attacks.	- Remote vehicle bus sniffing - Read ECU configurations - Extract private key material	
4	Remote degradation of vehicle service functions	Cause financial damage to the company, damage reputation, blackmail, etc.	- Remote vehicle bus flooding - Deactivate/destroy single ECU	
5	Remote denial of vehicle service functions	Cause financial damage to the company, damage reputation, blackmail, etc.	- Deactivate/destroy single ECU	
6	Partial remote control of vehicle service functions	Cause financial damage to the company, damage reputation, blackmail, etc.	- Exploit extended diagnostic session - Install apps/services - Send malicious commands via the vehicle bus	
7	Full remote control of vehicle	Cause financial damage to the company, damage reputation, blackmail, etc.	- Exploit extended diagnostic session - Install apps/services - Send malicious commands via the vehicle bus	

Figure 14: Example Attack Strategy Sheet

The penetration test cases are then grouped by these attack flows / scenarios

7 Conclusions

Modern cars have a gateway server with an IP address and are connected to the network and the server / gateway can be attacked [Macher 2019] [Messnarz 2020]. Cars will in future expand into e-city, e-environment modes building a connected society [Feuer 2002] [Messnarz 2020].

Cybersecurity norms like ISO 21434 and legal regulations for cars in UNECE law require the coverage of cybersecurity norms and requirements and to prove that by cybersecurity verification and validation.

Automotive SPICE for cybersecurity has been recently published in Feb. 2021 and has processes included for cybersecurity verification and cybersecurity validation.

This paper described how test strategies in cybersecure vehicles are implemented and how this maps onto a cybersecure vehicle architecture.

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