



Aircraft Hacking

Practical Aero Series



✈ IT Security



Hugo Teso
(@hteso)

(@48bits)

www.48bits.com

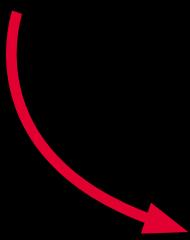
One and a half architecture



✈ Commercial Pilot



Aero Series
www.commandercat.com



Agenda

- ✈ Part 1: The \$PATH to the exploit
- ✈ Part 2: The \$PATH to exploit

Disclaimer

- ✈ Time constraints
 - » Too much to explain
 - ⌘ Aircrafts != Computers
- ✈ Safety reasons
 - » Still too much to fix

Part 1

The \$PATH to the exploit



The Target

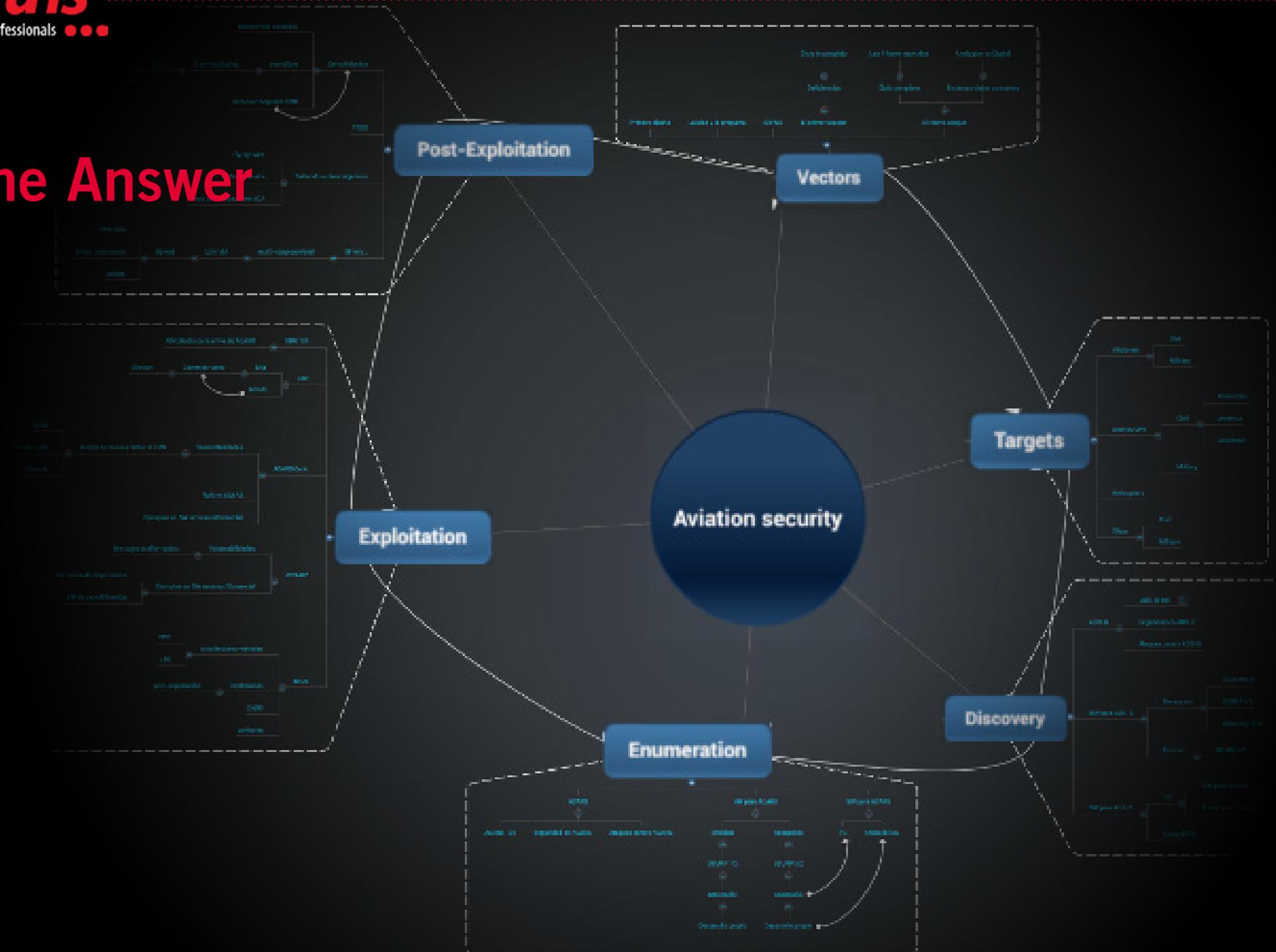
In the beginning there was
“The Question”

Would I be able to convert THIS...

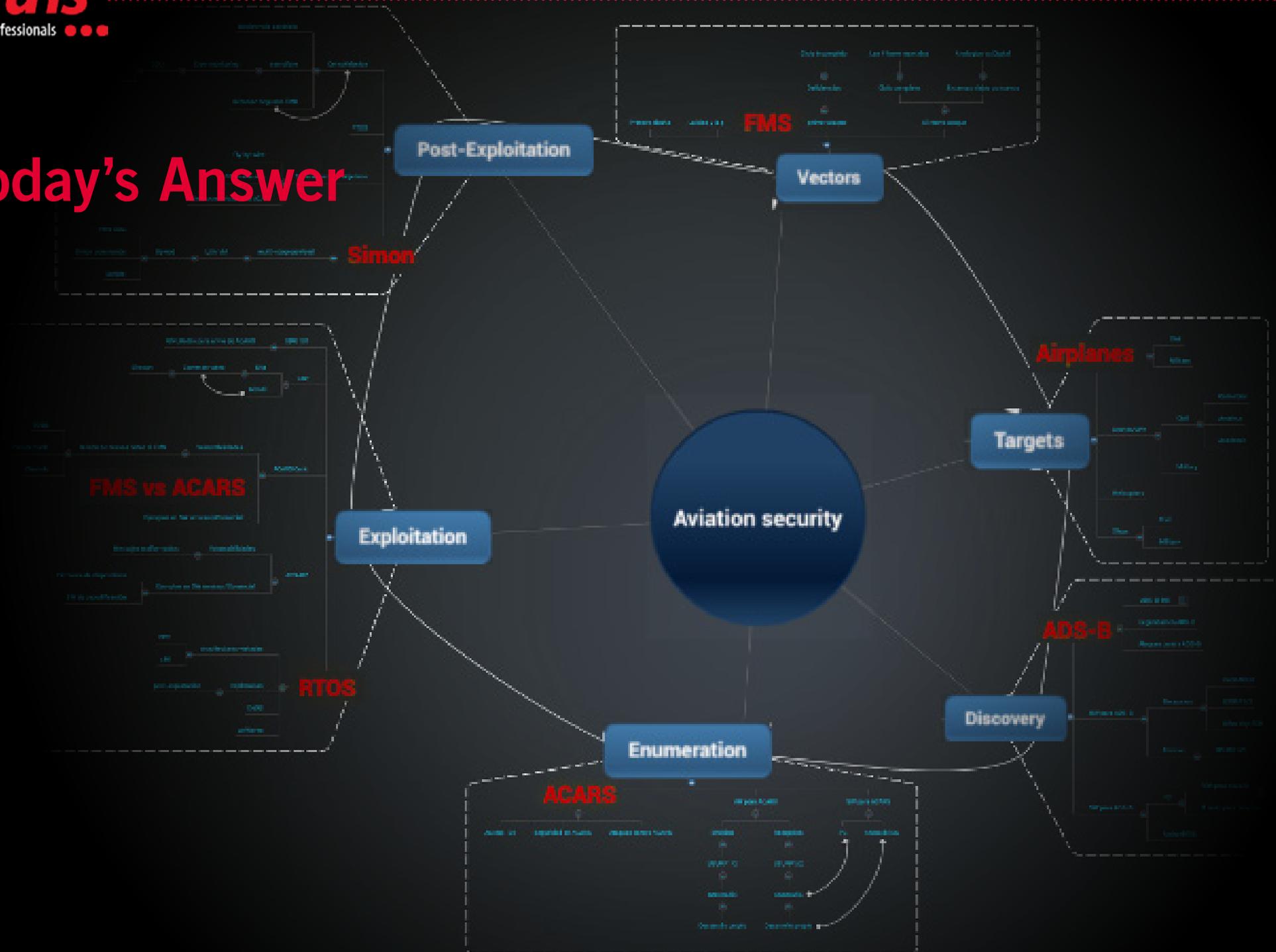
...into THIS ?



The Answer



Today's Answer



Attack Overview

DISCOVERY:

- » ADS-B

INFO GATHERING:

- » ACARS

EXPLOITATION:

- » Via ACARS
- » Against on-board systems vulns.

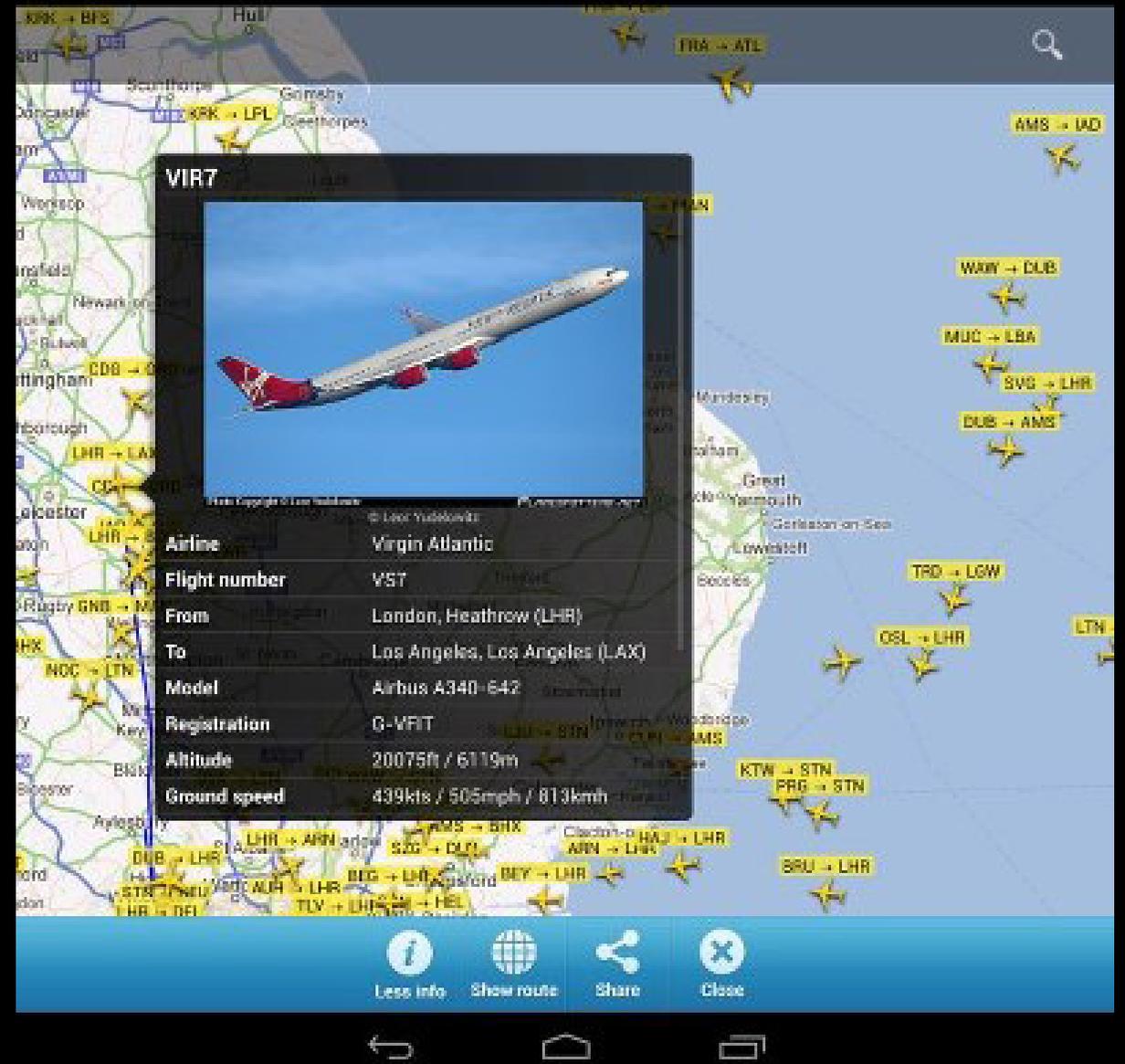
POST-EXPLOITATION:

- » Party hard!



ADS-B 101

- ✈ Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast
- ✈ Radar substitute
- ✈ *Position, velocity, identification, and other ATC/ATM-related information.*
- ✈ ADS-B has a data rate of 1 Mbit/sec.
- ✈ Used for locating and plotting targets





FACEWALL

WHEN A FACEPALM IS NOT ENOUGH

ADS-B Security

- ✈ None at all
- ✈ Attacks range from **passive attacks** (eavesdropping) to **active attacks** (message jamming, replaying, injection).
- ✈ Target selection
 - » Public Data
 - » Local data (SDR*)
 - » Virtual Aircrafts

* Software Defined Radio

ACARS 101

- ✈ Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System
- ✈ Digital datalink for **transmission of messages between aircraft and ground stations**
- ✈ Multiple data can be sent from the ground to the A/C *
- ✈ Used for passive “OS fingerprinting” and plotting targets

* Aircraft

ACARS Security

- ✈ None at all
 - » sometimes monoalphabetic ciphers
- ✈ Detailed flight and Aircraft information
 - » Public DB
 - » Local data (SDR)
 - » Virtual Aircrafts
- ✈ Ground Service Providers
 - » Two main players
 - » Worldwide coverage



FACEPALM
LEVEL ASIAN

FMS 101

- ✈ Flight Management System typically consists of two units:
 - » A computer unit
 - » A control display unit

- ✈ Control Display Unit (CDU or MCDU) provides the primary human/machine interface for data entry and information display.

- ✈ FMS provides:
 - » Navigation
 - » Flight planning
 - » Trajectory prediction
 - » Performance computations
 - » Guidance



FMS

- ✈ Goal: Exploit the FMS
 - » Using ACARS to upload FMS data
 - » Many different data types available

- ✈ Upload options:
 - » Software Defined Radio
 - » Ground Service Providers

- ✈ The path to the exploit:
 - » Audit aircraft code searching for vulnerabilities

- ✈ We use a lab with virtual airplanes
 - » but real aircraft code and HW



MY WALLET IS LIKE AN ONION

Aircraft Hardware and Software

- ✈ The good old...
 - » eBay!!
- ✈ Russian scrapings
 - » You name it
- ✈ Loving salesman
 - » Value-added products
- ✈ Third party vendors
 - » /wp-admin... Sigh
- ✈ Resentful users or former employees

**WHEN I OPEN IT
I START TO CRY**



Honeywell FMC for sale!!

Like Want Own

Item condition: **Used**

History: [1 offer](#)

Price: **US \$399.00**

Best Offer:

Shipping: **\$100.00** Economy

International items processing and ad

Item location: Cas

Ships to: United S

Delivery: Estimated be

This item has
estimate **gre**
Please allow



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Honeywell

15% OFF

A photograph of the AS Air Land Systems SA-300 device, a white rectangular unit, and its manual. The device has a small display and buttons on the front panel.

AS Air Land Systems SA-300

Item condition: **Used**

Was: ~~US \$99.95~~ ?

You save: **\$14.99 (15%)**

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A truly effective solution is the Rockwell Collins FMS desktop trainer (DTT). Our solution uses the same software that is used by the actual Rockwell Collins FMS and display avionics software.



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Key advantages

The PC-Primus Apex familiarization tool provides a detailed presentation of the FMS and display windows. High-resolution graphics are combined with actual aircraft code to create a training environment that looks just like the aircraft.

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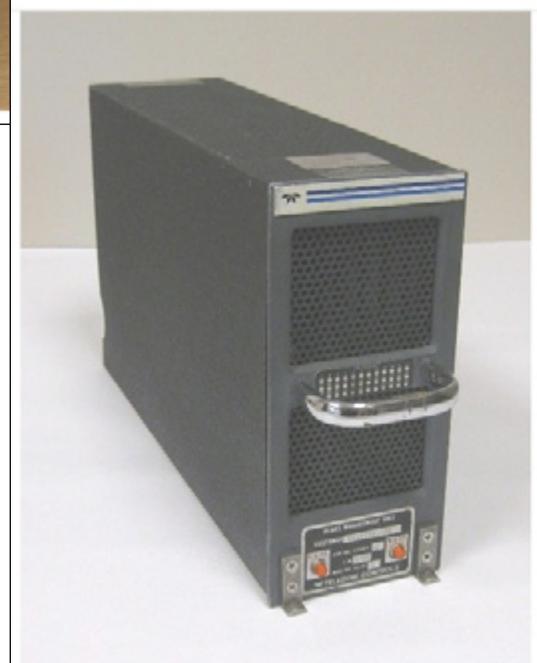
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Teledyne ACARS Aircraft Management

Item condition: **Used**

Time left: 3d 12h (Mar 02, 2012 19:42:28)

Bid history: 0 bids

Starting bid: **US \$9.99** !!!!!!!!!

Your max bid: US \$ (Enter US \$9.99 or more)

BillMeLater \$5 back and 6 mos to pay on 1st pur Subject to credit approval. See terms

Shipping: Read item description or contac See all details

Delivery: Varies

Returns: 14 days money back, buyer pay

eBay Buyer Protection
Covers your purchase price plus original Learn more



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Rockwell Collins
Building trust every day

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Honeywell offers tools using actual aircraft FMS code...for your genuine training experience

Honeywell's PC-FMS™ free play software provides simulation based on actual flight code software.



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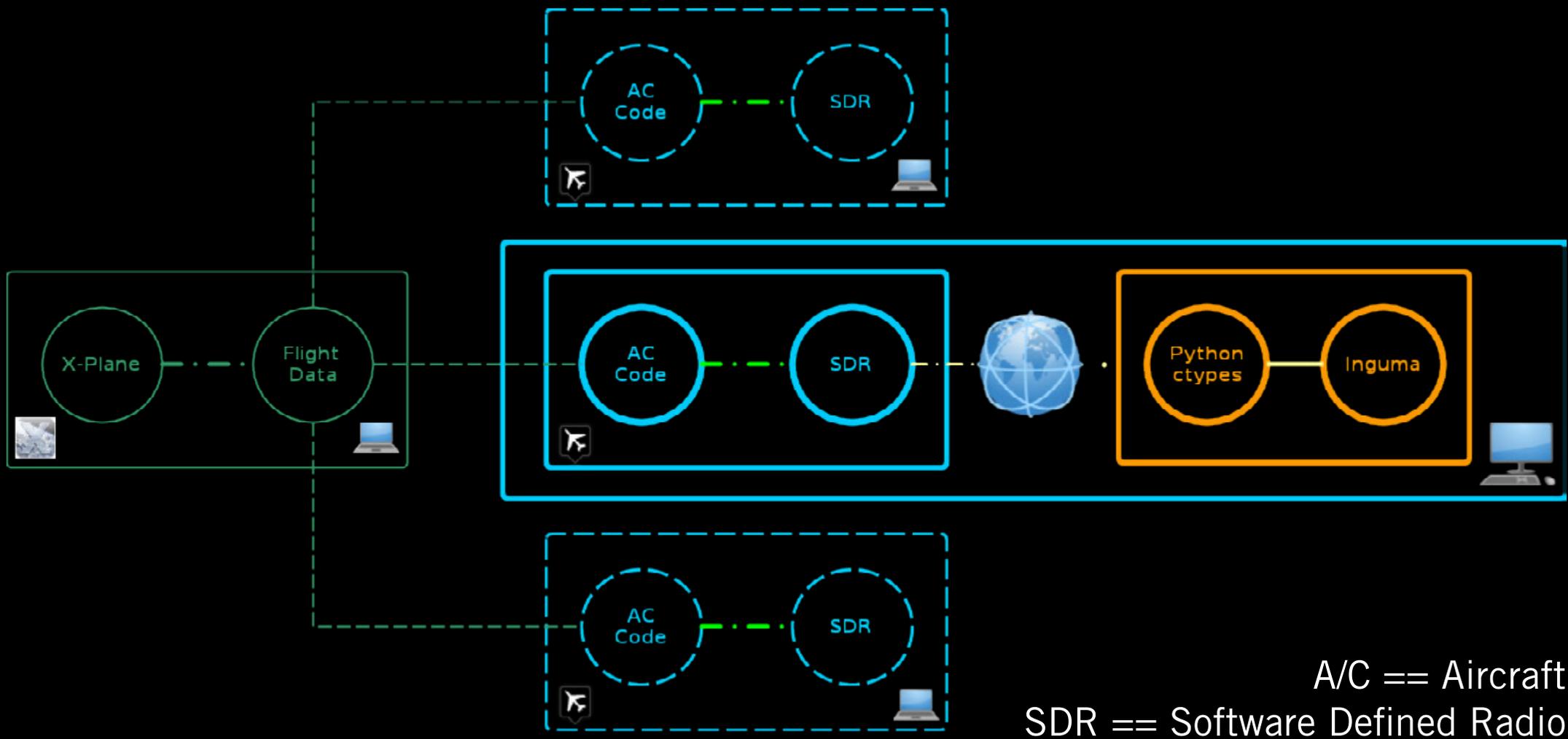
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The Lab



A/C == Aircraft
SDR == Software Defined Radio

The Lab



```

QU QXSXMXS
.SINXSXS 160919
AGM
AN NIKJO
-LOADSHEET
L/S02   XS122   NIKJO   YUL

DOW  50085   DOI   30,00
LOAD 15068   UNDL  2537
ZFW  65153   MAX   71000 L
    
```

ACARS encoded message

EDP* Loadsheet

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Loadsheet | Checked: | Date | EDNO |
| All weights in kilos | APPROVED: | 10JUL01 | 2 |
| From/To Flight | A/C REG | Version | CREW |
| SIN YUL XS122/10 | NIKJO | 32101J | 2/6 |
| | | | TIME |
| | | | 1646 |
| Load in Compartments | WEIGHT | DISTRIBUTION | |
| | 4715 | 1/549 | 2/900 |
| | 3/1972 | 4/1104 | |
| | | 5/190 | 0/0 |
| Passenger/Cabin Bag | 10353 | 122/3/1 | TTL |
| 126 | CAB 0 | | |
| | | CM 34/91 | |
| Total Traffic Load | 15068 | | |
| Dry Operating Weight | 50085 GRP D | | |
| Zero Fuel Weight | 65153 MAX 71000 ADJ | | |
| Take Off Fuel | 10600 | | |
| Take Off Weight | 75753 (seven five seven five three) | | |
| END OF LOADSHEET | | | |

FMS vulnerabilities

- ✈ Many different data types to upload
- ✈ Many FMS manufacturers, models and versions.
- ✈ Architectures: PPC (Lab x86)
- ✈ Language: mostly ADA (old ones)
- ✈ SO – RTOS realm:
 - » DeOS
 - » VxWorks
- ✈ ACARS:
 - » ACARS datalink allows real time (avg of 11s delay) data transmission
 - » Size: Max 220 chars * 16 blocks :S

ACARS Messages during flight

Dispatch, Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, Catering, Customer Service



| Taxi | Take-Off | Departure | En Route | Approach | Land | Taxi |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| From A/C | From A/C | From A/C | From A/C | From A/C | From A/C | From A/C |
| OUT | OFF | Engine Data | Position Reports | Catering Requests | ON | IN |
| Link Test | | | Weather Reports | Gate Requests | | Fuel Information |
| Clock Update | | | Delay Info/ETA | ETA | | Crew Information |
| Delay Reports | | | Voice Request | Special Requests | | Fault Data from CMC |
| To A/C | | To A/C | Engine Information | Engine Information | | |
| PDC, and ATIS | | Flight Plan Update | Maintenance Reports | Maintenance Reports | | |
| Weight and Balance | | Weather Reports | To A/C | To A/C | | |
| Airport Analysis | | | ATC Oceanic Clearance | Gate Assignment | | |
| V-Speeds | | | Weather Reports | Connecting Gates | | |
| Flight-Plan, Loaf FMC | | | Reclearance | Pax and Crew | | |
| | | | Ground Voice Request | ATIS | | |

[http://www.sita.aero/file/3744/Aircom Ekaterinburg - Oct 09 ENG.pdf](http://www.sita.aero/file/3744/Aircom%20Ekaterinburg%20-%20Oct%2009%20ENG.pdf)



Demo



Part II

The \$PATH to exploit



SITA/ARINC

- ✈ **Société Internationale de Télécommunications Aéronautiques (SITA)**
 - » IT and telecommunication services to the air transport industry.
 - » 90% of the world's airline business.
- ✈ **Aeronautical Radio, Incorporated (ARINC)**
 - » Major provider of transport communications and systems solutions:
 - » Aviation, airports, defense, government, healthcare, networks, security, and transportation.



Access methods:

- ✈ E-Mail Clients
 - » SMTP / POP3
 - » Lotus Notes

- ✈ Desktop Apps, connection over:
 - » X.25
 - » TCP
 - » MQ Series (IBM WebSphere)
 - » MSMQ (Microsoft queues)
 - » MS SQL Database
 - » ORACLE Database

- ✈ Web App

- ✈ Mobility
 - » Mobile App
 - » Pager/SMS
 - » Printer
 - » SDK
 - » Stations

Be my guest...

What could possibly go **WRONG?**



[http://www.sita.aero/file/3744/Aircom Ekaterinburg - Oct 09 ENG.pdf](http://www.sita.aero/file/3744/Aircom_Ekaterinburg_-_Oct_09_ENG.pdf)

Software Defined Radio 101

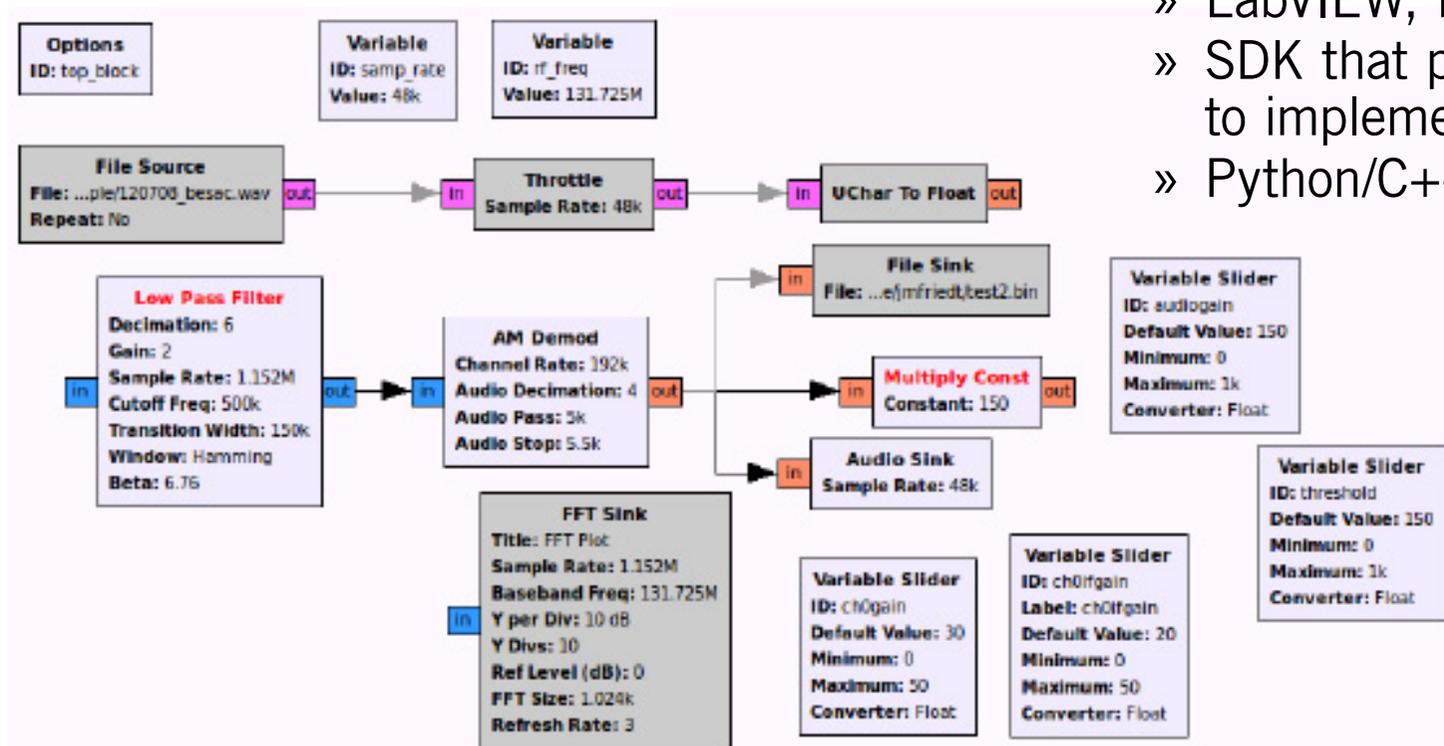
✈ A radio communication system where components that have been typically implemented in hardware are instead implemented by means of software.

✈ HW: USRP1/USRP2

- » Universal Software Radio Peripheral
- » USB or Gigabit Ethernet link

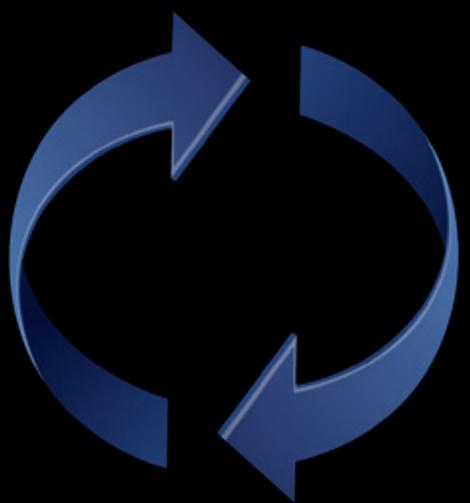
✈ SW: GNU Radio

- » LabVIEW, MATLAB and Simulink
- » SDK that provides signal processing blocks to implement software radios.
- » Python/C++

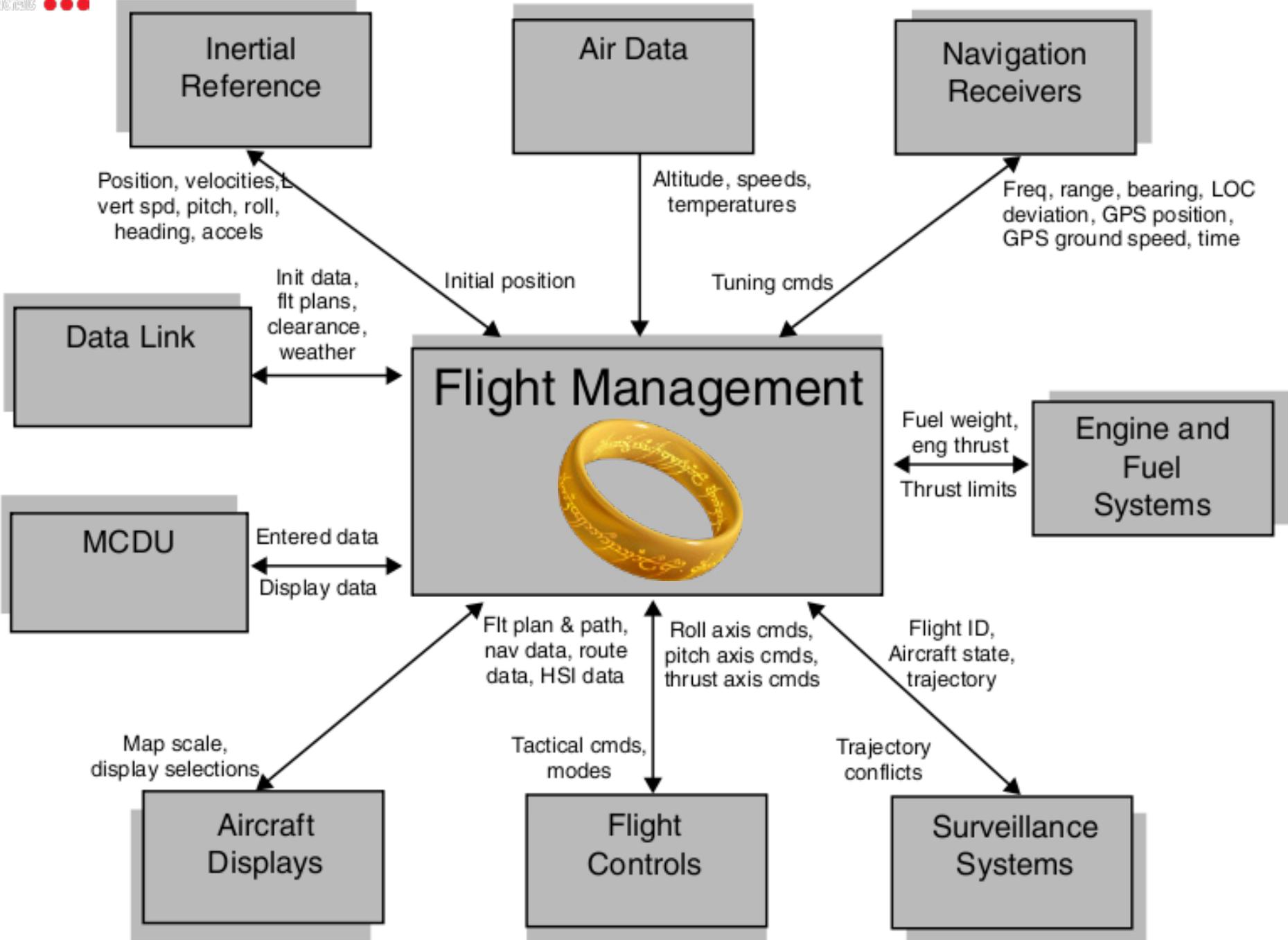


Post-Exploitation

- ✈ Consolidation
 - » Protection & Monitoring
- ✈ Communication
 - » Two way communication
- ✈ Expansion
 - » Other systems
 - » Back to Discovery



*“Smiths Aerospace chose Wind River Systems' VxWorks 653 RTOS for the B787's common core system (CCS), a cabinet that will host **80 to 100 applications**, including Honeywell's **FMS** and **health management software** and Collins' crew alerting and **display management software**”*



– AP (if engaged)OFF
– BOTH FDs.....OFF
– Respond promptly and smoothly to an RA by adjusting or maintaining the vertical speed, as required, to reach the green area and/or avoid the red area of the vertical speed scale.

***Note:** Avoid excessive manoeuvres while aiming to keep the vertical speed just outside the red area of the VSI, and within the green area. If necessary, use the full speed range between $V_{\alpha max}$ and V_{max} .*

– Respect stall, GPWS, or windshear warning.
– Notify ATC.
– When "CLEAR OF CONFLICT" is announced :
– *Resume normal navigation in accordance with ATC clearance.*
– *AP/FD can be re-engaged as desired.*

Aircraft Post-Exploitation

- ✈ Aircraft and Pilots
 - » Predictables
 - » Checklists and procedures
- ✈ Exploiting other comm and nav systems or protocols
- ✈ Planning and timing!
- ✈ C&C
 - » Two way communication
 - » Actions
 - » Limitations



SIMON

- ✈ Why SIMON?
- ✈ Multi-stage payload
- ✈ Control ADS-B/ACARS
 - » Upload via ADS-B/ACARS
- ✈ Persistence
- ✈ Stealthness (No Rootkit)
- ✈ Accept and inject:
 - » FP/DB
 - » Payloads (scripts)
 - » Plugins (code)
 - » Commands
 - » Two way comm





Demo





Conclusions



Remediation

Safety != Security

- ✈ Where to start from?
 - » NextGen Security
 - » On-board systems security audit
- ✈ Who is affected?
 - » Manufacturers
 - » Ground Service Providers
 - » Airlines
- ✈ We are working with EASA to improve the situation



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

References

- ✈ Aviation 101
 - » <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Aviation>

- ✈ ADS-B
 - » http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_dependent_surveillance-broadcast
 - » <https://www.blackhat.com/html/bh-us-12/bh-us-12-briefings.html#Costin>

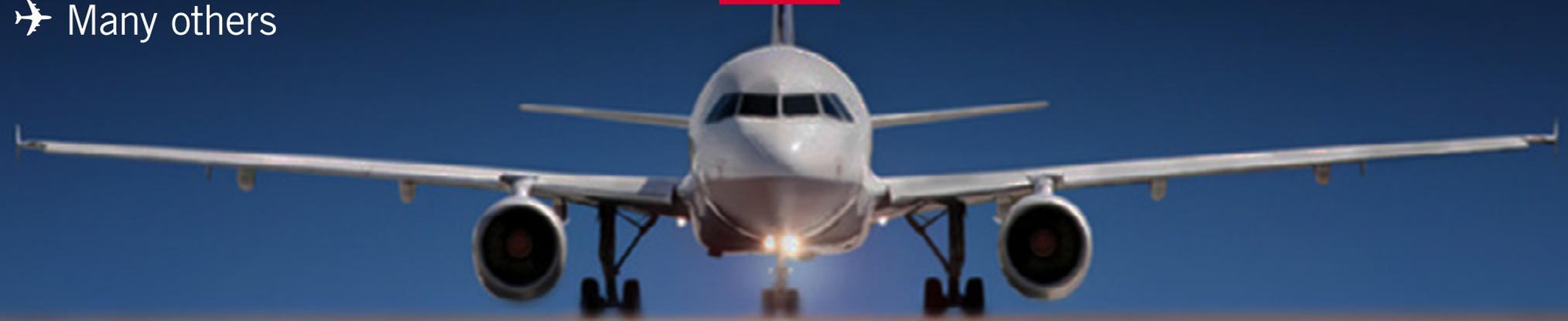
- ✈ ACARS
 - » http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_Communications_Addressing_and_Reporting_System
 - » <http://spench.net/>

- ✈ FMS
 - » http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flight_management_system
 - » <http://www.b737.org.uk/fmc.htm>

- ✈ SDR
 - » http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software-defined_radio
 - » <http://gnuradio.org>

THANKS TO:

- ✈ @d0tslash
- ✈ @vierito5
- ✈ @searchio
- ✈ @48bits
- ✈ @kuasar
- ✈ Many others



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<http://conference.hitb.org/hitbsecconf2013ams/materials/>