



**Securing Artificial Intelligence (SAI);
The role of hardware in security of AI**
(standards.iteh.ai)

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Reference

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Contents

Intellectual Property Rights	5
Foreword.....	5
Modal verbs terminology.....	5
1 Scope	6
2 References	6
2.1 Normative references	6
2.2 Informative references.....	6
3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations.....	11
3.1 Terms.....	11
3.2 Symbols.....	14
3.3 Abbreviations	14
4 General purpose secure hardware.....	15
4.1 Overview	15
4.2 Hardware-Mediated Execution Enclave.....	16
4.2.1 Introduction.....	16
4.2.2 Trusted Execution Environment	16
4.2.2.1 General	16
4.2.2.2 TEE conceptual goals. Hardware dependency	16
4.2.2.3 Securing AI through TEEs.....	17
4.3 Root of Trust (RoT).....	17
5 Specialized AI processing hardware	18
5.1 Neural processors and neural networks	18
5.1.1 Secure Hardware Accelerators.....	18
6 Mitigations available in hardware to prevent attacks	19
6.1 Protection of model hyperparameters and parameters.....	19
7 General requirements on hardware to support SAI	19
7.1 Expanding from ETSI GR SAI 002.....	19
7.2 Expanding from ETSI GR SAI 004.....	19
8 Hardware vulnerabilities and common weaknesses in AI systems	19
8.1 Features of hardware-specific vulnerabilities and how to avoid them.....	19
9 AI and ML use for Hardware Security and Mitigation of Hardware vulnerabilities.....	21
9.1 Detection of Hardware Trojans (HTs) and Counterfeit Integrated Circuits (ICs)	21
9.1.1 Detection of Hardware Trojans (HTs)	21
9.1.1.1 Introduction.....	21
9.1.1.2 Use of SVM	22
9.1.1.3 Use of DNN	22
9.1.1.4 Use of other methods	22
9.1.2 Detection of Counterfeit Integrated Circuits (ICs).....	23
9.1.2.1 Introduction.....	23
9.1.2.2 Use of SVM	23
9.1.2.3 Use of ANNs.....	23
9.1.2.4 Use of other methods	23
Annex A: Hardware security standardization ecosystem.....	24
A.1 IETF RATS WG (Remote Attestation Procedures)	24
A.2 IETF SACM WG (Security Automation and Continuous Monitoring)	24
A.3 IETF SUIT WG (Software Updates for IoT)	24
A.4 IETF TEEP WG (TEE Provisioning).....	25

A.5	Trusted Computing Group (TCG).....	25
A.6	GlobalPlatform (GP).....	26
A.7	The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).....	26
Annex B:	Bibliography	27
History	31

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ETSI GR SAI 006 V1.1.1 (2022-03)
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/27294f45-8fef-495a-bad7-c3795696aeb5/etsi-gr-sai-006-v1-1-1-2022-03>

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Foreword

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This Group Report (GR) has been produced by ETSI Industry Specification Group (ISG) Secure AI (SAI).

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1 Scope

The present document identifies the role of hardware, both specialized and general-purpose, in the security of AI. It addresses the mitigations available in hardware to prevent attacks (as identified in ETSI GR SAI 005 [i.9]) and also addresses the general requirements on hardware to support SAI (expanding from ETSI GR SAI 004 [i.8] and ETSI GR SAI 002 [i.7]). In addition, the present document reviews possible strategies for using AI for protection of hardware. The present document also provides a summary of academic and industrial experience in hardware security for AI. In addition, it addresses vulnerabilities and weaknesses introduced by hardware that can amplify attack vectors on AI.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

Normative references are not applicable in the present document.

2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

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3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms apply:

attack surface: total number of attack vectors that an attacker can use to manipulate a network or computer system or extract data

attack vector: method or way an attacker can gain unauthorized access to a network or computer system

authentication: verifying the identity of a user, process, or device, often as a prerequisite to allowing access to resources in an information system

NOTE: From US NIST Glossary [i.1].

authorization: access privileges granted to a user, program, or process or the act of granting those privileges

NOTE: From US NIST Glossary [i.1].

availability: ensuring timely and reliable access to and use of information

NOTE: From US NIST Glossary [i.1].

Client Application (CA): application running outside of the Trusted Execution Environment making use of the TEE Client API to access facilities provided by Trusted Applications inside the Trusted Execution Environment

NOTE: From Global Platform GPD-SPE-009 [i.16].

confidentiality: preserving authorized restrictions on information access and disclosure, including means for protecting personal privacy and proprietary information

NOTE: From US NIST Glossary [i.1].

context: environment with defined boundary conditions in which entities exist and interact

NOTE: From Recommendation ITU-T X.1252 [i.2].

cybersecurity: prevention of damage to, protection of, and restoration of computers, electronic communications systems, electronic communications services, wire communication, and electronic communication, including information contained therein, to ensure its availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality, and nonrepudiation

NOTE: From US NIST Glossary [i.1].

entity: something that has separate and distinct existence and that can be identified in a context

NOTE: From Recommendation ITU-T X.1252 [i.2].

Entity Authentication Assurance (EAA): degree of confidence reached in the authentication process that the entity is what it is, or is expected to be

NOTE 1: This definition is based on the 'authentication assurance' definition given in Recommendation ITU-T X.1252 [i.2].

NOTE 2: The confidence is based on the degree of confidence in the binding between the entity and the identity that is presented. Recommendation ITU-T X.1254 [i.3].

firmware image: binary that can contain the complete software of a device or a subset of it

NOTE 1: The firmware image can consist of multiple images, if the device contains more than one microcontroller. Often it is also a compressed archive that contains code, configuration data, and even the entire file system. The image can consist of a differential update for performance reasons.

NOTE 2: From IETF RFC 9019 [i.32].

Hardware-Mediated Execution Enclave (HMEE): area of process space and memory within a system environment within a computer host which delivers confidentiality and integrity of instructions and data associated with that enclave and which is protected from eavesdropping, replay, and alteration attacks as the programs within the enclave are executed

NOTE: Derived from ETSI GS NFV-SEC 009 [i.12].

identity: set of attributes related to an entity

NOTE: Within a particular context, an identity can have one or more identifiers to allow an entity to be uniquely recognized within that context. (from ISO/IEC 24760 [i.4] to [i.6]).

integrity: property that data or information have not been altered or destroyed in an unauthorized manner

NOTE: From US NIST Glossary [i.1].

manifest: meta-data about the firmware image which is protected against modification and provides information about the author

NOTE: Derived from IETF RFC 9019 [i.32].

mutual authentication: authentication of identities of entities which provides both entities with assurance of each other's identity

NOTE: Derived from Recommendation ITU-T X.1254 [i.3].

non-repudiation: ability to protect against denial by one of the entities involved in an action of having participated in all or part of the action

NOTE: Derived from Recommendation ITU-T X.1252 [i.2].

platform: any computing device (regardless of its architecture or operating system)

platform integrity: verifiable state of complete assurance that, under all conditions, a computing system has a correct and reliable operating system, logically complete hardware, firmware, and software, and system isolation and protection mechanisms (e.g. memory access control, process isolation, data integrity, etc.)

Relying Party (RP): actor that relies on an identity assertion or claim

NOTE: Derived from Recommendation ITU-T X.1254 [i.3].

Rich Execution Environment (REE): execution environment comprising at least one device OS or Rich OS and all other components of the device (SoCs, other discrete components, firmware, and software) which execute, host, and support the Rich OS (excluding any TEEs and SEs included in the device)

NOTE: WARNING: In a previous version of Global Platform GPD-SPE-009 [i.16] the REE was considered to be everything outside of the TEE under consideration. In the new definition other entities are acknowledged. Contrast *Trusted Execution Environment*. Global Platform GPD-SPE-009 [i.16].