

# Demystifying Attestation in Intel Trust Domain Extensions (TDX) via Formal Verification

[Muhammad Usama Sardar](#) and Christof Fetzer

Ack: Anna Galanou, Amna Shahab, Bruno Blanchet

Funding: CPEC, CeTI

Chair of Systems Engineering  
Institute of Systems Architecture  
Technische Universität Dresden

Dresden, Germany

April 23, 2022

# Promise of talk


- Need of **logic** in an emerging and important domain

# Promise of talk

- Need of **logic** in an emerging and important domain
- CCC: more **marketing** than scientific<sup>1,2</sup> (highlights only)

---

<sup>1</sup>Confidential Computing Consortium, *Whitepaper feedback from Muhammad Usama Sardar, Issue #77*, 2020


<sup>2</sup>Sardar and Fetzer, *Confidential Computing and Related Technologies : A Review*, 2021 

# Promise of talk

- Need of **logic** in an emerging and important domain
- CCC: more **marketing** than scientific<sup>1,2</sup> (highlights only)
  - Attestation: one of the most **critical and essential** parts of TEE

---

<sup>1</sup>Confidential Computing Consortium, *Whitepaper feedback from Muhammad Usama Sardar, Issue #77*, 2020


<sup>2</sup>Sardar and Fetzer, *Confidential Computing and Related Technologies : A Review*, 2021 

# Promise of talk

- Need of **logic** in an emerging and important domain
- CCC: more **marketing** than scientific<sup>1,2</sup> (highlights only)
  - Attestation: one of the most **critical and essential** parts of TEE
- Complexity is the **worst enemy** of security (B. Schneier)

---

<sup>1</sup>Confidential Computing Consortium, *Whitepaper feedback from Muhammad Usama Sardar, Issue #77*, 2020

<sup>2</sup>Sardar and Fetzer, *Confidential Computing and Related Technologies : A Review*, 2021 

# Promise of talk

- Need of **logic** in an emerging and important domain
- CCC: more **marketing** than scientific<sup>1,2</sup> (highlights only)
  - Attestation: one of the most **critical and essential** parts of TEE
- Complexity is the **worst enemy** of security (B. Schneier)
  - Complexity is the **best friend** of Intel!

---

<sup>1</sup>Confidential Computing Consortium, *Whitepaper feedback from Muhammad Usama Sardar, Issue #77*, 2020

<sup>2</sup>Sardar and Fetzer, *Confidential Computing and Related Technologies : A Review*, 2021 

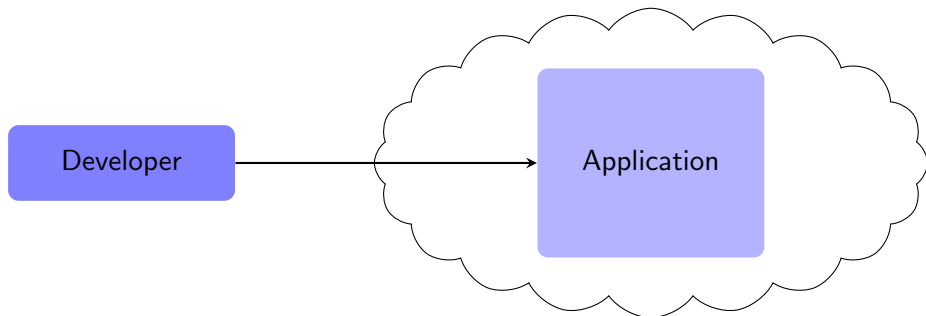
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Formal Security Analysis Approach
- 3 TDX
  - Formal Specification
  - Discrepancies Identified
  - Automated Verification
- 4 Summary

# CC in Public Cloud Scenario

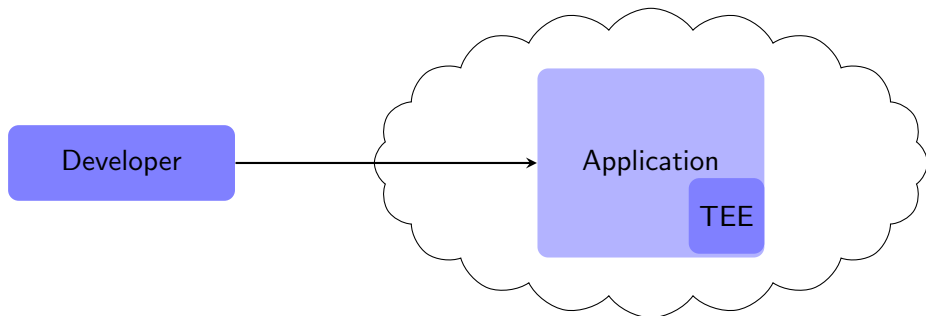


Developer

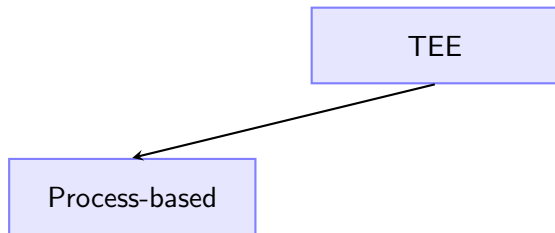
# CC in Public Cloud Scenario



# CC in Public Cloud Scenario

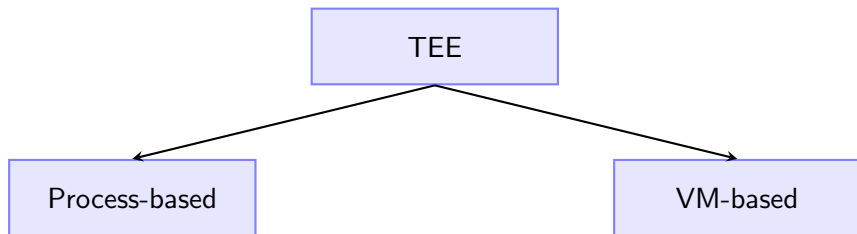


# TEEs Granularity (Public cloud commercial solutions)



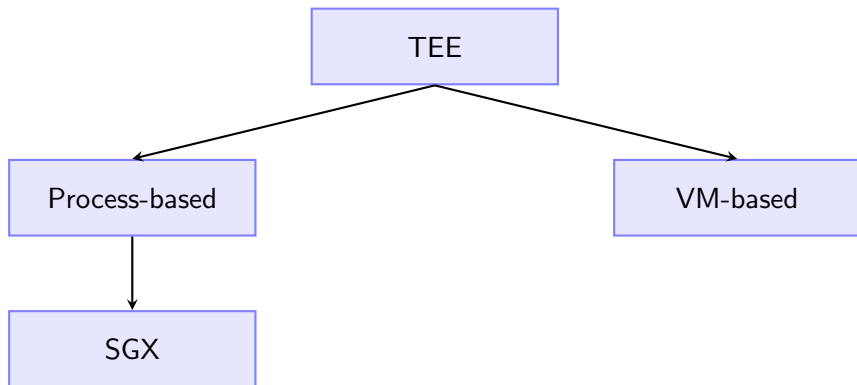
- Smaller TCB

# TEEs Granularity (Public cloud commercial solutions)

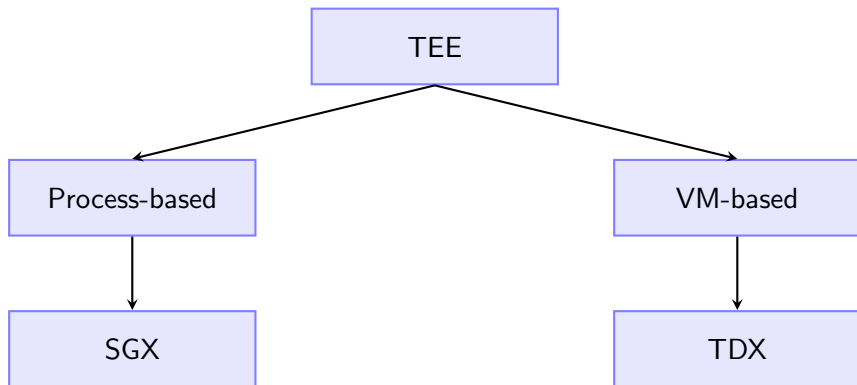


- Ease of use

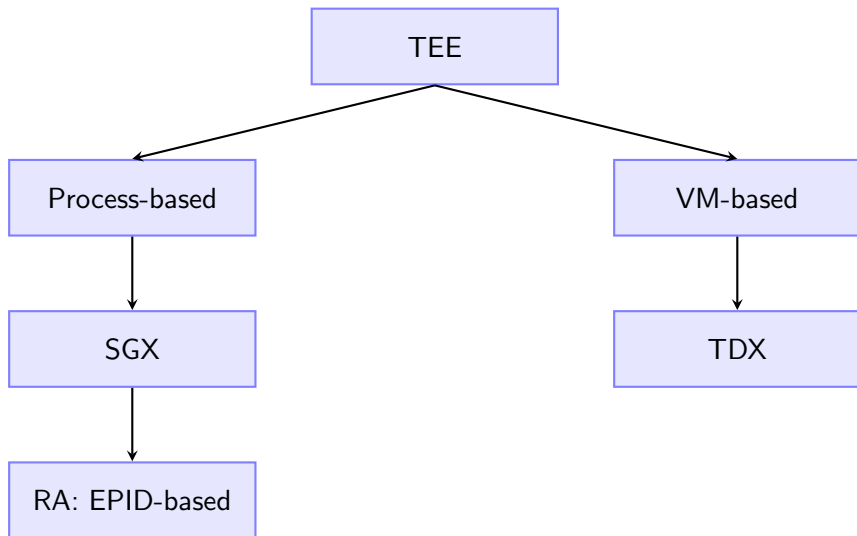
# TEEs Granularity (Public cloud commercial solutions)



# TEEs Granularity (Public cloud commercial solutions)

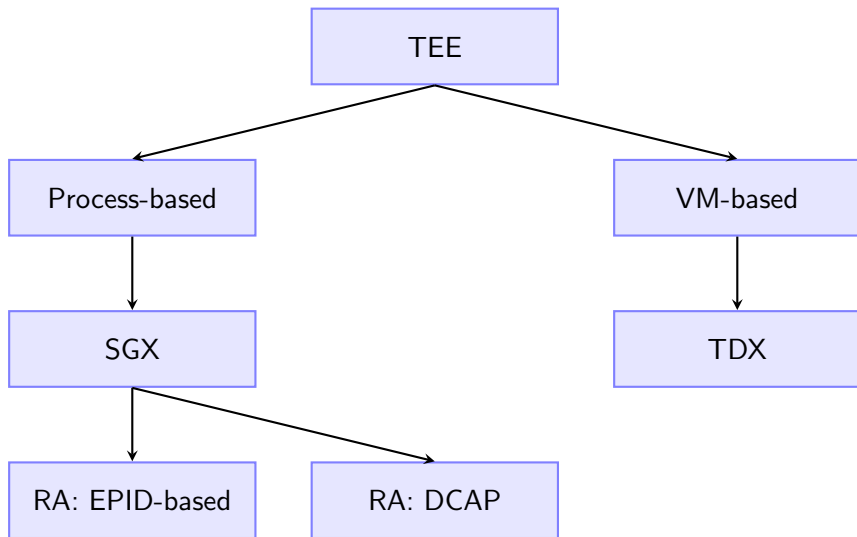


# TEEs Granularity (Public cloud commercial solutions)

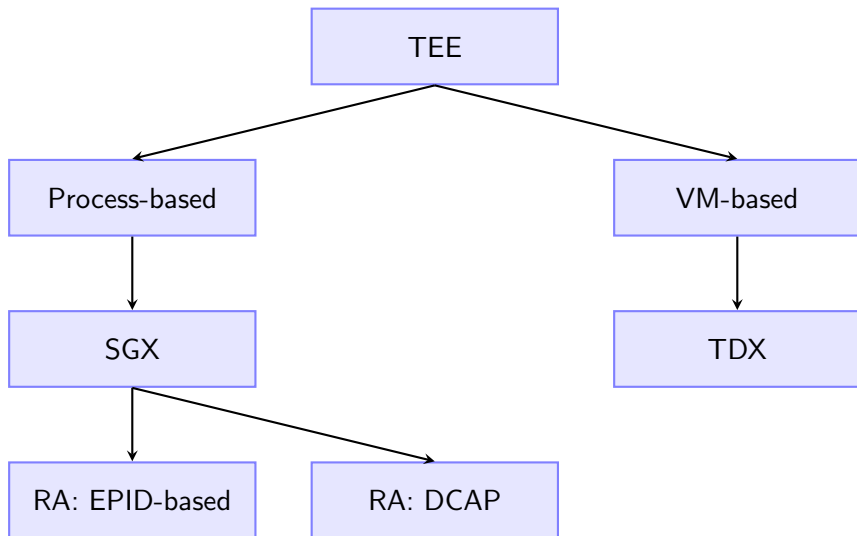




# TEEs Granularity (Public cloud commercial solutions)



# TEEs Granularity (Public cloud commercial solutions)



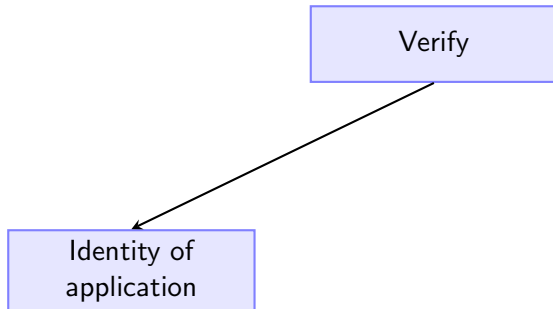
- Different report generation mechanism
- Runtime TD measurements

# Attestation

- **Trust** to developer: right app in right platform

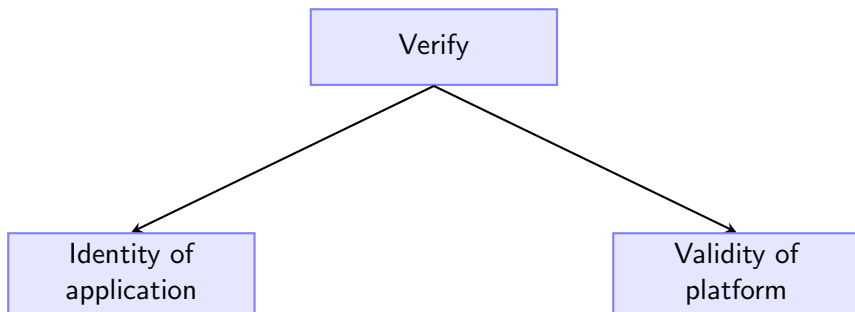
# Attestation

- **Trust** to developer: right app in right platform



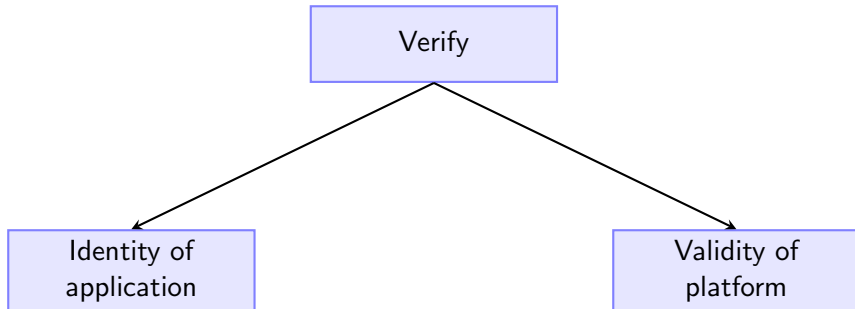
# Attestation

- **Trust** to developer: right app in right platform



# Attestation

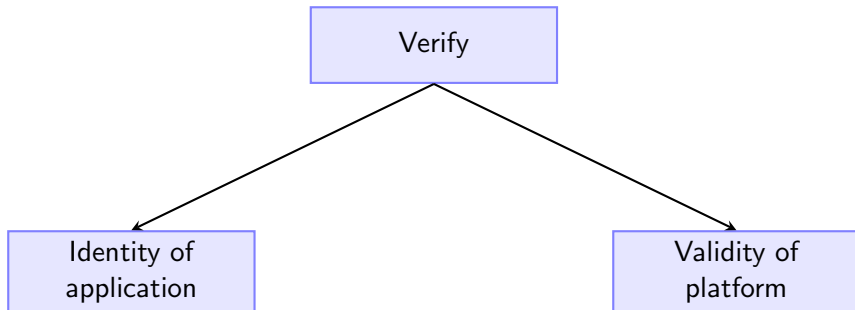
- **Trust** to developer: right app in right platform



- Secure channel creation

# Attestation

- **Trust** to developer: right app in right platform



- Secure channel creation
- Importance → **Provisioning of secrets and config.**

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Formal Security Analysis Approach**
- 3 TDX
- 4 Summary



# Workflow of the Analysis Approach

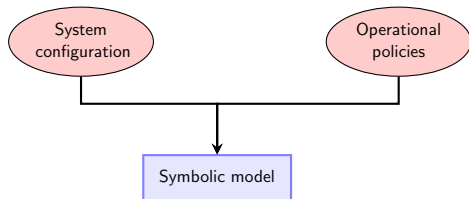
System  
configuration

# Workflow of the Analysis Approach

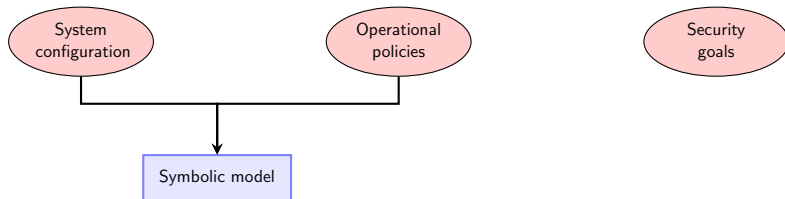
System  
configuration

Operational  
policies

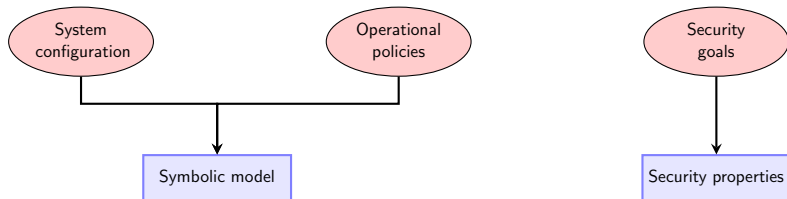
# Workflow of the Analysis Approach



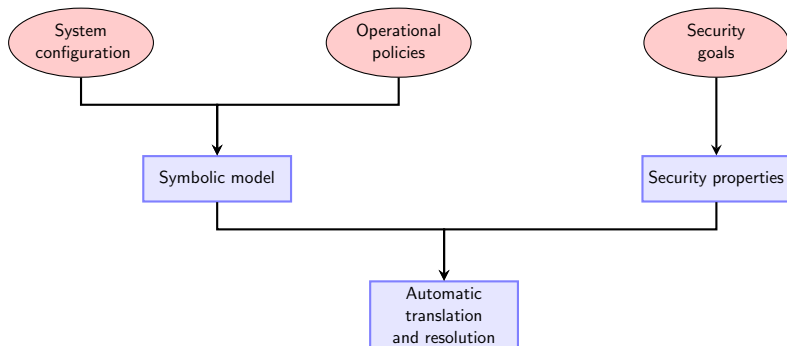
# Workflow of the Analysis Approach



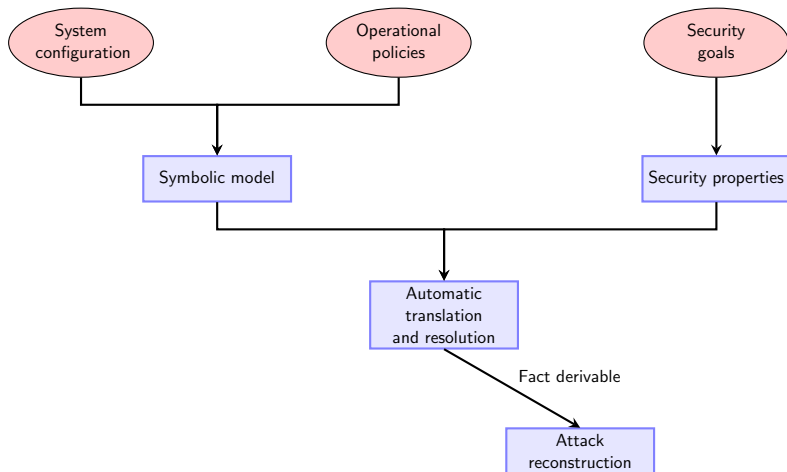
# Workflow of the Analysis Approach



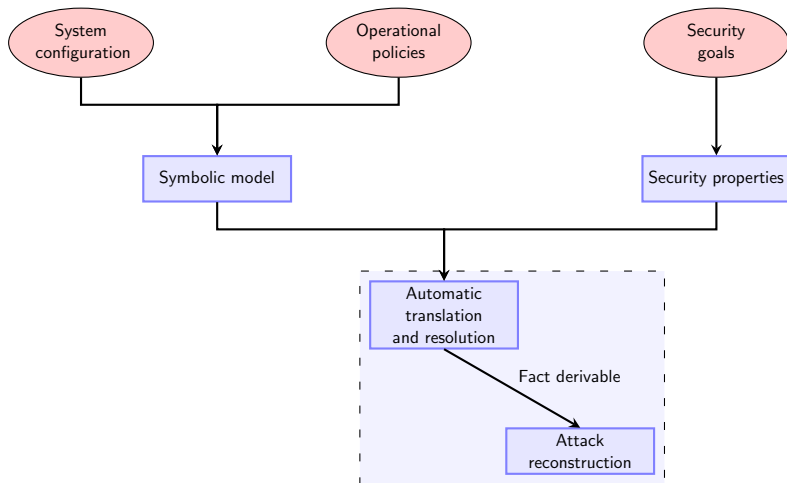
# Workflow of the Analysis Approach



# Workflow of the Analysis Approach

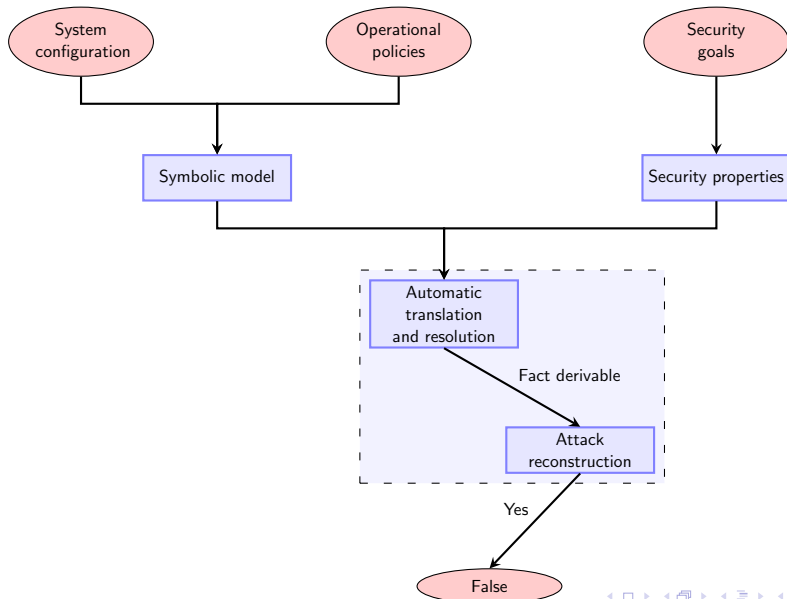


# Workflow of the Analysis Approach

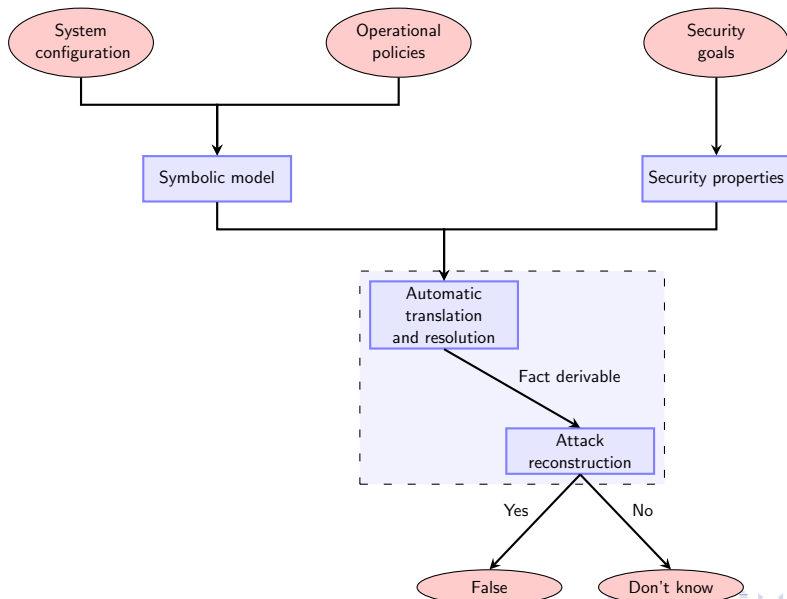




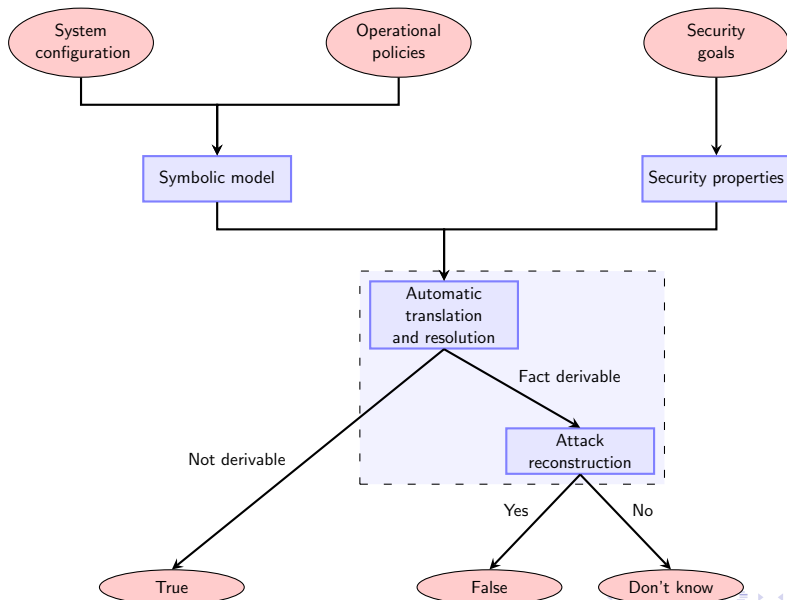
# Workflow of the Analysis Approach



# Workflow of the Analysis Approach



# Workflow of the Analysis Approach



# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules
  - pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$
- senc  $\frac{sek \quad m}{senc(sek, m)} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(senc(sek, m))$



# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$
- senc  $\frac{sek \quad m}{senc(sek, m)} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(senc(sek, m))$
- aenc  $\frac{aek \quad m}{aenc(aek, m)} \quad att(aek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(aenc(aek, m))$

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$
- senc  $\frac{sek \quad m}{senc(sek, m)} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(senc(sek, m))$
- aenc  $\frac{aek \quad m}{aenc(aek, m)} \quad att(aek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(aenc(aek, m))$
- sign  $\frac{sk \quad m}{signAppDet(sk, m)} \quad att(sk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(signAppDet(sk, m))$

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$
- senc  $\frac{sek \quad m}{senc(sek, m)} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(senc(sek, m))$
- aenc  $\frac{aek \quad m}{aenc(aek, m)} \quad att(aek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(aenc(aek, m))$
- sign  $\frac{sk \quad m}{signAppDet(sk, m)} \quad att(sk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(signAppDet(sk, m))$

- Decomposition rules

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$
- senc  $\frac{sek \quad m}{senc(sek, m)} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(senc(sek, m))$
- aenc  $\frac{aek \quad m}{aenc(aek, m)} \quad att(aek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(aenc(aek, m))$
- sign  $\frac{sk \quad m}{signAppDet(sk, m)} \quad att(sk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(signAppDet(sk, m))$

- Decomposition rules

- projection  $\frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{x} , \frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{y} \quad att(\langle x, y \rangle) \rightarrow att(x), att(\langle x, y \rangle) \rightarrow att(y)$

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$
- senc  $\frac{sek \quad m}{senc(sek, m)} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(senc(sek, m))$
- aenc  $\frac{aek \quad m}{aenc(aek, m)} \quad att(aek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(aenc(aek, m))$
- sign  $\frac{sk \quad m}{signAppDet(sk, m)} \quad att(sk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(signAppDet(sk, m))$

- Decomposition rules

- projection  $\frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{x}, \frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{y} \quad att(\langle x, y \rangle) \rightarrow att(x), att(\langle x, y \rangle) \rightarrow att(y)$
- sdec  $\frac{sek \quad senc(sek, m)}{m} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(senc(sek, m)) \rightarrow att(m)$

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$
- senc  $\frac{sek \quad m}{senc(sek, m)} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(senc(sek, m))$
- aenc  $\frac{aek \quad m}{aenc(aek, m)} \quad att(aek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(aenc(aek, m))$
- sign  $\frac{sk \quad m}{signAppDet(sk, m)} \quad att(sk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(signAppDet(sk, m))$

- Decomposition rules

- projection  $\frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{x}, \frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{y} \quad att(\langle x, y \rangle) \rightarrow att(x), att(\langle x, y \rangle) \rightarrow att(y)$
- sdec  $\frac{sek \quad senc(sek, m)}{m} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(senc(sek, m)) \rightarrow att(m)$
- adec  $\frac{adk \quad aenc(pk(adk), m)}{m} \quad att(adk) \wedge att(aenc(pk(adk), m)) \rightarrow att(m)$

# Inference System and Horn Clauses (Simplified)

- Composition rules

- pair  $\frac{x \quad y}{\langle x, y \rangle} \quad att(x) \wedge att(y) \rightarrow att(\langle x, y \rangle)$
- hash  $\frac{m}{h(m)} \quad att(m) \rightarrow att(h(m))$
- hmac  $\frac{mk \quad m}{hmac(mk, m)} \quad att(mk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(hmac(mk, m))$
- senc  $\frac{sek \quad m}{senc(sek, m)} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(senc(sek, m))$
- aenc  $\frac{aek \quad m}{aenc(aek, m)} \quad att(aek) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(aenc(aek, m))$
- sign  $\frac{sk \quad m}{signAppDet(sk, m)} \quad att(sk) \wedge att(m) \rightarrow att(signAppDet(sk, m))$

- Decomposition rules

- projection  $\frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{x}, \frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{y} \quad att(\langle x, y \rangle) \rightarrow att(x), att(\langle x, y \rangle) \rightarrow att(y)$
- sdec  $\frac{sek \quad senc(sek, m)}{m} \quad att(sek) \wedge att(senc(sek, m)) \rightarrow att(m)$
- adec  $\frac{adk \quad aenc(pk(adk), m)}{m} \quad att(adk) \wedge att(aenc(pk(adk), m)) \rightarrow att(m)$
- verifysign  $\frac{vpk(sk) \quad m \quad signAppDet(sk, m)}{true}$

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Formal Security Analysis Approach
- 3 TDX
  - Formal Specification
  - Discrepancies Identified
  - Automated Verification
- 4 Summary



- Precise [specification](#) in ProVerif<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup>Blanchet et al., "Modeling and verifying security protocols with the applied pi calculus and ProVerif", 2016

- Precise **specification** in ProVerif<sup>3</sup>
- Identification of **discrepancies**

---

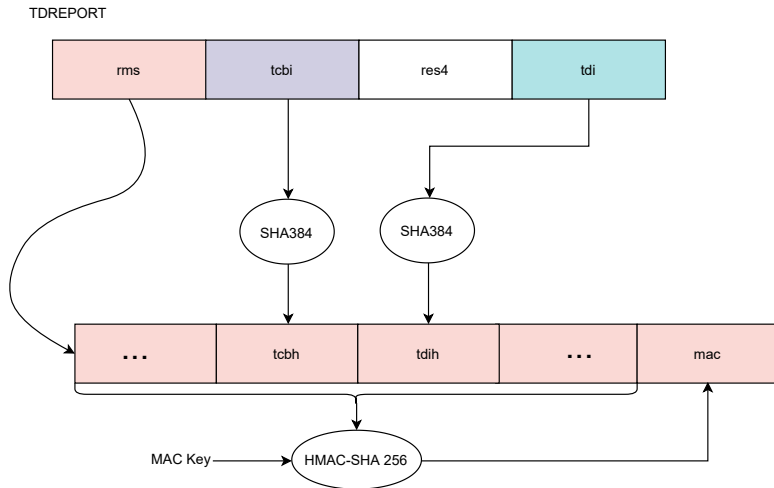
<sup>3</sup>Blanchet et al., "Modeling and verifying security protocols with the applied pi calculus and ProVerif", 2016

- Precise **specification** in ProVerif<sup>3</sup>
- Identification of **discrepancies**
- Automated **verification** of properties in ProVerif

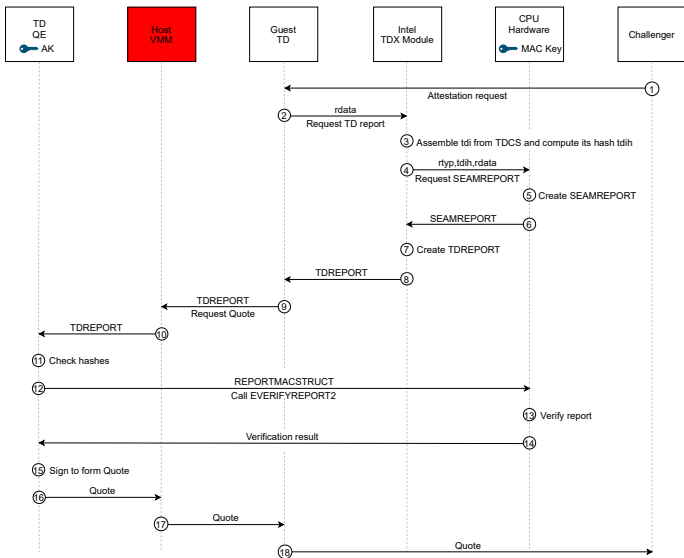
---

<sup>3</sup>Blanchet et al., "Modeling and verifying security protocols with the applied pi calculus and ProVerif", 2016

# TD Report Structures (Simplified view)

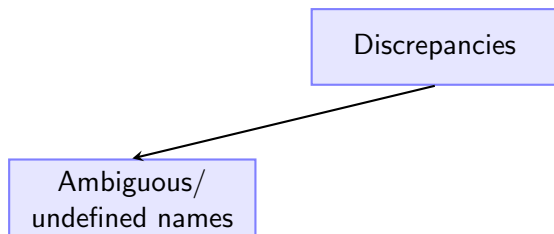


# TDX Attestation Flow for Quote Generation<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup>Sardar, Musaeu, and Fetzer, "Demystifying Attestation in Intel Trust Domain Extensions via Formal Verification", 2021

# Discrepancies Identified



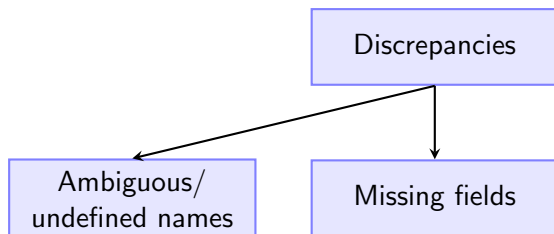
- SEAMINFO vs. TEE\_TCB\_INFO (e.g., p.2-8)<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup>Intel, *Intel® Trust Domain CPU Architectural Extensions*, 2020

<sup>6</sup>Intel, *Architecture Specification: Intel® Trust Domain Extensions (Intel® TDX) Module*, 2020

# Discrepancies Identified

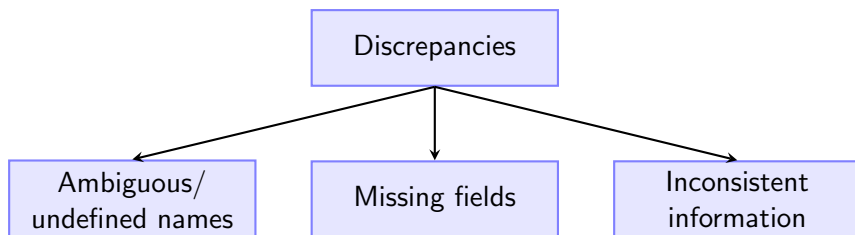


- MROWNERCONFIG missing in TDINFO (Fig. 10.1, p.85)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Intel, *Intel® Trust Domain CPU Architectural Extensions*, 2020

<sup>6</sup>Intel, *Architecture Specification: Intel® Trust Domain Extensions (Intel® TDX) Module*, 2020

# Discrepancies Identified



<sup>5</sup>Intel, *Intel® Trust Domain CPU Architectural Extensions*, 2020

<sup>6</sup>Intel, *Architecture Specification: Intel® Trust Domain Extensions (Intel® TDX) Module*, 2020



# Inconsistent Information: Example 1<sup>7</sup>

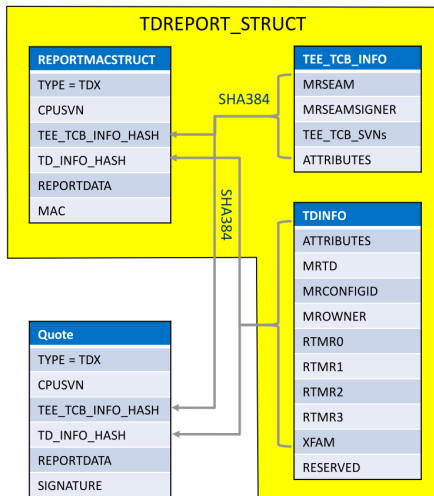


Figure 10.1: TDX Measurement Reporting

<sup>7</sup>Intel, Architecture Specification: Intel® Trust Domain Extensions (Intel® TDX) Module, 2020

# Inconsistent Information: Example 1<sup>8</sup>

*tmp\_seamreport.REPORTMACSTRUCT.TEE\_TCB\_INFO\_HASH* =  
*SHA384(tmp\_seamreport.TEE\_TCB\_INFO)*;

Table 2-3. TEE\_TCB\_INFO Structure

Name	Offset (Bytes)	Size (Bytes)	Description
VALID	0	8	Indicates TEE_TCB_INFO fields which are valid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 1 in the i-th significant bit reflects that the 8 bytes starting at offset (8 * i) are valid.</li><li>▪ 0 in the i-th significant bit reflects that either 8 bytes starting at offset (8 * i) is not populated or reserved, and is set to zero.</li></ul>
TEE_TCB_SVN	8	16	TEE_TCB_SVN array.
MRSEAM	24	48	Measurement of the Intel TDX module.
MRSIGNERSEAM	72	48	Measurement of TDX module signer if valid.
ATTRIBUTES	120	8	Additional configuration ATTRIBUTES if valid.
RESERVED	128	111	Must be zero.

<sup>8</sup>Intel, Intel (®) Trust Domain CPU Architectural Extensions, 2020

# Automated Verification

- Validation: reachability of all parts of code
- Confidentiality: reachability property
- Authentication properties, e.g.,  
 $x \equiv \langle rtyp, res1, csvn, tcbh, tdih, rdata, res2 \rangle$

$\forall x.$

$\exists mac, tcbi.$

$event(QuoteVerified(x)) \Rightarrow event(CPUsentSMR(x, mac, tcbi))$

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Formal Security Analysis Approach
- 3 TDX
  - Formal Specification
  - Discrepancies Identified
  - Automated Verification
- 4 Summary

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented

# Take-home

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws

# Take-home

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws
- Reported to Intel and being updated by Intel

# Take-home

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws
- Reported to Intel and being updated by Intel
- Works in progress



# Take-home

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws
- Reported to Intel and being updated by Intel
- Works in progress
  - Model: PCE and cert chain, verifier end

# Take-home

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws
- Reported to Intel and being updated by Intel
- Works in progress
  - Model: PCE and cert chain, verifier end
  - Properties:

# Take-home

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws
- Reported to Intel and being updated by Intel
- Works in progress
  - Model: PCE and cert chain, verifier end
  - Properties:
    - Mutual authentication

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws
- Reported to Intel and being updated by Intel
- Works in progress
  - Model: PCE and cert chain, verifier end
  - Properties:
    - Mutual authentication
    - Freshness

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws
- Reported to Intel and being updated by Intel
- Works in progress
  - Model: PCE and cert chain, verifier end
  - Properties:
    - Mutual authentication
    - Freshness
  - Reveal the hidden assumptions of Intel (e.g., on verifier side)

- TDX specifications are inconsistent and poorly documented
  - may lead to design and implementation flaws
- Reported to Intel and being updated by Intel
- Works in progress
  - Model: PCE and cert chain, verifier end
  - Properties:
    - Mutual authentication
    - Freshness
  - Reveal the hidden assumptions of Intel (e.g., on verifier side)
- Shameless plug: we are hiring PhDs, post-docs  
([muhammad\_usama.sardar,christof.fetzer]@tu-dresden.de)

# Key References I



Blanchet, Bruno et al. "Modeling and verifying security protocols with the applied pi calculus and ProVerif". In: *Foundations and Trends in Privacy and Security* 1.1-2 (2016), pp. 1–135.



Confidential Computing Consortium. *Whitepaper feedback from Muhammad Usama Sardar, Issue #77*. 2020. URL: <https://github.com/confidential-computing/governance/issues/77> (visited on 09/13/2021).



Intel. *Architecture Specification: Intel® Trust Domain Extensions (Intel® TDX) Module*. Sept. 2020. URL: <https://software.intel.com/content/dam/develop/external/us/en/documents/intel-tdx-module-1eas.pdf>.



— . *Intel® Trust Domain CPU Architectural Extensions*. Sept. 2020. URL: <https://software.intel.com/content/dam/develop/external/us/en/documents/intel-tdx-cpu-architectural-specification.pdf>.



Sardar, Muhammad Usama and Christof Fetzer. *Confidential Computing and Related Technologies : A Review*. 2021. URL: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356474602\\_Confidential\\_Computing\\_and\\_Related\\_Technologies\\_A\\_Review](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356474602_Confidential_Computing_and_Related_Technologies_A_Review).



Sardar, Muhammad Usama, Saidgani Musaev, and Christof Fetzer. "Demystifying Attestation in Intel Trust Domain Extensions via Formal Verification". In: *IEEE Access* (2021). URL: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351699567\\_Demystifying\\_Attestation\\_in\\_Intel\\_Trust\\_Domain\\_Extensions\\_via\\_Forma\\_Verification](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351699567_Demystifying_Attestation_in_Intel_Trust_Domain_Extensions_via_Forma_Verification).