

# Media coverage of Acoustic Cryptanalysis paper

Website: <http://www.cs.tau.ac.il/~tromer/acoustic/>

## Concise summary

Some popular articles:

[Economist](#): ““Unsafe and sound”

[Ars Technica](#): “New attack steals e-mail decryption keys by capturing computer sounds”

[ExtremeTech](#):” Researchers crack the world’s toughest encryption by listening to the tiny sounds made by your computer’s CPU”

[הארץ](#): ופורקים מע RSA הנפצה תא והנעיפ מילארשי מירקוח

Awarded Black Hat Pwnie Award for Most Innovative Research 2014

Additional articles in major venues:

[NBC News](#), [PCWorld](#), [Forbes](#), [כלכליסט](#), [The Telegraph](#), [The Register](#), [Daily Mail](#) (#1, #2), [Channel 4 News](#), [BoingBoing](#), [Engadget](#), [Habrahabr](#) (site #22 in Russia), [Gazeta.pl](#) (site #8 site in Poland), [Softpedia](#), [Tom’s Guide](#), [Phys.org](#), [Hack a Day](#)

Social media, for example:

[Reddit](#) (top story of the week for all of Reddit, 1647 comments)

[Slashdot](#)

First 5 days: 431K page views (unique addresses).

## Articles in major websites

(Filtered to sites wit [Alexa global rank](#) above 6000, or near-top rank for some country)

- The Economist (Peter Haynes)  
“Unsafe and sound”

<http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21594240-ciphers-can-now-be-broken-listening-computers-use-them-unsafe-and>

- Le Monde
  - Le Monde (David Larousserie)  
“Des ordinateurs sur écoute (au sens propre)”  
[http://www.lemonde.fr/a-la-une/article/2014/01/13/des-ordinateurs-sur-ecoute-au-sens-propre\\_4347183\\_3208.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/a-la-une/article/2014/01/13/des-ordinateurs-sur-ecoute-au-sens-propre_4347183_3208.html)
  - Le Monde (Jacques Cheminat avec IDG NS)  
“Déchiffrer un message crypté en écoutant le son du processeur”  
<http://www.lemondeinformatique.fr/actualites/lire-dechiffrer-un-message-crypte-en-ecoutant-le-son-du-processeur-56052.html>
  
- NBC News (Devin Coldewey)  
“The sound of secrets: New hacking technique infiltrates by hearing — or touch”  
<http://www.nbcnews.com/technology/sound-secrets-new-hacking-technique-infiltrates-hearing-or-touch-2D1177733>
  
- ExtremeTech (Sebastian Anthony)  
“Researchers crack the world’s toughest encryption by listening to the tiny sounds made by your computer’s CPU”  
<http://www.extremetech.com/extreme/173108-researchers-crack-the-worlds-toughest-encryption-by-listening-to-the-tiny-sounds-made-by-your-computers-cpu>
  - Derivatives:
  - ByteOfNews article:  
“Researchers crack the world’s toughest encryption by listening to the tiny sounds made by your computer’s CPU”  
<http://byteofnews.com/researchers-crack-the-worlds-toughest-encryption-by-listening-to-the-tiny-sounds-made-by-your-computers-cpu/>
  - TECHNOLOGY article  
“Researchers crack the world’s toughest encryption by listening to the tiny sounds made by your computer’s CPU”  
<http://technology.worldnewsviews.com/2013/12/18/researchers-crack-the-worlds-toughest-encryption-by-listening-to-the-tiny-sounds-made-by-your-computers-cpu>
  
- PCWorld / Computerworld (Mark Hachman)  
“Listen up: RSA keys snatched by recording CPU sounds with a phone”  
<http://www.pcworld.com/article/2082200/listen-up-rsa-keys-snatched-by-recording-cpu-sounds-with-a-phone.html>  
<http://news.idg.no/cw/art.cfm?id=909CF477-E8BE-B5A0-99DEF977E0C21389>
  
- Ars Technica (Dan Goodin)  
“New attack steals e-mail decryption keys by capturing computer sounds”  
<http://arstechnica.com/security/2013/12/new-attack-steals-e-mail-decryption-keys-by-capturing-computer-sounds/>
  - Derivatives:
  - Aviation Record  
“New attack steals e-mail decryption keys by capturing computer sounds”  
<http://aviationrecord.com/technology-22/new-attack-steals-e-mail-decryption-keys-by-capturing-computer-sounds-454.html>

- Forbes (Tim Worstall)  
“Researchers Break RSA 4096 Encryption With Just A Microphone And A Couple Of Emails”  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2013/12/21/researchers-break-rsa-4096-encryption-with-just-a-microphone-and-a-couple-of-emails/>
- כלכליסט (עומר כביר)  
מיר פיתח שיטה לפריצת הצפנה על ידי האזנה למחשב”ש ידע 'פורפ"“

<http://www.calcalist.co.il/internet/articles/0,7340,L-3619940,00.html>

- ן(הארץ (עודד ירו

“״ופורקימ םע RSA תנפצה תא וחנעיפ מילארשי מירקוה”

<http://www.haaretz.co.il/captain/software/.premium-1.2196283>

- The Telegraph (Matthew Sparkes)  
“The sound of your PC could betray passwords”  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/internet-security/10527477/The-sound-of-your-PC-could-betray-passwords.html>
- The Register (John Leyden)  
“Code-busters lift RSA keys simply by listening to the noises a computer makes”  
[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/12/19/acoustic\\_cryptanalysis/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/12/19/acoustic_cryptanalysis/)
- Daily Mail (Damien Gayle)  
“How your computer's secrets could be cracked by a smartphone just LISTENING to it as it runs its encryption software”  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2526666/How-computers-secrets-cracked-smartphone-just-LISTENING-runs-encryption-software.html>
- Daily Mail (Victoria Woollaston)  
“Hackers can steal your personal details by using a mobile phone to record the SOUND of your computer”  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2527166/Hackers-steal-personal-details-using-mobile-phone-record-SOUND-computer.html>
- Channel 4 News - Geoff White on Technology (Geoff White)  
“The hacker’s latest weapon: a simple microphone”  
<http://blogs.channel4.com/geoff-white-on-technology/hackers-latest-weapon-simple-microphone/585>
- BoingBoing (Cory Doctorow)  
“ Deriving cryptographic keys by listening to CPUs' "coil whine" “  
<http://boingboing.net/2013/12/20/deriving-cryptographic-keys-by.html>
- Engadget (Michael Gorman)  
“Computers share their secrets if you listen”  
[http://www.engadget.com/2013/12/20/encryption-cracked-by-computer-sounds/?ncid=rss\\_truncated](http://www.engadget.com/2013/12/20/encryption-cracked-by-computer-sounds/?ncid=rss_truncated)
- Engadget (James Trew)  
“Alt-week 12.21.13 ... the world's toughest encryption cracked by a microphone”  
<http://www.engadget.com/2013/12/21/alt-week-12-21-13/>

- Habrahabr - site #22 in Russia  
 “Извлечение 4096-битных ключей RSA с помощью микрофона”  
<http://habrahabr.ru/post/206572> [translated]
  - Derivatives:
  - Gigamir  
 “Извлечение 4096-битных ключей RSA с помощью микрофона”  
<http://gigamir.net/techno/pub467841> [translated]
- Gazeta.pl (Robert Kędzierski) - #8 site in Poland  
 “Podsluchali procesor i... odczytali szyfrowaną wiadomość. Zwykłą komórką!”  
[http://technologie.gazeta.pl/internet/1,104530,15170951,Podsluchali\\_procesor\\_i\\_odczytali\\_sz\\_yfrowana\\_wiadomosc\\_.html](http://technologie.gazeta.pl/internet/1,104530,15170951,Podsluchali_procesor_i_odczytali_sz_yfrowana_wiadomosc_.html) [translated]
- Softpedia (Eduard Kovacs)

“Full 4096-Bit RSA Keys Extracted by Listening to the Sound Made by Computers”

<http://news.softpedia.com/news/Full-4096-bit-RSA-Keys-Extracted-by-Listening-to-the-Sound-Made-by-Computers-410710.shtml>

- Derivative (or vice versa?):
- Cyber Security Infotech’s blog  
 “Full 4096-Bit RSA Keys Extracted by Listening to the Sound Made by Computers”  
<http://csinfotechblog.wordpress.com/2013/12/20/full-4096-bit-rsa-keys-extracted-by-listening-to-the-sound-made-by-computers/>
- Tom’s Guide (Jill Scharr)  
 “Computer Sounds Give Up Secret Information”  
<http://www.tomsguide.com/us/acoustic-cryptanalysis-rsa-algorithm,news-18011.html>  
 ZME Science (Mihai Andre)  
 “Scientists hack a computer using just the sound of the CPU”  
<http://www.zmescience.com/research/inventions/hack-cpu-sound-acoustic-19112013/>
- Phys.org (Bob Yirka)  
 “Research trio crack RSA encryption keys by listening to computer noise”  
<http://phys.org/news/2013-12-trio-rsa-encryption-keys-noise.html>
- Hack a Day (Adam Fabio)  
 “Ambient Computer Noise Leaks Your Encryption Keys”  
<http://hackaday.com/2013/12/20/ambient-computer-noise-leaks-your-encryption-keys/>
- רשת ב'
  - שבת עולמית - יצחק נוי - 25.1.2014
  - Radio show  
[http://www.magnetradio.com/noy/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=130&Itemid=128](http://www.magnetradio.com/noy/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=130&Itemid=128)

## Articles in smaller websites

- Naked Security (Paul Ducklin)  
 “The sound made by your computer could give away your encryption keys”  
 Ggreat article, they really read the paper!

<http://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2013/12/19/the-sound-made-by-your-computer-could-give-away-your-encryption-keys/>

- Derivatives:
- Gizmodo

“The Sounds Your Computer Makes Can Give Away Your Encryption Keys”

<http://gizmodo.com/the-sounds-your-computer-makes-can-give-away-your-ency-1486338511>

- Tweakers.net (Dimitri Reijerman)  
“Rsa-sleutels gekraakt door te luisteren naar trillende condensators en spoelen”  
<https://tweakers.net/nieuws/93259/rsa-sleutels-gekraakt-door-te-luisteren-naar-trillende-condensators-en-spoelen.html> [translated]
- Motherboard (Ben Richmond)  
“Your Computer's Humming Can Give Away Encryption Keys”  
<http://motherboard.vice.com/blog/your-computers-humming-can-give-away-encryption-keys>
- The Hacker News (Mohit Kumar)  
“Acoustic Cryptanalysis: Extracting RSA Key From GnuPG by capturing Computer Sound”  
<http://thehackernews.com/2013/12/acoustic-cryptanalysis-extracting-rsa.html>
- Ubergizmo (Edwin Kee)  
“Researchers Listen To Computer CPU Sounds In Order To Crack Encryption Code” (from the article: “don’t decrypt data unless you’re in a really noisy room, like an auditorium during a heavy metal concert.”)  
<http://www.ubergizmo.com/2013/12/researchers-listen-to-computer-cpu-sounds-in-order-to-crack-encryption-code/>
- DVICE (Robin Burks)  
“Researchers use CPU sounds to crack encryption”  
<http://www.dvice.com/2013-12-19/researchers-use-cpu-sounds-crack-encryption>
- SecurityWeek (Brian Prince)  
“Researchers Reveal How to Extract Decryption Keys With Sound”  
<https://www.securityweek.com/researchers-reveal-how-extract-decryption-keys-sound>
- Tripwire’s The State of Security (Anthony M Freed)  
“Researchers Capture Computer Sounds to Decipher Cryptographic Keys”  
<http://www.tripwire.com/state-of-security/top-security-stories/researchers-capture-computer-sounds-decipher-cryptographic-keys/>
- Digi.no (Eirik Rossen)  
“Knekket kryptering med PC-støy”  
<http://www.digi.no/925983/knekket-kryptering-med-pc-stoy> [translated]
- iThome (文/陳曉莉)  
“研究人員：「聽」CPU聲音就可破解4096位元的RSA密碼”  
<http://www.ithome.com.tw/itadm/article.php?c=84391> [translated]
- BASIC thinking (Von Tobias Gillen)  
“Was denn noch alles? Forscher entschlüsseln PGP durch Audiosignale”  
<http://www.basichinking.de/blog/2013/12/20/was-denn-noch-alles-forscher-entschluesseln-ppg-durch-audiosignale/> [translated]
- Audio Grains (Matt Gallagher)  
“RSA Key Extraction via Low-Bandwidth Acoustic Cryptanalysis”

<http://audiograins.com/blog/2013/12/rsa-key-extraction-via-low-bandwidth-acoustic-cryptanalysis/>

- Kaldata  
<http://www.kaldata.com/IT-Новини/Извличане-на-4096-битови-RSA-ключове-с-помощта--85580.html> [translated]
- Vocativ (Eric Markowitz)  
"How a Hacker Can Break Into Your Laptop With Just an iPhone"  
<https://www.vocativ.com/12-2013/hacker-can-break-laptop-just-iphone/?ModPagespeed=noscript>
- Geektime (נדדיאן)  
"טושפן ון פורקיימ תרזעב 4096-bit RSA תא חצפל וחילצה מילארשי מירקון"

<http://www.geektime.co.il/rsa-4096-bit-cracked-by-israeli/>

- Bit-tech  
Researchers grab encryption keys by listening  
<http://www.bit-tech.net/news/bits/2013/12/19/encryption-listen/1>
- Threat Post  
"Researchers Find Way to Extract 4096-Bit RSA Key via Sound"  
<http://threatpost.com/researchers-find-way-to-extract-4096-bit-rsa-key-via-sound/103234>
- The Stringer (Gerry Georgatos)  
"Internet researchers crack RSA 4096-bit encryption"  
<http://thestringer.com.au/internet-researchers-crack-rsa-4096-bit-encryption/>
- Steven Gordon's Home (Steven Gordon)  
"Lecture on RSA Acoustic Cryptanalysis by Genkin, Shamir and Tomer"  
<http://sandilands.info/sgordon/lecture-on-rsa-acoustic-cryptanalysis>

## Brief entries in major blogs

- Schneier on Security (Bruce Schneier)  
"Acoustic Cryptanalysis"  
[https://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2013/12/acoustic\\_crypta.html](https://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2013/12/acoustic_crypta.html)
- fefe.de entry (major German blog)  
"Bug des Tages: GPG-RSA-Schlüssel per Mikrofon extrahieren. Nein, wirklich! Money"  
<http://blog.fefe.de/?ts=ac4f012c>
- The Risk Digest Volume 27: Issue 64  
"RSA Key Extraction via Low-Bandwidth Acoustic Cryptanalysis (Genkin/Shamir/Tromer)"  
<http://catless.ncl.ac.uk/Risks/27.64.html#subj6>
- TG Daily  
"RSA Key Extraction via Low-Bandwidth Acoustic Cryptanalysis"  
[http://hackers.tgdaily.com/rt\\_story/hackers\\_tech/rsa-key-extraction-via-lowbandwidth-acou/39654e32687670506a6b364d59723741457662726a513d3d](http://hackers.tgdaily.com/rt_story/hackers_tech/rsa-key-extraction-via-lowbandwidth-acou/39654e32687670506a6b364d59723741457662726a513d3d)
- O'Reilly Radar  
"Audio Key Extraction"  
<http://radar.oreilly.com/2013/12/four-short-links-19-december-2013.html>

## Social discussion sites

- Slashdot (+fascinating discussion):  
“Scientists Extract RSA Key From GnuPG Using Sound of CPU”  
<http://slashdot.org/story/195775>
- Reddit
  - Primary:  
“Scientists hack a computer using just the sound of the CPU. Researchers extract 4096-bit RSA decryption keys from laptop computers in under an hour using a mobile phone placed next to the computer.”  
1602 comments in 1 day. Reached 4122 points, making it #1 item of the week.  
[http://www.reddit.com/r/science/comments/1t8wtl/scientists\\_hack\\_a\\_computer\\_using\\_just\\_the\\_sound/](http://www.reddit.com/r/science/comments/1t8wtl/scientists_hack_a_computer_using_just_the_sound/)
  - Weekly top stories:
  - Also:  
[http://i.reddit.com/r/programming/comments/1t6k6i/rsa\\_key\\_extraction\\_via\\_lowbandwidth\\_acoustic](http://i.reddit.com/r/programming/comments/1t6k6i/rsa_key_extraction_via_lowbandwidth_acoustic)
  - 
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- YCombinator hacker news (+fascinating discussion):  
<https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=6927905>
- Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/search?q=acoustic%20rsa%20OR%20gnupg&f=realtime>
- tehPARADOX.COM Online Sharing Community  
“Israeli scientists crack RSA-keys via Acoustic Cryptanalysis”  
<http://tehparadox.com/forum/f28/israeli-scientists-crack-rsa-keys-6525597>
- Bitcointalk  
“[WTF!] Toughest encryption cracked by listening to your CPU with a phone”  
<https://bitcointalk.org/index.php?topic=376350.0>
- opennet.ru discussion  
<http://www.opennet.ru/openforum/vsluhforumID3/93142.html> [translated]
- StackExchange  
“Can we ensure the security of a crypto-algorithm and -implementaton against acoustic cryptanalysis?”  
<http://crypto.stackexchange.com/questions/12503/can-we-ensure-the-security-of-a-crypto-algorithm-and-implementaton-against-acou>
- rotter (מיכרבא מורופ)  
<http://rotter.name/kolot/prime/45146.php>

## Technical announcements/lists

- CVE-2013-4576  
<https://web.nvd.nist.gov/view/vuln/detail?vulnId=CVE-2013-4576>  
<https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2013-4576>

- GnuPG announcement and mailing list discussions:  
<http://lists.gnupg.org/pipermail/gnupg-announce/2013q4/000337.html>  
<http://lists.gnupg.org/pipermail/gnupg-users/2013-December/thread.html#48500>
- Ubuntu USN-2059-1: GnuPG vulnerability  
<http://www.ubuntu.com/usn/usn-2059-1/>
- Debian alert DSA-2821-1 and CVE tracker  
<http://lwn.net/Articles/577512>  
<https://security-tracker.debian.org/tracker/CVE-2013-4576>
- RedHat CVE tracker  
<https://access.redhat.com/security/cve/CVE-2013-4576>  
 RedHat Bugzilla:  
 Bug 1043327: CVE-2013-4576 gnupg: RSA secret key recovery via acoustic cryptanalysis  
[https://bugzilla.redhat.com/show\\_bug.cgi?id=1043327](https://bugzilla.redhat.com/show_bug.cgi?id=1043327)
- oss-sec mailing list post:  
<http://seclists.org/oss-sec/2013/q4/520>
- SecurityTracker ID 1029513  
 “GnuPG Acoustic Side-Channel Attack Lets Local Users Recover RSA Secret”  
<http://www.securitytracker.com/id/1029513>
- SecurityFocus Bugtraq ID 64424  
 “GnuPG RSA Key Extraction Information Disclosure Vulnerability”  
<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/64424/info>
- CISCO Vulnerability Alert IntelliShield ID 32229  
 “GnuPG Acoustic Monitoring Key Disclosure Vulnerability”  
<http://tools.cisco.com/security/center/viewAlert.x?alertId=32229>

## Media coverage of “Hands Off” paper

Website: <http://www.cs.tau.ac.il/~tromer/handsoff/>

Concise summary of major venues

[MIT Technology Review](#) - “[How to Break Cryptography With Your Bare Hands](#)”

[Sky News](#) - “Laptop Security Cracked 'Using Touch Of Hand'”

[Heise Online](#) - “Krypto-Schlüssel über das Erdungspotential ausspionierbar”

[Ars Technica](#) - “Stealing encryption keys through the power of touch”

30K pageviews as of September 2014



## Detailed

- MIT Technology Review (David Talbot)  
“How to Break Cryptography With Your Bare Hands”  
<http://www.technologyreview.com/news/530251/how-to-break-cryptography-with-your-bare-hands/>
  - Derivate:  
Engadget (Jon Fingas)  
“You can steal data from a computer by touching it”  
<http://www.engadget.com/2014/08/23/electrical-potential-data-theft/>
- Gizmodo (Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan)  
“Scientists Hack Cryptography Keys By Simply Touching a Laptop”  
<http://gizmodo.com/scientists-hack-cryptography-keys-by-simply-touching-a-1624641299>
- Sky News  
“Laptop Security Cracked 'Using Touch Of Hand”  
<http://news.sky.com/story/1322384/laptop-security-cracked-using-touch-of-hand>
  - Derivative:  
orange news  
[http://web.orange.co.uk/article/news/laptop\\_security\\_cracked\\_using\\_touch\\_of\\_hand](http://web.orange.co.uk/article/news/laptop_security_cracked_using_touch_of_hand)
  - Derivate:  
SciTechPress.org  
“Laptop Security Cracked ‘Using Touch Of Hand”  
<http://scitechpress.org/post/95365062407/laptop-security-cracked-using-touch-of-hand>
- bit-tech (Gareth Halfacree)  
“Security keys leaked via touch, claim researchers”  
<http://www.bit-tech.net/news/bits/2014/08/21/hands-off-attack/1>
- technology.org  
Extracting secret crypto keys by human touch  
<http://www.technology.org/2014/08/13/extracting-secret-crypto-keys-human-touch/>
- Computerra (Компьютерра) (Андрей Васильков)  
“Перехват криптографических ключей в одно касание”  
<http://www.computerra.ru/105438/physical-side-channel-key-extraction/>
- Linux Weekly News  
“Security quotes of the week”  
<http://lwn.net/Articles/607986/>
- Spektrum.de (Jan Dönges)  
“Computer hacken durch Handauflegen”  
<http://www.spektrum.de/news/computer-hacken-durch-handauflegen/1305588>
- Heise online  
“Krypto-Schlüssel über das Erdungspotential ausspionierbar”  
<http://www.heise.de/newsticker/meldung/Krypto-Schlüssel-ueber-das-Erdungspotential-ausspionierbar-2294085.html>
- Phys.org  
“Security event to learn about side-channel attacks on PCs”  
<http://phys.org/news/2014-08-event-side-channel-pcs.html>

- Ars Technica (Peter Bright)  
“Stealing encryption keys through the power of touch”  
<http://arstechnica.com/security/2014/08/stealing-encryption-keys-through-the-power-of-touch/>
- Tom’s Guide (Jill Scharr)  
“Just Touching a Laptop Can Reveal Secret Data”  
<http://www.tomsguide.com/us/touch-electric-decryption,news-19373.html>
- (עודד ירהארץ)  
“ותוא קרפ םג אוהש תויהל לוכי ?בשחמב ךל עגג והשימ”  
<http://www.haaretz.co.il/captain/software/.premium-1.2414998>
- Motherboard (Julia Alexander)  
“How to Steal an Encryption Key by Simply Touching a Laptop”  
<http://motherboard.vice.com/read/how-to-steal-an-encryption-key-by-simply-touching-a-laptop>
- VPN Creative (Dan Virgillito)  
“Researchers Show How to Steal Encryption Keys Through Touch”  
<http://vpncreative.net/2014/08/26/researchers-encryption-keys-touch/>
- גיק טיים (אבישי בסה)  
“הא ליטוף םכלש בשחמל קורפל תנמ לע ךירצש המ לכש רבתסמ”  
<http://www.geektime.co.il/mit-research-get-your-hands-off-my-laptop/>
- The hacker news (Mohit Kumar)  
<http://thehackernews.com/2014/08/stealing-encryption-keys-just-by.html>
- Habrahabr - site #22 in Russia  
“ Попрогай, чтобы взломать”  
<http://habrahabr.ru/post/234359/> [translated]
- Beartai (Dhanes Kaewmanee)  
“เหนือ ชั้นเกินไปมั๊ย?!”  
ทีมนักศึกษามหาวิทยาลัยเทคโนโลยีเผยว่าสามารถขโมยข้อมูลจากคอมพิวเตอร์ได้ ง่ายๆ  
เพียงแค่ใช้การสัมผัสเท่านั้น !!”  
<http://www.beartai.com/news/30569> [translated]