

MELTDOWN

AND

SPECTRE

COMPLEXITY AND THE DEATH OF SECURITY

Speaker

Prof. Michael Kirkpatrick

Hosted By

JMU CS Research Seminar

Where and when

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Abstract

Meltdown and Spectre are two newly announced computer vulnerabilities. These attacks exploit flaws in how computers are designed and cannot be fixed at this time. That is, these attacks constitute a completely new type of attack by manipulating complex design structures to create unanticipated behavior. This talk will examine how Meltdown and Spectre work, and show how they highlight a long-known principle of computer security: complexity makes devastating attacks possible.