Evaluation of Static Vulnerability Detection Tools with Java Cryptographic API Benchmarks

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Abstract—Several studies showed that misuses of cryptographic APIs are common in real-world code (e.g., Apache projects and Android apps). There exist several open-sourced and commercial security tools that automatically screen Java programs to detect misuses. To compare their accuracy and security guarantees, we develop two comprehensive benchmarks named CryptoAPI-Bench and ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench. CryptoAPI-Bench consists of 181 unit test cases that cover basic cases, as well as complex cases, including interprocedural, field sensitive, multiple class test cases, and path sensitive data flow of misuse cases. The benchmark also includes correct cases for testing false-positive rates. The ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench consists of 121 cryptographic cases from 10 Apache projects. We evaluate four tools, namely, SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL, and Coverity using both benchmarks. We present their performance and comparative analysis. The ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench also examines the scalability of the tools. Our benchmarks are useful for advancing state-of-the-art solutions in the space of misuse detection.

Index Terms—Cryptographic API misuses, benchmark, Java.

1 INTRODUCTION

Various studies have shown that a vast majority of Java and Android applications misuse cryptographic libraries and APIs, causing devastating security and privacy implications. The most pervasive cryptographic misuses include exposed secrets (e.g., secret keys and passwords), predictable random numbers, use of insecure crypto primitives, vulnerable certificate verification [1]-[6].

Several studies showed that the prominent causes for cryptographic misuses are the deficiency in understanding of security API usage [4], [7], complex API designs [7], [8], the lack of cybersecurity training [4], insecure code generation tools [9] and insecure/misleading suggestions in Stack Overflow [4], [10]. The reality is that most developers, with tight project deadlines and short product turnaround time, spend little effort on improving their knowledge or hardening their code for long-term benefits [11]. Recognizing these practical barriers, automatic cryptographic code generation [12] and misuse detection tools [5] play a significant role in assisting developers with writing and maintaining secure code.

The security community has produced several impressive static (e.g., CryptoLint [3], CrySL [13], FixDroid [14], MalloDroid [1], CryptoGuard [5]) and dynamic code screening tools (e.g., Crylogger [15], SMV-Hunter [16], and AndroSSL [17]) to detect API misuses in Java. The static analysis does not require a program to execute, rather it is performed on a version of the code (e.g., source code, intermediate representations or binary). Many abstract security rules are reducible to concrete program properties that are enforceable via generic static analysis techniques [5], [15]. Consequently, static analysis tools have the potential to cover a wide range of security rules. In contrast, dynamic analysis tools require one to execute a program and spend a significant effort to trigger and detect specific misuse symptoms at runtime. Hence, dynamic analysis tools may be limited in their coverage. A code screening tool needs to be scalable with wide coverage. Thus, static analysis-based tools are usually more favorable than their dynamic counterparts.

However, a major weakness of static analysis tools is their tendency to produce false alerts. False alerts substantially diminished the value of a tool. To reduce the number of false positives, most of the static analysis tools offer a trade-off between completeness and scalability [19]. We define completeness as the ability to detect all the misuse instances and scalability as the ability to induce low computational overhead to analyze large code-bases. Designing tools that would produce fewer false positives and false negatives with smaller computational overhead help the real-world deployment.

To advance and monitor the scientific progress of domains to produce effective tools, a mechanism for comparative studies is required. Unfortunately, for automatic detection of cryptographic API misuses, no suitable mechanism or benchmark exists. Such a benchmark needs to have several requirements: i) It should cover a wide range of misuse instances. ii) It should cover interesting program properties (e.g., flow-, context-, field-, path-sensitivity, etc.) [20], [21]. These are different detection capabilities required for capturing certain vulnerabilities. iii) Test cases should be written in easily compilable source codes, so that both source code and binary code analysis tools can be easily evaluated.

None of the existing benchmarks follows these criteria (e.g., DroidBench [22], Ghera [23]). For example, DroidBench [22] only contains binaries. Ghera [23] has sources
In this paper, we present two benchmarks for cryptographic API misuse categories. The first one is CryptoAPI-Bench which is built upon 10 real-world Apache projects and covers more rules than general-purpose tools (e.g., SpotBugs, Coverity). Currently, we expanded the conference version by adding a new benchmark and COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY (CCS) 2019 IEEE Proceedings of the 2019 ACM Conference on Computer

In this paper, we present two benchmarks for cryptographic API misuse categories. We got the insights of these misuse categories from previous literature [5, 13, 14], NIST documents [2], [3], [4], and other blogs [32]. We describe reasons for vulnerability and possible secure solutions for these misuse categories. Section 2 describes cryptographic API misuse categories. Section 3 outlines the design of CryptoAPI-Bench. Section 4 reviews existing cryptographic vulnerability detection tools. Section 5 describes the related works. Finally, Section 6 describes the evaluation and performance analysis of the benchmarks. Discussion is given in Section 7.

### 2. CRYPTO API MISUSE CATEGORIES

#### 2.1 Cryptographic Keys:

For encryption, it is expected to use an unpredictable key using the technique of generating a strong secret key using an unpredictable random password. Therefore, an unpredictable and possibly secure solution is needed. For encryption, it is expected to use an unpredictable key using the technique of generating a strong secret key using an unpredictable random password. Therefore, an unpredictable and possibly secure solution is needed.

#### 2.2 Passwords in Password-based Encryption (PBE)

A popular technique of generating a strong secret key is using an unpredictable password. In PBE, the password is used as a parameter in PBEKeySpec to generate a secure key.

#### 2.3 Passwords in KeyStore

A popular technique of generating a strong secret key is using an unpredictable password. In KeyStore, the password is used as a parameter in PBEKeySpec to generate a secure key.

#### 2.4 Hostname Verification

The verify() method on the javax.net.ssl.HostnameVerifier API can be used to verify the hostname. In some cases, verify() method of a byte array as input. If the byte array is constant or hardcoded inside the code, the adversary can easily read the cryptographic key and may obtain sensitive information. Therefore, an unpredictable byte array should be used as a parameter in SecretKeySpec to generate a secure key.

### 3. BENCHMARKS

We run CryptoAPI-Bench and ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench on four static analysis tools (e.g., SpotBugs, Coverity, CrySL, and Cryptographic Analysis). These tools are capable of detecting cryptographic misuse vulnerabilities and provide free evaluation license. CrySL and CryptoGuard are open-sourced research prototypes that are actively being maintained to improve their accuracy and coverage. SpotBugs is also an actively maintained open-source project, which is the successor of FindBugs. CrySL and CryptoGuard are open-sourced research prototypes that are actively being maintained to improve their accuracy and coverage. SpotBugs is also an actively maintained open-source project, which is the successor of FindBugs. CrySL and CryptoGuard are open-sourced research prototypes that are actively being maintained to improve their accuracy and coverage. SpotBugs is also an actively maintained open-source project, which is the successor of FindBugs. CrySL and CryptoGuard are open-sourced research prototypes that are actively being maintained to improve their accuracy and coverage. SpotBugs is also an actively maintained open-source project, which is the successor of FindBugs.
### 2.12 Initialization Vector (IV):

The initialization vector (IV) is used during encryption and decryption. While using CBC mode of operation, an adversary can obtain the IV by subtracting the ciphertext block. To overcome the attack, developers need to use unpredictable random IVs. Note that, for several modes of operation (e.g., CTR, CBC-MAC), unpredictable random IV is not required.

#### 2.13 Iteration Count in Password-based Encryption (PBE):

In javax.crypto.spec.PBEParameterSpec API, it takes iteration count as one of the parameters for Password-based Encryption (PBE). In PKCS #5 [38], it is suggested that the number of iteration should be more than 1000 to provide a reasonable security level.

#### 2.14 Symmetric Ciphers:

In symmetric cryptography, the same key is used for encryption and decryption. Some symmetric ciphers, e.g., DES, Blowfish, RC4, RC2, IDEA are considered broken, as brute-force attack is possible for 64-bit ciphers. To overcome the attack, developers need to use AES which can support a block length of 128 bits and key lengths of 128, 192, and 256 bits [39].

#### 2.15 Asymmetric Ciphers:

In asymmetric cryptography, two keys, i.e., a public key and a private key are used for encryption and decryption. RSA is considered insecure for 1024-bit ciphers [30]. For this reason, developers are recommended to use RSA with a key size of 2048 bits or higher.

#### 2.16 Cryptographic Hash Functions:

A cryptographic hash function generates a fixed-length alphanumeric hash value or message digest which is commonly used in verifying message integrity, digital signature, and authentication. A cryptographic hash function is considered broken if a collision can be observed, i.e., the same hash value is generated for two different inputs. The list of broken hash functions includes SHA1, MD4, MD5, and MD2. Therefore, developers need to use a strong hash function, e.g., SHA-256.

#### 2.17 Cryptographic MAC:

A MAC algorithm HmacMD5 and HmacSHA1 are considered insecure as these are susceptible to collision attacks [40]. Therefore, the developers need to use a strong MAC algorithm, e.g., HmacSHA256.

#### 2.18 Credentials in String:

Credentials (passwords, secret keys, etc) should not be stored in the String variable. In Java, String is a final and immutable class stored in the heap. More specifically, it exists in the memory until garbage collection. Therefore, sensitive information should not be stored in String [41, 42]. Compared with String, it is highly recommended to use mutable data structures (e.g., byte or char array) for sensitive information and clear it immediately after use. This reduces the window of opportunity for an adversary [43].

### 3 Design of CryptoAPI-Bench

In this section, we present the design of the CryptoAPI-Bench. We manually generate 181 unit test cases guided by 18 types of misuse presented in Section 2. We divide all test cases into two groups, i.e., basic cases and advanced cases. These test cases incorporate the majority of possible variations in the perspective of program analysis to detect cryptographic vulnerability.

#### 3.1 Basic Cases

Basic test cases are simple ones where the probable source of vulnerability for Crypto API exists within the same method. For example, Listing 1 shows that Cipher API
## 3.2 Advanced Cases

The advanced cases are more complex compared to basic cases where the probable source of vulnerability of a Crypto API appears from other methods, classes, field variables, or conditional statements. In CryptoAPI-Bench, we include 136 advanced cases. The distribution of advanced cases is presented from the fourth to tenth columns of Table 1.

### 3.2.1 Interprocedural Cases

In interprocedural cases, the probable source of vulnerability in a Crypto API comes from other methods (i.e., procedures). We create two types of interprocedural cases: two-interprocedural (i.e., involving two methods) and three-interprocedural (i.e., involving three methods). In a two-interprocedural test case, the probable source of vulnerability comes from another method as a parameter.

Listing 2 shows the code snippet of a two-interprocedural test case. In method2, Cipher API takes cryptoAlgo as an argument, and cryptoAlgo is not defined in method2, rather, it comes from another method method1.

### 3.2.2 Field Sensitive Cases

In field-sensitive cases, the probable source of cryptographic vulnerabilities can be detected by the analysis tools if the tools are capable of performing field-sensitive data flow analysis. Field-sensitive refers to an analysis that is able to differentiate multiple fields or variables with the same name. In Listing 3, algo is an instance or field variable in the Crypto class. The constructor Crypto() stores algo with defAlgo object. A class member function encrypt() use this algo value in Cipher API. Both algo and defAlgo contain the same object, i.e., a secure or insecure cipher algorithm. This is a field-sensitive case as the tools need to trace the field variable algo as the probable source of vulnerability. CryptoAPI-Bench contains 20 field-sensitive test cases.
Listing 3. Example code snippet of a field sensitive test case

3.2.3 Combined Cases

The combined cases are a bit more complex where both interprocedural and field sensitivity properties are combined, i.e., both Listing 2 and Listing 3 are incorporated to generate complicated test cases. CryptoAPI-Bench has 21 combined test cases.

3.2.4 Path-Sensitive Cases

In path-sensitive test cases, conditional branch instructions are included in the test cases containing the definition of the probable source of a vulnerability. In Listing 4, an example code snippet of a path sensitivity case is given. Depending on the choice variable, the Cipher is getting the instance from a secure or an insecure cryptographic algorithm. There are 20 path-sensitive test cases in CryptoAPI-Bench.

Listing 4. Example code snippet of a path sensitive test case

3.2.5 Miscellaneous Cases

Miscellaneous test cases evaluate the tool’s abilities to recognize irrelevant constraints and other interfaces, e.g., Map. In Listing 5, the Map interface of Line 3-6 provides a secure key or insecure key depending on the choice variable. The Map indices (e.g., “a”, “b”) represent only index values, not security-relevant values. Similarly, in Line 8, the “UTF-8” represents byte encoding, not any constant or hardcoded value. CryptoAPI-Bench contains 12 miscellaneous test cases.

Listing 5. Example code snippet of a miscellaneous test case

3.2.6 Multiple Class Cases

In multiple class test cases, the probable source of vulnerabilities comes from another Java class. An example code snippet of multiple class case is presented in Listing 6. It is necessary to detect whether a secure or an insecure algorithm is passed in Line 4 in MultipleClass1 and used in Line 9 in MultipleClass2. CryptoAPI-Bench has 21 multiple class test cases.

Listing 6. Example code snippet of a multiple class test case

4 DESIGN OF APACHECRYPTOAPI-BENCH

We include the early version of real-world large 10 Apache projects to check the scalability property of different tools. The second and third columns of TABLE 2 show the number of Java files and lines of Java Code in Apache projects. The spark project is the largest among 10 considered projects containing 2,005 Java files with 311,856 lines of code. The meecrowave project contains the lowest number of Java files (40 Java files) and deltapike contains the lowest number of lines of code (i.e., 5,116 LoC).

We enlist 121 test cases in ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench. Among them, 79 test cases are basic cases, i.e., the vulnerability rise within the same method. There are 42 advanced test cases where probable source vulnerability comes from other methods (interprocedural cases), other classes (multiple class cases), class variables (field sensitive cases), etc. We detect 88 cryptographic misuses, i.e., true positive alerts. Regarding true negatives, we consider only the cases where a tool shows the case as a false alert. With this consideration, we show 33 true negative cases.

We look into the Apache projects in the Benchmark and made detailed documentation. The documentation consists of cryptographic vulnerabilities the project contains, an explanation of the error, the location (file name, method name, line number) of the vulnerabilities. The documentation and corresponding ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench benchmark are available in the GitHub repository.

5 EXISTING CRYPTOGRAPHIC VULNERABILITY DETECTION TOOLS

In this section, we summarize the vulnerability detection tools that we choose to run on CryptoAPI-Bench and ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench. We consider three criteria while choosing the analysis tools. (1) Open-sourced tools: The open-sourced vulnerability detection tools, i.e., CrySL [13], CryptoGuard [6], SpotBugs [24] are convenient to use as we are able to analyze their codes and understand the reason for their lack of performance. (2) Static analysis tools: We choose static analysis tools that can examine and detect vulnerability without executing the code. SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL, and Coverity [25] are static analysis tools. (3) Free cryptographic vulnerability detection services: We consider Coverity as a provider of free cryptographic vulnerability detection service. Coverity is not open-sourced. However, Coverity provides online services to detect vulnerability.

We also consider GrammaTech [44], QARK [45] and FixDroid [14]. However, GrammaTech is a commercial tool. We were unable to access its trial version. The online SWAMP [45] contains GrammaTech tool to use that only
TABLE 2
ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench: Summary of unit test cases. Contents (number of Java file and lines of code) of the considered Apache projects are summarized here. There are total 121 unit test cases with 79 basic cases and 42 advanced cases. Details information are presented in Section 4.

| Apache Project | Number of Java Files | Lines of Code | Total Case | Basic Case | Test Cases Advanced | True Positive | True Negative |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| delta spike    | 87                   | 5116          | 5          | 2          | 3                   | 2             | 3             |
| directory-server | 468               | 20780         | 36         | 15         | 21                  | 19            | 17            |
| incubator-taverna-workbench | 45 | 9919 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| manifoldct     | 126                  | 16988         | 7          | 4          | 3                   | 5             | 2             |
| meecrowave     | 40                   | 5646          | 3          | 3          | 0                   | 3             | 0             |
| spark          | 2005                 | 311856        | 27         | 27         | 0                   | 27            | 0             |
| tika           | 225                  | 16558         | 3          | 0          | 3                   | 0             | 3             |
| tomeec         | 1029                 | 118661        | 9          | 6          | 3                   | 7             | 2             |
| wicket         | 204                  | 13442         | 8          | 4          | 4                   | 5             | 3             |
| artemis-commons | 126              | 8915          | 15         | 13         | 2                   | 15            | 0             |
| **Total**      | **121**             | **79**        | **42**     | **88**     | **33**              |               |               |

TABLE 3
Generated alert keywords for each misuse category from cryptographic vulnerability detection tools (SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL, and Coverity). For example, for misuse category 16 (i.e., Cryptographic Hash), the generated alert keywords in tools are WEAK_MESSAGE_DIGEST, broken hash scheme, ConstraintError, RISKY_CRYPTO, respectively.

| Misuse Categories | SpotBugs | CryptoGuard | CrySL | Coverity |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|-------|----------|
| 1                 | HARD_CODE_PASSWORD | Constant keys | RequiredPredicateError | HARDCODED_CREDENTIALS |
| 2                 | HARD_CODE_PASSWORD | Constant keys | HardCodedError | HARDCODED_CREDENTIALS |
| 3                 | HARD_CODE_PASSWORD | Predictable password | HardCodedError | HARDCODED_CREDENTIALS |
| 4                 | WEAK_HOSTNAME_VERIFIER | Manually verify hostname | Untrusted TrustManager | BAD_CERTIFICATION |
| 5                 | WEAK_TRUST_MANAGER | Does not manually verify socket | HTTP protocol | RESOURSE_LEAK |
| 6                 | PREDICTABLE_RANDOM | Predictable Seed | RequiredPredicateError | PREDICTABLE_RANDOM_SEED |
| 7                 | STATIC_IV | Constant Salt | ConstraintError | RISKY_CRYPTO |
| 10                | CIPHER_INTEGRITY | Broken crypto scheme | ConstraintError | RISKY_CRYPTO |
| 12                | STATIC_IV | Constant IV | ConstraintError | RISKY_CRYPTO |
| 13                | STATIC_IV | <1000 iteration | ConstraintError | RISKY_CRYPTO |
| 14                | CIPHER_INTEGRITY | Broken crypto scheme | ConstraintError | RISKY_CRYPTO |
| 15                | STATIC_IV | Export grade public key | ConstraintError | RISKY_CRYPTO |
| 16                | WEAK_MESSAGE_DIGEST | Broken hash scheme | RequiredPredicateError | |
| 17                | STATIC_IV | — | — | — |
| 18                | STATIC_IV | — | — | — |

supports vulnerability detection for C and C++. Therefore, we excluded GrammaTech from our list of tools. QARK is a tool that is mainly designed to capture security vulnerabilities in Android applications. FixDroid is built as a research prototype that is embedded as a plugin in Android Studio to conduct a usability study. Our investigation shows that the detection capability of FixDroid and QARK is limited. Though QARK has been maintained and updated, FixDroid has not been updated since 2017.

Therefore, we mainly focus on four tools, i.e., SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL, and Coverity to evaluate on CryptoAPI-Bench.

5.1 SpotBugs
SpotBugs is a static analysis tool also for capturing deficiencies in Java code. The tool is built based on a plugin pattern. The tools detect defects by utilizing visitor patterns in class files or bytecodes of Java, state machine, flags. We use the SpotBugs tool (version 3.1.12) available online in SWAMP [46]. However, currently, SWAMP is in the transition to a new host service [47].

5.2 CryptoGuard
CryptoGuard [5] is a static analysis tool that is operated based on program slicing with novel language-based refinement algorithms. It significantly reduces the false positive rate which is a typical problem for static analysis. Furthermore, CryptoGuard covers 16 cryptographic rules and achieves high precision. The authors showed screening a large number of Apache projects and Android apps to present their high precision rate and low false positive rate. We run the experiment on CryptoGuard (commitID: 97b220) available on GitHub [48].

5.3 CrySL
CrySL [13] is a domain-specific language for cryptographic libraries. The static analysis CogniCrypt SAST takes the rules provided in the specification language CrySL as input, and performs a static analysis based on the specification of the rules. CrySL is open-sourced and we run the experiment on CrySL (commit ID: 004cd2) available on GitHub [49].

5.4 Coverity
Coverity is a commercial tool that analyzes the vulnerabilities of codes. Unlike other tools, it takes the source code and performs its analysis. The Coverity analysis tool is available to use online [25]. We perform the latest analysis using Coverity around September 2020.

6 Evaluation and Analysis
In this section, we evaluate the results for four cryptographic misuse detection tools, i.e., SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL and Coverity. We show the experimental setup, evaluation criteria, and analysis results using both benchmarks.

6.1 Experimental Setup
We evaluate mainly four cryptographic analysis tools, i.e., SpotBugs [24], CryptoGuard [5], CrySL [13], Coverity [25] on both Benchmarks. We follow the instructions from GitHub to set up the environment of CryptoGuard and
6.2 Evaluation Criteria

We evaluate the vulnerability detection tools by running these tools on our benchmarks. After performing the analysis, we capture true positives, false positives, and false negatives from the corresponding tool’s result log. As our purpose is to detect cryptographic vulnerability detection, we consider only cryptographic misuse alerts and discard others. In TABLE 5, we present the alert keywords that detection tools use while showing a specific cryptographic misuse. This can assist developers to understand which keyword they should search in the result log to find a specific type of vulnerability. In the following, we provide a brief description of our process of identification of true positive, false positive, and false negative alerts.

6.2.1 True positive (TP)

If a tool generates an alert due to the correct reason while screening any specific vulnerable unit test case in CryptoAPI-Bench, then the event is considered as a true positive.

6.2.2 False positive (FP)

The false positive alert can be captured from two different scenarios. If an alert raised by a tool is unexpected (i.e., does not exist in a specific unit test case), then the alert is a false positive. In addition, if a tool gives an inaccurate reason for an expected alert, then it is also considered a false positive.

6.2.3 False negative (FN)

A vulnerable test case may not be detected by the evaluation tools. This missed detection is characterized as a false negative.

After analyzing the results by determining the true positive (TP), false positive (FP), and false negative (FN) values, we compute the recall and precision to determine the performance of the tools.

6.3 CryptoAPI-Bench: Analysis of Results

In this section, we describe CryptoAPI-Bench evaluation findings on each detection tool based on the result log and performance analysis. TABLE 4 presents the number of true positive and false positive vulnerability threat detection captured by the tools for 18 cryptographic misuse categories. There are only 6 common cryptographic misuse categories detected by all tools. To ensure fairness in comparison, we consider only these 6 common cryptographic misuses while finding the comparative analysis results of tools based on the basic and advanced benchmark in TABLE 5 and TABLE 6, respectively. The analysis results are presented in terms of false positive rate (FPR), false negative rate (FNR), recall, and precision.

Analysis Overview: TABLE 4 shows that among the 18 specified high impact cryptographic misuse categories in Section 2, the cryptographic vulnerability detection tools are able to detect a subset of rules.

- SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL, Coverity covers 9, 16, 14, 10 cryptographic misuse categories, respectively.
- In total, the benchmark contains 144 vulnerable test cases and among these true positive cases, SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL, Coverity detects 20, 124, 76, 32 cases, respectively.
- In addition, SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL, Coverity also generate 32, 20, 67, 14 false alarms, respectively that are included as false positive cases.

6.3.1 Analysis on Basic Benchmark

TABLE 5 shows the performance analysis result of four detection tools on six common cryptographic misuse categories based on the basic benchmark. We capture the following findings based on TABLE 5.

- SpotBugs does not produce any false positive errors. It detects all cases except one. SpotBugs is not designed to capture threats in the basic case of the vulnerable cryptographic key misuse.
TABLE 5
CryptoAPI-Bench comparison of SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL and Coverity on six common misuse categories with CryptoAPI-Bench’s common 21 basic cases. TP, FP, FN stand for true positive, false positive, false negative, respectively. Findings of the table are reported in Section 6.3.1

| Basic Test Cases | True Positive Count | True Negative Count | SpotBugs | CryptoGuard | CrySL | Coverity |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------|-------|----------|
|                  | TP                  | FP                  | FN       | TP          | FP    | FN       | TP       | FP    | FN    | TP    | FP    | FN    | TP    | FP    | FN    |
| Intra-Procedural | 14                  | 6                   | 13       | 3           | 1     | 14       | 0       | 0     | 0     | 10    | 7     | 4      | 13    | 0     | 1     |
| Result           | Recall (%)          | 92.86               | 100.00   | 71.43       | 92.86 |
|                  | Precision (%)       | 81.25               | 100.00   | 58.82       | 100.00|

TABLE 6
CryptoAPI-Bench comparison of SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL and Coverity on six common misuse categories with CryptoAPI-Bench’s common 84 advanced cases. TP, FP, FN stand for true positive, false positive, false negative, respectively. Findings of the table are reported in Section 6.3.2

| Advanced Test Cases | True Positive Count | True Negative Count | SpotBugs | CryptoGuard | CrySL | Coverity |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------|-------|----------|
|                     | TP                  | FP                  | FN       | TP          | FP    | FN       | TP       | FP    | FN    | TP    | FP    | FN    |
| Two-Interprocedural | 13                  | 0                   | 0        | 13          | 12    | 0        | 10       | 3     | 3     | 3     | 0     |
| Three-Interprocedural| 13               | 0                   | 0        | 13          | 12    | 0        | 10       | 3     | 3     | 3     | 0     |
| Field Sensitive     | 13                  | 0                   | 0        | 13          | 13    | 0        | 10       | 2     | 3     | 1     | 0     |
| Combined Case       | 13                  | 0                   | 0        | 12          | 13    | 0        | 10       | 2     | 13    | 3     | 0     |
| Path Sensitive      | 0                   | 13                  | 0        | 10          | 0     | 13       | 0        | 13    | 0     | 12    | 0     |
| Miscellaneous Cases | 3                   | 0                   | 0        | 3           | 0     | 0        | 0        | 5     | 3     | 0     | 0     |
| Multiple Class methods| 13              | 0                   | 0        | 13          | 13    | 0        | 0        | 10    | 3     | 3     | 0     |
| Results             | Recall (%)          | 0.00                | 95.59    | 58.82       | 19.12 |
|                     | Precision (%)       | 0.00                | 83.33    | 56.34       | 52.00 |

- CrySL produces 7 false positive errors due to maintaining strict rules in Crypto APIs of the cryptographic key, password in PBE, password in KeyStore.
- Coverity does not generate any false positive errors. It can successfully detect every vulnerability except one. Coverity is not designed to capture IDEA as a vulnerable cryptographic algorithm.
- For insecure uses of pseudo-random number generators, SpotBugs and CryptoGuard flag all uses of java.util.Random. However, CrySL flags the insecure random variable when they use in crypto contexts.

In summary, for all basic cases, CryptoGuard and Coverity generate a precision of 100%. For SpotBugs and CrySL, it produces some false positives and hence generates precision of 81.25%, 58.82% respectively.

6.3.2 Analysis on Advanced Benchmark
TABLE 6 shows the performance analysis result of four detection tools on six common cryptographic misuse categories based on the advanced benchmark. We capture the following findings based on TABLE 6:

- In the prospect of path sensitivity, it is obvious that none of the cryptographic vulnerability detection tools is path-sensitive in their static analysis. The tools generate 10, 13, 12 false positive alerts for path sensitive cases, respectively. The possible reason for the false positive alert is that for the concerned variable, a container is defined to store all values of the concerned variable. There is no ordered list that shows the latest assignment. Therefore, alerts will be raised if the container contains any vulnerable value that is intended to be used in the Crypto API. A significant reason for having a high false positive rate because of the tools being path insensitive.
- SpotBugs is not designed to capture vulnerability threats in advanced cases. Therefore, it shows 0% precision and recall.
- SpotBugs produces 12 false positives for combined cases. In combined cases, SpotBugs failed to detect the source of vulnerability using both interprocedural and field sensitive analysis. For example, in Symmetric Cipher cases, instead of showing the correct “CIPHER_INTEGRITY” alert, it produces an incorrect “HARD_CODE_PASSWORD” alert.
- CryptoGuard performs better than other tools in terms of both precision and recall. The reason behind this is 1) Cryptoguard performs dataflow analysis based on forward slicing and backward slicing that efficiently handles the advanced cases, 2) CryptoGuard follows several refinement insights that systematically remove irrelevant constants, hence reduced false positives. However, as being a static analysis tool, CryptoGuard cannot handle path-sensitive cases. In addition, CryptoGuard missed 3 vulnerabilities due to clipping orthogonal method invocation (i.e., limiting the depth to visit callee method).
- CrySL produces incorrect “RequiredPredicateError” alerts for the cryptographic key, password in PBE, password in KeyStore misuse test cases that contribute to generate a high false positive rate. The reason is that the cryptographic APIs used in these cases follow strict rules in CrySL. Therefore, even if we use a secure unpredictable byte array as an argument for crypto APIs, it still generates incorrect alerts.
- Coverity is not designed to detect vulnerable ciphers and cryptographic hash functions in advanced cases. That is the reason for having high false negative values and generating high FNR in Coverity. Coverity is a closed sourced detection tool. Therefore, we are unable to confirm the reason for the incorrect detection cases.

In summary, for all of the advanced cases, SpotBugs is not designed to identify the advanced vulnerability threats correctly. Therefore, the precision rate is 0%. CryptoGuard detects fairly well (missed only 3 cases) among all detection tools with a precision of 83.33%. For CrySL produce precision of 56.34%. Coverity generates a precision of 52.00%.

6.4 ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench: Analysis of Results
TABLE 7 presents the number of true positive and false positive vulnerability threats detected by the tools. CrySL
we capture the following findings.

- SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, and Coverity do not generate any false positive. CrySL has a high false positive value of 33. We have already discussed the reason for generating high false positive for CrySL in Section 6.3.2.

- SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL, and Coverity can accurately detect 63, 67, and 35 and 23 alerts respectively from 88 alerts. The main reason for missed alarms is that no tool can detect all 18 types of vulnerabilities as shown in TABLE 3. For example, SpotBugs and CryptoGuard cannot capture vulnerable crypto algorithm usage in SecretKeySpec API. Among the successfully compiled programs (i.e., from 8 Apache projects), CrySL capture 33 out of 44.

- After analyzing ten Apache projects, we find that there are 79 basic cases, whereas, the number of advance cases is only 43. Therefore, in the real world codes, the number of basic cases is much higher than advanced cases. Vulnerability detection tools should consider expanding their coverage to detect more categories of vulnerabilities.

- From TABLE 7, we observe that CrySL fails to analyze two Apache projects: spark and artemis-commons. CrySL throws StackOverflowError (i.e., memory error) during analyzing objects for spark. The probable reason is the larger number of files and lines of code Spark contains for analysis. For artemis-commons, CrySL throws NullPointerExceptionException during analysis due to the reference variable not pointing to any object. Coverity fails to analyze only the artemis-commons project. Coverity is closed source, therefore, we are unable to confirm the reason for this failure. TABLE 8 shows the runtime on Apache projects for only CryptoGuard and CrySL. For Coverity and SpotBugs, we use the web version that takes all scan requests for users and reports results after complete scanning. Therefore, we cannot calculate their original runtime for comparison. Among the 8 successful analyzed projects, we observe average runtime for CrySL is 14.64 seconds and CryptoGuard is 11.46 seconds. For the largest Apache project Spark (LoC: 311,856), CryptoGuard successfully analyzes in 88.68 seconds and CrySL shows the failure of analysis report after 46.84 seconds. Overall, SpotBugs and CryptoGuard successfully analyze all 10 Apache projects. Therefore, SpotBugs, CryptoGuard are scalable for large projects.

6.5 Verifiability

Our benchmarks are open-sourced and are available on GitHub [26], [27]. It contains the Java cryptographic API test cases. The detailed documentation and explanation are provided there.

7 Discussion

Tool insights. No tool can cover all categories of vulnerabilities (TABLE 3). However, their methodologies can be extended to cover most of these vulnerabilities. For example, the technique that Coverity uses to detect constant cryptographic keys can be transferred to detect static IVs or fewer iteration counts.

The main differences among different tools are within their approach to trade-offs among false positives, false negatives. Our experimental evaluation reveals that all of these tools produce a number of false positives and false negatives. CryptoGuard performs on-demand inter-procedural dataflow analysis. Its backward data flow analysis starts from the slicing criteria and explores upward (↑) and orthogonally (→) on-demand. Orthogonal method invocation chains always return to the call sites. By leveraging this insight, CryptoGuard offers a performance vs scalability tradeoff by limiting the depth of the orthogonal invocations (which is “clipping of orthogonal method invocations”). In the current implementation, the depth is set to be 1. That means CryptoGuard will skip deeper orthogonal callee

| Apache Project | LoC | Runtime (sec) |
|----------------|-----|---------------|
| deltaspike     | 5.1K| 4.31          |
| directory-server | 20.8K| 8.96         |
| incubator-taverna-workbench | 9.9K| 12.69         |
| manifoldcf     | 17K | 7.07          |
| meecrowave     | 5.6K| 4.67          |
| spark          | 311.9K| 88.68        |
| tika           | 16.6K| 7.46          |
| tomee          | 187K| 40.52         |
| wicket         | 13.4K| 5.99          |
| artemis-commons | 8.9K| 5.63          |

| Apache Project | Total |
|----------------|-------|
| SpotBugs       | 2     |
| CryptoGuard    | 3     |
| CrySL          | 2     |
| Coverity       | 0     |

| Apache Project | FP | FN | TP |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| deltaspike     | 2  | 2  | 2  |
| directory-server | 11 | 5  | 5  |
| incubator-taverna-workbench | 11 | 4  | 4  |
| manifoldcf     | 5  | 3  | 2  |
| meecrowave     | 3  | 1  | 1  |
| spark          | 27 | 23 | 27 |
| tika           | 1  | 0  | 1  |
| tomee          | 9  | 6  | 9  |
| wicket         | 5  | 2  | 5  |
| artemis-commons | 15 | 13 | 13 |

| Project          | Runtime (sec) |
|------------------|---------------|
| GTP              | 67.0          |
| SpotBugs         | 20.8          |
| CryptoGuard      | 11.46         |
| CrySL            | 11.46         |
| Coverity         | 11.46         |

| Project          | GTP | SpotBugs | CryptoGuard | CrySL | Coverity |
|------------------|-----|----------|-------------|-------|----------|
| deltaspike       | 2   | 2        | 2           | 2     | 2        |
| directory-server | 11  | 5        | 5           | 5     | 5        |
| incubator-taverna-workbench | 11  | 4        | 4           | 4     | 4        |
| manifoldcf       | 5   | 3        | 2           | 2     | 2        |
| meecrowave       | 3   | 1        | 1           | 1     | 1        |
| spark            | 27  | 23       | 27          | 27    | 27       |
| tika             | 1   | 0        | 1           | 1     | 1        |
| tomee            | 9   | 6        | 9           | 9     | 9        |
| wicket           | 5   | 2        | 5           | 5     | 5        |
| artemis-commons  | 15  | 13       | 13          | 13    | 13       |
| **Total**        | 88  | 63       | 25          | 25    | 25       |

TABLE 7

ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench comparison of SpotBugs, CryptoGuard, CrySL and Coverity on 10 Apache projects. GTP stands for ground truth positive, which is the number of insecure API use cases in the Apache codes.
methods, which may result in false negatives. However, the advantage of the orthogonal method invocation technique is that it helps to improve precision.

The main focus of CrySL is to provide a language to specify a class of cryptographic misuse vulnerabilities that can be detected using a generic detection engine. A prime reason behind the false positives can be the strictness of the rule definitions that is inherited from the language itself. For example, CrySL raises an alert if a cryptographic key is not generated using a key generator. However, one can legitimately reuse a previously generated key, which CrySL would mistakenly detect as a vulnerability. An impressive aspect of CrySL is that it is constantly being maintained and updated to improve its accuracy. The methodology of SpotBugs is inherently limited to detect advanced cases as they use patterns to detect most of the vulnerabilities.

None of these tools are path-sensitive, i.e., all raising false alerts in path sensitive cases. A possible reason for this failure is that the existing path-sensitive analysis techniques are usually costly, i.e., high runtime complexity.

CryptoAPI-Bench cannot be used to evaluate scalability property. All of our test cases are lightweight by design. The primary focus is to produce easily readable test cases that demand minimal code to express complex program properties. On the other hand, all of the projects in ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench are complex programs including a lot of files and lines of code. The primary focus is to test the vulnerability detection tool's scalability property and extrapolation to applications on real-world code.

Our limitation. Currently, our benchmark does not contain cryptographic cases, e.g., digital signature, CBC-MAC misuses in MAC, other modes of operations (e.g., CTR). We plan to include test cases based on these cryptographic vulnerabilities in our CryptoAPI-Bench benchmark. Furthermore, our benchmark does not have any cases that involve Java reflection APIs. The primary reason is that the use of Java reflection during cryptographic coding is highly unlikely. Consequently, none of the existing open-sourced tools is designed to detect such cases. However, we plan to include new cases that leverage Java reflection APIs to induce cryptographic misuse vulnerabilities.

8 Related Work

Vulnerability detection benchmarks. AndroZoo++ [50] is a collection of over eight million Android apps [51] that drives a lot of security, software engineering, and malware analysis research. However, vulnerabilities in these apps are not documented, hence not suitable for vulnerability detection benchmarking purposes.

DroidBench [22], a benchmark containing vulnerable android apps, fills the gap by providing specific vulnerability locations within the benchmark. Till date, DroidBench is one of the most popular benchmarks to evaluate the performance of vulnerability detection tools in Android literature. In total, DroidBench has 119 APKs from 13 categories (Commit id 0fe281b). Categories include vulnerabilities that use field and object sensitivity, inter-app communication, inter-component communication, android life-cycle, reflection, etc. However, DroidBench i) does not cover cryptographic misuse vulnerabilities and ii) does not have source code. To the best of our knowledge, Ghera [23] is the only Android app benchmark that contains app source code. Like DroidBench, most of the vulnerabilities in Ghera are specific to Android apps and barely contain any cryptographic misuse vulnerabilities. To be specific, CryptoAPI-Bench and Ghera have only 2 types of vulnerabilities in common.

OWASP Benchmark [52] is fundamentally designed to capture eleven cybersecurity vulnerabilities. However, among the detected vulnerabilities, it builds to address only three Java cryptographic vulnerabilities, i.e., weak encryption algorithm, weak hash algorithm, and a weak random number.

SonarSource [32] released a set of vulnerability samples that can be useful to check for coverage of vulnerability categories. A verification tool for five common audit controls is proposed for ensuring continuous compliance [53].

Other benchmarks. The DaCapo benchmarks [54] are designed to evaluate the performance of various components of Java virtual machine (JVM), Garbage collection (GC), Just-in-time (JIT) compiler itself. BugBench [55] is a benchmark to find C/C++ bugs that contains 17 real-world applications. BugBench mostly covers various memory, concurrency, and semantic bugs. To detect bugs in the multi-threaded Java programs, a benchmark and framework have been proposed [56, 57]. For dynamic software updating system, a standardized benchmark system is proposed to check the system's practicality, flexibility, and usability [58]. Coding practice and recommendations are provided for 28 enterprise applications that use Spring security framework [59]. ManyBugs and IntroClass benchmarks are designed to evaluate various C/C++ code repair techniques [60]. Most of the defects in ManyBugs and IntroClass do not impact security, e.g., in the ManyBugs benchmark, more than half of the instances impact correctness, not necessary security.

9 Conclusion and Future Work

We believe that for scientific, in-depth, and reproducible comparisons benchmark is an important component. In this paper, we present CryptoAPI-Bench and ApacheCryptoAPI-Bench to evaluate the detection accuracy, scalability, and security guarantees of various cryptographic misuse detection tools. Our benchmarks are open-sourced and are available on GitHub. We evaluated four static analysis tools that are capable of detecting cryptographic misuses. Our evaluation revealed some interesting insights, i.e., i) tools that are specialized to detect cryptographic misuses (e.g., CryptoGuard, CrySL) cover more rules and higher recall than general purpose tools (e.g., SpotBugs, Coverity), ii) none of the existing tools is path-sensitive.

We are actively working on expanding CryptoAPI-Bench by adding new rules, test cases, and covering new cryptographic APIs. In the future, we plan to achieve the following goals.

- To motivate the research of cryptographic misuse detection tools for other platforms, we plan to extend CryptoAPI-Bench to cover other popular languages, e.g., Python.
- Other non-cryptographic API misuses (e.g., Android APIs to access sensitive information (location, IMEI, passwords, etc) [61, 62], fingerprint protection [63].
cloud service APIs for information storage [43] are also proven to cause catastrophic security consequences. We also plan to include the misuses of these critical non-cryptographic APIs.

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