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Ramdump for Trusted VMs

Efficient Crash Debugging Without Rebooting The Device

Cong Zhang

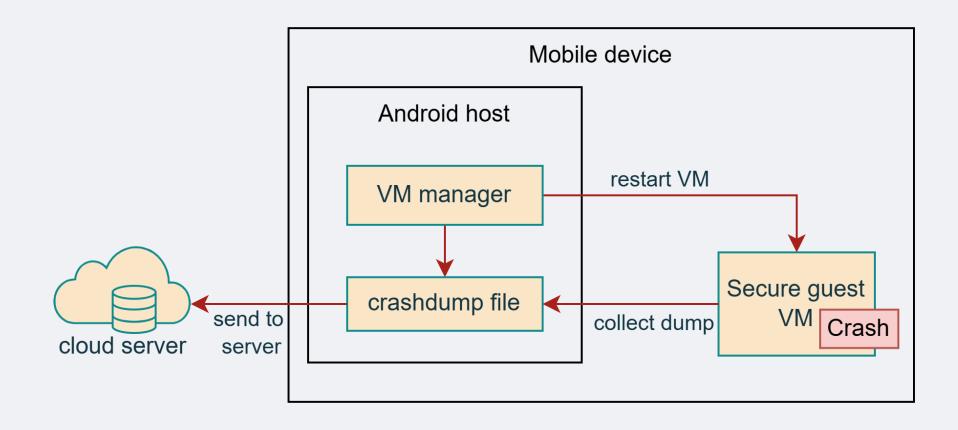
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Background

Crash handling workflow for Secure Guest VM in Android Host VM

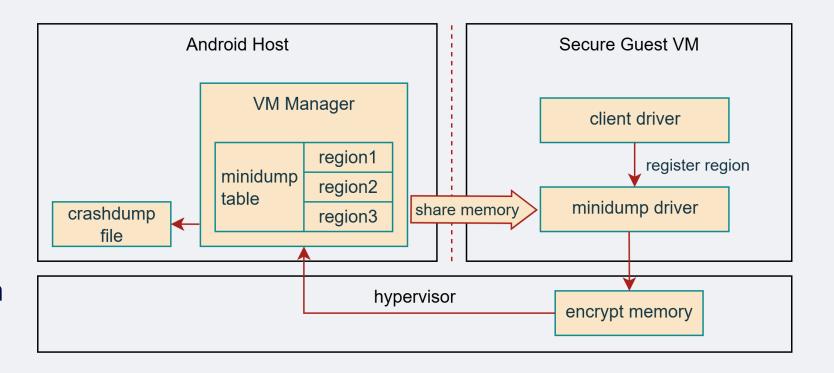


Problem

- Guest VM memory is isolated from the host and contains sensitive data, so leakage must be prevented.
- A full crash dump can be very large, especially when there are many devices and crash instances. This requires significant storage and makes cloud upload difficult.
- Secure guest VM reboot should be fast, and crash dump collection cannot cause long delays.

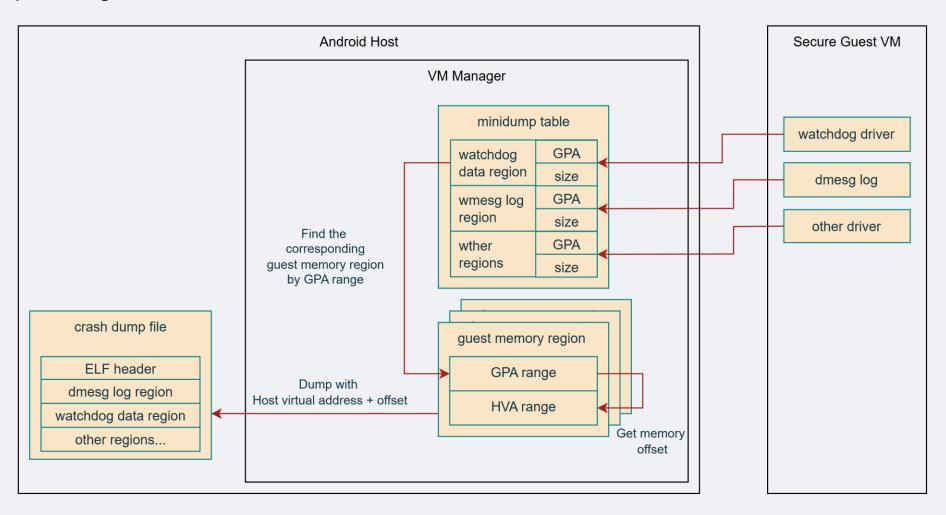
Design

- Collect only critical areas.
- Gather data from the host side.
- Encrypt memory in the hypervisor.
- We call it "minidump."
- Meminspect upstream is in progress and may follow this design after acceptance.



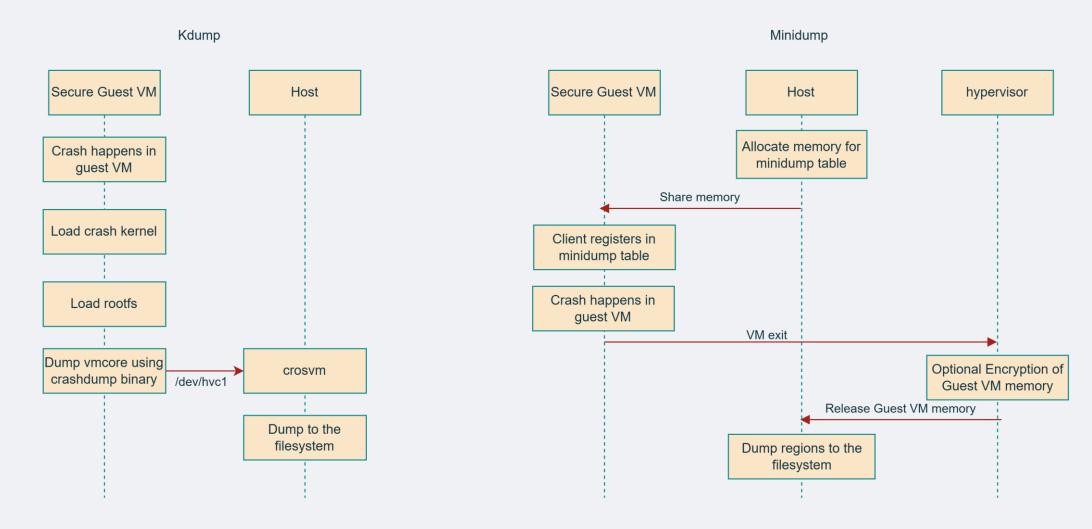
Design

How to get a specific region in the Android host?



Design

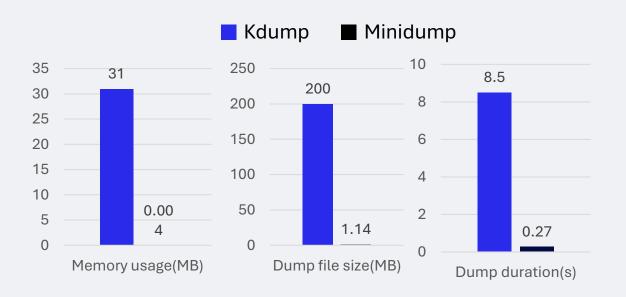
Comparison of minidump and kdump process



Comparison of kdump and minidump

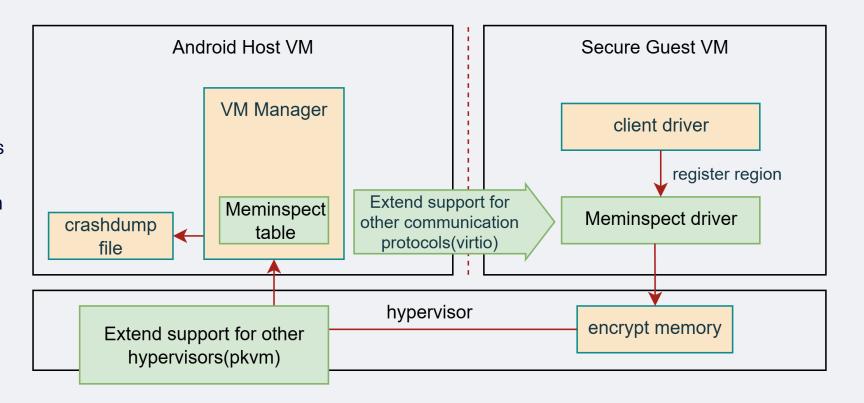
- Only critical memory regions
 - Smaller dump file size
- No crash kernel
 - Lower memory usage
 - Shorter dump duration
- Encrypt by hypervisor
 - More secure

	Kdump	Minidump
Dump file size	200 MB	1.14 MB
Memory usage	31 MB	4 KB
Dump duration	8.5 s	0.27 s



What's Next?

- Follow the meminspect design
- Extend support for
 - other communication protocols such as virtio
 - other hypervisors such as pkvm



Thank you

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