

Intel CPU flaw is a big deal

Written by Jason

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This week it was revealed that Intel has a bit of a security flaw in their CPUs which could allow malware or other programs intercept or steal data on the system. The really bad part of the whole story though is that pretty much every CPU made in the last 20 years could be vulnerable. At this point the fix is going to obviously be a software one, however, early indications are that fixing the problem could come with a cost of performance of potentially 10-30% of CPU performance.

AMD is denying that their CPUs are affected, which is good, however, there is fear that in a rush to fix the flaw, software manufacturers could just slow down all CPUs regardless of brand and/or model.

This is going to be a story that will be ongoing for a while, we'll keep you updated in the coming weeks and months.

[For more on this story, The Verge has additional coverage.](#)

All week, the tech world has been piecing through rumors of a potentially catastrophic flaw in an entire generation of processors — but with all developers subject to a non-disclosure agreement, there were few hard facts to go on.

Now, new details have emerged on how severe and far reaching the vulnerability truly is. ZDNet and the New York Times are reporting that two critical vulnerabilities — dubbed “Meltdown” and “Spectre” — affect nearly every device made in the past 20 years. The vulnerabilities allow an attacker to compromise the privileged memory of a processor by exploiting the way processes run in parallel. The result, one researcher told ZDNet, is that “an attacker might be able to steal any data on the system.”

[PCWorld also has come more coverage.](#)

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