

# New Lightweight DES Variants Suited for RFID Applications

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Workshop on Fast Software Encryption 2007

# Outline

- Introduction
  - Why lightweight?
  - Why **choose** DES?
- DESL: DES Lightweight
  - Why **change** DES?
  - **How to** change DES?
  - What are the benefits?

# Why Lightweight? – Paradigm Shift

past



Mainframe  
(n : 1)

present



Personal  
(1 : 1)

future



Pervasive  
(1 : n)

Pervasive = wireless + embedded + cheap  
= constrained in CPU, memory, battery

# Why choose DES?

„People who are still working on DES should probably start a self-help group.“

3 approaches for lightweight crypto:

1. Minimal implementation of standard ciphers
  - Cipher design usually SW optimization driven
  - If HW optimized, then for high throughput
2. Design a new HW optimized cipher
  - No trust in new ciphers
3. **Modify a trusted HW optimized cipher**
  - **Hope for a transition of trust**

# Recall DES

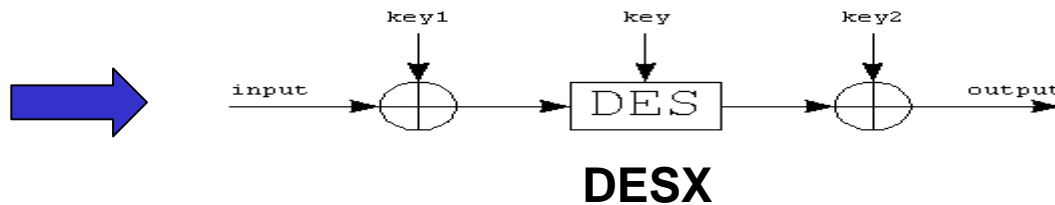
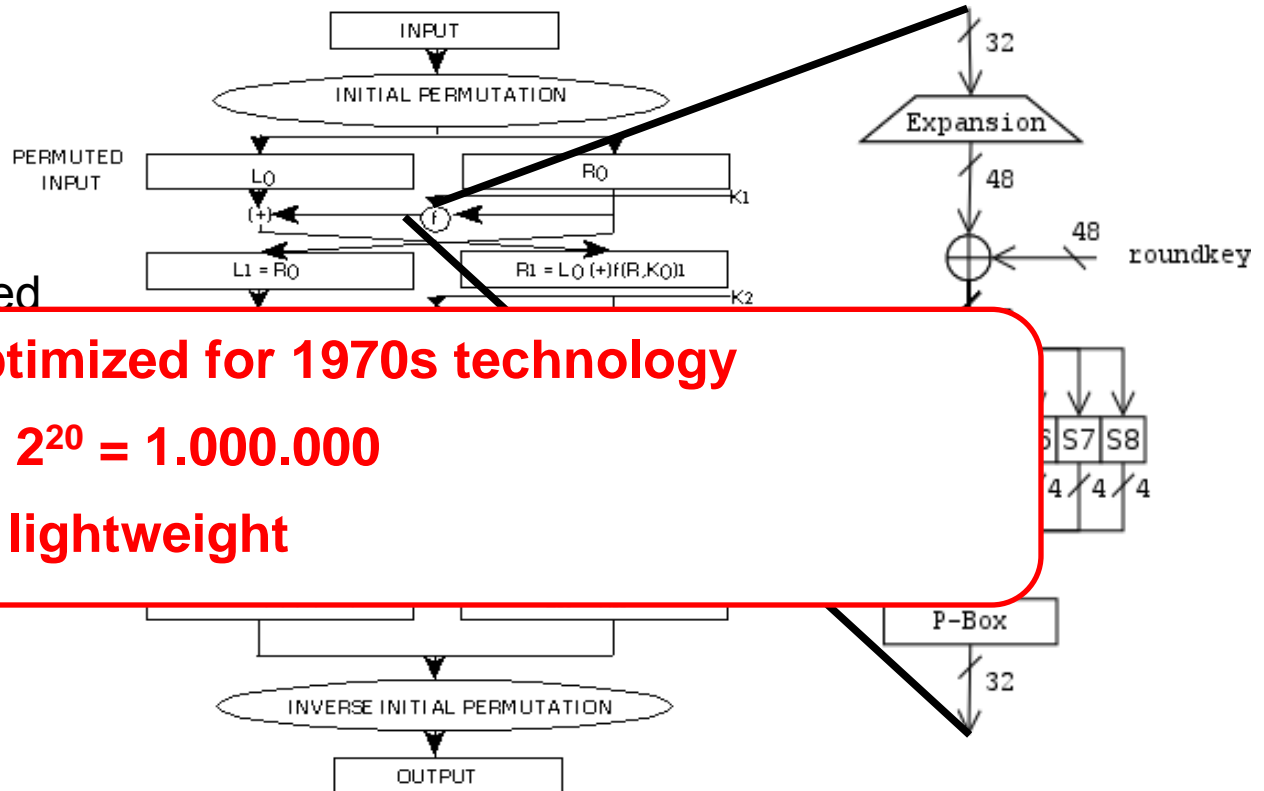
## DES:

- Published in 1977
- Probably best investigated cipher
- Plenty of HW operations

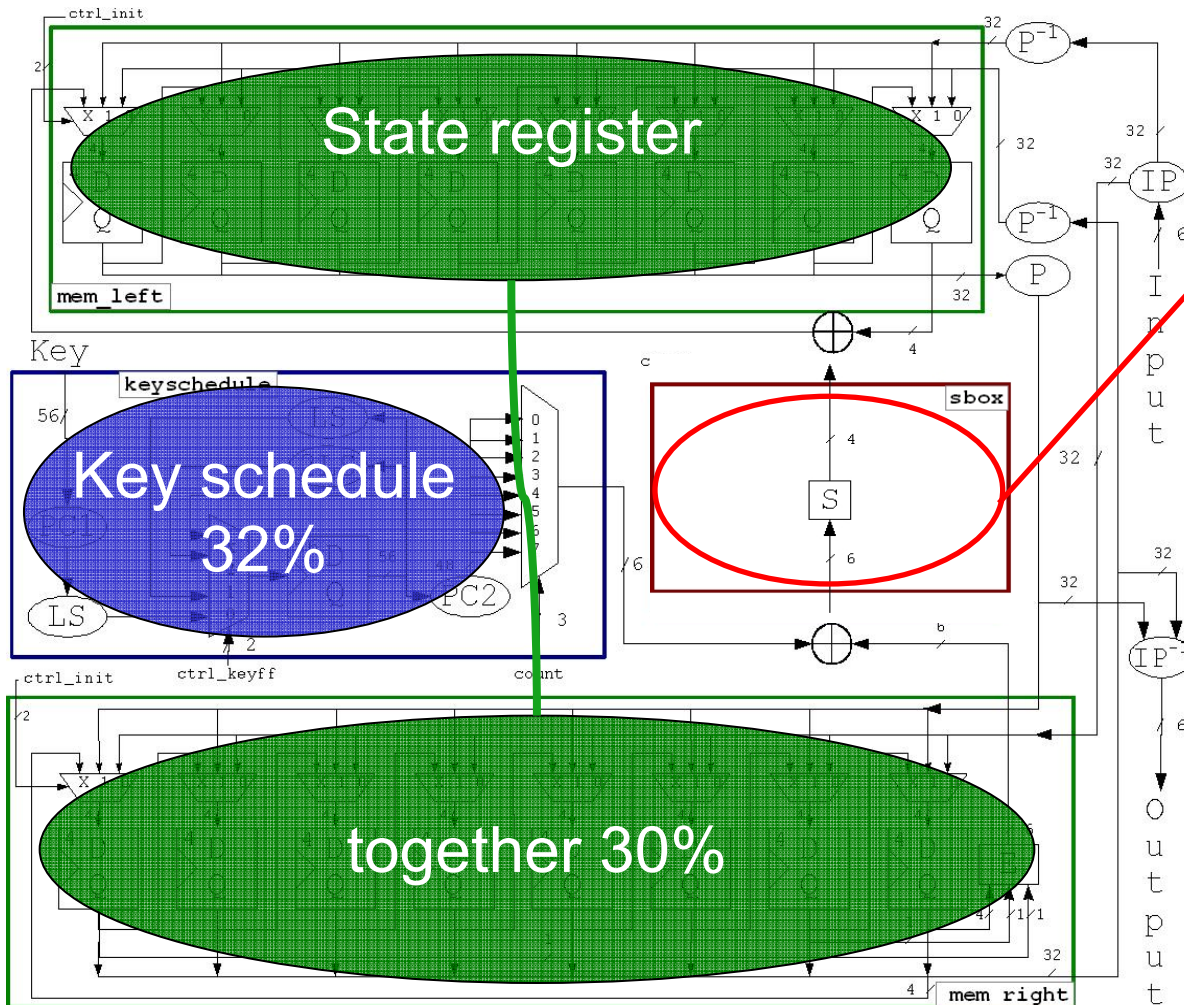
**HW optimized for 1970s technology**  
**Factor  $2^{20} = 1.000.000$**   
**DES = lightweight**

## Major Drawback.

- Short keylength



# Why change DES?



## S-Boxes

- 6-to-4 substitution tables
- highly non-linear  
→ high Boolean compl.
- **34% of area!**

## Idea:

- Replace S1...S8 by S

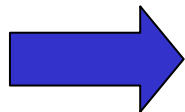
# How to change DES?

Plenty of previous work during the 1990s...

- DES design criteria (Coppersmith)
- Improved resistancy against DC, LC, and DMA (Kim et al.)

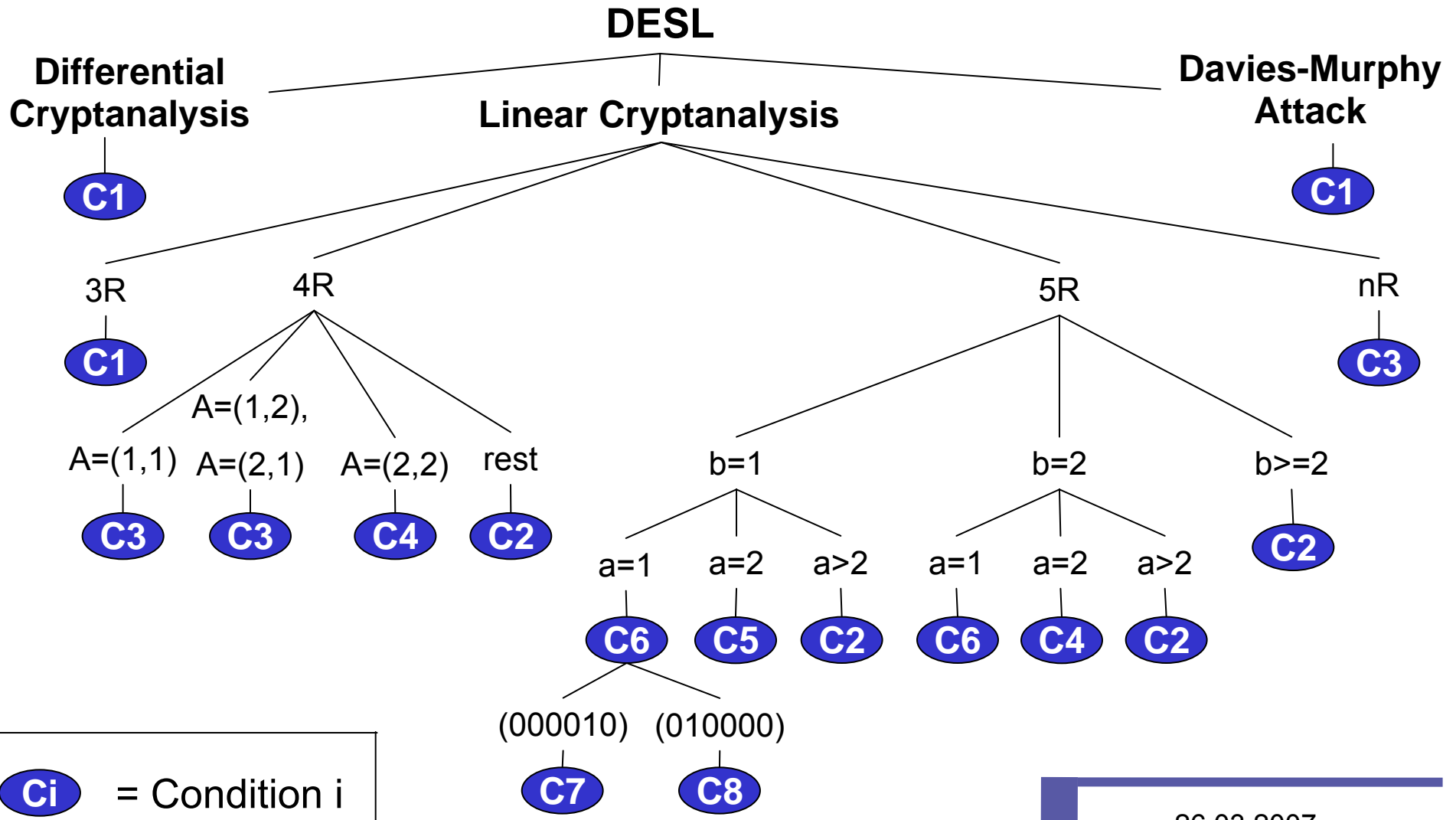
...But:

- All previous work focused on **8 different** S-boxes
- **No S-box** fulfills all criteria by Kim et al.



Detailed look on the criteria by Kim et al.

# Design Criteria for single S-box DES





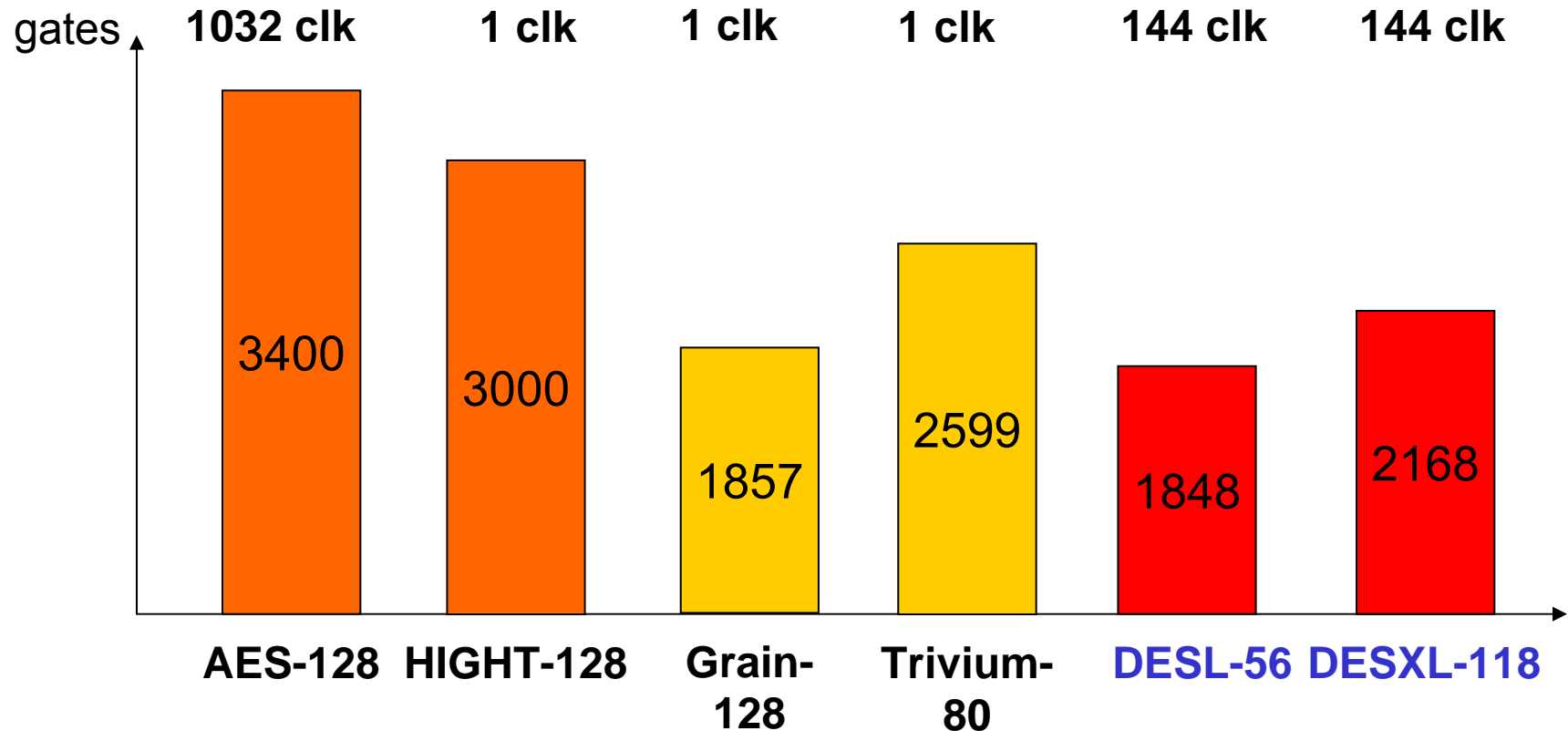
# ...18 Months later

S															
14	5	7	2	11	8	1	15	0	10	9	4	6	13	12	3
5	0	8	15	14	3	2	12	11	7	6	9	13	4	1	10
4	9	2	14	8	7	13	0	10	12	15	1	5	11	3	6
9	6	15	5	3	8	4	11	7	1	12	2	0	14	10	13

Improved DESL S-box:

- Satisfies all conditions
- Resistant against
  - certain Differential Cryptanalysis,
  - Linear Cryptanalysis, and
  - Davies-Murphy Attack
- Results in total area saving of 20 %

# What are the benefits?



- Smallest known secure block cipher
- Very small footprint (=cheap) in hardware
- Comparable even to streamciphers

S															
14	5	7	2	11	8	1	15	0	10	9	4	6	13	12	3
5	0	8	15	14	3	2	12	11	7	6	9	13	4	1	10
4	9	2	14	8	7	13	0	10	12	15	1	5	11	3	6
9	6	15	5	3	8	4	11	7	1	12	2	0	14	10	13

**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

[www.crypto.rub.de](http://www.crypto.rub.de), [poschmann@crypto.rub.de](mailto:poschmann@crypto.rub.de)

# Example: 4-Round Linear Characteristic

$$A: \langle I_2, Z_1 \rangle + \langle K_2, Z_3 \rangle = \langle O_2, Z_2 \rangle$$

$$B: \langle I_3, Y_1 \rangle + \langle K_3, Y_3 \rangle = \langle O_3, Y_2 \rangle$$

$$O_2 = I_1 + I_3, \quad O_3 = I_2 + I_4$$

15-round approximation: -AB-BA-AB-BA-AB

Kim et al. Use two conditions:

- General:  $S_b^W(a) \leq 20, a \in GF(2)^6, b \in GF(2)^4, wt(a), wt(b) \leq 2$
- Special: No occurrence of 18 sub-cases for  $wt(a)=wt(b)=1$

Our conditions:

- General:  $S_b^W(a) \leq 20, a \in GF(2)^6, b \in GF(2)^4, wt(a), wt(b) \leq 2$
- Special:  $S_b^W(a) \leq 4, a \in GF(2)^6, b \in GF(2)^4, wt(a) = wt(b) = 1$

