

Risks of Offline Verify PIN on Contactless Cards

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What are EMV Chip & PIN Cards



- 1.5 Billion EMV cards in circulation
- Visa & MasterCard to implement in USA 2015 (TBD)
- Wireless access to the “contact” protocol

Contactless Verify PIN

- Verify PIN directly on the card (offline mode)
- Wireless Access to Verify PIN
 - Accessed without the cardholders knowledge
- Redundant functionality
 - No PIN required in contactless transaction
- Viable attack scenario to find the PIN
- Amex and MasterCard have prohibited the functionality – MC “for security reasons”

Door Entry Attack Scenario

Always leave 1 PIN attempt remaining so the card is not locked

Day 1

PIN – 1983 **X**

PIN – 6383 **X**

Day 2

PIN – 0306 **X**

PIN – 0603 **X**

Day 3

PIN – 1234 **X**

PIN – 0683 **✓**



Birthday Based PINs

- Bonneau et al. FC 2012
 - Birthday in every 11 wallets
 - Bad choices in user chosen PIN
- Real Life Example
 - Birthday used as PIN
 - Same PIN on 2 cards
 - Birthday on driving licence
 - £1,000 within hours



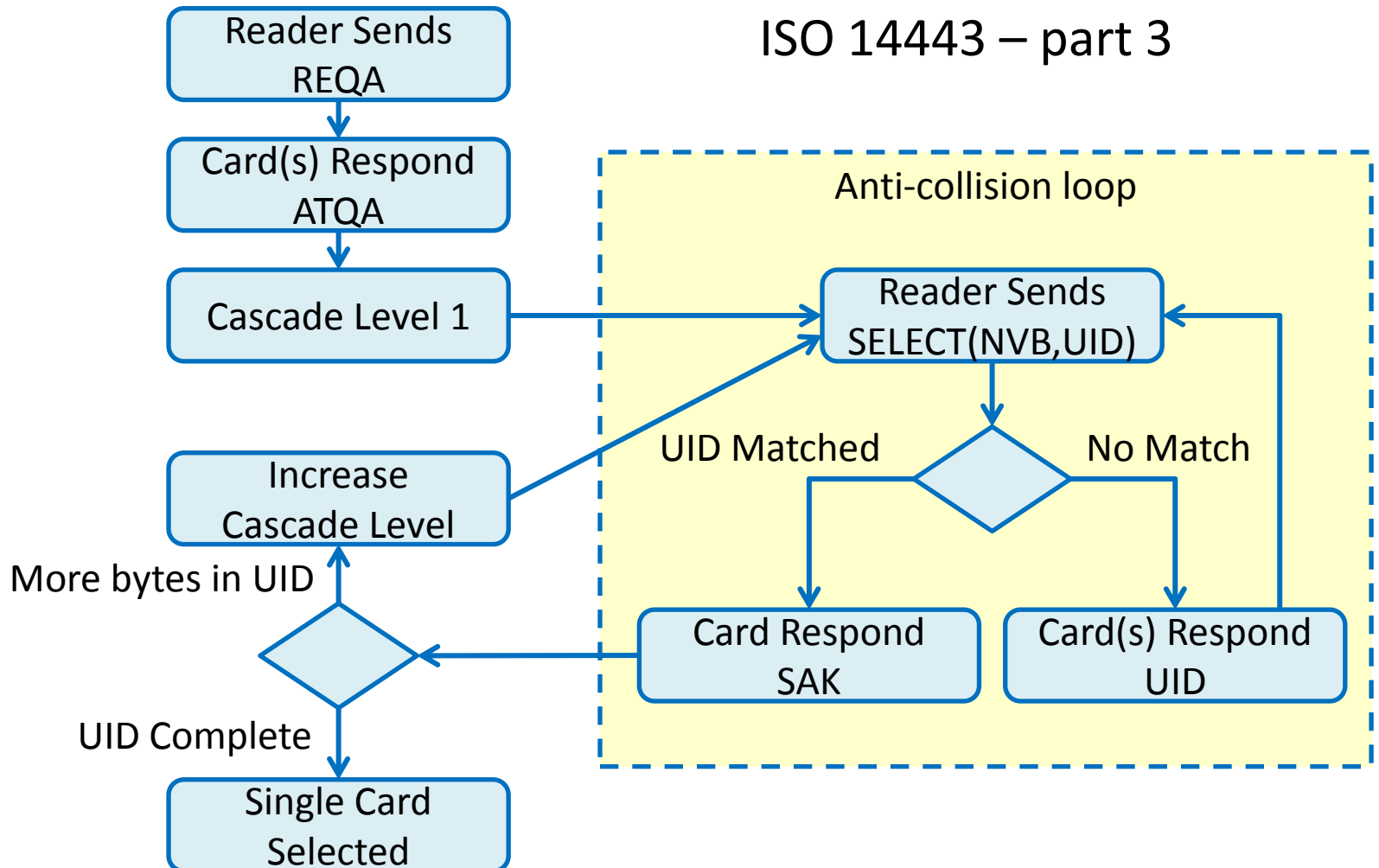
Why is this Important?

What are my rights if I'm a victim of fraud and my bank doesn't give me my money back?

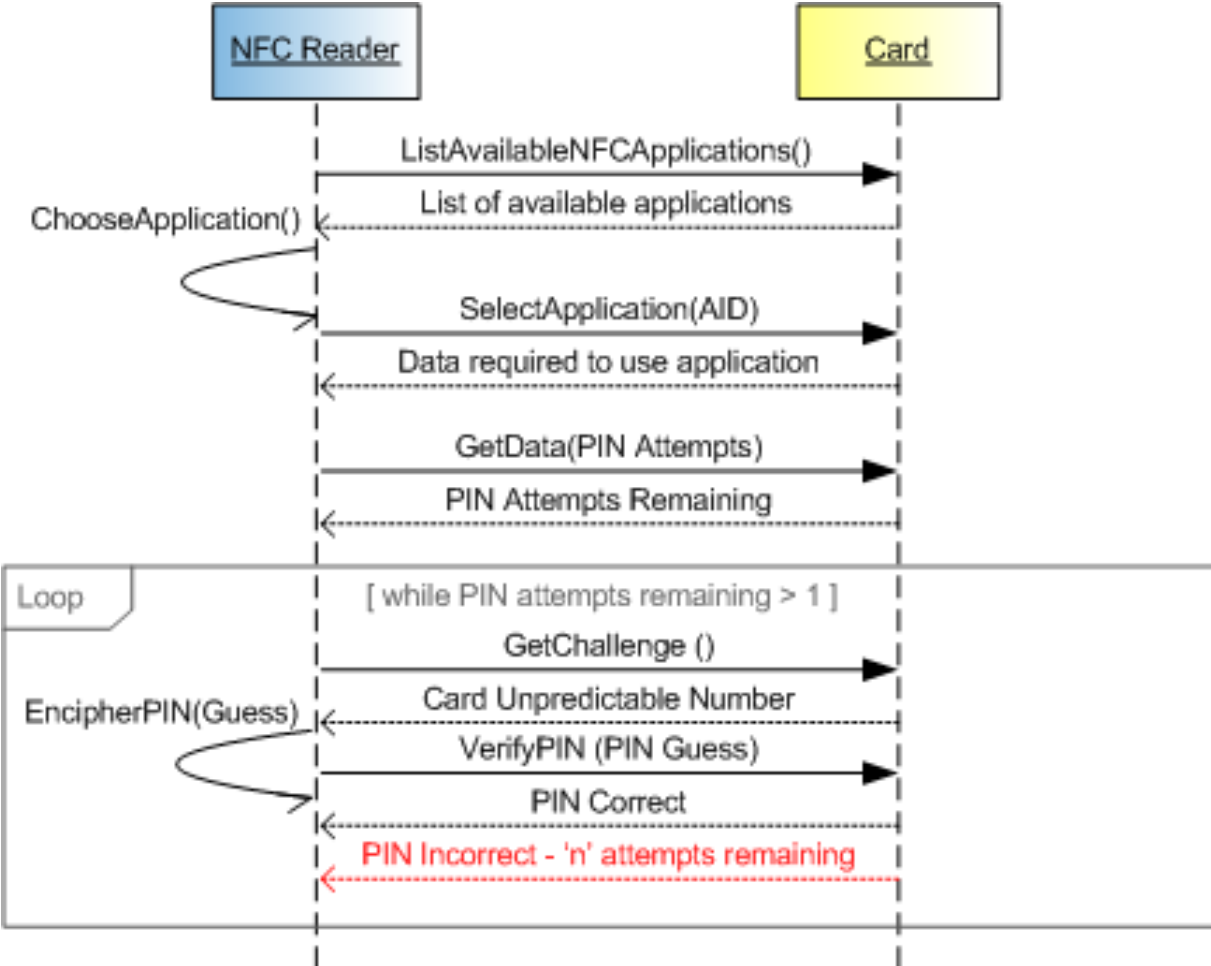
If your bank or card company has evidence to show that you have acted fraudulently or **without reasonable care** then they may not refund your losses.

(Source – The UK Cards Association 2010)

How does it work? - Multi-card



How does it work? - PIN Verify



Results

Total attack time for a wallet containing a door entry card and a credit card

Activity	(ms)
Identify door entry card	214.4
Identify credit card and select it	214.4
List credit card applications	18.4
Select application (Visa, MasterCard, Amex etc.)	19.2
Get the number of available PIN attempts	29.8
Ask the card to generate an unpredictable number	24.6
VerifyPIN (PIN)	175.8
Ask the card to generate an unpredictable number	12.2
VerifyPIN (PIN)	177.2
Total	886.0

Conclusions

- Redundant functionality can be removed
- Attack gives many chances to find PIN
- Total Attack Time 866.0ms (2 cards)
- Birthday PIN higher probability of success
- Undermines the security of Chip & PIN

Any Questions?

Thank You