

COMP435 Written Assignment 2 Name: _____

Before class: Spend approximately 10–15 minutes reviewing the background/introduction to the Spectre lab. You do **not** need to complete the whole lab before class. The goal of this worksheet is to help you identify the main pieces of the attack and questions you still have.

Question 1: Identify the Secret In the Spectre lab, what information is the attacker ultimately trying to learn?

Question 2: What Can the Attacker Observe? The attacker cannot directly read the secret. What information **can** the attacker observe or measure instead?

Question 3: Role of the Cache In 1–2 sentences, explain how the cache helps the attacker learn information about the secret.

Question 4: Speculation What role does speculative execution play in the attack?
You do not need a perfect technical explanation yet—describe your current understanding.

Question 5: What Is Still Confusing? Write down one part of the Spectre attack or lab that you do not yet fully understand, or something that you would like to learn more about.
Be specific enough that we could discuss it in class.